

# PROCLAIMER

2022 | VOLUME 24, ISSUE 1 | Telling the stories of Vision Virginia

## reaching THE NATIONS — & OUR — NEIGHBORS

**The Language of a  
Gospel Partnership**  
*Pages 8 - 10*

**New Valley,  
New Home**  
*Pages 22 - 24*



**SBCVirginia**  
*You are not alone.*

# PROCLAIMER

Spring 2022 — Issue 1

## PUBLISHER &

SBC OF VIRGINIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Brian Autry

## SENIOR EDITOR

Brandon Pickett

## EDITOR

Ishmael LaBiosa

## COPY EDITOR

Christina Garland

## CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Bobby Puffenburger

## LEAD DESIGN & PRODUCTION MANAGER

Patti Spencer

## 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

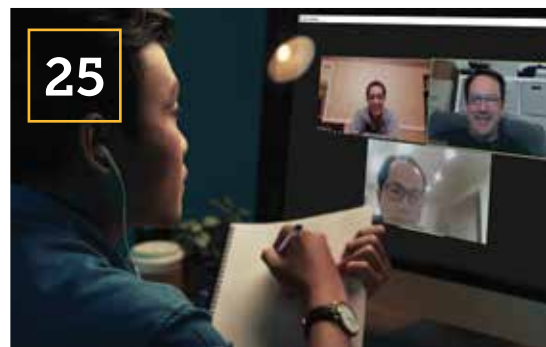
The *Proclaimer* is created exclusively for the SBC of Virginia by Innovative Faith Resources: [innovativefaith.org](http://innovativefaith.org).

**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](http://sbcv.org/visionvirginia)

**visionvirginia**

# INSIDE THIS ISSUE





# Spring 2022

## COVER STORIES

---

### 8 | The Language of a Gospel Partnership

God is using English as a Second Language (ESL) to take the Gospel to nations around the world

### 21 | New Valley, New Home

A struggling church transfers its property to an SBCV church plant to reach its neighbors under a new banner

## IN EVERY ISSUE

---

### 4 | Executive Director's Letter: Reaching Our Neighbors and the Nations

### 30 | Church Planter Prayer Needs

### 36 | SBC of Virginia Calendar

### 38 | Editor's Letter: Foreigner No More

## FEATURES

---

### 5 | Sharing the Gospel in Trail Town USA

Sharing the love of Jesus at Appalachian Trail Days

### 6 | Revitalization in Bi-Vocational Ministry

A church advances ministry through a team approach

### 11 | Where Is Pastor Jake?

Devotional posts reach new people and church members in a comforting and positive way

### 13 | Infiltration Evangelism

Bridging the gap in evangelism outreach

### 15 | Sowing Gospel Seeds

A Culpeper farm becomes a new mission field to reach employees

### 16 | Open Doors

A church opens its doors to allow another church to reach Hispanic people in Northern Virginia

### 17 | God Provides Abundantly

God's provision is seen through a generous and faithful brother in Christ

### 18 | Students Engaged in God's Word Through Fasting & Prayer

Students and leaders are impacted through a time of devotion to God

### 25 | Feeling Less Alone

Chinese pastors meet at Annual Homecoming and connect other Chinese SBCV churches

### 26 | Sharing Christ Through Simple Things

An evangelistic outreach has dozens of children, youth, and adults making decisions for Christ

### 28 | Love Displayed: An Amazing Testimony

What began locally as a brotherly friendship has grown into a far-reaching ministry



### 32 | The Gates of Hell Will Not Prevail

When it comes to your church's religious liberties, it's important to be prepared

### 34 | Devoted: 250 Years as Gospel Witnesses

Three Southern Baptist church congregations celebrate 250 years of Gospel outreach

### 37 | One Conference Two Languages

Recently acquired equipment allows Spanish-speaking women to hear the Word of God spoken in their heart language

# Reaching OUR NEIGHBORS AND THE NATIONS

As an introduction to this edition of the *Proclaimer*, in which we share wonderful news, stories, and examples of reaching our neighbors and the nations, let's take note of Christ's Great Commission to His churches. Tim Beougher, in his excellent textbook (*Invitation to Evangelism*), examines the five different "Great Commission" passages and offers the following key words as descriptions:<sup>1</sup>

**Matthew 28:18–20 — The Authority.** We should keep in mind verse 18 when we are quoting the Great Commission from Matthew's Gospel. "And Jesus came and said to them, **"All authority** in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Matthew 28:18). When we face pressures, if we feel fearful, or if we experience opposition, let's remember that we reach out to our neighbors and the nations in the name of Jesus and His authority.

**Mark 16:15 — The Objective.** Christ's followers are commanded to proclaim the Gospel to all creation. This mandate reminds us to **exclude no one and no place**. The SBCV is blessed to come alongside local churches as you share Christ with various generations, various people groups, and in various counties, cities, and countries. One of the local strategies we utilize is **Bless Every Home**, with the goal of seeing SBCV churches bless and pray for every home within their mission field. We can also provide your church with information

about your local mission field through our Mapping Center resource. Contact your SBCV regional catalyst for more information.

**Luke 24:45–49 — The Message.** The Scripture tells us, "Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures and said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.'"

**John 20:21 — The Method.** Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you" (John 20:21). You are not alone as you go and send! SBCV will come alongside your local church as churches plant churches, churches revitalize, missionaries are sent, and communities are reached with the Good News of Jesus Christ. In this edition of the *Proclaimer*, you will see just a few of the ways God is moving among His local churches for global impact!

**Acts 1:8 — The Power.** We know and must never forget that we do not serve in our strength or power. Jesus promised, "But you will receive power

when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). In the next few months, join with us as we seek God in prayer and share the Good News of Jesus. We have a number of special events this spring that we pray will encourage and equip you as ambassadors of Christ.





Keep Pressing On!



Your brother in Christ,  
Brian Autry

<sup>1</sup>Tim Beougher's *Invitation to Evangelism* is the source for the "five key words" used in this article. His textbook is an excellent introduction and foundational text for the study of evangelism.



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

# Sharing the Gospel in Trail Town USA

"Living in Damascus, Virginia, is an incredible thing! God literally brings the world to us! We can do local, state, and foreign missions right here in our hometown!" exclaimed Linda Austin, the founder and director of Trail Days Ministries. Trail Days began at First Baptist Church in Damascus in 2001 and now includes churches from Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, and across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Damascus is known as Trail Town USA because of the seven nationally known trails that come through this little town of less than 900 people. It is a place of natural beauty, outdoor adventures, and a laid-back vibe that affords all who visit the opportunity to be still and allow God to speak.

Each year, the hikers usher in spring by making their annual appearance in Damascus, hiking in on the Appalachian Trail, the 2,190-mile footpath that enables them to walk from Georgia to Maine. Damascus is one of the few places where the trail weaves its way through a town, giving the folks in Damascus the opportunity to have conversations, bless the hikers with acts of kindness, and share the Gospel when the Holy Spirit opens the door.

Each May, the town hosts a festival called Appalachian Trail Days, and with it come thousands


of hikers from the past, the present, and those who hope to hike in the future. The hikers are from every state in the union and often more than 20 foreign countries.

As with most other ministries, changes had to be made this past year due to COVID-19. The events were all held outside under big tents, and the food was boxed inside and served in closed containers for safety's sake. But what didn't change was God working in the hearts of hikers and volunteers alike. The Holy Spirit stirred and brought five souls to salvation. Even after 10 active years of this ministry, this never gets old!

Would you consider bringing a mission team to share the Gospel in Trail Town USA this May? Whether it's helping with shower and laundry units; assisting with food and coffee stations; serving on the medical team; providing haircuts; operating charging stations; or running games, there is an opportunity for your church to come and share the love of Jesus at Appalachian Trail Days. ■

## RESOURCE:

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

 [damascusfbc.com](https://damascusfbc.com)



# Revitalization IN BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

**W**hen Justin Smith became the senior pastor of **Warwick Baptist Church** in Newport News in November 2016, the role was full of opportunities and challenges. The church was in a season of transition and had to ask some tough questions about what the future of Warwick would look like or if it would have a future at all. Although the church was small in membership, God had provided a core group of people who were committed to seeing the church thrive. Smith felt a clear call to lead his flock bi-vocationally through a time of revitalization.

The first phone call he made was to Dave Bounds, his regional SBCV catalyst. Bounds immediately put Smith in touch with the late Reggie Hester, a

revitalization strategy leader, who would become invaluable in helping this first-time pastor lead the church through an initial revitalization effort.

After engaging in a revitalization process, Warwick Baptist Church had a new vision, well-defined ministries, and focused ministry leaders. People were excited about what God was doing. The church had two weekly prayer meetings that were consistently well attended. There were block parties, youth retreats, and new faces showing up on Sundays. It was wonderful to see all that God was doing in the ministries of Warwick Baptist Church, but equally exciting was witnessing the personal spiritual growth that was taking place in the members. It is clear that God has done a work of revitalization in this local church.

“

**There is hope for churches with bi-vocational pastors to experience revitalization!**

While some may see bi-vocational ministry as a negative, Pastor Smith sees positives. He works 60 hours per week an hour away from his home. Due to his busy schedule, the church family knew that if Warwick were going to thrive, everyone would need to be involved. The church has approached ministry with a team approach. Lay leaders taking ownership of church ministries is something many full-time pastors wish would happen in their churches. This tends to occur more organically in churches with bi-vocational pastors because the church family doesn't look to the senior pastor for every need. Smith has been amazed at the ability and willingness of the church members to move Warwick Baptist Church forward. He feels privileged to have access to a group of seasoned leaders to listen to, pray with, and learn from. He has also drawn strength from other pastors around Virginia whose churches are, likewise, in the process of revitalization. These pastors have encouraged him during this season.

The message of Warwick Baptist Church is clear. There is hope for churches with bi-vocational pastors to experience revitalization! ■





## Connect the offering plate to the mission field

A missions resource filled with weekly highlights of missionaries

**52**  
SUNDAYS

Share the stories behind each dollar given through your church

[sbcv.org/52sundays](http://sbcv.org/52sundays)



## Evangelism Tour

with Jimmy Scroggins

Creating a culture of evangelism in your local church

March 29, 2022

 **The Heights Baptist Church**  
Colonial Heights

March 30, 2022

 **Fincastle Baptist Church**  
Fincastle

Find out more by visiting  
[sbcv.org/evangelismtour](http://sbcv.org/evangelismtour)



## Ready to go. Ready to help.

Be the hands and feet of Jesus by loving those in life-altering situations. Disasters open doors to share the Gospel with and minister to the hurting.

Find out more at [sbcv.org/dr](http://sbcv.org/dr)



**SOUL CARE FOR THE UNDER-SHEPHERD:**  
BEING HEALTHY LEADERS IN AN UNHEALTHY WORLD



**MAY 10**



**MARRIOTT RICHMOND**  
Short Pump

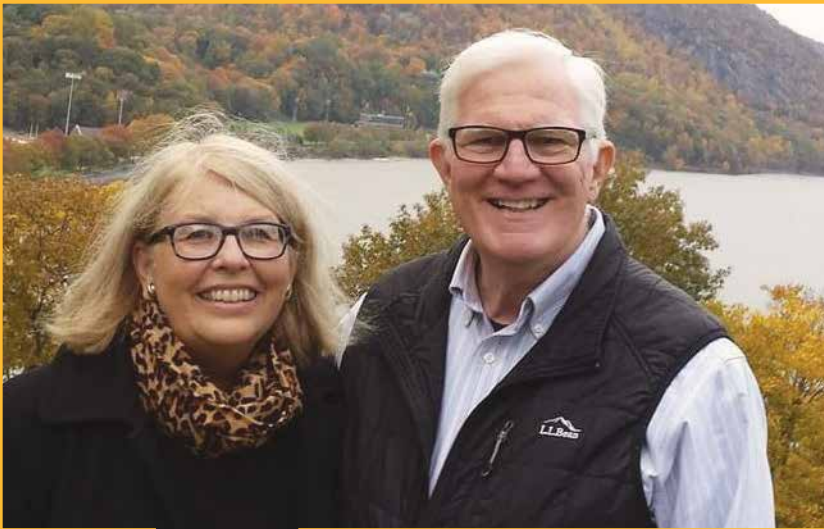


**WITH BEN MANDRELL**  
President, Lifeway

MORE DETAILS AT [SBCV.ORG/SUMMIT](http://SBCV.ORG/SUMMIT)



# The Language of a Gospel Partnership



## Jim and Susan Austin

have long served SBC of Virginia churches by leading **English as a Second Language (ESL)** trainings across the Commonwealth. Recently, Jim and Susan sat down to answer a few questions about their passion for this ministry and how God has led and continues to lead them to serve churches and the nations who call Virginia home.



**When did you first get involved in ESL ministry?**

*Some 20 years ago, we lived and worked in Kaiserslautern, Germany. We attended Faith Baptist Church, where Susan*

*participated in a Basic ESL Workshop shortly before we returned to Virginia. This is where Susan first sensed God's call to share her faith through teaching ESL. However, that call found no outlet for a decade. Just over 10 years ago, Jim needed to take a college course for his work. The only course that would fit his schedule was Methods and Techniques of Teaching ESL, taught by Katherine Burns, a former IMB missionary. We took the course together. When Mrs. Burns learned that we were interested in ESL as a ministry, she took us aside and told us that she would equip us to teach ESL in a local church, a restaurant, or even a grass hut...and she did. She even invited us to attend the ESL training she provided for the new missionaries at the International Learning Center. Now both of us understood that God had a mission for us to take the Gospel to the nations through an ESL ministry.*

*We attended a Basic ESL Workshop at **Red Lane Baptist Church** (Powhatan) and started an ESL ministry at our home church, **Kingsland Baptist Church** (North Chesterfield). About this same time, the SBCV saw the possibilities of reaching the nations that were living in our state and asked us to become facilitators for other churches wanting to start an ESL ministry. We received training at the National Literacy*



## ESL

# English as a Second Language

Missions Workshop and began teaching the Basic ESL Workshop in churches across Virginia.

We have led over 60 Basic ESL workshops in Virginia, as well as New York, Massachusetts, and Lithuania. We have led an ESL ministry at Kingsland Baptist and have taught English intensives in churches and camps in Lithuania, Germany, and Serbia, as well as online in Iraq and Brazil.

### Q What qualifications or certifications do you hold in ESL?

We are both certified as Basic ESL Workshop leaders by Send Relief (NAMB). Additionally, Susan is a national trainer with Send Relief. She conducts National Literacy Workshops to train new state workshop leaders and provides updates to state trainers with the most current techniques. That being said, the minimum requirements for anyone to teach in an ESL ministry are to speak English and be a follower of Jesus Christ. We believe one should also have a certain sense that teaching English is the way God is calling them to advance His Kingdom on earth.

### Q Why do you believe ESL is an essential ministry at this time for churches in Virginia?

People from across the globe are making their new homes near SBCV churches. These internationals add a new dimension to our neighborhoods...and new opportunities for our churches to share the Gospel. New immigrants often need help settling into their new life. SBCV churches extend the love of Jesus to their neighbors, whatever the need might be. If they are cold, we give

(continued on next page)

## Odilon's Story

*The story of Odilon is an example of how God can use an ESL ministry to reach the nations in America for Christ.*

**Kingsland Baptist Church** in Richmond planted a Hispanic church, **Iglesia Bautista Nuevo Esperanza** and, at the same time, started a new ESL class. Many members of Nuevo Esperanza attended the new ESL class, including the pastor at the time, Fernando Mangieri. The class had been advertised throughout the community, so there were also students from outside the church. Friendships naturally developed between the students. The students from Nuevo Esperanza invited other students to visit their church, and many did.

Odilon began attending Nuevo Esperanza. There he heard the Word of God taught in a way he had never heard before. Odilon said later that he never knew that a personal relationship with God was possible. He received Christ, and his life was transformed in very evident ways. "It's personal now," Odilon said, "and I've never been so happy! Now I must tell everyone about Jesus!"

Odilon started going out in his community every Saturday morning, knocking on doors, telling people about Jesus, and inviting them to Nuevo Esperanza. He also invited them to his ESL class. He knew they might be afraid to attend his church but, because of their language need, they might be willing to come to ESL. And Odilon knew that good things can happen when you attend an ESL class!

Nuevo Esperanza began planting another church to reach the 2,000 Mixtec people in the Richmond area. The Mixtecs are a close-knit group from Mexico with a unique language. Do you know who is a Mixtec? Yes, Odilon! Odilon led the outreach to the Mixtec people, sharing the Gospel and leading Bible studies in his native language. From unsaved ESL student to pastor of the Mixtecs in less than four years—only God can do that! Sadly, Odilon passed away in May of 2021, but his ministry continues through the lives he touched.



## The Language of a Gospel Partnership

(continued from previous page)

*them a coat; if they are hungry, we give them food; and if they are unable to communicate, we give them English. Many immigrants speak little English and need to learn the language quickly just to survive. We may not have a coat to give or food to give, but we all have English. And your international neighbors will very much appreciate if you share it with them. In the process of teaching English, we intentionally share the Gospel with our students and connect them with believers who speak their heart language.*

Many SBCV churches take the Gospel to nations around the world through short-term missions. English is the most desired and valuable language in the world. World citizens are eager to engage with English speakers, particularly Americans. Churches (especially those that go to the same place year after year) create friendships around learning English, sometimes extended through social media. This often provides the opportunity to share their faith. Local pastors and church leaders are happy to help SBCV churches organize English classes. The connections made in these classes are often with people the local church would otherwise not know about. ■



# REACHing THE WORLD at Home

A first step to reaching the world in our communities (internationals who have come to the US) is to host or attend an English as a Second Language (ESL) Basic Training Workshop. These workshops are designed to 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 skills.

An ESL workshop is usually held over two days and results in teacher certification through the North American Mission Board.

Topics covered at the 12-hour interactive workshop include:

- Organizing an ESL ministry
- Understanding a student's English fluency and placement interview
- Planning lessons
- Introducing vocabulary
- Teaching pronunciation
- Dealing with cultural misunderstandings
- Incorporating biblical material into class sessions
- Sharing the Gospel with students
- Recommended resources

**Interested?**



To find out more or to schedule a workshop, visit: [sbcv.org/esl](http://sbcv.org/esl)



# Where is PASTOR JAKE?

*Where in the world is pastor Jake?*  
That's what the members of **Villa Heights Baptist Church** and the surrounding community in Roanoke, VA are asking.

When the world changed in March 2020, pastors had to find creative ways to continue ministry. After consulting with the SBCV staff for ideas, Pastor Jake Huffman began posting nightly video devotionals via social media. Pastor Huffman's vision was to find "a strategic means of continuing to make disciples. That's our calling and our mission that shouldn't cease even with a pandemic."

After weeks of using a standard format, Huffman decided to take the devotionals "on the road." He used this mobile opportunity to show his congregation the place where he trusted Christ at college. He interviewed church members and gave his nephew an opportunity to share how Jesus delivered him from addiction. He included his family's Thanksgiving dinner and even used vacation locations as a backdrop for encouragement from the Word of God.

The devotionals have been met with great enthusiasm and shared widely by the congregation with their friends and family. Everyone began to wonder daily, "Where in the world

"...Huffman decided to take the devotionals 'on the road.'"

is Pastor Jake?" Associate pastor Michael Shepherd also got in on the action and was enlisted to share weekend devotionals.

The congregation has used these video devotions to sow Gospel seeds around the area. The posts have allowed important and sometimes difficult topics to be shared in a sensitive way. Numerous guests who were reached by the video posts have attended Villa Heights. One young woman was saved out of an immoral lifestyle, and her father and family members came to watch her be baptized at the church. Many have expressed appreciation for the comfort provided by these times in the Word.

The recording schedule was enhanced by a two-year journey of planned Bible readings by the church, which Huffman often covers in his videos. His desire "is that they be 'shaped by the Word of God.'" In fact, the Villa Heights family has rallied around a unified coordinated Bible reading plan called, "Shaped by the Word," which is available through the YouVersion app.

Perhaps your church could reach out to new people and be encouraged by such a reading plan and video devotionals. Contact the SBCV to see how your church could employ these or other creative means of outreach. Remember, you are not alone. ■





# Mission Projects 2022

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 Neighbors*  
April - May

Hunger Ministries



*For Schools*  
June - Aug.

Back to School Drive

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

# 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



Apple



Google



Spotify



Castbox

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

# Prayer Summit 2022

Join us at one of the three locations this April, as we pray together and are challenged to be a people of prayer.

**4/26 | Hyland Heights Baptist Church  
LYNCHBURG**  
with  
Daniel Henderson

**River Oak Baptist Church  
CHESAPEAKE**  
with Bill Elliff

**4/27 | Fellowship Community Church  
SALEM**  
with  
Daniel Henderson

Find out more at  
[sbcv.org/prayersummit](https://sbcv.org/prayersummit)





God loves people  
— every single person in the world!

# Infiltration Evangelism

## SHOWING GOD'S LOVE

By Timothy Cokes, Baptist Press Staff Writer

In a meeting with church leaders, Gateway Seminary President Jeff Iorg stressed the importance of churches getting outside their own walls and how such ministry made the difference in his own life.

He did not grow up in a Christian family, Iorg told attendees at the “Evangelism in Metro Areas” conference sponsored by the SBC of Virginia, Jan. 25. His family had never gone to church together as a unit in his whole life.

While visiting a booth that a local church had set up at a fair, Iorg heard the Gospel message and gave his life to Christ right there as a 13-year-old. That very same church disciplined him, and he eventually became an associate pastor there at age 23 before being sent off to attend seminary.

Topics covered at the conference included the spiritual dimensions of evangelism, practical strategies for evangelism through local churches and the motivating factor of God’s love in evangelism. More than 50 ministry leaders from across Virginia attended the event in person at Falls Church in Fairfax.

Steve Bradshaw, SBCV director of evangelism and strategic initiatives, opened the event by praising Iorg, whom he called a friend of the convention.

“What I love about Dr. Iorg is we’re not just talking about the president of a seminary, we’re talking about someone who is a practitioner who is actually doing these things that he is talking about and leading us with,” Bradshaw said.

### An Image Problem

After sharing a portion of his personal story, Iorg switched gears, saying that modern evangelism “has an image problem.”

Citing statistics from Barna Research, Iorg explained there is a large gap or contradiction among Christians when it comes to evangelism.

Statistics indicate that most Christians believe sharing the Gospel is an important part of being a Christian and they feel equipped to share the Gospel adequately, but still almost half of millennial Christians and 20 percent of Boomers think it is wrong to share one’s Christian faith with someone of another faith with the intention of converting them.

“We imagine evangelism positively, until it turns personal and then the image turns much more negative,” Iorg said.

### Bridging the Gap

He added that though practical strategies are important, they cannot substitute for spiritual methods to bridge the gap in evangelism understanding.

“Tricks and techniques are not going to change the way we’re evangelizing in metro communities or in any communities,” Iorg said. “We’re not going to close this gap by arguing with someone, showing someone a video, or helping them to rethink it.

“You’re going to change their minds through the Word, prayer, and the Holy Spirit. Then over time you can change the image of evangelism in your followers. You have to help them to think different about going about these things.”

The remaining portion of the morning session covered how to engage the local church in the spiritual dimensions of the Word, prayer, and the Holy Spirit in evangelism.

### Infiltration Strategy

The second session elaborated on the more practical steps in corporate evangelism in metro areas. After listing three common

evangelism styles—attraction based, engagement based, and infiltration based—Iorg explained that churches need to better emphasize the infiltration method over the more common attraction method.

“All three of these strategies are good, but the American church is depending on attraction strategy too much, and the pandemic revealed it,” Iorg said. “When we didn’t have any type of event to invite someone to, we didn’t know how to win people to Christ.”

The infiltration strategy of developing and deploying Christians to share the Gospel in their context needs to be emphasized, he said.

Iorg used his own infiltration ministry experience as a chaplain of the San Francisco Giants as an example. Although the ministry was hard and he had less control of his environment in that context, he still had fruitful ministry and led some to Christ (including retired Giants pitcher Barry Zito).

Iorg closed the final session by explaining that, both practical and spiritual.

“What motivates me is that God loves people, therefore I must love people, and if I love them, I will stay persistent at the task of getting the Gospel to them,” Iorg said. “I don’t think guilt, shame, or duty are motivators that will for very long, but love will keep you going.” ■



# Sembrando La Semilla Del Evangelio

Cuando compramos flores para plantar en nuestro jardín no siempre pensamos en el proceso que conlleva el producto final como: preparar la tierra, sembrar las semillas, regar, cuidarlas y después alistarlas para que lleguen finalmente a los estantes de las tiendas.

Parte de ese proceso, y quizás el más fundamental, son los empleados en las granjas, quienes trabajan arduamente. Muchos de ellos son trabajadores temporales, provenientes del interior del país y otros de Latinoamérica. Para estos últimos es difícil debido al clima, el idioma y la cultura que impacta sus corazones.

Dios usa grandemente a los plantadores de iglesias hispanas que llegan a ellos predicando fielmente La Palabra de Dios.

Un ejemplo de esto es el pastor José Mazariego, uno de nuestros plantadores catalíticos en el Norte de Virginia de la SBCV.

El pastor José fue invitado por el pastor Seth, dueño de Battlefield Farms, que es una granja ubicada en Culpeper para compartir el evangelio a los trabajadores hispanos. Aunque la iglesia de José está en la ciudad de Dumfries (aproximadamente a una hora de distancia) él vió una oportunidad para predicar La Palabra de Dios, semanalmente, iniciando un campo misionero en febrero del 2021. Desde entonces el pastor José maneja hacia ese lugar cada miércoles por la mañana para predicar el evangelio y compartir con los empleados en su mayoría mexicanos y guatemaltecos.

Obedeciendo el llamado de Dios de alcanzar a la comunidad hispana por medio de la plantación de iglesias y cumpliendo el mandato de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, en Mateo 28:19-20, el pastor José Mazariego involucró a dos de sus aprendices a

ser plantadores de su Iglesia (IBGE) y a un nuevo plantador, Reynaldo Quintanilla, para que se unieran a esta misión.

Muchas actividades se llevaron a cabo, una de ellas fue la semana de “El Día de Acción de Gracias” (Thanksgiving) a las 5:00 a.m. José llevó más de 100 cajas de comida que contenían: leche, verduras y cereales; además, se regalaron pavos y Biblias a más de 110 personas que atendieron este servicio.

Juntos adoraron a Dios, predicaron La Palabra y compartieron un tiempo agradable.

La intención del pastor José de invitar a Reynaldo fue para que les pueda dar seguimiento a los nuevos discípulos e invitarlos a la nueva iglesia Vida Church, en Culpeper, la misma que se ha iniciado juntamente con Open Door Baptist Church, que es la iglesia enviadora de Reynaldo, asesorado por la iglesia Bíblica Gracia Eterna, donde pastorea José Mazariego.

Al final de la temporada de trabajo algunos de estos trabajadores se establecerán en el área o talvez regresarán a sus lugares de origen; pero, estamos seguros que cada uno de ellos llevarán la semilla del evangelio en sus corazones.

Damos infinitas gracias a Dios por la vida del pastor José Mazariego y su iglesia, por su obediencia, por dar inicio a este trabajo e incluir a las iglesias locales del área.

“Pues todas las cosas provienen de él y existen por su poder y son para su gloria. ¡A él sea toda la gloria por siempre!” Amén. Romanos 11:36 (NTV) ■

Si desea más información o si está dispuesto a ayudar puede escribirnos a:



ibdumfries@gmail.com



# Sowing Gospel Seeds

**W**hen we buy flowers to plant in our garden, we do not think about the process that went into producing those flowers: preparing the soil, sowing the seeds, watering, caring for them, and then preparing them to reach the store shelves.

The hard-working employees on the farms are part of that process. Many are temporary workers, coming from the interior of the country or from Latin America. For the latter, it is especially difficult—the climate, the language, and the culture impact their hearts.

God uses Hispanic church planters who come to them, faithfully preaching God's Word. One example is Pastor José Mazariego, an SBCV catalytic planter in Northern Virginia.

Pastor Mazariego was invited by Pastor Seth, owner of Battlefield Farms in Culpeper, VA, to share the Gospel with Hispanic workers. Although Mazariego's church is in the town of Dumfries (about an hour away), he saw an opportunity to preach God's Word on a weekly basis on this mission field. Since February 2021, Pastor Mazariego has been driving every Wednesday morning to preach the Gospel and spend time with the workers, most of whom are from Mexico and Guatemala.

Obedying God's call to reach the Hispanic community through church planting and fulfilling the mandate of our Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 28:19-20, Pastor José Mazariego involved two church planter apprentices from his church (**Iglesia Bíblica Gracia Eterna**) and a new planter, Reynaldo Quintanilla, to join this mission.

Many ministry activities have taken place, including the week of Thanksgiving. At 5:00 AM one morning that week, Pastor Mazariego brought over 100 food boxes for the workers. The boxes contained milk, cereal, vegetables, and turkeys. Bibles were also given to the more than 110 people who attended the service. They worshiped God, preached the Word, and spent time together.

The reason Mazariego invited Reynaldo Quintanilla to join him in this ministry was so that Quintanilla could follow up and invite the new disciples to **Vida Church**, the new church plant Quintanilla pastors in Culpeper. **Open Door Baptist Church** in Culpeper is Vida Church's partner church, and Mazariego's church (Iglesia Bíblica Gracia Eterna) has also helped advise.

Whether these workers settle in the area or return to their places of origin at the end of the work season, they will carry the seed of the Gospel in their hearts.

We glorify God for Pastor José Mazariego and his church, for his obedience in starting this work, and for including local churches in the area.

"For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen." Romans 11:36 (HCSB) ■

## RESOURCE:

For more information or to help, contact Pastor Mazariego at:



ibdumfries@gmail.com



# Open Doors

## God has called every church

wherever He has placed it to find out where He is at work and to join Him in that work. In 2004, God led Bernie Jernigan to be the senior pastor of **Open Door Baptist Church** in Culpeper, VA. When God led Open Door to partner with the SBC of Virginia in 2010, little did they know how they would be used to “open doors” for the sake of the Gospel. God has used this church to partner with SBCV church planters from the Congo, the Philippines, China, Eritrea, and El Salvador to reach the nations in Northern Virginia with the Gospel.

## Reaching Hispanic Nations

Prayers had been prayed for many years that God would bring an evangelical Hispanic church to Culpeper, VA. The Lord had plans to use Open Door to reach the Hispanic nations that were already their neighbors.

Around 2020, Pastor Jernigan requested from the SBCV a demographic study of the Culpeper community. His eyes were opened to see that the fastest growing people group in his area was Hispanics. Jernigan stated, “While I was in Dallas, Texas, the church I pastored while in seminary started an outreach to the Hispanic community. I have always had a heart for them. It was at that moment in 2020 that I knew we were being invited by the Lord to join Him in planting a Hispanic ministry.”

## A Vision

In 2021, Pastor Jernigan approached the SBCV with a vision to see God plant a

Hispanic church in Culpeper through Open Door Baptist Church. In early 2021, SBCV church planting strategist Raúl Santamaría challenged Jernigan to “pray that God would send the man to be the pastor of this plant.” The church began to pray, and in May of 2021, Santamaría told them God had provided Reynaldo Quintanilla.

## The Unexpected

Soon after, God invited Open Door to walk further in faith. “The next step came unexpectedly,” shared Pastor Jernigan, “when the Lord challenged Open Door to become the supporting church” for this new work.

Jernigan continued, “The church has responded and stepped forward with all that we need to meet this adventure and plant the Hispanic church.” Open Door Baptist Church is now supporting Pastor Reynaldo Quintanilla and **Iglesia Vida** (Life Church) financially, missionally, and with the use of its facility.

## A Beacon of Hope

“Our vision is that Iglesia Vida would one day grow strong and be a beacon of hope to the Hispanic people,” expressed Jernigan. “We are also ready to utilize the Bible Training Center for Pastors and Laity (BTCP/L) curriculum to train Hispanic pastors in order for them to be available to plant other churches who are sharing this burden. The Lord has already opened a door of evangelism for Reynaldo at a local farm where he shares a devotion and food boxes.

“The Lord has answered our prayers on a place for the Quintanilla family to live, a home they moved into in January. It is obvious that God is on the move.

Our continued prayer is that other SBCV churches would not let us go at this alone and would come and partner with us through financial and prayer support.” ■







# God Provides *Abundantly*

One of the most difficult challenges for any church plant is finding a space to meet for regular worship. Along with this challenge is the difficulty of finding a place that is affordable. Many church plants find their budgets strapped and struggle to find a facility that meets their needs. However, 2 Corinthians 9:8 reminds us, “And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work” (HCSB).

Church planter Jacob Jackson has witnessed the fulfillment of this promise in an abundant way. Jackson and a core team launched **Covenant Life Church** in the Lakeside area of Richmond, VA in April of 2021. After driving through the area with Pastor Jim Booth of **Staples Mill Road Baptist Church** (Glen Allen), Jackson felt a strong sense of calling to the Lakeside area of Richmond. He remembers the drive very well, “Pastor Booth pulled in to turn around, but God told me to stay.”

In the meantime, Pastor Booth had encouraged Pastor Jackson to talk to a local business owner who owns several buildings. The

business owner, a local mechanic who is also a Christian, was very receptive to Covenant Life meeting in one of his buildings. In fact, he does not charge the church rent or utilities for the use of a building that’s right on the main road with convenient parking. An additional blessing is that Covenant Life is able to leave its equipment in place from week to week and doesn’t have to set up or tear down weekly like most church plants do. The church is thrilled at the abundance of God’s blessing!

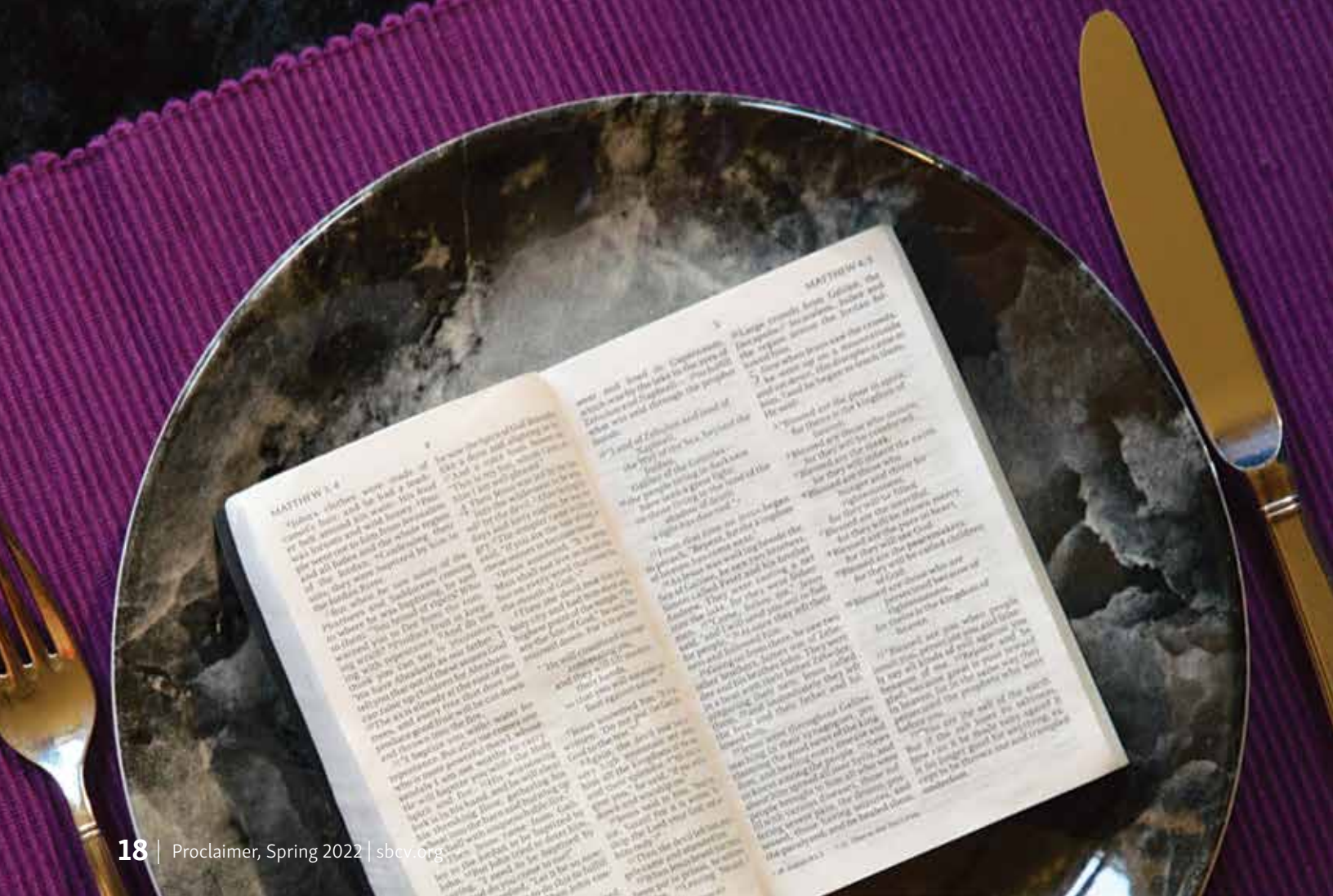
And the provision of God doesn’t stop there. Pastor Jackson connected with Pastor Celso Henriquez, another SBC of Virginia church planter, and learned that Pastor Henriquez also needed a place for his church (**Iglesia Bautista De Las Naciones**) to meet in that area. So, Pastor Jackson met with the business owner again, who graciously agreed to welcome De Las Naciones in the same location, also rent and utilities free.

Pastor Jackson and Pastor Henriquez give all the glory to God for His faithful provision through this generous and faithful brother in Christ! ■



# Students Engaged in God's Word through

## *Fasting & Prayer*





...‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” – Matthew 4:4

Quin Shipp serves as the student pastor at **London Bridge Baptist Church** in Virginia Beach. He and his wife, Lexi, have faithfully served there for one year. SBC of Virginia asked Quin to give a testimony of what the Lord has done through a prayer and fasting initiative that he implemented when he arrived at London Bridge. Here is his testimony:

*It might sound cliché, but what led us to London Bridge was the Lord. I served as the middle school pastor at LibertyLive Church in Hampton for four years before coming to London Bridge, and we just knew [the Lord was saying] our time was up. There were many transitions happening before we went to London Bridge, including the COVID-19 pandemic, getting engaged, getting married, moving into a new home, and starting a new job all in a single year. We are grateful that God was in the transition because both my wife and I are passionate about student ministry, and there were two job openings available at London Bridge for exactly what we are passionate about. So, after some prayer and fasting, the Lord gave us peace. I transitioned to the student pastor position, while Lexi transitioned in as the girls ministry director at London Bridge.*

*One of the first things I did when getting to London Bridge was to lead our students through 21 days of prayer and fasting to kick off the new year. I knew that if I wanted to see God move in the next generation, then it would have to start on our knees, begging God to do what only He can do. Our church is very new to the concept of fasting, so we implemented Sunday curriculum to teach students what prayer and fasting was about and empower students to fast and pray for 21 days. To my surprise, over half of the student ministry prayed and fasted for 21 days, and we saw God do so much in one year. We grew from 12 to almost 100 students on a weekly basis; we have seen more students engaged in God’s Word than ever; and we have seen multiple salvations, baptisms, and students getting plugged into discipleship groups. Even our leaders were impacted. One of our leaders, said:*



Pastor Quin and Lexi Shipp

*“This year we started the year off by fasting and praying as a time of devotion to God. It was also a springboard for our ministry and, for me, a time that God brought healing into my marriage. God used this time to help bring me to a place of full surrender of my marriage and life to him. By no means has my marriage been perfect since then, but I now have peace knowing that God has a plan of redemption and reconciliation in my marriage. He also used this time to help me understand where He wants to use me and His redemptive plan for this fallen world. I now know that God can use a lowly person like me, turn my mess into His message...and now I can carry that into the world and help others who may be going through similar situations. Praise be to God.*

*God has been so good to us, and we are very blessed by what He is doing in our ministry. The best is yet to come! ■*

MATHÊTEUSATE • GREEK

FUSION CAMPS  
2022

μαθητεύσατε  
(V.) MAKE DISCIPLES

**THIS SUMMER,**

**GIVE YOUR STUDENTS OR FAMILY AN OPPORTUNITY  
TO REACH COMMUNITIES FOR CHRIST.**

FUSION OFFERS MISSION-ORIENTED CAMP EXPERIENCES  
DESIGNED FOR PEOPLE TO ENGAGE IN MISSIONS IN VIRGINIA.



— FOR STUDENTS —

# STUDENT FUSION

JUNE 13-17, 2022 | BRISTOL

HELP YOUR STUDENTS MOVE BEYOND THEIR COMFORT  
ZONE AND REACH THE COMMUNITY FOR CHRIST.

— FOR FAMILIES —

# FAMILY FUSION

JULY 21-24, 2022 | CHINCOTEAGUE ISLAND

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FAMILIES TO BUILD A  
LEGACY OF MISSIONS WITH THEIR CHILDREN.

SPOTS FILL FAST! SECURE YOURS AT:  
**SBCV.ORG/FUSION**

**nextgen** ➤



# New VALLEY New HOME





Westwood Baptist's neighbors are being reached through the transfer of its property to an SBCV church plant, New Valley Church.

**N**ew Valley Church of Waynesboro now has a new home, one they can call their own, and a struggling church is able to continue its neighborhood witness under a new banner.

With an aging congregation and declining attendance, **Westwood Baptist Church** was struggling to reach its neighbors. After years of strategies, prayer, and discussion (including consulting with the SBC of Virginia), Pastor John Brownlee approached the church with a new option in February 2021—the opportunity to become home to a new church. This proposal's purpose was to continue honoring the church's history of Gospel witness in its community. After more than nine months of talks, Westwood Baptist Church chose to give its property to another SBCV congregation—New Valley Church, led by church planter KJ Washington.

New Valley Church was not a stranger to the Westwood congregation. A young KJ Washington had even preached there

over a decade ago when Westwood needed help.

When Washington began planting New Valley Church, Pastor Brownlee asked, "What can we do help?" Living up to its offer, Westwood hosted some of New Valley's afternoon worship gatherings in the church plant's early days. New Valley Church formed in July 2019 as a planting team and launched public gatherings in January 2020.

Pastor Washington is a native of Waynesboro and returned to plant a church to reach his hometown. While spending time in rental spaces has proven fruitful, having a new home to call their own—has made a difference.

"In October," Washington explained, "even before the transfer had taken place, we were able to do a Trunk-or-Treat outreach event with the Westwood congregation with more than 700 people in attendance. Since the change, new guests have been continuous, and five new members completed the membership process just

this past Sunday. In fact, the worship center is often full now with guests, seekers, and members."

New Valley has experienced God's blessings, and Westwood has been able to continue its Gospel legacy. In fact, Pastor John Brownlee serves as a transitional elder in the new congregation.

For churches considering a similar scenario, both pastors emphasize the importance of:

- 1 bringing wise voices to the table and the conversation
- 2 giving God room to work and then joining Him
- 3 reminding the younger church to be patient and to honor those who have come before (its legacy)
- 4 having the new pastor be intentional in relationship building

*(continued on next page)*

“

The worship center is often full now with guests, seekers, and members.

---

*According to Pastor Washington, "if people keep the mission of Jesus at the forefront... obstacles and hurdles can be overcome."*

---

*(continued from previous page)*

As Pastor Washington said, "if people keep the mission of Jesus at the forefront, this can be done because prioritizing the Kingdom of Jesus can lead through hard obstacles and hurdles along the way. We can do more together than we can do separately."

Indeed, "Two are better than one, for they have a good return for their labor" (Ecclesiastes 4:9).

The SBCV is grateful to have been able to come alongside these local churches to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ together to reach our neighbors and the nations. To God be the glory! ■



## Under a New Banner

Westwood Baptist Church chose to give its property to another SBCV congregation—New Valley Church, led by church planter KJ Washington.





# Feeling Less Alone

“We’re not alone...but I feel alone.” These were the thoughts of Michael Wu, pastor of Roanoke Chinese Fellowship, as he attended the SBCV Homecoming in Hampton this past November.

Pastor Wu serves as a bivocational elder at **Roanoke Chinese Fellowship**. At first, he served alongside two other elders, soon became the sole remaining elder. Wu serves with the English-speaking pastors of **Cave Spring Baptist Church**, which hosts Roanoke Chinese Fellowship.

As Wu attended the SBCV Homecoming, he and his wife, Julia, were discussing which breakout session to attend. As they discussed this, an SBCV church planter, Dexu “Andrew” Yuan, overheard their Chinese conversation and introduced himself.

Yuan, pastor/church planter of **Agape Chinese Christian Church** (Fairfax Station, VA), was excited to hear someone speaking his heart language. He and Wu quickly made a connection,

attended the next session together, and left the SBCV Homecoming feeling much less alone.

## The story doesn’t stop there.

As Wu and Yuan talked, they learned that there are currently seven Chinese churches in the SBC of Virginia, with two more Chinese church plants in development. However, these two pastors only knew one or two of the other Chinese churches. Additionally, the two agreed that Chinese pastors in the US struggle to find good ministry resources in their language and face challenges unique to other Chinese Christians living here.

In January, Wu and Yuan met again on a Zoom call. They discussed and planned how to better connect the existing and

new SBCV Chinese churches.

Both pastors are praying for the beginning of a Chinese fellowship to develop within the SBCV, to be a “family within a family” for those whose heart language is Chinese. These two pastors invite other SBCV Chinese to join their monthly Zoom meetings. They dream of an in-person meeting of the SBCV Chinese family. But more importantly, they want other Chinese within the SBCV to know that they are “not alone.” ■

## RESOURCE:

For the latest schedule of Chinese Fellowship Zoom meetings, contact Matt Gregory, people group strategist for the SBCV:



[mgregory@sbcv.org](mailto:mgregory@sbcv.org)



# Sharing Christ Through Simple Things

*For those struggling to share the Good News, Sidney advises, "The hardest thing to work through is rejection. I would say that about 1 in 20 responds positively."*

Twenty-one. That's the number of salvation decisions that **Campbell Avenue Baptist Church** in urban Lynchburg recorded this fall through its intern's ministry.

Pastor John Pickett had been praying for God to bring someone who could help kick-start the children's and youth ministries of Campbell Avenue Baptist Church. At the same time, Sidney Johnson, having graduated from college with a degree in law and public policy with a minor in theology, was making plans to attend law school when the Lord prompted him to change plans and enter seminary. So, Sidney did just that and began looking for a local church where he could serve while he continued his studies.

Pastor Pickett applied for and received an SBCV internship grant (funded by the SBCV Vision Virginia Missions Offering) to help the church pay Sidney for his time. Sidney quickly began serving and enlisted others to help.

On Campbell Avenue's mid-internship report, Pickett noted: "Sidney and his team have turned our third-floor storage and junk rooms into a clean, painted, and beautifully decorated youth and children's suite. He has also developed a Saturday morning evangelistic outreach

that has seen dozens of children, youth, and adults make decisions for Christ."

The SBCV caught up with Pastor Pickett to hear the full story of how God was moving. He shared how Sidney's focus on evangelism had helped the church see the opportunity to share Christ through simple things like a church yard sale. "He and his team from Liberty University and from our church struck up conversations with each one who came to buy something. Instead of buying items, many had the opportunity to hear about the free gift of Jesus Christ."

Sidney also led a team of Liberty students to do Saturday morning outreach in the neighborhoods surrounding the church. He teamed less confident people with more experienced participants. When asked about the focus on evangelism, Sidney stated, "If God wants you not to share, He will make it abundantly clear, but the command to go has already been given."

When asked for what encouragement he would give to others who are struggling to share the Good News, Sidney advised, "The hardest thing to work through is rejection. I would say that about 1 in 20 responds positively."

Sidney with team members



He also referenced, (1) the importance of leaders being intentional with the people they lead and (2) the importance of prayer. "Sometimes we pray more to keep saints out of heaven than we do for lost people to enter heaven."

When reflecting on the impact Sidney has had on Campbell Avenue, Pastor Pickett concluded, "God is already at work all around us. Sometimes our eyes aren't pure enough to see it."

God is already at work—most of us are familiar with those words. But less familiar than those words are those who will intentionally join God in his work. Will you? ■



# If you can dream it, we can [re]finance it

Refinance your church loan with the  
SBC of Virginia Foundation and save.

Our rates are highly competitive, and unlike traditional lenders, the interest from your loan is reinvested in Southern Baptist ministries that change lives with the Gospel.

GET STARTED:  
[sbcv.org/foundation](https://sbcv.org/foundation)  
804.270.1848



Presentamos nuestra  
revista digital  
completamente en  
Español

## PROCLAMANDO

Cuenta con un contenido ameno e informativo sobre las cosas increíbles que Dios está haciendo en la SBC de Virginia. ¡No se la pierda!

Suscripción digital GRATUITA aquí:

[www.sbcv.org/proclamando](https://www.sbcv.org/proclamando)

¡Espérela pronto!  
Primavera 2022



# LOVE DISPLAYED: AN AMAZING TESTIMONY

**I**t is such a blessing to hear what Jesus is doing in and through His body, the Church, to advance His Kingdom. He said the world would know we are His disciples by the way we love each other. This love is displayed in full colors when we take care of each other's needs. The relationship between **Crossroads Baptist Church** and **Iglesia Bíblica Bautista Emanuel de Leesburg** is a display of such love, and it has been an amazing testimony to their community.

In 2017, Pastor Richard Fuller (Crossroads) used SBCV's mapping center to learn about the community around the church. By meeting the neighbors, he realized that households within a 1.5-mile radius of the church in Leesburg were primarily Spanish speakers. He had been praying to reach everyone in the neighborhood, but he did not have the ability to reach them in their heart language.

God provided a way through Giovanni Ortiz. Ortiz shared how he and Fuller met, "[SBCV church planting team members] Raúl Santamaría and Larry Black (now serving in Georgia) asked me to meet with them and Pastor Richard. They told me that God had laid in Pastor Richard's heart to help start a Hispanic church at his church's building, and they also shared that they thought I was the

man God was calling for that congregation. I was not expecting this, but it was God's confirmation of His calling. I am thankful to Larry and Raúl for making this connection for me.

"Crossroads Baptist Church has blessed [Iglesia Bíblica Bautista Emanuel de Leesburg] very much," he continued, "and I consider Pastor Richard a close friend to me. I am so thankful that God joined our paths to bless our congregation."

Both Ortiz and Fuller shared how their brotherly friendship has grown and that their ministry relationship has gone beyond Leesburg. They have taken mission trips together to El Salvador, and Fuller has preached at Ortiz's dad's church there. They also have an ESL ministry in Crossroads' building and, together, these two pastors feed and serve the community.

Crossroads Baptist Church followed God's leading to help a Hispanic congregation start in its facilities, and they have gone the extra mile! In October and November of 2021, Fuller said he could see the Spanish congregation was growing in children and baptisms. He spoke with his congregation on how they could help the church plant grow even more. He then visited the Spanish-speaking congregation a couple of times and stayed to fellowship with them.

After his third visit, Fuller told Ortiz he needed to talk to him. "God has laid it on our hearts to let the Hispanic church meet at 11 AM. We will move our service to 10 AM so you can meet at 11 AM. The congregation voted and we agreed." Pastor Ortiz was in shock. "They were giving us their service time so we could grow. They were willing to get uncomfortable so that we could use the building at that time." What church would do that? A congregation that is following the prompting of the Lord.

Some years ago, God imprinted in Pastor Ortiz's heart this well-known verse: "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). God has honored His promises. "When we were in lockdown, God reminded us 'seek first My Kingdom, and I will add the rest.' In any difficult situation, the encouragement is to seek His Kingdom first. Our commandment as a church is to go and make disciples. We made that our priority, and we have seen that God adds anything else that we are lacking."

Surely the community of Leesburg can see these two churches working hand in hand and say, "Look how they love each other." ■



# ¡MIREN CÓMO SE AMAN! UN TESTIMONIO MARAVILLOSO

**E**s una gran bendición escuchar lo que Cristo está haciendo en y a través de Su Cuerpo, la iglesia, a fin de que Su Reino pueda avanzar y expandirse. Nuestro Señor Jesucristo dijo: “que el mundo sabría que somos sus discípulos por la forma en que nos amamos”. Este amor se muestra en todo su esplendor cuando nos ocupamos de las necesidades de los demás. La relación entre la Iglesia Bautista Crossroad y la Iglesia Bíblica Bautista Emanuel, ubicada en Leesburg, muestra esta clase de amor siendo un testimonio asombroso para su comunidad.

En el año 2017 el pastor Richard Fuller usó el centro de mapeo de SBCV donde se pudo dar cuenta que los hogares que se encuentran dentro de una milla y media del radio de la iglesia eran, principalmente, hispanohablantes lo que constató reuniéndose con sus vecinos. Él había estado orando mucho para alcanzar a todos en el vecindario, a pesar de saber que no podía comunicarse con ellos en español. El pastor Giovanni Ortiz compartió como se conocieron: “Los pastores Raúl Santamaría y Larry Black (ahora sirviendo en Georgia) me solicitaron tener una reunión con ellos y con el pastor Richard. Manifestaron que Dios ha puesto en el corazón del pastor Richard ayudar y comenzar una iglesia hispana en el edificio de su iglesia. También compartieron que pensaban que yo era el hombre que Dios estaba llamando para esa

congregación. No esperaba esto, pero fue la confirmación de Dios de Su Llamado. Estoy agradecido con los pastores Larry Black y Raúl Santamaría por hacer realidad esta conexión. La Iglesia Bautista Crossroad nos ha bendecido mucho. -“Considero al pastor Richard como un amigo cercano. Estoy muy agradecido con Dios por haber unido nuestros caminos para bendecir a nuestra congregación”. Estos dos pastores juntos nos contaron como esta amistad fraternal ha crecido y como su relación ministerial ha ido más allá de Leesburg. El pastor Giovanni y el pastor Richard han realizado viajes misioneros juntos a El Salvador y el pastor Richard ha predicado en la iglesia de mi padre Giovanni en ese mismo país. Tienen un ministerio de ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) en el edificio y juntos, estos dos pastores, comparten una noche en la que están alimentando y sirviendo a la comunidad.

La Iglesia Bautista Crossroad obedeció el mensaje del Señor al ayudar a una congregación hispana a iniciarse en sus instalaciones, ¡y caminaron la milla extra! En octubre y noviembre del año 2021 el pastor Richard dijo que podía ver que la congregación hispana estaba creciendo con niños y bautismos. Habló con su congregación sobre cómo podrían ayudarlos a crecer aún más. El pastor Richard visitó la congregación hispana un par de veces y se quedó allí para tener un tiempo de compañerismo con ellos. La tercera vez le

dijo al pastor Giovanni que necesitaba hablar con él y dijo: -“Dios ha puesto en nuestro corazón para que la congregación hispana se reúna a las 11:00 am. Trasladaríamos nuestro servicio para las 10:00 am., para que ustedes puedan reunirse a las 11:00 am. La congregación votó y estamos de acuerdo”. Giovanni estaba en shock, ¿quién hace eso? “nos estaban dando su tiempo de servicio para que podamos reunirnos. Se incomodaron para que pudiéramos usar el edificio en ese espacio”. ¿Quién hace eso?, una congregación que escucha y obedece a la Voz del Señor.

Dios ha cumplido Sus Promesas. Hace algunos años Dios selló en el corazón de Giovanni este conocido versículo: “busquen primeramente el reino de Dios y su justicia, y todas estas cosas les serán añadidas.” (Mateo: 6-33). En el tiempo de la cuarentena Dios nos recordó: “busca primero Mi Reino y todo lo demás te será añadido”. En cualquier situación difícil debemos buscar Su Reino primero. Nuestro mandamiento como iglesia es ir y hacer discípulos, lo hicimos nuestra prioridad y hemos visto que Dios agrega todo lo que nos falta.”

Estamos seguros que la comunidad de Leesburg puede ver a estas dos iglesias trabajando de la mano y decir: “¡Miren Cómo Se Aman! ■

# 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)



**Brandon Hembree Family**  
**Church Planter**  
**IMPACT CHURCH OF FREDERICKSBURG**

*Meeting at:*  
4430 Lee Hill School Dr., Fredericksburg, VA  
*Birthdays:*  
Brandon (April 16), Ellen (March 3)

#### **PLEASE PRAY...**

- for God's grace and favor to reach college students at Mary Washington University and Germanna Community College.
- for us to see God change lives through The Gospel of Jesus.
- for God to lead us to reach the nations in Northern Virginia.
- for the salvation of our kids, Zeke, Zoe & Evie.

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

- Go—come serve with us for a weekend or week with your family, church or youth/college group.
- Pray—email us and ask to join our prayer partner list to get prayer requests.
- Give—we are looking for partners to help us financially plant a healthy, self-sustaining church over the next few years.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

hello@impactfxbg.church  
impactfxbg.church



**Charles Wilson Family**  
**Church Planter**  
**THE HILL CHURCH**

*Meeting at:*  
625 Churchland Rd NW, Roanoke, VA 24017  
*Birthdays:*  
Charles (April 7), Tranay (February 2)

#### **PRAY:**

- For our leadership team to grow in unity as we serve our city.
- For continued leadership development, specifically for elders to be raised up.
- For a strong worship team.

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

- Because of the economic challenges in the NW part of our city, we are in need of financial partners who understand the reality of planting churches in difficult places.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

thehillchurch.com  
life@thehillchurch.com



?

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.

**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)*

**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)*

**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](mailto:info@sbcv.org).

# engage

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM

Connecting with God for  
Spiritual and Emotional Health

**august  
5-6, 2022**

Virginia Crossings  
Conference Center

featuring special guests



**Lesley  
Hildreth**



**Missie  
Branch**

Find out more at [sbcv.org/engage](https://sbcv.org/engage)

## DESSERT *reception* at the Southern Baptist Convention



**JUNE 13, 2022**

ANAHEIM CONVENTION CENTER

FIND OUT MORE AT  
[SBCV.ORG/DESSERT](https://sbcv.org/DESSERT)

## Going Beyond SIMULCAST PRISCILLA SHIRER

**AN ONLINE EXPERIENCE  
FOR WOMEN SEEKING JESUS**

If you've felt empty and  
undone lately, prepare to  
meet God here.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2022

FIND OUT MORE AT  
[SBCV.ORG/GOINGBEYOND](https://SBCV.ORG/GOINGBEYOND)



# THE GATES OF HELL *Will Not Prevail*

By Ryan Tucker

In Matthew chapter 16, Jesus tells us that He will build His Church and that “the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

But that didn’t mean the forces opposed to the Church wouldn’t try to upend it. They have throughout history and are still trying to do so today.

One area where we see that is in the realm of religious freedom. You may have noticed that churches are facing

“Equality Act” potentially endanger churches’ ability to hire only employees who adhere to biblical principles.

Closer to home, churches in Virginia are even being threatened with fines up to \$100,000 for simply expressing their biblical beliefs about marriage on their own websites. This is because of the so-called Virginia Values Act. Enacted in July 2020, this state law would compel churches, religious schools, and Christian ministries to hire

employees who do not share their stated beliefs on marriage, sexuality, and gender identity. If churches and other ministries don’t abandon their core convictions in employment and other policies, they could face fines up

to \$100,000 for each violation. ADF is actively engaged on these fronts, standing up for churches so that their Gospel mission can be carried out.

The threat is real, and these examples only scratch the surface of what churches are encountering. With this in mind, it’s important to be as prepared as possible when it comes to your church’s religious liberties. That’s why ADF’s Church Alliance exists.

Do you have trusted counsel to call when your religious freedom is challenged?

How legally sound are your church’s fundamental documents? Are your church’s bylaws, policies, and other governing documents providing the strongest possible religious liberty legal protection for your church?

ADF Church Alliance wants to come alongside your church to help in these important and complex matters. **Through membership, ADF provides religious freedom legal help so you can freely preach the Gospel and operate your church in accordance with biblical principles.** Members get direct access to attorneys, resources, and more—it’s virtually all inclusive for religious freedom issues.

The gates of hell and the forces behind them may be hurling challenges toward the Church but, by God’s grace, we know they won’t conquer the body of Christ. We are proud to play a role in reinforcing the Church, and we hope you’ll consider joining the effort as we seek to keep the doors open for the Gospel.

-----  
*Ryan Tucker serves as senior counsel and director of the Center for Christian Ministries with Alliance Defending Freedom.*

**RESOURCE:**  
To learn more, visit:



[ADFChurchAlliance.org/SBCV](https://ADFChurchAlliance.org/SBCV)

**...it’s important to be as prepared as possible when it comes to your church’s religious liberties**



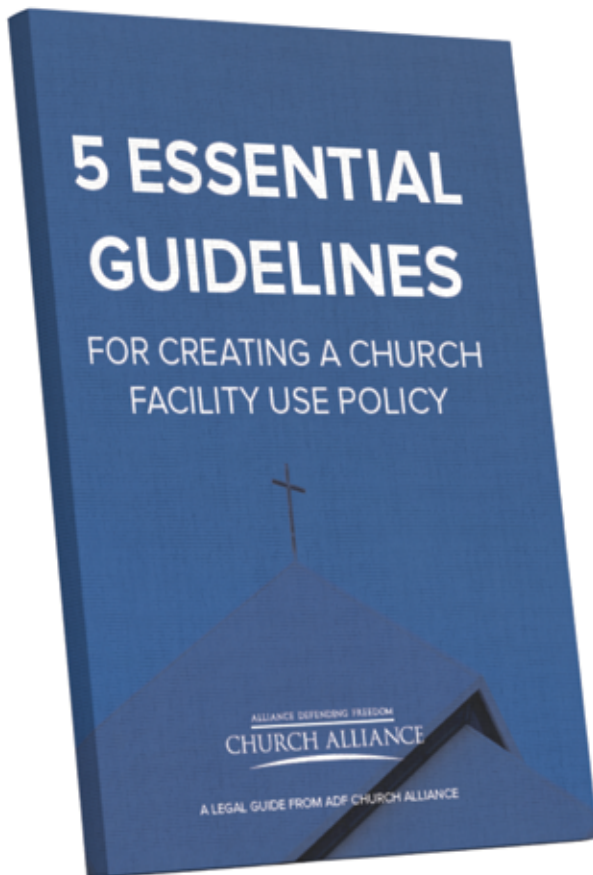
increased attacks on their religious freedom that create challenges to their mission and ministry. Your church may have experienced this firsthand.

Many of these threats are from government officials who limit churches’ rights to freely minister and operate according to biblical beliefs. In some instances, churches are being compelled to provide coverage for abortion and “sex-reassignment” procedures in employee health insurance plans. And federal bills like the deceptively titled



# FREE LEGAL GUIDE

## 5 Essential Guidelines For Creating A Church Facility Use Policy



This guide is a product of the Alliance Defending Freedom legal team.

ADF is the world's largest nonprofit legal advocacy organization committed to protecting religious freedom, free speech, marriage and family, parental rights, and the sanctity of life.

The use of your church's facilities is likely an integral part to your ministry and has religious freedom implications. That's why a sound Facility Use Policy is critical.

Download this free eBook to learn 5 guidelines for creating a facility use policy that can provide better religious freedom protection for your church.

To receive your free copy, go to  
[www.ADFChurchAlliance.org/facility-use](http://www.ADFChurchAlliance.org/facility-use)

# Devoted

## 250 Years as Gospel Witnesses

*"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*

— Ephesians 3:20-21 (ESV)

In 1771, as Benjamin Franklin was busy penning his autobiography, God breathed life into three Virginia Southern Baptist churches: **Morgans Baptist Church** in Bedford, **Old Powhatan Baptist Church** in Powhatan, and **Sandy Creek Baptist Church** in Jetersville. These congregations, who recently celebrated their 250<sup>th</sup> anniversaries, are continuing to preach the Gospel and serve their communities today.

Sandy Creek's pastor, Tom Campbell, honored the church's devoted forerunners in saying, "With its beginnings rooted deeply as the result of the preaching of the Great Awakening Revival, lives in Central Virginia are still being transformed by the

***Sandy Creek Baptist Church celebrates 250 years of preaching the Gospel and serving its community***







Pastor Russell makes sure the Gospel reaches all generations at Old Powhatan.

“

God has preserved a faithful Gospel witness on this same property for 250 years!

Gospel of Jesus Christ even to this day at Sandy Creek Baptist. We preach and believe in a Savior that died on the cross for the sins of all men just as much today as did our spiritual ancestors 250 years ago. We still tell the Story."

Pastor Brad Russell of Old Powhatan Baptist Church (OPBC) shared, "God has preserved a faithful Gospel witness on this same property for 250 years! But it is not enough to rest on a legacy of faithfulness and perseverance. Now, more than ever, OPBC is reaching our community and the nations by being sent out to spread the Good News. For 250 years, the people of Old

Powhatan have worked to make sure the Gospel reaches the next generation. As past generations have been faithful, it is our turn to be faithful to future generations here in Powhatan and to the ends of the earth."

God's faithfulness in preserving these churches is a stunning testimony of His goodness. It is evident that as the baton is passed from one generation to the next and the culture's climate continues to change, the Gospel remains a steadfast anchor in life's storms, as it is proclaimed each week.

When the Bible is faithfully preached, it also touches people *outside* of the church, transforming the community itself, as God's Word is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12). In the case of Morgans Baptist Church, even

government representatives have taken notice.

Edgar Tuck, the District 2 representative for the Bedford County Board of Supervisors, said he's known this church's ministry for his entire life: "The individuals that I know to have grown up under that ministry are contributing in various capacities in our community, continuing to share a biblical worldview and show the love of Christ to a hurting world. I give thanks to God for the ministry of Morgans Baptist Church."

This is a beautiful reminder that God's Word never returns void. Obedient Christians in 1771 planted seeds that continue to flourish in these three churches today, 250 years later. ■

# CALENDAR 2022

## MARCH

- 6-13 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering & Week of Prayer
- 7-8 Lifeway Student Ministry Essentials, (7) Libertylive.Church, Hampton; (8) Parkway BC, Moseley
- 12 Disaster Relief Basic Training, Cedar Bluff BC, Atkins
- 12 Kids Ministry Conference, North Roanoke BC, Roanoke
- 18-19 Disaster Relief ICS/IMT, Glen Allen
- 19 Disaster Relief Basic Training, Thomas Road BC, Lynchburg
- 29-30 Evangelism Tour with Jimmy Scroggins, (29) The Heights BC, Colonial Heights; (30) Fincastle BC, Fincastle

## APRIL

- 2 Disaster Relief ICS/IMT Refresher, Glen Allen
- 17 Easter Sunday
- 26-27 Prayer Summit, (26) Hyland Heights BC, Rustburg; (26) River Oak Church, Chesapeake; (27) Fellowship Community Church, Salem
- 28-29 Disaster Relief Chaplain Training (Assisting Individuals in Crisis), Glen Allen

## MAY

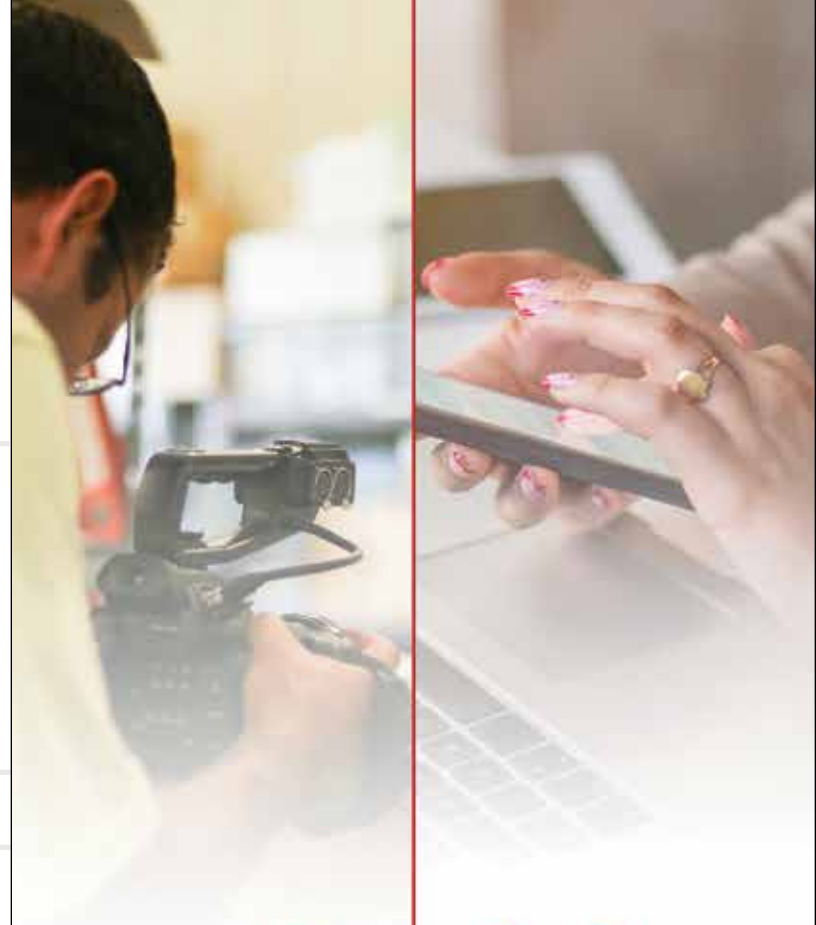
- 9-10 Young Pastors' Summit with Ben Mandrell, Glen Allen
- 19 Intern Training, Glen Allen Ministry Support Center
- 20-21 Disaster Relief Advanced Training, New Bridge BC, Sandston
- 20-21 Southwest Pastors, Staff, and Wives Retreat
- 21 Disaster Relief Basic Training, New Bridge BC, Sandston

## JUNE

- 12-15 Southern Baptist Convention, Anaheim, California
- 13 Dessert Reception, SBC, Anaheim, California
- 13-17 Student Fusion Camp, Bristol
- 23-25 IMB MedAdvance Conference, Mount Vernon BC, Glen Allen
- 24 Worship & Technology Conference, Liberty University, Lynchburg

## JULY

- 5-15 Project Northern Lights, France
- 21-24 Family Fusion, Chincoteague Island
- 28-30 Retiro para Lideres (Hispanic Women's Leadership Retreat), Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center, Toano



**We create media and handle the finances so you can focus on your mission.**

Get great looking graphics for your church's social media for only \$25/month. Visit our website to learn more.

**INNOVATIVE FAITH RESOURCES**  
*Media & Financial Services*

We would love to talk with you about your vision.

**innovativefaith.org**





# One Conference Two Languages

## *Worldwide Impact*

**O**n 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! ■



BRANDON PICKETT

✉ [bpickett@sbcv.org](mailto:bpickett@sbcv.org)

📘 [facebook.com/brandon.pickett](https://facebook.com/brandon.pickett)

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

# Foreigner *No More*

**Imagine** having to migrate to another country where you know no one and have very few, if any, resources. Now add to that a tragedy like the loss of a family member. You may think I'm talking about a current refugee or immigrant. That scenario could certainly describe many people today, especially refugees fleeing Ukraine.

But I'm actually thinking of the biblical account of Ruth. I've been drawn lately to this amazing story of loss, love, and loyalty.

There are so many layers to the story. But the one that sticks out for this edition of the *Proclaimer* is how Ruth, after the death of her father-in-law, her brother-in-law, and her husband, decides to leave her homeland and support her mother-in-law, Naomi, with everything within her. She turns her whole being from a place of hopelessness to the land, the people, and the Person of Hope (Ruth 1:16-18).

After one of the leaders and elders of the town of Bethlehem (Boaz) accepts her and lovingly helps and protects her (Ruth 2:8-13), she is welcomed into







**“...Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” *Ruth 1:16-17***

two families: 1) that of Boaz, Salmon, and going back to Judah (Ruth 4:11-12); and 2) that of the Jewish family!

This woman, who was once a stranger in a strange land, scrounging for food, becomes 1) the wife of one of the leaders and founders of Bethlehem; 2) the great grandmother of King David (Ruth 4:17-21); and 3) part of the ancestral line of King Jesus!

Today, thousands upon thousands of people are leaving their homelands and coming to the US with hope in their hearts. We have so many opportunities to share the beautiful love of Jesus and the message of the Gospel with the nations who have now become our neighbors. We are seeing a dramatic population increase in people of different nationalities who now make Virginia home.

Some good questions to ask ourselves both in ministry and personally:

- Are we receptive and open to approaching people from other nations to find out if they have any physical or spiritual needs?

- Are we as accepting of these as we are of those who are already part of our church family?
- Are we ready to introduce them to the Maker of each one of us...regardless of ethnicity? To tell them about Jesus, the only way to the Father—and prayerfully welcome them one day into the bigger family of God?

We need to remember that this is much bigger than just a country of origin or nationality. This has to do with eternity. By opening up our hearts and churches to the nations, we are actually paving the way for them to be welcomed into the family of God. What a blessing and celebration that happens every time someone accepts Jesus into his/her heart! Each new believer has the incredible privilege to be one God's children—joint heirs with Jesus Christ—and we will forever be together as the family of God, worshiping and praising the King of kings (Rev. 7:9-10). ■



# SBCVirginia

*You are not alone.*

## PROCLAIMER

4956 Dominion Boulevard  
Glen Allen, VA 23060

804-270-1848

[www.sbcv.org](http://www.sbcv.org)

[proclaimer@sbcv.org](mailto:proclaimer@sbcv.org)

**WORSHIP &  
TECHNOLOGY**  
CONFERENCE | 2022

There has never  
been a better time  
for sharpening our  
technology tools.

"Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."  
**1 Corinthians 10:31b**

**JUNE 24**  
LIBERTY UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

**FIND OUT MORE AT  
WORSHIPTECHVA.COM**