



NOT *Just Another* BAPTIST CHURCH

Twenty years ago, I was blessed to serve as the church planter and pastor of Parkway Baptist Church in Moseley, VA. Our family is still blessed to be a part of this dynamic church, and we rejoice to see how our pastor, team, and church family continue to walk with Jesus and reach neighbors and nations with the Gospel. I remember being asked in new member classes about the church's name. I won't go into the whole background, but I will tell you part of my answer.

I would often say that we thought about naming the church, "Another Baptist Church." However, we did not want to be just another Baptist church! We wanted to see the Gospel of Jesus Christ proclaimed and to reach our neighbors and the nations with His Good News.

This edition of the *Proclaimer* reminds us that you are not just another Baptist church. You are not just another member of a church. Our Lord God is at work through your life to minister to others. The front cover reminds us that we can

serve communities in need of relief ministries. Our current Disaster Relief leaders are asking a new generation to join in with them and wear yellow (#IWearYellow).

SBCV churches are advancing the Gospel of Jesus Christ together as churches plant churches and start ministries to reach the nations that are now our neighbors. For example, 400,000 Ethiopians call Northern Virginia and Metro DC home—and you are part of supporting ministries to share Jesus with them.

SBCV is coming alongside local churches as they invest in students and this new generation as we have Youth Evangelism Conferences and regional DNow events. Just the other week, SBCV students made the front page of the Bristol newspaper because of their ministry through SBCV's Student Fusion Camp mission week.

From the shores of Eastern Virginia to the Appalachian Mountains, from the bustling metro area of Northern Virginia

to the countryside of Southside Virginia, God is working through His Church to reach our neighbors and the nations. We are seeing churches multiply, revitalize, strengthen, and mobilize. "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:24–25, ESV). Praise the Lord for the blessing of His churches!

Your brother in Christ,

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