Embracing WEST AFRICANS

The Camp of Faith Church Adopts a West African People Group

SERVE Virginia
A How-to Guide for Starting a Servolution in Your Church

Dinner Saturday Night?
Satisfying the Hungry in Virginia
TELLING ABOUT THE AMAZING THINGS GOD IS DOING THROUGH HIS CHURCH

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The Nations Next Door

The SBC of Virginia is working for and with our partner churches to discover the nations next door.

Since I was a year old, I have for the most part lived in the Commonwealth of Virginia. I was raised in the southeast part of the state but went to college in the Shenandoah Valley. I planted and pastored a church in Central Virginia. Growing up, I visited Washington, DC and have been down the Blue Ridge Parkway. I have taken my own family from our mountains to our beaches. But over the past two years in particular, my eyes have been opened not only to the different landscapes of this place, but also to the different people groups of this place.

Because your church works together with other churches through the SBC of Virginia, we are discovering the nations next door. As a pastor, I have traveled to several different nations for ministry. But if we open our eyes, we will see the nations are coming here too. If we open our ears, we will hear the heart languages of people from other cultures and lands. A question must be asked: Will we open our hearts to the nations next door—to the nations that are now our neighbors?

In the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 9, the Lord Jesus sees the multitudes, and He is moved with compassion. He tells us that the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

I am quick to enjoy various international foods that are served at my neighborhood restaurants and represent different nations and people groups. But how often do I really have a concern for the Spanish speaking? Would I rather just enjoy Thai food than pray for God’s work among the Asian peoples in this state? Do I just watch the news about the Middle East, or do I realize that there are Arab people groups within this state who need Jesus?

The SBC of Virginia is working for and with our partner churches to discover the nations next door. We are developing church planters and mission strategies. We are deploying God-called preachers and evangelists. Churches are being mobilized as we give through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program and the Vision Virginia State Missions Offering to proclaim Jesus to the nations next door.

It can start with seeing and hearing the nations. But we must also have compassion. Aren’t you glad someone came to your door? We must go and make disciples of all nations—including the nations next door.

In Jesus’ Name,

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It Is Not Just Important
PRAYER IS ESSENTIAL

“Prayer is not just important, it is essential.” Pastor Billy Ross of Centreville Baptist Church shared this wise assertion at a recent SBC of Virginia Executive Board meeting earlier this year, and it has become an often-quoted phrase by Darrell Webb, SBCV’s prayer strategist and regional missionary for the North Region.

Pastor Curtis Barnes from Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Colonial Heights, VA couldn’t agree more. “Prayer is the foundation of the church,” says Barnes. “Christ said it should be. Prayer is more than an aspect of worship or the bookends to meetings—prayer has to be a part of the fabric of our church. We want to not only speak about prayer, but we want to pray.”

When Pastor Curtis learned that SBC of Virginia was sponsoring its first Prayer Summit with guest speakers and authors Claude King and Richard Blackaby, he resolved to bring a group from Mount Pleasant. Of the 345 attendees and 70 congregations represented at Swift Creek Baptist Church in Midlothian on February 18, Mount Pleasant had the largest group with 50 present. Pastor Curtis notes, “We believe in the power of prayer, and we want to increase the practice of prayer.”

Pastor Tim Chrisman of Little River Baptist Church in Bumpass, VA testifies, “The Prayer Summit was incredible! Much of what Dr. King and Dr. Blackaby said will be engrained in my memory for years to come. Fresh Encounter is the best book on revival and spiritual awakening. This event and its impact will be felt both deep and wide.”

Mount Pleasant member Andy Coon was also impacted by the conference and shares, “My take-away quote is, ‘prayer is the electricity that powers the light in a dark place.’”

In addition to inspirational messages and challenges from the speakers, attendees were provided lunch, a copy of one of the speakers’ books, and several opportunities to pray around the table. The following compilation of prayer strategies and practices from 10 SBCV churches was provided as a helpful resource:

1. Prayer Cards
   Provide an index to help the church family stay focused on a certain number of prayer items that are vital to the mission of the church.

2. Weekly Prayer Time
   Have a prayer meeting with the pastoral staff rather than a typical staff meeting, which will facilitate unity, encourage dependence on God, remind staff of the mission, and build expectation for God to answer.

3. Pray for the Lost
   Use Wednesday evening prayer services as an intentional time to pray for the lost. Don’t just focus on ailing body parts—focus on souls.

4. Prayer Prelude to Evangelism
   Emphasize prayer and pray fervently before you attempt any evangelistic outreach.

5. 4-Week Prayer Campaign
   Have a focused four-week time of prayer to ask the Lord for help in reaching all peoples in the community with the Gospel of Jesus.

6. Texting Prayer Ministry
   For special needs, utilize texting and a prayer bulletin to encourage more people to focus on prayer within the church.

7. Month of Prayer & Fasting and Annual Prayer Conference
   Commit to 1 Chronicles 4:10 and pray and fast prior to revival meetings.

8. Prayer Points for Students
   Pray for:
   1. An unreached people group
   2. A NAMB Send City
   3. An SBCV church planter
   4. A church missions partner

9. Church-Wide Theme: “Year of Prayer”
   Ask the church to pray for:
   1. Living grace and truth
   2. Surrendering to God
   3. Reaching the lost
   4. Using God’s resources
   5. Being honest with God and others

10. The Watchman Initiative
    Recruit and assign volunteers to stand watch in prayer and fasting each day of the week for the Kingdom of God and the advancement of the local church.

STUDENT PRAYER SUMMIT
Following the SBC of Virginia Prayer Summit, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church’s student pastor, Joe Mayes, helped organize a Student Summit with a similar purpose. The event was held Sunday, March 2 at Smyrna Baptist Church in Dinwiddie, VA. Six local church youth ministries came together for praise and worship, inspiration and challenge and, most importantly, prayer. Around the worship center were signs with the names of middle and high schools represented by the participating churches:

- Smyrna BC, Dinwiddie
- Mount Pleasant BC, Colonial Heights
- Staples Mill Road BC, Glen Allen
- Swift Creek BC, Colonial Heights
- Enon BC, Chester
- Parkway BC, Moseley

Students were encouraged to go to the signs for their respective schools and pray for their school leaders and friends.

If prayer truly is the electricity that powers the light in a dark place, there are some local schools that have a bright future. Prayer is not just important, it is essential!
few years ago, Thomas Village Baptist Church in Duffield, VA received from a nearby church a generous gift—a church building that was located only a few miles from their own. Wanting to give the building to a church that was making a difference in the community, the donor church chose Thomas Village. Pastor Buddy Osborne, who was called to Thomas Village last year, started praying, along with the church family, about what should be done with the building to bring God glory.

The Lord gave them a vision to minister to the people nearby. He also revealed some critical needs in the community and led the church to open a food pantry and clothes closet. Last fall, God connected Pastor Buddy and Thomas Village with Marathon Ministry in Gate City. Marathon donated over $30,000 worth of brand-new clothes to be distributed at Thomas Village’s first clothing distribution event. Pastor Buddy explains, “I saw God do some amazing things at our first event, and I know God is going to continue to use this ministry to reach our community for Christ.”

Poverty and despair are rampant in the Appalachian Region, and Thomas Village members knew they would need help to meet the needs. The church has since partnered with six other churches in the area with over 70 volunteers between them. With the donated building as their home base, they are making a difference in Scott County through what they call H.O.P.E. Christian Ministries (Helping Other People Excel). “When people come to H.O.P.E. Christian Ministries for help, they are connected to a local church for follow-up,” says Pastor Buddy. “We don’t want anyone to fall through the cracks.”

“We want to show and tell the people in our community about the love of Christ,” shares Pastor Buddy, “and help them break the cycle of poverty by giving them the hope that only Jesus Christ can give.”

Does your church have a reputation for making a difference in your community?

Resource

tvbcva.org
hopecm.weebly.com
Starting a Servolution

How-To Guide

In the last edition of the Proclaimer, we ran a story about Servolution, a ministry of BridgePoint Church in Gloucester, VA. For our Serve Virginia feature this edition, we’d like to provide a HOW-TO GUIDE for starting a Servolution for your own church and community. Below are some tips and strategies from Pastor Eric Ashley.

**Form a team** that is given the responsibility to help plan for and provide organization for Servolution. The purpose of the team is to do some of the groundwork in order to facilitate full-church participation. This team can be a blend of ministry staff, small group leaders, deacons, etc. Diversity of team members will help to bring fresh ideas to the process. This team can work through the “Questions to Consider” (see the right panel) in order to guide their planning.

**Pick a strategic time** for Servolution. Find a time that will work well with the rhythm of your church and community in order to maximize impact and facilitate participation.

**Establish a lead/point person** for each project. This is a great opportunity for leadership development. Avoid having church staff and pastors lead everything. Give various church members encouragement to take ownership. Additionally, if you have small groups or Sunday School classes, you can have each group take ownership of a project.

**Focus your church’s attention** on Servolution before, during, and after the event:

### BEFORE
- Talk about Servolution well in advance. Give people plenty of time to put Servolution on their calendars and make it a priority.
- Do not plan any other major church events during the time of Servolution.
- Communicate the heart behind Servolution through teaching, preaching, etc. People need to understand the “why.”
- Create t-shirts, yard signs, etc. This will help bring unity, visibility, and a magnified impact within your church and community. Check out the free “downloads” on servolution.org for posters, print pieces, t-shirts, web graphics, and customizable videos available for your church’s use.

### DURING
- Use social media, your church website, and all forms of church communication to let people know what is going on during Servolution. Post pictures and give updates.
- Provide a way for those serving and those being served to share how Servolution has impacted them.

### AFTER
- Celebrate all that God accomplished through your church. To celebrate, you could dedicate a church service to sharing stories; create a video; host a celebration cookout and invite those you served to join you, etc.

**Resource**

**BOOK**
Servolution: Starting a Church Revolution Through Serving
by Dino Rizzo

**WEBSITES**
servolution.org
bridgepoint.cc/servolution
bridgepoint.cc/paintthetownblue
QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

What needs do we already know about within our church and community? (examples: a family needs wood chopped for the winter, a widow needs help with yard work, etc.)

How might we find out about other service opportunities?

Who is already serving within our community and how can we partner with them? (examples: food banks, shelters, free clinics, non-profit organizations, etc.)

What are some of the skill sets and personal passions of our church members?

What is our budget for Servolution? Who will determine how funds are distributed?

How long will Servolution last—one day, a weekend, a week? Will this be an annual event or a regular part of our church during the year?

How will we communicate about Servolution before, during, and after the event?

What can we do to unify and focus our church on serving? How can we maximize the impact of Servolution?

Sharing God’s love through simple acts of kindness

GET INVOLVED TODAY!
LOVELOUD
Christmas Backpacks

Share a gift of Love and the Gospel with a child in need this Christmas

SERVING ACROSS NORTH AMERICA

national goal for number of backpacks to be received this year:

40,000

Our Mission
To provide backpacks at Christmas for impoverished children and youth in the Appalachian Regional Ministry and Mississippi River Ministry regions of the United States.

www.sbcv.org
What Do You Do When Your Church Looks Nothing Like Your Community Demographic?

THE REALITY OF MANY CHURCHES

Not long after Pastor David Slayton arrived at South Norfolk Baptist Church, he was sitting in his office contemplating a difficult question. How do you reach a local mission field that has transitioned? “South Norfolk Baptist Church is located in the South Norfolk section of Chesapeake. The demographic composition of the South Norfolk area has changed in the last 15–20 years,” explains Slayton. “When I arrived at South Norfolk, our church looked nothing like our community demographic.”

Pastor David was burdened by the Lord to change that reality. “I believed that God wanted our church to look more like our community.” As he struggled with that reality, he had a moment of revelation that changed the course of the vision for South Norfolk Baptist Church. “The Lord revealed that I was never going to reach this community sitting in this office!”

So he got out of the office and into the community. He started by walking the streets near the church and getting to know the people who lived there. He then widened that circle to include some of the surrounding areas. What has developed since then is a ministry vision that has penetrated the community.

Today the church is involved in after-school tutoring programs, a basketball league, a football league, Bible clubs, and numerous Bible studies in the community. Some of the programming is in Section 8 housing community centers. Pastor David has established relationships with staff members in these centers, and those relationships have proven to be a key ingredient for gaining access to those communities.

The church hosts a youth rally on Friday nights, which kids from the community attend. South Norfolk members go out to the Section 8 housing, bring youth to the rally, and take them home afterwards. In several locations in the community, the church hosts Vacation Bible Schools during the summer and Bible clubs throughout the year. Hundreds of children and teens are impacted by these ministries each week. The church family has embraced the vision, and a great number of its members are serving in these community outreach ministries.

All of this activity is directed toward the goal of establishing a platform for sharing the Good News. Many have accepted Christ as Savior through the sports programs. This ministry that has focused largely on ministering to children has helped reach adults as well.

As a result of its community-focused ministry vision, the church doesn’t look the same. Youth pastor Ivan Garcia, who has been a key player in the implementation of the vision, says with a smile, “The church is looking a whole lot more like the community these days!”
Dios ha estado trabajando en nuestras iglesias de habla Hispa- 

No las encubriremos a sus hijos, contaremos a la 
generación venidera las alabanzas de Jehová, Su 
potencia y las maravillas que hizo. (Salmos 78:4)

Un grupo de líderes hispanos de la SBCV está gestando este importante 
evento para proveer recursos a nuestras 
iglesias con talleres y una conferencia centra- 
da en como los pastores en trabajo conjunto 
con los padres pueden discipular de la mejor 
manera a la siguiente generación, alca-

Nos hemos estado trabajando en 
 nuestras iglesias de habla espa- 
iola; se comienza a sentir un creciente 
entusiasmo en unirnos y ser parte 
de una visión en común: fortalecer a 
 nuestras iglesias para ser más efectivos 
en alcanzar a otros con el evangelio de 
 Cristo. Sin embargo, una preocupación 
 en común: el discipulado de la siguiente 
generación. Somos conscientes que los 
 jóvenes que tenemos en Estados Unidos 
 no necesariamente tienen la misma 
 cosmovisión que la que tienen los jóvenes 
 en los países hispanohablantes. Y es 
 que en este país nuestros jóvenes tienen 
 el plus del bilingüismo, la capacidad 
de entender las dos culturas y nuevas 
opportunidades financieras que los padres 
 ayudaron a preparar con trabajo duro.

Estas ventajas también son diferencias 
 con las que tienen que aprender a lidiar 
 los padres (que generalmente son la 
 primera generación de inmigrantes). Las 
 preguntas que nos hacemos son: ¿cuál es la 
 mejor manera de discipular a los jóvenes 
de nuestra congregación? ¿Existe algún 
 modelo para alcanzar a jóvenes hispanos, 
 muchos de ellos bilingües? ¿Cómo podemos 
 asegurarnos de que ellos se queden en la iglesia 
 una vez que cumplan la mayoría de edad? 
 Todas preguntas válidas.

Este año la SBC de Virginia está realizando 
 la Segunda Conferencia Unida PASION: Alca-

zando y manteniendo la siguiente gener- 
 ación. La conferencia se llevará a cabo el día 
 11 de Octubre, de 9:00 AM a 4:00 PM en las in-
stalaciones de Kingsland Baptist Church, en 
 Richmond, VA. Un grupo de líderes hispanos 
de la SBCV está gestando este importante 
evento para proveer recursos a nuestras 
 iglesias con talleres y una conferencia centra- 
da en como los pastores en trabajo conjunto 
 con los padres pueden discipular de la mejor 
 manera a la siguiente generación, alca-
zarlo y a su vez proveer los líderes de un 
 futuro cercano de las iglesias. Nuestro orador 
 invitado es el Pastor Miguel Arcila, Director 
 de Palabra de Vida Puerto Rico, un minis-
tro abocado al alcance de la juventud en 
 distintos países de Latinoamérica (Argentina, 
 Bolivia, México) y ahora sirviendo en Puerto 
 Rico. Rogamos sus oraciones por este even-
to, será un desafío importante para nuestras 
 congregaciones, y un magnífico tiempo de 
 compañerismo.

We will not hide them from their children, Telling 
to the generation to come the praises of Jehovah, 
And his strength, and his wondrous works that he 
hath done. (Psalms 78:4 ASV)
LITTLE DID PASTOR STEVE PARKER OF FISHERSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH KNOW THAT WHEN HE WENT INTO THE HOSPITAL, HE WOULD NEVER RECOVER. "WE ALL PRAYED THAT GOD WOULD HEAL STEVE IN THIS LIFE," SAYS HIS WIFE, BEA, "BUT HE CHOSE TO HEAL HIM IN HEAVEN." THE LOSS OF PASTOR STEVE WAS SUCH A TRAGEDY, AND OUR HEARTS ARE STILL SADDENED BY THE SUDDEN LOSS.

IN THE MIDST OF THEIR GRIEF, GOD HAD BLESSINGS HEADED TO THE PARKER FAMILY THROUGH OUR SBC OF VIRGINIA GOSPEL PARTNERSHIP.

An Unexpected Blessing

Resource
Gary Horton, GuideStone State Representative: 804-655-1451

THE FIRST BENEFIT is the Survivor Protection Benefit, which could be as much as $100,000 for eligible ministerial staff at their time of death.

THE SECOND BENEFIT is a Disability Benefit, which could be as much as $500 per month when a ministerial staff becomes disabled.

THE THIRD BENEFIT is a matching contribution (up to $17.50 per month) provided by the SBC of Virginia and made possible by our churches’ generous gifts through the Cooperative Program.

To receive these free benefits, the church must meet eligibility guidelines. To find out more, contact GuideStone state representative Gary Horton (804-665-1451) or GuideStone Financial Resources (888-98-Guide).

We hope that all SBC of Virginia churches will take the necessary steps to provide these benefits to their pastoral staff.

ADVERTISEMENT
Satisfying the Hungry

“For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things... He raises up the needy out of affliction.” Psalm 107:9, 41

It is one of the MOST ANTICIPATED DAYS of the year for the patrons of the food pantry at Hyland Heights Baptist Church in Lynchburg, VA: the Thanksgiving turkey giveaway. People line up for hours before the doors open, and some even spend the night in their cars in the church’s parking lot, all for the chance to get a turkey for Thanksgiving dinner.

Feeding the hungry is nothing new to this church. Like many churches, they have had a food pantry for years. However, in recent years, as the number of those struggling with hunger has continued to grow, the cost and effort of meeting the rising need have stretched the church's resources past the point of sufficiency. In 2012, according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, 20% of all households with children 18 and under were “food insecure,” along with 8.4% of senior adult households. Add to this the direct impact that last year’s federal budget impasse (often referred to as sequestration) had on welfare programs, and the food crisis became an even bigger problem for the church. Each month, Hyland Heights distributes food to approximately 450 families (approximately 1,500 individuals). Each week sees around 20 brand-new applicants. To meet the need, 154 volunteers are mobilized each month, investing over 600 hours of labor in picking up, sorting, and distributing food. For many who come to the church for food, the efforts of these volunteers keep the crisis from becoming a dire emergency.

Hyland Heights views food distribution as an important part of the ministry of the church. Administrative pastor Rick Magee explains, “It is a way for the community to be invited into the church [and] gives our people a place to serve where the greatest physical needs in our community are.” In addition, “It gives us the platform to share the Gospel.”

Unfortunately, due to lack of funds, the 2013 turkey giveaway almost didn’t take place. But the leaders of the food pantry were determined to find a way. “Think of the families that would not have had a Thanksgiving dinner like you and me,” said Shawna Ireson, one of the pantry’s directors. Leaders contacted the SBCV to see if there were any funds available to help, and Missions Mobilization associate Sue Sawyer was able to connect the church with Hunger Funds from the North American Mission Board. These funds helped buy turkeys for the giveaway.

Turkey and Thanksgiving may seem like a luxury when it comes to addressing poverty, but the goal of the church is not only to feed hungry bellies but to satisfy hungry souls. Each year, these turkeys become a tangible display of the graciousness and goodness of God. On that cool November morning, grace came in the form of frozen turkeys, approximately 10 pounds each. Each turkey was a visual demonstration of God’s love and opened the door for people to hear the Gospel message, which was preached that day to all who wanted to hear.

Since last October, 16 people have made professions of faith in Christ as a result of the church’s “helping ministries” (of which the food pantry is a central part). Two of those have been baptized, and two new families are regularly attending Hyland Heights. Many others have benefited from the practical needs met, and the volunteers have been able to share the hope of Jesus while feeding the hungry in their community. Because of the generosity of Southern Baptist churches around the world, North American Mission Board Hunger Funds were available to tangibly demonstrate the graciousness of God beyond the capacity of one church.
Dinner Saturday Night?

“Could you help set up tables and chairs at around 4:00? Rowe is cooking, and there should be plenty of food. It is going to be a theme dinner: ‘The Feeding of the 5,000.’ Hope you are ready to tell the children another incredible Bible story. It has been so much fun to sit around the table with the children eating, laughing, and telling stories. See you Saturday!”

You can already guess that this is not a regular Saturday evening get-together of church friends. Instead, it’s an opportunity for the church to be the Church by meeting the needs of children who live less than a mile from its doors.

North Main Baptist Church in Danville, VA has been meeting hunger needs for years through its partnership with God’s Storehouse, a non-profit that provides thousands of pounds of food each year to the needy. For years, North Main has also helped secure food for those who came to the church for help. But in 2014, the church decided to go into the community and meet hunger needs on site.

The change of venue started when two church members who worked with at-risk children discovered that on days when school was delayed due to weather conditions and children didn’t arrive at school until 10:30 AM, many had not yet eaten. Their families solely relied on the school’s breakfast program for sustenance. The same was true on the weekends, when parents either didn’t have the resources or a plan to feed their children.

This news came soon after a team from North Main returned from a mission trip to Nicaragua. They had learned about the opportunity through SBCV’s Acts 1:8 Network. In Nicaragua, they saw hunger firsthand. Upon returning home and learning that hunger existed right across the street from their church building, they were challenged to do more. Their exposure to hunger needs in Nicaragua made their hearts even more eager to meet the same needs at home.

That’s when the church began hosting Saturday evening meals at a nearby apartment complex’s rec center. The dinners are designed to look more like a family gathering than a feeding line. As children arrive, they are seated around tables to dine and share as family groups. They eat, color, joke around, and hear an age-appropriate Bible lesson. Then they have the opportunity to discuss what they’ve heard. This setting does more than just meet hunger needs—it models family life. The children leave with full stomachs, full hearts, and non-perishable snacks for the rest of the weekend.

“I see God at work not only in the community, but in many members of the church family coming together,” says Pastor Fred Unger. “A humanitarian need is met on the front end, but the greater spiritual need for the Gospel is met as the children are eating their meal, listening to the Gospel being shared by their table leader. I think the main thing that can be said is what Charles Roesel summed up in the title of his book, Meeting Needs, Sharing Christ. We find a bridge that really meets a humanitarian need of people in our community so that we can ultimately point them to Jesus. We are intentional with this. We do not just want to be ‘do-gooders’ like many today who just want to provide humanitarian relief. We want to ultimately point them to eternal spiritual relief that only comes through Jesus Christ.” And that’s the most important thing of all.

How to Help Meet Hunger Needs

- Get Ready Church training.
- Have bags of food ready.
- Collect food for a local food bank.
- Volunteer at local feeding ministries.
- Develop a weekend backpack ministry for school-age children.
- Provide food around every church ministry that touches children.
- Give to SBC Hunger Funds.
- Provide weekly dates for church members to serve food in Jesus’ name.

Resource
northmainbc.net
vision virginia

2014 Week of Prayer & Offering for State Missions

SEP 21 – 28

Pray for missions.

But that’s not all.

Vision Virginia is also the people that all of these ministries help — and those who serve in churches all across the state. Vision Virginia only exists because people do. After all, God loves people, and His mission for the Church is to love people and help them build a relationship with Him through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Vision Virginia is the mission field, but it's also the mission force, called and empowered by a missions-hearted God.
Give to missions.

100% of gifts go directly to the mission field. That’s a goal of $250,000 to support:

- Church Strengthening
- DC Mission Center
- English as a Second Language
- Evangelism
- Ready Church & Disaster Relief
- Seminarian Scholarships
- Worship Equipment for Church Plants

Resources Available

You can promote Vision Virginia in your church and join us in lifting up the Lord’s work across the state! Prayer guides, story videos, posters, bulletin inserts, and more are all available online.

Learn more: sbcv.org/visionvirginia
Urban Ministries Network

Reaching Out to a Nearby Community

SBCV recently held its first gathering of churches involved in the Acts 1:8 Urban Ministries Network. It was an overwhelming blessing to sit in the room and hear all that is happening in these churches to reach needy people in their communities. And we know there are even more SBCV churches involved in these types of ministries.

One church represented at this meeting was Point Harbor Community Church of Chesapeake, VA, whose life mission pastor, José Morelos, shared how the church became involved in Urban Ministry. God began to impress upon them the need to reach out to an area about 20 minutes from the church—Cradock in Portsmouth. Cradock was one of the nation’s first government-planned and -built communities. Conceived as a model community, it incorporated many of the most advanced planning techniques of its day. In fact, it included one of the first designed self-contained shopping centers built in America, called Afton Square. The construction was funded through an act of Congress in 1918, which allowed the federal government to build housing projects related to the wartime efforts. Most of the features of a present-day planned community were included: schools, recreational areas, a commercial area, and public transportation. All of the facilities were within walking distance of one another.

Now almost 100 years later, much of the area has become impoverished, and many families have great physical as well as spiritual needs. When the leadership of Point Harbor visited the area, they quickly saw why God was calling them to reach out to this community. The church began with food distribution. In the beginning, only a few families came for food, but as the residents began to

POINT HARBOR
AFTON PLACE

SERVE
LOVE
GROW

A combination of great music and practical messages all set in a welcoming atmosphere every Sunday morning

We Love Cradock
Handy Hands
Helping needy families with home maintenance and repairs

Music Makers
Free hour of music lessons (various instruments taught)

Family Night Dinner
Hot meal served family style every other Wednesday night

Morning Brew
Meets Monday–Friday (6–9 AM) – An oasis in the midst of Cradock for people to begin their day in a casual, gracious, hospitable, lively Christian environment—hot breakfast served

Friends Club
Meets weekly and provides discussion-oriented lessons using the principle of women mentoring young girls. Topics of study include sanctity of life, accountability, commitment to Christ, life-controlling problems, purity, and choices
trust the people who were there to help them and began to realize that they really cared about them, the numbers grew. Today Point Harbor is feeding about 1,000 people once a month through grocery distribution. They obtained a building in Craddock known as Afton Place, where the ministries listed in the graphic below take place.

Your Urban Ministry does not have to be this large to be part of the Acts 1:8 Urban Ministries Network. If your church is involved in Urban Ministries in any way and you would like to be part of this network, please contact Mark Gauthier, whose contact information can be found to the right.

contributed by Sue Sawyer
Missions Mobilization
Associate

Cradock in Portsmouth, although rich in history, is poor in community resources. Point Harbor Community Church stepped in at God’s urging and has begun ministering to these folks in need.

Resource
point harbor.org
sbcv.org/missions

Recovery in Christ
Helping individuals fill the void in their lives caused by addictive behavior

Lifetree Café
Meets every Sunday afternoon to help bring people from all walks of life into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ

Real Life Bible Study
Ongoing Bible studies offered twice every Sunday morning

Summer Food Service Program
Provides free, nutritious meals and snacks to children in the Cradock area for the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow throughout the summer

Contact
For more information on the Urban Ministries Network, contact Mark Gauthier at mgauthier@sbcv.org or call 1-888-234-7716.

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Missions Mobilization
Associate
PRAYER for Church Planters

With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit ... and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel...that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. Ephesians 6:18-20 (NASB)

All over Virginia, SBCV church planters are diligently and faithfully proclaiming with boldness the mystery of the Gospel. Below are two church planter families that are reaching very different people groups: Appalachians and the Arab and Muslim community! Both groups have the same desperate need to hear the Good News. Therefore, let us pray diligently for them as they take the light of the Gospel to those millions who are still in utter hopelessness and total darkness.

Would you, your church, community group, women’s or men’s group, Student Ministry, or Senior Adult Ministry adopt one of the church planter families below and fervently pray for them? Or, even better yet, would you adopt them as your missionaries and get involved personally with them?

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BIRTHDAYS: Emery (August 10), Beth (October 1)

PRAYER NEEDS:
- Pray that God would use us to greatly impact our community with the Gospel.
- Pray that God would provide churches and individuals to partner with us and invest in our rapidly growing ministry.

HERE’S HOW YOU CAN HELP! (needs)
- laptop / laser printer / video camera / surround sound system for Children’s Ministry

MEETING AT:
- 26991 Wilderness Rd.
- Jonesville

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BIRTHDAYS: Tony (April 14), Souzan (August 15)

PRAYER NEEDS:
- Pray for opportunities to do outreach during Islamic festivals (Iranian New Year, Pakistani Festival, Turkish Festival, and the Fourth of July—over 145,000 people attend these events) and for other believers to come and join us in this effort.
- Pray for our weekly outreach ministry at George Mason University and a community college where over 4,000 Muslims students attend.

HERE’S HOW YOU CAN HELP! (needs)
- laptop / help to print 25,000 tracts for outreach ministries / a reliable, used van

MEETING AT:
- 5424 Ox Rd
- Fairfax Station
When describing the purpose of Ramoth Baptist Church, Pastor Brent Vickery says, “It is refreshing to know who you are.” He fluidly states that the purpose of Ramoth is to “make maturing followers of Christ who are loving God, loving people, and changing our world.” One of the ways that Ramoth is living out God’s purpose is by serving as a sponsor church for Tony Ghareeb, a church planter who, as Pastor Brent explains, “is on the firing line for Christ among a difficult people to reach.” God is using Pastor Tony to reach Muslims in Northern Virginia and DC with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Not only is Ramoth a sponsor church, but it’s an effective sponsor church. They are called to pray every Sunday morning for Pastor Tony and his church plant. They help with prayer walking during Muslim events like the Turkish and Iranian festivals in Northern Virginia. It was during the Iranian festival that Pastor Tony identified a new potential church planter—Bardiya Amiri. Now Bardiya is planting a church among Muslims in Northern Virginia as well. Prayer makes a difference.

Members of Ramoth participate in outreach during the festivals as well, sharing their faith among a people who are seeking truth. Many who attend these festivals have a newfound freedom and feel unhindered in pursuing true fulfillment. This is the perfect opportunity for believers to share about the only Source of fulfillment—Jesus.

Pastor Brent is also investing time—our most precious commodity—in Tony Ghareeb and his wife, Souzan. Pastor Tony is invited to participate in Ramoth’s staff meetings each month for ministry planning. The two pastors also meet each month for encouragement. Sometimes Pastor Brent’s wife (Terri) and Souzan will join them. Pastor Tony shares that these relationships have been an answer to prayer.

It is difficult for one church to provide all of the financial needs of a new church. For this reason, Pastor Brent has become an advocate for Pastor Tony and his network of church plants. Ramoth plans to provide a luncheon for pastors to meet Tony Ghareeb and other witnesses to the “Crescent World.” Through this approach, they pray other churches will hear the need and choose to become partners in the work God is doing.

The Ramoth church family is fulfilling God’s purpose—loving God, loving people, and changing their world. It is quite possible that some never dreamed of growing as a disciple by ministering to those of the Muslim faith here at home. But this church family is making that kind of a difference.

Resource— ramothbaptistchurch.org

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**Changing Their World**

**Effective Sponsor Partner Church**

An effective sponsor church (sometimes called a partner church) will focus its involvement in these four strategic areas:

**PRAYER SUPPORT:** Church planting involves spiritual warfare since it involves taking back spiritual ground lost to the enemy. The sponsor church will enlist intercessors for the church planter, his family, and the church plant, as well as have special seasons of prayer for each.

**MOBILIZING MEMBERS:** Members of the sponsoring church will assist the new church by sharing their gifts and talents, thereby learning to live missional lives.

**MENTORING/ENCOURAGING:** In addition to the pastor meeting regularly with the church planter, mentoring/encouraging can take on many forms through the sponsor church: ex., sending notes or emails of encouragement, making regular phone calls, sending an anniversary or birthday card, a gift card, etc.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT:** Financial support will be needed during different phases of the new church. A cluster of churches will be needed for church planter support and the initial costs of starting the church. SBC of Virginia partners with sponsor churches to assist with these costs.
Embracing West Africans

THE CAMP OF FAITH CHURCH ADOPTS A WEST AFRICAN PEOPLE GROUP

It all began with a simple prayer, “Lord, show us where You want us to go. Who do you want us to reach?”

THIS PRAYER would eventually hurl The Camp of Faith Church in Stephens City, VA across the Atlantic to a dusty village in West Africa.

“We prayed for some time for clear direction about our cross-cultural missions task,” says Pastor Trey Hensley. “We knew our responsibility to Stephens City and we are continually taking the Gospel there, but we also knew that we had a responsibility to Judea and Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the world.” The Lord answered that prayer and, with the help of the IMB, The Camp was soon connected to a lost Islamic people group in Guinea-Bissau. This unreached, unengaged people group (UUPG) had no IMB presence, so The Camp itself was tasked with being the missionary to them.

“The mission is an indigenous church planting movement among our UUPG,” says church member Martha Stayer, who was part of the first team to go. “We know this is from God’s power alone, but we must be obedient servants. We pray with a dangerous faith, walk in radical obedience, and rely on the power of our God and the guidance of His Spirit. Our church makes at least 3–4 trips a year to our UUPG, where we share the truth of God’s Word through storying and spend time with them in the villages doing whatever we can to build relationships.”

THE CAMP GOES TO WEST AFRICA

Africa Team #1

The Camp sent Pastor Trey and Jesse and Martha Stayer as its first team to Africa this past January 31–February 10. “This was a bit like a scouting mission,” says Pastor Trey. They were looking for two receptive villages in which to begin work, and they found them! “We were well-received by chiefs and even imams. Crowds from the villages came out to hear the stories of Jesus. After hearing the stories, the villagers said things like, ‘This story gives me hope,’ and ‘I will share this story with others.’ At the end of the trip, Trey, Jesse, and Martha had shared Jesus stories, the Gospel message, and their own personal testimonies with more than 230 in this people group.

Africa Team #2

Jesse Stayer and Steve and Mollie Brannon were sent to the same villages again May 7–17. “God is working among our UUPG,” Jesse explains. “During the trip, we were able to share the Gospel
clearly and discuss differences between Islam and following Jesus. We should have been kicked out of the villages for our discussions with them that Jesus is the Son of God and that He is the only way to heaven, but we weren’t. Instead, Muslim men were welcoming us to stay in their villages with an open invitation to return. The men told us they want to get to know us before accepting the truth of God’s Word over Islam. How awesome is that? God is softening their hearts, and this is just the beginning!” The Camp cannot wait to get back to its UUPG after the rainy season is over this fall. Until then, they will praise God for all He has done, and they will “do” and pray hard.

PRAYER POWER
The people of The Camp of Faith’s UUPG were not the only ones to be touched by this mission. The Camp itself is not the same. Pastor Trey recalls, “Each time we send a team, The Camp goes into red-alert prayer mode and begins to pray around the clock for our teams.” Church members commit to pray for one hour at a time each day while the team is in Africa. This prayer has empowered and affected not only their mission to Africa, but their entire church life. “I’ve never experienced the ‘present in Spirit’ that Paul talks about in Colossians 2:5 like I did while I was sitting across from the village chief,” says Pastor Trey. “The Camp was there with me in full prayer power. We saw so many answers to prayer. The day I returned last February, I was driving back into the church lot and a church member slowed down her car and rolled down the window. She said, ‘I was with you.’” The entire Camp is on mission.

THE CAMP GOES TO WASHINGTON, DC
With help from the SBCV and NAMB, The Camp is also now on mission in Washington, DC helping to support the work of reaching West Africans there. They consider DC their Samaria, and they have found good friends at Favor House Ministries in Alexandria, VA, a West African church plant led by Pastor Joseph Nti. The Camp even hopes to one day find individuals from their West African people group living in DC.

Is your church willing to pray, “Lord, show us where You want us to go. Who do you want us to reach?” You will be amazed at what God will do!
**SHINING A LIGHT ON THE NATIONS**

**WHO are they?**

Metropolitan Washington, DC has more than 190 people groups living in this fast-paced and growing region. Are we called to take the Gospel to our Judea—our state and all who live here? And could it be that the Lord is bringing the nations to us to reach on neutral ground? The answer for both is, of course, yes. But who are they and where do they live?

In an effort to locate these people groups, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary conducted initial research, which identified 190+ groups. Churches and student groups, led by our Discover the Nations Team, have conducted field research with this data and begun a research process. These are the encouraging results to date:

**People Groups Discovered:**
More than 50 people groups have been discovered. Examples include:

- Discovery of more than 400,000 **Ethiopians** from among 3 distinct people groups and where they live.
- Discovery of more than 1.5 million **Hispanics** (40% of whom are from El Salvador) and where they live. Manassas and Manassas Park are more than 40% Hispanic.
- Discovery of people groups from the **5 West African English-speaking nations** and where they live.

**Churches Involved:**
To date, there are 12, not including as many as 10 other churches making decisions to assist with the research process, many of which will become partner churches (a partner church serves a people group). Missions leader Jesse Strayer from The Camp of Faith Church in Stephens City, VA says, “It was only natural for The Camp of Faith to work among West Africans in DC, as God was also leading us to work with West Africans in Africa. God showed us how all of the pieces fit together and work synergistically together for The Camp to be used in His plan for church planting movements among West Africans on both continents. There are thousands of people from other nations in our backyard in DC, and we can reach them here with the Gospel, bypassing the expenses of plane tickets, visas, passports, etc.”

**Indigenous Leaders Identified:**
A primary prayer focus is for indigenous leaders to start churches among their own people. To date, the Lord has provided four witnesses to the Arab world, two witnesses to the English-speaking West African peoples, one Iranian/Persian witness, one Ethiopian witness, three Hispanic witnesses, and one witness to the Afghanistan/Pakistan people groups.

**Contact**

Your church can be a part of reaching the nations. For more information, contact Larry Black at lblack@sbcv.org or call 1-888-234-7716.
Eighteen years before the first president of the United States was born, Mill Swamp Baptist Church in Ivor, VA was founded. They are now making preparations for their 300th anniversary celebration as a church. No, that was not a misprint—yes, you read that correctly—300 years! Mill Swamp actually began as Burleigh Baptist Church in Isle of Wight on the south side of the James River opposite Jamestown in 1714. It was unpopular to be a Baptist in Virginia in those days. The church experienced persecution from groups favoring infant baptism. The persecution became so intense, the congregation made the decision to relocate further inland in 1774. They settled in Ivor, changed the name of the church to Mill Swamp, and have been in the same location ever since.

Current senior pastor, Jim Jones, and the folks at Mill Swamp are hard at work putting together a celebration service that few will soon forget. Slated for September 28, 2014, the service will feature a special lineup of speakers: Dr. Brian Autry, executive director of the SBC of Virginia; Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Congressman Randy Forbes; and Virginia General Assembly Delegate Richard Morris.

Pastor Jim, now in his 18th year as pastor, points out that this congregation celebrates its rich history but is not living in the past. “I have the privilege of pastoring a missions-minded church,” he shares. “We are supporting a church planter in Florida, a church planter in Montreal, as well some overseas work out of our budget. We also support the Peninsula Rescue Mission in Newport News.” Including the 10% of undesignated gifts that Mill Swamp gives to the Cooperative Program through the SBC of Virginia, 17% of the church budget goes to mission causes outside the church walls. Mill Swamp also gave over $12,000 to the Lot-tie Moon Christmas Offering and $8,000 to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering last year.

Congratulations to Mill Swamp Baptist Church on 300 years of shining the light of Christ in eastern Virginia and around the world!

Bicentennial Celebration for Kempsville Baptist Church

On April 26, 2014, the grounds of Kempsville Baptist Church had a 19th century feel with the sounds of musket fire and blacksmiths hammering metal. It was all part of the weekend celebration for the church’s 200th anniversary. Historical interpreters gave visitors a taste of what life was like 200 years ago with militia reenactments, a living history, and a tour of Kempsville’s recent acquisition—Pleasant Hall, a classic 18th century brick house adjacent to the church, which was built in 1769.

On April 27, the church held a special worship service to mark its 200th anniversary, including special guests like SBC of Virginia’s executive director, Dr. Brian Autry, and local politicians. Notably, Mayor William D. Sessoms Jr. presented Kempsville’s pastor, Dr. Kelly Burris, with a proclamation on behalf of the City of Virginia Beach, recognizing Kempsville’s long history in the community.

Congratulations to another eastern Virginia church making a difference in its community, in Virginia, and around the world!
Harvest Fest

by Stewart McCarter
Pastor of Southside Baptist Church, Suffolk, VA

As a new pastor in a traditional church in 1993, I walked down the children’s hall early in October and noticed the new door decorations. That isn't a bat, is it? I wondered. On closer inspection, I realized that it was. Going from door to door, I noticed this as a pattern—even though there were no witches or ghosts—[they were] decorations for this coming Halloween. I was faced with a serious question, How do I move this church into a deeper understanding of what Halloween is truly all about… without sounding like I am fussing or condemning them for their lack of information?

That day as I looked at those doors, their design began to give me a simple idea. The doors were constructed so that you could swing open the top half to hand a baby or child over the door to his/her waiting parent in the hall. My mind went back to my days as a kid when our elementary school would have a fall festival. Someone had built little booths that we as children could walk up to, play a game, and receive a prize. I particularly thought of the fishing booth with the stick, string, and clothes-pin fishing pole. I approached the children’s teachers and asked, “What if we had a party on the night of Halloween and decorated our doors and played games from which we could give the children candy?” At the same time, I was able to educate as I gave the rationale for moving away from the true meaning of Halloween. Thus, Harvest Fest was born. The workers ran with the idea (though with some trepidation that first year), decorated doors (we offered a prize for the best with no Halloween stuff), and made hot dogs for the parents. There were probably about 30 kids that first night (a great number for a church running 120 in Sunday School). Since it worked, we did it the next year. Within three years, the teachers came to me and asked, “What if we do this outdoors with a grill for the hot dogs?” I had my doubts, but we went ahead.

Fast-forward 21 years. Not one year was the festival cancelled due to weather. Every year, regardless of which day of the week it falls, the festival is held on October 31. More than one year, it began to pour at the time the festival ended but not until. Last year, over 2,000 people attended. There were hot dogs and chili, pony rides, hay rides, a cake walk, games for the kids, bouncy rides, face painting—and all for free to those who attended. We had over 300 volunteers working, and the cost came out of the church budget. Over a ton of candy was given away to the kids who played games. We registered everyone and followed up on the unchurched. If there was no church listed on the registration form, we were going to see them!

One particular family may best illustrate the positive and eternal effects of Harvest Fest: one year, as our registration process was being perfected, the line backed up. Workers ran to my wife and me [and asked us] to “work the line” to keep the people engaged. She and I walked up and down the line shaking hands and greeting our visitors. We noticed one family had a very unusual stroller—it was filled with triplets. Today, that man is the chairman of the Pastoral Care Team and a Sunday School teacher in one of our model classes. This family has become an integral part in the life of the church. There are other stories of salvation and growth, which all came about because of a church family willing to create a fun, safe environment for the children to enjoy.

"How do I move this church into a deeper understanding of what Halloween is truly all about…?"
There is a growing consensus across our nation that, in the face of Christianity’s declining influence across North America, the greatest need facing the American Church today must be a wide-scale, heaven-sent spiritual revival among God’s people. Is there any hope of escaping the growing undertow of the downward spiral of spiritual darkness that has so many in its grip today?

I believe there is! Thankfully the subject of revival is a growing theme across the SBC of Virginia and the Southern Baptist Convention. Our new SBC president, Dr. Ronnie Floyd, has made the need for revival in our churches a major focus in his leadership this year. He writes,

“If we were to vote at our convention’s Annual Homecoming this fall on the ability of God to bring revival and on our need for it, then undoubtedly, we would have a unanimous decision. But there is a difference between affirmation and desperation. Is revival a genuine personal desire and burden for us? I fear that our talk doesn’t match our walk. How desperate are we really for God to bring revival to His Church and spiritual awakening to our nation? Yes, “with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26), but in what ways have we adjusted our schedules and our lives in general so that the Holy Spirit might lead us to passionately, persistently, and powerfully call out to God in prayer for revival—like the cry of Psalm 85 where the Israelites prayed, “Will you not revive us again that your people may rejoice in you?” (v. 6). Leonard Ravenhill said, “If we are content to live without revival, we will.”

How far would you be willing to let God take you in order for you to experience revival in your life? Your family? Your church? Your nation and your world? What would you be willing to give up or take up so that you might hear God’s call to you in joining millions of other Christians in praying for the next great revival in the Church and Great Awakening in America? I am utterly convinced that as long as the Lord Jesus tarries in His promised return for His body and bride, then revival is still possible.

If revival does happen, then it must be preceded by a mighty movement of prayer by God’s people. Could it be that God is calling you to lead your family, your friends, your Sunday School class in special prayer times for revival? Would you be willing to fast and pray that revival would come to God’s people and that spiritual awakening of the lost would be experienced in your church and community?

As we look forward this fall to gathering for our Annual Homecoming at The Heights Baptist Church, I hope you and other members of your church will make plans to attend whether or not you have attended in the past. Ask God to increase your faith and the faith of all who will be in attendance. Come with the purpose of joining with others from churches across our state as we join together in praying for God to send revival in our day!
My family recently came down with a case of World Cup fever! We watched every game we could, especially the USA games. My daughter coached us on many of the players and their backgrounds. New athletes’ names like Beckerman, Beasley, and Bradley (and, of course, Tim Howard) were spoken regularly around the dinner table. Our team gave us a great ride, which went beyond what some predicted but not as far as many of us would have liked.

One thing you learn very quickly when watching soccer is how much of a team sport it is. Everyone is working Together for one purpose—to score a goal (and to keep the other team from scoring!). I’ve seen that same teamwork and solidarity of purpose throughout SBC of Virginia mission efforts this year, most notably during Crossover Baltimore 2014.

During one week this past June, and especially Saturday the 7th, more than 125 volunteers from about 10 SBC of Virginia churches drove up to Charm City, joined Together with more than 2,000 other Southern Baptists from all over the country, and covered Baltimore with the love of Jesus. SBC of Virginia volunteers also drove block party trailers and a Disaster Relief feeding unit up to the location. Liberty University students united with other SBC seminary students to canvass neighborhoods throughout the week. In all, there were more than 15,000 Gospel conversations. Decisions for Christ are still occurring, but the latest number totaled more than 226. It was truly an amazing sight and experience—truly a Together moment.

We use that word Together intentionally. It really represents our entire mission effort. We all know how important giving through the Cooperative Program is. But the more I have the privilege and opportunity to serve alongside you and your churches, the more I realize how CP is more than just about giving and money—it’s about the combined mission effort of our great Gospel team. Your Innovative Faith Resources media team has just finished producing two brand-new promotional videos to help you share this Together story. You can view them here: sbcv.org/cp. I hope you can use them in your ministry and that they will encourage your church.
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!

It’s as simple as A-B-C!

**A** dmit 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** elieve 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** ommit 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.
ANNUAL HOMECOMING 2014
November 9–11
The Heights Baptist Church, Colonial Heights

Strong churches with a bold commitment to the Great Commission

Alistair Begg  Grant Ethridge  Eric Geiger  John Marshall

Worship with Liberty University’s The Sounds of Liberty ministry team; Disaster Relief volunteer celebration luncheon with Congressman Randy Forbes; church planting dinner with Alistair Begg, senior pastor of Parkside Church in Cleveland, Ohio and creator of the Truth For Life ministry; women’s dinner with gospel music artist TaRanda Greene; and special missions luncheon with Nik Ripken, author of The Insanity of Obedience and The Insanity of God

sbcv.org/annualhomecoming