# PROCLAIMER

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#### **PROCLAIMER**

Winter 2021/22 — Issue 3

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The SBCVirginia 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.

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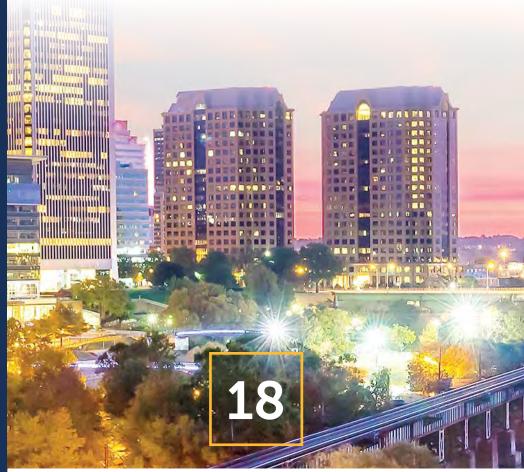
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## TOWN OF HUR

Executive Director's Letter

# **KEEP PRESSING** ON TOGETHER

#### Sharing Hope World of Hurt

I had the privilege recently of preaching at First Southern Baptist Church in Hurt, VA, as they celebrated more than 20 years of ministry. The church was started in the early years of the SBCV. It is always a blessing to worship with God's people and see how He is at work through His churches. That Sunday, as I pulled into the church parking lot, I was struck by the sight of the town's water tower. Obviously, I have seen a water tower before. What got my attention was the tower boldly proclaiming that I was in Hurt, Virginia.

Hurt is a town of approximately 1,300 people across the railroad tracks from Altavista, about 30 miles south of Lynchburg. The town bears the last name of early resident Colonel John R. Hurt. I looked it up because I was curious how the town was named. But that Sunday morning, it occurred to me once again that those folks are not the only ones who live in Hurt. As I got up to preach, I decided to point out to this dear congregation that I was glad there is a church right in the middle of Hurt. The fact is, we all live in a world of hurt. Praise the Lord there are churches in this world of hurt! Praise our Lord Jesus Christ for coming into a world of hurt, for living a perfect life, dying a sacrificial death, being resurrected, and empowering his missionary Church to proclaim His Gospel of hope in this world of hurt!

The mission of our SBCV Great Commission coalition of churches is to come alongside local churches, advancing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to reach our neighbors and the nations. We must keep pressing on together, sharing hope in a world of hurt. The Apostle Paul prayed, "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13, CSB).

Keep pressing on together with an enduring hope. God is the one true source of our hope. As the Apostle Paul prayed, he was reminding the Christians in Rome that God is the source of our joy and peace. As Tom Schreiner puts it, "Hope ultimately cannot be produced by human beings."1 We must keep pressing on TOGETHER, encouraging one another with the enduring hope that is from God.

Keep pressing on together with an overflowing hope. As we overflow (or "abound," NKJV/ESV) in hope by the power of the Holy Spirt, we then have the privilege to serve those in need, send out laborers, and share the Good News of Jesus with a hurting world. You do this as you send relief where disasters strike, as your churches plant churches, as you help revitalize churches, and as you equip the next generation.

Keep pressing on together with an empowered hope. Robert Mounce reminds us, "Clearly, the Christian life is God's empowering presence in the midst of life's uncertainties. It is not up to us to conjure up hope or any other spiritual quality. Our only access to empowerment is to believe. Then God steps in and does the rest. The Christian life is a supernatural life in the fullest sense of that term: 'Christ in you, the hope of glory'" (Colossians 1:27; cf. Philippians 1:21).2

Keep pressing on together, sharing hope in a world of hurt!

Your brother in Christ, **Brian Autry** 

<sup>1</sup>Thomas R. Schreiner, Romans (Baker), 759. <sup>2</sup>Robert H. Mounce, Romans (NAC), 262.



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# A Place to Refresh

thank God for pastors who serve and protect the flock. They diligently prepare sermons to feed the sheep, pray for struggling saints, offer a comforting presence with hospital visits, and who will one day give an account (Hebrews 13:17). SBCVirginia churches are served by pastors in their first few years of ministry and pastors who have been pastoring for decades. There are pastors in urban centers, suburbs, and rural areas. Some pastor large churches, some medium, and some small. Some are full-time, and some are bi-vocational.

And all of these pastors need to know that they are not alone in ministry. That's one of the reasons SBCV hosted the Pastors, Staff, and Wives Retreat the first weekend of October at Kingsmill Resort in Williamsburg, VA, and why every spot was full.

First-time attendees Jim and Jennifer Limbach from DC Church in Chesapeake said that the retreat provided an opportunity "first, to be together, and also to be with other pastors."

After a busy summer and looking toward a busy fall, the Limbachs found encouragement by sitting with longer-tenured pastors and their wives. Reflecting on the partnership of the SBCV, the Limbachs shared, "We have a great resource with the SBCV, who wants us to be at our best so that we can do the work God has called us to do." Jennifer Limbach explained, "This conference proves that the SBCV cares about us and our marriage."

Guest speaker Dr. Charles Lowery helped attendees relax as he encouraged them with humor and powerful messages. Solomon wrote in Proverbs, "a joyful heart is good medicine" (17:22). For many, this weekend was just what the doctor ordered.

As pastors and their wives returned to ministry settings, many said they would go with full hearts and strong SBCV support serving them as they minister to others.



# Reaching Lids THROUGH OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

by Rick Magee

Jimmy arrived early that Saturday morning at Fincastle Baptist Church in Fincastle, VA. He was filled with excitement and wonder about the Kids Outdoor Zone (KOZ) ministry the men of his church were starting. His mom told him he was going to learn hunting, fishing, survival skills, and how to build a campfire—an amazing offer of adventure and fun for a nine-year-old boy! And his heart needed some adventure, as his home life was a struggle. Not only did the men offer outdoor skills that morning; they also gave each of the boys his own Bible. Sitting down beside Jimmy, one of the KOZ leaders began a conversation with him about the Bible, life, and faith.

Another boy (Carson) also found his way to the KOZ group. His heart needed that Saturday morning each month as well. Carson's dad decided to join his son one Saturday. He wanted to see what the ministry was all about. He found a community of men who were loving and intentionally training and discipling his son. He also found a community of men who cared about him too. Carson's dad soon became connected to the men of KOZ and Fincastle. Just days prior to the writing of this article, he accepted Christ during a phone conversation with one of the Fincastle KOZ men.

What would the world be like if every boy had a godly man mentoring and discipling him? What would happen if every man had a community of godly men around him-men focused on the rescue of this generation as well as the next. Could this be the issue of our time?

Many of society's ills, in fact, are magnified by wounded, hurting, or angry boys and men. There is no demographic that is not positively transformed by godly and courageous men living on mission. In these past few months, the fatherless and fathers and sons from the community and church of Fincastle Baptist KOZ have experienced that very transformation!

#### RESOURCE:

For more information on the life-changing ministry of Kids Outdoor Zone, visit:



kidsoutdoorzone.com

### START AN OUTDOOR MINISTRY FOR BOYS IN YOUR CHURCH











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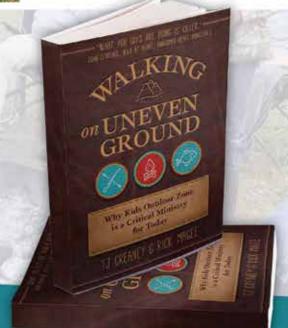
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There are people who need help, and that is what we are here to do."

"That they may come to know the love of Jesus Christ." That is the goal at First Baptist Church of Damascus (FBCD), VA, and members there are fulfilling that goal one meal at a time. More than a year ago, the church saw the reality of COVID-19 not as a burden but as an opportunity. Recognizing the need in their community for meals to be delivered to shut-ins, the elderly, and folks who just needed some food, the concept of "Soup and Something" was born.

With a team of 35-40 volunteers, around 200 meals are cooked, boxed, and delivered to neighbors each week. Since COVID began, they have prepared about 14,000 meals. Yes, you read that right: 14,000!

An endeavor like this takes planning and organization, and the team that heads this ministry does both. Meals are planned out on a monthly basis, rotating through each week. Nine teams of two transport the meals to homes, no matter the weather.

Weather isn't a deterrent because members know a thing or two about tough terrain after years of hosting visitors from both the Virginia Creeper Trail and the Appalachian Trail; so, "no matter the weather, folks are going to get fed!" said one volunteer.

Figuring out where all that food would come from could have been a challenge, but "It just happens," said Tammie Bebout. Bebout is a volunteer who is also the women's ministry director and serves as the regional representative in the southwest for the SBCVirginia Women's Ministry Team. "We have people donate food to us and then others who prepare foods as well." Simply stated, the Lord provides.

Preparing and delivering meals is just one aspect of this vital ministry. The relationships that are being built are allowing the church to see lives being changed. These growing connections resulted in a recent baptism, and Bebout has seen the lives of church members changed as well. Through prayer and their need for God to lead them, significant spiritual growth has occurred among the volunteers.

"There are people who need help, and that is what we are here to do," said David Matlock. "He has planted this church in this small town for such a time as this."

#### **RESOURCES:**

To help this ministry continue to touch lives in southwest Virginia, visit:



damascusfbc.com



Equip your church to demonstrate the love of Christ, meet a need, and ultimately share the Gospel with internationals by helping them learn or improve their English language skills.

Find out more

**ESL** 

sbcv.org/esl



## Mission **Projects**

2022

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.

sbcv.org/missionprojects



for Life . Jan. - March **Pregnancy Resource Centers** 



For Neighbors • April - May Hunger Ministries



For Schools • June - Aug. Back to School Drive



For Children • Sept. - Oct. Christmas Backpacks



For Missionaries • Nov. - Dec. Missionary Care

# urting

August 31, 2021, Hurricane Ida hit Hurley, VA. Judith Meadows, a resident impacted by the storm, shared, "My husband heard a loud roar...He looked out, saw it, and knew it was gonna be bad."

Her husband, Braxton, added, "I said, 'Get up, get up! We gotta get out of here!"

In one day, nearly 10 inches of rain fell, causing flash floods, water damage, and mudslides. Dozens of homes were destroyed, leaving many families in desperate need of help. In the homes that weren't completely destroyed, most belongings within four feet from the ground weren't salvageable. Mud levels even reached the windowsills of some homes!

Amidst the devastation and grief, SBCVirginia Disaster Relief teams showed up to bring hope, healing, and help. Brandon Trail from Swift Creek Baptist Church (Midlothian) explained, "I don't think any of us were prepared for the extent of the damage that happened to this home. The mud actually came through the windows."

The teams began removing mud, damaged sheetrock, insulation, and flooring, getting rid of the waste and making room for restoration. Investing over 1,000 hours, the Disaster Relief teams provided flood relief and heavy machinery operation to help the community. Harman Memorial Baptist Church (Grundy) housed the DR volunteers, providing a place for sleeping, eating, and showering.





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### 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)



#### **JW Harrington Family Church Planter CROSSROADS CHURCH**

Meeting at:

489 Rappahannock Dr., White Stone, VA 22578 Birthdays:

JW (December 2), Callie (December 1)

- Pray for partnership with other local churches.
- · Pray that our community, the Northern Neck, can truly see the supreme value God has for His Church.
- Pray for facilities. We are currently renting a small space. We are only six months in our official plant, and we are already experiencing capacity issues!

#### HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Consistent prayer—God has provided in every way thus far! We believe praying is a supernatural component to Christ building
- · Partnerships—Two churches have already centered their VBS around being mission-minded and will raise funds for Crossroads Church. Finding a way to involve your church in what God is doing in the Northern Neck will not only bless us but your church as well!

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

jwharringtontx@gmail.com crossroadsnnk.com

#### **Pablo Hernandez Family Church Planter** IGLESIA CRISTIANA SÍGUEME

Meeting at:

The Dance Company Harrisonburg, VA Birthdays:

Pablo (May 27), Grazia (January 22)

#### PRAY:

- Pray for our family as we plant a new Hispanic church in Harrisonburg.
- Pray for wisdom and courage to preach the Gospel and make disciples of Christ in Harrisonburg.

#### HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

• Please pray for God's favor upon us as we seek partner churches and financial provisions.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

hpablol@yahoo.com

#### OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

# From Crisis to Vivacuous Ministry



In ministry, as in life, the question is not if a crisis will hit but when. And it is usually at the most inconvenient and unexpected time.

For a local church in crisis, the question becomes whether the people will stay focused on the mission or will focus on the crisis and lose sight of the mission.

Oak Grove Baptist Church has a reputation for ministering to the needs of its community in Big Stone Gap, VA as well as through contributions to the shoebox ministry of Samaritan's Purse.

When Oak Grove least expected it, their pastor resigned. During this critical time, the church connected with their SBCV regional catalyst, Travis Ingle, who walked with them on the path forward. The plan was simple:

prayer, communication, pulpit supply, and pastor search.

It was amazing how the Lord worked in and through that crisis. God not only kept this church on mission but also increased its ministry.

Through the process, the Lord led Oak Grove to a pastor with the same ministry philosophy and vision as the church. Under the leadership of its new pastor, Mike Sampson, the church began to grow in both number and ministry. Within just a year of leading the church, everything shut down due to another crisis—the global pandemic, COVID-19.

The church, however, was able to make some adjustments to its food pantry and feeding ministries. They met everyone outside rather than inside, where cars would line up as far as the eye could see to receive food, personal care items, and cleaning supplies.

#### Meals With a Mission

Oak Grove's ministry volunteers gather to pray before they start each day. Although physical needs are important, the church knows everyone's greatest need is Jesus, so they make sure everyone hears the Gospel and can share their prayer needs.

Pastor Sampson takes the time to stop by each car because he knows the ministry is about more than just serving meals—it is a "Meals with a Mission" food pantry.

Valerie Lee, who serves as the ministry coordinator, shared, "It is so good to have a pastor and his wife on mission and serving with us." Over the two years that Sampson has been with the church, they have built a second ministry building to accommodate the shoebox ministry, they are finishing up renovations to the worship center, and they have increased their capacity to store dry and refrigerated foods.

This past year, the 10th anniversary of Meals with a Mission, Oak Grove Baptist Church has distributed 51 tons of food!

Remember, when a crisis comes, stay focused on the mission and move forward. You are not alone, so keep pressing on!





# Celebrating 25 YEARS OF MINISTRY

1985 | 1990 | 1995 |

1985

#### 3 Fellowship Groups

conservative pastors met in 3 fellowship groups with no statewide conservative organization or networking 1990

#### Second Annual Virginia Bible Conference

the second conference was held at Grove Avenue Baptist Church in Richmond, VA with Dr. Adrian Rogers as the keynote speaker

1989

#### First Annual Virginia Bible Conference

approximately 410 were present at the first Bible conference held in Salem, VA 1993

#### Vote Approved to Form Fellowship

on January 28, 1993, over 1,000 people from 217 churches met at Old Forest Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg and voted to form a fellowship (not a convention) to be called the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia (SBCV)

#### Official Launch

In September of 1993, almost 400 gathered at Grove Avenue Baptist Church to officially launch the fellowship of Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia 1996

#### First Executive Director

in March 1996, Dr. Doyle Chauncey was confirmed unanimously as the first full-time executive director

#### Fellowship to State Convention

in September 1996, the group met at Grove Avenue BC and voted for the fellowship to become a state convention, comprised of 469 registered messengers from 91 churches

#### Acknowledged by the SBC Executive Committee

in October 1996, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee acknowledged the SBC of Virginia as a new state convention

#### Church Planting begins

the SBC of Virginia begins its efforts for planting churches 2002

#### Decentralization Adopted

2000

5 ministry areas, each with a church enrichment missionary and a church planting strategist

#### Disaster Relief

in November 2002, SBCV Disaster Relief Volunteers start serving in the field

1995

#### Study Group Formed

the Executive Board of the SBCV formed a special study group to research the options and possibilities of forming a new state convention





2005 2005 Eagle Awards 79 Eagle Awards were given to churches sponsoring church plants 2006 500 Churches SBCV reaches a milestone in 2006 with 500 churches having affiliated with the convention 100 Church Plants by the year 2006, 100 church plants had been started 2007

CP Goal Surpassed

in 2007, Cooperative Program gifts surpassed \$9,000,000

2008

Leadership Change

the Executive Board unanimously and enthusiastically approved the search committee's recommendation for Dr. Jeff Ginn to serve as the new executive director (succeeding the retiring Doyle Chauncey)

2010

2012

Leadership

the Executive Board

unanimously and

voted for Dr. Brian

Autry to be the next

enthusiastically

Change

2011 Media Entity Launched

the SBCV created Innovative Faith Resources as a ministry resource service

First Hispanic Conference 2014

2013

Urban Feeding Unit

unit purchased that served over first 60 days

> 701 Salvation Decisions

as a result of the collection of backpacks for Appalachia

> Vision Virginia Giving

2015

Vision Virginia missions offering 2016

**New Core** Objective

2015

Revitalization is launched as one of the four core

2020

2019 160,000 Homes Adopted

and prayed for through the evangelism tool, **Bless Every Home** 

2020

**Fully Online** Conferences

conterences; resources go fully online due to COVID-19

2017 2018

15 Years of Help, Healing, and Hope

Disaster Relief celebrates 15

> Vision Virginia Giving

More than \$400,000 given through the Vision Virginia Missions Offering **Bless Every** Home

A new evangelism tool is launched for SBCV churches

Kids Ministry Conference

people attended the Kids Ministry Conference

Women's **Events** 

More than 2,000 people attended the SBCV Women's Ministry 2021

Send Network Virginia

SBCV begins a church planting partnership with the North American Mission Board

> More than 800 Churches

SBCV surpasses 800 affiliated churches

Hispanic Conference

More than 400 people attended the Hispanic Conference





# SEND Network VIRGINIA



### Send Network Virginia will leverage the best of our resources and relationships...

SBCVirginia (SBCV) has always been about making disciples and planting new churches. A recent development demonstrates a doubling down on this effort as the SBCV and North American Mission Board (NAMB) announce a new partnership called Send Network Virginia.

#### A GOSPEL PRESENCE

For years, NAMB has been directing increased resources and church planters to places identified as high-need cities. These are cities with large and growing populations of people who do not have enough of a Gospel presence. But there are also many communities that lie between these cities that need to hear the good news of the Gospel. And that's where a targeted church planting focus through Send Network Virginia comes in.

George Ross of NAMB's Send Network explains, "It is the vision of NAMB that every community in America have a vibrant Gospel presence through church planting." The SBCV and NAMB have recently committed to a new agreement, making Virginia a "Send" state in a partnership called Send Network Virginia. SBCV's executive director, Dr. Brian Autry, puts it this way, "The Send Network Virginia church planting partnership between the SBCVirginia and NAMB will leverage the best of our resources and relationships as we strive to see even more churches planting churches."

#### STRATEGIC PLANTING EFFORTS

There are currently over 4,400 Send Network churches in the US, which amazingly account for 18% of all SBC baptisms. Virginia is a strategic location for Send Network church planting efforts as the state grows and we see more and more ethnic groups from around the world call Virginia and Metro Washington, DC home. Autry shares, "We want churches to know they are not alone as they seek to make disciples and plant churches in a state with over 100 different people groups, a growing population, and opportunities to make disciples in rural, suburban, and urban communities. For example, more Ethiopians live in Virginia than anywhere else in the world other than Ethiopia. We are seeing a great movement among Hispanic churches. We have growing college campuses, military communities, beautiful countryside communities, expanding towns, and cities."

People in the United States without a relationship with Jesus number 246,000,000. Many of them have families living in other countries and could be missionaries to the world one day. As a family of churches committed to the Great Commission, let's commit to pray, give, and go as we make disciples until Christ returns! Praise God for churches continuing to plant churches!





# summer time

for these 2021 NextGen events!



Student Fusion

June 13-17
Bristol

Family Fusion

July 21-24

Chincoteague



Stay tuned for more details: sbcv.org/nextgen





FEBRUARY 11-12 2022 GREAT WOLFE
LODGE
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A time for student pastors to get away for fun and spiritual renewal with their families.

SBCV.ORG/SPFR

nextgen>

# Inspire A word of hope, support, and encouragement

When He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him. And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was asleep. And they came to Him and woke Him, saying, 'Save us, Lord; we are perishing!' He said to them, 'Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?' Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm. The men were amazed, and said, 'What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?" ~ Matthew 8:23-27

# A PERFECT AM IN A PERFECT STORM

"Intellectually" knowing God can do something is different from "experientially" knowing that He did! Have you ever been there? Things will be going along seemingly just fine, and you're in the will of God, and then something happens that shakes your world. Though we don't know it at the time, refinement is coming to our faith.

Such as it was when the disciples followed Jesus onto a boat (v23) and He was the only one who knew what was to come. This is normal when we follow Christ as a true disciple. He knows the righteous path that He has set for us, and we must trust that whatever He leads us to, He will lead us through!

A vehement storm arose and disturbed the calm of the moment and the calm of the disciples' faith. Embracing unbelief, they had faith for the worst to happen (v25). Sound familiar? Jesus awakened and immediately addressed the level of their faith, "... you men of little faith." Then Jesus provided His power and calmed the storm in their faith as they

saw Him take authority over the things that caused them fear. He rebuked the winds and the sea, "... and it became perfectly calm..." (v26).

Are you in a storm? Remember that there is no storm of life that Jesus won't calm!

**PRAYER**: Dear Lord, Whom the wind and the waves must obey—I thank You that You know my every fear and how to calm every storm You allow in my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Love you all!



**Milton Harding** Pastoral Relations Associate mharding@sbcv.org

### El Discipulado Da Como Resultado El Nacimiento De Iglesias Multiplicadoras

momento que una iglesia se prepara para recomendación de un equipo a plantar puede ser uno de los momentos más emocionantes para la congregación. Toda plantación empieza con la obediencia al mandato de hacer discípulos. Nuestro mundo solamente puede ser transformado por vidas transformadas por el evangelio. Queremos hacer discípulos que hacen discípulos, y nuestra visión es ver iglesias saludables que se multiplican en nuevas iglesias.

Esta es la historia de tres generaciones de discípulos y como esto resultó en la formación de una nueva iglesia.

Hace algunos meses pudimos ser testigos de un momento histórico para dos de nuestras iglesias en el área de Richmond. Era el día de evaluación y capacitación de plantación de iglesias. El hermano Celso Henriquez y su esposa, Lourdes, se estaban preparando para su futura plantación de iglesias. Ese día también los acompañaba el pastor Diego Fernández representando a su iglesia enviadora, Iglesia Bautista Vida Nueva de Richmond. El pastor Diego no es solamente pastor de Celso y Lourdes, el ha discipulado a Celso, acompañándolo en su crecimiento espiritual y ministerial. Celso nos compartió muchos de los métodos que Diego usó para discipularlo de manera personal. Celso recordaba que su mentor lo desafió muchas veces a salir de su zona de comodidad y hacer lo necesario para ministrar a otros. Algunas veces se trató de orar en público, otras veces de dar la bienvenida, luego como compartir su fe con inconversos, a dirigir un grupo, y por último a liderar a otros. Todos estos desafíos ayudaron a que Celso y su esposa Lourdes den el paso de fe de salir de su iglesia para plantar otra iglesia. Diego describe a Celso como uno de sus líderes de mayor confianza. Esto me hizo recordar a la iglesia de Antioquía que, siguiendo la guía del Espíritu Santo, estuvo dispuesta a dejar ir dos de sus mejores elementos, Pablo y Bernabé (Hechos 13:1-3).

Pero la historia no termina, ni tampoco empieza allí, después de unas horas llegó el hermano Jasón Carlisle. Jasón ha sido usado por

Dios para discipular a varios hombres, varios de ellos ahora están sirviendo en distintas partes del ministerio. Uno de esos hombres que Jasón discipuló es el pastor Diego Fernández. Interesantemente, cuando Jasón contaba la historia de cuando discipuló a Diego en sus primeros años de vida cristiana y ministerial, había muchos elementos parecidos que se repetían: Jasón también había desafiado a Diego a salir de su zona de comodidad, a dar pasos de fe, a ministrar a otros, aún no se sentía listo, a predicar, aunque estuviera nervioso. También acompaño a Diego cuando Dios lo llamó a plantar la iglesia Bautista Vida Nueva para las naciones. Al igual que Jasón, Diego tiene impreso una fuerte pasión por la obra misionera en nuestro estado, y hasta lo último de la tierra. Al final de cuentas, el discipulado es simplemente transmisión de vida.

Fue un buen momento poder ser testigo del poder del discipulado. Jasón discipuló a Diego, Diego discipuló a Celso, y ahora están enviando a Celso para que comience una iglesia que alcance con el evangelio una zona de Richmond, haciendo discípulos que hagan discípulos.

Clint Clifton, autor del libro, *Umbrales para la plantación de iglesias*, enseña algunos principios que podemos recordar al momento de enviar discípulos para plantar una iglesia:

**PREPÁRELOS**, no espere que se preparen ellos mismos (2 Timoteo 2:2).

**ORE POR ELLOS**, no se olvide de suplicar a Dios en nombre de los que envía.

APÓYELOS, no espere que aprendan todo por sí mismos. Hay una diferencia entre comenzar una iglesia en una escuela y tener su propio edificio. ¡Vaya, aprendimos esto en la pandemia pasada! Hay circunstancias en las que alguien con experiencia puede ayudarlos a navegar más fácilmente.

**SOSTÉNGALOS**, no descuide la carga constante después luego que se vayan. Cada equipo, cada plantador de iglesias pasará por pruebas, asegurémonos de que tengan una iglesia que los envíe que esté orando por ellos y con ellos, y que mantengan contacto periódico para ver cómo les está yendo a través de la tormenta.

**CELEBRE CON ELLOS,** mantenga a su gente informada sobre los problemas y el progreso del ministerio.

Enviar a los misioneros a la nueva plantación de iglesias es un hito importante para la congregación, y todo comienza con la transmisión de vida y pasión que da el discipulado. Pablo envió a su hijo espiritual Timoteo a pastorear una iglesia, y este fue su consejo:

2 Timoteo 3:10-11, Pero tú has seguido mi doctrina, conducta, propósito, fe, entereza, amor, paciencia, persecuciones, padecimientos, como los que me sobrevinieron en Antioquía, en Iconio, en Listra; persecuciones que he sufrido, pero de todas me ha librado el Señor.



# Discipleship Births Multiplying Churches

is always exciting when a church is getting ready to send a planting team. Every plant begins when someone obeys the command to make disciples. Our world can only be transformed by transforming lives with the Gospel. We want to make disciples who make disciples, and our vision is to see healthy churches multiplying into new churches.

This is the story of three generations of disciples and how a new church was formed.

A few months ago, the SBCVirginia experienced a historic moment for two SBCV churches in the Richmond area. It was Church Planter Assessment and Training Day. Brother Celso Henriquez and his wife, Lourdes, were training for their future church plant. Their pastor, Diego Fernández, was with them that day to represent the sending church, Iglesia Bautista Vida Nueva in Richmond. Pastor Fernández is not only Celso and Lourdes' pastor; he has personally discipled Celso, walking with him in his spiritual and ministerial growth. Celso recalls that his mentor has challenged him many times to step out of his comfort zone to do whatever it took to minister to others. Sometimes it was about praying in public or welcoming others, sharing his faith with unbelievers, leading a group, or leading other leaders. All of these challenges helped Celso and Lourdes take the step of faith to leave their church to plant another church. Pastor Fernández describes Celso as one of his most trusted leaders. Although it is hard to send out trusted leaders, the church at Antioch did a similar thing through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They were willing to let go of two of their best, Paul and Barnabas, for the work of the Gospel (Acts 13: 1-3).

Jason Carlisle came to help with assessment/training day. Carlisle has been used by God to disciple several men, many of whom are now serving in ministry. One of those men is Pastor Diego Fernández, Celso's mentor! When Carlisle told the story of how he

discipled Fernández, there were many similar elements: Carlisle also challenged Fernández to get out of his comfort zone, to take steps of faith, to minister others, and to preach even when he was nervous and did not feel ready. Carlisle also accompanied Fernández when God called him to plant Iglesia Bautista Vida Nueva. Like Carlisle, Fernández has a strong passion for missionary work in Virginia and to the ends of the earth. Ultimately, discipleship is simply the transmission of life.

This assessment/training day was a picture of the power of discipleship. Carlisle discipled Fernández, Fernández discipled Celso Henriquez, and now they are sending Henriquez to start a church that will reach an area of Richmond with the Gospel, making disciples who will make disciples.

Clint Clifton, author of the book, Thresholds for Church Planting, lists some principles to remember when sending disciples to plant a church:

PREPARE them; don't expect them to prepare themselves (2) Timothy 2:2).

PRAY for them; don't neglect to plead with God on behalf of those you send (Colossians 1:9; Ephesians 1:16).

**SUPPORT** them; don't expect them to figure everything out on their own. There is a difference between starting a church in a school and having your own building. We certainly learned this during the pandemic! There are circumstances that someone with experience can help them navigate.

ENDURE with them; don't neglect ongoing burden-bearing after they leave. Every team, every church planter will go through trials; let's make sure they have a sending church that is praying for them and with them and also gets in touch with them to see how they are doing through the storm.

**CELEBRATE** with them; keep your people informed about the problems and progress of the ministry.

Sending out missionaries to plant a new church plant is an important milestone for a congregation, and it all begins with the transmission of life and passion that discipleship brings. Paul sent his spiritual son, Timothy, to pastor a church, and this was his advice:

2 Timothy 3:10-11, "You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me."

Roundtable discussion with Sergio Guardia (standing)









sbcv.org/lottiemoon

# Renovados 2021 HISPANIC CONFERENCE: A FAMILY EVENT

can accomplish so much more together!
SBCVirginia Hispanic congregations experienced this in real time when nearly 400 came together at **Spotswood Baptist Church** in Fredericksburg, September 17–18, to worship and be encouraged at the SBCV Hispanic Conference, Renovados (Renewed) 2021.

The main speaker was Ramón Medina, pastor of Champion Forest in Español in Texas. He encouraged everyone to press on united to advance the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus.

#### **Sharing the Gospel**

Renovados was a special time to worship, be fed spiritually, encourage one another, dream, and even share the Gospel.

"Gregory," an Uber driver, was going to take one of the conference speakers to the airport. When he found out what the event was, he decided to come early in hopes of talking to a pastor about his life. As soon as Gregory arrived and told someone he needed help, he was connected to a pastor who lives in Leesburg. The pastor shared the hope that we have in Jesus Christ, and Gregory gave his life to Christ! He was then connected to another pastor whose church is closer to where Gregory lives.

#### **Special Sessions for Women**

SBCV's Hispanic women's ministry invited Wendy Bello, a Lifeway author and speaker, to hold three special sessions

for them. It was a great time to connect and share what God is doing through the women's ministry and how others can be part of it. The SBCV's Hispanic women's ministry has focused on connecting churches to work together in equipping women to disciple other women.

#### A Day for Children

One of the goals of the Hispanic conference is to influence the whole family, not just the adults. This year, a team from Sterling, VA held a one-day VBS for the children. Providing sessions for the children enabled parents to attend the conference and provided the children a means to see their friends from other congregations. Families who attended said they were thankful for the memories they're building and for what this means for the future of our convention.

The youth had a special time with Miguel Arcila, Hispanic coordinator for Word of Life Ministries. He taught the students the importance of deepening their faith so they can be a generation that has a Kingdom impact in their community. Arcila also spent time with leaders who wanted to learn how to have the same kind of impact in their churches.

As noted by attendees, Renovados 2021 is proof that we can do so much more when we work together and that we are definitely not alone!



# Doxology

hose who know Pastor Keith McMinn have seen his desire to use the gifts given him for the glory of God.

> McMinn is the pastor of worship at Bethel Baptist Church in Yorktown, VA, where he has served for 10 of his nearly 18 years in ministry.

#### **Investing in Believers**

In his time at Bethel, McMinn has created a multi-faceted worship ministry pipeline. He says his goal is to help believers develop their Godgiven artistic gifts as authentic worshipers and skilled worship leaders.

The foundation of Pastor McMinn's worship ministry model is doxology. He writes, "The ministry of doxology flows from Colossians 3:16: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, encouraging one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs."

After arriving at Bethel Baptist Church, one of the first things he did was establish a worship internship. The internship was shaped by his personal experience at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. At the time of this writing, there were currently 7 worship ministry interns serving at Bethel, the latest of 19 total that have served since the internship's inception.

Each applicant has to go through assessment and approval before a personal development plan is created. The plan includes components of assigned reading, prayer, accountability, worshipMost doxology interns come from within the church, but some interns have come from other churches. Interns range in age from teens to senior adults, and the internship lasts a minimum of one semester.

#### **Worship Camp**

While the internships are geared toward more advanced worship participation and leadership, Pastor McMinn created and developed two additional ministries in 2013. The first was a Worship Camp, focusing on "who the God of the Bible is and how He wants to be worshiped." The annual Worship Camp is open for pre-kindergarteners



through high school students, with a 2021 attendance of 176, led by 70 volunteer leaders.

#### **Worship Arts Academy**

The second worship-related ministry added in 2013 was the Worship Arts Academy with the purpose of training artist theologians for the glory of God. Students enrolled in the Worship Arts Academy hone their musical gifting, gain knowledge of God and theology, survey the Old and New Testaments, acquire and develop spiritual disciplines, and gain a biblical understanding of worship. The academy has had a total of 78 students so far and is presently led by 14 faculty members.

Hannah Miles is a stellar example of the Worship Arts Academy's fruit. One of the first academy students, Hannah studied piano. After her senior recital, she enrolled at Christopher Newport University and has since graduated with a master's in piano pedagogy. Miles later returned to teach at the Worship Arts Academy and now plays keys in the worship band at Catalyst Church in Newport News.

#### **Reaching Followers of Jesus**

As time passed, McMinn added still more components geared towards everyday followers of Jesus. Those components include:

The Doxology Collective. This collective is a team of creative artists seeking to carry out the Doxology Ministry through writing,

praying, planning, and engagement in worship ministry.

Doxology Records. These records are projects that contain original songs written and published by the Doxology Collective. They provide charts in multiple keys for each song, along with orchestration (if available) to promote worship in the body of Christ and to invest in the development of worship leaders.

Their most recent project, "You're My God," was recorded in Nashville and released in October 2021. The 16 members of the Collective went on a songwriting retreat at which they divided into pods to reflect on and write songs from specific passages in Ephesians. They ended up with 12 songs that were recorded and included in the project.

The Doxology Sessions. These sessions premiered in 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic to help followers of Jesus continue to worship in their homes. McMinn explained, "We produce videos of Christ-centered songs filled with God's Word so that you may be encouraged in Jesus." The first episode, featuring the song, "He Will Hold Me Fast," garnered 2,000 views in the first two days. They have published 62 sessions thus far.

Doxology Matters. This podcast was begun in 2019 and is currently in the top 25% of podcasts worldwide. The podcast operates with the purpose of helping followers of Jesus think deeply about God's Word as they praise Him.

**Doxology Devotions.** These devotions are designed to enhance a disciple's study of God, prayerfully leading to authentic worship.

**Doxology Songs.** This component is made up of collections of worship songs sung for services and events and Bethel.

The story of the Doxology Ministry at Bethel Baptist Church is truly inspiring. It serves as a compelling example of how to build a legacy of equipped believers who model authentic worship and lead others to do the same.

#### RESOURCE:

For more information about the worship ministry at Bethel Baptist Church, visit:

(Q)

bbcyorktown.org/worshiparts





A free event featuring guest speakers from Lifeway and around Virginia. Includes breakouts in subjects such as:

- VBS training
- · Child safety and security
- Discipleship in small churches
- Age-level learning abilities and styles
- Teaching techniques
- Equipping volunteers
- ...and so much more!
   Including a full Spanish track
- March 5, 2022
  8:45AM 3:30PM
  Swift Creek Baptist Church
  Midlothian
  with Lifeway's Kayla Stevens
  and Bekah Stoneking
- March 12, 2022

North Roanoke Baptist Church

Roanoke
with Lifeway's Jeremy Carroll
and Landry Holmes

Watch for more
information to come at
sbcv.org/kmc



# East Coast Men's Bible Conference

Sponsored by: Englewood Baptist Church

March 11-12, 2022



Englewood Baptist Church 1350 S. Winstead Avenue Rocky Mount. NC 27803 252-937-8254

Registration \$35 if received by 2/24/2022 Register at ecmbc.org





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## CALENDAR 2021

#### **NOVEMBER**

- 5-6 Women's Conference with Kristi McLelland
- Annual Homecoming, Libertylive. Church, Hampton
- Thanksqiving Day
- 28-12/4 Lottie Moon Week of Prayer for International Missions

#### **DECEMBER**

- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Day

## CALENDAR 2022

#### **JANUARY**

- 14-15 Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC), London Bridge BC, Virginia Beach
- 21-22 Winter Bible Conference, Hyland Heights BC, Rustburg
  - Evangelism in Metro Areas with Jeff lorg, Falls Church
- Revitalization Cohort & Alumni Retreat with Jeff lorg, 25-26
  - Equip Women's Conference, River Oak Church, Chesapeake
- 31-2/15 Experience Israel

#### **FEBRUARY**

- 1/31-2/15 Experience Israel
  - Practical Shepherding Pastors' Workshop, Poquoson BC, Poquoson
  - Student Pastor & Family Retreat, Great Wolf Lodge, 11-12 Williamsburg
  - Hispanic Women's Ministry Conference, Staples Mill Road 11-12 BC, Glen Allen
  - Small Group Tour with Ken Braddy, (15) Salem Baptist 15-17 Church, Manakin-Sabot; (17) Fellowship Community Church, Roanoke
    - Equip Women's Conference, Swift Creek BC, Midlothian

#### **MARCH**

- Kids Ministry Conference, Swift Creek BC, Midlothian
- Annie Armstrong Easter Offering & Week of Prayer 6-13
  - Lifeway Student Ministry Essentials, (7) Libertylive. Church, Hampton; (8) Parkway BC, Moseley
  - Kids Ministry Conference, North Roanoke BC, Roanoke
- Disaster Relief IMT Training 18-19
- 25-26 **Church Planter Retreat**
- 29-30 Evangelism Tour with Jimmy Scroggins, (29) The Heights BC, Colonial Heights; (30) Fincastle BC, Fincastle



#### **BRANDON PICKETT**

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And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

I write this, there are close to 150 ships (or more) off the US coast, filled with all kinds of supplies, waiting to unload cargo. Some of these ships have been waiting multiple weeks to drop off their containers. As far as most of us can remember, this has never happened like this before. In fact, according to the Marine Exchange, the previous high number of ships waiting off the coast of California was 17! The causes have been a kind of perfect storm: Americans shopping and ordering more; a COVID-related shortage of dock workers to unload ships/containers; and an insufficient number of trucks and truckers ready to accept the containers even if they were to be unloaded. Isn't this mind-boggling? We will likely see shortages and delays of goods in the coming



weeks and months, not because of a lack of supply but because we can't unload the surplus of supplies!

Aren't you glad this isn't the case with our Lord? With Him, we have both an endless supply of what He knows we need. And there is never a delay in the supply chain! We don't have to wait for His shipment to be unloaded from offshore. Not only does He have everything we need, but He always gets it to us right on time, every time.

Philippians 4:19 says, "And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (ESV). I love that He WILL supply (plērōsei—fill to the maximum) EVERY need according to His riches, which are unfathomable...endless. Ephesians 3:8 mentions the "...unsearchable riches of God...."

One of the things I find amazing is when we look back at the faithfulness of God. I'm sure you can do that in your own life—I know I can in mine. Time and time again, even though I was unfaithful to Him and others, He has never been unfaithful to me. When I start to get discouraged looking ahead, I only have to glance back and see how He has supplied the right thing at the right time.

We can also see His hand through the 25 years of the SBCVirginia. His faithfulness through local churches, pastors, and church members has been incredible. His supply through so many churches giving through the Cooperative Program is unbelievable (more than \$181 million!). The number of mission trips and projects, compassion ministries, Disaster Relief endeavors, and volunteers is astounding. And the best part of it all? The thousands upon thousands who have given their lives to Christ, been baptized and discipled, and are now spreading the Gospel to others. What started with just a handful of churches in 1996 is now more than 800 and growing!

We may have a temporary supply chain problem in the United States right now, but we never have to worry about that with our God. And because He never, ever has a shortage or delay, the SBCV can rest assured that, just like the past 25 years, as He tarries, He will continue to be faithful for another 25 (and beyond)! As Philippians 1:6 "And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."





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