

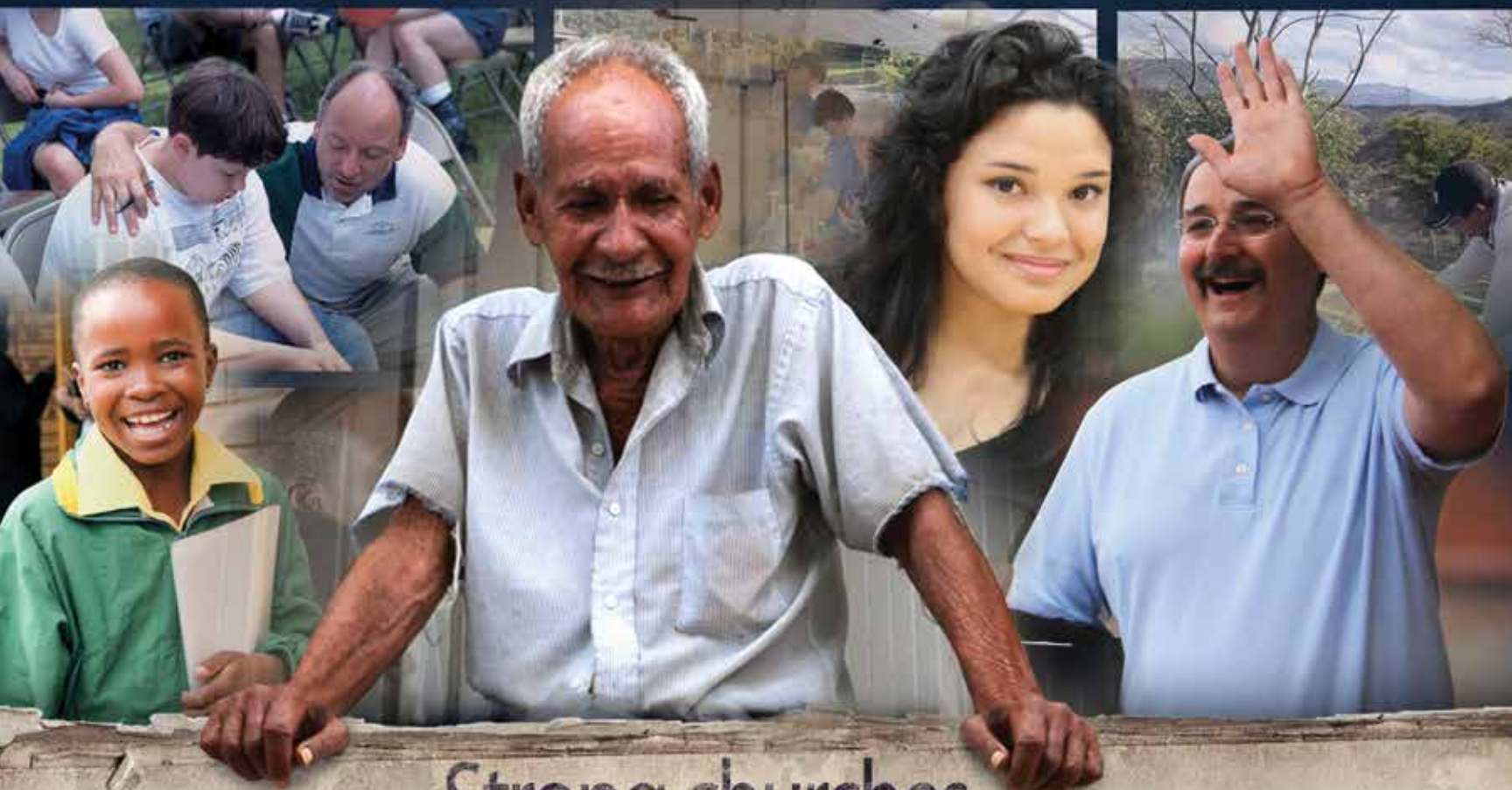


Proclaimer

SBC
OF VIRGINIA

a publication of the SBC of Virginia

visionvirginia



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with a **bold commitment**
to the *Great Commission*

Nov Dec 2013 Jan 2014



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Stronger Together

Solomon wisely wrote in Ecclesiastes 4, "Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their labor... though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken."

We are stronger as we **Stand Together.**

Not far from where I live, Rev. Weatherford, a Baptist pastor, was jailed for preaching the Gospel in Colonial Virginia. Followers of Jesus face trouble, trials, and tribulation to this day. Spiritual battles should not be surprising. Scripture teaches us to be strong in the Lord. In Acts, we read how the 1st-century followers of the Lord Jesus sought to strengthen one another in the Lord. In the 21st century, we too face spiritual battles. SBC of Virginia was founded as a fellowship united in our stand on the Scriptures. Sanctity of life, biblical marriage, and economic woes are examples of current challenges. We are stronger together as we stand together on God's Word.

We are stronger as we **Serve Together.**

We can grow weary in serving. The Lord Jesus sent his followers out two-by-two to be His witnesses. As we read Paul's epistles, he often references the fellow with him. The Scriptures give us many examples of the power of partnership. Ecclesiastes 4 reminds us that our work is more profitable as we serve together. SBC of Virginia churches serve together in many ways: Disaster Relief teams, scholarship programs, and mission partnerships, to name a few.

We are stronger as we **Send Together.**

We live in a day and age of global travel, international business, and mass media. The world in some ways seems to have become smaller, more interconnected. You can board an airplane and in hours be in a different culture on another continent. Yet the lostness and darkness are great. SBC of Virginia churches have global impact as we send together. We are joining together to proclaim the Gospel to people in places like Montreal, Greater Washington, DC, and Appalachia. SBC of Virginia churches join together to send 5,000 international missionaries. SBC of Virginia churches send church planters across Virginia and throughout North America.

We are Stronger Together...standing together, serving together, sending together!



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Proclaimer

TELLING ABOUT THE AMAZING
THINGS GOD IS DOING
THROUGH HIS CHURCH

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The *Proclaimer* is a collaborative effort of the missionaries of the SBC of Virginia (SBCV). As a ministry of the SBCV's Cooperative Program, the *Proclaimer* is published four times annually.

The SBC of Virginia is a fellowship of Southern Baptist Convention churches cooperating to assist local congregations in their task of fulfilling the Great Commission as commanded by our Lord Jesus Christ.

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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 10:13, "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.

CONTENTS | Proclaimer

2013 EDITION — VOL. 15, NO. 4



14-16 Annual Homecoming

Special section detailing schedules, keynote leaders, worship leaders, and something new this year—**free fellowship meals!** Be sure to register for this partnership celebration of SBC of Virginia churches.

- 4 A Win at Winn's: A Crafty Connection to Outreach
- 5 Discovering the Nations in Washington, DC
- 6 Who Will Minister to Him?
- 8 Directly Involved in Lives
- 10 What Else Could Be Better?
- 11 Hampton Roads Fellowship
- 12 Where Was Jesus? (English)
- 13 Where Was Jesus? (Spanish)
- 17 The Power of Partnerships
- 18 Hidden Heroes of the Faith
- 20 Reaching the World Without Leaving Home
- 22 The City of Darkness
- 24 Fusing New Ideas
- 25 We All Go to the Doctor

COVER LOOK

This cover was created by Innovative Faith Resources for the SBC of Virginia. For information on Innovative Faith Resources, email ifr@innovativefaith.org.

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FUN & FRIENDSHIP

A Win at Winn's: A Crafty Connection to Outreach

I was recently invited to join the women at Winn's Baptist Church in Glen Allen, VA for a time of fun and friendship—and I must add, it was fabulous!

The Women's Ministry team at Winn's had been searching for a nonthreatening way to host outreach events that would connect gals of all ages with God, each other, and the community. As a result, Second Saturday Workshops were created. These craft workshops are informative, instructional, and hands on. They vary in topic and are offered by local artisans throughout the community—on everything from quilting to homemade candy making!

On the morning I attended, the craft was canvas painting. I arrived that morning, canvas in hand, ready to transform its white, blank nothingness into something Picasso would be proud of. Our painting instructor, Carol Reynolds, assured us no previous painting experience was necessary as she attentively led us through the process from start to finish. It was a fun time of making new friends and learning a new craft. I loved it and so did the other ladies who attended. Here's what some of them had to say:

"It was so much fun learning how to paint, meeting new friends, and creating something beautiful!" – Marjorie

"Great opportunity to learn a new skill and meet ladies in our church." – Connie

"Second Saturday Workshops teach us how to do so many fun things. Great fellowship! Great outreach!" – Cindy

"I can't believe I was able to paint this!!! And it was great getting to know other ladies!" – Nancy

If you are interested in starting your own craft workshops, ask people in your church/community about their skills/hobbies and if they would be willing to share. Here are some ideas for topics:

- Handmade Cards
- Quilting
- Homemade Candy
- Cupcake Decorating
- Flower Arranging
- Painting on Canvas
- Canning
- Scrapbooking
- Jewelry Making
- Photography

Other things to consider as you begin:

Keep it simple. Make it the same time each month. For example, meet on the first Thursday evening each month from 6-9 PM.

Plan well in advance. Know what type of craft supplies you will provide and which you will have participants bring. For example, in a quilting class, you could ask participants to bring fabric.

Keep the cost minimal. If you do choose to furnish supplies and charge the attendees a fee, try to keep the cost minimal. This will enable more gals to come and to invite their friends.

Plan to share. Have a mini devotional or have someone share her testimony of how she came to know Christ.

Be hospitable. Provide a light snack and beverages.

Follow-up. Don't miss the opportunity to follow up with visitors.

.....
Contributed by Tammy Bennett, Women's Ministry Strategist, SBC of Virginia



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Discovering the Nations in Washington, DC

In response to a request from several SBC of Virginia churches to provide a missions opportunity in Washington, DC, we began a journey 18 months ago that is beginning to bear fruit and generate incredible opportunities to reach the nations in DC and beyond. The goal of this project is for SBCV churches to engage in people-group ministry in DC, Alexandria, and Arlington, in order to develop relationships and eventually plant churches. We want to identify specifically where various people groups have clustered so that we can provide that information to our churches.

We began working in partnership with the International Mission Board (IMB), the North American Mission Board (NAMB), and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) to develop a strategy and participate in training on how to conduct this process known as mapping. In the early spring of this year, Keelan Cook (SEBTS student and former IMB Journeyman missionary to West Africa) began working as mapping coordinator for this project. Over the summer, many SEBTS students and church teams were involved in the mapping process.

Several people groups have already been identified and located in the DC area. For example, we found that the second largest concentration of Ethiopians in the world (second only to the capital of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa) is in DC! There are more than 250,000 Ethiopians living in the Metro DC area, with two concentrations—one on Georgia Ave. in DC, the other in Falls Church, VA.

Additionally, the teams have mapped more than 120,000 Persians in the Fairfax area. Persians are hungry for the Gospel. Many have come from oppressive Islamic countries and consider themselves to be “seekers of truth.” Therefore, even though their governments may outlaw Christianity entirely, they are ready to hear and discover truth for themselves. We are currently working with at least one SBCV church to plant churches among the Persian people, but we need additional churches to assist with resources and encouragement to further this work that is already seeing incredible fruit.

Then there are the Salvadorans—200,000 inside the Beltway with many more in the surrounding area. The Metro DC area (Washington, DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia) is currently the only metropolitan area in the entire country where Salvadorans are the majority among Hispanics. They are mostly concentrated in the suburbs in Northern Virginia and Maryland.

There are more than 190 people groups in the Metro DC area—perhaps your church would like to be a part of discovering where they are located within the District. If you are working with a particular people group in Asia, Africa, or another location, why not further your reach and work with them in DC too?

Why not join churches like Pleasant Grove Baptist Church and The Camp of Faith Church, who have committed to work with West Africans in DC? Or Jerusalem Baptist Church, who has committed to



work with Arabic-language peoples? The nations have truly come to us here in Virginia and DC. “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 29:19, NASB).

There will be a breakout session at Annual Homecoming where you can learn more and meet with Clint Clifton, the Send City coordinator for Washington, DC. See you there! You may also contact Mark Gauthier (mgauthier@sbcv.org) for more information.



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Who will Minister to Him?

You know the type. The person who walks into the doors of a church and everyone turns to stare, wondering, “Who will connect with *him*?” Based on his appearance, most of us wouldn’t jump at the chance to befriend and share the Gospel with him—but Hannah Carmona doesn’t think like most of us.

During the closing program of Acts 1:8 Families this summer, an older man with his shirt tail half in and half out, sporting a Mountain Dew bottle in his rear pocket, walking with a limp, and wearing clothes in desperate need of pressing with hair well beyond manageable, entered the building. He wandered around the 175 people in attendance, not creating a disturbance but clearly out of place. In fact, when the program started, he actually interrupted the emcee, Mark Gauthier. What few in the group knew was that he was Barry McGee, chaplain of Motor Racing Outreach, the speaker for the evening.

Hannah Carmona, one of the children participating in Acts 1:8 Families, befriended him before the program began, offering him food and conversation. Most importantly, she took the time to explore his spiritual condition. Barry followed her lead, wanting to see how far she would go with sharing the Gospel. Hannah extended him the opportunity to express his faith in Christ, and he followed. It wasn’t until Barry ascended the platform that Hannah discovered he was already a believer and was amazed at her boldness and clarity in sharing the Gospel. Hannah had not let Barry’s unkempt manner deter her from sharing her faith. Barry shared before the group that Hannah was the first person in his adult life who had expressed an interest in his spiritual condition.

One of the core values in Acts 1:8 Families is for the children to have the opportunity to share Christ. Another young camper, Kaitlyn Brogan, quickly stepped up to the plate when she noticed that someone was open to the Gospel. She used the EvangeCube to share her faith and encouraged the child to

respond to the Gospel—and he did!

From a Mom’s Perspective

Cherie Brogan (Kaitlyn’s mom)

“Acts 1:8 Families has allowed Hannah to grow in her boldness. She was already bold, having shown a classmate the way to Christ and securing her a Bible, but Acts 1:8 Families increases her boldness.” Cherie expressed thankfulness for what Acts 1:8 Families has done and will continue to do in her family.

Cathy Carmona (Hannah’s mom)

“We have participated in Acts 1:8 for four years now. It truly is a blessing to our family and something we look forward to every year. Serving Christ as a family keeps us centered and focused on what’s important ... being the hands and feet of Christ. Both of our children are strong representatives for Christ. We are so proud of Hannah’s boldness for Christ and her passion for helping people understand the sacrifice Christ made for all of us. We look forward to seeing how God will use us next year on the mission field.”

From a Pastor’s Perspective

Pastor Michael Harrison, The Community Fellowship, Collinsville, VA, host church for Acts 1:8 Families 2013

“When people join us here in our community, there is inspiration and strength that our people gain. Shared ministry and shared vision lead to more lives being impacted for our God. I am always grateful for the people who chose to partner with us!”

The core value of families sharing the Gospel on mission together was not lost on those who participated in Acts 1:8 Families in

Martinsville, VA this summer. Would you and your children like to honor the Lord and be blessed by participating in Acts 1:8 Families in Montreal or southwest Virginia in 2014? Want a memory that will last a lifetime? Watch your child share the Gospel.

About Acts 1:8 Families

Acts 1:8 Families offers a unique five-day mission experience that allows children, youth, and adults to build a legacy of missions by meeting the physical and spiritual needs of others through relevant servanthood and direct evangelism experiences.

Families have the privilege to be "hands on" as they participate in devotions, ministry projects, and worship together. Mission activities include prayerwalking, light construction, painting, yard work, Vacation Bible School, sports camps, block parties, acts of kindness, and other evangelistic events.

Each day begins with family devotions followed by large group worship time. Each family is then sent out to participate in ministry projects in the community. In the evening, there is a large group gathering for praise and worship, teaching, and testimonies. The day ends with a family huddle to discuss the impact of the day on family members, both individually and as a family.



The Stats

1 Participation



14 families participated (totaling 49 individuals)



8 SBCV churches participated

2 Attendance



25 average daily VBS attendance



175 Thursday evening event attendance (approx.)

3 Decisions



5 made decisions to follow Christ



RESOURCE WEBSITE sbcv.org/articles/detail/about_acts_18_families



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.....
* The following is an update to an article first
published in the Proclaimer in September 2010.
.....

Turning Mission Emotion into Mission Motivation

A young pastor shuddered in his cardboard home, the soaked material that served as his roof proving to be no match for the harsh Nicaraguan weather. The water collected in threatening puddles above his head before dripping into his outstretched hands. Gazing at his


"God spoke to me very clearly that this is what He wanted me to do..."

young children and wife, the pastor offered a tear-choked prayer to God. The answer to that prayer came in the form of a 20-year old young man from an SBC of Virginia church and the ministry he began when he was only 16.

By replacing the cardboard structure with a 20 x 20 concrete house for \$5,000 USD, Zachary (Zack) Jones and Blue Sky Ministries was able to hand this humbled pastor a set of keys to his new home. Remembering the event, Zack said the man cried and called the structure a mansion, reveling in the fact that God blessed him with a heavenly mansion while still on earth.

Jones launched Blue Sky in October 2009 after a group of students and leaders from his Beaverdam Baptist Church youth group returned from a mission trip to Nicaragua. As reported in September 2010, even during the mission team report to the church, Jones felt a true calling from God:

"God spoke to me very clearly that this is what He wanted me to do. I still tried to avoid God, but during my Spanish class the next day, my teacher started telling the class about how they were going to start a Spanish club soon. Our club planned to sponsor a community. I decided this was the time for me to step up and talk to my teacher about raising money for the families living in the dump [in Nicaragua]. The more I thought about it, I realized that God didn't just want me to do something at school; He wanted me to start my own organization to move people out of the dump. As I sat and thought about everything I had just



seen, it took everything I had to hold in the tears. I couldn't believe the life these people lived. I thought about it all the way home and for weeks after. I still think about that place every day."

Since that time, Zack and Blue Sky Ministries have touched 20 communities through building houses and churches and feeding hundreds of families physically and spiritually.

Upon entering communities, mission teams visit local churches where pastors choose individuals in the congregation who demonstrate leadership qualities. These locals follow the ministry's evangelism teams for a week, taking notes and learning from the teams' actions. At the end of the week, the locals are told to go witness independently within the community apart from the teams.

"It's wild because they go from not knowing how to share their faith to just fully preaching the Gospel," Zack said.

After returning from a trip with Blue Sky Ministries, Liberty University junior Reuben Stoltzfuz said, "It helped me reflect on where I spend my time and my money. It was really eye opening."

According to Zack, this is not simply a 7- or 8-day mission trip, but a 365-day program in which team members become directly involved in the lives of those they touch.

"God has given me the ability to take those [heartbroken] emotions and turn [them] into motivation, which has allowed me to realize that I no longer need to be caught up in feeling bad," Zack said. "Now I can push past that and realize God is using me [through Blue Sky Ministries] to help them."

Zack has many God-given plans for the ministry's future, ranging from short-term to long-term goals. He prayerfully plans to sponsor national and American missionaries as well as open a school that will raise children who will later be educated in business, education, and other fields of study.

**Contributed by Cindi Jones. Edited by Brandon Pickett*



2014 MISSION PROJECTS

January – February
Quilting Materials for IMB Missionaries

February – March
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

March – April
Hiker Supplies for Trail Days

April – May
Christian Libraries for Overseas

June – July
Disaster Relief Readiness Items


August – September
Adopt a Local School

September – October
Vision Virginia State Missions Offering

October – November
Christmas in Appalachia Backpacks

November – December
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

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NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

What Else Could Be Better?

Living with a mission to reflect the light of Jesus to those around us is powerful and rewarding. Jim Martin put it this way, “God gave me a good job at Exxon to prepare us for what we’re doing. We could be traveling the world, but there’s nothing we could be doing right now more meaningful than this.” Jim and Diana Martin found the opportunity to be a light for Jesus close to home—among Roanoke’s growing Nepali community. Nepali refugees in Roanoke originate from the Lhotshampas, who were declared a threat to the political order of Bhutan in the 1980s, accused of being illegal immigrants, and expelled. More than 105,000 landed in United Nations refugee camps in southeastern Nepal, where they lived in bamboo-and-thatch huts and were cared for by international aid agencies. The United States agreed to resettle at least 60,000 of them, beginning in 2008, and many were sent to Roanoke.

Jim and Diana are lifelong Southern Baptists who knew nothing about this unique people group before the Nepalis became their calling. Diana, a retired Texas social worker, and Jim, a retired executive with Exxon Corporation, are called “Dinah Mom” and “Jem Sir,” respectively, by the Nepalis. The Martins landed in western Virginia in 2003 when Jim retired and went to work as an administrator at Rainbow Forest Baptist Church in Troutville. Diana was encouraged by a missionary friend to seek out people to care for (based on Isaiah 54:2—“Enlarge the place of your tent ... and strengthen the stakes”).

Jim and Diana began volunteering for the local Refugee and Immigration Services ministry and developed a love for and a growing ministry among the Nepali people. They’ve been busy “enlarging their tent” for the Nepalis ever since—putting in roughly 80 hours a week between the two of them. Jim and Diana have become beloved mentors to so many in the refugee community. They often use their mini-vans to transport refugees to appointments, classes, doctor visits, etc. to the tune of \$500 a month in gasoline.

The couple began a Bible study, which grew into a church plant three years later. New Life Fellowship is sponsored by several Roanoke area SBC of Virginia churches and rents space at the Jefferson Center in downtown Roanoke. Most of the Roanoke Nepalis are Hindu, including many of those who attend the church. However, many have turned to Jesus for salvation, including a family of four just recently. In fact, New Life Fellowship has baptized a dozen people since the start of 2013. “We’re showing our love by serving them, doing what Jesus did,” said Diana.

Please pray for these brothers and sisters as they proclaim the Gospel and make disciples. Your church’s giving through the Cooperative Program and the *Vision Virginia* State Missions Offering allows the SBC of Virginia to plant churches and reach various people groups in Virginia and Greater DC.

This article includes information from The Roanoke Times article by Beth Macy (August 21, 2011).



*Jim, Diana, and the
Nepalis at the park.*



HAMPTON ROADS FELLOWSHIP

On Sunday morning, September 22, a vision of a new church became reality—Hampton Roads Fellowship in Newport News, led by church planter Miguel Davilla. As with many new churches, when Hampton Roads Fellowship began in January as a small group, it met in the church planter's home. By launch Sunday, 43 people had covenanted together to become the founding members, and a total of 160 were present to participate in the birth of this new church.

"For years, I have been burdened to see a community formed by the Gospel that would carry out the meaning of what a healthy church is and display that model to others that have similar burdens to do the same," said Pastor Miguel. "I can say that on September 22, we did just that, and I could not be more pleased. The Lord brought many people to join our launch team, and each one has a story that contributes to the DNA of Hampton Roads Fellowship."

As the launch team met over the course of several months to pray, study God's Word, and seek His direction for planting Hampton Roads Fellowship, some of the team members realized they had never experienced believer's baptism, and some became followers of Christ for the first time. Consequently, on launch Sunday, 10 were baptized in the nearby James River, and all who were there to worship on that day had the opportunity to participate in communion. Miguel posted a picture of a prepared communion tray on his Facebook page early that Sunday morning before the launch service, along with the comment, "Excited to share this meal with the members of @hrfellowship this morning for the first time."

Miguel grew up in New York and later served in the United States Navy both as an enlisted sailor and an officer. He was a lieutenant stationed in nearby Norfolk on September 11, 2001 when our nation was attacked, and he remembers that time vividly. At the time, he his wife, Cassie, owned a home in a different section of Newport News. Though he didn't realize it

at the time, God was creating within him a love for the Hampton Roads area, which He would later use to birth a new church.

What is especially exciting and unique about this church is the multicultural diversity that God has created from the very start. The diversity present on launch day was a mirror reflection of the diversity in the immediate and nearby communities—communities that need the hope only Christ can bring.

Hampton Roads Fellowship is being sponsored by the churches of the SBC of Virginia along with Second Baptist Church of Springfield, MO. In an open letter to all who have assisted in the launch of Hampton Roads Fellowship, Miguel wrote, "Your partnership in this work has been a confirmation from the Lord of His calling on my life to plant this church. Thank you."

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WHERE WAS JESUS?

“I would like to have woken up and known that this was only a nightmare, but I can’t wake up.”

These were the words of María de Pilar, wife of Miguel Ángel Carbajal who had drowned a few days earlier in Ivy Lake. Miguel had been many times to our congregation, assisting at two of the camps in past years and, this August, he wanted to participate at the event for families. He had heard the Gospel many times and, according to his friends, it appeared he had made a decision for Christ.

When I called his wife, María, in Mexico, it was one of those very difficult moments when you really do not know what to say. I decided to simply listen and allow her to share the pain she felt. María told me that Miguel shared with her the times he had been at our church and that he felt peace when he heard the Word of God and saw the joy of the believers. She told me of the plans that they had made for when Miguel returned to Mexico. Now, it all appeared to have fallen apart. It had been five years since he had seen his three children, Cesar (16), Mariana (10), and Miguel Ángel (5).

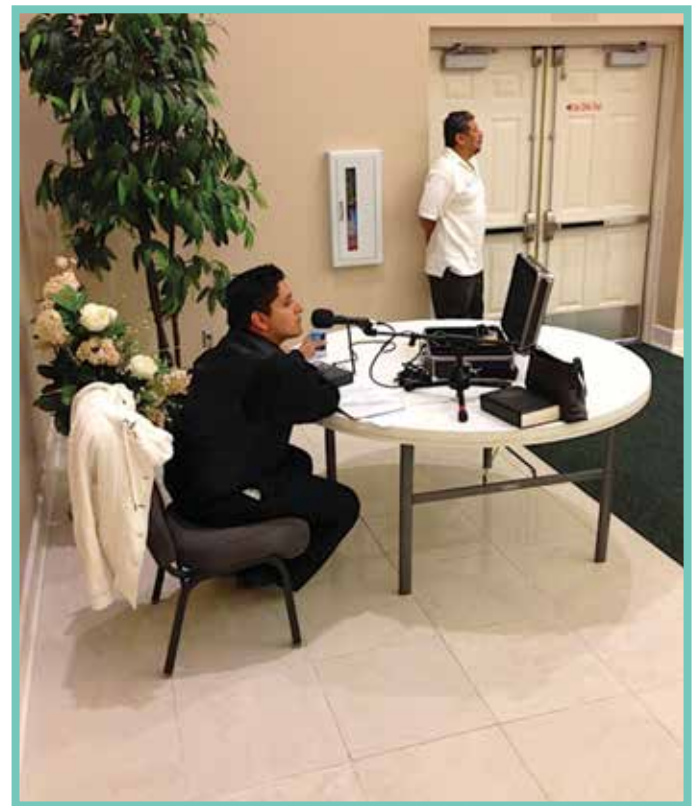
After I listened to her for a while, I shared that Jesus had also experienced the loss of his good friend, Lazarus. Jesus had been very close to Lazarus and his sisters. When Lazarus died, Mary and Martha expressed their frustration over Jesus’ absence. They said, “If you had been here, he would not have died.” I shared with María that this is a common feeling for those who have lost someone, but our hope is precisely how Jesus responded that day: “I am the resurrection and the life.” Jesus showed us that He is the present hope—not only in the future but also during times of pain. I asked María if she had died instead of Miguel, where she would be for eternity. We began to go deeper, and she understood that Christ had come 2,000 years ago to seek her and that He died for her sins. María gave her life to Christ. Her words were beautiful: “Now I know that I will be with Christ because I was created in Christ and I have repented in my heart!” Praise be to God!

The congregation at Nuevo Amanecer (New Love) Spanish Campus of Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg held a funeral to celebrate Miguel’s life and as a time for friends to say their goodbyes. Many came who do not attend any church. María and her family were able to “attend” the funeral through Skype. The service was in Spanish but translated into English. That day, the church showed that love is more than words. Within the community, they were fundraising with local businesses to raise

money to send Miguel’s body to Mexico. A total of \$2,600 was needed. They raised more than \$6,000 through different activities. All of the extra money was sent to the family in Mexico to help them financially through this difficult time.

Miguel’s friends couldn’t save him in time, but they know that if Miguel put his confidence in Christ, then Christ took Miguel in His hands. While closing his eyes in this life, he opened his eyes to a new life in eternity. In Miguel’s death, God sought his family and brought the victory of life. God is more than a conqueror in all circumstances, and He definitely uses painful experiences and brings beauty from ashes.

Contributed by Sergio Guardia, Pastor of Nuevo Amanecer, Danville, VA



¿DÓNDE ESTABAS JESÚS?

“Solo quisiera despertar y que esto haya sido solamente una pesadilla, pero no puedo despertar.”

Estas fueron las palabras de María del Pilar, esposa de Miguel Ángel Carbajal que se había ahogado hace unos días en Ivy Lake. Miguel había venido algunas veces a nuestra congregación, asistido a dos de nuestros campamentos en otros años y este año también quería participar de nuestro campamento familiar en Agosto. El había escuchado el evangelio varias veces, y según sus amigos, al parecer había tomado una decisión por Cristo.

Cuando llame a la su esposa María del Pilar en México, tuve uno de esos momentos tan difíciles que realmente no sabes que puedes decir. Así que simplemente decidí escucharla, y dejarla que se desahogue del dolor que sentía. Pilar me contó que Miguel le contaba de las veces que había venido a nuestra iglesia, y que sentía paz al oír la Palabra de Dios y ver el gozo de los hermanos. Nos contó de los planes que tenían cuando Miguel regresara a México. Y ahora todo parecía desmoronarse. Miguel tenía 3 hijos, Cesar de 16 años, Mariana de 10 años y el pequeño Miguel Ángel de 5 años. Justamente hace 5 años que no los veía.

Después de oírla por un tiempo le conté que Jesús también había experimentado la pérdida de su buen amigo Lázaro. Jesús había estado muy cerca de Lázaro y sus hermanas. Cuando murió Lázaro, Marta y María expresaron su frustración por la ausencia de Jesús cuando Lázaro murió. Ellas dijeron: “Si hubieras estado aquí, él no habría muerto.” Le conté que este es un sentimiento común en los que pierden a alguien, pero nuestra esperanza está justamente en lo que respondió Jesús aquel día: “Yo soy la resurrección y la vida.” ¡Cristo les mostró que El es una esperanza presente!, no sólo en el futuro, sino en este instante de dolor. Pregunté a Pilar que si ella hubiese muerto en vez de Miguel, donde estaría en la eternidad.? Comenzamos a profundizar, y ella entendió que Cristo había venido a buscarla hace 2000 años y entregó su vida a Cristo. Sus palabras fueron hermosas: “Ahora sé que estaré con Cristo, porque he creído en Cristo y me he arrepentido de corazón.” ¡Alabado sea Dios!

La congregación de Nuevo Amanecer Spanish Campus de Thomas Road Baptist Church celebró un funeral para que los amigos de Miguel en Lynchburg pudieran despedirse, y a través de Skype asistieron de alguna manera María del Pilar y su familia. Vinieron varias personas que no asisten a ninguna iglesia. El servicio fue en Español pero hubo

traducción al Inglés. Ese día la iglesia pudo mostrar que su amor es más que palabras, ya que la congregación estuvo involucrada en la recaudación de fondos junto con negocios de la ciudad en la comunidad para poder mandar el cuerpo a México. Se necesitaban un total de \$2600 dólares, y se pudo recaudar más de \$6000 producto de diferentes actividades que se hicieron. El dinero extra será enviado a la familia para ayudarles económicamente en este tiempo.

Los amigos de Miguel no pudieron salvarle a tiempo, pero algo sabemos, si Miguel puso su confianza en Cristo, entonces Cristo mismo le tomó de la mano, mientras cerró los ojos a esta vida, el abrió sus ojos a una nueva vida en la eternidad. Y ahora en la ausencia de Miguel, Dios buscó a su familia y trajo victoria de vida para su familia. Dios es más que vencedor en todas las circunstancias, y definitivamente El no desperdicia un dolor y es capaz de traer belleza de las cenizas.

Contribuido por Sergio Guardia, Pastor de Nuevo Amanecer, Danville, VA





Strong churches

with a **bold commitment**
to the *Great Commission*

NOV 10, SUNDAY EVENING

6:30 – 8:30 PM

This session includes:

- Praise & worship
- Special music, FBC Roanoke choir and praise team
- **Message: Dr. Ed Stetzer**

NOV 11, MONDAY MORNING

9:00 – 11:30 AM

This session includes:

- Worship, led by FBC Roanoke choir and praise team
- Recognition of seminaries
- Breakout session 1 (9:15 – 10:15)
- Breakout session 2 (10:30 – 11:30)

11:45 AM

Fellowship Lunch
(free to registered members and guests, tickets required—see pg. 16 for more information)

NOV 11, MONDAY AFTERNOON

1:25 – 4:45 PM

This session includes:

- Worship led by Scott Bullman & Sounds of Liberty
- Theme introduction: Dr. Grant Ethridge

- **Message: Dr. Russell Moore**

- Call to order:

- » Introduction of business and reports
- » Approval of 2013 Annual Homecoming program
- » Approval of 2012 Annual Homecoming minutes

- Video story: Ryan Hendricks, part 1

- **Message: Dr. Ed Stetzer**

4:45 PM — Church Planting Dinner (by invitation only), Women's Dinner (tickets required), or dinner on your own

NOV 11, MONDAY EVENING

6:45 – 8:45 PM

This session includes:

- Worship, led by Scott Bullman & Sounds of Liberty
- Special Music, Charles Billingsley and a regional combined choir with Sounds of Liberty
- Video story: Ryan Hendricks, part 2
- Executive Director's Report
- **Message: Dr. Danny Akin**

NOV 13, TUESDAY MORNING

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

This session includes:

- Worship led by Scott Bullman & Sounds of Liberty
- SBCV partner reports:
 - » The Baptist Banner
 - » GuideStone
 - » Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission
 - » North American Mission Board
 - » International Mission Board
 - » LifeWay

ANNUAL HOMECOMING 2013

November 10-12 | First Baptist Church, Roanoke

A time to celebrate the Gospel partnership that unites SBC of Virginia churches in a common Christ-given mission to reach our neighbors and the nations.

- Call to order:
 - » Video story: Jeff Mingee, part 1
 - » Eagle Awards
 - » Nehemiah Award
 - » Video story: Jeff Mingee, part 2
- **President's Address:**
Dr. Randy Hahn

12:00 PM — Fellowship Lunch
(free to registered members and guests, tickets required—see pg. 16 for more information)

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

1:30 – 4:00 PM

This session includes:

- Worship led by Scott Bullman & Sounds of Liberty
- Video story: Jeff Mingee, part 3
- Call to order:
 - » Unfinished business
 - » Election of officers
- Partner report:
SBC Executive Committee
- Macedonia Awards
- Pentecost Awards
- **Message: Dr. Donald Wilton**
- Introduction of 2014 officers

Celebrating what God is doing and seeking His direction in fulfilling His Great Commission.

For information or to register:
sbcv.org/events

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr. Danny Akin
Dr. Ed Stetzer
Dr. Russell Moore
Dr. Donald Wilton
Dr. Randy Hahn



SPECIAL MUSIC

Charles Billingsley
Scott Bullman
Sounds of Liberty



ANNUAL HOMECOMING MEALS

Register at:
annualhomecoming2013.eventbrite.com

NOV 11 MONDAY LUNCH

11:45 AM — Fellowship Lunch

Guest speaker, Dr. Russell Moore

Sponsored by BDC Capital Management

(free to registered members and guests; ticket required)

NOV 11 MONDAY DINNER

4:45 PM — Dinner (options)

Church Planting Dinner

Guest speaker, Dr. Danny Akin

(by invitation only)

Women's Dinner

Guest speaker, Julie Coleman

(ticket required, \$12 each)

Dinner on your own

NOV 11 MONDAY EVENING

8:45 PM — Reception

Honoring ministers with 25 or more years of service. All are invited.

NOV 12 TUESDAY BREAKFAST

8:00 AM — Prayer Breakfast

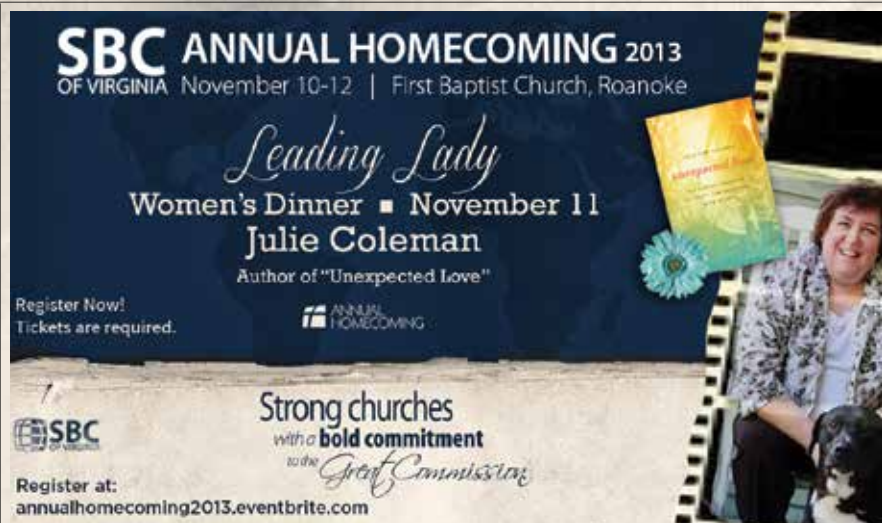
With the executive director and the Executive Board of the SBC of Virginia. All are invited.

NOV 12 TUESDAY LUNCH

12:00 PM — Fellowship Lunch

Guest speakers, Clint Clifton
and Chad Vandiver

(free to registered members and guests; ticket required)



SBC ANNUAL HOMECOMING 2013
OF VIRGINIA November 10-12 | First Baptist Church, Roanoke

Leading Lady
Women's Dinner ■ November 11
Julie Coleman
Author of "Unexpected Love"

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Fellowship Luncheon
WITH
Dr. Russell Moore
President, Southern Baptist Ethics &
Religious Liberty Commission

Monday, November 11, 2013 | 11:45 AM

At the SBC of Virginia 2013 Annual Homecoming
First Baptist Church, Roanoke

Event is **free** to registered members and guests.
Tickets are required.

sbcv.org/annualhomecoming **ANNUAL HOMECOMING**

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The Power of Partnerships

What does it take to plant a Gospel-centered church in Washington, DC—a city that serves as a seat of global power and influence and is one of the most expensive US cities in which to live? Where do you find a church planter and team who will answer God's call? How do you adequately resource the planting of a church? The answer is simply, by the power of the Holy Spirit and through partnerships!

Two years ago, Second Baptist Church of Springfield, MO sensed God's call to partner with the SBC of Virginia to plant churches in Washington, DC. This was in the early days of the North American Mission Board's (NAMB) Send North America (SNA) strategy. SNA is a plan to take the Gospel into urban areas that have little or no evangelical church presence and to plant new churches there. One of the 30 current Send Cities is Washington, DC. SNA is not only a mobilization strategy—it's becoming a partnership strategy as well. SNA is bringing together churches, state conventions, church planters, and resources from across North America to spread the Gospel and start churches in our largest cities.

A few years before partnering with SBCV, Second Baptist sponsored a successful church plant in the Midwest. That church planter, John Edwards, began to feel a distinct call from the Lord to move to DC and plant a church in the Georgetown area. As John began to explore the possibilities for planting in DC, he spoke with Vince Blubaugh, missions pastor at Second Baptist, then contacted NAMB to enter the process. During that time, Cross Pointe Baptist Church in Duluth, GA, pastored by Dr. James Merritt, answered God's call to become involved in planting churches in DC. These partners and others, along with the SBCV,

Our cities are mission fields! For the first time in history, over 80% of the US population and the world's population live in urban areas.

have come together to plant DC Fellowship in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, DC. All of these partners will be working together in praying, sending teams, and supporting the new church financially.

To plant churches in an area like DC, we need multiple partners. Jesus reminded us in Luke 10:2 of the urgency and size of the task He

has laid before His followers ("The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest." HCSB).

Our cities are mission fields! For the first time in history, over 80% of the US population and the world's population live in urban areas. It is very difficult for one church planter or the average-sized church to tackle what is required to carry out the Great Commission and successfully reach an entire urban community with the Gospel. If the work is shared by multiple partners and others, it is not so overwhelming. Multiple partners are also able to bring more financial resources to the task. *Business Insider* ranked DC as having the eighth highest cost of living in the US, and *CBS MoneyWatch* ranked it the fourth most expensive US city in which to rent an apartment. (The median rent for a two-bedroom apartment in DC is \$3,110.00 per month, and that usually doesn't even include a parking space.) It's expensive to plant a church in the city, but when the cost is shared by multiple church partners, NAMB, and state conventions, it becomes financially feasible.

It has often been said that we can do so much more together than we could ever do apart. This has been proven time and time again through the Cooperative Program and is now being proven through powerful partnerships with Send North America.



RESOURCE WEBSITES

namb.net/dc
sbcv.org/articles/detail/about_send_dc





Hidden Heroes of the Faith!

Between mission trips and ministering in their own community, Bill and Kate Pittman are always on mission and have been described as two of the most caring people you'll ever meet.

When asked why he got involved in international missions, Bill simply replied, "Charlie Spain." Charlie was the one who invited Bill to go on his first international mission trip. During that trip as they were going through

a large town, "Charlie started weeping over the lostness he was seeing all around us," said Bill. Seeing Charlie's heart for the unsaved sparked the same passion in Bill, and he was hooked. Bill has since participated in 14 international mission trips and has traveled to places like Ukraine, Romania, Belize, Nicaragua, and Uruguay. "God always provides," said Bill, "and Kate allows me to go."

Kate got involved in missions as a teenager through intermediate GAs (Girls in Action). One of the first

projects in which she participated was making Scripture cards for hospital patients. It wasn't long before she was making visits to homebound church members. During this time, she realized God was calling her to live on mission for Him.

Since 1982, Bill and Kate have served on teams together across America in Louisiana, Mississippi, West Virginia, Montana, Ohio, and New York, just to name a few. They have a heart for people and often go above and beyond to minister to others. While working on a home damaged by Hurricane Katrina, Kate learned that the two little boys who lived there were about to have birthdays. With all they had been through, Kate wanted to make sure their birthdays were special, so she made sure each had his own birthday cake.





top left: Bill Pittman and the New Orleans team
bottom left: Bill and Kate assisting the WEM
top right: Bill Pittman in Ukraine
right center: Bill Pittman
bottom right: Kate Pittman

construction of his own home so he could go on a mission trip.”

Are there hidden heroes in your church? If so, celebrate what the Lord is doing through their lives! Will you join Bill and Kate to be on mission in your Jerusalem, Judea, and around the world?



RESOURCE WEBSITE accessroanoke.com

Telling men, women, boys, and girls about Jesus is why Bill and Kate love going on mission. They have even helped start a church plant that ministers to young ladies at the Job Corp in Marion, VA.

“Bill and Kay are such a blessing to our church,” said Mark Totten, their pastor at South Fork Baptist Church in Marion. “They are always here to support the ministry of [the] church. Bill also put off finishing the

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Reaching the World without Leaving Home

** Reprinted by permission from the International Mission Board (IMB). Written by Marie Curtis, photos by Paul W. Lee*

The pile of sandals at the front door increases as a slow but steady stream of people crowds into the room. The apartment smells of cumin and curry, the savory odors of South Asia. The group grows to six, 10, then 15. A woman adjusts the flowing scarf she wears over her long tunic. Toddlers, bangles dangling from their wrists, weave happily between people willing to entertain them with pens and cell phones.

It's time for church.

But this isn't South Asia—it's Richmond, VA.

The Nepali congregation is one of 15 international house churches meeting in the city. Collectively they are known as the International Community Church; individually they are culturally unique groups holding church in their native languages.

The 15 churches meet together monthly, but weekly worship is separate and particular to each people group.

Minh Ha Nguyen started International Community Church (ICC) in 2009. Nguyen is a Vietnamese immigrant who came to the United States in 1993 and soon developed a passion for sharing Jesus with internationals like himself. As a manager in IMB's global research department, he knows the statistics well: Richmond is home to roughly 70,000 foreign-born individuals speaking more than 50 languages.

Ninety percent of the internationals he meets have never heard the Gospel in their first language. And he knew the way to a person's heart is through the language in which they speak and think.

While seeking the Lord's guidance on how to accomplish this, Nguyen met Samuel Nuon, a retired Cambodian pastor. Nuon, too, had been praying about a new ministry, and the men discovered their mutual desire for working with internationals in Richmond.

Through their friendship, God gave them a vision that would eventually reach beyond their city to engage ethnic communities across the United States.

Nguyen has spent most of his adult life in a multicultural and multilingual environment. His wife is French, and his two daughters were born in America. Still, he knew the most effective

approach was not multicultural—where internationals would have to adopt a new language and become adept with unfamiliar customs.

"We wanted it to be simple so that it can multiply," he says.

Nguyen and Nuon settled on a house-church approach.

House churches reproduce quickly because they are small, safe for seekers, and can adapt to specific cultures and worship styles. They don't take any money to start. There are no salaries or facility costs since church members volunteer for leadership positions and they meet in homes.

Bonnie Rai, a Nepalese immigrant and ICC leader in Richmond, has seen firsthand how quickly house groups can multiply. She has helped start four groups from a single Bible study. With more than 1,000 Nepalis and Bhutanese-Nepali refugees living in Richmond, there is plenty of room for growth.

"When you are new to America," Rai says, "it's hard to adjust to a big church. They (immigrants) are just sitting on the bench — they don't know the language or about the faith or about the Bible.

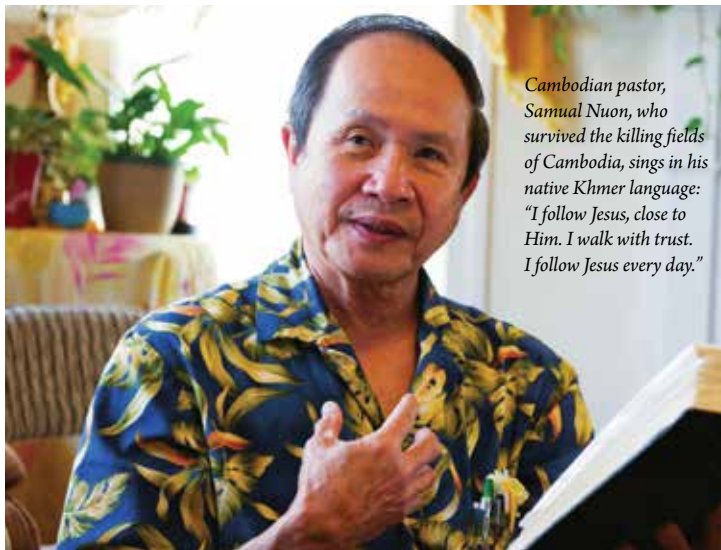
"Whatever we are teaching, we can stop and answer questions or concerns."

Rai also is a member of a larger, mostly Anglo church in Richmond. Though she enjoys worshipping with them, she admits that she struggles in a traditional Western church setting.

Blind from infancy, she cannot see projection screens or read hymn books, which means she can't sing songs she doesn't already know. But in the living room of her Nepali house church, she can relax on the floor with her guitar and sing from her heart.

Nepali believers meet weekly in the home of refugees who recently settled in Richmond. Here they are free to pray out loud and all at once. They exclaim "Hallelujah!" throughout the teaching session without fear of disturbing others. They share prayer requests without struggling for the correct English word.

Most ICC groups start with an event—an English language class, a party in the Vietnamese community, or an outreach to international students.



Cambodian pastor, Samuel Nuon, who survived the killing fields of Cambodia, sings in his native Khmer language: "I follow Jesus, close to Him. I walk with trust. I follow Jesus every day."



Once a month the individual house churches join together for worship, fellowship, and planning. Though held in English, many different languages can be heard during praying and singing.

Nepal House Church:

19-year-old Roshon, a refugee from Nepal, has been in the US for six months. Already a believer, he teaches others on this night of house church. Beside him, Bonnie Rai prepares to lead music.



In the case of the Cambodian church, friends gathered in the home of a woman whose husband had recently died. Saroeuy is a Cambodian Christian who has lived in Richmond for many years. When Nuon approached her about hosting a group, she eagerly agreed—and a new church was planted the following week.

LOCAL CHURCH PARTNERS

ICC hasn't abandoned the traditional church. Since many of Richmond's ethnic groups have no one trained to teach the Bible, it relies on partnerships with local churches to provide teachers.

Rod Mason is an example of one of those teachers. He is a member of a local Southern Baptist church that supports ICC. When he teaches, he speaks through an interpreter using a chronological Bible storytelling approach.

Mason says music is his favorite part of the Cambodian worship experience even though he doesn't speak their language. Members sing in their native Khmer accompanied by guitar and mandolin: "I follow Jesus," they sing, "close to Him. I walk with trust. I follow Jesus every day."

After singing, they pass around a small velvet bag Saroeuy made for their offerings. A bowl of jasmine flowers, common in Cambodia, sits on a table.

"In Cambodia, they offer jasmine to Buddha," Nuon explains. "Now we offer them to Christ—a beautiful fragrance."

Even for Mason, this feels like church.

"I've never done anything like this before," he says. "But we've become family. There are so many differences, and yet they just fade away."

Nguyen and Nuon focus on relationship building and saturate every

decision with prayer. It seems to be working. ICC started 10 house groups in Richmond with more than 120 internationals in its first year, and new groups are in the works.

Nguyen says ICC is catching on in other states including Massachusetts, Alabama, and Texas.

"This is a movement of prayer, a movement of the Holy Spirit, and a movement of lay people," he says.

BEYOND THE US

He hopes ICC won't be limited to a list of US cities. He envisions ICC as a way to take the Gospel beyond North America, reaching back to immigrants' homes in Cambodia, Nepal, and Vietnam. And he's beginning to see that happen.

"Mr. Ho" was the first new believer of the Vietnamese ICC in Richmond. He began attending after meeting Nguyen through an English language class. At age 72, he gave his life to Christ.

Immediately Ho began praying for the salvation of loved ones back in Vietnam. He made contact with a pastor in his home country and asked, "Please help me share the Gospel with my family."

First, Ho's oldest sister accepted Christ. Then her son-in-law and grandson became believers. Soon other family members followed suit and placed their faith in Jesus.

"When you reach the Vietnamese in Richmond, VA, you reach the Vietnamese around the world," Nguyen says. "ICC is just my obedience to the Great Commission in my city."



RESOURCE WEBSITE commissionstoriesmag.imb.org/i/94224



The City of Darkness

It's a city with streets named after saints and church buildings on almost every corner, but things are not what they seem.

"Even if it seems like Jesus' presence is here, it's not. It's a religious presence here. His work is not known. His sacrifice is not known. Nobody can explain why Jesus died on the cross. Ninety-five percent have no clue," said church planter Francois Verschelden, a Montreal native.

Until a few decades ago, the Catholic Church was in charge of Quebec's education system and much of its government. Now, while a majority of its residents still identify themselves as Catholic, that same majority sees no reason for continued observance of those traditions. It is a city filled with churches in a province filled with churches that are all but empty or on the verge of closing. All of this followed what is known as the "Quiet Revolution" of the 1960s.

Now the majority-Quebecois population of Montreal and broader Quebec sees Catholicism as part of their cultural heritage and nothing more. Canadian National Baptists are praying for and

beginning to see breakthroughs thanks to the work of God's Spirit and the incredible partnerships offered by our partnering churches.

Montreal is about 0.5 percent evangelical. Miraculously, though, there have been pockets of openness to church planting efforts. Through Send North America: Montreal, existing church planting efforts are joining more intentionally with Southern Baptists to reach the Quebecois—the least-reached people group in North America.

So what does 0.5 percent evangelical look like? Well, in a city of 3.7 million, it means that there are less than 20,000 believers. When we classify a people group that is less than two percent evangelical as an unreached people group (think Chad, Iran, or West Africa), then the Quebecois meets the definition of unreached—yes, an unreached people group in North America!

When Christ returns to take His Church home, most agree there will be chaos across the US. Millions will be taken, and car crashes and other disasters will ensue. But in Montreal, no one will notice.

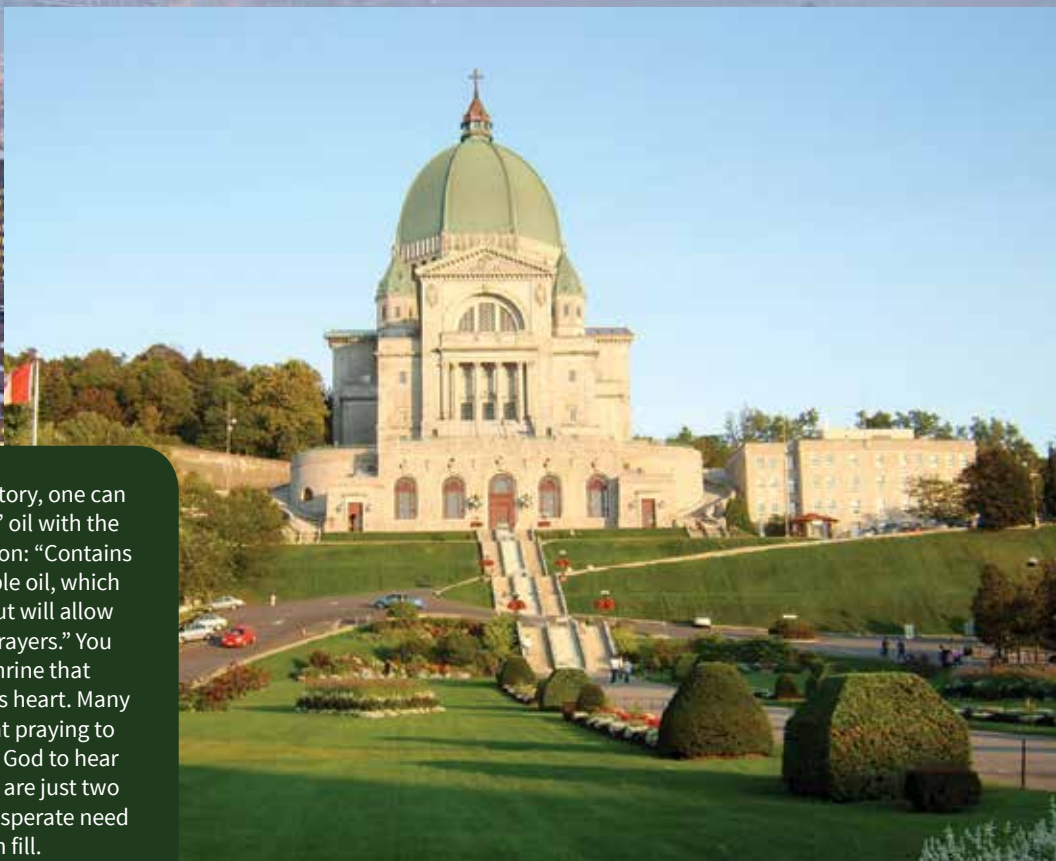
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At St. Joseph's Oratory, one can purchase "healing" oil with the following description: "Contains 100% pure vegetable oil, which will not heal you but will allow God to hear your prayers." You can also visit the shrine that contains St. Andre's heart. Many in Montreal say that praying to his heart will allow God to hear your prayers. These are just two examples of the desperate need that only Christ can fill.

They'll watch the news and wonder what's going on in the US.

There is hope, though. Several SBCV churches have come together to work in this Send

City in partnership with the North American Mission Board. First Baptist Church of Norfolk, VA is a lead church in reaching the Quebecois and helps sponsor La Chappell, a dynamic new church plant in Montreal. Midway Baptist Church in Phenix, VA has already participated in trips to reach these people and has committed to continue working with this partnership. Several other churches participated in a vision trip to Montreal this September: Smyrna Baptist, Dinwiddie; Southside Baptist, Suffolk; Sonlight Church, Chesapeake; and Mill Swamp Baptist, Ivor. Still others, like Aletheia Norfolk, have already connected with the Send City coordinator, Chad Vandiver, and are working out details of how they will partner in that area.

What about you? Many more partners are required to reach this least-evangelized city in North America. Will you lead your church to be a part of this effort?

There will be a breakout session at Annual Homecoming where you can learn more and meet with Chad Vandiver, the Send City coordinator for Montreal. See you there! You may also contact Mark Gauthier (mgauthier@sbcv.org) for more information.



RESOURCE

WEBSITE namb.net/Montreal

EMAIL mgauthier@sbcv.org



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STUDENTZ
FUSION

A Summer of Firsts: Fusing New Ideas and Embracing New Opportunities

The summer of 2013 was full of firsts for SBC of Virginia Studentz. For the first time in our history, we were able to offer two camp-like experiences for students—Fusion Mission Camp and Studentz Camp. We also provided those experiences in new locations and with new leadership.

During the third week of June, 295 students made their way to our state's capital for Fusion Mission Camp. Fusion blended elements of camp (recreation and excellent communicators and musicians) with elements of a mission trip (Spartan housing conditions and long hours of mission work). Kingsland Baptist, Swift Creek Baptist and Bethany Place Baptist hosted around 100 students each, allowing their Sunday School rooms to become sleeping quarters for young missionaries. Volunteers at each church prepared breakfasts and lunches. Students spent their days serving in 19 different mission sites doing everything from cleaning and painting to teaching Bible lessons and evangelizing. The goal was to bless Richmond in Jesus' name and come alongside SBCV churches to assist in Great Commission work. In the evenings, all students joined together for worship and preaching at Kingsland. They were led in worship by The Worship Collective and the Josh Via Band. Evangelist Algernon Tennyson also preached nightly. These times of worship and exhortation encouraged students in their walk with God and helped prepare them for each day's mission work. In total, 40 students recorded decisions during Fusion.

When the dust settled, Fusion missionaries had invested approximately 3,560 hours of service for the glory of God. It was an amazing accomplishment and a great example of how we can do so much more together than we can do separately. What would have taken a single person over two years of working 40 hours per week to accomplish, Fusion teams did in three days!



We would have been content with what God did among us at Fusion, but God was not finished! Three weeks after Fusion ended, SBCV

staff, students, and youth pastors made their way to the beautiful campus of James Madison University for Studentz Camp 2013: *Embrace*. Over 600 campers helped us make our first camp at this stellar location even better than we had anticipated. Morning and evening worship times were followed by several free-time options: intramural soccer; football and dodge ball competitions; hot-topic seminars; church group time; and an optional student leadership training hosted by Propel My Life. About 100 campers chose the Missions Track and spent about three hours each day doing mission work in the surrounding communities.

Campers were led in worship by The Museum, were mystified by illusionist Jared Hall, and were deeply challenged by camp speaker Ryan Fontenot not to hold Jesus' Great Commission loosely but to *Embrace* His commission with enthusiasm and passion. *Embrace* saw 62 students make professions of faith and 18 rededicate their lives. Many others responded with a recommitment to personally walk in obedience to Jesus. We are thankful for SBC of Virginia churches, whose Cooperative Program contributions make events like Studentz Camp possible. Because of the generosity of our churches, we are able to provide a national-quality camp at a price below most other camps.

As with most new ventures, we found ourselves learning valuable lessons about how to improve our summer ministry opportunities for students next year and thankful for what God did among us, for us, and through us this year. For the SBCV, it was a summer of firsts with results that will last.



RESOURCE WEBSITE sbcv.org/articles/detail/fusion_mission_camp_2013

We All Go to the Doctor



We all go to the doctor. Sometimes we go because there's an obvious problem. Sometimes things just don't feel right and we just want to make sure everything is okay. The doctor-patient relationship becomes a partnership for good health. That's what the C.H.A.M.P.S. process is too—the state convention and churches serving as partners.

This past March, the SBC of Virginia invested in the ministry of seven pastors across the state by equipping them to serve as consultants in church health and revitalization. They were trained and certified through the Society of Church Health Consultants. Mike Palmer, Pete Hypes, Lew Bennett, James Moynihan, Eric Farel, Rusty Small, Don Paxton, and Maurice McCarthy have all been trained to assist churches in the revitalization process.

By definition, C.H.A.M.P.S. (Church Health Analysis and Mobilization Planning Strategy) is “an initiative to assist the local church in its task of fulfilling the Great Commission by focusing on the attributes of a biblical, healthy church.” A healthy church is one that is actively pursuing excellence in the six functions of the church as described in Acts 2:42-47: worship, evangelism, discipleship, prayer, ministry, and fellowship. The C.H.A.M.P.S. process is designed to help the local church identify its current level of health (strengths and weakness) in each of the six

functions. This process is based on providing customized consulting in the areas of prayer (corporate and personal), encouragement (relevant and practical), resources (customized and reproducible), and coaching (mentoring, training, tracking, and the multiplying of leaders).

The process includes a consultant-led process (using the SDI—Strength Development Index survey) to determine the attitude, perceptions, and beliefs of the average church member as it relates to the six functions of the church. The church health consultant will work with the pastor, staff, and a church-appointed Church Health Task Force to initiate, implement, evaluate, and recommend a church health strategy that would assist the church in moving to the next level of church health.

“As a pastor, I have experienced this process firsthand,” says Mike Palmer, senior pastor of Green Ridge Baptist Church in Roanoke. “It is not easy, but every pastor who wants to reach the lost and develop the saved through a healthy church, operating to the glory of God, can help a church make it happen.” Not only is Pastor Mike a trained consultant, but his church was the first in the SBCV to go through this process. After 25 years as pastor, Mike has announced his upcoming retirement from Green Ridge; however, his ministry as a consultant is an opportunity for him to continue utilizing his gifts and experience in assisting churches in the growth process.

continued on next page

Learn more at sbcv.org/vbs!

SBC

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

2 locations

JAN 4 — ABINGDON
“Chocolate for the Soul”
Guest Speaker: Sheri Rose Shepherd

MAR 15 — RICHMOND

SBCV.ORG Women's Ministry
SBC OF VIRGINIA

We All Go to the Doctor, continued

"It has been my privilege to learn about church health and about leading a church all of my adult life. One of the things you realize in this operation of God's grace is that you never 'arrive.' It is a continual learning process. Dr. Al Mohler said recently in a tweet that leadership involves changing the hearts and minds of the people that are the influencers in your church. Sometimes you just want people to see what you see as a pastor—and that is the genius of the Church Health Assessment and Mobilization Planning Strategy. The process is a wonderful tool to help any pastor bring in more people to see the genuine needs and seek biblical solutions so that the church might honor the Lord through bearing fruit. C.H.A.M.P.S. is just that—a tool to help churches see themselves in the light of God's Word, seek Him, and through His grace, obey Him for a better, healthier tomorrow."

The C.H.A.M.P.S. process provides an additional resource for our partner churches and an opportunity for pastors such as Mike Palmer to utilize their experience and training far beyond their ministry at the local church. The goal of C.H.A.M.P.S. is to improve the long-term health of a church. It's not necessarily about turning a church around for the short term, although there are many short-term and immediate applications that can affect the health and growth of the church.

For further information concerning C.H.A.M.P.S. or other available church health and revitalization resources, contact the Church Strengthening office of the SBC of Virginia.

visionvirginia

calendar

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

DECEMBER

Mission Project: Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (Nov-Dec)

- 1–8 Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- 6, 9, 10 Regional Pastors, Staff, & Wives Christmas Banquets (check with your regional missionary for your region's date and location)
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Day

JANUARY 2014

Regional Pastor Fellowships

IMB House Church Leaders Inst. (Jan 31-Feb 2)

Mission Project: Quilting Materials for IMB Missionaries

- 4 Women's Ministry Conference, Abingdon
- 14 Young Pastors' Summit
- 17–18 PLANT, Part A
- 17–18 YEC East
- 21 Leading Noble Men Pastors' Conference, Grove Avenue Baptist Church, Richmond
- 30 Church Planter Network (Regional)

FEBRUARY

Regional Pastor Fellowships

Mission Projects: Quilting Materials for IMB Missionaries & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

- 6 Church Planter Network (Statewide)
- 18 Prayer Summit
- 22 Iron Sharpens Iron, First Baptist Church, Roanoke
- 28–1 PLANT, Part B

studentz
CAMP
July 21-25
James Madison University
SBCV.org/studentz

SBC
OF VIRGINIA

Around **700 students** come to Studentz Camp.

Scripture teaching, heartfelt worship, shared testimonies, and plenty of fun.

Students embrace the calling of Jesus and then commit to reaching their world for Christ.

Best of all, many students made **decisions for Christ.**

studentz
FUSION
MISSION CAMP
June 22-26
SBCV.org/studentz

SBC
OF VIRGINIA

During 2013's Fusion week, **295 people** served over 3,650 hours in local missions.

Fusion is a mission camp designed to engage students in missions in their local community. Students participate in various types of missions.



Brandon Pickett

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Treasure With Your Name On It



I'm not sure if you even noticed it, given the big

government shutdown of 2013, but... **did you know that a new \$100 bill was just introduced?** That's right! After a decade of work and two and a half years of delays, the "C-Note" will have a new look for the first time since March 1996. Now, I don't carry many of these bills. In fact, in my day-to-day life I hardly ever see one. But reports say they are printing 3.5 billion of these new notes—so pretty soon, they may be hard to miss. While reading about this new bill, I ran across some information that I found interesting. Did you know that the US Treasury keeps at least \$5,742 in circulation per person? That means that you have almost \$6,000 floating around with your name on it. Don't you wish it were that easy—just request it and it shows up in your mailbox? But what about the spiritual realm?

In 2 Kings 4, we read about a widow who is so far in debt that the creditors are about to take her children as slaves. She cries out to Elisha for help and he asks her, "How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?" She replies, "Your servant has nothing there at all... except a small jar of olive oil." Elisha then says in verses 3-4, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side."

This was a true test of faith—but even more so when you read the rest of the story. In verse 6 we see that *When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another one." But he replied, "There is not a jar left." Then the oil stopped flowing.* Interesting!

The amount of oil was limited to the number of vessels they collected. Now, in no way was this an indication that God's power was tapped out. Instead, it shows that as long as there were empty vessels, the power of God through the oil would keep pouring out. I think of two things when I read this story.

First, God loves to give to His children. In verse 7, Elisha tells the widow, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt; and you and your sons can live on what is left." He made sure she had plenty—even after the bills were paid.

Second, God wants to see how much we'll trust Him. I wonder if the widow's sons would have worked harder to find more empty jars if they'd known that would be the result. Their hearts must have sunk when they had to tell their mom there were no jars left. What could've been if there had been more jars?

Now, I'm not advocating a "name it and claim it" doctrine here. Not at all! But as we start another new year, think about it. If the US federal government has a measly \$5,742 out there with your name on it, what do you think the God of the universe has ready and waiting for us if we would just trust Him enough to ask and then, by faith, act on it. It could transform our churches and ministries... something to think about!

Have a very happy and blessed new year!

* http://economics.about.com/cs/money/a/money_supply.htm



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CANON w/ Dj Pdogg

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mar 21-22

First Baptist Church
Roanoke

speaker

MATT LAWSON

worship

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OVER |||| FLOW

*It is out of the abundance of the heart
that the mouth speaks. Luke 6:45*

YEC 4102



sbcv.org/studentz