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MONTREAL, QUEBEC

Set **Free**

A simple invitation changes
a life for eternity

NEW LIFE *for Riders*

Sharing the Gospel at the
world's largest bike rally



TELLING ABOUT THE AMAZING THINGS
GOD IS DOING THROUGH HIS CHURCH

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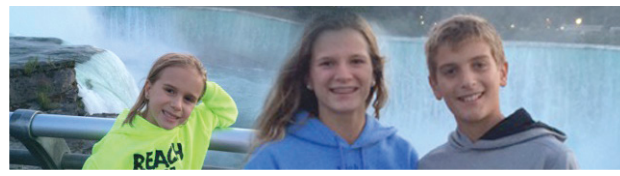
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Wonders of the World

Close to 20 years ago, as a student pastor, I was leading a group of students on a mission project to work with a church plant in Northwest Pennsylvania. In fact, that experience became part of the backdrop to my own calling to be involved in church planting. As the trip drew to a close, we took a day trip to Niagara Falls. I can still remember the expressions of wonder on the faces of those American teenagers.

This summer, I took my family to Niagara Falls. With my wife and three children, I headed north to show my dear loved ones this natural wonder. However, as we traveled, I was curious if they too would be impressed. After all, it is 2014. My children have been able to see and experience many things. Would Niagara Falls impact them with wonder?

We arrived that evening and began our walk from the hotel toward the Falls. First, they witnessed a smaller water fall and some rapids. They were already showing signs of being impressed, and I became more excited at the prospect of unveiling Niagara to them!

Over the next 24 hours, I would have the joy and satisfaction of seeing my family struck with wonder at the creation of God. Amusement parks and our modern inventions fail to compare to the sights and sounds of these rushing waters.

My application in sharing this with you is to point out that we have the privilege of proclaiming the spiritual wonders of God. The Apostle Paul said in the first chapter of the Book of Romans that he was not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In Romans 8, we read spiritual wonders like, "Therefore, no condemnation now exists for those in Christ Jesus" (v1, HCSB).

We have the glorious Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to proclaim to our neighbors, the nations, and to all generations. People across Virginia, in the Greater Washington, DC area, and from Appalachia to the cities and villages of this state, need to hear and see the wonder of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Together, as SBC of Virginia churches plant, strengthen, and mobilize, we can make Jesus known. I ask for your prayers and support as we work together to make known the spiritual wonder of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Your prayers and church partnership through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program and the Vision Virginia State Missions Offering are having an impact downstream.

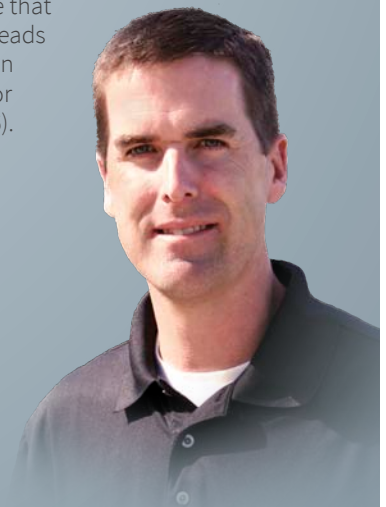
Finally, if you ever visit Niagara Falls, you may note that the area draws power off of the rushing river that leads to the Falls. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is more than just a wonder to hear and see. It is "God's power for salvation to everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16).

Your brother in Christ,

Brian Autry

Executive Director, SBC of Virginia

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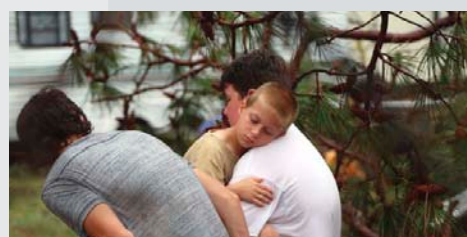
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KINGDOM IMPACT



SHRMP is the vision of South Norfolk Baptist Church's pastor, David Slayton.

Urban Ministry

As anyone who has ever worked in student ministry knows, what you do in the summer can be a building block for what happens in the ministry the rest of the year.

When Dave Gouldin became the youth director at Onancock Baptist Church on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, he faced some of the same questions common to every youth leader, like, "What are we going to do this summer?" As anyone who has ever worked in student ministry knows, what you do in the summer can be a building block for what happens in the ministry the rest of the year.

When trying to decide which summer camp to attend, Onancock chose SHRMP. Pronounced like the seafood, SHRMP is an acronym for South Hampton Roads Ministry Project, the vision of South Norfolk Baptist Church's pastor, David Slayton. It's a youth camp that focuses on inner-city ministry.

Student groups from eight churches attended SHRMP. They slept at the church, ate meals there, and took showers in Disaster Relief Ministry shower units provided by the SBC of Virginia. During the day, they were deployed to 10 different mission and outreach projects in South Hampton Roads

urban centers. Most of the ministry was done in Section 8 housing areas where South Norfolk Baptist does ministry year round. Some students helped with Vacation Bible School, some with sports clinics, some with backyard Bible clubs, and some with a feeding project. Each night was capped off with worship and testimony time back at the church.

By the end of the week, there were 258 who participated in ministry through SHRMP; 1,019 who were ministered to through one of the ministry projects; and 121 who trusted Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior! Of those salvation decisions, 106 were recorded at the ministry sites, and an additional 15 took place at South Norfolk during one of the worship rallies.

"This camp really gave our students the opportunity to put into practice what they had been learning," says Dave Gouldin. "Our students were expected to share the Gospel and they did." He continues, "I am impressed with the fact that [South Norfolk Baptist Church is] doing the

ministry year round." Observing this has made the Onancock Student Ministry leaders rethink what they are doing in their own local mission field. "We are seeking God [and] asking Him what He wants us to do in our local community as a result of our experiences at SHRMP."

Those who participated in SHRMP saw *Vision Virginia* State Missions Offering dollars at work in a couple of ways: 1) The Disaster Relief shower units used for the students' showers were purchased with *Vision Virginia* dollars, and 2) A portion of the money used to purchase food for the hunger/feeding ministry came from *Vision Virginia* funds.

A special thank-you goes out to all of the churches who gave to the *Vision Virginia* State Missions Offering last year. You helped us support inner-city ministry through our partnership with South Norfolk Baptist Church.



Resource

churchontheshore.com
southnorfolk baptist.org



Set Free SPURRED BY A SIMPLE INVITATION

The people of Good Shepherd Baptist in Christiansburg have learned that the mission field begins with their neighbors and extends to the nations—both of which are right in their backyard.

Kaleel first heard of Jesus when a fellow prisoner tried to invite him to a Bible study and talked of Christ. A Muslim at the time, he attacked the man. Years later, however, Kaleel accepted a simple invitation from his next-door neighbor to attend Good Shepherd Baptist Church (GSBC). There he finally understood the Gospel of Jesus Christ and surrendered his life to Him. Since then, he has been baptized, brings his family, and is now inviting his friends and neighbors to join him.

Not only are the members of GSBC being faithful to invite their neighbors to church, their neighbors and the nations are coming to them. In cooperation with the Christiansburg Recreation Department, the church hosts the local soccer league on its front lawn. Dozens of local families have been touched by the generosity and servant spirit of GSBC while their children play soccer.

Pastor Matthew Kirkland has led the church to take advantage of this opportunity to serve snacks, provide water, and invite families to return for church ministry opportunities like worship. "God has brought so many families into contact with us and the Gospel," says Pastor Matthew, "It is truly a God-ordained opportunity."

THE MISSION FIELD BEGINS WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS



The surprising thing to the congregation has been the mosaic of cultures and people seen in the local community. It is only fitting that the church has stenciled above the exit doors of its new worship facility, "You are now entering your mission field." For the members of Good Shepherd Baptist Church, they are going out to their neighbors and receiving those coming to their church campus.

Resource
gsbcfamily.org



PRAYER SUMMIT

on the subject of *Spiritual Warfare*

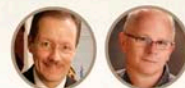
Prayer is absolutely essential in our relationship with the Lord Jesus and His Church. At the 2015 Prayer Summit, you will glean from two of the most well-known writers and speakers on the subject of prayer. The event is open to everyone, so pray about attending and whom you will invite to join you.

February 24, 2015

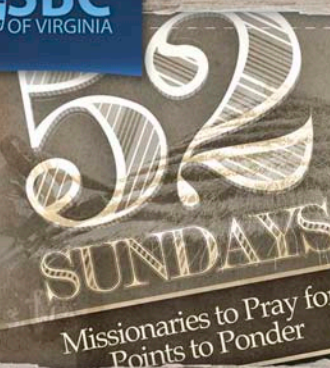
Fincastle Baptist Church, Fincastle

featuring

**Chuck Lawless and
David Earley**



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



A Devotional Tool

MISSIONARIES to Pray for, Points to Ponder

Remembering our missionaries serving overseas, across North America, and across Virginia through prayer. Each Sunday, enrich your church's offering time and deepen your personal devotion time by lifting up a faithful servant to God.

Download promotional materials or a PDF copy of the 2014 52 Sundays prayer booklet at:

sbcv.org/52sundays

2015 52 Sundays will be available soon for download.

Better Together

Crossover produces long-term partners

Two Richmond-area SBCV churches, Kingsland Baptist and Bermuda Baptist, took 32 church members to Baltimore on Saturday, June 7, 2014 to participate in Crossover Baltimore. Crossover is an evangelistic outreach event scheduled each year on the Saturday prior to the SBC's national convention. Church members were led by their pastors, Pat Fiordelise and Pete Hypes, respectively, along with Kingsland's mission contact, Jim Austin. Their task was to prayerwalk the community around Streetlite Christian Fellowship and help freshen up the church's facility.

Planning ahead, Pastor Pete and Jim traveled to Baltimore in April to meet with Streetlite's pastor, Brian Zimmerman. Pastor Brian had one thing on his mind, which was to get the Transformation Center ready for

the first worship service. "We left that day with a clear understanding of [his] vision for the Transformation Center in the Brooklyn community as well as his vision for Crossover," says Jim Austin. "I remember Pastor Brian telling us that he did not have time for a group of people that would come on a one-day mission project but never return after that. He said, 'We are looking for long-term partners.'"

Streetlite had recently acquired a former church in the impoverished Baltimore neighborhood of Brooklyn to use as a Transformation Center. The center was mostly in need of cleaning and sprucing up. The team from Kingsland and Bermuda cleaned education space, office space, the kitchen, and many bathrooms; moved a commercial stove, tables, desks, and chairs; sorted and hung clothing; inspected

use-by dates on pantry items; cut trees and pulled weeds; painted classrooms and hallways; and prayerwalked the campus and neighborhood. These efforts were essential to the opening of the Transformation Center.

In addition to the opportunity to stand with the members of Streetlite as they expressed the love of Jesus to the community, the team caught the vision of the center and began discussing how they could implement aspects of this ministry at their own churches. The commitment of the team to helping Streetlite prepare the Transformation Center for ministry was so great that Crossover Baltimore "Part 2" was conducted on Saturday, July 19 with 21 members of Kingsland and Bermuda participating. In total, 35 members from Kingsland and 10 members from Bermuda participated in one of the two days, and 8



participated in both.

Although Baltimore is relatively close to Richmond, the bus ride to and from Baltimore equaled the amount of time available for the team to work. Nevertheless, it gave ample time for the two churches to grow closer together and plan how they could continue to be a blessing to Streetlite Christian Fellowship. The leaders of Kingsland and Bermuda understand that when members participate in missions, their perspective on the Great Commission becomes more focused and they become more personally committed to taking the Gospel to the world. The one-day Crossover format was useful in maximizing the number of members who can/would participate in a mission trip. And for these two churches, it was an opportunity to develop a long-term partnership with Streetlite and each other. "The partnership will continue," says Pastor Pete, "and we will continue to assist Streetlite as the need arises."

"While cleaning the Transformation campus, the team found condoms and needles—indicators that Satan had set up his operation at that place," says Jim Austin, "but now, with eyes of faith, the Kingsland/Bermuda team can see boys and girls attending AWANA and Upwards [sports] in the gym; we can see youth playing basketball and hearing the Gospel; we can see adults receiving job training and addiction counseling; we can see children attending a quality Christian school; we can see families attending worship, receiving clothing, and being fed... we can see men and women, boys and girls, impacted by the Gospel now and for eternity."

When churches work together, we express the selfless character of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom principle of serving others so that all people can have a relationship with the Savior.

In 2015, the SBC will be held in Columbus, OH June 16–17, with Crossover taking place on Saturday, June 13. Dr. Phil Halcombe, director of missions for the Metro-Columbus Baptist Association, has emphasized the great need in Columbus and has issued a call for SBCV churches to come and assist the 111 churches of the association in saturating the city with the Good News. Columbus is the 15th largest city in the nation with 139 languages spoken. "There is a great need for the Gospel in our city, as 90% of the population is unsaved," says Halcombe. "We will be prepared with numerous opportunities to serve alongside local churches in and around the city."

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Dr. David Platt

“Let us pray that the Lord will strengthen and increase our missions coalition of churches in our time to make more disciples and plant more churches across this lost world.”

Dr. Brian Autry

MISSION LEADER

for a New Generation

August 28, 2014 | Glen Allen, Virginia — Dr. David Platt, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Alabama, was elected president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board this week by board trustees.

According to Platt, he will preach at The Church at Brook Hills until September 14. Effective immediately, he takes office as president of the 169-year-old IMB, the largest denominational missionary-sending body among American evangelicals. More than 4,800 Southern Baptist international missionaries serve worldwide.

After the vote became official, SBC of Virginia’s executive director, Dr. Brian Autry, spoke out about 36-year-old Platt taking the helm of the IMB.

“*Passion for the glory of God and for the nations is overwhelmingly evident in David Platt.*”

Autry was one of many in attendance at The Heights Baptist Church on Wednesday who heard Platt’s first sermon to newly appointed IMB missionaries.

Autry got a chance to encourage Platt on his new position. “I assured David of our love and prayers as his family makes this transition. The SBC of Virginia has demonstrated by word and deed a heart for church planting and missions both here and globally since our founding. More than ever, we must mobilize more for missions.”

“Leadership is influence,” said Dr. Grant Ethridge, president of the SBC of Virginia and senior pastor of Liberty Baptist Church in Hampton, Virginia. “David Platt was already the mission leader of a new generation. Yesterday, God chose him to be our leader. I believe the Lord will use David to raise up the largest army of young people Southern Baptists have ever seen to take the Gospel to the nations.”

In a letter to Autry and the churches of the SBC of Virginia, Platt reaffirmed the dynamic partnership that exists between the two missions agencies.

“I simply wanted to drop you a note from the start to let you know how grateful I am for your leadership in the SBC,” Platt wrote. “As I have walked through this process over these past months, I have been reminded over and over again of the grace God has given in the SBC, from local associations to state conventions to national entities, and the opportunities that exist in the SBC for the spread of the Gospel across North America and among every nation. I am eagerly looking forward to working alongside you in partnership toward that end. As I pray for you, I would ask that you pray for wisdom, grace, and strength for me to lead the IMB well for God’s glory.”

Autry is now challenging SBCV pastors and churches to coalesce behind both Platt and the IMB in prayer.

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.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1:3-5 (ESV)

In spite of his difficult circumstances as a prisoner in Rome, Paul's mind goes back to the saints at Philippi, and every recollection brings him great joy. And he tells us that this joy was directly related to their commitment to partnership in the Gospel. In the SBC of Virginia, we are blessed to experience that same partnership. We

see churches and individuals partnering together to make disciples and plant churches for the glory of God. Partnership happens as we pray together and work together, sharing our resources and sacrificially giving our best in order to reach our 8 million lost neighbors.

Would you be willing to lead your church into a partnership with one of the dedicated church planting couples below (or one of our other SBCV church planters) by adopting them into your missionary family? Would you, your church, community group, women's or men's group, student or senior adult ministry, get involved personally with them in a partnership for the Gospel?



pray for
The Davis Family
Walt, April, Gwyn, Drake, and New Baby

CHURCH PLANTER
Life Journey Church
lifejourneyva.com
434-218-2552
walt@lifejourneyva.com

MEETING AT
Western Albemarle High School
5941 Rockfish Gap Turnpike
Crozet

BIRTHDAYS: Walt (August 1), April (February 22)

PRAYER NEEDS:

Pray for the Gospel to take root in the lives of the people in our community.

Pray for financial stability and strength. Being such a young church that has now sent out members to plant another church, we need new financial partners.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP! (needs)

Partners to help with the purchase of equipment and with operating funds / Mission teams to help with a variety of outreach projects to serve the community and build relationships



pray for
The King Family
Tracy & Pamela

CHURCH PLANTER
Truth Fellowship Church
540-206-8943
tmking3@liberty.edu

MEETING AT
812 29th St., NW
Roanoke

BIRTHDAYS: Tracy (December 2), Pamela (September 12)

PRAYER NEEDS:

Pray for personal safety and strength as we reach out each week through sharing the Gospel in our community.

Pray that we develop Christ followers who love God, who are set free in Christ, and are serving and reaching others.

Pray for more laborers to join us in the harvest.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP! (needs)

a good, reliable van or mini-bus / toys for needy children to be distributed as an outreach ministry at Christmas



“

God started a work in me as Anthony shared their determination to reach the Arabic-speaking peoples of the world by evangelizing them in the DC area.

”

A Heart Changed

REACHING AN UNLIKELY PEOPLE GROUP

by Brent Vickery

Pastor, Ramoth Baptist Church, Stafford

Trips to IHOP will never be the same. Really? Let me explain.

Dates elude me, but the events I am referring to occurred at IHOP more than a year ago. My scheduled meeting in Centreville was with [SBCV church planting strategist] Larry Black and a potential church planter who was working among the peoples of South Asia in the Metro DC area. The candidate was seeking a sponsor church, and I was desperately hoping Ramoth would be that church. The meeting occurred as planned, but there was no sense of clarity of vision or focus on the part of the candidate.

Larry's next missionary appointment had arrived before I left IHOP and, as I passed by the table where they were sitting, he invited me to meet the man and his dear wife. That couple was Anthony and Ana Kassim (name changed for security). Over the next few moments, I saw their love for God and heard a passion for the Gospel that continues to amaze me to this day. God started a work in me as Anthony shared their determination to reach the Arabic-speaking peoples of the world by evangelizing them in the DC area. Sitting right in front of me was a couple who

was willing to give their lives for a group of people that so many Americans hate, fear, or both. Sadly, I found a bit of both emotions in my own soul, and it convicted me to my core. I said goodbye to Anthony, Ana, and Larry.

Have you ever been consumed with something? Well, I confess that I had no direction from the Lord and no peace concerning the first church planter candidate I met at IHOP that day. The Kassims were another story altogether, as I found myself praying for them and actually entertaining thoughts of partnering with them for the glory of God alone. Then sleep became elusive at times. Excuses flooded my mind as to why my church would never follow my leadership if I suggested a church planting partnership with the Kassims and their target people. Looking back, I see that God began a work in my heart the very day I met Anthony, but the work God began was far more than leading me to embrace a church planter. God was leading me to an impossible place...a place of saying yes to evangelizing the last group of people I would ever personally choose to reach out to. God began to burden my heart that day for the Muslim peoples of the world. I can't get away from the will of God.

How to Be a PEOPLE GROUP ADVOCATE

Virginia has become home to more than 190 people groups from all over the world. Pastors like Brent Vickery and other Christian leaders all across our state have a burden to reach the nations here and are asking, "How?" Here is one approach:



PRAY. Ask God which people group He would have you reach and support.



ADOPT. Adopt the people group and either serve as the people group advocate (see resource box) or join a group that is focused on advocating for the people group.



DEVELOP. Create a church prayer plan for the people group.



SPECIAL DAY. Have a special day with your church or with a group of churches to hear a speaker from SBCV and a Christian leader from the people group.



SUPPORT. Determine with your church or the group of churches how you will support evangelism and church planting among your adopted people group.



RESOURCE

For information about people group needs or how to become an advocate for a people group, contact Larry Black at lblack@sbcv.org or your regional SBCV missionary

My church [Ramoth Baptist Church] followed my leadership, and the call that God placed upon my heart is rapidly growing in our church family. We are a sponsoring church for Anthony and Ana and hope to be a sponsoring church in the coming year for additional planters to the Islamic peoples of the Greater DC area. God has burdened me and led me to be involved in reaching one of the most difficult people groups in the world. Muslims need Jesus!

There is one final story I want to share. We took a group of about 20 people from the church to witness at a large gathering of predominantly Muslim people. We were anxious, yet we were determined to be witnesses for Christ. During the course of the day, I met two Muslim women who were apparently friends, though one was dressed in traditional attire and the other like a fairly typical American. Over the course of about 20 minutes, I was able to share the Gospel...but as the enemy would have it, the husband of the younger

woman walked up and confronted me because he didn't want me talking to them. I spoke kindly, and he soon calmed down and left to continue cooking for his mosque. After a few more moments, the women had to go, but before they left, the younger woman said to me, "There is nothing for me in Islam. I would love to go to your friend's church and hear about Jesus." Her face and her words will be etched in my mind as long as I live because they were used by God to deepen my desire to reach those who follow Islam.

Won't you help us? Won't you join us? My prayer is the same as Jesus' in Matthew's Gospel—I am praying that the Lord of the harvest will send forth laborers into His harvest.



Resource

WEBSITE

christforthecrescentworld.org



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"And He personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's son."

EPHESIANS 4:11-13



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An Unlikely Place to Start a Church

AYLETT, VA

The commitment and investment of a sponsoring church combined with the bold, faithful obedience of a church planter has resulted in three churches planted in eight years and scores of disciples made.



Resource

For more information on taking practical steps to sponsor a new church, visit sbcv.org/churchplanting to complete and return a Sponsor Church Interest Form.



In 2005, God brought Paul and Kimberly McDaniel on a journey to Virginia

to plant Family Life Baptist Church in Mechanicsville. That journey continues to bear fruit to this day. The vision God placed in Paul's heart was not simply to plant a church, but to plant a church that would continually multiply disciples and new churches. With the sponsorship of Salem Baptist Church of Chesterfield, Family Life began holding weekly worship services in Mechanicsville on Easter Sunday 2006. By 2008, God was leading them to start their first church 20 miles away in Aylett.

Among the launch team of Family Life Mechanicsville were Gus and Michelle Agostino. Gus is a Bible

college graduate and an employee at a local correctional facility. The Agostinos were also among a group of families at Family Life who were driving to church from King William County. When Pastor Paul noticed this, he asked the families, "Would you like to have a church just like Family Life in your town?" The answer was an overwhelming yes!

At first, Aylett didn't seem like a place one would choose to begin a new church. However, God had other plans and made it clear to Pastor Paul and the leadership at Family Life Mechanicsville that Aylett was to be the location of their first church plant. After much prayer, Gus was selected to be the lead church planter, and a church planting team was

commissioned to start the new church. Preview services were held in November 2008, and weekly worship services launched in January 2009. The new church met in the cafeteria of King William High School for the first couple of years until a 3,000-square-foot lease property, formerly a furniture store, became available a short distance away.

In late spring 2014, SBCV church planting strategist Mark Custalow stopped by to worship in one of two services at Family Life Aylett. After the service, Pastor Gus shared that there had been a combined worship attendance that day of 170 people, which made Family Life Aylett the highest-attended church in the county. The unlikely location for a new church was proving to be a part of

God's plan. This past August, a 6,000-square-foot warehouse became available and, at the time of this article, is being remodeled to become the new home of the Aylett church.

The story of church planting multiplication for Family Life Baptist Church does not end there. Two years after the Aylett church was planted, Pastor Paul McDaniel handed off the original church plant in Mechanicsville to current pastor Glenn Hawkins and began working to start the newest Family Life Baptist Church in Ashland. The Ashland church launched weekly worship services in September 2011 and is still led by Pastor Paul. The next chapter of the Family Life story is already taking shape as well. The Ashland and Aylett churches

are making plans for a jointly sponsored new church in the Ladysmith area.

The commitment and investment of a sponsoring church combined with the bold, faithful obedience of a church planter has resulted in three churches planted in eight years and scores of disciples made. The story of Family Life Baptist Church, originally sponsored by Salem Baptist Church, stands as a living testament to the Kingdom impact of answering God's call to make disciples by planting new churches.

“

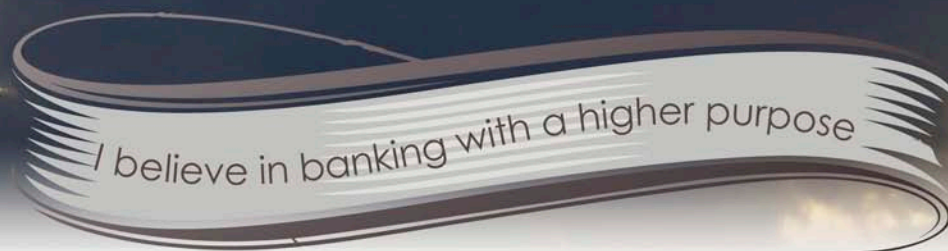
Dave and Shari Anderson *were invited to church by their son, who had joined the church baseball team. “A requirement to play ball was periodic attendance of Family Life. We began attending because of his enthusiasm for [the church]. We were baptized, began to grow, and Dave later helped start the Men's Ministry as a result of attending the SBCV E412 Conference. We love the people here and the church.” Shari says, “I wish every day was Sunday!”*

Steve Walsh *was invited to church by his teenage daughter. She was invited to church by a friend and loved it so much that she came every Sunday for the next six months. “She prayed diligently for me to start attending with her. The first time I came was to attend movie night and saw the movie Courageous. I was saved early in life but did not walk with Christ. I was a workaholic and worked seven days a week. My goal in life was to provide for my family. I started coming regularly every Sunday after movie night. My wife, daughter, and I were baptized here, and I started walking with Jesus. When you think no one cares, they do. If the doors of this church ever shut, I don't know what I would do.”*

Lindsay Heller – *“I came to Family Life when it was meeting at the high school, and [I] was saved and baptized. I have a new understanding of God's unconditional love. I now work with the youth at Family Life because of the encouragement of Pastor Gus. God shows up when you need him and, because of this church, I am able to believe it more. Nothing is too big for God. Where we are going as a church is scary but indescribable. I have learned tithing through the messages of Pastor Gus, and I see a return on the money I give by the way God is growing the people, the church, and me.”*

”

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Receiving the Gospel to Share the Gospel: the Story of an Ethnic Church Plant Reaching Out to Other Ethnicities

English

In 2013, Pastor Fernando Mangieri challenged Nueva Esperanza Baptist Church to start praying for other ethnic groups that were not reached with the Gospel of Jesus. He trained the church to pray at home for these groups for 52 days, and they also had a time of prayer in the main Sunday service. The members developed a heart for missions. Because of this, the church adopted three missionaries, and they started supporting missionaries in Asia.

Leading a Hispanic church in the US is like having a mission field at home. You have people from different cultures and countries that only have the Spanish language in common. This could be used

as an excuse to forget about people from different languages and cultures who need to be reached with the Gospel, but Nueva Esperanza did not do this. They're getting ready to reach out to another group of people who do not speak English or Spanish.

Nueva Esperanza is displaying this important evangelistic principle: we receive the Gospel so we can share the Gospel with others. This church has been praying for more than a year to be able to go to South Asia and be trained in how to reach the different ethnicities we have

right here in Virginia. In August of 2014, Pastor Fernando and his wife took a trip to India to be trained in reaching this group of people. They do not believe their work is done and are now praying to see where God is leading and what group of people the church would adopt to reach. Because of the *Vision Virginia* emphasis of 2013, Nueva Esperanza feels that God has enlarged the vision—they will not only reach Hispanics with new church plants—their prayer is to soon start an Indian church in Virginia.

Recibiendo el Evangelio para Compartir el Evangelio: Esta Es la Historia de Una Iglesia Hispana Alcanzando a Otras Etnias

Español

El año 2013 el Pastor Fernando Mangieri desafió a congregación, Iglesia Bautista Nueva Esperanza a comenzar a orar por otros grupos étnicos que no han sido alcanzados con el Evangelio de Cristo. Entrenaron a la iglesia a orar en los hogares por estos grupos durante 52 días, y desarrollaron un tiempo de oración en el servicio principal del domingo. Gracias a esto los miembros desarrollaron un corazón para las misiones; como consecuencia, la iglesia adoptó tres misioneros, y que comenzó a apoyar misioneros en Asia.

Plantar una iglesia hispana en EE.UU. es como tener un campo de misión en

el país. La congregación tiene gente de diferentes culturas y países que sólo tienen en común el idioma español. Esto podría ser utilizado como una excusa para olvidarse de las personas de diferentes lenguas y culturas que deben ser alcanzados con el Evangelio. Gracias a Dios este no fue el caso de Nueva Esperanza, y ahora se están preparando para alcanzar a otro grupo de personas que hacen no hablan Inglés ni español.

Nueva Esperanza está mostrando un principio de evangelización importante: recibimos el Evangelio para que poder compartir el Evangelio con los demás. Esta iglesia ha estado orando por más de un año para poder ir a Asia del Sur

y ser entrenados en cómo llegar a los diferentes grupos étnicos que tenemos aquí en Virginia. En agosto de 2014, el Pastor Fernando y su esposa tomaron su viaje a la India para ser entrenado para llegar a este grupo de personas. Ellos no creen que su trabajo está terminado y ahora están orando para ver hacia donde Dios está guiando y qué grupo de personas la iglesia adoptará para alcanzar. Debido al énfasis *Visión de Virginia* de 2013, Nueva Esperanza siente que Dios ha ampliado la visión, no sólo alcanzarán Hispanos con nuevas iglesias, su oración es comenzar pronto una iglesia India aquí mismo en Virginia.

God Stories from the Waterfront

“...we are preaching the message of Christ in Washington, DC”

Zack Randles, Church Planter, Waterfront Church



If you know anything about Washington, DC, you know it's a very expensive place to live. Church planter Zack Randles and his wife, Autumn, know this firsthand. They prayed long and hard when trying to find an apartment. And through a tremendous answer to those prayers, they were able to secure an apartment very near where they wanted to plant Waterfront Church. And believe it or not—for \$1,200 a month *less* than the average lease price!

Waterfront Church is a reality in Washington, DC today thanks to so many other

“God” stories, including Courtyard Marriott Navy Yard granting permission to use its building. This SBCV church plant meets in the shadow of the US Capitol building and Nationals Park, home of the Washington Nationals baseball team. You only need to talk to Zack and Autumn for a few minutes to know that God has been working to bring this new church to this specific part of DC.

On launch Sunday, 84 local residents along with a mission team from Texas filled the third floor of the Courtyard

Marriott. Zack and Autumn will tell you that everything that's happened has been due to God's grace and mercy. They have had their share of trials, including Zack's dad, Pastor John Randles, being diagnosed with cancer just before Waterfront's launch. But God has been faithful.

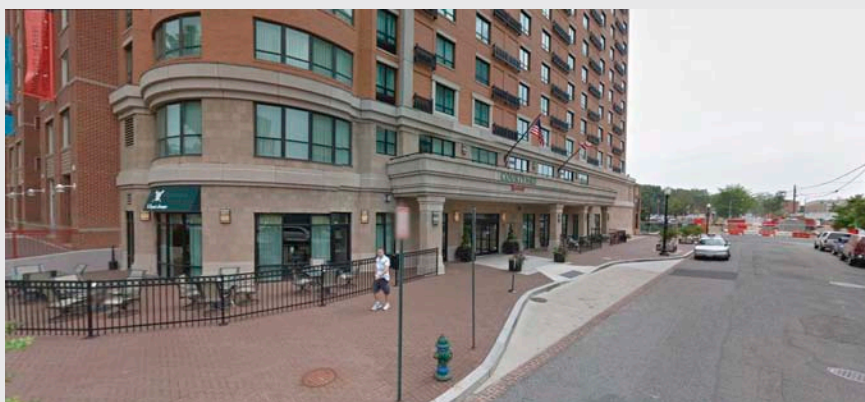
“We, along with mission teams from all over the country, worked tirelessly to let people know that Waterfront Church exists and that we are preaching the message of Christ in Washington, DC,” says Zack. “We had done all we knew to do with promotion, personal connections, and guerrilla marketing, but [we] knew in the end that the success of Waterfront Church rested in the hands of the Lord. The most exciting part of [launch Sunday] happened that night at our first church fellowship. Of the 84 DC residents who attended Sunday morning, more than 50 came back to the Sunday Night Supper Club.

“The Lord is building a church! Keep praying for us and continue in your financial support! We are grateful to be a part of the SBCV! Come see what God is doing.”

 **Resource**
waterfrontchurchdc.com

Where is Waterfront?

To get to Waterfront Church (Courtyard Marriott Navy Yard, 140 L Street SE, Washington, DC 20003): Take the metro (green line) to the Navy Yard metro stop. Once you exit the Navy Yard metro station, you are standing in the middle of Waterfront's mission field! Look for the Courtyard Marriott, go to the third floor, and join the mission.





2015

JANUARY

MISSION PROJECT:

Teddy Bear Brigade (January/February)

- 10 TruthSticks Evangelistic Storying
- 10 Women's Ministry Conference, Abingdon
- 13 Young Pastors' Summit
- 16-17 PLANT Part A
- 16-17 YEC East, London Bridge BC, Virginia Beach
- 29 Church Planter Network (Regional)

FEBRUARY

MISSION PROJECTS:

Teddy Bear Brigade (January / February)
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (February/ March)

- 11 Church Planter Interviews
- 24 Prayer Summit with Chuck Lawless & David Earley, Fincastle BC, Fincastle
- 27-28 PLANT Part B
- 28 DR Training

MARCH

MISSION PROJECTS:

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (February/ March)
Support a Local Hunger Ministry (March/April)

- 1-8 Annie Armstrong Offering/Week of Prayer
- 3 Sub-Saharan Africa Affinity Meeting
- 13-14 Church Planter Network (Statewide)
- 14 DR Training
- 14 VBS Leadership Training
- 20-21 YEC West & Regional D-Now, First BC, Roanoke
- 21 DR Training
- 28 DR Training

APRIL

MISSION PROJECTS:

Support a Local Hunger Ministry (March/April)
Christian Libraries for Overseas (April/May)

- 3 Good Friday
- 5 Easter
- 11 Women's Ministry Conference, Spotswood BC, Fredericksburg
- 14 Empowered Conference, The Heights BC, Colonial Heights
- 23 Church Planter Network (Regional)
- 23-25 Advanced Ready Church and DR Training
- 25 DR Training

MAY

MISSION PROJECT:

Christian Libraries for Overseas (April/May)

- 1-2 PLANT Part A
- 4-5 Executive Board
- 12 Pastors of Smaller Congregations Summit
- 16 Bible Drill & Youth Speakers' Tournament
- 19 NAME/Central Asia/Muslim Affinity Meeting
- 21 Intern Training, Glen Allen
- 27 Church Planter Interviews
- 30 Women's Ministry Fit 2 Lead Conference, Glen Allen

SBC of Virginia
4956 Dominion Blvd
Glen Allen, VA 23060
888-234-7716
sbcv.org

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

JUNE

MISSION PROJECT:
Baby/Mom Kits for ARM (June/July)

- 13 Crossover, Columbus
- 14-17 Southern Baptist Convention, Columbus
- 16 SBCV Dessert Fellowship
- 21-25 Fusion Mission Camp, Richmond
- 25 Church Planter Network (Regional)
- 26-27 PLANT Part B
- 27 DR Training

JULY

MISSION PROJECT:
Baby/Mom Kits for ARM (June/July)

- 6-10 Acts 1:8 Families, Centreville
- 20-24 Studentz Camp, James Madison Univ., Harrisonburg

AUGUST

MISSION PROJECT:
Bibles for Southern Africa (August/September)

- 1-8 Sturgis Bike Rally
- 3-5 SEND Conference, Nashville
- 14-15 Church Planter Network (Statewide)
- 14-15 Women's Ministry Leadership Conference, International Learning Center (ILC), Rockville
- 18 Ministers of Discipleship Summit

SEPTEMBER

MISSION PROJECTS:
Bibles for Southern Africa (August/September)
Vision Virginia State Missions Offering (September/October)

- 1 Southeast, South, and East Asia Affinity Meeting
- 11-12 PLANT Part A
- 22 Europe Affinity Meeting
- 24 Church Planter Network (Regional)

OCTOBER

MISSION PROJECTS:
Vision Virginia State Missions Offering (September/October)
Christmas Backpacks for Montreal (October/November)

- 5-6 Executive Board
- 7 Church Planter Interviews
- 13 Worship Leaders Roundtable
- 15 Sub-Saharan Affinity Meeting
- 23-24 PLANT Part B

NOVEMBER

MISSION PROJECTS:
Christmas Backpacks for Montreal (October/November)
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (November/December)

- 8-10 Annual Homecoming, Liberty BC, Hampton
- 26 Thanksgiving Day
- 29-Dec. 6 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering/Week of Prayer

DECEMBER

MISSION PROJECT:
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (November/December)

- 10 Church Planter Network (Regional)
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Day

 **ANNUAL 2015
HOMECOMING**

November 8-10
Liberty Baptist Church
Hampton

sbcv.org/annualhomecoming

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to the *Great Commission.*



Ready Church Across Virginia

The Ready Church initiative encourages churches to *Prepare, Connect, and Respond* during times of need. Southern Baptists are typically quick to respond to needs that the national media highlights, but the same needs often get overlooked or only mentioned in a prayer meeting when they impact just one or a few families. The Ready Church initiative attempts to engage churches to meet these local crisis needs. Ready Church can be seen in several ways across Virginia as the initiative develops:

CRISIS RESPONSE

On July 24, 2014, the campers of Cherrystone Campground on the Eastern Shore of Virginia were rattled as a tornado ripped through their vacation paradise. Emergency management reported 2 dead and at least 33 being transported to hospitals up to 50 miles away.

Within an hour, the church families of Exmore and Maranatha Baptist Churches began checking on their members. When they discovered that none of their members were directly impacted by the disaster, they wondered what they should do next. With little damage outside the campground, there seemed little for them to do. Within a short period of time, however, Pastor Jon Carpenter from Exmore received a call from a church member who worked at the local

pediatric clinic and was able to highlight some possible needs. At the same time, Exmore's ministry assistant, Norma Lewis, heard from the health department about the need at Northampton High School for water, diapers, and fruit. The school had been opened to the displaced campers, who arrived with just the clothes on their backs. Norma, a few other ladies, and a deacon immediately went to meet the need, and Exmore Baptist Church lived out a legacy of doing good works in Jesus' name.

"When it comes to meeting the immediate needs of the community," says Pastor Jon, "the folks of Exmore Baptist Church do not shy away. They give sacrificially, especially when they see it as a God-given opportunity. When Exmore sees a crisis need, they



meet it without a committee meeting." As for the church's increased desire to meet local needs, Pastor Jon credits their July mission trip to East Stone Gap, VA, where they worked with East Stone Gap Baptist Church (pastored by Lonnie Brooks). "The 19 of us on mission in East Stone Gap received a fresh desire to refocus our ministry to meeting the needs of our community."



➔ Get details online at sbcv.org/do.



Members of your church may not all be able to go on a mission trip, but through Mission Projects, every member can partner in reaching the world.

- Jan – Feb: **Teddy Bear Brigade**
- Feb – Mar: **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering**
- Mar – Apr: **Support a Local Hunger Ministry**
- Apr – May: **Christian Libraries for Overseas**
- Jun – Jul: **Baby/Mom Kits for ARM**
- Aug – Sep: **Bibles for Southern Africa**
- Sep – Oct: **Vision Virginia**
- Oct – Nov: **Christmas Backpacks for Montreal**
- Nov – Dec: **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**

TEAM BUILDING

Other Ready Church responses this year include a weekly work event at The Community Fellowship, where every Thursday, volunteers from other area SBCV churches meet at the new Martinsville campus to build out the new classrooms and worship facility. This sort of response keeps skills sharp and builds a team for immediate response when a crisis need develops.

This same team routinely meets to assist those in need with construction and remodeling in the extended church family and community. They recently remodeled

a bathroom for an 86-year-old pastor and his wife. The pastor had been unable to secure someone to do a number of small chores that he could not complete himself. The pastor shared, “It is a real burden lifted off of me.” The Ready Church team felt they received a greater blessing from assisting the couple than the couple received.

These in-town jobs allow volunteers to get a taste of the value of serving and prepare them to serve in a variety of ways.



BLOCK PARTIES and PUBLIC EVENTS

Prepare and Connect—SBC of Virginia churches have built up a sizeable fleet of equipment to meet disaster needs across the nation. One of the objectives of the Ready Church initiative is to mobilize more frequently the equipment that we already have. Sometimes it takes a little creativity, and sometimes it just makes sense. For instance, work groups and mission teams have used the three shower units to

facilitate ministry at churches that don’t have showers. This enables teams to stay at the church overnight and reduce costs.

Not waiting for a crisis, the new urban feeding unit has already been used at block parties in Baltimore, Fredericksburg, Roanoke, and Chester. This unit can prepare any meal that can be boiled and can have the first 125 meals ready to eat in less than one hour. Teams serving on the urban feeding unit prepared over 3,000 meals in the first 60 days that it was in service. Volunteers interested in learning to use the feeding unit can gain hands-on training by working on this unit at a block party.

Two units that take a little creativity to use during non-crisis times are the water closet unit and concession stand, but both have been used productively this summer at block parties across the state. The concession stand makes a great registration booth. It has lights and plugs



Mark Your Calenders!



2015 TRAINING DATES

February 28	March 28
March 14	April 25
March 21	June 27

Get the latest info online at sbcv.org/readychurch

and is securable and noticeable. Over 3,000 people registered at the trailer when Dan River Church hosted its Family Fun Event in August. The need for a water closet goes without saying if there are people gathered.

Ready Church is about churches Preparing, Connecting, and Responding. One of the best ways to prepare for a disaster in your community is to train and connect during planned events, which have great outreach potential.



DISCOVER YOUR NETWORK

Another aspect of the Ready Church initiative encourages churches to discover their existing networks. Southern Baptist churches have deep inroads in the community. In discovering your network, you’ll find

people who can provide information and resources when needed (like Exmore Baptist’s contacts at the pediatrician’s office and the local health department).

Discovering your network can also include those impacted by an event. In checking on the status of church members after the July 24th tornado, Maranatha Baptist Church’s pastor, Mike Muender, knew there were no church members vacationing at the campground but that a teenage church

member worked there. Sixteen-year-old Northampton High School junior Mitchell Pidgeon worked in the Bait and Tackle Shop at the campground. Mitchell and the other employees watched the storm wall come ashore and strike the campground. After the tornado passed, Mitchell and the rest of the employees sprang into action calling for fire and rescue and leading the responders to those injured by the storm.

Ready Churches are in a unique place to meet needs during a crisis. They know folks with information, talents, and resources and will also know folks directly involved in the crisis. Church congregations are in an incredible position to serve their communities.


Resource
sbcv.org/readychurch



Acts 1:8 Families: MISSION TO MONTREAL

REACHING A LOST PLACE

This July, Acts 1:8 Families traveled to Montreal, Quebec to work with church planter Joel St. Cyr in the suburb of Repentigny as a part of NAMB's Send Montreal initiative. Taking part in this mission opportunity were 30 participants from 8 families, representing 5 SBCV churches.

Quebec is less than 1% evangelized, and Montreal is spiritually the darkest city in North America. With a population of 3.6 million, best estimates indicate that there are less than 16,000 believers in the city!

It's a city with streets named after saints and with church buildings around almost every corner, but things are not what they seem. "Even if it seems like Jesus' presence is here, it's not. It's a religious presence here. His work is not known. His sacrifice is not known. Nobody can explain why Jesus died on the cross. Ninety-five percent have no clue," says church planter Francois Verschelden, a Montreal native.

Those who participated in Acts 1:8 Families spent their days canvassing neighborhoods across Repentigny, inviting all they encountered to come to church on Sunday. They visited more than 1,000 homes and, that Sunday, 9 people gave their lives to Christ!

There are currently about 12 churches partnering with church plants in Montreal,

but more are needed if we are to reach the darkest of all cities in our continent.

Pastor Joel St. Cyr

Église le Contact (Contact Church), Repentigny, Quebec



What a blessing it was to host Acts1:8 Families for a mission trip here in Repentigny! They helped us in our outreach strategy and, as a result, we saw nine people give their lives to Christ on the following Sunday morning service! It was simply amazing to witness such powerful moments as people came to life in Jesus!

As you might know, Quebec is the least-reached group in North America with less than 1% born-again Christians. Our hope is to bring the Gospel to as many as possible, and growing from 30 people to over 200 in just three years is evidence that God is at work among us. One way He's working is with precious partners who share our burden for the lost here in Quebec and decide to help out as individuals and as churches. Our needs are great, but the need for Jesus is even greater...

Thanks to all the families who joined us on this mission trip. You guys were simply amazing! Thanks to Mark for your leadership and your heart to reach the Quebecois for Jesus... I hope to see you guys around next year!



Acts 1:8 Families: MISSION TO MONTREAL

Pastor Paul McLinden

Spring Creek Baptist Church, Cullen, VA



In mid-July, when many Virginia families were heading east to the beach, a few went north to plunge into the spiritual darkness of Montreal, Quebec. Montreal is home to about 3.6 million people but only has a handful of evangelical churches—about one to every 115,000 people. For most of its history, this French-speaking province was predominantly Catholic, but in the 1960s, most of the Quebecois (pronounced keh-beh-kwah) left what they felt was an overbearing church, and the culture became largely secular.

[Through Acts 1:8 Families,] several families from SBCV churches—from Appomattox to Fredericksburg—spent five days supporting a three-year-old church plant called Église le Contact (Contact Church) in a suburb of Montreal known as Repentigny (pronounced Ruh-pahn-tee-nyee). The church is part of the Canadian National Baptist Conference (CNBC), which is the Southern Baptist Convention's counterpart in Canada.

The Virginia team of 30 (half of whom were children and young adults) was led by SBCV missionary Mark Gauthier, who has made several mission trips to the faith-starved city. On Thursday, the team's first day in the field, the missionaries were blessed with breakfast and worship at the church office, followed by a brief orientation and crash course in French by Pastor Joel St. Cyr.

The team then toured Repentigny, including an elementary school where the church meets on Sundays, a park the church has used for outreach, and a defunct Catholic church, which Pastor Joel said is a haunting reminder of what can happen to any church that loses its vision.

"It was a very different experience for us," says SBCV missionary Darrell Webb (and member of Spotswood Baptist Church in Fredericksburg), "to be in a city where lostness was at its peak and knowing that everyone you pass probably does not know Jesus."

During the next two days, small teams paired up with translators from the church to canvas the American-looking suburban neighborhood. The postcard invitations that the teams handed out attempted to undo old-church stereotypes with pledges of relevant biblical messages, contemporary music, childcare, and youth classes.

"It was easy to see that many people we spoke with were searching for something and were receptive to the news we brought of a young, contemporary church," says Sarah Trent of Spring Creek Baptist Church in Darlington Heights. The teams handed out almost 1,000 invitations and talked to many people along the way.

When the team arrived at church on Sunday, they were welcomed by colorful banners, a continental breakfast, and many Spirit-filled greeters, most notably "Ketchup," a ukulele-playing clown, who later transformed into his other role as children's church instructor. The lively worship and powerful message were mostly in French, so the Virginia



God is moving in Montreal, and He can use you! Here are some ways you can be a part of the Montreal Acts 1:8 Network:

PRAY

In a city of 3.6 million people with only 0.5% evangelized, the Quebecois are virtually an unreached people group here in North America. Pray for this people group to come to know Jesus.

There are less than 16,000 believers in this city. Pray that these believers would be emboldened to share the hope of Christ.

Most of the population is anti-Christian. Pray that the Lord would soften the hearts of those who oppose His name.

Over 70 mosques are active in the city. Pray for opportunities to reach Muslims with the Truth.

GIVE

Your Cooperative Program and *Vision Virginia* gifts support the ministries in Montreal and across Quebec.

DO

Collect items needed by church planters in Montreal. Contact Mark Gauthier for ideas.

GO

Consider joining with SBC of Virginia churches that are partnering with various church plants in Quebec to join God where He is at work. Contact Mark Gauthier for ideas and opportunities to go.

ASK

God, how do you want to use me or my church in Montreal?

Acts 1:8 Families: MISSION TO MONTREAL

crew gleaned just a bit. But the church definitely reached its target audience of nearly 200, which included two families that responded to the invitation cards and nine others who made decisions for Christ. “It was great to see salt and light amid the darkness,” says Darrell.

The team left town with a greater sense of mission and with joy for being Christ’s witnesses beyond their Jerusalem. ”

SBCV was very excited to learn that a Quebec church (families with young children—sounds like Acts 1:8 Families!) was traveling to Virginia Beach for a campground ministry to reach Quebecois who were vacationing there. Pastor Bert Kirk of Indian River Baptist Church in Chesapeake, VA and Pastor Ron Young of Renaissance Bible Church in Rawdon, Quebec share a vision to reach many who will return to Quebec with a newfound relationship with Christ. Read below this great story of partnership!

Pastor Ron Young

Renaissance Bible Church, Rawdon, Quebec

“ I was first introduced to Pastor Bert Kirk a little over 10 years ago when I was in seminary at Southeastern. Bert was already involved in Quebec and had connected with a Quebec church planter by the name of Francois Verschelden. Francois introduced me to Bert. Because of that contact, Bert invited me to preach at his church (which was then in North Carolina) in order to fulfill a requirement I needed for my preaching class.

After I moved to Rawdon, Quebec in August of 2004, Bert and I kept in contact with each other. In the summer of 2006, Bert and his family came to Rawdon to help us begin a soccer camp where we had 36 participants.



Now, nine years later, our soccer camp and four other sports camps we conduct have around 200 participants each year. It is by far our largest outreach we do as a church here in Rawdon. It all began with one family willing to come up and serve with us here in Quebec. We are extremely

grateful for Bert and his family’s willingness to come and help us in the first years of our camps.

A few years ago, Bert asked me to consider coming down with a mission team to reach out to a campground he knew about in Virginia Beach. Why that campground? Because for about four weeks each summer, the campground is full of Quebecois (people from Quebec). Our church, being a bilingual church, could minister to the people on the campground in both French and English. So, on August 3, 2014, my family and two other families from our church in Rawdon checked in to the Trav-L-Park campground in Virginia Beach in order to conduct a children’s program for four days. It went better than expected. Through Bible stories, puppets, crafts, and games, we were able to share Jesus with many

children as well as a few parents.

Several of the children told us something extraordinary. That week was the first time they had heard a Bible story in their entire lives! It was an absolute honor to be the ones whom God used to allow them to hear of Him for the very first time. We were able to give out Bibles, DVDs, and Gospel tracts in both French and English.

As we checked out of the campground to return home, we were overjoyed by what God allowed us to do and extremely grateful for the partnership of Indian River Baptist Church that made this mission trip possible. Without their partnership and Pastor Bert’s leadership, we could not have accomplished all that we did. Blessed be the Lord Jesus for believers working together for His glory! ”

Resource

sbcv.org/acts18network

CONTACT

Mark Gauthier

mgauthier@sbcv.org

More Than Imagined

What started with one SBCV church member's desire to spread the Gospel through teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) produced incredible fruit for the Kingdom! Here is the story in her own words (names and locations have been changed for security):

In the summer of 2013, we had two Central Asian students come to our church's ESL class. They were here only a couple of months before returning to their home country. We established that Kim (wife) was a Christian and had a beautiful testimony, but her husband, Chang, was not. We were able to establish a relationship with them through our ESL Ministry and shared the Gospel with Chang before they left for China in the fall. He thanked us for sharing and said our church could pray for him to understand and accept Christ, but he wasn't ready. While they were here, they attended our church every Sunday.

In December 2013, Kim returned to the States with her parents, Amal (father) and Reem (mother). Reem came to the ESL classes with Kim and heard the Bible stories. In March, Reem prayed to accept Jesus as her Lord and Savior! She told everyone and told the pastor during the invitation. She is so interested in knowing more!

During the time Kim and her parents were here, they invited me to go back with them to their home country. I did so with the expectation that I would be teaching ESL to Kim and Chang, teaching the Bible to Kim and Reem, and sharing the Gospel with Chang and possibly other family members. I had many people here in the States praying for me. God had more in store than I could have imagined!

Chang prayed to accept Jesus on the first Monday night I was there! He immediately called three people to tell them. After that, he wanted to study the Bible together, and he went to church with us! He also told family and friends with whom I met about Jesus. Everywhere we went, he wanted me to tell them the Creation 2 Christ (C2C) story and, as a result, six other people (ages 30-87) were saved! I was able to share the Gospel with six others who thanked me and said my church could pray for them to believe.

God was so good as people here prayed! Amal listened to me, and Chang talked with him about Jesus, but he made no decision. Except for that, every prayer request on the prayer sheet I sent out was answered—and then some! The details of some of the people saved are just amazing! A church was also found for Kim and Chang to help them continue to grow.

God used one obedient woman and a praying church to lead multiple Central Asians to know Him both here and overseas. And this fall, four more from the church will be going to Central Asia to help continue the work God is doing there. Praise the Lord!



Resource
sbcv.org/esl

A Time of Transition

by Donna Paulk
Interim Women's Ministry Strategist

Women's Ministry in the SBCV is facing a big transition with Tammy Bennett's relocation to California. The effects of her ministry and inspirational leadership will remain with us for years to come. She put together an effective Women's Ministry Team and implemented statewide leadership trainings and conferences that equipped, challenged, and inspired women. The launching of the *Women's Ministries By Design* online magazine gained nationwide recognition and reached the hearts of women across the United States.

Tammy's most notable quality is character, even when no one is looking. In our three years together, I had many opportunities to observe her when things did not go

smoothly (ex., registration packets being misplaced, speakers not showing up, and things that would rattle anyone), but she always responded with love and kindness. She is the kind of example who inspires us to be better leaders. We will miss her.

It is my honor to serve as interim Women's Ministry strategist and to be a part of the SBCV team—a team committed to strengthening churches, supporting missions, and planting churches in the Commonwealth of Virginia. I look forward to this task.

I came to Christ 26 years ago, and I was mentored by mature Christian women for the first 12 years. As a result of that experience, I have invested the past 16 years of my life mentoring other women. Women

who are growing in Christ affect their Women's Ministry and, likewise, a growing Women's Ministry will affect the local church. Strong Women's Ministries help build stronger churches. I have a passion to help women grow in Christ and help them overcome obstacles that keep them from making spiritual progress.

Please pray for me and consider partnering with me to see women transformed by the Gospel, established into reproducing disciples and strengthening their local church through a thriving Women's Ministry. I am excited about meeting each of you and serving alongside you in making disciples.



NOT Weary of Doing Good

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9, ESV

Jack Greene, youth pastor at Cardinal Baptist Church in Rutherglen, VA, recalls being peppered with questions from his students in the days leading up to Studentz Camp 2014. They were anxious to learn their assignments for camp's Mission Track. The previous year, they had walked from house to house in a semi-rural setting, knocking on doors and handing out information about Life Journey Church, a new church plant in Crozet. Many times, no one came to the door. When children answered, parents would soon come and cut off the conversation. The students left lots of tracts and information with grateful-but-not-interested homeowners. They were faithful to complete their mission assignments but weren't able to see the fruit of their efforts.

"They really wanted the opportunity to share with people who God is," Jack explains. This year, they were hoping to be assigned to a backyard Bible club where they could work with kids for an entire week and have more opportunities to talk about Jesus. When Jack shared with his students that they were being assigned to three different mission projects (a new one each day), the students no doubt feared this year would be more of the same—closed doors, closed minds, and closed mouths.

What the students didn't realize was that God had already been working in the little town of Crozet and Life Journey Church. Their door-to-door work the previous summer helped build the reputation of and get the word out about Life Journey Church.

As Life Journey grew, God was preparing the church family to fulfill a vision He had

given their pastor, Walt Davis, long ago. On a mission trip to Guatemala, Walt had observed a village church with a vision to plant churches in all of the outlying villages. The Lord spoke to Walt through that experience and gave him a vision of planting a church that planted churches.

This summer, when the students from Cardinal Baptist learned that Life Journey was about to plant another church, they sensed that they were reaping the fruit of faithful service and were part of something bigger than a local church. "For them to hear [the results of] what they did last year—the smiles that came to their faces made it all worth it," Jack recalls.

This September, Life Journey Church commissioned Pastor Richard Boyce and a team of church members to start a new church plant "on the other side of the mountain" to serve the population of Waynesboro. Prayerfully, Pastor Richard hopes to begin public worship services for Grace Church in the fall of 2015.

Pointing to the bigger picture, Pastor Walt notes, "Maybe the best is yet to come—where one of those students from Cardinal Baptist Church picks up on this vision of planting a church that plants church. This is a lot bigger than Crozet or Central Virginia." He also acknowledges the role of sacrifice and faith in planting a church: "Fifteen percent of our monthly income is walking out the door this Sunday and starting a new church in Waynesboro, but I hope we've matured from worry to wonder—not worried *if* God will provide, but wondering *how* He will provide."

As Jack's students participated in Mission Track at Studentz Camp this year, they were able to do so with a bit more



confidence that what they were doing was making a difference. Jordann Greene, Jack's daughter and a member of the youth group, summarizes nicely, "When we think of reward, we think it has to be an actual physical object to be given to us, but to even see that a community has been changed because of the work you've done—it's really rewarding seeing that." She continues, "If I've done that, what else can I do?"

Shouldn't we all be asking the same question?

Resource

WEBSITES

cardinalbaptist.org

lifejourneyva.com

gracewaynesboro.com



FUSION MISSION CAMP



To see video from Fusion, go to
sbcv.org/studentz

In addition to the 6 churches and 82 people who participated in Studentz Camp's Mission Track, 19 more churches and approximately 280 people attended Fusion Mission Camp 2014. They partnered with 13 host churches to provide ministry in the Greater Richmond area, focusing mostly in the southside. Mission projects included Christian sports camps, VBS, prayerwalking, door-to-door canvassing, visiting hospitals, block parties, free

picnics/cookouts, working at an elementary school, collecting food for the hungry, and sharing the Gospel all along the way.

This year, we saw 48 people report decisions to follow Christ during the three days of mission projects! Thanks to the churches of the SBC of Virginia for helping make Fusion Mission Camp possible.

2015 STUDENT MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

studentz FUSION
Fusion Mission Camp
June 21-25, 2015
Richmond

IMITATE
Imitate Missions Camp
June 28-July 2, 2015
Seaford

SHRMP
South Hampton Roads Mission Project (SHRMP)
July 18-25, 2015
Chesapeake

for more information contact:
studentz@sbcv.org

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MATTHEW 28:19-20

2014

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SBC of VIRGINIA GOAL
\$3.25 million

World
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with people who care

GOBGR.ORG/HUNGER



Women's Conference

April 11, 2015

Spotswood Baptist Church, Fredericksburg

9:00 am- 4:00 pm



More Truth, More Worship, More God

Preregistration: \$25.00 / At the door: \$30.00
Conference fee includes lunch and conference materials.

featuring

Margaret Feinberg

A popular Bible teacher; author; and conference speaker; her books and corresponding Bible studies have received critical acclaim and extensive national media coverage.

▶ Get the latest info online
at sbcv.org/events.



Thank You! visionvirginia

31 CHURCHES AWARDED INTERN SCHOLARSHIPS

Churches are often understaffed to meet the growing needs of their congregations. One way to extend the ministry of the church while mentoring and investing in the lives of next-generation leaders is through internships. Many churches choose the summer to bring on additional help for pastoral assistance, media, Women's Ministry, Children's Ministry, and Student Ministry.

In 2014, a record 31 scholarships were awarded to SBC of Virginia churches to help them financially support a ministry intern. The intern scholarship program is completely funded through SBCV churches' contributions to the *Vision Virginia* State Missions Offering.

Read below some thank-you notes from scholarship recipients:



Georgia Osborne



Jake Waltman



Fred (Rudy) Hornberger

*Our church has been greatly blessed through the generous giving [of churches through] the Vision Virginia State Missions Offering. The recipient of our intern scholarship was **Georgia Osborne**, who had been building relationships with girls in our youth group along with serving in Children's Ministry. An example of Georgia's ministry is the way she has reached out to an 8th grade student who has shown much spiritual growth over the summer. This formerly quiet young lady is now excitedly asking for the youth group to do more service projects. She was our church's only female student to attend Fusion Mission Camp with our boys and was happy to work hard and serve God alongside them. She professed faith in Jesus and was baptized at our river baptism, along with her two younger brothers. [This student's] family is now active at church and has expressed interest in serving on one of our mission trips to Nicaragua. Georgia keeps growing in her leadership skills, and we are thankful for the blessing of mentoring her as she, in turn, mentors students and children.*

Jeff Chadwick
Church on the Avenue
Richmond



Resource

For information about ministry intern scholarships, visit:
sbcv.org/internships

*I want to thank our SBC of Virginia churches who supported the Vision Virginia State Missions Offering. Because of your generous giving, North Main Baptist Church had the blessing of having **Jake Waltman** as a student pastor intern this summer. He is an offensive lineman for the Cornell University football team. Our Student Ministry went to Pennsylvania this summer on a mission trip, and Jake served as one of our leaders. I asked Jake to lead a couple of devotions during the week. One night, Jake shared about the importance of teamwork on the football field and how it's also important on the mission field. The next day, a student began to share the Gospel with another kid and asked Jake to come talk more with the kid about what it means to be a Christian. That young man trusted Jesus to be his Savior. Then another student went with Jake to purchase Bibles and took them to the saved young man's family. Jake said this opportunity to serve taught him about his own life and his calling. He realizes the sense of urgency in sharing the Gospel and is taking that passion back to his campus at Cornell University.*

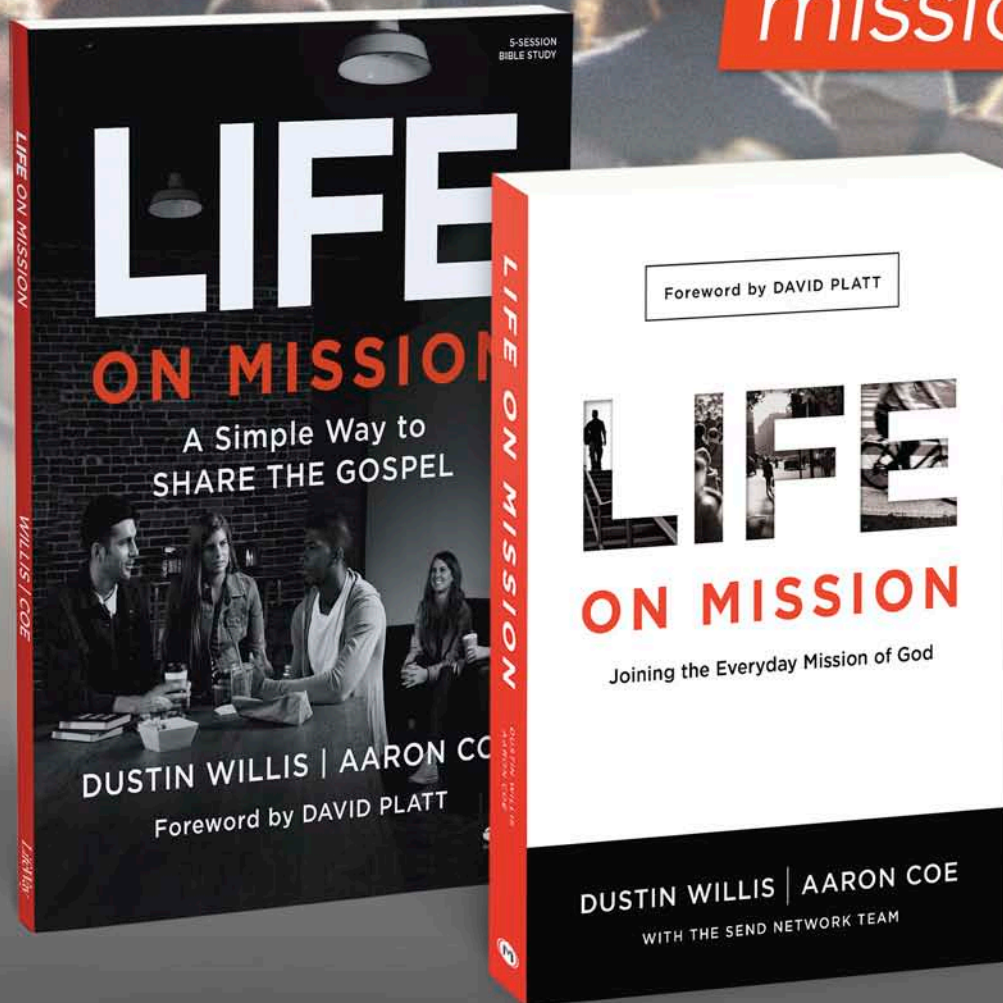
Roger Jones
North Main Baptist Church
Danville

*We at Grace United Family Church were greatly impacted by the ministry of our summer intern, **Fred (Rudy) Hornberger**. We would have never been able to experience his ministry, not only with students, but church-wide, if it were not for the scholarship offered to us and generously funded by the partnership between the many local churches of the SBC of Virginia. As a small church, we are not in a position to bring on any staff members. So to have access to a servant of God of Rudy's caliber is a true blessing from the Lord. We are already planning, Lord willing, to have Rudy return next summer. The Lord gave us a great gift in Rudy to help move our fledgling Student Ministry forward. Many thanks to all who contributed to the intern scholarship program.*

Glenn Hawkins
Grace United Family Church
Mechanicsville

We praise the Lord for these testimonies. Would your church be interested in having the blessing of an intern? Because of the generous giving of SBC of Virginia churches to the *Vision Virginia* State Missions Offering, it could be easier and more affordable than you think.

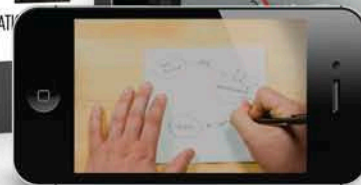
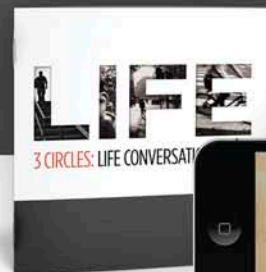
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VBS

STILL A GREAT EVANGELISTIC EVENT

"WHERE GOD GUIDES, HE PROVIDES" The Heights Baptist Church – 52 Professions of Faith

"THIS YEAR'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL for The Heights Baptist Church (Colonial Heights campus) was all about where God guides, He provides," says Angela Toney, children's director at The Heights.

"Children joined Moses as he and the Israelites escaped Egypt and traveled to parts unknown. Each day, children were challenged to share their faith as they followed Moses through the wilderness. Towards the end of the week, parents and grandparents were commenting on how excited their children were to come each day and [how great it was to] see the transformation taking place in the lives of their children or grandchildren. This was an answer to one of many prayers lifted up by our church family."

Non-traditional advertising methods like Facebook posts and word of mouth were chosen to promote VBS. These methods proved successful. Angela shares, "We averaged 520 children and 236 volunteers every morning. It was a blessing to see the children excited to learn God's Word but even more so to see the volunteers prayed up, full of energy, and ready to evangelize."

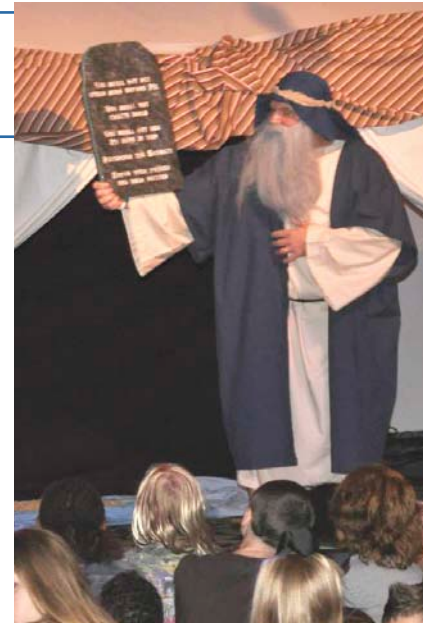
One goal of The Heights' VBS was to engage children in missions. Angela continues, "[The children] were challenged to raise funds for a local ministry known as Mercy Mall. This ministry offers food, clothing, hygiene products, furniture and, most importantly, prayer and the showing of God's love to people who are facing hard times. They accepted the challenge and immediately sprang into action by raising over \$1,600."

Another goal of the VBS was evangelism. "On Thursday of VBS week, Pastor Randy Hahn shared a salvation message at our opening celebration. This resulted in 74 children coming forward to speak with decision counselors, and we praise God for 52 confirmed professions of faith! All of these children received letters encouraging their families to get plugged into a church. For the children who do not have a church home, the parents were invited to meet with [a member of the church staff]. During this meeting, the

child would be given the LifeWay workbook, *I'm a Christian Now!* [a four-week study for helping children understand the decision they made and what it means to live a Christian life]. The children were asked to complete the book with their parents and return for another visit with [the same church staff member]."

A grandmother of one of these children shared: "I had the privilege to take my seven-year-old grandson to his first VBS. Little did I know the impact it would have on his life as well as the lives of our whole family. Each day, I would watch his participation from afar without his knowledge. While he enjoyed each day very much, at the beginning, he was reserved. By day two, I saw his participation grow. By day three, he was singing and participating with joy and excitement, and with no reserve, he praised the Lord. He also accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior. What parent or grandparent could ask for more? That small investment of my time and travel has reaped rewards that will last for eternity. I am so thankful for this experience and for what God has done in our grandson's life."

"The Heights is still seeing the fruit of VBS," shares Angela. "It is an honor and a privilege to serve families within our church and community to help instill the Word of God in the hearts of children and see their lives eternally transformed. We are already preparing for next year's Vacation Bible School, as it is one of the largest outreach events we do each year. There is great anticipation of what God is going to do in and through us to reach the next generation. We can't wait to see God at work!"



MAR
14
2015

Save the Date!



sbcv.org/kidz

Making a Kingdom Impact

Little did missionary Adoniram Judson know in the early 1800s as he left the US and eventually traveled to Burma to share the Gospel that he was also inadvertently bringing the Gospel to Southwest Virginia.

Judson's second Christian convert in Burma was a man named U Ing. Years later, U Ing's 14-year-old great-great-grandson, Ron Chit Khin, accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior and made his public profession of faith at Calvary Baptist, a Southern Baptist church in Bangkok, Thailand. Within a year, Ron and his brother headed to the US to study at Harrison-Chilhowie Baptist Academy, which is supported by the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Ever since his salvation, Ron has had a passion for Christ and seeing others come to a saving knowledge of Him. "I felt that if Judson had given up his whole life to come tell the people of Burma about Jesus," says Ron, "then I wanted to repay what Judson had done for us by helping others and telling them about Jesus!...I believe Burma would still be a Buddhist country if [he] had not been willing to share Jesus."

“ I believe Burma would still be a Buddhist country if [he] had not been willing to share Jesus. ”

God is using this great-great-grandson of Judson's second convert in many ways in Southwest Virginia. Pastors from across the region invite him to share his testimony and how Adoniram Judson made a difference in the lives of his native people. God is also allowing Ron to use his lifelong trade as an electrician to impact lives. Ever since his retirement a few years ago, he has not stopped going on mission for the Lord and telling others about Him.

After a tornado came through Glade Spring, VA in 2011, Ron went out with his church family (Church of the Crossroads) and the Lebanon Baptist Association to help people rebuild from the extensive damage. He has served on several Baptist

Builders projects and is currently helping with electrical work at Calvary Baptist Church in Pound, VA. Calvary's pastor, Ron Leach, testifies, "I don't know how we could have made it without Ron's help on our new church construction project. Ron and others have served...and have saved the church lots of money." Ron has also been instrumental in helping start several SBC of Virginia church plants in Southwest Virginia. God continues to use him to make a Kingdom impact!

Even 164 years after Judson's death, his testimony and message still live on in the hearts of the Burmese people and has traveled back around the world to Virginia (and many other places too)! Like Adoniram Judson, Ron Chit Khin is working tirelessly to make an impact for the Lord, and you can too. We'll never know the ripple effect each salvation will have on future generations and communities. What a picture!



① Ron helping with the electrical work at Calvary Baptist Church in Pound, VA

② Ron serving alongside other Baptist Builders in Jonesboro, TN

③ Ron at the Baptist Training Center in Belize—ready for his first day of work

NEW LIFE FOR RIDERS



They ride in from thousands of miles away. Dozens of hours are spent on the road for many riders. There isn't much between their bones and pavement, but it's what they love.

Every year, more than half a million people ride their motorcycles to the sleepy town of Sturgis, South Dakota, for the largest annual bike rally in the world.

This big event opens the door for evangelism—perfect for some SBC of Virginia churches. In partnership with the Dakota Baptist Convention, a tent was placed in the middle of all of the action. A 2014 Harley Davidson was parked in front as part of a bike giveaway. The catch—bikers were required to listen to a three-minute Gospel presentation.

Nick was one of those who paused from the festivities to listen to someone's testimony and hopefully win the Harley. But after listening to the plan

of salvation, he gave his life to Christ and walked out of the Sturgis Bike Giveaway tent a new man. And when he got back to Virginia, he walked into an SBC of Virginia church.

Of the thousands who came through the tent, more than 500 people accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Some of those are right now getting connected to other SBC of Virginia churches.

The field is ripe for harvest in the Dakotas. Whether through evangelism or church planting, there are many opportunities to partner for the Gospel. Will you and your church join in this partnership?

Resource

WEBSITE
sbcv.org/sturgis

CONTACT
Mark Gauthier
mgauthier@sbcv.org

2015 EVENTS

SAVE THESE DATES

YEC West & Regional D-Now

March 20-21, 2015
First Baptist Church
Roanoke

Studentz Camp

July 20-24, 2015
James Madison Univ.
Harrisonburg

Fusion Mission Camp

June 21-25, 2015
Richmond

YEC East

January 16-17, 2015
London Bridge BC
Virginia Beach

for more information, visit:

SBCV.ORG/STUDENTZ



IF YOU HAPPENED TO DIE TODAY, DO YOU KNOW IF YOU WOULD GO TO HEAVEN?

It's **THE** most important question of your life because YOUR 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** **Admit you're a sinner who needs to be saved.** *Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*
- B** **Believe that Jesus died for you and rose again.** *Romans 10:9, "If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."*
- C** **Commit to accepting Jesus as your Savior and Lord.** *Romans 10:13, "For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

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

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

Take God at His Word and claim His gift of salvation. Believe and you will be saved.



from the EDITOR

Brandon Pickett

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@brandonpick

Brandon



Can't Buy a Championship

Resource

WEBSITE: sbcv.org

If you want to learn more about the SBC of Virginia Acts 1:8 Network and how you and your church can join, please CONTACT:

Mark Gauthier
mgauthier@sbcv.org

1. LA Dodgers	\$235,295,219
2. NY Yankees	\$203,812,506
3. Philadelphia Phillies	\$180,052,723
4. Boston Red Sox	\$162,817,411
5. Detroit Tigers	\$162,228,527
6. LA Angels	\$155,692,000
7. San Francisco Giants	\$154,185,878
8. Texas Rangers	\$136,036,172
9. Washington Nationals	\$134,704,437
10. Toronto Blue Jays	\$132,628,700
11. Arizona Diamondbacks	\$112,688,666
12. Cincinnati Reds	\$112,390,772
13. St. Louis Cardinals	\$111,020,360
14. Atlanta Braves	\$110,897,341
15. Baltimore Orioles	\$107,406,623
16. Milwaukee Brewers	\$103,844,806
17. Colorado Rockies	\$95,832,071
18. Seattle Mariners	\$92,081,943
19. Kansas City Royals	\$92,034,345
20. Chicago White Sox	\$91,159,254
21. San Diego Padres	\$90,094,196
22. NY Mets	\$89,051,758
23. Chicago Cubs	\$89,007,857
24. Minnesota Twins	\$85,776,500
25. Oakland A's	\$83,401,400
26. Cleveland Indians	\$82,534,800
27. Pittsburgh Pirates	\$78,111,667
28. Tampa Bay Rays	\$77,062,891
29. Miami Marlins	\$47,565,400
30. Houston Astros	\$44,544,174

I can't hide it. I'm a die-hard Baltimore Orioles fan.

I was born and raised outside of Baltimore. Came of age watching the great teams win championship after championship (I'm not going to tell you which ones because it will reveal my age).

But it's been awhile since I've been able to really cheer.

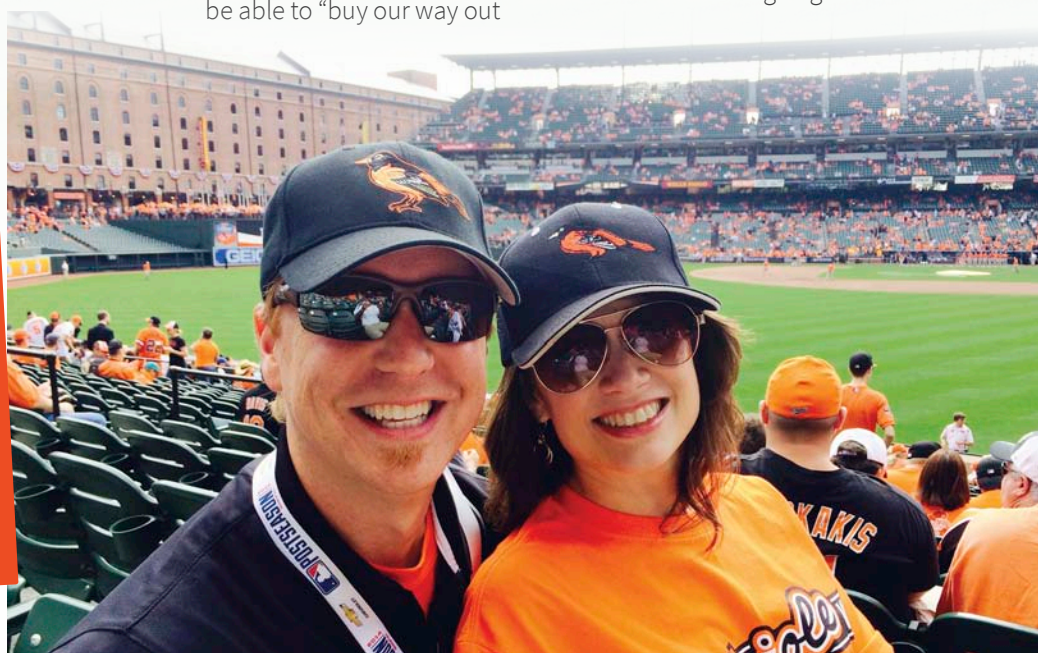
Bad teams, free agency, big stars. Lots of money spent but no title.

That is...until recently. They don't have huge stars. No one person really stands out. And

they haven't spent a ton of money. In fact, if you look at the Orioles' payroll, they are right in the middle—15th out of 30 teams. But they have the second highest win total in all of baseball! The Yankees and the Red Sox are in the top five in payroll but didn't make the playoffs. It sure looks like you can't always buy yourself a championship (just ignore the Dodgers).

Our executive director, Brian Autry, said something recently after his mission trip to Eastern Europe that really stuck with me. After looking over a huge city with only two missionaries, he made the point that with so many unreached people and so few missionaries, we will never be able to "buy our way out

of lostness." He wasn't saying that we shouldn't support more missionaries—we absolutely need more missionaries. But we will never be able to fully fund enough missionaries to reach the billions of people who need to hear the Gospel. That responsibility falls on each one of us. What if we didn't wait for the "professionals" to take the Gospel to the mission field but instead took the Great Commission personally? If each SBC of Virginia church networked together, we could make a huge impact on many mission fields for Christ, both in Virginia and beyond. In the end, God really doesn't need or bank books or budgets. It's not about how much we are willing to spend. It's about how much we are willing to go.





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