



# MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL: Interns

**Has** your church considered partnering with the SBC of Virginia to offer an internship within your children's ministry?

In its 10 years of ministry, **Crosslink Community Church** in Rockingham, VA had utilized interns in several ministry areas prior to 2019 but none in children's ministry. In 2019, Crosslink's student pastor, Marty Terrell, attended the ministry fair on the campus of Liberty University in hopes of identifying a summer 2020 intern for Crosslink's student ministry. While there, he was approached by student Allison Webb (now a Liberty University alumna), who was interested in a children's ministry internship. The rest, as they say, is history.

The children's ministry at Crosslink was serving approximately 150 children every Sunday. Chris Smith, pastor of family and community outreach, recalls thinking that the children's ministry could certainly benefit from an extra set of hands; however, that's not the goal of an internship. The priority for Smith was growth, "...an internship would allow [Webb] the opportunity to be challenged, to learn, and to grow while

being mutually beneficial to the ministry as we seek to minister to children and their families in our community."

Like all aspects of ministry during 2020, the responsibilities and ministry involvement of the internship were fluid and constantly changing due to the pandemic and its subsequent impact to churches around the state.

The Lord used Webb in a mighty way over the course of her 10-week internship but especially through Summer Splash, a pandemic-friendly VBS-type event developed and coordinated largely by Webb.

Jeff, a dad of two girls, told Pastor Smith at the end of the summer: "My wife and I are so thankful for Allison and her heart for pointing kids to Jesus. The love she showed for our daughter as she led her to the Lord during Summer Splash cannot be overstated. We are forever grateful for her ministry at Crosslink this summer!" His daughter was one of 22 who made decisions for Christ during Crosslink's Summer Splash event.

Reflecting on the internship, Webb shared, "This past summer, the Lord used my internship to further shape

me for the ministry He called me to and to see the lives of children changed by the Gospel. I am so grateful for the opportunity to learn from the team at Crosslink, who have a passion for the Lord, for the church they shepherd, and for the community they serve."

Throughout Scripture, God shows us the importance of partnering in the work of the Gospel as well as pouring into the next generation. When asked about the benefit of a children's ministry intern, Pastor Smith responded, "In the midst of a pandemic when everything seemed different and unpredictable, one thing is for certain—the Lord used our intern, Allison Webb, to advance the Gospel and to grow His Kingdom here in the Shenandoah Valley. I can't imagine a stronger case for considering a ministry intern than that." ■

#### RESOURCE:

To apply for an SBC of Virginia internship grant, visit:

 [sbcv.org/scholarships](https://sbcv.org/scholarships)

Fall term applications are due July 1, 2021.