

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.

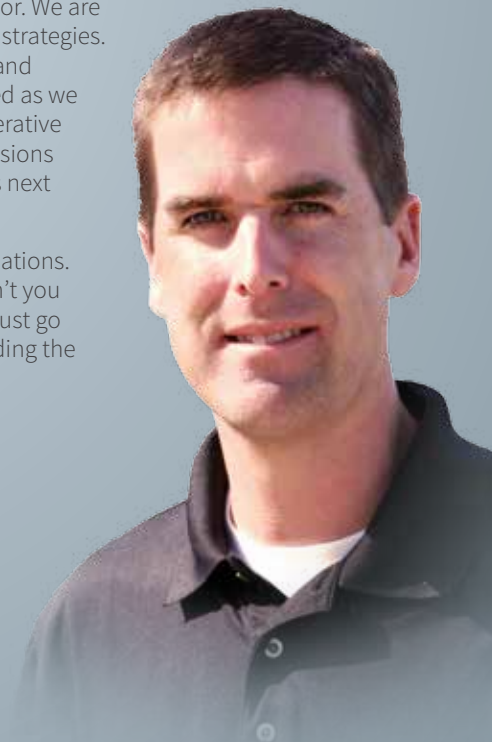
It can start with seeing and hearing the nations. But we must also have compassion. Aren't you glad someone came to your door? We must go and make disciples of all nations—including the nations next door.

In Jesus' Name,

Brian Autry

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CONTENTS

Prayer Is Essential 04

The SBC of Virginia reinforces the importance of prayer by hosting its first Prayer Summit.

H.O.P.E. Christian Ministries 05

Thomas Village Baptist Church is making a difference in Scott County.

Starting a Servolution 06

Here's a how-to guide for starting a Servolution in your church.

Community-Focused Vision 09

What do you do when your church looks nothing like your community demographic?

Conferencia Unida PASION: Alcanzando y Manteniendo la Siguiete Generación . . . 10

Discipulado de la siguiente generación.

An Unexpected Blessing 11

In the midst of grief, God had blessings headed to the Parker family.

Changing Their World 19

Changing lives by sponsoring a church plant.

Shining a Light on the Nations 22

More than 190 people groups live in Metropolitan Washington, DC. Who are they and where do they live?

Celebrating 300 Years 23

Mill Swamp Baptist Church celebrates its tricentennial anniversary.

Harvest Fest 24

Southside Baptist Church created a safe environment where salvation and growth can occur.

Renew Us, O Lord! 26

A word from the chairman of the SBCV Executive Board.

FEATURES



12

VISION VIRGINIA



13

READY CHURCH



16

ACTS 1:8 NETWORK



18

PRAYER



20

CHURCH PLANTING

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:



Resource

To watch the keynote sessions, or to receive more resources, visit sbcv.org/articles/detail/2014_prayer_summit.

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.

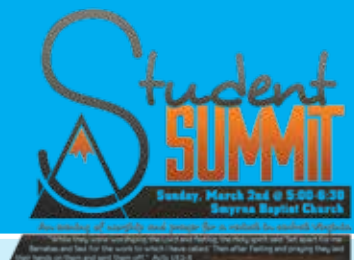
STUDENT PRAYER SUMMIT

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!





H.O.P.E. Christian Ministries

A 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." In addition to the food pantry and clothes closet, they also offer meal delivery to the elderly and homebound, marriage counseling, grief counseling, financial counseling, basic life-skill training, resume-writing training, and job training.

Poverty and despair are rampant in the Appalachian Region, and Thomas Village members knew they would need help to meet the needs. The church

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SCOTT COUNTY

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



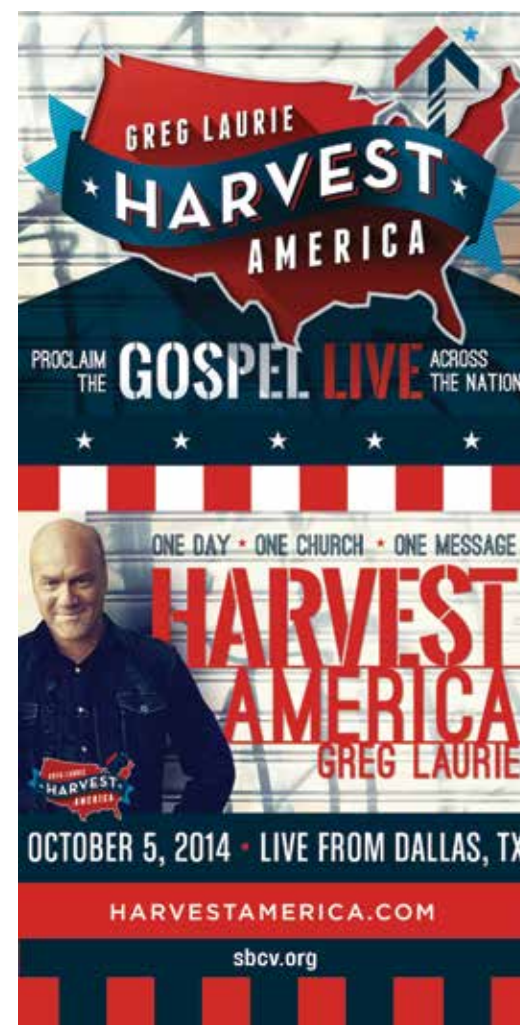
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VISIT WWW.SBCV.ORG/WOMEN



by Eric Ashley

Pastor/Planter of BridgePoint Church, Gloucester, VA

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!

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AUGUST 28

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GUEST SPEAKER

Eddie Mosley

GroupLife Pastor
LifePoint Church
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SOUTH NORFOLK BAPTIST CHURCH



Community-Focused Vision

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!”

Conferencia Unida PASION: ALCANZANDO Y MANTENIENDO LA SIGUIENTE GENERACIÓN

Español

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)

Dios ha estado trabajando en nuestras Iglesias de habla Hispana; 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 oportunidades 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 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: *Alcanzando y manteniendo la siguiente generación*. La conferencia se llevará a cabo el día 11 de Octubre, de 9:00 AM a 4:00 PM en las instalaciones 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 centrada en como los pastores en trabajo conjunto con los padres pueden discipular de la mejor manera a la siguiente generación, alcanzarlos 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 ministro 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 evento, será un desafío importante para nuestras congregaciones, y un magnífico tiempo de compañerismo.

United Conference PASSION 2014: REACHING AND KEEPING THE NEXT GENERATION

English

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)

God has been working in our Spanish-speaking churches. There is a growing excitement because we are united and have a common vision, which is to empower our churches to be more effective in reaching others with the Gospel of Christ. But at the same time, there is a common concern—the discipleship of the next generation.

We are aware that the Hispanic youth who live in the United States do not necessarily have the same worldview as the young people in Spanish-speaking countries. Here, our youth have the advantages of being bilingual, the ability to understand both cultures, and new financial opportunities that their parents helped prepare for them with hard work. However, these advantages are also differences that parents (usually the first generation) have to learn to how to

handle. Some of the concerns that have been raised are the following: What is the best way to disciple the youth of our congregations? Is there a model for reaching young Hispanics, many of whom are bilingual? How can we insure that they remain and get involved in the church once they become of age? All of these are valid questions.

This year, the SBC of Virginia is coordinating the United Conference PASSION 2014: *Reaching and Keeping the Next Generation*. The conference will be held on October 11 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Kingsland Baptist Church in Richmond, VA. A group of SBCV's

Hispanic leaders is organizing this important event to provide resources to our churches with workshops and a conference focused on how pastors can work together with parents to find the best methods to disciple the next generation, reach them and, in turn, provide church leaders in the near future. Our guest speaker will be Pastor Miguel Arcila, director of Word of Life Puerto Rico and a minister experienced in reaching youth in different Latin American countries (Argentina, Bolivia, and Mexico). Please pray for this event. We are certain it will not only be a time of encouragement to our congregations but will also be a great time of fellowship.



An Unexpected Blessing

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

Resource

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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. With Mrs. Parker's permission, we wanted to share her story. "Steve and I had cancelled a life insurance policy in the course of our marriage," she explains, "and, just as I was lamenting that decision, I was notified by GuideStone, through our

SBCV regional missionary, that we would be receiving survivor benefits in an amount that would make up for the cancelled policy. What an unexpected blessing!" Her husband had been participating in GuideStone Financial Resources' Church Retirement Plan, which included this benefit.

The SBC of Virginia, along with GuideStone, provides three free benefits for all ministerial staff members who have contributions going into their Church Retirement Plan account each month.

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.

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Satisfying the Hungry



ilies 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.

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 fam-

“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



Resource
hhbc.net

Dinner Saturday Night?

“Hey, you up for dinner Saturday evening? It should be a great time—50 or 60 people are expected at the recreation center.”

"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, the team 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



visionvirginia

*2014 Week of Prayer &
Offering for State Missions*

SEP 21 –28

Pray for missions.



Food
Distribution



Leadership
Development



Appalachian
Ministries



Baptist
Builders



Church
Planting



Ministry Intern
Scholarships



Property for
Church Plants

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

SBVC 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 SBVC 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



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

POINT HARBOR AT AFTON PLACE

We Love Cradock Handy Hands

Helping needy families with home maintenance and repairs



Music Makers

Free hour of music lessons (various instruments taught)



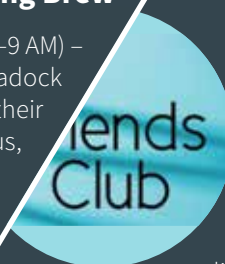
Family Night Dinner

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.

Contact

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

Resource

pointharbor.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 Craddock area for the
nutrition they need to
learn, play, and grow
throughout the
summer



A FREE CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM EVENT

**For ages 6-11
and their leaders**



**Sat Oct 11
10:00-11:30 am**



**Swift Creek
Baptist Church**
7511 N Spring Run Rd,
Midlothian, VA 23112

sbcv.org/kidzblitz



PRAYER for Church Planters

These church planter prayer cards are available for you to view at sbcv.org/profiles. You may also view many other church planter profiles there.

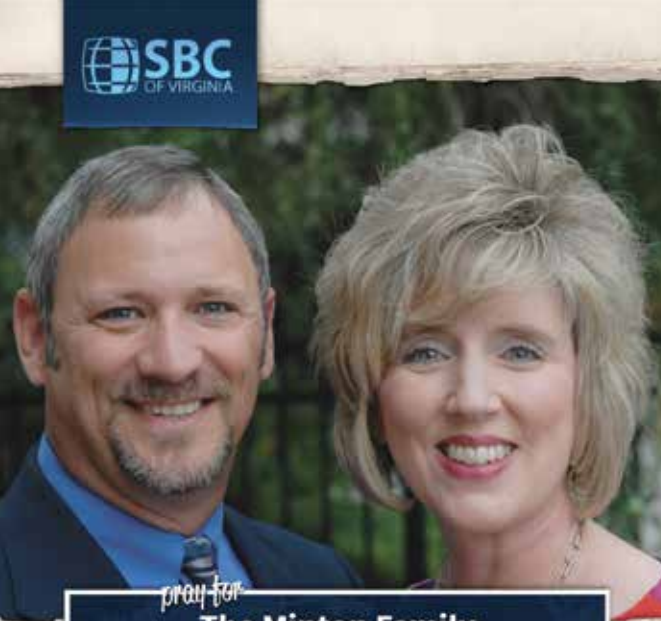
With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit... and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel... that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.
Ephesians 6:18-20 (NASB)

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?



The Minton Family
Emery, Beth, Laura, and Trae

CHURCH PLANTER
Christian Life Fellowship
clfchurch.net

866-365-5433
emery@clfchurch.net

MEETING AT:
26991 Wilderness Rd.
Jonesville

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



The Ghareeb Family
Tony, Souzan, Grace, Jessica, George, and Joshua

CHURCH PLANTER
Arabic New Life Baptist Church
<http://www.arabicnewlifebaptist.com/>

MEETING AT:
5424 Ox Rd
Fairfax Station

703-967-5068
ghareebt@yahoo.com

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

Changing Their World

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 prayerwalking 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



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.

by Rev. Trey Hensley

Pastor of The Camp of Faith Church, Stephens City, VA

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!



Resource
fire2trail.org



WOMEN'S Leadership RETREAT

INTERNATIONAL LEARNING CENTER
ROCKVILLE, VA

AUG-15-16

connections
connections



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS EVENT, VISIT WWW.SBCV.ORG/WOMEN



PASTORS, STAFF, & WIVES
RETREAT

OCTOBER 17-18
Kingsmill Resort



Featuring
**GRANT & TAMMY
ETHRIDGE**

only **\$75**
PER COUPLE THROUGH
SEPT. 15!

Register at
SBCV.ORG/RETREAT

SHINING A LIGHT ON THE NATIONS

WHO are they?

PEOPLE GROUPS

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:

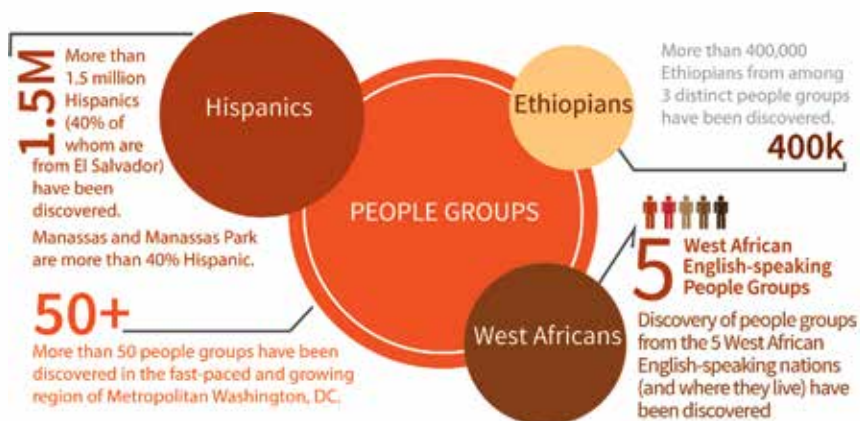
People Groups Discovered:

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.

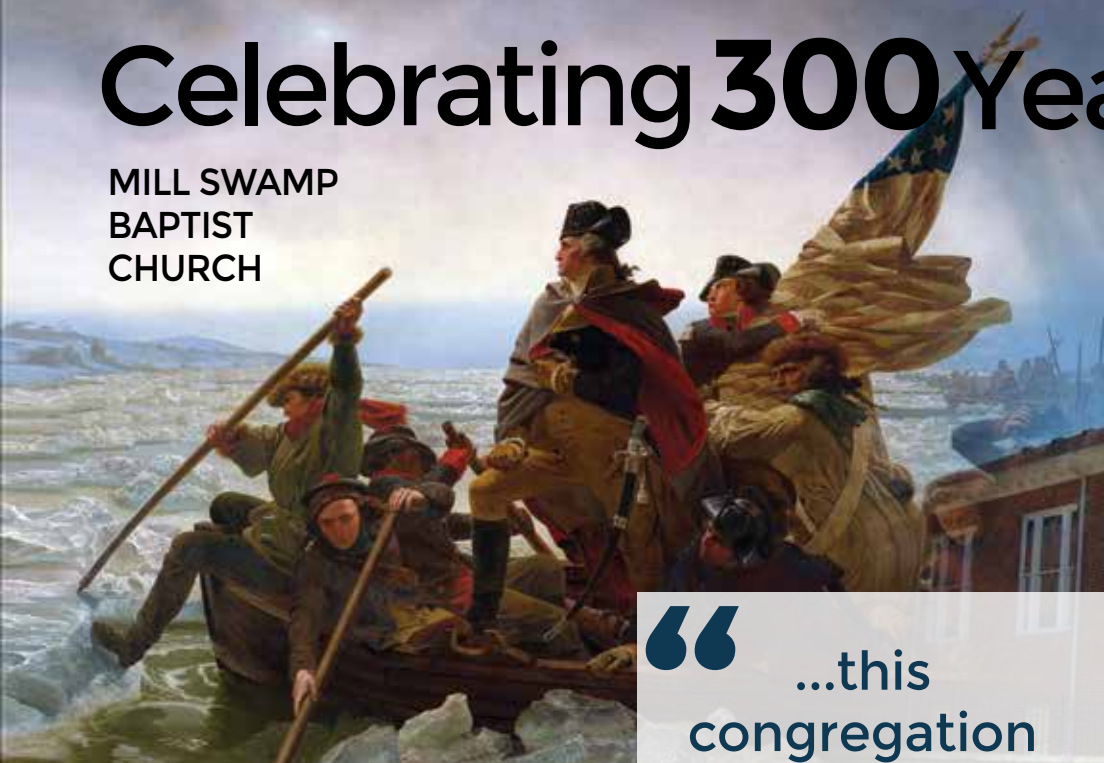
Contact

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.



Celebrating 300 Years

MILL SWAMP
BAPTIST
CHURCH



“...this congregation celebrates its rich history but is not living in the past.”

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 Lottie 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

THE CHURCH, LOCATED IN VIRGINIA BEACH, WAS FOUNDED BY A GROUP OF 14 WORSHIPPERS IN 1814.

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!



Visitors received a historical perspective of 200 years ago during the anniversary weekend. Watch the video at:
youtube.com/watch?v=P4Hmt7a2FIA#t=58

Harvest Fest

by Stewart McCarter

Pastor of Southside Baptist Church, Suffolk, VA

SALVATION AND GROWTH BECAUSE A CHURCH FAMILY WAS WILLING TO
CREATE A FUN AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN TO ENJOY

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

"How do I move this church into a deeper understanding of what Halloween is truly all about...?"

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.

Resource
sbcsuffolk.org



from the **CHAIRMAN** of the SBC of Virginia Executive Board



Dr. Bryan E. Smith
Pastor
First Baptist Church
Roanoke, VA

RENEW US, O LORD!

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,

“

Without a doubt, another Great Awakening is possible... While the skeptics doubt and the cynics mock, we need to pray. We need to believe God. In our Southern Baptist Convention, we need to be thirsty and hungry for the righteousness of God. We need to long for a move of God that will change our business as usual thinking and vision, igniting us into exploding churches and gospel acceleration that is unprecedented in history. ...Our God can do anything, anytime, with anyone!

”

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!



from the
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Resource

VIDEOS

vimeo.com/innovativefaith/crossover2014

sbcv.org/cp

WEBSITE

sbcv.org/cp



You can view two brand-new CP promotional videos here:
sbcv.org/cp



To see and hear more, watch the Crossover 2014 highlight video:
vimeo.com/innovativefaith/crossover2014

Together

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.



Regional Pastor Fellowships
IMB House Church Leaders Institute (Aug 1-3)
Mission Project: Adopt a Local School

- Regional Pastor Fellowships*
Vision Virginia State Missions Offering
Mission Project: Adopt a Local School

- Regional Pastor Fellowships*
Vision Virginia State Missions Offering
IMB House Church Leaders Institute (Oct 31-Nov 3)
Mission Project: Christmas in Appalachia Backpacks

- # E412 >>>>>>>>>>

Church Leadership Training



AUG 23 | SEPT 20 | SEPT 27

Register at WWW.SBCV.ORG/E412

- ## 4 LOCATIONS

AUG 23 | CHRISTIANSBURG, VA

SEPT 20 | LYNCHBURG, VA

SEPT 20 | VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

SEPT 27 | GLEN ALLEN, VA

SO THAT THE BODY OF CHRIST
MAY BE BUILT UP.
EPHESIANS 4:12

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

It's as simple as A-B-C!

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."*

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



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ANNUAL 2014 HOMECOMING

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

