

A photograph of three women standing and talking. The woman on the left is wearing a brown jacket. The woman in the center is wearing a white turtleneck sweater and a pink lanyard with a badge that says 'HELLO, my name is'. The woman on the right is wearing a light blue sweater. They are all smiling and appear to be in a social setting.

One Conference Two Languages

Worldwide Impact

On November 5-6, 2021, women gathered at **London Bridge Baptist Church** in Virginia Beach to hear professor, author, and speaker Kristi McLelland, as she taught from her Bible study, *Jesus and Women*. In the book, McLelland teaches women to read the Bible from a Middle Eastern perspective, learning to approach Scripture with a desire to learn more about God and to focus less on ourselves. At the conference, she also pointed out how intentional and unique Jesus was in the way He ministered to women in the first century. Attendees were reminded that, if Jesus cared for women then, He certainly cares for us now. These valuable truths were spoken, heard, and received in both English and Spanish.

The SBC of Virginia Women's Ministry and the SBC of Virginia Ministerio de Mujeres (Hispanic Women's Ministry) utilized a newly purchased translation system to make this a bilingual event.

The worship portion of the event was held in both English and Spanish, and Donna Paulk (SBCV Women's Ministry team leader) and Laura Guardia (SBCV Hispanic Ministry consultant for women and children) welcomed the crowd of 250 women together from the stage.

The equipment, which is exceptionally user friendly, allowed 50 Spanish-speaking women to hear the Word of God spoken and taught in their own language, while being able to fellowship with women in their community and from all over Virginia. Guardia pointed out that, because of the many opportunities immigrants experience in America, it's sometimes easy for them to lose focus of their relationship with God. Events like the one at London Bridge and the upcoming Equip women's events in 2022 will allow women to gather and be representative of the Church and the body of Christ. We look forward to more bilingual events in the future! ■