



visionvirginia Proclaimer

a publication of the SBC of Virginia



Water and the Word

A beach baptism moves a bystander to tears

"But God"

A miracle purchase gives new meaning to
a church plant named Church of the Crossroads

May June July 2013



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Brandon Pickett
bpickett@sbcv.org
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One Life to Love

If you are like me, you have a love-hate relationship with springtime. I really do love to see the trees and flowers blooming and smell the fresh air. But with all that blooming and freshness come a lot of sniffing and sneezing. Thank you, allergies! A new year and springtime also bring to mind how quickly time flies.

James 4:14 ~ *You don't even know what tomorrow will bring—what your life will be! For you are like smoke that appears for a little while, then vanishes.*

I remember when the song, “Live Like You Were Dying,” by Tim McGraw came out. It is one of those rare songs that you love to listen to, but it has a deep meaning. Then there is the song, “One Life to Love,” by 33 Miles—another great one that really makes you think about living each day to the fullest. I don't think we truly remember how fleeting time is until we are jolted by news that a good friend or even a well-known celebrity has died.

Job 14:1–2 ~ *How frail is humanity! How short is life, and how full of trouble! Like a flower, we blossom for a moment and then wither. Like the shadow of a passing cloud, we quickly disappear.*

The older I get, the more I realize how quickly life passes us by. And with the recent birth of our new baby, I also realize the preciousness of each day. It seems we were just going to the hospital for her to be delivered, and now we've just celebrated her first birthday. Talk about life moving at a frenetic pace! I'm taking my oldest child to get his learner's permit at the same time our baby is taking her first steps.

Psalms 90:12 ~ *Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts.*

Even secular publications know that life is short. Here is an excerpt from the book, *Killing Kennedy*, by Bill O'Reilly ~

Many people live their lives as if the end were always years away. They measure their days in love, laughter, accomplishment and loss. These are moments of sunshine and storm. There are schedules, phone calls, careers, anxieties, joys, exotic trips, favorite foods, romance, shame and hunger...

All over the world, children love their parents and yearn for love in return. They revel in the touch of parental hands on their faces. And even on the worst of days, each person has dreams about the future—dreams that sometimes come true.

Such is life. Yet life can end in less time than it takes to draw one breath.

Ephesians 5:15–16 ~ *Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise—making the most of the time, because the days are evil.*

As you read this issue of the *Proclaimer*, I hope you will join me in praising the Lord for the churches that are making the most of each day and “Loving Loud” in their communities. These pastors and their congregations aren't waiting until tomorrow to get personal with their neighbors. They are seizing the moment and are already seeing God's blessings. I can't wait to hear more of these stories from our SBC of Virginia family!

Proclaimer

TELLING ABOUT THE AMAZING
THINGS GOD IS DOING
THROUGH HIS CHURCH

PUBLISHER Dr. Brian Autry
SBC of Virginia
bautry@sbcv.org

EDITOR Brandon Pickett
Innovative Faith Resources
bpickett@sbcv.org

COPY EDITOR Christina Garland
SBC of Virginia
cgarland@sbcv.org

GRAPHIC DESIGNER Patti Spencer
Innovative Faith Resources
pspencer@sbcv.org

WRITERS

RANDY ALDRIDGE	DON COCKES
SHAWN AMES	DON MATTHEWS
BRIAN AUTRY	JACK NOBLE
TAMMY BENNETT	BRANDON PICKETT
DAVID BOUNDS	SUE SAWYER
STEVE BRADSHAW	DARRELL WEBB
	BILL WENNERSTEN

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THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION OF YOUR LIFE

"If you happened to die today, do you know if you would go to heaven?"

It's the most important question of your life because **YOUR DESTINY FOR ALL ETERNITY** depends on your answer. God says that in order to go to heaven, you must be born again. He gives us a plan of salvation, how to *be born again*, in the Bible. His plan is simple!

First, you must realize you are a sinner and that you are condemned to death (an eternal separation from God in a place called hell). *Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death..."*

But God loved you so much that he gave His only Son to die for you, to take your place and pay your sin debt. *Romans 6:23, "but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord."*

We can see what's required for salvation in Romans 10:9, *"that if you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."*

Basically, it's as simple as A-B-C!

A Admit you're a sinner who needs to be saved. *Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*

B Believe that Jesus died for you and rose again. *Romans 10:9, "If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."*

C Commit to accepting Jesus as your Savior and Lord. *Romans 10:23, "For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

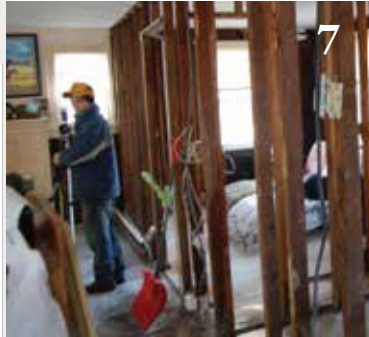
Would you be willing to pray this prayer with a heart of faith, trusting and believing what the Bible says about Jesus and His love for you?

"Oh, God, I know I am a sinner. I believe Jesus died on the cross for me. I believe His shed blood paid the price for my sin, and that His death, burial, and resurrection were all for me. I now receive Him as my personal Savior and Lord. Thank you for forgiving me of my sins and for the gifts of salvation and eternal life. In Jesus' name I pray, amen."

Take God at His Word and claim His gift of salvation. Remember, it's God who does the saving—not your good works, not your family pedigree, and not your church. Believe and you will be saved.

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This property will be a place where
God and men intersect!

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COVER LOOK

This cover was created by Innovative Faith Resources for the SBC of Virginia, and taken from an inside article called "Water and the Word."

For information on Innovative Faith Resources, email ifr@innovativefaith.org.



Standing in the Gap

PAUL KVASNICKA

Ezekiel 22:30

"I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land..."

Being a pastor often involves a conflict of emotions. One moment you're standing with a new father at the hospital as he sees his first child, and the next you're at the bedside of a dying saint. One moment you're preaching the Gospel, and the next you're the moderator at a church business meeting helping make crucial decisions. This is especially true for bi-vocational pastors, who have to switch, not only responsibilities, but *jobs* with just a phone call.

As a division commander and captain for the Virginia State Police, Paul Kvasnicka has learned that any call can be unexpected news or a sudden call to action. So it was on April 16, 2007 after the shooting at Virginia Tech that left 32 dead and 17 wounded. Captain Paul was dispatched as a chaplain to the troopers, but because of the gravity of the situation, he also responded to those at the scene, helped identify victims, and met with parents to tell them tragic news about their children. It was an experience Paul has a hard time forgetting, but he's thankful he had the opportunity to minister at such a difficult time.

In addition to his full-time responsibilities with the Virginia State Police, Captain Paul is also Pastor Paul of Spout Spring Baptist Church in Spout Spring, VA. He provided pulpit supply there for a time then became interim pastor. In 2009, he transitioned to the role of senior pastor.

Wearing multiple hats with different perspectives is the life of a bi-vocational pastor. In both roles, says Pastor Paul, he is "dealing with the needs of people." This can be a source of great blessing as well as heartbreak. "You cannot separate your personal feelings from your responsibilities where people are concerned," he says. Paul's range of responsibilities includes edifying the saints, preaching, and supervising a number of troopers and support personnel. He is also a devoted husband, father, and grandfather.

Maintaining a balance in all of these areas requires strength, determination, and leadership. As commander, Captain Paul has the opportunity to influence those who serve with him. He makes no apology for his faith and keeps the King James Bible on his desk in full view. "People recognize who you are as a person," he says, "by the way you live out your faith and live before them."

For Lieutenant Larry Shorter, Captain Paul is not only his supervisor but also his role model and mentor. "Working

(l) Larry Shorter, Lieutenant, Virginia State Police, (r) Paul Kvasnicka, Captain, Virginia State Police

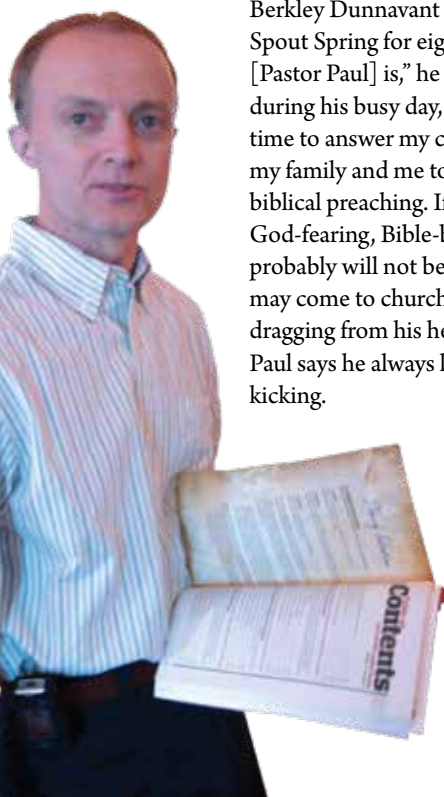




Pastor Paul speaking with Mr. and Mrs. Harley Shaffer

together on the firing range, I had numerous opportunities to sit and be mentored. We were able to discuss our spiritual battles, and he has been able to pour his life's experiences into my life. Even though he is my superior, he has also become my friend, mentor, and father figure."

Despite his packed schedule and many roles, Paul Kvasnicka manages his responsibilities well. Berkley Dunnivant has been a member of Spout Spring for eight years. "As busy as [Pastor Paul] is," he says, "I can call him during his busy day, and he always takes the time to answer my call. The thing that draws my family and me to the church is strong, biblical preaching. If you don't want to hear God-fearing, Bible-believing preaching, you probably will not be comfortable here." He may come to church on Wednesday nights dragging from his heavy load, but Pastor Paul says he always leaves rejuvenated and kicking.



Berkley Dunnivant, Spout Spring Baptist Church member

Sunday School teacher and lay preacher Harley Shaffer came to Spout Spring about the same time Pastor Paul came as interim. "We were looking for a church where the Spirit was strong, and we knew immediately this was the place for us to serve. Growth has come slowly because the church had recently suffered a split. Pastor Paul was able to provide consistent care and leadership. Most of the members of the church knew about Paul and had great respect for him in the community prior to his coming as our interim pastor. This allowed him to help bring healing to the church, even with his busy schedule." As challenging as it is to balance the roles, "[Paul] is willing to pay the price," says Shaffer. He is willing to "stand in the gap."

Across the state, there are many other bi-vocational pastors like Paul wearing multiple hats. They are some of our most dedicated and able leaders. Although they may not get much recognition, that's not why they do what they do. Like the inscription above the baptistery of Spout Spring Baptist Church says, "It's all about Him."

April - May

Mission Projects

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I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the Word of God in its fullness— ... Colossians 1:25

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June - July

Mission Projects

Backpacks for DC

Reaching Out & Providing for Those in Need

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So Much More Than Physical Help





DISASTER RELIEF

Do you know what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus? It seems like a simple question to me, but it's amazing how the Lord can use that simple question to open doors for the Gospel to be shared. He recently used those words to lead two women to become Christ followers.

It all began with a Disaster Relief (DR) call-out to New York to help families who lost their homes due to Hurricane Sandy. A team from Virginia went with eight men and two women. When we prepare to go on a DR call-out, we make sure to bring proper clothing for the job, proper bedding (we usually stay in a church), and the other necessary items needed for the task we'll be doing while on the trip. But the most important thing we bring, in addition to all of those other items, is the Good News of Jesus so we can share it with whomever we meet along the way.

Working in Island Park, NY, we began the first day in the home of an elderly couple. While there, we received a call with an urgent need to repair the roof of a lady's home because it was supposed to rain later that day. Another team

member and I went over to check out the situation. We met the homeowner, who was a single lady whose two-story home had been flooded. Needless to say, she was so excited that our team was going to help her.

She was distressed and overwhelmed with all she had been through and kept mentioning that she had talked to God.

She told us she was Catholic. I strongly felt led to ask her, "Do you know what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus?" She said that she didn't know what that

**"WE GO PREPARED TO SHARE THE
GOOD NEWS OF JESUS WITH THOSE
WE MEET ALONG THE WAY"**

really meant. This opened wide the door for me to share with her, and she prayed and invited Christ into her life. God immediately gave her new hope in all that she was facing. As we worked on her house for a couple of days, it gave me a chance to begin discipling her in the decision she had made.

A couple of days later, I was talking on the phone with another homeowner who was desperately asking for help with her home. In addition to her house having flooded, her teenage daughter had recently been raped. These tragedies, along with some health issues, were taking their toll on her emotionally. She told me she was Catholic, and she also talked about praying. Once again I found myself asking



RESOURCE WEBSITE sbcv.org/dr



Disaster Relief —
it's about sharing hope and God's love
in the midst of tragedy.

that important question, "Do you know what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus?" She said she had heard the phrase but did not have a personal relationship with Him and did not know what it meant. After I shared with her and answered her questions, she quickly acknowledged that she was

a sinner in need of a Savior and wanted a personal relationship with Christ. While still on the phone, she prayed and invited Him into her life.

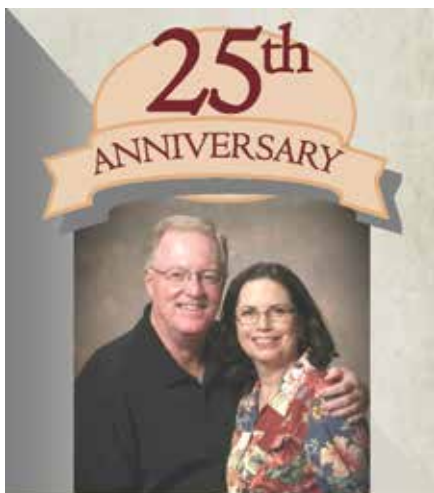
The Lord used these women's physical needs to open the door to meet their spiritual needs.

Since that wonderful week in New York, I have continued to disciple them long distance. I have sent Bibles, devotional books, and several other items to help them begin their journey as new believers. I spend time on the phone encouraging them and answering their questions. They are new babies in Christ who need nourishment. There are very few strong, Bible-believing, Bible-teaching churches in their area. Pray that God will lead them to a good church soon and surround them with other believers.

Disaster Relief is so much more than just meeting physical needs. It's about sharing hope and God's love in the midst of tragedy.

.....
*Contributed by Sue Sawyer, Missions Mobilization Associate,
SBC of Virginia*

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Senior Pastor
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Congratulations to Pastor Mike who celebrated on May 1, 2013, 25 years as Senior Pastor of Green Ridge Baptist Church. We thank him for his hard work and faithful service along with his dedication and the dedication of his wife, Hazel, and family. His perseverance through these 25 years has greatly impacted many lives for the Kingdom.

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who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13



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Where in the World?

Were SBC of Virginia Disaster Relief Teams



The response to Superstorm Sandy stretched from the mountains of West Virginia to the beaches of Connecticut, and SBC of Virginia Disaster Relief (DR) teams served during 50-mph windstorms and in temperatures dipping into the teens. Teams from across Virginia joined other Southern Baptists from as far away as Hawaii in the DR response that was continuing even as this article was written. The response to Sandy set a new benchmark in Southern Baptist DR for the most feeding units mobilized. At the height of preparations, kitchens with the ability to prepare 480,000 meals a day were open and ready to serve. Additional kitchens with the capacity for another 150,000 meals were in the response area awaiting direction. Southern Baptists were ready!

Where did SBC of Virginia DR teams serve?

Mount Nebo, WV

Mount Nebo sits northeast of Beckley and was covered with snow when the SBC of Virginia feeding units arrived. The American Red Cross had requested a capacity of 20,000 meals a day, so both of the SBC of Virginia feeding units responded, along with the Incident Command trailer, a shower unit, and a chain saw team. With over 100,000 families lacking electricity, warm meals were welcomed by thousands.

Maryland/Eastern Shore

In preparation for emergency situations, Southern Baptist DR has typically planned to approach Virginia's Eastern Shore through Maryland in cooperation with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware. The response to Sandy was no different. Flood recovery teams were lodged for weeks in Pocomoke, MD and ventured 10 miles south each day to meet the needs on the northern edge of Virginia's Eastern Shore. SBC of Virginia's flood recovery teams give a Bible to the homeowner when the team completes its work. Our volunteers sign the Bible, and the presentation of this gift brings tears to many homeowners' eyes. This moment consistently becomes the high point for DR volunteers as they serve those impacted by a disaster.

Edison, NJ

SBC of Virginia DR dispatched volunteers and a shower unit to support those who led the response—the national SBC Incident Command Team. Our support teams cleaned, prepared meals, and ran errands, which allowed the leadership team members to make the most of their time.

Harrisburg, PA

To support the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey and the Baptist Convention of New York, SBCV DR provided a leadership team in the days that led up to Superstorm Sandy's arrival. These days of preparation allowed for a huge response from Southern Baptists across the nation.

Brooklyn, NY

SBC of Virginia DR staffed the New York City Office of Emergency Management as the Southern Baptist liaison and facilitated immediate responses as needs developed. They also had the opportunity to network and build relationships with emergency personnel and other DR workers.

Staten Island, NY

Staten Island has been the hub of the Southern Baptist response to Sandy. Zion Lutheran Church and New Dorp Moravian Church have been crucial partners whose hospitality has provided housing for hundreds of volunteers. Because of their generosity, over 70 Virginia college students led by SBC of Virginia unit leaders were able to serve the community through flood recovery teams. The SBCV Incident Command trailer, toilet unit, and bunkhouse have been in constant use at Zion Lutheran Church since the middle of November. A new partner in the Staten Island response was Salem Baptist Church of Crozier, VA, where Zack Zbinden serves as pastor. Salem lent its revival tent, which provided 100 volunteers a warm, dry place to sleep. Partners like Zion, New Dorp, and Salem are valuable in meeting the needs of an impacted community.

Long Island, NY

SBC of Virginia DR flood recovery teams served on Long Island out of Calvary Protestant Church.

Queens, NY

SBC of Virginia DR provided supplemental feeding teams to the Baptist Convention of New York and the American Red Cross.

Fort Tilden, NY

SBC of Virginia DR provided supplemental feeding teams to the Virginia Baptist Mission Board and the American Red Cross.

SBC of Virginia Disaster Relief teams serve across the nation and around the world!



Want to serve internationally?

International DR (Baptist Global Response) Training—May 10-11
sbcv.org/articles/detail/dr_training_equips_you_to_serve_internationally



Team Impact

THE BENEFITS OF WORKING TOGETHER

Last summer, Calvary Baptist Church suddenly found itself without a pastor. Like so many churches, good people found themselves at odds with one another, and a breakup of sorts took place. Not only did the church lose its pastor, but it lost a number of members too. Those who stayed wondered what would become of the church. Church member and lay leader Dennis Cox made personal calls to the church's banker to reassure the bank that the church would continue to pay the monthly note on its new family life center. He also reached out to the SBC of Virginia for assistance in finding preachers to fill the pulpit on Sundays.

For years, the church enjoyed the stability that comes from an effective, long-serving pastor. Now the church was reeling. Prior to the pastor's departure, the church had decided to bring in Team Impact, a group from Dallas, TX that uses feats of athletic prowess to segue into sharing the Gospel. Calvary had a vision to impact its community by using Team Impact at school assemblies and holding nightly evangelistic rallies over a three-day period. The financial commitment was significant—several thousand dollars. Without a pastor, would they be able to move forward with the plans or would they circle the wagons and focus inward?

As Cox recalls, the church felt that “if God allowed us to keep raising the money to do it, then we needed to go on with it.” But the finances were only one of the challenges. The church members who remained would have to mobilize and work together to accomplish the many tasks that needed to be done. There were people to be housed and transported; a large facility to be rented; and a portable lighting and audio system to be secured, set up, and run. Nightly, people would need to staff the event, clean up, and reset the chairs for the next rally.

Calvary members stepped up to the plate in a big way. Jeff Neal, the leader of Team Impact,

said that for the size of the church and all that it had been through, he was impressed at how well everything was organized. Over the course of the event, nearly 50 people responded to altar calls. In addition to lives being impacted with the Gospel, the church itself was impacted. “Everyone in the church pulled together and did something,” says Cox. “The cause... was to reach out to the unsaved... meanwhile, we’re struggling with a church split. It touched me how we all pulled together.”

Jesus said, “Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it. But whoever loses his life will keep it” (Luke 17:33). The same principle holds true for churches. Self-preservation cannot become the goal of a church's ministries. As a church focuses outward to reach the lost, it also receives a multitude of blessings within.

With the assistance of the SBC of Virginia, Calvary Baptist Church now has an able leader in its interim pastor, Brian Seay. The church continues to reach out and is growing in its relationships within.



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Ephesians 4:12

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CHURCH OF THE CROSSROADS

A Church Planting Experience

“It’s already been paid...”

John Stapleton served for several years as assistant pastor at Rosedale Baptist Church in Abingdon, VA under the leadership of Pastor Don Paxton. For John and his wife, Jan, this was “on-the-job training.” As he explains, “God was preparing us for our church planting experience.”

With the support of Rosedale Baptist and the SBC of Virginia, Pastor John began assembling a church planting team in June of 2009. Later that summer, the new Crossroads Community Church started meeting in the Job Corps facility in Marion, VA. The church had great success, leading dozens of young people to faith in Christ and baptizing 70 in the two years the church met at that location. However, the transient nature of the ministry eventually made it apparent that the larger community was not being reached. The leadership made the difficult decision to relocate seven miles north to Glade Spring Middle School off Interstate 81. Soon after moving to Glade Spring, Pastor John realized there was another church there with the same name, so the plant changed its name to Church of the Crossroads.

Since the move, the church plant has continued to grow—in discipleship and in new believers. In 2011, three young men from within the congregation (Matthew Lloyd, Darius Bowman, and Anthony Verderame) surrendered to God’s call to ministry. All three are now part of Church of the Crossroads’ pastoral team. In 2012, 28 souls were baptized and added to the church. As of February 2013, the church plant was averaging 55 in regular attendance.

In the spring of 2011, a tornado hit Glade Spring. It caused devastation, injuries, and millions of dollars in damage, much of which is still visible in the area. One of the properties that was never redeveloped was a truck/car wash. When the men of the church did a mission project adjacent to the property, Pastor John noticed it was a great location for a permanent church facility. He considered it just a pipe dream, since the property was priced at \$279,000 and had already been reduced once.

A couple of weeks later, he and his wife drove by and noticed it had been reduced again to \$239,000. They parked on the property and began praying for God to make a way for Church of the Crossroads to own it. That night, they shared this vision with the congregation at prayer meeting. Several other members began joining them to go to the property and pray. One day, after praying, Pastor John called the realtor

“

This property will be a place where God and men intersect!

”



“But God.”

Pastor John reminded the people, “We were not able, but God is and always will be able.”

and discussed the price. Without a penny in the bank, he felt impressed to make an offer of \$175,000. The realtor agreed to submit the offer but noted it would be unlikely for the seller to accept it.

Within a week, the realtor returned the call and, to everyone's surprise, announced that the owners had agreed to the price! Now there was a new problem (or opportunity)—the church had no way to pay for it. This church planter did the only thing he knew to do—he prayed. The church already had a lawyer working on articles of incorporation, which would be required for the church to borrow money. Pastor John went to see the lawyer to provide the necessary information, and the church continued to pray. “We have a problem,” he told his congregation, “but God is bigger than any problem we face.”

Two weeks later, the lawyer contacted Pastor John and told him he needed to speak with him. Pastor John arrived at the lawyer's office expecting to sign the incorporation documents. To his surprise, the deed to the property was also on the lawyer's desk. Pastor John explained, “We don't have any money to put down, and we really don't know if we can make the payments.” The lawyer replied, “It's already been paid for by an

anonymous donor, and you don't owe anything but the processing fees.”

When this exuberant pastor shared the news with his church, he recounted the two words that continued to come to his mind: “But God.” He reminded the people, “We were not able, but God is and always will be able.”

Behind the sign that reads, “Future Home of Church of the Crossroads,” a three-way intersection where Interstate 81, Route 11, and Route 91 cross can be seen, giving fresh meaning to the name Church of the Crossroads. This property will be a place where God and men intersect!

“This story seems very unusual to men,” Pastor John testified, “but for God, it is just another answered prayer and blessing for his people.” Jesus said, “Everything is possible to the one who believes” (Mark 9:23, HCSB).



RESOURCE WEBSITE churchofthecrossroads.org



**FUTURE HOME
OF
CHURCH OF THE
CROSSROADS**

LOVING LOUD AT HOME

WE LOVE FAIRFAX COUNTY

“Love and service without expecting anything in return—that’s what *We Love Fairfax County* is all about.”

~ Amanda Reeping, Jerusalem Baptist Church member



For the past two years, God has used Jerusalem Baptist Church (JBC) in Fairfax Station, VA to take a one-week mission trip called *We Love Fairfax County* to its community.

In obedience to 1 John 4:19—“We love, because He first loved us”—JBC has reached out to truly love and serve its county in practical ways, both with the Gospel and because of the Gospel. “Our Father causes the rain to fall on people who love Him and people who reject Him,” says Jonathan Parker, associate pastor of JBC. “We have determined to give grace regardless of the response. By purposing to love our community, we have also been able to share the Gospel both because we have purposed to share and because we have loved people in a way that earns the right to be heard.”

The Fourth of July marks the week of *We Love Fairfax County*. More than one-third of this small congregation’s members (both young and old) take time away from their typical routines (some even take vacation time) to be involved in a week’s worth of mission activities like

- **Distributing water** at the Fairfax City Parade
- **Providing music to a local nursing home** by sending a worship team
- **Offering free car washes**
- **Gathering trash** at local shopping centers and area roadways

- **Distributing Gospel materials** and church information in neighborhoods
- **Providing a free-childcare date night** on the Friday evening of *We Love Fairfax County* week
- **Serving at a local homeless shelter** (ministering to guests and repairing the facility)
- **Ministering to shut-ins** and others whose homes are in need of maintenance and renovations
- **Serving meals** at the local fire station

We Love Fairfax County impacts countless lives in the community as church members plant Gospel seeds while they serve. For example, a parent at the free-childcare date night opened up to a JBC member about a personal struggle. That believer was able to point the parent to Jesus. Another seed came to fruition when a family visited the church after having received a JBC packet the previous year.

Because the church is touching more people in the community than ever before, its favorable reputation is growing and has been noticed by many, even local representatives. In fact, one representative was blessed by the free car wash and took pictures to publish about a local church serving the community.

In addition to the impact of *We Love Fairfax County* in the community, the church itself has been positively affected. Church members have a greater love for their community and are seeing

God use them in ways they never expected. Amanda Reeping's testimony says it all:

"By doing this work, I got to experience God in a truly personal way. It also grew my relationship with other church members that I didn't have a chance to [know] otherwise, older and younger. When I started *We Love Fairfax County* for the first time, my relationship with God was lukewarm, and I didn't even know it. It's almost as if a switch went off when I started doing different things like helping pack bags with Bibles and information on what our church does; going up to houses to give out the bags; picking up trash along the side of the road; washing people's cars for free;

what, I saw and actually felt God's love for me. I was spending time with God and more [time] in His Word and being filled by His love. And in return, I gave that love out to others. I wanted people to see that this was genuinely God's work and to see a glimpse of how God feels about us. He pushed me out of my comfort zone, but I had faith that God knew what He was doing. As Pastor Terry [Smith] says, we were out in the 'mission field,' and oh, how it strengthened my relationship with the Lord! I couldn't do these things on my own, but He was right there all along and helped us all work together to show Fairfax and our community how He loves."



helping the elderly with yard work they might not be able to fully do; or just working on our church. I was doing it all for the Lord, and the joy that came from that is unexplainable.

"I felt Him working through me and speaking to me. I was experiencing God, and it was amazing, it was an awakening of my soul. It didn't matter exactly what I was doing because, no matter

What is your church doing to love and impact your community in Jesus' name?



RESOURCE WEBSITE jerusalem.baptist.com

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WM By Design

WM By Design is a brand-new quarterly online magazine from the SBC of Virginia designed to engage, equip, and encourage women in the things that matter most. It's about connecting women with God, each other, and the world through articles that will motivate them to be their very best. It's about encouraging women in all areas of their lives: homemaking, careers, child-raising, healthy lifestyles, senior moments, marriage, single living, etc. In addition, *WM by Design* will also publish what is going on in Women's Ministry in the SBC of Virginia: Bible studies, events, retreats, get-togethers, etc.

To premier the all-new *WM by Design* online magazine, the SBC of Virginia recently hosted a launch party at its Glen Allen Mission Support Center. Along with great door prizes (including a Kindle Fire), the guests enjoyed special music by Amy and Matthew Stewart and scrumptious delights catered by our very own Jane Veteto.

To view the first edition of *WM by Design* and a get a FREE online subscription, go to

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I especially like the
beauty tips!"*

~ Florence Littauer, Author/Speaker

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"I just subscribed to SBCV's WM by Design—my first-ever subscription to an e-magazine. I must say, I am quite impressed! The look is eye catching, appealing, and very fresh—something for women of all ages and stages of life. Upcoming events, practical beauty tips, CHOCOLATE, and finally, an easy-to-access resource list! Thank you! I look forward to future issues." ~ Teresa Sours,

Women's Ministry Coordinator, Wayne Hills Baptist Church, Waynesboro

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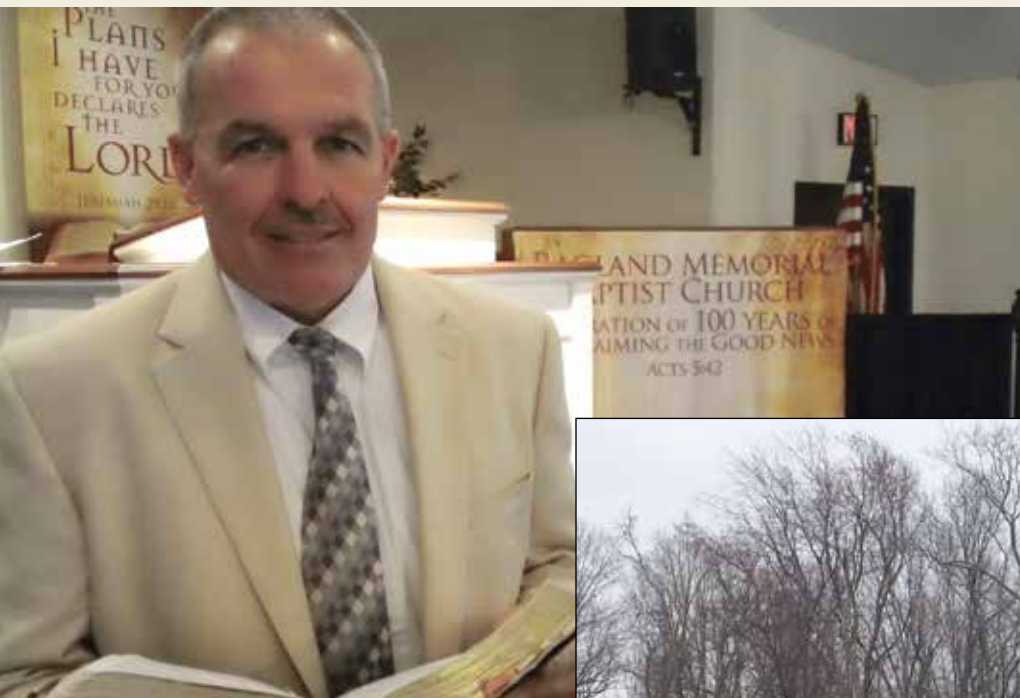
"WM by Design is rejuvenating, with topics appropriate for women of all ages. It leaves me anxiously awaiting the next issue."

~ Alicia Roark, Women's Ministry Director, York River Baptist Church, Williamsburg



RESOURCE

WEBSITE issuu.com/sbcv/docs/bydesign-winter2013



Rev. Jeff Slaughter

Rev. Slaughter baptizing



(L to R) Pastor Search Committee Chairman Bill Webster and committee members Randy Martin & Tim Mustian view the church's Search Committee Covenant



Gaining M RAGLAND



In 2012, Ragland Memorial Baptist Church in the Sandy Hook neighborhood of Goochland County, VA found itself without a senior pastor. The Lord had called Ragland's former pastor, Ed Rodriguez, to be a church planter in Harrisonburg.

As the church adjusted to the news, the chairman of deacons opened his home to other deacons and their wives for dinner and prayer. They also invited Ragland's SBCV regional missionary, who shared 10 steps in the pastor search process. The first step was to secure immediate pulpit supply. With the missionary's aid, the church calendared guest preachers for three months. Once the Pastor Search Committee was selected, the missionary provided training through which the church was exposed to the idea of a committee covenant and the value of considering an interim pastor.

Early in the process, the regional missionary filled the pulpit. At the end of one particular service, he invited the Search Committee to come forward. He then read

Momentum In the Interim

MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH



a covenant that the committee wanted to make with God, each other, and the church. Each committee member signed the framed and matted covenant. Then something special happened during the invitation—members of the congregation came forward to sign the covenant as a pledge of prayer for the committee. This special memento was placed in the sanctuary hallway and has remained there as a constant reminder of the church family's commitment to pray.

In October, the church called Rev. Jeff Slaughter of Buckingham County as interim pastor. While some churches experience a lull without a full-time pastor, this has been anything but a maintenance period for Ragland. When Rev. Slaughter arrived, the church was averaging 80 in attendance. Today they average 125–140 and have had as many as 189 in worship. During these six months (as of April 2013), the church has received 30 new members. They baptized three on Easter Sunday, and another

accepted Christ during the service. Yet another was led to faith in Christ at the church's Easter Festival the day before.

Mike Liptak is the chairman of deacons, and his wife, Jen, serves on the Search Committee. They observed, "We've certainly grown in numbers, but it's what the Lord is doing in the lives of the people that is so awesome. Attendance in Sunday School and Bible studies has increased (they're outgrowing their spaces!), tithing has increased, prayer has increased, [and] mission opportunities have increased (we have three mission trips planned this year, including a 14-person team going to Nicaragua!)."

Deacon Randy Martin believes two things have been especially beneficial in the transitional period. The first Sunday night of every month has been designated for prayer. The congregation gathers to pray for the needs of others, the community, the country and, of course, the Pastor Search Committee. Instead of having business meetings, the committee and the deacons wanted

to have open lines of communication with the congregation. Therefore, they didn't want to host typical business meetings. They considered a forum style, but since the congregation is more like a family, they now have "Family Meetings" where the committee shares updates and the congregation can ask questions, make suggestions, and offer encouragement.

Rev. Slaughter contributes the church's growth during this time to the work of the Holy Spirit when God's people respond to His written and spoken Word. "I am not just talking about making decisions at the end of the worship service, but it is evident in their life and action," he said. "I preached one Sunday on the concept of biblical tithing. The next Sunday, the offerings more than doubled. They are responding to His Word."

Ragland Baptist Church, said Rev. Slaughter, "is comprised of faithful servants who did not cease to work when the pastor left. If anything, they stepped it up. They are gaining momentum as they patiently wait for God's full-time pastor. My role is to love and lead the people." When asked how he does that, he responded, "By spending dedicated time each week connecting with the people—calling and visiting them. I pray and pray some more and offer expository preaching."

Bill Webster, chairman of the Pastor Search Committee, is grateful for Ragland's interim pastor. "[Rev. Slaughter] has given the committee a freedom not to be rushed in the process. They are waiting on the Lord to prepare the congregation for the next pastor and prepare the next pastor for the congregation, and [they] understand that He is working that out in the interim period."

Rev. Slaughter shared, "My prayer and aim is to create a God-centered, confident atmosphere in the church so that the Search Committee and congregation can relax and take the necessary time to find God's man to shepherd the church."

Thanks be to God for faithful congregations who continue the work of the Lord with or without a pastor and for interim pastors like Jeff Slaughter who help God's people through times of transition. Please pray for churches throughout Virginia and Washington, DC that are praying and looking for a pastor.



RESOURCE WEBSITE: raglandbaptist.org

do Mission Projects 2013

First-century churches not only sent missionaries, they gave resources to support missions.

Mission Projects follow a similar model. Through Mission Projects, everyone can partner in reaching the world. Projects remaining in 2013:

Apr – May: **Bibles for Southern Africa**

Jun – Jul: **Backpacks for DC**

Aug – Sep: **Adopt a Local School**

Sep – Oct: **Vision Virginia State Missions Offering**

Oct – Nov: **Sports Shoes and Socks for ARM**

Nov – Dec: **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**

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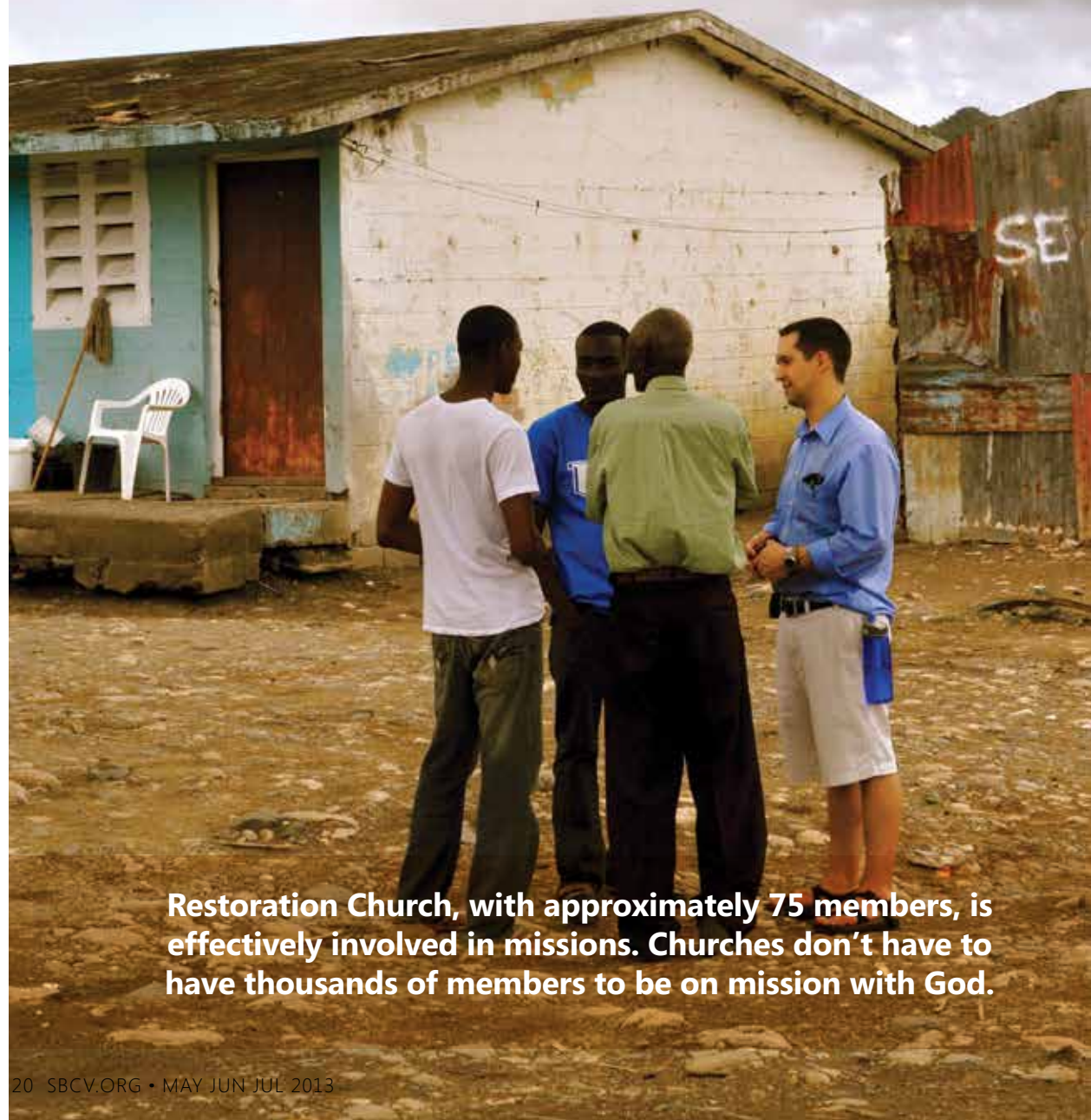
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Go and Make for the Glory



Restoration Church, with approximately 75 members, is effectively involved in missions. Churches don't have to have thousands of members to be on mission with God.

When starting a new project, how many times have you heard the phrase, “build in up front what you want in the end”? The same is true for churches—who they are in the foundations of their faith dictates who they are in practice. Simply put, what we believe affects our actions in everyday life. Restoration Church is an SBCV church plant in Northwest Washington, DC whose members are living out what they believe in real ways, not only in the city but to the ends of the earth.

From its very beginning, missions has been a major focus of who Restoration Church is as a body of believers and how those believers live out their faith every day. This 75-member church believes, as John Piper wrote, “Missions exists because [proper] worship does not.” Worship is about the glory of God, and giving glory to God is what mankind was created to do. The glory of God drives their mission—from serving people in the local community by meeting needs and sharing the Gospel to finding where God would have them engage unreached people around the world.

Disciples of God

Restoration Church has been ministering in Haiti for the three years, working in the same village to train local pastors for the work of the Gospel. They will make their fifth trip later this year. Through this long-term investment, they have developed relationships that are bearing fruit as teams from Restoration Church help strengthen local churches that will, in turn, plant new churches.

The glory of God isn’t just the focus of the church as a whole. Individual church members are living it out in their own lives. *Mark came to DC as a student. During his first year of college, the Holy Spirit convicted him of his sin and showed him the grace that was available through Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection from the dead. God then led Mark to Restoration Church, where his faith and love for the local church grew.

Mark had intended to find a job in DC after graduation and live and grow with Restoration Church. However, the Lord was preparing him for different things. He made it clear that Mark was not to stay in DC, which led this single young man to a closer examination of his life and calling. He had been growing as a believer in a healthy church and was having difficulty reconciling the Gospel with the life he had planned in his own abilities. Through this struggle and the Lord’s direction, Mark used his education for his calling and to give glory to God. With support from Restoration Church, he is now serving in Eastern Europe to bring the Gospel to an unreached people group. Mark is seeking to develop a sustainable business that serves the community by meeting legitimate needs. This will give him a reason to stay and a source of income for long-term ministry and the planting of a church.

Since the fall of 2012, Mark has been on the ground, developing many new relationships and a network for evangelism. He is also working with a couple of people from the IMB who have the same goal of planting a church and reaching the lost. Restoration Church will send members periodically to encourage Mark and help in the work. For this DC church plant, it’s all about the glory of God!



RESOURCE WEBSITE restorationchurchdc.com

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extraordinary

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WATER and the WORD

“You have no idea what an impact you just had on the beach with what just happened with that little girl!”

This, from a tearful bystander, was not what Pastor Buddy Hoggard expected to hear when he baptized a child in the Atlantic Ocean at Virginia Beach.

Lake Drummond Baptist is a small but vibrant church in the southern sector of Chesapeake, VA. They have two services and average about 130 in weekly worship. Led by Pastor Buddy, the congregation has been very vocal about reaching people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and seeing them not only receive Christ but follow Him in believer's baptism. Last year, they were fourth among SBCV churches in the Southeast Region for baptisms per capita.

One of those baptisms was that of young Megan, who had requested to be baptized in the ocean because she wanted it to be even more special. Pastor Buddy moved the service to a place on the beach between 46th and 48th streets near Fort Story and tried to find a quiet place away from the crowds. Not finding such a spot, he ended up conducting the service in the midst of people in the water and people on the beach.

As Pastor Buddy got into position to baptize Megan, people started coming over to watch. Many were visibly touched by what was going on. People in bathing suits began asking where they could go the following Sunday to hear the message of Jesus. This went on for 20–30 minutes! The next Sunday, Pastor Buddy shared with the church what had happened and encouraged more members to come *when*, not *if*, the church hosts a beach baptismal service again.

“Little did I know,” explained Pastor Buddy, “that as we were looking for an empty beach... our Father had already prepared a beach full of witnesses who were about to see Christ dying on the cross for our sins (as Megan stood in the water), Christ buried (as Megan went beneath the water), and Christ resurrected (as Megan rose up out of the water). Megan preached the loudest message that day and never uttered a word.”



RESOURCE WEBSITE ldbcva.org

visionvirginia calendar

MAY

Regional Pastor & Staff Power Meals
Mission Project: Bibles for Southern Africa
(Apr–May)
FindItHere.com Attractional Event Season
(May–Aug)

- 2 National Day of Prayer
- 4 Bible Drill and Youth Speakers' Tournament
Grace Community BC, Richmond
- 4 Women's Regional Conference, River Oak Church,
Chesapeake
- 6–7 Executive Board Meeting
- 10–11 International Disaster Relief (Baptist Global
Response) Training, Liberty BC, Hampton
- 12 Mother's Day
- 18 Disaster Relief Training, Grace Southern BC,
Virgilina
- 21 Intern Training, Glen Allen Mission Support Center
- 23 Regional Church Planter Networks
- 27 Memorial Day

JUNE

Mission Plant Emphasis Month
Mission Project: Backpacks for DC (Jun-Jul)
FindItHere.com Attractional Event Season
(May–Aug)

- 7–8 Crossover, Houston, TX
- 11–12 SBC Annual Meeting, Houston, TX
- 16 Father's Day
- 23 Missions: Dignity Sunday (formerly Adopt an
Annuitant Sunday)
- 23–27 Fusion Mission Camp, Richmond
- 23–28 Acts 1:8 Families, Martinsville
- 27 Regional Church Planter Networks

JULY

Mission Project: Backpacks for DC (Jun-Jul)
FindItHere.com Attractional Event Season
(May–Aug)

- 4 Independence Day
- 21 Serving Your Community Sunday
- 22–26 Studentz Camp, James Madison University
Harrisonburg



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SBC OF VIRGINIA

Brian Autry
bautry@sbcv.org
facebook.com/brian.autry.70
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Marriage Matters

You don't go two chapters into the Bible before you come to the first marriage in history. There never has been and never will be another marriage quite like it. There were no in-laws. Adam never had to listen to Eve say, "You're not the only man I could have married." On the other hand, Eve never had to listen to Adam say, "Why can't you cook like my mama used to?" Go back and read Genesis 2 and be reminded of how marriage and family began—see God's interest and initiation in the concepts of marriage and family.

Marriage and the family are fundamental to civil society. More than ever, churches, pastors, and followers of Jesus must have a biblical worldview of marriage and family. The very nature and definition of marriage are debated among politicians, media pundits, and at dinner tables across America.

In 1998, Southern Baptists approved an amendment to their statement of faith in order to address marriage and the family. Two years later, that amendment was incorporated into an updated statement of faith, *The Baptist Faith and Message 2000*. Article 18 is entitled, "The Family." As a convention of churches, our support for a biblical definition of marriage is noted clearly in this statement of faith. Here is a portion on marriage from *The Baptist Faith and Message 2000*:

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

"Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous." (Hebrews 13:4, ESV)

Our response to God's truth on marriage and family:

- **Define it biblically.** We must know what God says and be careful to hold to God's definition of marriage and family in spite of how the world around us wants to redefine it.
- **Declare it boldly.** We are not to be silent. We are to speak God's truth. Romans 10:14 asks, "... how will they hear without someone preaching?"
- **Demonstrate it.** We cannot fail to practice what we preach. The Lord Jesus calls us to be salt and light.

Praying for strong marriages, strong families, strong churches!



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"Therefore **GO**
and **MAKE DISCIPLES** of **ALL NATIONS**,
BAPTIZING THEM in the name of the **FATHER**
and of the **SON** and of the **HOLY SPIRIT**,
and **TEACHING THEM** to obey
everything **I HAVE COMMANDED YOU**.
And **SURELY I AM WITH YOU** always,
to the very **END OF THE AGE**"
MATTHEW 28:19-20 (NIV)

**JULY
22-26**
JAMES MADISON
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THE MUSEUM
JARED HALL

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