

PROCLAIMER

2021 | VOLUME 23, ISSUE 2 | Telling the stories of Vision Virginia

Send Relief *Puerto Rico*

Pages 7-9

**Fathers to
the Fatherless**
Page 12

**A Fresh
Beginning**
Page 18

**A Beautiful
Tapestry**
Pages 22-23



*You are
not alone.*

PROCLAIMER

Summer 2021 — Issue 2

PUBLISHER &
SBC OF VIRGINIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Dr. Brian Autry

SENIOR EDITOR &
SBC OF VIRGINIA ASSOC. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Brandon Pickett

EDITOR &
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
Ishmael LaBiosa

COPY EDITOR
Christina Garland

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Bobby Puffenburger

LEAD DESIGN & PRODUCTION MANAGER
Patti Spencer

DESIGNER
Jordan Stroud

SBC OF VIRGINIA

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The *Proclaimer* tells of the amazing things God is doing through His Church in Virginia and around the world. It is provided free of charge due to your generous contributions made through the Cooperative Program.

ADVERTISING

Advertising is accepted on an individual basis and does not imply editorial endorsement. For more information, contact Brandon Pickett, bpickett@sbcv.org or 804-270-1848.

CREATIVE DESIGN

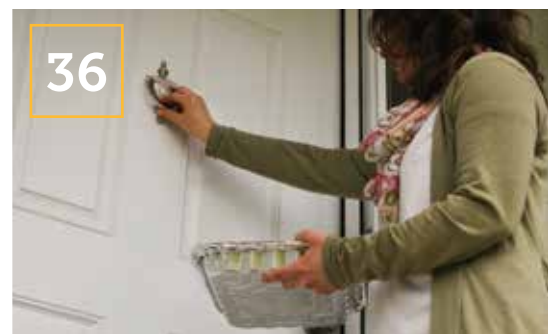
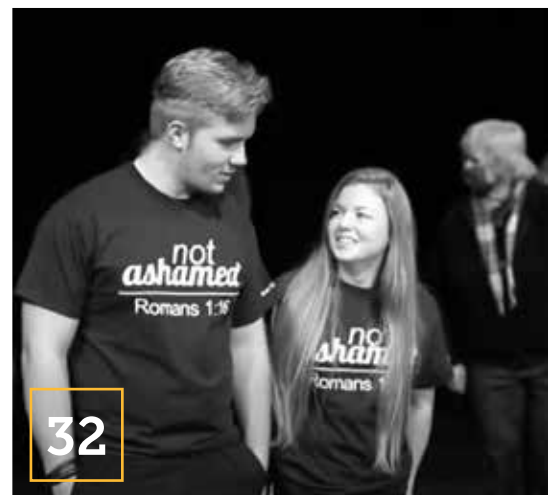
The *Proclaimer* is created exclusively for the SBC of Virginia by Innovative Faith Resources: innovativefaith.org.

**INNOVATIVE
FAITH RESOURCES**
Media & Financial Services

Your prayers and gifts through the Cooperative Program and Vision Virginia Missions Offering enable and empower ministries around Virginia and beyond.

sbcv.org/visionvirginia
visionvirginia

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Summer 2021

COVER STORIES

7 | On the Front Lines in Puerto Rico

SBC of Virginia churches respond to needs in Puerto Rico.

12 | Fathers to the Fatherless

Foster children are moving from floundering to flourishing.

18 | A Fresh Beginning

Partnership was seen at its best this summer in Bristol, VA through SBC of Virginia Student Fusion Camp.

22 | A Beautiful Tapestry

The Hill Church is using Lord-provided space to assist the community while keeping the Gospel front and center.

FEATURES

5 | New Assignment = New Mission Field

Ministering to our nation's service members and their families is a God-given and God-sized task.

10 | There's No Place Like Home

Northstar Church is making a positive community impact through restored marriages and transformed lives.

14 | Diligent Faithfulness

Pinecrest Baptist came to understand that it was in God alone they would discover the vision for their way forward.

16 | Setting a Course for New Believers

The children's ministry of Hyland Heights Baptist Church designed a four-week class to teach new believers the basics of faith.

17 | Groundbreaking Days for Church Planting

The beautiful sounds of five languages were heard when church planter candidates were being assessed in May of 2021.

26 | YEC: Virtual and In Person

A student ministry lock-in with games, messages, and music was made possible through the use of YEC Replay resources.

IN EVERY ISSUE

4 | Executive Director's Letter: *Together, We...*

24 | Church Planters' Introduction & Prayer Needs

37 | SBC of Virginia Calendar

38 | Editor's Letter: *Grace Upon Grace*



28 | Facetime: A Gospel Opportunity

Cade excitedly tells his student pastor about leading a hockey teammate to Christ through a FaceTime call.

31 | A Good Harvest

With a God-designed strategy, Herdon Bible Church is evangelizing in coffee cafés, shopping squares, and parking lots.

32 | Captivated

River Oak Church is looking past a pandemic and into a future of reaching more and more people for Jesus Christ.

33 | The Journey of a Backpack

Churches are reaching communities with the Good News of Jesus through the mission opportunity of Christmas backpacks.

36 | Ministry Wives: Serving Alongside Their Husbands

A pastor's wife shares her heart and passion to see God use a newly created ministry to bless pastors' wives.



SBC
OF VIRGINIA

*You are
not alone.*

Together, We...

God moved in powerful and mighty ways among Christ's disciples and churches in the Book of Acts. And He is still working among His disciples and churches today in powerful and mighty ways. In this edition of the Proclaimer, you will see it displayed.

The cover story of this edition features our Send Relief work in Puerto Rico. This is just one example of the many ways God is still at work just as He was in Acts: "So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea" (Acts 11:29).

The SBC of Virginia is a Gospel partnership of churches and exists to serve churches as they share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in obedience to the Great Commission. We see churches strengthened and mobilized in the Book of Acts to do the same thing. Today, just as we see in the Book of Acts, churches can work together to advance the Gospel of Christ among our neighbors and the nations.

I'd like to share with you three principles as SBC of Virginia churches work together as Great Commission partners:

TOGETHER, WE OBEY A BIBLICAL MANDATE...

Matthew 28:18-20 is simply and often referred to as the Great Commission.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20).

As followers of Christ, we are called to "make disciples." We are given a biblical mandate in these Bible verses and others to make disciples—to go, baptize, and teach them. This call to make disciples is given to all of us. Each and every Christian, each and every church, is to obey Christ in this mission. We all know and understand that very familiar command.

TOGETHER WE HAVE A GLOBAL STRATEGY...

I find it interesting that someone decided sometime to begin referring to this Scripture (Matthew 28:18-20) as the Great Commission. The reality is that this is a GREAT commission. To make disciples of all nations is no small task.

By joining together as Southern Baptists in a cooperative partnership, we give through what is called our Cooperative Program and we mobilize for praying, giving, and going in obedience to the call to make disciples of all nations. It is a unified and regular way churches support an entire global strategy to make disciples across Virginia, America, and around the world.

The churches that unite as Southern Baptist churches make disciples through a global strategy that assists churches to plant churches; reach people groups; send missionaries to the nations; strengthen and support church leaders and future leaders; educate ministers; provide opportunities for students; and respond to hunger, disasters, and to the needs of our neighbors and the nations.

In Virginia alone, we are seeing churches work together to plant churches to reach various people groups and communities

in need; we are seeing churches unite to strengthen one another as disciple makers; we are seeing churches unite to support missionaries and ministry on a global scale.




TOGETHER WE PROVIDE MUTUAL SUPPORT...

As a follower of Jesus, you give to the Lord's work as a response to His grace and in grateful obedience. As a church, we give from these tithes and offerings to support on a regular basis ministries and missionaries that are part of our unified, global strategy. Because of your partnership with Southern Baptists as an SBC of Virginia church, missionaries receive ongoing, mutual support from multiple churches. This ensures that missionaries can serve without added pressures. Cooperative program support also helps seminary students learn without mounting massive student loans and assists in the planting and strengthening of churches.

On behalf of so many that your church is serving, thank you for working together to fulfill this **biblical mandate with a global strategy through mutual support.**

Your brother in Christ,
Brian Autry



 bautry@sbcv.org
 brianautry.com
 facebook.com/brian.autry.70
 [@brianautry](https://twitter.com/brianautry)

New Assignment = New Mission Field

Ministering to the military community is challenging, to say the least. Military personnel juggles difficult schedules that can change at a moment's notice, and they and their families have to uproot and move every two years, on average. Many in the military have been hurt or neglected by churches. Some churches have simply tolerated them, so military families have become skeptical of churches that seek them.

But **Pillar Church of Woodlawn** in Alexandria, VA recognizes all of these challenges and believes that ministering well to our nation's service members and their families is a God-given and God-sized task. Pillar Woodlawn wants to utilize the well-worn paths of the military to spread the Gospel wherever the next move takes them—back to their home of record, to their next duty assignment, or even into deployment.

Our nation's military personnel consider it an honor and a privilege to serve and even die for their country. Unfortunately, many have never been shown how to live for something. Through biblical community, transformational teaching, and missional living, Pillar's military members consider, not just the Gospel's impact on them,

A GOD-GIVEN & GOD-SIZED TASK

but the sphere of influence God has entrusted to them.

Each year, Pillar Woodlawn experiences a great turnover in its church membership (30–40%). But they know that God doesn't want Pillar to measure success by its seating capacity. God's measure is their sending capacity. Pillar wants to see service members and their families saved, sanctified, and sent to be used by God to build His Kingdom.

To that end, the church recently held a “sending out” service, where four families were sent out to their next military assignments. These new assignments stretch from Texas to Guam. These four families go, not just to serve our country, but to take the Gospel to the military community. They understand what it means to live for something—for someone. ■





**Reach the world
right here.**

AUGUST 20-21
FRANKLIN HEIGHTS CHURCH

Register at sbcv.org/esl

ESL English as a
Second Language
Training Workshop

NOT ALONE PODCAST



Conversations and stories through and for SBC of Virginia churches that are intended to strengthen, challenge, and encourage us all to boldly proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

SUBSCRIBE & LISTEN

sbcv.org/podcast

SOMETHING GOOD RADIO
WITH DR. RON JONES

imagine
OURIS & TRAVEL




EXPERIENCE
Israel
2022

JANUARY 31 to FEBRUARY 10

Join **Dr. Ron and Cathryn Jones** on a thrilling tour of the Holy Land
* Plus optional 3-day extension to *Jordan*, including beautiful *Petra*

SOMETHINGGOODRADIO.ORG

?

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

God says you must be born again.
The Bible gives us a simple plan of salvation.

<p>Admit that you're a sinner who needs to be saved. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)</p>	<p>Believe that Jesus died for you and rose again. "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." (Romans 10:9)</p>
---	--

Commit to accepting Jesus as your Savior and Lord. "For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."
(Romans 10:13)

Claim His gift of salvation. Believe, and you will be saved. All that's left for you to do is to receive Jesus into your heart as your personal Lord and Savior. If that is your sincere desire, then talk to God from your heart. Contact us today to let us know your decision and any questions you have: info@sbcv.org.

A man in a blue sleeveless shirt with 'SEND Relief' and a yellow number '7' on it is carrying a large stack of lumber on his shoulders. He is wearing safety glasses and gloves. In the background, another person in a similar blue shirt is visible. The scene is outdoors on a paved surface with trees and foliage in the background.

On the Front Lines in Puerto Rico

Local Churches Partner to Serve Those in Need

God is at work through Southern Baptists on the Island of Enchantment, Puerto Rico. But there is much Gospel work to be done. Puerto Rico is a United States territory in the Caribbean Sea with a population of 3.4 million people. There are currently 51 SBC churches listed as affiliated with the Convención de Iglesias Bautistas del Sur de Puerto Rico, with 20 of the churches and pastors currently planting or replanting, and revitalizing churches.

SBC of Virginia churches have been actively involved in Gospel work through Send Relief and have been partnering with local churches since Hurricane Maria devastated the island in September 2017. Maria changed the landscape of Puerto Rico physically and spiritually. And the door for new Gospel work was opened as well.

In the aftermath of Maria, God called out Felix Cabrera to lead Send Puerto Rico and Jonathan Santiago to lead Send Relief in Puerto Rico. Their leadership and God's power have sustained



church planting efforts and expanded relief efforts. Cabrera also serves as the executive director of Convención de Iglesias Bautistas del Sur de Puerto Rico and pastors Iglesia Bautista Ciudad de Dios in San Juan. Cabrera says that while God is doing great things in Puerto Rico, “There is a great need for more partners to continue growing the work of Christ.”

SBC of Virginia churches have responded! In May 2021, 11 pastors and leaders from SBCV churches attended a NAMB Catch the Vision Tour in Puerto Rico. This was the latest group in a growing line of SBCV churches finding ways to serve in Puerto Rico.

From the first callout for disaster response after Hurricane Maria, to the continuing Disaster Relief efforts through Send Relief, SBCV churches have been on the front lines in Puerto Rico. This partnership of SBCV churches and local Puerto Rican churches readily respond to earthquakes and even political unrest, and they stand

ready to care for and share the Gospel with those in need.

Some churches like **Sky View Missionary Baptist Church** (Fancy Gap) have sent team after team to serve the people of Puerto Rico. Several churches are partnering directly with church planters for long-term partnerships that include prayer, financial support, and sending teams. **London Bridge Baptist Church** (Virginia Beach), **New Bridge Baptist Church** (Sandston), **Cave Spring Baptist Church** (Roanoke), and **Bethel Baptist Church** (Yorktown) are just a few of the SBCV churches committing to partner with local churches in Puerto Rico.

On this recent trip, Pastor Nathan Cecil of **Fox Hill Baptist Church** (Hampton) was impacted by hearing from each of the church planters who presented. “This is a beautiful place with faithful brothers and sisters serving faithfully all over the island.”

Pastor James Hobson of **Hill City Community Church** (Lynchburg) plans to explore internship opportunities in Puerto Rico in the future. David Patsel of **Mount Pleasant Baptist Church** in Colonial Heights is excited to explore partnerships and meet even more church planters to see where the Lord will lead his church to partner.

SBCV church planter Josh Weatherspoon of **The Way Church** (Glen Allen) feels like partnering in Puerto Rico will not only serve Puerto Rican churches but can strengthen his own. “Sending teams to Puerto Rico can give our church members experience in missions that will also prepare us to go to reach unreached people groups around the world.”

Brad Russell, SBCV’s mobilization strategist, explained, “The goal is to see every one of the 20 current church planters in Puerto Rico have one or more SBCV churches partnering to pray, give,



and send mission teams.” Cabrera is grateful: “We are thankful for Virginia Baptists who are so faithful to encourage pastors, support financially, bring teams, and continually pray for us.”

The work is fruitful, the need is great, and the opportunity is now! Your church can get involved in this Gospel Partnership. Please contact your SBCV Mobilization Team to find out more. ■

RESOURCES:

Your church can get involved in this Gospel Partnership today. For more information contact:



mobilizing@sbcv.org

Explore opportunities in Puerto Rico with Send Relief and begin praying for churches and church planters in Puerto Rico:



tinyurl.com/namb-send-pr



tinyurl.com/sendrelief-puerto-rico

En Español:



cibspuertorico.org

Puerto Rico Southern Baptist Convention Executive Director, Felix Cabrera, and SBCV Mobilization Strategist, Brad Russell, sign new commitment



A Five-Year Partnership Commitment

On May 19, 2021, SBC of Virginia and the **Convención de Iglesias Bautistas del Sur de Puerto Rico** signed a five-year partnership commitment that opens the doors to future exciting opportunities for churches in Virginia and Puerto Rico. The partnership focuses on three areas:

First, meeting needs — SBCV churches will continue to partner through Send Relief to meet immediate Disaster Relief needs and community needs like feeding, construction, and adoption ministries.

Second, strengthening churches — SBCV churches will partner directly with church plants and churches in Puerto Rico to strengthen churches and push forward the mission of Christ in Puerto Rico. Puerto Rican churches will also partner with SBC of Virginia churches to support and advance Gospel ministries in Hispanic work around the Commonwealth.

Third, sharing the Gospel — SBCV churches plan to take the Gospel to new places and peoples through missions opportunities.

SBCV and Puerto Rican Baptists are partnering to reach the nations through a partnership with the IMB among North African and Middle Eastern Peoples in Europe and South America and to reach peoples throughout Central and South America together. Utilizing SBCV’s connections and partnerships in Europe and Puerto Rican Baptists’ connections and partnerships in the Americas, churches can mobilize together to strengthen and advance the work of the Gospel among those who have never heard.

SBCV’s mobilization strategist, Brad Russell, believes this partnership will produce great fruit as the Lord leads and provides. Felix Cabrera, executive director of the Puerto Rican convention and leader of Send Puerto Rico, agrees. “A strong Puerto Rican church and a strong Virginia church can serve as a hub to reach places we could never reach alone. We are always stronger together.”

There's No Place Like *Home!*

“

Northstar Church ... Those dreams include restored marriages, transformed lives, and a positive community impact.

Jesus said, “Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest” (John 4:35).

After meeting in rented space for almost two decades, the church family of **Northstar Church of Blacksburg** has a home of their own that goes beyond their wildest dreams. But when they bought the property, they didn't even know that God was preparing for a field of dreams all around them.

Northstar Church was launched in 2003 by founding pastor Bob Jackson and three families, including his





own. Pastor Jackson remembers, “Two things stood out at the time: Blacksburg was a growing community and students were plentiful. We saw a great need to reach the campus of Virginia Tech but soon realized that the whole community was in need of a contemporary church to reach another generation.”

In the beginning, the church was largely composed of college students, and the Virginia Tech Baptist Campus Ministry supplied musicians, volunteers, and people to reach. They began with small groups in homes with a focus on discipleship and mentoring. In God’s providence, the principal of Blacksburg Middle School was a strong believer (in fact, he’s been a local pastor since retirement).

Northstar was allowed to rent a section of the school, which included an auditorium and a few classrooms. This arrangement began on Easter 2003 and continued for 18 years!

God’s plans included the calling of Pastor Jeff Noble in the fall of 2008. Pastor Noble has a background in campus ministry in Arkansas and is the author of *Super Center Savior: The Joy of Living Between Sundays*.

He challenged the congregation with the compelling mission—“Don’t go to church, be the church”—and has seen dozens grow to be devoted followers of Jesus.

“Lift Him up and He draws all people to him,” Noble said. “We have seen that God is faithful to bless His people when they align themselves humbly before His Word. We have tried to make Jesus central and lead people to make much of Jesus through His Word.”

Over the years, the church’s meeting location has become the strongest growth corridor in the area. Several years ago, God provided land about a mile from their rented school and, in April 2021, the church completed its first stage buildings, surrounded by two new neighborhoods—a ready-made mission field. In fact, the church didn’t know when the property was purchased that it would be surrounded by new homes planned for construction—and not just a few homes—close to 1,000 new homes are planned in the next few years. The church has truly been planted in the field of its dreams.

Those dreams are of little boys, little girls, and families making the short walk

to church on the sidewalk leading to the church campus. Those dreams include families building not just a home, but a life founded on a relationship with Christ. Those dreams include restored marriages, transformed lives, and a positive community impact.

This field of dreams is now Northstar’s home base! ■



Fathers to the *Fatherless*

"God in His holy dwelling is a father to the fatherless and a champion of widows."

Psalm 68:5 (HCSB)

Bobby peered out the window and took in the light piercing through the shade. The light contrasted with the darkness he felt inside—hungover and numb. It gave an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to work as memories stirred. Memories of sermons, Scriptures, Royal Ambassadors, and fatherly wisdom from the man who most closely resembled that role to him—Ricky. A local pastor, Ricky, and his wife, Robin, learned of Bobby's situation and had taken him into their home and care.

YOUNG BOBBY

At age five, Bobby lost his mother to a heart attack and his father to alcohol. He and his sister were left to the care of aging grandparents—care that could

not continue due to their grandparents' advanced age and poor health. The two were separated and entered the foster care system. From ages 5 to 10, home for Bobby equated to a series of temporary arrangements strung together. At 10, Bobby came into the care of Pastor Ricky and Robin. Under their care, he spent six formative years filled with school, friends, baseball on Saturdays, and church on Sundays, where Ricky preached. At 16, the trauma of childhood found expression in rebellion. The rebellion led Bobby down rocky roads for four years until the Father of Lights brought the good gift of Holy Spirit counsel.

FINDING HOME

Ricky's words were what softly stirred in Bobby's heart as a 20-year-old man lying in a dank basement observing light after rounds of personal darkness. "Commit your life to Jesus or you are on a road to nowhere," Ricky often said. Bobby knew *nowhere*. He felt it that day in the basement. With Ricky's words swirling in his head, Bobby picked up the phone

and called...*home*. The lost son who left four years before found home again through the extravagant love of Jesus on display through Ricky and Robin.

FOSTERING A PURPOSE

Coming home meant coming to Christ. Partying had to go and Christ had to stay. Girded with the counsel and care of Pastor Ricky, Bobby enrolled in college at Liberty University. There he met his future wife, Dell, and gained training in ministry. Pain fostered a purpose in Bobby—a career in youth ministry, particularly caring for the hurting. Pastor Bobby has now ministered to students for over two decades and currently serves as the student pastor at **Franklin Heights Baptist Church** in Rocky Mount, VA.

FOSTERING CHILDREN

As their biological children have aged, and with their permission, Bobby and Dell have begun fostering. To date, seven foster children have called their house a home. Two of those seven, sisters Chanty and Paulina, have been grafted into the family. Through families like this, foster children are moving from floundering to flourishing. Bobby enjoyed the privilege of baptizing Chanty and Paulina into the forever family of God. Like Ricky, Bobby became a father to the fatherless. And just like Bobby, Chanty and Paulina came to know of their Father in heaven through the love and care of a pastor who took them in. ■

RESOURCE:

There are over 5,000 children in foster care custody in Virginia. If you'd like more information on how to be a foster parent or how to support fostering families, contact:



fostercare@sbcv.org



In a crisis ... in a disaster, will you help?

Be the hands and feet of Jesus by loving those in life-altering situations. Disaster Relief teams enter the door God opens through disaster and minister to victims' needs.

ATTEND A Disaster Relief Training Weekend

Including basic, advanced, and chaplaincy trainings

Sept 10-11
North Roanoke
Baptist Church
Roanoke

Oct 15-16
Wayne Hills
Baptist Church
Waynesboro

Register at sbcv.org/dr



Imitate Retreat

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

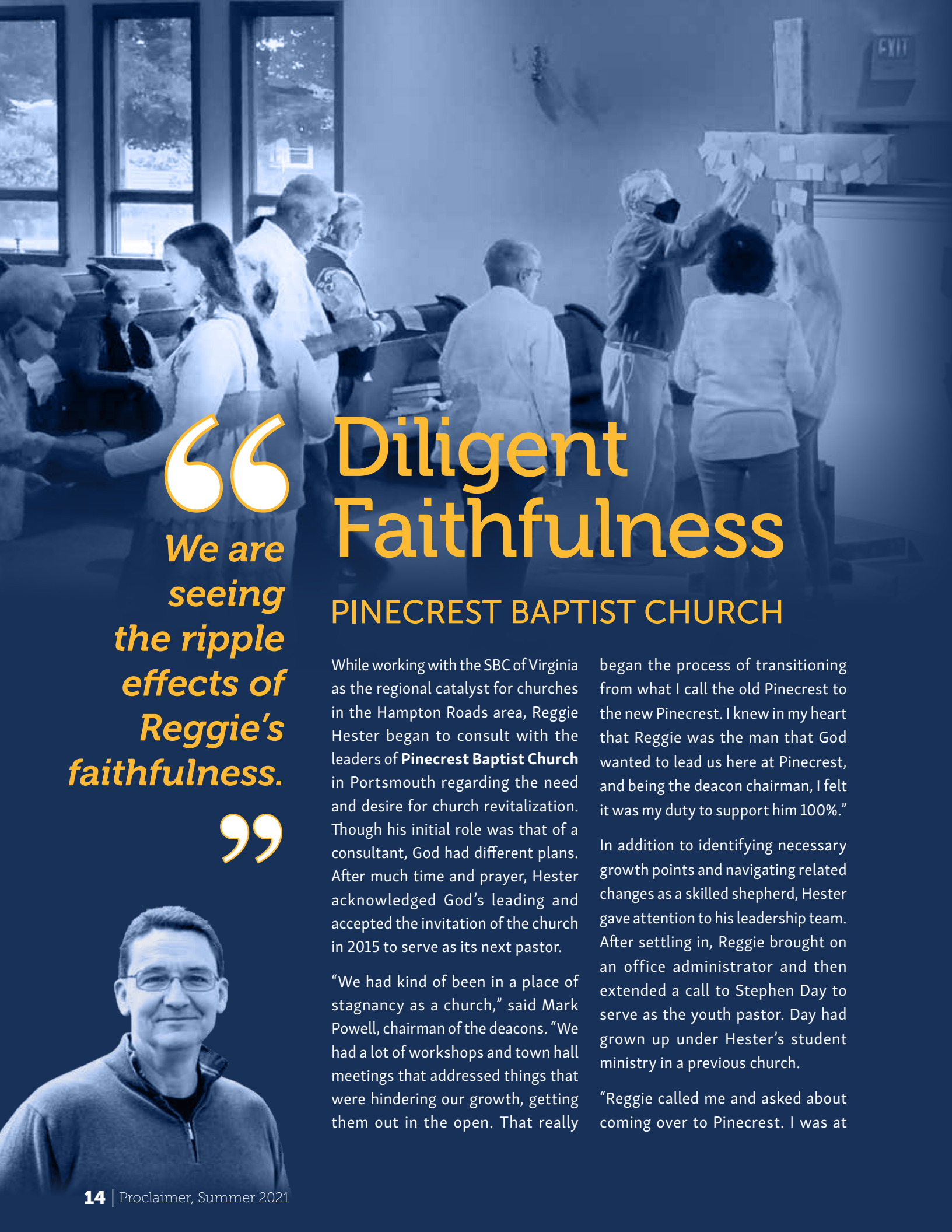
FINDING,
FOLLOWING,
& FULFILLING
God's will for your life

October 8-10, 2021
Scottsville, VA
\$50/person

Register before Sept. 24
at sbcv.org/imitate



nextgen ➔



“
*We are
seeing
the ripple
effects of
Reggie’s
faithfulness.*
”

Diligent Faithfulness

PINECREST BAPTIST CHURCH

While working with the SBC of Virginia as the regional catalyst for churches in the Hampton Roads area, Reggie Hester began to consult with the leaders of **Pinecrest Baptist Church** in Portsmouth regarding the need and desire for church revitalization. Though his initial role was that of a consultant, God had different plans. After much time and prayer, Hester acknowledged God’s leading and accepted the invitation of the church in 2015 to serve as its next pastor.

“We had kind of been in a place of stagnancy as a church,” said Mark Powell, chairman of the deacons. “We had a lot of workshops and town hall meetings that addressed things that were hindering our growth, getting them out in the open. That really

began the process of transitioning from what I call the old Pinecrest to the new Pinecrest. I knew in my heart that Reggie was the man that God wanted to lead us here at Pinecrest, and being the deacon chairman, I felt it was my duty to support him 100%.”

In addition to identifying necessary growth points and navigating related changes as a skilled shepherd, Hester gave attention to his leadership team. After settling in, Reggie brought on an office administrator and then extended a call to Stephen Day to serve as the youth pastor. Day had grown up under Hester’s student ministry in a previous church.

“Reggie called me and asked about coming over to Pinecrest. I was at

another church as a youth and worship director at the time.”

Reflecting on his leadership, Day said, “Reggie was a very patient pastor. He regularly brought the church and staff together for prayer. He was very transparent, honest, and humble. He confessed early to the church that it was in God alone that they would discover the vision for their way forward in His mission.”

Hester masterfully led Pinecrest for five years as pastor until December 19, 2020, when he passed away suddenly from a heart attack. Amidst their grief, the leaders and members of Pinecrest remained resolute in their resolve to continue in the path of renewal and mission that their pastor had led them to understand and embrace.

“We are not forgetting Reggie,” Day said. “Rather, we are honoring what he instilled in us regarding fulfilling the

mission of the Lord. God is stretching our church, growing us closer to Himself. To see where we are now compared to where we were, I believe we are seeing the beginnings of a revival in our church—I truly believe it. It has been five to six years in the making. We are seeing the ripple effects of Reggie’s faithfulness.”

Following Hester’s example, Day and the worship team have begun to hold and plan quarterly nights of prayer and worship. “We are praying and worshipping to keep the church unified and focused. Prayer can do that!”

“Who’s Your One?” has become the church’s rally cry as they focus their prayers and activity on reaching the lost. Dozens of prayer cards bearing the names of lost loved ones have been tacked to a wooden cross at the front of the sanctuary by the members as a visual reminder of their joint task. They

have even seen a 19-year-old young woman publicly profess her faith in Christ in one of their worship services.

The unexpected loss of their pastor has certainly stretched leaders and members in ways they had not anticipated. The church has called an interim pastor; Day has been named interim associate pastor; and, leaders and members alike are stepping up to stand in the gap to aid the church in its mission. A pastor search team has already begun the work of seeking a new pastor in a manner that is steeped in prayer.

The future of Pinecrest Baptist Church is bright and its legacy long because of the diligent faithfulness of the leaders and members of the church, past and present, in pursuing the mission of God. ■



Setting a Course FOR NEW BELIEVERS

When 2020 began, no one knew what kind of a year it would be. The children's ministry at **Hyland Heights Baptist Church** in Rustburg, VA certainly had to adapt over and over as various challenges came up.

"In such a year, we would have never expected God to move in the manner in which He did," said children's pastor, Mike Summy. In 2020, 29 children followed through with believer's baptism.

"Children made decisions for Christ through our weekly programming, summer camp, and various other ministry activities," said Summy. "Watching God move, despite the changes in our normal programming and not having services for nearly three months, was amazing. I am so grateful for His work."

The movement in the children's ministry brought about the development of a "new believers" class for the children who were saved and baptized in 2020. These new believers attended a four-week class that was designed to teach them the basics of

faith. The class began with a discussion of who God is and why that matters to mankind.

Topics included why the students were in the class, what it means to be a new believer, why it is important to be baptized, and what baptism represents in the life of a new Christian. The class prioritized the importance of having a relationship with God and that the Bible is God's written Word for all creation—the ultimate source of information about God and our relationship with our Creator.

Closing out the lessons came the explanation of what it means to have the Holy Spirit impact who we are and that it is our responsibility to live on mission and spread the Word of God to all of humanity.

Of the 29 invited to attend, 25 were present at least one of those weeks, and 23 children completed the class and graduated.

"This class meant a lot to me," said parent Lindsay Donaruma. "It helped my daughter understand what it means to be a new believer and gave her the tools to help her grow in her walk as a Christian."

The class gave parents a mission as well. "Karlee was able to learn more about the seriousness of the decision she made and what she needed to do to grow in her relationship with Christ," said parent Kim Altizer. "At the end of the new believers class, we (as her parents) were also challenged with the responsibility that we have to continue to cultivate her new relationship with Christ."

The momentum that began in 2020 has continued into 2021. So far, into the first three months of the year, Hyland Heights has seen 20 children baptized and has scheduled a new believers class to begin in early summer. Needless to say, Summy is thrilled. "God is moving, and it is exciting to see what He is doing!" ■





Groundbreaking Days

FOR CHURCH PLANTING

**"...you purchased people for God
by your blood from every tribe and
language and people and nation."**

Revelation 5:9

On May 11 and May 17, the beautiful sounds of five languages (English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Mandarin Chinese, and Amharic) were used to assess church planter candidates.

In the past, church planter applicants, even those who would be planting a church using a language other than English, had to navigate a church planting application and assessment process that relied on English and was steeped in American culture.

The assessment process is necessarily rigorous so that Cooperative Program dollars are stewarded well—going only to church planters who are biblically and theologically qualified. But a way to make the process work better was needed for people of other languages and cultures.

Thanks to the pioneering work of IMB stateside missionaries and bilingual veteran church planters and pastors, some changes were made.

One aspect of the assessment requires the candidate to preach a Gospel message then be questioned by a panel of pastors. Previously, candidates whose heart

language was not English struggled in this portion. Some candidates were likely evaluated too harshly due to their lack of ability to express the Gospel in English, and some could have been approved too easily with the assumption that they probably had good doctrine even though they were not communicating well in English.

At the May 2021 assessments, each candidate was able to preach in his heart language (Spanish, Vietnamese, Amharic, Mandarin) before a panel of leaders who were also fluent in that language. *What a blessing!*

One of our Ethiopian church planting assessing team members is veteran SBCV church planter, Fisseha Tesfaye. After Pastor Tesfaye heard the candidate preach in Amharic, he remembered his own struggles a few years earlier when he had to preach in English. "I am jealous. It was so hard to prepare to preach in English. It was not natural for me."

We are grateful that our recent planter assessments eliminated that element of stress and the struggle to communicate. As God continues to call out church planters to reach the nations who reside in Virginia and DC, this improved assessment process is vital. We are continuing to learn and grow as we work together to reach the nations! ■



A Fresh Beginning

Student Fusion Camp Meets the Needs of an Elementary School

The command in Luke 14:23 to go out into the highways and byways and compel them to come into the master's house is no small task. It is a command that we cannot fulfill on our own as it reveals our need for partnership. Partnership at its best was seen this summer in Bristol, VA through SBC of Virginia Student Fusion Camp. Five churches partnered to send 78 of their students and chaperones to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus. The camp also included interns funded by the Vision Virginia Missions Offering. Altogether, the church groups and interns invested 1,200 hours of ministry!

Fusion's outreach efforts focused primarily on Washington Lee Elementary School. The principal of the school, Dr. Faith Mabe, was moved

to tears on multiple occasions by the way the Fusion campers blessed the community.

Seven years ago, Washington Lee Elementary School's test scores were in the bottom 3% of the state; in 2019, they were in the top 3%. When asked what caused the positive change, Dr. Mabe responded that they prayed even more than they taught. Dr. Mabe and the teachers and support staff at Washington Lee have worked tirelessly to provide quality education and a safe place for the students in that community. SBCV Fusion campers were able to handle many of the tasks that might otherwise not have been completed before the new school year.

Tasks included praying over the school, pulling weeds, power-washing playground equipment,

spreading mulch, trimming overgrown landscape, painting classrooms, and deep cleaning. New life was brought to an outdoor map with fresh paint, classroom furniture and boxes of supplies were moved, and furniture was cleaned. Fusion participants provided lunch for teachers and cookies for first responders.

No room in the school was overlooked by Student Fusion Camp, and every nook and cranny, teacher, administrator, and student were prayed over.

"It has been a week of revival for us here at Washington Lee," Dr. Mabe shared. "Not only because of the work that is being done but because of the joy we see and hear from those who are working." ■



PASTORS, STAFF & WIVES *retreat*



Featuring
Dr. Charles
Lowery

Enjoy a time of
**rest, rejuvenation,
& encouragement.**

October 1-2
2021

Kingsmill Resort
Williamsburg

Only ~~\$99~~ per couple
through September 20

Learn more at

sbcv.org/ministryretreat



Mission Projects **2021**

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **FOR GOOD WORKS**, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
EPHESIANS 2:10

What are we *for* as followers of Christ?
Mission Projects provide opportunities for families, small groups, and churches to engage their community and serve others *for* the glory of God.

FOR SCHOOLS



August
**BACK TO
SCHOOL DRIVE**

FOR OUR NEIGHBORS



September - October
**CHRISTMAS
BACKPACKS**

FOR MISSIONARIES



November - December
**MISSIONARY
CARE**

Find out how to get
involved by visiting:
sbcv.org/missionprojects

CELEBRATING
25
YEARS OF MINISTRY

KEEP *pressing* **ON**



November 7-9
Sunday - Tuesday



Libertylive.Church
Hampton

SBC of Virginia churches partner together to make disciples and plant churches for Christ.

Join us as we praise God together for 25 years of ministry and press on toward the future.

2021 ANNUAL HOMECOMING



Join us in Hampton

Come to Libertylive.Church and fellowship in person with your SBCV family. Register online or at the door.

Powerful Worship on Monday Night

Featuring Charles Billingsley, Jason Crabb, and LU Praise

SPEAKERS



Al Mohler

President • The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary



Kevin Ezell

President • North American Mission Board



Bryan Carter

Senior Pastor • Concord Church



Ronnie Floyd

President & CEO • Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee



Stephen Rummage

Senior Pastor • Quail Springs Baptist Church



Allen McFarland

President • SBC of Virginia; Senior Pastor • Calvary Evangelical Baptist Church



Brian Autry

Executive Director • SBC of Virginia

Register today at
sbcv.org/home2021



Give the gift of the Gospel with a Christmas backpack.
sbcv.org/backpacks

General sessions and select group sessions will be interpreted for the Deaf.

Childcare will be available for children up to 4 years old (pre-registration required).



Charles and Tranay Wilson

A Beautiful Tapestry

THE HILL CHURCH: Multi-cultural & Multi-ethnic

In the fall of 2016, Pastor Charles Wilson and his wife, Tranay, drove from their home in Dallas, TX to Lynchburg, VA to drop off their son at Liberty University. On the way home, Tranay wanted some ice cream, which prompted a stopover in Roanoke. They drove to the top of Mill Mountain and ate their ice cream as they looked out over the city. Little did they know, God was planting something new in both of their hearts. “When we went to the mountaintop, to the star, it is when I believe we both felt God doing something in our hearts for this city,” Tranay shared.

They did not speak of it until about a month later when she suggested they plant a church in Roanoke. For them, they hadn’t thought that planting a church was in their future, mainly because they had been part of one previously and knew how hard it was. Even so, they couldn’t run from God’s calling. In 2017, they packed up and moved their family to Virginia.

Their first few weeks in Roanoke were pretty scary, but God was working, and they knew He was about to do something special. They trusted Him to be their provision. They heard Roanoke had a history. They noticed the churches in Roanoke were still very segregated and both believed God wanted to use them to do

something different. They committed to jumping in, learning the city, and serving the city before even beginning to plant.

Their inspiration came from Psalm 121:1-2, “I lift up my eyes to the hills,” shared Tranay, “From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.” It’s not in the hill or the mountaintop, but it’s in the Lord. We wanted The Hill Church to be a place of refuge where the Lord is elevated above all else!”

They felt led to plant in the northwest city quadrant but also knew it was a more challenging place with difficulties like high poverty and crime.

“After a while of us fighting through what we were trained to do, we realized we needed to surrender to what the Lord was calling us to do,” said Pastor Charles. “So, we surrendered and said, ‘Alright, Lord, what are You trying to do?’”

After that, God began opening doors. The Lord provided the old, boarded-up Villa Heights Baptist Church building off Melrose Avenue on Lafayette Blvd. Charles noted, “It is perfectly located in the center of the community with the most challenging stats imaginable, not only in the region but nationally. From divorced families to childhood diabetes, to poverty. You name it, we

“One of the most unique things that has marked The Hill Church is its DIVERSITY.”

have all of those challenges, including crime and a food desert. One of the big questions to answer is, ‘What do you do with a 45,000-square-foot building in the middle of a community like this?’”

Dreaming big, **The Hill Church** desires to see the space used to assist the community with economic development, counseling, helping students, etc.—while presenting the Gospel and keeping that front and center in everything they do. They dream that half the building will be used for worship and ministries to the community and the other half will be used to assist the community with economic development.

As a coffee shop, a counseling center, a place for a community grocery market, a robust youth and children’s ministry, the once boarded-up blight will one day be a beacon of hope and light for the community. A city on The Hill!

Children ride their bikes up and down the street and constantly ask Pastor Charles, “What’s going on there?”

“I don’t tell them we’re going to have video games and all kinds of cool stuff,” said Pastor Charles with a smile. “I just tell them there’s going to be a church here, and they get excited and can’t wait to come!”

Denita Wray, who serves on the church’s support staff, was excited when she initially heard of a new church starting in Northwest Roanoke. One reason she joined The Hill Church was to go back to the community where her father once lived and help the community that’s there now.

One of the reasons the Wilsons believed God brought them to Roanoke was to help address the segregated side of the



valley—to plant a church that is diverse, multi-cultural, and multi-ethnic. Their mission is to be a beautiful mosaic, loving God and loving one another.

According to Pastor Charles, one of the most unique things that has marked The Hill Church is its diversity. “We have people from all walks of life and from all over the city. We are actually living out what we are trying to do as we are moving into this part of the city. We are actually doing it at a slow pace—one person at a time, very authentic—but we are very vocal and serious about the Gospel.” ■



Prayer for Church Planters

"Then Jesus came near and said to them, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'" Matthew 28:18-20 (HCSB)



Greg and Ashley Brown
Church Planter
MOSAIC CHURCH

Meeting at:

The Dance Company
8324 Bell Creek Rd, Mechanicsville, VA 23116

Birthdays:

Greg (August 30), Ashley (October 7)

PRAY:

- Growing passion for evangelism and outreach
- Contentment with what God has provided
- Guidance and motivation for "what's next"
- Passion for and growth in kids ministry
- Continued traction in partnering with local churches

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Prayer. It's the best thing anyone can do!
- Partner through giving (mossaic.com/give) or through a relationship (hello@mosaicrva.com)
- Recommend Mosaic to people looking for a Gospel-believing, Bible-preaching church

CONTACT INFORMATION:

hello@mosaicrva.org
mossaicrva.com



John and Melissa Healy
Church Planter
CROZET FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Meeting at:

To Be Determined

Birthdays:

John (December 12), Melissa (February 28)

PRAY:

- Wisdom for church leaders in planning
- Open doors to families willing to join the launch team
- For God to prepare the hearts of those in Crozet who are far from Him to receive the Gospel
- Financial support to cover staff and ministry costs

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Prayer team: our goal is 500 prayer partners before launch
- Financial partners
- Donation of worship equipment (A/V, chairs, etc)
- Teams to assist with outreach events

CONTACT INFORMATION:

john@crozetfellowship.org
crozetfellowship.org

SAVE THE DATE FOR **YEC** 2022

nextgen▶

Inspiring and equipping students
with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



JANUARY
14-15



VIRGINIA
BEACH



CLIFF
JORDAN

National FUGE
Camp Speaker/
Pastor



321
IMPROV



More details coming at
sbcv.org/yec

WE CREATE *media*
& HANDLE THE
finances SO YOU
CAN FOCUS ON
YOUR *mission*.

**INNOVATIVE
FAITH RESOURCES**
Media & Financial Services

SBCV churches receive a
special 15% discount on
media services because
of our Gospel partnership.

innovativefaith.org
804-665-1447



YEC Virtual AND In Person

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the SBC of Virginia chose to move the 2021 Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC) from a typical in-person gathering to a virtual event. But would it have the same effect and reach?

First Baptist Church of Martinsburg, WV (FBCM) is a normative size church founded in 1869. They currently have a student ministry of 20 active students. The goal of the student ministry is that kids would grow into fully devoted followers of Jesus.

Just after the recording of YEC in January, God was at work in the heart of family life pastor Jason Dubea to lead his students through a YEC-type weekend. He planned a lock-in with a component of games like Nerf war and “The Floor Is Lava,” along with periodic opportunities for the preaching of God’s Word and worship through music. SBCV’s YEC Replay provided the resources he needed for the messages and music.

“It was a free, quality resource,” said Dubea, “...and those hard-hitting biblical messages [by Ryan Fontenot] were just what our students at FBCM needed to hear.”

God went to work in the hearts of the students on the Friday evening of the lock-in. Pastor Dubea shared, “The last message of the evening, ‘Why Does the Cross Matter?’, sealed the deal as one boy previously hardened to the Gospel was broken and came to me and gave his heart to Christ.” Two more boys came to repent of their sins and turn to Jesus as Savior. All three (one 8th grader and two 9th graders) were baptized on Easter Sunday 2021.

They are now faithfully attending Sunday morning and Wednesday evening gatherings, are bringing others to church with them, are involved in serving in children’s ministry, and are encouraging other students at FBCM to serve with them. Dubea remarked, “The presence and maturity of these

three boys is a great influence on other students.”

Pastor Dubea expressed gratitude for the faithful adult volunteers who served at the lock-in. Without them, Dubea wonders if he may not have been as attentive to the work of the Holy Spirit in the students’ lives. He also gave thanks for the virtual YEC, which enabled his church to see students impacted by the Gospel and equipped to share the RE:ASON for the hope that they have (1 Peter 3:15, the YEC theme verse). Dubea’s heart’s desire is that FBCM’s culture of students following Christ will outlive his ministry there. ■

RESOURCE:

Download YEC Replay for your church at:



sbcv.org/yecreplay

For more information, contact Mike Camire:



mcamire@sbcv.org

When a Teenager Finds *Favor* with God

by Dr. Allen McFarland, President, SBC of Virginia, Senior Pastor, Calvary Evangelical Baptist Church, Portsmouth

It was not too long ago that Dot and I were privileged to raise five teenagers. Our greatest desire was to encourage them to seek to please God and to find favor with Him. The book of Proverbs was our daily devotion. Verses like Proverbs 16:6-8 were our constant pursuit, particularly verse 7: “When a man’s ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies be at peace with him.”

In the process of time, we would have discussions about three characteristics that would take place when **one seeks to find favor with God:**

1. There will be **PERSECUTION**.
2. There will be **PAIN**.
3. There will be **PRAISE**.

Today, our five children and their mates are in ministry, faithfully serving the Lord. It is our joy to watch our 16 grandchildren emulate their parents’ faith. As grandparents, we are watching and praying that each one develops his/her personal commitment to follow Jesus Christ and keep the legacy alive.



Many biblical characters found favor with God as teenagers. Mary, the mother of Jesus, submitted to the shame of pregnancy and surrendered her will to God’s will. Daniel found favor with God in distinguishing himself in prayer and standing on his strong convictions.

In 1 Timothy 4:12, Paul encouraged young Timothy to “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

It is my earnest desire that all parents encourage their teens to be examples for others and remain faithful in seeking to **find favor with God** in their generation. There will be **persecution** and **pain**; yet, the glory and **praise** will be a blessing to those who please the Lord. ■

FaceTime: A Gospel Opportunity

by Mike Camire, SBCV Student Ministry Strategist; Parkway Baptist Church Next Gen Student Pastor

On April 9, 2020, at 11:55 PM, as I was trying my best to go to sleep but just could not settle, I received a text from one of my students that simply said, “MIKE.” Now, in my years of student ministry, an all-caps text of my first name usually means something is horribly wrong—that wasn’t so with this text. Stumbling for my phone and thinking the worst, I responded, “What up, bro” and then my student, Cade, proceeded to explain to me that he had just led a hockey teammate (who lived in Ohio at the time) to Christ through a FaceTime call! My thoughts of this being a bad text quickly left me, and I was overwhelmed with joy! This was the first person that Cade had led to Christ, and he was as ecstatic as he could be through text messages.

When I asked Cade to describe the conversation, he said, “On that call, God gave me an opportunity to share what I believed. Bernie asked me the question, ‘How are you able to be so happy even if nothing goes your way?’ At that point, I knew God had opened Bernie’s heart, and I felt like I couldn’t say anything else except to share the Gospel with him.”

When Bernie put his trust in Christ, his life was forever changed. He explained, “Thankfully, I was able to open up to my friend, Cade, and we were able to have a serious and beneficial conversation. That night, I was introduced to something that was different than anything else. There was something about living a life for Christ that intrigued me. I told Cade the next day, ‘feel different bro, I feel weird.’ Over the next six months, I spent time trying to learn everything I could about Christ, and I really started to change.”


By God’s providence, Bernie moved to Richmond to play hockey. He was able to plug into our ministry here at **Parkway Baptist Church** (Moseley, VA) and be discipled! He also chose to follow his decision with baptism, and since Cade led Bernie to the Lord, we allowed Cade to baptize Bernie!



I asked Bernie, “What was it like to be baptized by your friend who led you to Christ?” He wrote: “Being able to get baptized was already amazing enough to begin with, but then to have Cade, who helped with everything from the start, be the one to baptize me made it one of the most memorable moments of my life. I will never forget that life-changing experience.”

Even more incredible was that the weekend Bernie was baptized, his mom was already coming down to Richmond to watch him play hockey and got to see her son baptized in person!

Bernie eventually moved back to Ohio, but he is still passionate about his faith! He is now sharing his faith with friends and even buying Bibles and giving them to friends back home! He is also in the process of seeking a church that he can plug into there. ■



Connect the offering
plate to the mission
field with 52 Sundays

52
SUNDAYS

A missions resource filled
with weekly devotions and
highlights of missionaries

Share these stories with your
congregation in 2021!

Visit sbcv.org/52sundays to get started

¡AVANCEMOS!

GLORIFICANDO A DIOS CON IGLESIAS
FORTALECIDAS QUE SE MULTIPLICAN.

JUNTO AL ORADOR:
RAMON MEDINA

+

SESIÓN DE MUJERES:
WENDY BELLO

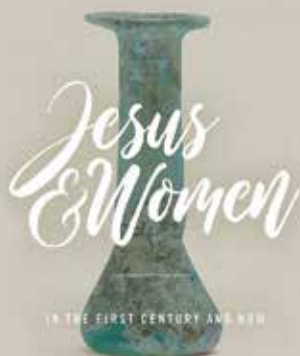
17-18

SEPTIEMBRE 2021

SPOTSWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
4009 LAFAYETTE BLVD.
FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22408

SBCV.ORG/RENOVADOS

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE with KRISTI MCLELLAND



JOIN US AS WE ARE TRANSPORTED BACK TO
THE DUSTY ROADS WHERE JESUS WALKED

NOV 5-6, 2021
SBCV.ORG/KRISTI

LONDON BRIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

Purpose; A GATHERING FOR GIRLS

MIDDLE SCHOOL &
HIGH SCHOOL

SEPT. 17, 2021

LONDON BRIDGE
BAPTIST CHURCH
VIRGINIA BEACH



MARY MARGARET WEST
LEXI SHIPP

REGISTER AT SBCV.ORG/PURPOSE

Una Buena Cosecha

EL pastor Jorge del Cid es de origen salvadoreño y emigró a Estados Unidos hace 23 años, ejerciendo su profesión de arquitecto en New York y Washington DC.

Durante este tiempo, Jorge, su esposa Alicia y su hija Maia han sido un reflejo del evangelio en sus vidas en servicio y amor a la comunidad donde ellos viven, Herndon, VA.

Cuatro años atrás Jorge del Cid, Gustavo Pacheco y Shane Tilson, junto a otras familias, se involucraron intencionalmente en servir y predicar el evangelio en la ciudad de Herndon para alcanzar a la comunidad Latina. El fruto de este emprendimiento evangelístico fue el lanzamiento oficial de Herndon Bible Church el 15 de diciembre de 2019 con 24 miembros, bajo el pastoreo de Jorge del Cid y Shane Tilson.

Ellos tenían una misión clara para el 2020, querían alcanzar las etnias iniciando grupos de estudio bíblico en casas, sin embargo, la pandemia del COVID 19 azotó la ciudad de Herndon convirtiéndose en una de las áreas mas afectadas en el Norte de Virginia. Por este motivo fue necesario cambiar la estrategia drásticamente para poder alcanzar las almas. HBC salió a las calles asistiendo a 450 familias necesitadas de alimento semana tras semana, de igual manera priorizaron el alimento espiritual, fue una estrategia diseñada por Dios para el evangelismo en las plazas y estacionamientos, y hasta el día de hoy HBC, con apoyo de iglesias amigas, siguen sirviendo a las familias semana tras semana en esta situación tan difícil para muchas personas. Uno de los desafíos más difíciles en medio de la pandemia han sido las restricciones para congregarse, de modo que HBC ha tenido que reunirse en más de cinco locaciones diferentes, lugares como parques, cafeterías y hoteles. Pero esta intencionalidad de seguir congregándose ha dado fruto, el favor de Dios ha estado con su iglesia, alcanzando a tener reuniones de 100 personas, algo maravilloso en tiempo de pandemia.



Esta congregación ha experimentado una hermosa cosecha que les ha dado fruto, permitiéndoles alcanzar una diversidad en su comunidad. El servicio comunitario bíblico, bajo la guía y poder del Espíritu Santo, se ha hecho ver en las conversiones y bautismos, llevando a HBC a ser una iglesia no solo de habla hispana si no también multilinguaje y multicultural.

La congregación de HBC ha demostrado tener una visión bíblica del alcance misionero, tanto a nivel local como internacional. Intencionalmente están desarrollando a los miembros de la congregación para que alcancen madurez espiritual y glorifiquen a Dios yendo a las naciones. Como parte de esta estrategia, la congregación está involucrada en las misiones y apoya fielmente a misioneros en Francia, El Salvador y Perú.

La base fundamental del crecimiento espiritual en HBC la adoración individual con Jesús, la adoración en grupos pequeños, en estudios bíblicos y congregacionales los domingos.

La visión clara y energizante de HBC es: ***Juntos amamos, conectamos y equipamos a nuestras comunidades; multiplicando a seguidores de Cristo y multiplicando iglesias, local y globalmente, todo para la gloria de Dios.*** Esta visión se ha visto reflejada en el alcance intencional de su comunidad local, y de su involucramiento en las misiones internacionales. Los desafíos que enfrentaron han servido para dar mayor gloria a Dios. ■



A Good Harvest

Pastor Jorge del Cid immigrated to the United States 23 years ago from El Salvador. Once here, he practiced his profession as an architect in New York and Washington, DC.

Four years ago, Jorge del Cid, Gustavo Pacheco, and Shane Tilson, along with other families, were involved in an evangelistic mission in the city of Herndon, seeking to reach the Latino community. The fruit of this evangelistic endeavor was the official launch of **Herndon Bible Church (HBC)** on December 15, 2019, with 24 members, led by del Cid and Tilson.

They had a clear mission for 2020. They wanted to reach ethnic groups by starting home Bible study groups; however, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the city of Herndon hard, and it became one of the most affected areas in Northern Virginia. Because of this, HBC had to change its strategy drastically in order to reach the lost. They took to the streets week after week, assisting 450 families in need of food. In the same way, they prioritized spiritual food. It was a strategy designed by God for evangelism in shopping squares and parking lots. Even now, HBC, with the support of friendly churches, continues to serve families week after week.

One of the toughest challenges amid the pandemic has been restrictions on church congregations. HBC has had to meet in more than five different locations—like parks, coffee shops, and hotels. But, thanks to their intentionality in continuing to congregate, they have seen fruit. God's favor has been with His church, reaching meetings of 100 people—a number surprising in a pandemic.

This congregation has experienced another beautiful harvest—reaching with the Gospel a diverse group of people in their community. Biblical community service, under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, has brought forth conversions and baptisms. Through this, HBC is now not just a Spanish-speaking church but also multilingual and multicultural.

The congregation of HBC has demonstrated a biblical vision of mission outreach, both locally and internationally. They are intentionally discipling members of the congregation to mature spiritually and glorify God by going to the nations. As part of this strategy, the congregation is involved in missions and faithfully supports missionaries in France, El Salvador, and Peru.

The fundamental foundation of spiritual growth at HBC is individual worship of Jesus, worship in small groups, worship in Bible studies, and worship in congregational services on Sundays.

Herndon Bible Church's clear and energizing vision is: ***Together we love, connect, and equip our communities; multiplying followers of Christ and multiplying churches, locally and globally, all for the glory of God.*** This vision has been reflected in their intentional outreach to their local community and their involvement in international missions. The challenges they have faced have only served to bring greater glory to God! ■



Captivated

The people of **River Oak Church** are living every day captivated by Jesus and the work He is doing there.

What is the cause for this captivated living? Could it be the new building that was just completed in February? Or what about the new 1,200-seat auditorium? Or maybe it's the inviting lobby and coffee bar? Although all are improvements made possible only through the work of God, none are the cause of the captivation.

The church was captivated by the sight of new believers following the Lord in baptism! On the first Sunday in the new worship center, the church family watched 25 being baptized. Because of the pandemic, baptisms had to be done a little differently—staggered over several days with just the family present, but recorded to show the congregation that Sunday.

"We had to be strategic," said executive pastor Dave Velloney. Using a galvanized steel water trough and adding water purifying tablets between each use, baptisms were conducted in several locations: inside the new worship center, in the previous worship center, and even outside on the sidewalk. "It didn't matter *where* we were doing it, just that it was done.

It worked very well, and we plan to continue to use [this method]," he added. In fact, if you search the new structure, one thing you will not find is a traditional baptistry. Funds that would have been used for a baptistry were directed elsewhere, and the church will continue to use the trough. Why not? It works!

As the leadership of River Oak seeks God's will for the best use of this new building (which essentially doubled the existing footprint), they do so with joyful anticipation. Senior Pastor Heath Burris said, "I love that even when we are all gone if the Lord chooses to tarry, it will always be a place where the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be proclaimed. That's pretty cool. I also love how it frees us up to use the gym as a gym—great opportunities to serve our community in a fresh and unique way."

River Oak Church is looking past a pandemic and into a future of reaching more and more people for Jesus Christ. Now, *that's* captivating! ■

Photos courtesy of Sarah Vanderford Photography

RESOURCE:

Want to view the baptism video? You can see it on YouTube at:



tinyurl.com/roc-baptisms

The Journey of a Backpack

SBC of Virginia mobilizes churches to reach their communities with the Good News of Jesus through mission opportunities such as Christmas backpacks. The backpacks are a tremendous blessing to people in need. But along the way, the backpacks do so much more.

The Journey

Each backpack's journey begins with the opportunity made available through a church's partnership with the SBC of Virginia.

For six-year-old Carter Lewis, that opportunity presented itself while he was attending church with his grandparents. During the announcements, he watched a video of how boys and girls his age had received backpacks and that, for some, the filled backpacks were all they would receive for Christmas.

Carter knew in his heart that he had to do something, so he took notes of everything needed. When he got home, he told his mom he needed to

go shopping with his own money to buy a backpack and fill it with everything on his list.

When the time came that the church collected the filled backpacks, Carter was there alongside his grandparents. They helped make sure each backpack was ready to go on its journey.

An Opportunity to Serve

Christmas backpacks do more than help those in need; they provide an opportunity for folks like Carter to serve. Churches are given the opportunity to reach communities with the Good News of Jesus through backpacks.

Distribution & Good News

Carter's backpack and the rest of the packs from **North Bristol Baptist Church** (Bristol, VA) made their way to Buchanan County.

Pastor Brandon Estep and **Garden Baptist Church** (Oakwood, VA) had been preparing their drive-through nativity for the community



and would distribute the donated Christmas backpacks.

On a cold December night, Garden Baptist lit up with scenes of angels singing glory to God in the highest. The church family distributed Christmas backpacks to kids in need and everyone enjoyed free hot chocolate.

That night, Pastor Estep made sure each car that came through the nativity heard the Gospel. "Hot chocolate is good," he said, "but Jesus is better."

Whether folks were coming for the drive-through nativity drama, the free hot chocolate, or the Christmas backpacks, the overall hope was that they would leave with Jesus as their Savior.

Christmas backpacks provide opportunities for individuals to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus. Churches are able to work together to bless the needy and reach the lost as the backpacks make their journey to those in need. ■



Disaster Relief

Scholarships

Your gifts
provide resources
**for people to be
the hands and
feet of Jesus.**

...and so much more!

Worship Equipment
for Church Plants

Vision Virginia is the SBC of Virginia missions offering. Each and every contribution goes directly to the mission field. This impact reaches beyond Virginia to provide the resources necessary for people to hear the Gospel. Thank you for praying for and giving through your missions offering.

visionvirginia
2021 WEEK OF PRAYER & OFFERING FOR MISSIONS



Vision Virginia is your SBC of
Virginia missions offering

PROVIDING **100%
OF THE
FUNDS** RECEIVED

to ministries



HERE IN
VIRGINIA



AROUND
THE **WORLD**

A GOAL OF **\$400,000**

Stories, resources, giving, and more
at sbcv.org/visionvirginia



Ministry Wives

Serving Alongside Their Husbands

The SBC of Virginia is excited to share a new initiative for ministering to pastors' wives. Our Ministry Wives Team will be led by Elisabeth Fiordelise, wife of Pastor Pat Fiordelise of **Kingsland Baptist Church** in North Chesterfield. SBCV Women's Ministry Team leader Donna Paulk recently interviewed Elisabeth, who shared her heart for this ministry and her passion to see God use it to bless pastors' wives.

DONNA PAULK:

Elisabeth, tell us a little bit about yourself.

ELISABETH FIORDELISE:

I have been a pastor's wife for 21 years. I spend my days teaching classes, giving private piano lessons, and homeschooling my children. I serve as the children's ministry director and play piano for the worship band at my church. I am an avid runner and reader, and I also enjoy biking, kayaking, hiking in the mountains, and sitting at the beach. My husband, Pat, and I have been married for almost 23 years and are the proud parents of three wonderful teenaged children.

DONNA:

Why do you feel it is important to have a ministry to pastors' wives?

ELISABETH:

I am concerned that many ministry wives feel isolated and alone, and those who don't [feel this way] struggle in carrying the heavy burden of serving alongside their husbands.

I believe pastors' wives are uniquely equipped to provide insight and encouragement to each other. No one can relate to a pastor's wife like another one.

DONNA:

What do you feel is essential in a ministry focused on pastors' wives?

ELISABETH:

It is essential that a ministry wife receive the support she needs to assist her husband in the daily pursuit of his calling. The Ministry Wives Team is endeavoring to provide some of that support by connecting pastors' wives with each other and offering an avenue for them to give and receive encouragement.

DONNA:

How do you feel COVID-19 has affected pastors' wives?

ELISABETH:

The increase in cases of depression and the willingness of people to admit to a higher level of discouragement just reinforces the need for us to be intentional about connecting with each other.

DONNA:

What do you want the pastor's wife reading this article to know?

ELISABETH:

I want her to know that she is not alone. There are hundreds of pastors' wives in the SBC of Virginia just like her who are doing the best they can. I'd love for us to come together on a statewide level for occasional events but also on a regional, up-close level so that organic friendships can form and people can share burdens and blessings.

RESOURCE:

If you would like to know more about our new Ministry Wives Team, contact Elisabeth at:

 efiordelise@verizon.net

or Donna, SBCV's Women's Ministry Team Leader:

 dpaulk@sbcv.org

If you can dream it, we can finance it

Bring your ministry vision
to life with a loan from the
SBC of Virginia Foundation.

We provide church loans for new construction, refinancing, and renovation. Our rates are highly competitive, and the interest from your loan is given back to Southern Baptist ministries that change lives with the Gospel.

GET STARTED:
sbcv.org/foundation
804.270.1848



*You are
not alone.*

CALENDAR 2021

AUGUST

- 6 Church Planters Family Day
- 19-20 Emotional and Spiritual Care Training for Chaplaincy, SBCV Ministry Support Center, Glen Allen
- 20-21 ESL Training, Rocky Mount

SEPTEMBER

- 10-11 Disaster Relief Training Weekend
- 17-18 Hispanic Conference, Spotswood BC, Fredericksburg
- 17 Purpose; A Gathering for Girls, London Bridge BC, Virginia Beach
- 19-26 Vision Virginia Week of Prayer and Offering for Missions

OCTOBER

- 1-2 Pastors, Staff, and Wives Retreat, Kingsmill Resort, Williamsburg
- 8-10 Imitate Retreat, Scottsville
- 15-16 Disaster Relief Training Weekend

NOVEMBER

- 5-6 Women's Conference with Kristi McLelland
- 7-9 Annual Homecoming, LibertyLive.Church
- 25 Thanksgiving Day
- 28-12/4 Lottie Moon Week of Prayer for International Missions

DECEMBER

- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Day

To view all 2021 events and details, visit:



sbcv.org/calendar

EDITOR'S LETTER



BRANDON PICKETT

✉ bpickett@sbcv.org

📘 facebook.com/brandon.pickett

🐦 [@brandonpick](https://twitter.com/brandonpick)

Grace UPON Grace

There is a little plaque in a coworker's office that has caught my eye from time to time. It simply states, "Grace Upon Grace." There is no picture or cute graphic—just beautiful, flowing, hand-painted text that subtly but poignantly states this incredible biblical truth. It comes directly from John 1:16 (CSB), which reads, "Indeed,

we have all received grace upon grace from his fullness." The NLT reads, "From His abundance, we have all received one gracious blessing after another."

It's ironic to think that after a year like we've all had, we can say these words and truly mean them. And we need these words even now more than ever!

Some commentators write that when John mentions in verse 14 that "we have



seen His glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son," the very privilege of knowing Jesus and His glory is only because of grace.

And then we have another privilege of not just knowing His glory but reflecting this glory to a lost and dying world—that is more grace. He gives us the grace to know Him, the grace to make Him known, and then, if that's not enough, grace to praise Him through each and every day. Grace upon grace (upon grace)!

This issue is full of stories of how God has shown Himself more powerful than any pandemic. He has shown himself present despite the pain. And He is opening doors that no one thought could be opened.

Grace is shown as a congregation, Pillar Church of Woodlawn, releases upwards of 40% of its congregation in military turnover so they can be true missionaries and spread the Gospel. (*New Assignment=New Mission Field*, page 5)

Grace is shown as churches leave the comforts of home to go and minister to the hurting in Puerto Rico through Send Relief. (*On the Front Lines*, page 7)

Grace is shown as Northstar Church receives a new place to call home after renting for almost 20 years. (*There's No Place Like Home*, page 10)

Grace is shown so authentically when those who have grown up with grief come to Christ and are healed...and then turn around and, through foster care and adoption, show love and acceptance to others who are hurting. (*Fathers to the Fatherless*, page 12)

These are just a few examples from this issue of God's amazing grace on display. There are many more as you turn from page to page. It's wonderful to give thanks to God for His grace, which is so evident in other areas and ministries. But it is also so sweet to be able to thank Him for the grace He has given each one of us personally. That's my prayer right now. I hope it is yours as well. ■





*You are
not alone.*

PROCLAIMER

4956 Dominion Boulevard
Glen Allen, VA 23060

804-270-1848

www.sbcv.org

proclaimer@sbcv.org

INTRODUCING THE NEW SBCV.ORG

Redesigned with
you in mind



Find what you need with an
easy-to-use search engine



Watch messages from SBCV
events via the new video library



Scan this QR code with your
smartphone to check out **sbcv.org**!

