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Joining Jesus in the Harvest!

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:35-38, ESV)

No one traveled further and sacrificed more than the Lord Jesus in bringing the Gospel to humanity. I'm fond of saying that we serve a missionary God! We rightly celebrate our missionary heroes for all they sacrifice and how far they are willing to be sent. But we must realize that as Matthew 9:35 tells us, "Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages..." Our Lord Jesus is the ultimate missionary. Our Lord Jesus invites us as His followers to join Him in reaching the lost and breaking through the darkness with His Good News. The Lord Jesus calls us to embrace His vision and mission for us as His Church. We are His mission force on this mission field. But how can we join Jesus on this harvest field?

Joining Jesus requires SEEING. Jesus saw the crowds. He saw more than a faceless mass. He saw a multitude of souls. Every person you see driving down the road, in the supermarket, or mowing the grass is a soul destined for eternity. I ask that we see the millions of souls right here in Virginia who need Jesus.

Joining Jesus requires CARING. Jesus had compassion. It means that He cared down deep for people. The Lord Jesus loves you, loves me,

and loves people. May the Lord cause us to care about our neighbors and the nations.

Joining Jesus requires PRAYING. The Lord Jesus asks us to pray. Usually, we take our prayer requests to Jesus—but here, the Lord asks us to pray for His request. We are the answer to our Lord's prayer request. Join me in praying earnestly for the laborers in this harvest field.

Joining Jesus requires GOING. Churches are called by Christ to send out laborers. I want to thank SBC of Virginia churches for making it possible for church planters, seminary students, and missionaries to go with the Gospel to the nations. Please prayerfully consider leading the church you serve to support the *Vision Virginia* State Missions Offering of the SBC of Virginia. Your faithful praying and missions giving supports the going of missionaries and church planters on this mission field.

Pray that we will be His mission force on this mission field—strong churches with a bold commitment to the Great Commission!



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SBC OF VIRGINIA

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

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	RON KIDD
SHAWN AMES	DON MATTHEWS
BRIAN AUTRY	JACK NOBLE
CHERYL CHADWICK	BRANDON PICKETT
DON COCKES	DARRELL WEBB
GARY HORTON	

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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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COVER LOOK

This cover was created by Innovative Faith Resources for the SBC of Virginia and taken from "Marines Blog," the official blog of the United States Marine Corps (marines.dodlive.mil). Second Lieutenant Olaolu Ogunyemi wears the iconic Dress Blues for the first time as he prepares to begin his career as an officer in the United States Marine Corps. For information on Innovative Faith Resources, email ifr@innovativefaith.org.

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COOPERATIVE PROGRAM together

Celebrating God's Deeds

Paying It Forward

FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SALEM

In January 2013, Fellowship Community Church of Salem (FCC) reached a ministry milestone. This 12-year-old church was rejoicing that it had given a total of \$1 million to the SBC Cooperative Program (CP) in its short history. SBC of Virginia's executive director, Dr. Brian Autry, was asked to join the celebration, where he expressed appreciation for FCC's generosity: "Thank you for investing in our Gospel partnership. Your impact reaches globally. In fact, the sun never sets on Southern Baptist mission work around the world. Through the investment of churches like FCC, dozens of churches have been planted in Virginia, missionaries and pastors have received scholarships, evangelism has been done through Disaster Relief Ministry, and the list goes on."

The Cooperative Program remains an excellent way for churches of all sizes to make a difference. Some have described it as a mutual fund for missions, allowing churches to make a significant impact through their giving, no matter the amount. FCC's pastor, Ken Nienke, explained, "As we have seen, when you are faithful in a little bit in God's economy, it adds up to a lot." During the celebration, FCC reminded its people of this principle while promoting continued investments in CP. "Our investment in the Cooperative Program reminds us that we are not an island to ourselves but part of something bigger," Nienke said. "I am convinced that we can do so much more together than we could ever do alone, and we teach that."

When God called Pastor Ken to plant Fellowship Community Church, He gave him a vision, which included being part of a church planting movement and helping other churches. Thus far, FCC has started two satellite campuses and remains

committed to further church planting opportunities. Each of FCC's church plants is also a faithful giver to CP. "Our

investment in CP

also allows us to 'pay it forward' in some ways by investing in the ministries of other church plants and ministries," said Pastor Ken. "We do this because we are keenly aware that the investment of the SBC of Virginia gave us a jumpstart on equipment and staffing that would have delayed our progress significantly."

For Fellowship Community Church in Salem, celebrating God's faithfulness and paying it forward were both the motivation for and the goal of the January 2013 missions celebration. Churches, take the opportunity to celebrate God's deeds in your church by your investments through the Cooperative Program. Furthermore, consider how your church can pay it forward by future investments in Kingdom work around the world.

“I am convinced that we can do so much more together than we could ever do alone...”

~ Ken Nienke



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Finishing ~~well~~ GREAT!!

Along with hundreds of college volunteers from around the nation, 40-some Liberty University students traveled to Staten Island as part of the Superstorm Sandy cleanup effort. They worked hard, laughed loud, and provided a spiritual and emotional salve to the families they served. They went beyond expectations in their work and finished not just well, but GREAT!

These Liberty University students served on flood recovery teams that assisted families in gutting their homes of water-damaged furniture, insulation, flooring, and wallboards. They washed floorboards and studs, sanitizing to prevent further mold growth. They lugged debris from the houses to the awaiting dumpsters. They labored relentlessly! Those who watched were amazed by these college students' attitudes and willingness to work. But it was what they did in the final few moments that proved they were not just finishing well—they were finishing GREAT!

After the Liberty students boarded the vans and buses to head back to Lynchburg, the Disaster Relief (DR) staff went into the tents where the students stayed and prepared to spend several hours readying the space for the next college group's arrival. To the amazement of the staff, not only was the place spotless, but the Liberty students had left care packages and notes for the incoming team. In the rush to complete their week of service, the students had spent their final few moments finishing GREAT.

According to Rhonda Corn, NAMB Mission Service Corps DR volunteer, "As we walked into the tents, [we were] surprised by all the physical work done but broken by the spiritual words written on each cot. At that moment, with tears streaming down, we knew God's presence had visited the heart of each student and that [the] visitation of the Holy Spirit was journaled on each piece of paper."

On the notes, the Liberty students had carefully recorded words from their hearts about how the previous week on Staten Island had ministered to them. These volunteers set the stage for the incoming team to have an even greater week than they had had. They also left work gloves, hats, candy, and water neatly placed beside the notes.

These college students served the people of Staten Island and demonstrated that finishing GREAT is even better than finishing well.

"At that moment, with tears streaming down, we knew God's presence had visited the heart of each student..."



RESOURCE

WEBSITE:

sbcv.org/articles/detail/hurricane_sandy_recovery



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HIDDEN (adjective)

1. being out of sight or not readily apparent; concealed
2. obscure, unexplained, undisclosed

HERO (noun)

1. a [person] of distinguished courage or ability, admired for his brave deeds and noble qualities

We often hear wonderful stories of church groups, ministries, and events—stories of God’s grace and power working in the lives of people. Those are the stories that receive the most recognition. But what about the hidden hero? The individual who carries out a vital ministry, changing the lives of the lost and hurting? Someone who works behind the scenes and, for the most part, no one knows of his/her “deeds and noble qualities”?

Beginning with this edition of the Proclaimer, we intend to highlight these individuals through a Hidden Heroes feature article in each issue. We want to encourage the Hidden Heroes among us and remind church members that God can use everyone to have an impact in His Kingdom.

Eric Brendle is a soft-spoken, unassuming, faithful church member at Liberty Baptist Church in Appomattox, VA. Through a ministry called We Care, he helps change the lives of hundreds of prisoners, many of whom will never again live outside the prison’s walls. “We Care,” Eric explains, “is a non-denominational ministry to the incarcerated in the Alabama prison system. They provide personal encouragement in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for ministry. The mission of We Care is to share the transforming love of God with troubled men and women in prison and beyond.”

Eric first became aware of this ministry through his grandfather, who was among some of its original volunteers and served with We Care for approximately 35 years. “I really wanted to go with my grandfather and experience this ministry for myself,” says Eric. “Unfortunately, he died before I had the chance. Three years following his death, through the encouragement of my Bible study group and in honor of my grandfather’s memory, I finally got the courage to go and experience it for myself. They actually filled out the paperwork for me and provided me with the funds to go.”

“I remember my first day (12 hours) [at the] prison,” says Eric. “My first meeting was with four or five prisoners, and it did not

go well. I began to doubt I had made the right decision. I went outside the meeting hall, sat down on a bench, and began to read my Bible and pray.”

While Eric was praying, a prisoner walked by. He paused, came over to Eric, and said, “You are not here just to sit here—you are here to serve Him.” Eric later learned that this man was known as “Holy Man” by the other prisoners. “From that point on,” says Eric, “I knew I was supposed to be here, and I was determined I would just allow the Holy Spirit to lead me.”

At St. Claire Federal Prison, the 15 volunteers in Eric’s group were able to personally minister to over 600 of the 2,500 prisoners. His group was just one of 22 groups across the state of Alabama going into the prisons to show inmates that they are not alone, that someone on the outside cares, and that Jesus loves them.

On another trip to Alabama, Eric’s group visited Childress Work Release Center. Prisoners with good behavior are sent to Childress and provided with a little more freedom. *Bob, the first prisoner with whom Eric spoke, looked familiar. Eric soon learned that they had met three years earlier at St. Claire and that Bob had since become a believer. The two talked for nearly three hours, and Bob opened up about his struggles and heartaches.

“

I was determined I would just allow the Holy Spirit to lead me.

”

“He felt he could never be good enough to make up for all he had done wrong,” says Eric. “He felt he had to earn his faith. I shared Ephesians 2:8-9 with him: ‘For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.’”

Bob shared how he was nervous to talk about his faith with fellow prisoners because they would often ridicule believers and treat them harshly. He confessed he had not been a good father and had been out of touch with his son for a number of years.

“Because of what he shared with me,” says Eric, “I was convicted about my relationship with my own father. He had been an alcoholic, and it had affected me greatly.” After Eric shared his own struggle, Bob prayed with him that he would be able to be a witness to his father and family. Eric recalls, “I knew then that God had put us together on that day.”

Eric likewise encouraged Bob, suggesting he write a letter to his



son, sharing his newfound faith and asking for forgiveness, which Bob committed to do. Eric further encouraged him by pointing out that Bob had just done what he said he could not do—by telling Eric his story, Bob had shared his faith for the first time in his life!

With Eric’s quiet personality, some may be surprised to hear he volunteers in the prison system, but God can use anyone in any way He so chooses. He is looking for a willing heart, and He equips for the task those He calls.

Eric Brendle is among the 300 volunteers from all over the US and Canada who saturate the Alabama prison system each year with the hope that is found only in Christ. He is indeed a Hidden Hero.

**name changed*



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Bridgetown Church: Launching Well

Under the leadership of church planter Jeff Lynch, Bridgetown Church in Danville has moved from vision to reality, but it didn't happen by accident. Since Lynch was determined to "launch well," he put into practice the following basic principles.

First, a healthy sponsorship was critical. Jeff had served on staff at Osborne Baptist Church in Eden, NC for seven years and had a wonderful relationship with the pastor, who continues to serve as his mentor and personal friend. Along with financial resources, Osborne committed 50 of its members to the new church plant. "The spiritual gifts and passion the people brought," says Jeff, "were equally important to the other resources provided."

The second important element in planting this church was prayer. "I read *Five Confessions of a Failed Church Planter*, and one of the most glaring failures was the failure to pray." Jeff was determined not to let that happen with Bridgetown. His first practice was to spend ample time in prayer before engaging in any activity. Prayer continues to be a priority in all of Bridgetown's ministries and decisions.

The third principle incorporated building community within the church body and building relationships in the community. "I see these as equally important," Jeff says. "We build community by working alongside one another, setting up on Sundays, [participating in] life groups and service projects—while at the same time building relationships in the community."

Bridgetown Church launched on January 27, 2013 with 253 in attendance and at least a dozen decisions for Christ. Over the past several months, the church has maintained momentum with 170 in average attendance.

There are many ways by which we gauge success, but Jeff Lynch believes that the stories of people being rescued are the best evidence of God's favor. Here is one such story of a family that was rescued from a life of disappointment and discouragement.

The Vaughans

In mid-November 2012, Jeff had lunch with Jamie Vaughan. "[With] both of us being pastors," says Jeff, "I had met Jamie previously but really only knew him in passing." They met up that day just to get to know each other better. As they ate, Jamie told Jeff that he had just received devastating news—his church was beginning the process to relieve him of his duties as pastor.

In the weeks to come, Jamie and his family would be forced to deal with issues like the loss of income; moving out of the church parsonage; feelings of betrayal; and concerns of identity. Christmas was also just around the corner, and they had two children. As Jeff learned more of Jamie's story, he realized that, although Jamie and his wife, Jennifer, knew people, they were very much alone.

Looking back, it's clear to see that God's timing was perfect. The Vaughans were so hurt and burned out by their experiences, they were on the verge of giving up on church altogether. However, God had other plans!

Some of the men from Bridgetown began to get to know Jamie and his family. This took place at a time when the Bridgetown core team was coming together and the new church was about to launch. God continued to speak to Jamie and Jennifer about the possibilities at Bridgetown in a way that overpowered the grief they were experiencing at the moment. "We had lots of talks about our vision at Bridgetown," says Jeff. "We say often that our vision is to be a church where people love to be." Of





Bridgetown Church planters, Jeff and Melissa Lynch. The church meets every Sunday in the Danville Theaters.

course, at the time, church was one of the last places the Vaughans wanted to be, but God gradually began to change that.

Over the next weeks, as the Vaughan family became part of the core team at Bridgetown, they experienced genuine love from their new church family. Friendships were formed. People called to check on them. They were able to laugh again. But most importantly, through this little church plant, God showed them that He was not finished with them and that although real church is often messy, it truly can be a place where, through the power of God's Spirit, we can worship Him and love the world around us.

After a time of emotional healing, Jamie and Jennifer are now jumping back into ministry roles. The Lord provided Jamie with a new job in manufacturing, and he also serves as the student pastor at Bridgetown. Pastor Jeff Lynch testifies, "We are so blessed that God brought this family to us, and we are excited to see how God will continue to heal and use the Vaughans in the ministry of Bridgetown Church!"



RESOURCES

WEBSITE bridgetownchurch.org

VIDEO vimeo.com/62810867

Five Confessions of a Failed Church Planter:

edstetzer.com/2012/06/confessions-of-a-failed-church.html

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Church Planting Wives

ENCOURAGED TO EMBRACE THE CALL WITH JOY

It was with great joy that I recently read in another state convention paper about one of SBC of Virginia's church planters. Kyle and Christine Hoover planted Charlottesville Community Church in 2008. Now, Christine has written a new book to encourage the wives of other church planters entitled, The Church Planting Wife. This article was originally published in the Southern Baptist Texan in June 2013. — Brandon Pickett, Director of Communications, SBC of Virginia

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CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA—With more than 1,400 church planting personnel appointed by the North American Mission Board last year, the nationwide push toward church planting has opened up a niche in the market—specifically the need to resource these men and women.

Christine Hoover, a church planter's wife, is meeting that demand head-on with a new book, "The Church Planting Wife." Recently released by Moody Publishers, her book offers women serving alongside their husbands practical tools to embrace their call with joy.

The Hoovers' call to church planting began in 2008 when Christine and her husband Kyle, a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, planted Charlottesville Community Church in Virginia. The new plant targeted a transient community comprised of military and university personnel. Starting out as a living room Bible study of 10 people, the church now averages 400, has already helped plant two more area churches, and is hoping to launch a third plant in the D.C. area.

In her book, Hoover chronicles this journey to growth—the growth of her church and her role as a pastor's wife—and the struggles unique to women in church planting.

"When my husband and I planted [our] church in 2008, we attended church planting conferences and read countless resources, but none specifically spoke to me as the church planter's wife," she said. "Then we actually planted the church and my want for resources turned to craving."

In light of the absence of resources available for women in church planting, Hoover said she turned to books that encouraged her faith.

"All along, however, I longed for a book that addressed the specific needs and struggles that I had as a church planting wife."

Framed around the heart, "The Church Planting Wife" addresses the common problems faced by wives of church planters. These struggles, Hoover said, change as new plants progress through different growth cycles.

"Through every stage, the church planting wife faces a constant struggle of maintaining proper boundaries and priorities," Hoover said. "The lines between ministry and family life are so blurred in church planting that it easily can affect the marriage relationship. Priorities require constant attention and adjustment in church planting."

In the church's initial stage, uncertainty and discouragement can easily choke out faith, Hoover said. "In the exhaustion of the second year, [the church planter's wife] must decide if she is willing to continue sacrificially serving and giving, even if there are few 'results' to show for what she has already given."

As the plant stabilizes, Hoover said the church planter's wife must learn to "eradicate pride" that can come with new growth while adjusting to a church where "she no longer knows everyone."

Sharing from her own battle to walk by faith, Hoover said she grew easily discouraged when visitors did not return to the church after she had extended personal invitations.

"One particular family stands out," she said. "When we invited [a family] to visit our church, the husband came alone, seemed to connect well with people in our church and with the worship and the sermon, but never returned."

From that experience, Hoover said she struggled to separate herself from the Spirit's work in the church's growth. "It's difficult not to turn to strategy in reaching people rather than turn to the Spirit of God."

"With that family, I began to recognize and trust God as the true head of the church. I am not responsible for outcomes and results; I am just responsible for my faithful obedience. I can rest and rejoice knowing that God is responsible for his church."

Along with addressing the common struggles of a church planting wife, Hoover also seeks to dispel certain myths.

"The main myth, I believe, is that she is not as essential to the church plant as her husband," Hoover said, noting that wives of church planters often serve as sounding boards for their husbands, lead major ministries in the church, and are key components of hospitality.

Hoover also hopes the book dispels a second myth—that the pastor's wife is responsible for doing everything in the church.

"I ... hope readers remember the church planting wife's 'job description' that God reiterated to me over and over: 'Follow me, serve your family, love people, and practice hospitality,'" she said. "...it's really quite simple."

Hoover said the book resonates with any woman in ministry because it focuses on heart issues common to life in community.

"All women who are ministry-minded face issues related to pride, sacrifice, fear, criticism, discouragement, and assisting their husband as he fulfills his calling. I hope it helps any woman who picks up the book to align her heart with truth, walk in faith, and continue to sacrificially serve with joy."

"... We could not have planted a church without the assistance and support of existing churches," Hoover said, noting that their initial support came from 'sending churches' such as their home church in Texas.

"When Kyle went to our pastor, Chris Osborne at Central Baptist in College Station, and laid out what he felt God was calling us to do, Chris immediately said, 'We're on board with you and will help you in whatever way we can.' Central provided strong financial support and, in the years we've been in Charlottesville, has sent mission teams to help us serve our city. The partnership has not only helped us establish a church here, but it has also encouraged us personally. We were not sent out and then forgotten."

"My prayer is that women will be challenged and encouraged and, through that, marriages, churches, and communities will be strengthened and changed."

You can find more about Kyle and Christine Hoover at cvillechurch.org or her ministry blog, GraceCoversMe.com.

THE POWER OF A SHARED VISION

It's been said that where God guides, He also provides. This truth was powerfully displayed in the experience of Pastor Kevin Cummings and Fincastle Baptist Church of Fincastle, VA. While attending SBC of Virginia's Annual Homecoming this past November, Pastor Kevin heard church planter Clint Clifton share about the Praetorian Project, a powerful, strategic vision to plant a church on every Marine base in the world. Pastor Clint's church, Pillar Church of Dumfries, VA, is prayerfully seeking 100 churches to contribute \$1,775 each to help make the Praetorian Project a reality. Pastor Kevin, along with several other pastors at the Homecoming, felt a strong leading from God to join the effort. He shared this vision with his congregation and, upon hearing of the mission to reach members of the military with the Gospel, the church was enthusiastically supportive.

That is when the powerful display of God's provision began. A few days later, a church member came to the pastor in private and said, "God told me to give this to you for the project." It was a gold piece he had been saving, valued at \$1,775. The next week, a former Marine who attends the church handed Pastor Kevin a check for the same amount to go toward the project. The following Wednesday night, after the Praetorian Project was mentioned at Bible study, an envelope containing the same amount was given. The next day, an elderly member of the church dropped by Pastor Kevin's office and gave him a check for... you guessed it—\$1,775! Between services on the following Sunday, another family contributed the same amount to the project. Each instance further confirmed the Lord's desire for Fincastle to get involved.



*top circle: Pastor Kevin Cummings of Fincastle Baptist Church
top right: Brian O'Day praying with a church family
middle: Brian O'Day and family, Praetorian Project church planter*

Pastor Kevin summarized this powerful experience by saying, "Good things happen at Homecoming. The SBC of Virginia family should make plans to attend. At [the 2012] meeting, I was challenged, and it's good for pastors to challenge themselves with opportunities to join in the work of God. Also, this experience has taught me that a vision from God becomes powerful when shared and confirmed."

In December, one of the first Praetorian Project church planters, Brian O'Day, came to Fincastle as a guest speaker. All rejoiced at God's guidance and His accompanying provision. Where God guides, He also provides!

At only its second service, the church plant pastored by Brian O'Day had its first baptism! Praise the Lord!



Check out
the video at
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Acts 1:8 Families

Imagine watching your child share the Gospel for the very first time. Through acts of service, prayer, Bible study, and evangelism, Acts 1:8 Families helps families grow in the Lord as they work together. *Vision Virginia* will help continue the legacy of this ministry in the years to come.

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Church Strengthening

Workshops, assessments, and face-to-face mentoring provide churches with the training and resources needed to assess their current level of health and make positive steps for growth.

Appalachian Ministries

SBC of Virginia churches and ministry centers in the Appalachian Region are presented with many poverty-related issues, including things like physical abuse, drug use, illiteracy, basic physical needs, and worldview differences. *Vision Virginia* will help meet these needs and open a way for spiritual change.

Baptist Builders

Baptist Builders help renovate and build church structures and respond to long-term recovery needs following disasters. *Vision Virginia* will enable Baptist Builders around the state to continue giving their time and skill to advance the Gospel.

DC Mission Center

Worship space, small group meeting areas, and church planting office space are very limited and costly in our nation's capital. *Vision Virginia* will assist church planting strategists, missionaries, and planters in renting the facilities necessary to reach Washington, DC for Christ.

Church Planting

Throughout our state and nation's capital, there are more than six million lost and unreached people. Church planting is an effective means of making new disciples. *Vision Virginia* will assist churches and church planters in their task of fulfilling the Great Commission.

Disaster Relief

The SBC of Virginia Disaster Relief teams respond in times of great need to natural disasters, including events like the floods and tornadoes that struck earlier this year. *Vision Virginia* will support SBC of Virginia Disaster Relief teams serving across our state, the nation, and the world.



English as a Second Language

Through church-based ESL ministries, the Lord can transform the hearts of English learners here in Virginia. By their witness, He may also touch the lives of their families and friends elsewhere around the world. *Vision Virginia* will empower these ministries to reach more lives with the Truth.

Ministry Intern Scholarships

Churches are often understaffed to meet the growing needs of their congregations. Utilizing an intern is a great way to extend the ministry of the pastor and staff, while also mentoring and investing in future church leaders. *Vision Virginia* will support this unique ministry by providing scholarships and intercessory prayer.

Worship Equipment for Church Plants

When church plants reach the stage of holding public worship services, they need equipment that is often costly and sometimes beyond their means. *Vision Virginia* will help equip church plants with the tools they need to impact their communities through worship ministries.

Food Distribution

More than 34 million Americans are exposed to the threat of hunger each year. *Vision Virginia* will help to develop a partnership with SBC of Virginia churches in hunger ministries such as food pantries, soup kitchens, food drives, and grocery vouchers.

Property for Church Plants

Owning property says, "We're here to stay." Neighbors notice. Healthy church plants face the challenging need of finding land and permanent facilities. *Vision Virginia* will help church plants buy land, giving them credibility in their communities and providing new opportunities to share the Gospel.

Seminarian Scholarships

The Lord told His disciples in Matthew 9:38 to pray for laborers to be sent out into the harvest fields. Seminarian scholarships help answer this call practically. They allow ministers, who might not otherwise be able, to receive a theological education. This equips them to better serve in their harvest fields.

Evangelism

Timely and up-to-date resources, training, and encouragement help pastors, staff, and lay leaders lead out in evangelism in their own mission fields.

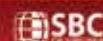


REACHING VIRGINIA AND GREATER DC

Together

Giving together, praying together, serving together. SBC of Virginia churches are on mission across the Commonwealth. **Our goal for 2013 is \$250,000 to support missions and bring glory to Jesus.** Because of the faithful giving of SBC of Virginia churches through the Cooperative Program, 100% of these monies will go to the *Vision Virginia* ministries listed here. Please remember that the *Vision Virginia* offering is a special gift beyond your tithe and offering to your local church.

Learn more at sbcv.org/visionvirginia.



FOCUSED ON THE MISSION

“Loving God, Loving People, Changing Our World” is not just a catchy cliché hung on the wall at Ramoth Baptist Church in Stafford—it’s the church’s vision statement, and it’s become a reality.

Prior to 2008, Ramoth Baptist Church (RBC) experienced a season that was, in the words of deacon Byrd Pritchett, “discouraging, inward-focused, and unhealthy.” Through the church family’s prayers and brokenness, God brought them a vibrant new leader, through whom He has breathed new life into this congregation.

In August of 2008, God led RBC to call Brent Vickery as its senior pastor. “Since Pastor Vickery arrived,” says Pritchett, “he’s got us believing that we need to be about Kingdom growth. He’s got us believing that the purpose of the church is to be continually ‘developing mature believers.’ He’s got every group in the church mission focused.” Pastor Vickery readily admits the secret: “We are not using magic bullets. The church [members have] become serious about reaching their community. The people have a mind and heart to work.”

In the past five years, God has been at work through RBC—locally, throughout North America, and around the world. In 2008, there were 25 church members participating in missions locally. In 2012, 264 were involved in local missions, 22 were involved in statewide missions, 20 were involved in North American missions, and 16 traveled abroad to minister around the world.

LOCAL

Worship attendance has grown from 220 to an average of 370 on Sunday mornings, and the baptismal waters are stirred almost every Sunday of the year. RBC’s associate pastor, noted that nearly 70 faithful and dedicated members of RBC who serve in the military were given reassignment/transfer orders last summer. “Some churches see this as a hardship and difficulty. Ramoth views it as a missionary-sending opportunity...God providentially replaced these members with other families dedicated to the ministry and missions vision of RBC.”

OTHER LOCAL MISSIONS INCLUDE

- Nursing home ministry

- AWANA – more than 200 clubbers participate weekly
- Food pantry – ministers to an average of 20 families each week. The Gospel is shared with each person seeking help. People have been saved, become church members, and been discipled by the workers in this ministry.
- Law of Seven Touches Team – contacts worship service guests on a weekly basis
- Deacons – minister weekly to church families and shut-ins; deacons are also involved in encouraging the church to be community focused
- Back-to-School Block Party – annual outreach event in September that provides free backpacks, school supplies, and haircuts; the Gospel is also presented to those who attend

NORTH AMERICA

- RBC members formerly stationed at Quantico Marine Corps Base have been deployed throughout North America. RBC sees them as missionaries sent with the church’s blessing.
- International partnerships are bearing fruit to reach ethnic people in North America.

INTERNATIONAL

- 2009-2010 – Thailand – first overseas trip in RBC’s history
- 2012 – Guatemala
- 2012 – El Salvador
- 2013 – El Salvador – two trips
- 2013 – Cameroon
- 2013 – Guatemala



RESOURCE WEBSITE ramothbaptistchurch.org

These mission endeavors have and will minister to people's physical and spiritual needs and will train local pastors and equip churches for the work of the ministry. Pastor Brent, who has been involved in the 2012 and 2013 trips, shared with excitement, "Forty different people will [go] on the 2013 overseas summer mission trips. This is over 10 percent of the RBC family."

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

With all of these ministries and mission trips, it would be easy for Ramoth Baptist Church to become complacent and think it has done enough. On the contrary, RBC

has plans for future investments in missions. With the Lord's help, they'll launch a new strategy of evangelistic backyard Bible clubs this summer. In the fall, they'll begin a second worship service commission a family to serve as full-time missionaries with the SBC's International Mission Board. RBC will then partner with the family to reach others for Christ.

This church in the heart of Stafford County has a vision to initiate mission partnerships in other countries and send out members to plant new churches in Virginia and around the world. Does your church have a missions vision?



Aug - Sep

do Mission Projects

Adopt a Local School

Investing in our community by reaching out to nearby schools.

sbcv.org/missions



Oct - Nov

do Mission Projects

Sports Shoes & Socks for

ARM Appalachian Regional Ministry

Ministering to the needy

sbcv.org/missions



My God Will Supply

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."
— Matthew 9:37-38 (ESV)



It was a simple assignment: recruit three additional college students to work at the upcoming SBC of Virginia's Youth Evangelism Conference West (YEC West). As a resident of Lynchburg, Liberty University is my go-to spot for recruiting college students. As I entered the large auditorium, it began to fill with evangelism students arriving for the first day of the spring semester. Within 10 minutes, the room was filled with hundreds of students and was buzzing with the nervous excitement that accompanies the first day of class. "This should be pretty easy," I thought to myself.

I had a three-fold reason for my confidence. First, I have been impressed by the willingness of college students to be involved in ministry. The SBC of Virginia benefits from partnering with college students in a number of ways—from YEC to Studentz Camp to summer interns and block party trailer interns. Second, "EVAN" (evangelism) students at Liberty are required to practice sharing their faith as a requirement for the class, so offering them a chance to work with us at YEC would certainly provide them with evangelism opportunities. Third, the SBC of Virginia would be offering each recruit a \$125 honorarium for two days of work. That's decent money, and college students are usually pretty desperate for some extra cash. Easy, right? I was ready to check "recruit three workers for YEC" off my to-do list before the class had even started.

I was directed to take a seat with a few other recruiters until the end of class when I would have a chance to make my pitch. Sixty minutes and one syllabus review later, the professor called up the first recruiter to speak to the class. She did a magnificent job! She was so convincing in her plea for help with her missions agency, I almost joined! She was so passionate about her cause that, before I knew it, people were gathering their things together to leave, and it looked like I was going to miss my opportunity to recruit!

But then the professor came to my rescue. Recognizing that class was running over, he called me to the stage, got the attention of the students, and gave me the last 15 seconds of class. I did my best to condense my three-minute pitch into mere seconds, then proceeded to the back of the room to await the droves of students I imagined would run to me. How would I select just three from all who were sure to sign up?

As class was dismissed, I saw a room full of students stand up and begin walking towards me. Imagine my surprise when I realized they were only walking towards me because I was standing in front of the exit door! Suddenly I felt that awful sensation of being the last kid picked in a game of schoolyard dodge ball. I was being completely overlooked by hungry students eager to get to lunch. Was anyone going to pause and sign up with me? At last, one student stopped and wrote down her name and contact information, then one other. That was it—just two recruits. A quick follow-up phone call to the two revealed a scheduling conflict with one, which left me with only one successful recruit for YEC.

I left the university that day feeling a bit dejected, like I had failed God, the SBC of Virginia, and YEC—not in a huge way, but in a way that left me dissatisfied with my performance. Have you ever felt that way? Like your performance had let God or someone else down? I wonder if that feeling comes from God at all. It likely has more to do with ego and pride than anything else. Could it be that God was in control of the whole thing and was actively recruiting workers for YEC? My theology tells me that is indeed the case—that God was working in the background—but there is just something about my flesh that wants me to be the hero of little things like this and finds it awfully difficult to trust that God knew what He was doing.

Fast-forward a few days. My one recruit, a young lady named Katie Fox, was proving to be a valuable member of the YEC staff. She was one of 18 college staffers who were eagerly engaging in



RESOURCE

WEBSITES sbcv.org/articles/category/student_events
firstroanoke.com



Katie Fox

the work of the YEC West event at First Baptist Church of Roanoke. But I didn't know just how valuable an asset she was until after the first evening.

Katie shared with the SBC of Virginia staff that, during the music time, as she was using sign language in her personal worship, an adult chaperone from one of the churches came over to Katie and told her that their group included a Deaf girl. They asked Katie to meet her. Katie met the girl and began to sign the worship songs with her. "We were praising God together," Katie recalls. As the preacher began to speak, the Lord led Katie to sign the message to her new friend. "I was just the vessel between what Pastor Ryan was saying and what that girl needed to hear."

God was up to something and was using Katie to minister to the spiritual needs of a Deaf student. Before the weekend was over, God used Katie to lead that young lady in giving her life to Jesus. Whoa. That is HUGE. Indeed God had worked through my weakness and conflicted motives to bring laborers to the harvest field. He recruited one particular kind of laborer whom I didn't even know we would need—one who could speak to a Deaf student.

Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38, ESV). It is interesting that Jesus didn't say, "Recruit earnestly," but rather, "pray earnestly." What did I learn from this? I learned that God really is the ultimate Recruiter. I also learned that, while I am a part of God's plan to expand His Kingdom, it doesn't all depend on me. I need to be available and faithfully obedient to engage in His mission, but I also need to rest in the confidence that it is His work, and He must bring the laborers (Katie) and the fruit (the salvation of a Deaf girl).

Contributed by Shawn Ames, Regional Missionary, Central-West

SBCV Studentz

2 LOCATIONS

2014 east & west

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Thinking Outside the Box

SKY VIEW MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Who says you can only give to missions by writing a check? Sometimes you need to think outside the box. That's exactly what Melody and Sandra Horton did when they picked and canned extra vegetables from Melody's garden. They planted more than they needed in order to take care of others in their community. Not only are they giving fresh canned vegetables to those in need, they are also selling canned goods and giving their proceeds to support missions through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Their church (Sky View Missionary Baptist Church in Fancy Gap, VA) has a harvest sale each fall to raise money for missions, and Melody and Sandra donate canned items to be sold. Fewer and fewer people can vegetables these days, says Melody, but they still love opening a can of fresh green beans, tomatoes, beets,

etc. For some, these treats bring back fond memories of the way things used to be.

While some people would find picking, preparing, and canning a chore, Sandra says she truly enjoys doing it because she knows she's helping people in need and helping fund missionaries who are taking the Gospel around the world. She takes great joy in knowing that someone may hear about Jesus for the first time because she and Melody canned these vegetables. Matthew 28:19 says, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" (HCSB). There are people all around the world who are waiting to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ, and Melody and Sandra want to be a part of sharing it. "We do this out of love, not obligation!" says Melody. "We love people because God loves us."

Maybe you don't have a lot of money to give to missions. Think outside the box and use the resources God has entrusted to you! Perhaps God has given you the ability to sew, knit, carve, build things out of wood, paint, etc. Your skills could bless others and help spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Each year, the SBC of Virginia promotes three main missions-giving opportunities through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, and the *Vision Virginia* State Missions Offering. Encourage your church to participate in these great opportunities! Let's spread the Gospel together!





What if the unthinkable were to happen to you and your family? How would you react if one of life's most devastating disasters such as a tornado, earthquake, raging flood, or house fire shook your world and took all of your material possessions? That's exactly what happened to one SBC of Virginia church planter's family on December 1, 2012.

John Hayden is a bi-vocational church planter at Access Church in Roanoke, VA. His family experienced God's faithfulness first-hand after a fire destroyed their home.

"It is not often that house fires are viewed as a blessing. However, the blessing was proven on a grand scale in our lives on the Saturday evening of December 1st. That night, as we watched our earthly possessions go up in smoke, we had a sense of certainty that everything would be all right. It was an assurance that we knew could only be coming to us from our Heavenly Father. We were convinced, as we looked at all God had blessed us with in the past, that God would still provide for our basic needs of food and shelter. He had faithfully led us through many difficult times as church planters, and we knew that our true treasure was stored in a place where neither moth nor rust could destroy. This promise and reassurance began to spur on a sermon in my mind—a message about the importance of striving for Kingdom treasures, as all other efforts and material possessions seem meaningless and futile. A very vivid illustration literally burned in front of my eyes as a powerful and tangible example.

"The next morning, as I stood speaking this heartfelt message born out of our most recent experience, God began to truly work in many people's lives. I could see God's purpose not only in our family, but also in the lives of the members of our congregation. (Eventually we would see that His purpose and plan would extend well beyond our own church family.) Immediately following the invitation, our church family began to pour out their affection, and their sacrificial love humbled us greatly. In this, we began to see that often it is those who have the least that are the most sacrificial. As the day continued, our phone began to ring off the hook as the news of our fire spread. Many churches within the SBC of Virginia, as well as other denominations, were striving to meet our needs.

"The next couple of weeks seem like a blur, and the love that was poured out upon us was simply overwhelming. This love came from everywhere, including some local organizations that we had served

in the past—groups such as The South City Knights and another group that we had never known of before, The Parrot Heads of Roanoke. Within two weeks of the fire, just one week before Christmas, we moved into a fully-furnished home, and life returned to a sense of normalcy. Through all of this, God has shown us on a much grander scale than we ever thought possible that, 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts' (Isaiah 55:9). God has truly done a good work through what many would perceive as a very difficult situation!"



RESOURCE WEBSITE accessroanoke.com

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	Dr. James Merritt Pastor, Cross Pointe Church & Touching Lives Ministry, Duluth, GA	AUG 12th
	Dr. Phil Hoskins Pastor, Higher Ground Baptist Church Kingsport, TN	AUG 19th
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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:

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**

➔ Get the latest info online at sbcv.org/do.



calvarybaptistchurch

A Lighthouse in the Shenandoah Valley

“A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden.
...let your light shine before men, so that
they may see your good works and give
glory to your Father in heaven.”

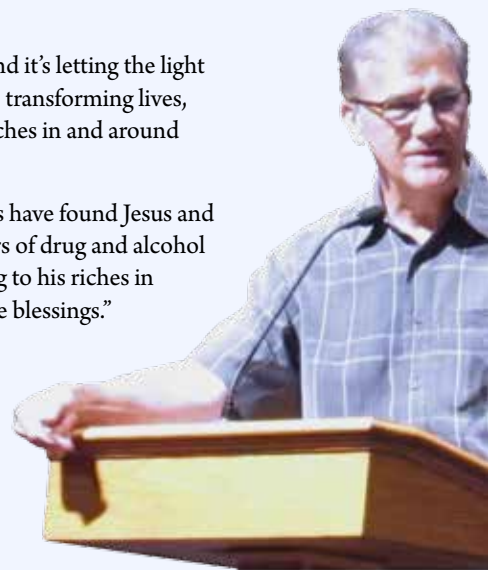
~ Matthew 5:14,16

Calvary Baptist (CBC) in Staunton, VA is a church on a hill, and it's letting the light of Jesus shine for all to see. The church family is dedicated to transforming lives, planting new congregations, and revitalizing struggling churches in and around Staunton.

Transforming lives—like those of Thad and Elizabeth Miller. The Millers have found Jesus and a loving church family through CBC. God delivered them both from years of drug and alcohol addiction. Now both testify, “God works all things for our good according to his riches in glory. And we are very grateful for Calvary Baptist Church as part of those blessings.”

Both Thad and Elizabeth are now active members of CBC, serving in AWANA, Celebrate Recovery, and other ministries.

Planting new congregations—like Church Downtown with church planter Rob Spencer. This newly formed church plant from CBC meets on Sundays at 10:30 AM at the Visulite Theatre in downtown Staunton. CBC embraces the concept of developing a “church within



E412

Regional Equipping Conferences

sbcv.org



a church.” That is how Church Downtown began. The strategy is for a qualified leadership team to begin conducting its own simultaneous worship services within the main campus and continue to grow under the support and accountability of the mother church. When the new church develops a core launch team and sufficient attendance, an off-campus location is then secured, and the church is sent out.

Revitalizing struggling churches—like Calvary Cross-link (CCL). This church was featured in the Nov./Dec./Jan. 2011-12 edition of the *Proclaimer*. You might remember the story—how CCL was struggling to survive until CBC provided financial and leadership support. Through the involvement of CBC, Calvary Cross-link is now a vibrant and growing church with a pastor, a compelling vision, and a bright future. In fact, during April and May 2013, CCL baptized 78 people!

In 2005, when God called Dr. Randy Spencer to become the senior pastor of CBC, Pastor Randy had “A Vision for the Valley,” which included planting and revitalizing churches. “Every church needs a focus,” he says, “and we decided as a church family to pray

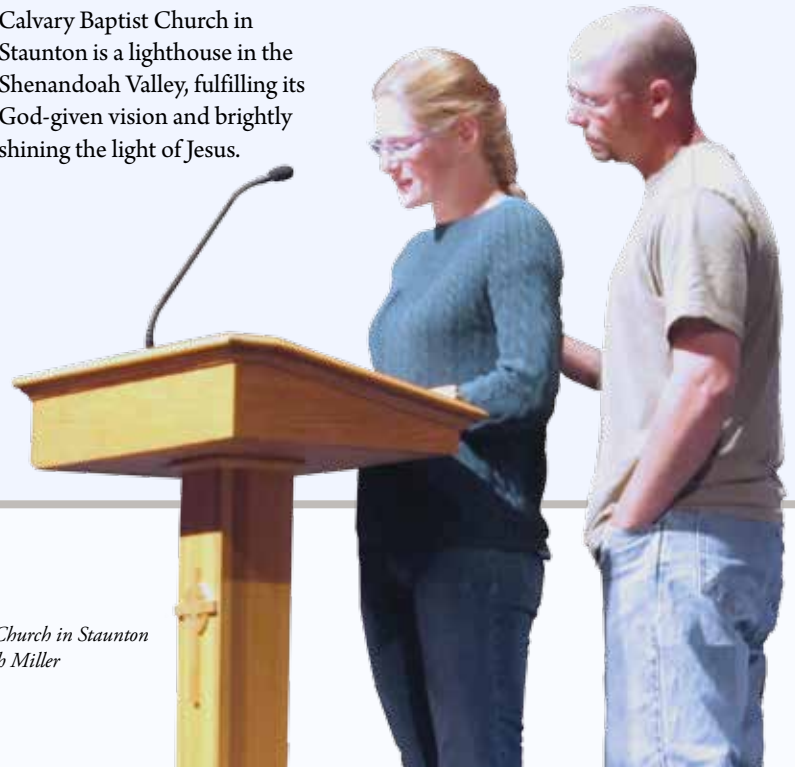
for a Kingdom focus. This Kingdom focus would allow us to see beyond the four walls of our church and into the needs of the entire Shenandoah Valley.”

The church constitution reads, “We will develop and send out pastors supplied with the necessary finances, resources, training, and encouragement to expand God’s Kingdom. Our specific goal is to become a ‘mother church,’ birthing new Southern Baptist churches, and to nurture and assist existing churches of like faith and practice.”

Calvary Baptist Church in Staunton is a lighthouse in the Shenandoah Valley, fulfilling its God-given vision and brightly shining the light of Jesus.



left: Dr. Randy Spencer
middle: Calvary Baptist Church in Staunton
right: Thad and Elizabeth Miller



RESOURCE WEBSITE cbcstaunton.org | calvarycrosslink.org

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Highlights from the 2013 State Bible Drill

Excitement was in the air as the children's and youth Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament participants began to arrive at Grace Community Baptist Church in Richmond, VA early on Saturday, May 4. Friends and family were pouring through the doors to lend support during this friendly competition.

Every state participant must drill at a certain level at a local church Bible Drill to be invited to compete at the State Bible Drill. Twenty-six children in fourth through sixth grades displayed their skills in locating and memorizing Bible books, Bible verses, and key passages. Each child received a trophy, but the true prize is that, by the end of three years of Bible Drill, each child has learned 75 verses and 30 key passages.

Eleven students in grades seven through nine competed in the Youth Bible Drill, where the competition intensifies and there is a state winner. At the end of three years in Youth Bible Drill, each student has learned an additional 60 verses and 30 more key passages.

This year's Speakers' Tournament included six students from tenth through twelfth grades. Speeches are four to six minutes in length and are presented on a topic chosen from an SBC of Virginia-approved list. The winner of the Speakers' Tournament receives an SBC of Virginia scholarship for \$500 to the college of his/her choice.

It is an inspiration seeing these young people living out 1 Timothy 4:12, "Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe" (NASB). If your church is not already participating, consider starting this kind of ministry at your church. You'll never know the eternal blessings it will reap.

For more information, contact Cheryl Chadwick at the SBC of Virginia (cchadwick@sbcv.org or 804-270-1848).



RESOURCE

WEBSITE sbcv.org/articles/detail/statewide_bible_drill_2014

PHONE 804-270-1848, Cheryl Chadwick

EMAIL cchadwick@sbcv.org



visionvirginia calendar

AUGUST

FindItHere.com Attractional Event Season (May-Aug)

Regional Pastor & Staff Power Meals

Mission Project: Adopt a Local School (Aug-Sep)

- 15 Statewide Church Planter Network
- 16-17 Women's Ministry Leadership Retreat,
International Learning Center, Rockville

SEPTEMBER

Regional Pastors, Staff, & Wives Fellowships

*Mission Projects: Adopt a Local School (Aug-Sep)
and Vision Virginia State Missions Offering (Sep-Oct)*

- 2 Labor Day
- 8 National Back to Church Sunday
- 12 Regional Church Planter Networks
- 21&28 Regional E412 Equipping Conferences
 - 21 SOUTHWEST, CENTRAL-WEST, & SOUTHEAST
 - 28 VALLEY, SOUTHSIDE, NORTH, & CENTRAL-EAST
- 22-29 Vision Virginia Week of Prayer and
Offering for State Missions
- 25 See You at the Pole (SYATP)

OCTOBER

Regional Pastors, Staff, & Wives Fellowships

Minister Appreciation Month

Cooperative Program Emphasis Month

*Mission Projects: Vision Virginia State Missions Offering
(Sep-Oct) and Sports Shoes & Socks for ARM (Oct-Nov)*

- 6 Soul-Winning Commitment Day
- 4-5 PLANT Training, Church Planting Teams (Part 1)
- 7-8 Executive Board Meeting
- 13 World Hunger Sunday
- 24 Statewide Church Planter Network
- 25-26 PLANT Training, Church Planting Teams (Part 2)

NOVEMBER

Mission Projects:

*Sports Shoes & Socks for ARM (Oct-Nov)
and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (Nov-Dec)*

- 3 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 5 Election Day
- 10-12 Annual Homecoming, First Baptist Church,
Roanoke
- 11 Veterans Day
- 28 Thanksgiving Day

FROM THE EDITOR



Brandon Pickett

bpickett@sbccv.org
facebook.com/brandon.pickett
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The SAME Yesterday, Today, and Forever

It was only one week before our nation turned 137 years old. June 26, 2013.

We knew such a moment could come. But even so, the news that the US Supreme Court had sided with the gay rights movement and ruled that married same-sex couples were entitled to federal benefits still felt unexpected. I remember feeling just a little sick to my stomach as I heard my phone buzz and read the news alert. Was this a bellwether moment in our country from which we could not recover? I had felt for some time that to call America a “Christian nation” was stretching it. But now... now I felt nothing could be further from the truth.

The very next day, I had the privilege to interview Dr. Russell Moore, the new president of the SBC’s Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, for the *Empowered* radio broadcast. Talk about providential timing. I know God used Dr. Moore’s words to encourage my heart, and I pray that was also the case for the many listeners.

If you haven’t had the opportunity to listen to this broadcast yet, I encourage you to download it from our iTunes podcast page: <http://tinyurl.com/podcast-empowered>

After finishing the interview, I started thinking about the biblical principles that refer to the constancy of God and His promises. As I started reading John 1, I was impressed again of the truth that “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever*” (Hebrews 13:8).

It is so encouraging to know that:

1. The Word is **eternally** God (“In the beginning was the Word”)
2. The Word is **equally** God (“The Word was with God and the Word was God”)
3. The Word is **essentially** God (not just possesses divine qualities/characteristics but participates in the reality of God)

When the world seems dark—and getting darker—remember that Jesus is the Originator of light and life (*life* is used 36 times in John—in no other book of the Bible is it used more than 17 times).

Yes, there has always been a battle between light and dark. But the Bible says that darkness cannot overcome light. In fact, one single light can penetrate 50 miles of darkness. Maybe that’s why Jesus told us not to hide our light under a bushel or basket but hold it up for all to see (Matthew 5:15).

In times like these, it’s easy to look at the headlines and feel that we are spinning out of control. But nothing surprises our Heavenly Father, who is always constant. We can look at the ongoing circumstances as hindrances or opportunities. One thing is for sure—as the years progress, a Christian family living openly and lovingly for the Lord will not only be something unique and different. It will be a light that will draw people to ask questions. Questions like, “What makes you different?” And when the questions come, know that each one is an open invitation to share the Gospel. We know who makes the difference in our lives and in our families—the Word, the Light, the Savior—Jesus Christ.



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