



SBCVirginia

You are not alone.

Ministry Report

Spring 2023

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Regional Strategist Team 2023 Overview

This year has already been a busy and fruitful season of ministry. The team hosted our first ever Pastors Prayer Gathering in Glen Allen, where 85 pastors from across the state participated. Our first ever Seminary for a Day saw 225 people participate, and our Prayer Summit tour had 172 in attendance!

The entire strategist team along with many SBCV pastors supported three church plants via the Norfolk Vision Tour with several more to come this year. There have also already been:

Points of Engagement:

- Over 800 weekly texts, calls, emails, and encouraging notes.
- 25+ power lunches, prayer breakfasts, and pastor fellowships across the state
- 45+ preaching & speaking engagements.
- 80+ pastors @ Pastors Prayer Gathering
- Every church contacted to encourage ACP collection.

Training/Consultations:

- 12 pastor search teams statewide
- 3 new affiliation meetings
- 4 new church affiliations

Upcoming 2023

As pastor network and fellowship events continue, as well as church consultations, another series of big events come in the 2nd half of the year. Among those are:

- Lifeway Small Group Tour
- Seminary for a Day- Fall Semester (6 locations)
- Pastors, Staff & Wives Retreat

Central Region

So far in 2023 the following Central Region churches have been trained and assisted in transition: Swift Creek, Colonial Heights; Skinquarter, Moseley; West End, Henrico; Second Branch, Chesterfield; Oak Grove, Richmond; Sandy Creek, Jetersville; Cartersville, Cartersville; and Covesville, Covesville.

We are pleased to welcome new pastors, Steve Knott to Woodlawn, Hopewell; Kyle Smith to Harvest Christian, Mechanicsville; Michael Rodriguez to Ironbridge, Chesterfield; David Slayton to Amelia, Amelia.

Preaching and speaking engagements include Salem, Woodlawn, Harvest Christian Fellowship and Red Lane Baptist Churches. We were pleased to participate and recommend Dustin Johnson to the gospel ministry at an ordination council at Parkway Baptist Church. Also, a Spiritual Shape seminar was led at a men's breakfast at Red Lane Baptist Church.

One on one church health consultations continue along with encouragement and resourcing for existing revitalization cohort churches.

The Central Region was host to the SBCV Pastors Prayer Gathering with good representation from area pastors. Also, in the region was the Pro-Life Day Rally and March for Life held on February 1 on the Capital lawn and city streets. Central Virginia Bible Conference sponsored by First Baptist Church Charlottesville took place on January 29-31. Dr. James Merritt blessed pastors and wives in a dessert reception prior to one of the evening services. The central region also hosted this year's Hispanic Women's Conference at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church with over 325 women participating. Center Church, Charlottesville hosted the SEND Virginia Network meeting in their new facility. Swift Creek Baptist Church, Colonial Heights was the host to this year's Disaster Relief Roundup. The annual Kids Ministry Conference was held again at Swift Creek Baptist Church with some 500 in attendance and finally, Seminary for a Day was held at Kingsland Baptist Church with Professor John Ewart, Southeastern Seminary.

There have been six regional pastor networks: Two breakfasts in Colonial Heights with 16 in attendance, lunch in Midlothian with 12 in attendance, breakfast in Glen Allen with six in attendance and two lunches in Charlottesville with 13 in attendance.

We are looking forward to the following Spring Events: DNOW Weekender at The Heights Baptist Church, Catch the Vision Tour Richmond/Mechanicsville, Sunday School-Small Group Tour at Iron Bridge Baptist Church and a Pastor and Staff Golf Outing.

Central-West and Southside Region

Since January of this year, regional pastor networking and training events have blessed 113 pastors at six meetings addressing topics of mentoring, pastor health, discipleship, student ministry as well as mutual prayer and support among ministers.

Hyland Heights Baptist in Rustburg hosted IMB's *Together for the Nations* which brought IMB's global affinity leaders together to meet with Southern Baptist missions advocates from around Virginia. Approximately 150 people gathered to foster a stronger connection between Southern Baptists and IMB missionaries around the world.

Churches also reached out for consultation. Bethel Baptist Church saw the retirement of its founder, Jack Barrett and needed Pastor Search Training as well as some organizational

coaching. Three other churches, Chestnut Hill - Lynchburg (provisional), Lakewood - Lynchburg, and Hunting Creek – Big Island, planned neighborhood activities and asked for some help in formulating a strategy and better understanding their neighbors' needs. Demographic studies were provided.

The SBCV Regional Strategist continued to build working relationships with ministry students at Liberty University through the Center for Church Advancement, (Directed by Chris Dowd, a pastor of SBCV church, Bedrock Church in Bedford.) Monthly conference calls focused on church needs and opportunities for ministry students to participate in outreach projects. Evangelism projects were developed with three SBCV churches: Beulah, Chestnut Hill and Hunting Creek Baptist.

Liberty Chapel Baptist called its new pastor, Art Cavanaugh, who was serving as the Interim pastor for a few months. Shermont Baptist in Danville has called a new youth pastor, Dylan Gray, who started in early February. New pastors were also called to Piney Fork in Gretna and Morgans Baptist in Bedford.

Mayesville Baptist Church began a partnership with Gilberto and Adon in Buckingham County to launch a new Hispanic church, which would meet in the church's former sanctuary.

North Region

Our North Region team has had a great start to the first quarter of 2023! We are thankful for the work that God is doing through our partnership in the Gospel with the churches in our region.

Pastors in our region are being encouraged and equipped in multiple ways. Encouragement comes to them through texts of Scripture and prayer each weekend as they prepare to preach on Sunday. Pastors, Planters, and Staff have also been encouraged and equipped through four Pastor Workshops during the months of January and February. The themes of our workshops at four locations have been "Creating A Vital Culture of Prayer in Your Local Church" and "Calendar Evangelism". More than thirty pastors, staff, and church planters from twenty-two churches participated in these four gatherings. Our team hosted/led a Residency Builder training where eighteen regional pastors and church leaders were equipped as they seek to raise up and launch out church planters through the ministries of their churches. In the month of March, our region hosted two state-wide equipping events. Over thirty of our church leaders received marvelous training through Seminary for a Day with guest professor Dr. John Ewart from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. 55 church leaders gathered for an amazing prayer experience and training with Dr. Daniel Henderson, President of Strategic Renewal International, at the Prayer Summit at First Baptist Church of Woodbridge. We are grateful for each of these equipping opportunities and look forward to our first North Region Pastors, Staff, and Wives Marriage Retreat in the month of April.

Since January 2023, we have welcomed four new senior pastors to our region of now former pastorless churches. First Baptist Church of Woodbridge welcomed Josh Wootton, Mount Holly Baptist welcomed Travis Hoke, New Hope Baptist, Louisa welcomed Eddie Haynes, and Oakland Baptist, King George welcomed Scott Bolton. We continue to provide training and resourcing for the other pastor search committees such as Jeffersonton Baptist Church, Jeffersonton.

We are grateful for the new Gospel partnerships that are forming between established churches and new church plants. Calvary Baptist, Orange, Rock Hill Baptist, Stafford, and Zion Baptist, Orange have forged partnership with church planter Reynaldo Quintanilla and Vida Church in Culpeper. Potomac Baptist Church, Scott Hesler, has partnered with Campo Blanco and Jefferson Hernandez. Recently, Fullness of Christ Church and Fisseha Tesfaye have ordained and had two elders approved to plant Ethiopian churches in northern Virginia.

We are grateful for the three new prospective SBCV churches that we are currently developing a relationship with (Round Hill Baptist Church, King George, Etlan Community Church, Etlan, and Rose Hill Baptist Church, Alexandria). God is at work revitalizing churches such as: Cardinal Baptist, Broad Run Baptist, Dale City Baptist, Ruckersville Baptist, and Heritage Church of Winchester.

We are grateful for the work that God is doing drawing our churches to be praying churches and to forge Gospel partnerships to reach the nations. We are truly experiencing the presence of the Lord as churches are working together for God's Glory!

Southeast Region

SBCV churches throughout the southeast region were powerfully reminded in the first quarter of 2023 that they are not alone.

The regional strategist preached at seven SBCV churches. Over 60 pastors or local church leaders had lunch or coffee with the regional rep and other pastors through one-on-one meetings, pastor network meetings, or coffee gatherings. These meetings included conversations about replanting, affiliation potential, church planting partnerships, church facility challenges, staffing issues, SBC national news, international missions' partnerships, and Hispanic ministry among other topics. Two churches were helped as they continued to search for their next lead pastor and other churches were assisted as they looked for other staff members. The region launched the first online preaching cohort which saw ten pastors and church leaders gathered monthly to learn how to grow as preachers. On February 23 several pastors and church leaders gathered at Catalyst Church to learn best financial practices for churches from SBCV's Eddie Urbine. In March, multiple churches throughout the region were represented at the SBCV Prayer Gathering at Bethel Baptist Yorktown.

On January 13 and 14 over 800 teenagers and student leaders gathered for the Youth Evangelism Conference in Virginia Beach. Students flooded the altar as they responded to God's prompting to salvation, rededication, and commissioning for missional efforts.

The Regional Strategist was also invited to speak at local conferences including a keynote speech on "Why the Church Should Engage the LGBTQ Community" at Faith Bible College, "The Necessity of Scripture" at Temple Baptist's Theology Week Conference, and a breakout session at the SBCV Women's Equip Conference in Yorktown. These opportunities are evidence of the trust and partnership between our local churches and the SBCV.

Several southeast pastors participated in statewide events including the Pastor's Prayer Gathering in Glen Allen and the Send Network Summit in Charlottesville. One pastor emailed his church following the Send Network Summit and reiterated his desire for them to be active in church planting. That pastor has since taken a vision trip to Canada to explore partnerships with NAMB church planters.

On February 6 and 7, nearly 30 church leaders from across Virginia gathered in Norfolk for a Catch the Vision Tour which displayed opportunities for church planting. Pastors gathered at a local coffee shop owned by SBCV OV Church and heard stories of God's calling and work from three current church planters in Norfolk. The tour also included a bus tour of Norfolk in which participants saw firsthand where God was at work throughout the city. Lunch was with the Global Friendship Venture reaching international students at ODU. Over 25 nations were represented.

On March 13 over 40 church leaders gathered for Seminary For A Day where they sat under the teaching of Dr. Ben Merkle and Dr. George Robinson from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary to learn about the Great Commission. As SBCV churches were reminded they are not alone, they were also reminded that our partnership is for the sake of the mission of reaching people for Jesus.

Southwest Region

Churches of the southwest region now beginning to lean into the power of "Not Alone."

We closed out 2022 by doubling our attendance at the pastor and wives Christmas banquet with nearly 130 present at the event. Pastors came from the furthest ends of the region spanning a 4-hour drive from point to point.

2023 is showing no signs of slowing down with Restoration Church in Wytheville and Reed Island Springs in Meadows of Dan applying for affiliation. We are so grateful to see these churches seeking to join our fellowship of churches after several years of relationship and investments made.

We are seeing churches and pastors lean into the power of "Not Alone" in several ways. One way is through pastor fellowships. We gather in six locations around the region each month,

but now some pastors are beginning to travel to meet with different groups rather than the group closest to them. The second way is through pastor search training. We are seeing churches without pastors become open to pastor search training for their leadership and search teams. As we walk through each phase of the process with them, they are also learning of more resources and opportunities available to them and as their new pastor comes in, they are sharing their desire to continue not only partnership but also relationship with the SBC of Virginia.

I am humbled to see how the Lord is not only drawing churches to partner together through the SBCV but also moving them to lean into the relationship to reach their neighbors and the nations with the Good News of Jesus.

Valley Region

“Welcome” has been a theme for the first few months of the new year for our Valley Region churches: in particular, welcoming new pastors and welcoming new opportunities.

Coming alongside our churches during times of pastoral transition is an important way that we have strengthened them. This includes initial consulting, training in best practices, and ongoing advice to our churches. The vast majority of our churches take advantage of our convention’s assistance in this regard. Helping churches during this transitional time can be a time-consuming journey for our field staff partnering with them. We rejoice that six churches have called new pastors in just the past few months – Crystal Spring, Riverdale, Mayflower, Glade Creek, Windsor Hills, and Faith in Salem. In total, ten churches have called new pastors in the last year. Many of our churches remain in the process of searching for their next pastor, but we continue to help them as they move forward. We have welcomed these new pastors and look forward to the positive impact they will bring.

In addition, our valley region churches have welcomed new opportunities. For example, among several churches in the process of replanting, Ridgeview Church in Boones Mill has successfully launched to great enthusiasm having had significant assistance from SBCV throughout. With our help, another potential new replant is in the works for the Fishersville area. Replant discussions have begun in additional churches in Roanoke and Elkton. Planting churches is another way that we can come alongside our coalition churches, and we welcome the good representation from our Region that took part in the first Church Planting Summit in Charlottesville. In addition, there are several future church planters in process coming from our Region churches. We also rejoice in several of our churches beginning residency programs to develop new leaders, some who will become church planters. Fincastle Baptist, in consultation with our staff, launched a new campus in Lexington, a community in great need of a vibrant Southern Baptist witness. Also, we welcome Riverland Road Baptist in Roanoke as they have applied to be accepted as a newly affiliated partner church as well as another church who votes in May to partner with us.

These examples display that the churches of the SBC of Virginia are “Not Alone.” God has poured abundant blessings upon our SBCV family of churches in the Valley Region.

Ministry Wins

This year's focus will be on strengthening and mobilization. We feel confident that the Hispanic congregations in our convention feel part of the family. There is still a need for training in their heart language. As part of healthy growth, we are partnering with our churches to provide mobilizing training in different areas.

Training with partners

- We helped set up a training event on missions to unreached groups in January in the Richmond area. Iglesia Vida Nueva hosted the event, and *Movilización Hispana* prepared a training on how Hispanic churches can and should reach the unreached groups. We had Alejandro Ortiz, a former IMB missionary, who was persecuted in a Muslim country, and before that, he went as a missionary with his wife to Africa.
- We supported *Movilización Hispana's* Mission retreat/conference on April 3-5 at IMB's International Learning Center at Rockville. The purpose of this event is to prepare leaders in churches so they can mobilize their members into international missions. This year they had nine SBCV pastors attending their event
- We did a training on Children's Ministry discipleship system at First Baptist Woodbridge on April 15th. This training was provided for our Hispanic churches in Northern Virginia. Word of Life's Multicultural Director was the main speaker at this event and lead breakouts on "preparing next-gen leaders of tomorrow."

Training through big and small events

- SBCV's Hispanic Women's Ministry had their Conference *EQUIPADA 2023* at Mount Pleasant in Colonial Heights. Almost 300 came to the event to worship together, be fed spiritually, and participate in 6 different breakouts that were prepared for this one-day event.
- We had five breakouts in Spanish for our Kids' Conference at Midlothian (March 4th) and Salem (March 11th).
- Our Church planting team in Spanish has been busy preparing specific intensive training on the topics of Pastoral Care, Vision, and mission. This training has been done by area (Richmond, southwest, and North).
- The church planting team met with churches in the Norfolk area to train on why and how a church can participate in church planting.
- We have doing marriage breakouts at two churches in the Richmond area in February. And we are preparing a special one-day event for Norfolk at the end of April.
- May will be a time for grilling and fellowship. We will have four different fellowship events in the four regions to spend a day of grilling and fellowship with pastoral families.

Communications

- We will have our second issue of PROCLAMANDO in Spring. We are involving more Spanish leaders and pastors in this issue.

Goals for 2023

We realize that if we want to glorify God through healthy churches that multiply, we need to come alongside our churches to strengthen the members of their congregations.

- We have now an advisory team of Hispanic pastors that are helping us advance the unity of the convention by connecting our churches in our mission, contributing, and sharing resources, and strengthening communication with English-speaking churches.

Strategic Initiatives

- Pregnancy Centers
 - Warrenton Pregnancy Center
 - After a long search we were able to locate a pregnancy center that wanted and needed a new ultrasound unit. The Warrenton Pregnancy Center was a perfect fit for this partnership with Psalm 139. SBCV donated \$25,000 for this unit.
 - We were able to attend a dedication service on Tuesday, Jan. 30th with a number of SBCV pastors present and participating in the event.
 - CareNet Peninsula
 - On November 15th, during the Annual Homecoming gathering in Roanoke, SBCV churches presented CareNet Peninsula Executive Director, Ryan Holloway, with a \$25,000 donation to help with ultrasound room expansion. CareNet Peninsula serves women facing unplanned pregnancies throughout Southeast Virginia. According to CareNet's website (cnpensinsula.org) 3,000 women on the Peninsula will have an unplanned pregnancy this year. Half of those will end in abortion... but they don't have to!
 - We are waiting now for construction to be completed and for the rooms to be ready for dedication.
 - Vetting Future Partnerships
 - Choices Women's Center – Fredericksburg
 - ANPC – Onley
 - Comfort Care – Augusta County
 - Blue Ridge Pregnancy Center – Lynchburg
- Family Foundation
 - SBCV partnered with Family Foundation to promote as well as attend and shoot video of the first ProLife Day. This was much more than a March for Life. It started with a pastor's breakfast (attended by a number of SBCV pastors and staff). Then people attending the day had the opportunity to visit legislators at the capitol. Finally, it culminated with a rally at noon and a march immediately after. The Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General all attended the march.
- Alliance Defending Freedom
 - We continue to promote this partnership with social media, email notifications, and videos.
- Virginia Deaf Network
 - We continue to work with John Wyble to both network and serve existing deaf ministries while looking for future locations that need deaf ministry.

- Shining Hope International
 - We are working with Tony Ghareeb in a new way starting in 2023. The ministry he has started in Lebanon is unique and thriving. Here is some info about Shining Hope International
 - Location is Anjar, Lebanon (near the Syrian Border). This is especially strategic after the earthquake.
 - He is planning on sending a supply container to the region very soon. This is a great outreach for SBCV churches to give supplies toward and SBCV to help with cost to ship.
 - Opportunities to partner: Mission Trips, Evangelism, Preaching, VBS, Youth, Construction.
 - Training Center -Training 20-30 young men for pastoring/preaching Many are coming to Christ – so they need more churches in this region. These men will live here for 1-2 years and when they are finished their training they will go back to their homes to plant and preach.
 - School - The school has around 350 students. This is a prime opportunity for ministry!
 - Refugee camps - They have an open door for feeding, evangelism, prayer, etc.

Media Resources

Consultation

The media team continues to provide consultation of best practices, tips, and equipment to help churches navigate daily operations and church services.

Event Coverage

The following major events listed in chronological order received online and print promotions. Some of these include video and photo documentation. Those resources can be found at www.sbcv.org/video and www.flickr.com/sbcv.

- Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC) promo with video, presentation & livestream support with highlight photos & video
- Send Virginia Summit highlight photos & video coverage
- Entrenamiento “Iglesia en Desarrollo” promotions
- Church Planting Residency Builders promotions
- ESL Training promotions
- Pastor Mission Vision Tours (Puerto Rico) promotions
- Pastors’ Prayer Gathering promotions, presentations & audio support, & highlight photos & video
- Virginia March for Life promotions with video & highlight photos & video

- Churches Planting Churches “Catch the Vision” Tour promotions
- Pastor Mission Vision Tours promotions
- Equipada Conferencia de Mujeres presentation support & highlight photos & video
- Equip Women’s Conference multi-location presentation support & highlight photos & video
- Disaster Relief training promotions & email support
- Kids Ministry Conference promotions & multi-location presentation support, program guide for both locations, ordering of journals, bags, and travel mugs, & plan to cover both locations.
- Annie Armstrong Easter Offering promotions
- Seminary For A Day promotions with video, multi-location presentation support, & plan to cover three locations [Danville, Richmond, Hampton]
- Student Ministry Leaders’ Roundtable promotions and presentation support
- Media Workshop promotions and presentation support
- IMB Together For The Nations Conference promotions & plan to cover
- Prayer Summit Tour promotions with plan to cover Roanoke location with live support & Hampton with highlight photos & video
- Entrenamiento de Ministerio de Niños promotions
- North Region Pastors, Staff, and Wives Retreat promotions and presentation support and couples’ photos
- Pastors’ Leadership Summit with Jeff Iorg promotions with plan to cover
- Compañerismo Hombres y Mujeres promotions
- Foster Care Awareness Sunday promotions
- Small Group Tour with Ken Braddy promotions with plan to cover Danville or Christiansburg locations
- SBC Dessert Reception promotions
- Worship & Technology Conference planning and promotions
- Student Fusion Mission Camp promotions
- Family Fusion Mission Camp promotions
- Encounter Women’s Leadership Forum promotions
- Church Planter Family Day 2023 promotions
- Purpose: A Gathering for Girls promotions
- Conferencia Equipada para Madres e Hijos promotions
- Sunday School Essentials with Ken Braddy promotions

Resources

This includes new online resources that are available to churches.

- Monthly Prayer Needs promoted and produced since February and made available to download.

- Disaster Relief training videos were just filmed along with the production of PowerPoint presentations that will be produced by the end of March.

Not Alone Podcast

The Not Alone Podcast continues to feature new conversations weekly with church leaders across the state and SBCV strategists that discuss timely resources each week. The podcast is available on Apple, Google, Spotify, Castbox, and at www.sbcv.org/podcast.

Proclaimer & Proclamando

The spring issue of the *Proclaimer* is in its final stages. The Hispanic magazine, *Proclamando*, is also in production. Find *Proclaimer* magazines online at www.sbcv.org/proclaimer and *Proclamando* at www.sbcv.org/proclamando.

Additional Projects

- Media requests are now handled through an Airtable form, which creates a database of projects requested for the year.
- Designing downloadable resources, promotions, and webpage for Family Advocacy Ministry: A Foster Care Initiative
- New print materials for Ministerio de Mujeres
- New banner stand for Ministry Wives
- January – March, April – May, & June – August Mission Projects website, promo graphics, and postcard mailer
- Designed a new Disaster Relief Rebuild logo, t-shirt, and sticker
- Designed updates to Bible Drill Certificates
- Designing a new Disaster Rebuild trailer wrap
- Updating Disaster Relief PDFs throughout the website

Mass Emails

The latest updates on resources and opportunities are emailed to churches through SBCV News and other general emails.

Website

The SBCV website continues to be updated with resources for our churches including new videos in the video library, events, and blog posts.

We are thankful to report 97,153 unique pageviews throughout sbcv.org (pageviews from January 1, 2023, to April 19, 2023). There has been a total of 16,703 searches via the website's spotlight search (searches from January 1, 2023, to April 20, 2023).

Updates to the website include:

- Transitional Pastor Training Courses made available online.
- Weekly Women's Ministry Blogs in English and monthly blogs in Spanish
- Monthly 52 Sundays missionary stories
- Blog posts to brianautry.com
- New page commemorating the ministry of Clint Clifton
- Worked with IT to make the new job board live.

Evangelism

- **Bless Every Home** continues to be the primary tool recommended to churches to reach neighbors with the Gospel. To date, **185 churches** have partnered with **4,025 people** who have adopted 94,079 homes to pray for, care for, share with, and disciple.
- With the theme and focus on **Prayer** for 2023, we are emphasizing the prayer component of Bless Every Home. The goals would be to reach 200 churches partnering and 4,000 individuals.
- We introduced to churches at Annual Homecoming a free resource in **Saturate USA** that can be used to map out and share the Gospel in neighborhoods.
- An **evangelism podcast** was made and published interviewing Saturate USA founder, Phil Cohen.
- **State DOE Meeting** took place on January 16-19 in New Orleans with Tim Dowdy, the new NAMB Vice-President for Evangelism. In addition to networking with other state leaders, we heard from guest speakers Fred Luter, Matt Queen, and John Avant. NAMB is working on an Evangelism Toolbox to be launched by the SBC.
- The SBTexas Convention in partnership with NAM piloted a follow-up to **Who's Your One** evangelism strategy and named it **Advancing the Movement**. Guest speakers for the one-day conference were JJ Washington, National Director of Personal Evangelism, and Matt Queen, Professor of Evangelism, Southwestern Seminary. The half day conference equipped pastors and church members to identify lost persons within their influence to pray for and share the Gospel with.
- **State Events with evangelism emphasis:** YEC, Prayer Retreat, Church Planting Vision Tours, Kids Ministry Conference, Young Pastors Summit, etc.

Pastoral Care and Leadership Development

- **Care4Pastors Guidestone** was held on January 24-26 at the Guidestone Building in Dallas. Executive Directors and representatives from state conventions were hosted by Mark Dance, introduced to new staff, and learned of benefits for pastors.
- **Pastors Prayer Gathering** was held on January 23-24 at The Place with 85 pastors.
- **Seminary for the Day** was held from March 13-16 in each region with professors from Southeastern Seminary.
- **Young Leaders/Pastors Leadership Summit** with Jeff Iorg – May 9
- **Regional Pastor Networks**
- **SBCV Dessert Fellowship at the SBC** – June 12
- **Co-Vocational Family Outing** – July 14-15
- **Church Planter Family Day** – August 4
- **New Pastor Orientation** – September 26

- **Pastor Staff and Wives Retreat at Kingsmill, Williamsburg** with Dr. And Mrs. Tate Cockrell – October 6-7
- **SBCV Annual Homecoming Breakouts** – November 13
- **Regional Pastor and Wives Christmas Banquets** – Last week of November and the first week of December

Sunday School/Small Groups

- **The Small Group Tour with Ken Braddy**, LifeWay Christian Resources will be held on May 23-25 at Iron Bridge Baptist Church, Chesterfield, Mount Herman Baptist Church, Danville and NorthStar Church, Blacksburg. Brady will speak from his new book **Breakthrough: Creating a New Scorecard for Group Ministry Success** and all attendees will receive a copy.
- **Sunday School Essentials** with Ken Braddy and other guest speakers will be October 17-18 at the SBCV office.
- **Sunday School/Small Group** church training is available upon request.

Women's Ministry

- **Women's Ministry Team:** Donna Paulk continues to serve as the Women's Ministry Team Leader and Dolly Mink serves as the Ministry Coordinator. Laura Guardia is the Hispanic Consultant for both Women and Children. The Women's Ministry Team is comprised of multiple sub-teams with members from all regions of Virginia. The sub-teams include a Regional Team, Hispanic Team, Ministry Wives Team and a Social Media Team.

Events

- **WM Planning Retreat:** Held on January 14-15 at Kingsmill Resort, all three teams met together to pray, strategize, and plan. Women's Ministry (10 team members), Hispanic Ministry, and Ministry Wives (14 team members) were in attendance.
- **Regional Equip Women's Conference:** Three regional Equip events were held this year: February, at Bethel Baptist Church in Yorktown; March, at North Roanoke Baptist Church in Roanoke; and April 1, at Spotswood Baptist Church, in Fredericksburg. Combined, there were over 670 women from a total of 79 different SBCV churches in attendance at these events.
 - At two of the events, Yorktown and Fredericksburg, Rachel Lovingood, pastor's wife and Lifeway trainer, was the keynote speaker, and Lexi Shipp, pastor's wife and girl's ministry director at London Bridge Baptist Church, was the keynote speaker for the event in Roanoke.
 - Each event included several breakout sessions led by members of the SBCV Women's Ministry Team, as well as breakout sessions led by representatives of

Kids Ministry and Compassion Ministry. Two events included a regional meeting for all local women's ministry leaders, reaching over 30 leaders to engage and offer resources to them to take back to their churches.

- **Hispanic Women's Conference:** The Hispanic Women's Ministry, Ministerio de Mujeres, held Equipada at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Richmond, on February 18 with over 300 women in attendance. Thirty SBCV churches were at that event. There were 6 breakout sessions, and English translation was offered for the main speaker sessions.
- **Ministry Wives Regional Meeting:** In October, the ministry wives of the Central West/Southside region met to share information and resources. There were 22 ministry wives present representing 14 SBCV churches.

Social Media:

- Weekly blogs since January
- Daily inspirational posts on Facebook and Instagram
- Monthly prayer/encouragement video on Facebook and Instagram

Still to come in 2023

- *Encounter*, statewide joint leadership conference with the Hispanic women's ministry, Swift Creek Baptist Church, Midlothian, July 28-29
- Girls' ministry conference, *Purpose*, London Bridge Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, Sept 22
- Statewide LifeWay training event and women's conference with Priscilla Shirer at LibertyLive, Hampton, Oct 20-21
- Equipada para Madres e Hijas, an event in collaboration with Lifeway for Hispanic mothers and daughters, Oct 29
- U-Lead LifeWay Training and Kelly Minter Conference, May 8-9, 2024 at The Heights Baptist Church, Colonial Heights.

Men's Ministry

- **Noble Warriors** continues to be our partner for men's Ministry. The return for an in person Noble Man Conference was held in Mechanicsville on April 15 with Art Athens and Joe Martin as keynote speakers. The day included exhibits, lunch, and workshops.

Next Gen Ministry

Student Events

- **YEC** was held at London Bridge Baptist Church in Virginia Beach, on January 13-14. The theme was Revive based on Psalm 19:7. The guest evangelist was Shane Pruitt from the

North American Mission Board, and worship was led by the Chapels Band out of Woodstock, Georgia. The weekend also featured illusionist Bryan Drake. There were 915 in attendance with the following on site decisions: 50 salvations, 18 rededications, 8 call to ministries, and 22 others. This does not include the many reports of students who had Gospel conversations after the event.

- **Student Pastor Roundtable** was held on March 21 at the SBCV building in Glen Allen with guest speakers Richard Ross and George Siler who discussed the importance of the supremacy of Christ in our lives, personally, as well as in our ministries. They also spoke about the benefits of longevity in serving in student ministry. We had 36 attendees (plus 2 speakers and 3 SBCV staff), 21 SBCV churches, and 3 non SBCV churches.

DNOWs

In 2023, Disciple Now Weekenders for Students expanded. The SBCV came alongside and offered resources to the following networks: Roanoke, Northern Virginia, Colonial Heights, Farmville, Danville and Bristol. These have happened organically among churches in each region, which has been an answer to prayer!

- Danville DNow - Students and leaders: 445 (Students 335); SBCV Churches Represented: 9; Non-SBCV: 8
- Farmville DNow - 70 in attendance (58 students)
- Valley Student Conference, Roanoke
- Northern VA Student Collective Conference at FBC Woodbridge
- Colonial Heights Student Collective Conference - May 5-6
- Bristol DNow - Fall of 2023

Upcoming Events

- **Student Fusion Camp** will be held June 19-23 in Chesterfield, Virginia with Bethany Place Baptist Church being the worship hub. Chesterfield is the fastest growing area of Virginia and students will convene in the area to assist churches and plants in ministering in their neighborhoods. As of April 11th, we have 10 churches with 155 people registered.
- **Family Fusion** will be held on July 20-22 at Buckroe Beach, Hampton. Buckroe Beach is filled with both tourists and locals every summer. Entire families will have the opportunity to partner with local churches to minister to residents and visitors. Registration is sold out with 30 families participating.

Kid's Ministry

Events

- **VBSI Celebration Day:** (for the SBCV VBSI team) was held January 28th at Swift Creek Baptist Church. There were 9 in attendance. Core base training in VBS and children's ministry was provided to equip those attending to lead at the Kids Ministry Conferences.
- **Kids Ministry Conference Midlothian:** was held on March 4 at Swift Creek Baptist with 529 registered and 450 participating. One children's specialist from Lifeway was the keynote speaker and there were over 40 breakout sessions offered including a Spanish Track. There were 108 churches that participated, 74 SBCV and 34 non-SBCV.
- **Kids Ministry Conference Salem:** was held on March 11 at Fellowship Community Church with 450 registered and 270 participating. Two children's specialist from Lifeway were the keynote speakers and 30 breakout sessions were offered. There were 69 churches that participated, 58 SBCV and 11 non-SBCV.
- **Hispanic Kids Ministry Training:** On April 15, we held an Entrenamiento para Ministerio de Niños para el Area (Norte). This is a Kids Ministry training for the churches in the NOVA area. In attendance were 63 leaders from 6 different SBCV churches.

Speaking and Training Engagements

- **Equip Trainings:** (presenting at women's ministry events) Three regional events were attended with two children's ministry breakouts offered at each.
- **Training for Parents:** Rileyville Baptist Church invited SBCV Kids to present as keynote for parent equipping event.
- **Not Alone Podcast:** produced highlighting Good News Clubs, sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship, being conducted in public schools across our regions.

Network Meetings

- **SBCV Kids Ministry Team:** consists of seven members – two from Valley region, two from Central region, two from Southeast region and Children's Ministry Coordinator.
- **Emails, Phone Calls and Texts:** continuing to children's leaders across the state to encourage and ask for prayer requests from their homes and churches.
- **Conference Calls and Trainings:**
 - Lifeway Kids (quarterly)
 - State Associates Team (monthly)
 - SBCV Kids Ministry Team (quarterly)

Communication and Publications

- **VBS Prayer Calendar developed:** for churches in our convention across the state. Please note that the National Day of Prayer for VBS is **Sunday May 21, 2023**.

- **Resources:** Continual updating of SBCV Kids webpage with resources for safety and security, special needs, and training videos and pdfs, as well as links to our participating partners in ministry.

Prayer Ministry

- **Monthly Prayer Videos** - In the months of February, March, and April our team has produced ninety-second prayer videos. These brief, monthly, mission-focused videos will continue to be posted on the SBCV website and social media platforms each month in 2023. Our desire is to call our churches to seek God's face in corporate prayer for His manifest presence in our lives, ministries of our churches, and to the mission that He has called us to fulfill for His glory.
- **Pastor Prayer Gathering** - was held at The Place, Glen Allen on January 23 and 24 with 85 pastors seeking God's face together.
- **Prayer Summit Tour** - with Dr. Daniel Henderson took place on March 28-30 at Bethel Baptist Church, Yorktown, First Baptist Church Woodbridge and First Baptist Church Roanoke. There was a total of 172 attendees from 30 plus SBC of Virginia churches that participated in the summit tour. Henderson, president of Strategic Renewal International, practically helped our church leaders understand how they can develop a vital culture of prayer and lead life-giving prayer gatherings in the churches that they serve. Praise the Lord for the hunger that was evident in the hearts and lives of the summit participants to lead their churches to seek God's face and to become houses of prayer for all nations.
- **Church Planting Catch the Vision Tours** will take place throughout the Commonwealth and Washington, DC. Church leaders will be invited to pray over various mission fields and encouraged to partner with church planters in these areas. We are excited to see God use these opportunities to multiply laborers for His Harvest and plant new churches for the building of His Kingdom.
- **PRAYVA:** Magnet initiative is being relaunched with an emphasis on praying for our neighbors and nations, prayer concerns, prayer callouts and resources. The website will be updated with links and tools that will lead and encourage prayer throughout the Commonwealth.
- **PRAY Monthly Video** – these 90 second videos provide 3 prayer prompts focusing on various needs and can be used by churches during live services or as posts on social media.

The SBC of Virginia Missions team seeks to connect churches with each other, our national partners (IMB, NAMB and Send Relief), and the mission field through **PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS** and **COMPASSION MINISTRIES**. Our strategy is to encourage **LOCAL CHURCHES** as the primary sending and going agencies as they mobilize to obey the **GREAT COMMISSION** in **PARTNERSHIP** and **COOPERATION** with one another.

MISSIONS MOBILIZATION AT A GLANCE

- Around 200 church and missions leaders from across Virginia gathered at Hyland Heights Baptist Church for one of four IMB Together for the Nations conferences – a day of meeting IMB missionaries, catching vision for God’s heart for the nations and finding next steps toward global engagement.
- At least 17 SBC of Virginia churches have active partnerships or are pursuing new partnerships with church planters in Puerto Rico. Numerous teams continue to go through Send Relief channels to Puerto Rico and will be needed in coming months for Disaster Response.
- Over 50 SBC of Virginia churches are committed to serving in Sub-Saharan Africa, and new SBC of Virginia missionaries have arrived in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Sub-Saharan African strategy is also focusing on praying for and reaching 55 UUPGs in five years.
- The NAME Diaspora partnership is running strong through advocacy alongside Old Powhatan Baptist and LibertyLive.Church. Brad Russell continues to train all new NAME missionaries on good church missions partnerships at Field Personnel Orientation training.
- New partnerships are in the works with IMB Global Cities Teams in Dakar, Senegal and Buenos Aires, Argentina. Ten SBCV pastors and leaders recently took a vision trip to Buenos Aires and three SBCV churches are already active in Dakar.
- Family Advocacy Ministry (FAM) has launched in Virginia with a FAM Workshop with Michelle Chitwood and Lynette Ezell. Eight SBCV churches are exploring starting FAM ministries in conjunction with SBCV and Send Relief.

PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS HIGHLIGHTS

NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

SBCV’s ongoing partnership with the NAME Affinity is strong and healthy. Brad Russell is leading out to strengthen existing relationships and ministry opportunities while also exploring new, strategic initiatives within the affinity. Here are a few highlights.

- Project Northern Lights – This summer, First Baptist Suffolk will lead out to send a team for a week-long Gospel distribution project and to explore the city strategy, especially among NAME peoples. There are still spots on this team available.

- Brad continues to meet with NAME and NAME Diaspora leadership to explore new initiatives and new places to reach NAME peoples around the globe. Each new initiative gives more options for SBCV churches.

PUERTO RICO

- At least 17 church-to-church partnerships have been started and are growing between SBCV churches and Puerto Rico churches.
- Numerous churches continue to go to Puerto Rico through SEND Relief channels.
- Twelve SBCV pastors and leaders went on the January Catch the Vision Tour to Puerto Rico with several already formalizing partnerships with churches in Puerto Rico.
- Brad hosted over 40 pastors and leaders from across the country in Puerto Rico to expand the church planting partnerships.
- The next Catch the Vision Tour will be in November 2023.

SOUTH ASIA

- Westly Yoder (Maysville Baptist) and Tom Melvin are heading to India to reconnect with and train and develop pastors and planters for new work.

NEW INITIATIVES IN PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS

GLOBAL CITIES – The IMB has identified 75 Global Cities which are strategic cities for reaching global populations. Each affinity has identified cities and the SBCV is working with the Sub-Saharan Africa Affinity, the North Africa and Middle East Affinity and the American Peoples Affinity to mobilize SBCV churches to three strategic global cities in the coming years. Vision trips or mission trips are set up for 2023 for each of these three cities.

NAME DIASPORA GLOBAL CITY – Marseille, France – Mission Trip - July 3-14, 2023- First Baptist Suffolk is heading up this trip and they have spots available for other SBCV churches to join in. This is a great opportunity for college students and young adults as well.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA GLOBAL CITY – Dakar, Senegal - Discovery trip connected with SBCV missionaries and with team leaders who are ready to host teams as early as Fall 2023. There will be all kinds of ministry opportunities and the SBCV will be drilling down on three areas of the city with church planting/new work options. Teams will stay at one of two guesthouses run by IMB personnel. Three churches are already partnering with two new partners in the works for a potential fall trip.

AMERICAN PEOPLES GLOBAL CITY – Buenos Aires, Argentina – Ten SBCV pastors and leaders took a vision trip in March to work with the City Team, to explore the Gospel work and prayerfully consider partnership. Four pastors from the Southwest Region went on the trip, with the plans of adopting this partnership as a region-wide partnership.

MISSIONARY CARE – Missionaries are in great need of pastoral care, prayer and encouragement.

- SBCV churches provide a boost to all new IMB missionaries during their training through an ice cream social at dinner and a visit from your SBCV Missions Strategist
- SBCV pastors are encouraged to contact the Missions Mobilization team to learn how they can have an encouraging/pastoral care relationship with a missionary in need. We are looking for 25-50 pastors willing to take part in a pilot program this fall to fill the gaps in pastoral care for our IMB missionaries.

TOGETHER FOR THE NATIONS - An IMB one day event for mobilizing the church right here in Virginia. Missionaries and missions leaders gathered to learn more about God's work around the globe and strategize together on how to partner for the Gospel to reach the nations. Missionaries from nearly every affinity were in attendance and about 200 participants were challenged to take the next step in engaging the nations with the Gospel. Follow up has begun with IMB and SBCV.

COMPASSION MINISTRIES HIGHLIGHTS

Three Equip Conferences with SBCV Women's Ministry provided the opportunity to share about Partnership Missions and Compassion Ministries with over 100 women in breakout sessions.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

- Pray for our ESL Trainers around the state. Bruce and Lynne Flanary, Miriam Fuller, Kathryn Tolliver, Tim Wisdom, and Cindi Melvin.
- Tutoring Children and Youth (TCY)- TCY Literacy Missions' primary goal is to share the gospel of Christ while meeting the needs of school-age children and youth who need help with schoolwork/academic skills. As of July 2022, SBCV was the only entity in Virginia credentialed by National Literacy Missions Partnership/NAMB/Send Relief to train churches in TCY. Even before official promotion and awareness of this new resource, three SBCV churches are considering TCY as a future ministry.
- There are 19 known and active ESL ministries through SBCV churches.
- Jerusalem Baptist Church hosted an ESL training on March 31-April 1 with 15 participants from three SBCV churches. January ESL Workshop done at Oak Grove/Colonial Beach: 19 trained; 5 SBCV churches/3 non-SBCV.

FOSTER CARE (Family Advocacy Ministry)

Family Advocacy Ministry (FAM) has kicked off with a summit and meeting with Michelle Chitwood and Lynette Ezell. Eight SBCV churches are exploring launching FAMs which include coaching from Send Relief leaders and tailored ministries to meet needs in particular contexts. Needs and opportunities include...

- Partnering with Local Children's Homes for activities, care and tutoring
- New Foster Families
- CarePortal – meeting immediate needs
- Wrap-Around Care for Foster Families in our churches
- And more...

Foster Care Awareness Sunday is Mother's Day, May 14. SBCV churches are asked to pray for children in foster care and for God to raise up churches and families to care for vulnerable children across Virginia.

HUNGER MINISTRIES – 10 Active SBCV-Supported Hunger Ministries

YEAR TO DATE HUNGER MINISTRY RESULTS

Evangelistic Encounters:	3,154
Professions of Faith:	3
Baptisms:	2
Volunteers Serving:	469
Number of Volunteers Trained in Evangelism:	82
Hot Meals Provided:	6,918
Bag Lunches Distributed:	880
Grocery Distribution - Individuals Fed:	4,888
Total Fed This Quarter:	18,562

Disaster Relief volunteers coordinated with first responders in four counties to provide meals for 75 participants in a Search and Rescue drill that took place in Colonial Heights on Feb. 25. This provided a good “shakedown” of our Quick Response Unit and team. This ministry was received with grateful enthusiasm by the Search and Rescue teams. Concurrently, 10 miles away, 57 DR Round-Up volunteers gathered to celebrate what God accomplished through SBCV Relief Ministries in 2022 and to hear a vision for the year ahead. These joined the Search and Rescue teams for lunch and were able to mix and mingle over a meal to build partnership.

Rebuild teams focused their efforts on the Collins family home in January. Their work was completed in February after three deployments. In March, work began on two homes with fire damage, one in Appomattox County and one in Amherst County, six SBCV churches participated, including two youth groups.

DR Ministry coordinators (chainsaw, flood recovery, feeding, chaplaincy, and equipment) took part in the National DR Roundtable in January in Jacksonville, Florida. Some key take-always were:

- 1) NAMB/Send Relief has begun efforts to raise funds that will enable SBDR groups to provide Feeding independent of partnerships with outside organizations if it becomes necessary. NAMB’s goal is to raise \$5,000,000.
- 2) Quick Response Feeding ministry is becoming more and more of a focus among state conventions, especially smaller state conventions.
- 3) While the relationship with Red Cross is somewhat stressed (this varies a lot from state to state and the National Red Cross leadership), the relationship with Salvation Army is strengthening around a common belief that the gospel is a prime motivating factor and goal of disaster response.

DR training was streamlined and refilmed in February. The completed videos provide an orientation to disaster ministry for new volunteers and a refresher for experienced volunteers. The new training will launch in June of 2023. There were 55 new DR volunteers trained online and in-person between January 1 and April 30, along with 10 volunteers who were re-credentialed. Disaster Management and Chaplaincy classes added 10 additional trainees, for a total of 75 volunteers trained.

We began 2023 with the realization that out of the 8.67 million people in Virginia, close to seven million are considered lost and in desperate need of the Gospel. This reality was shared at the second annual Send Network Virginia Summit on January 31 in Charlottesville, where over 35 pastors and planters gathered to embrace the challenge of owning the solution. The goal of moving the needle by 1% over the next 10 years would take a collaborative effort across Virginia. This would mean that 56 new churches would need to be planted across the Commonwealth every year for the next 10 years. However, if each church multiplied at least once, that number would be cut in half. If churches across Virginia would catch a vision to multiply leaders that would eventually be church planters, the number of churches planted would be drastically increased and the goal of at least a 1% change would be realized. As these churches develop strategic training methods, they would identify a resident who would train to one day plant, revitalize, or replant new churches.

To help equip churches to start residencies, strategic steps have been taken across the state to provide training and resources to help churches identify and train potential planters from within their churches. So far this year, two Residency Builder workshops were held in Glen Allen and Woodlawn, VA, where a total of 30 pastors gathered to talk about developing residencies in their churches. These pastors agreed to intentionally train future leaders from within their churches to one day be sent out to plant more churches. In addition, a church planting cohort has been meeting for several months to help churches establish residencies and develop leadership skills that will help them train new leaders. All of the churches in this cohort have started residencies with future pastors and leaders. With over 26 churches in Virginia with residencies, we are praying God will lead the called to go through intentional training to plant churches in Virginia.

In February, our staff participated in the first Church Planting Simulator in cooperation with Liberty University. This event drew close to 250 college students who are interested in planting a church in the future. Each cohort of 4–8 students researched demographics and prepared for the planting of a new church. At the end of the simulator, each student was challenged to go on mission with Gen Send in an area they studied. Our prayer is that students would catch a vision for church planting across North America.

On February 3, church planter candidates attended the Assessment Retreat in Annapolis, MD. From the approved planters at that retreat, there are plans for three new churches in Virginia. On March 6, additional church planter candidates attended the second Send Virginia Assessment Retreat with six planters present. Four of those planters will eventually plant churches in Virginia. This retreat was held at Movement Church in Richmond. Our prayer is that 18 more planters will be assessed in the coming months.

People Groups Focus

Eight international planters were approved at Fall 2022 Assessments, attended SBCV Orientation in December, and are now being onboarded with financial support, training, and IFR-Financial Services: 2 Arabic, 2 Chinese, 1 Iranian, 1 Swahili-speaker, 1 Haitian, and 1 Nepalese.

Five of these church planters have a same-building partnership with an English-speaking church; two lease/own their own building; and one is still seeking meeting space. Nearly every international church planter would love to have a same-building partnership with an SBCV English-speaking church. We are praying that each SBCV church would consider partnering with another language people group to share facility costs, to work together for student/children ministry, and to ensure that everyone in their community can hear the Gospel in his/her own heart language.

One of the Chinese church planters mentioned above is Jingku Zhan. His church (Agape Chinese Christian Church in Stafford, VA) launched its first worship service on January 22, 2023. His church is graciously hosted by Stafford Baptist Church.

On February 21-22, three SBCV church planter candidates came through the Send DC Assessment. Two Ethiopian church planters were approved: an Oromo speaker in Alexandria (the second Oromo church in the SBCV) and an Amharic speaker in Woodbridge. The third candidate (Senegalese) will be entering a church planter apprenticeship. One Kenyan church planter was assessed and approved April 20-21. Both sending church pastors were greatly encouraged through the Sending Pastor Training Track at the assessment.

SBCV churches are reporting a greater awareness of international people groups in unlikely Virginia locales. Since January 2023, readiness work and potential planters are being identified among Brazilian people in Christiansburg, Chinese people in Bedford, Uyghur people in Manassas, Afghani people in Stafford, and Slavic people in Harrisonburg.

The SBCV Chinese Fellowship met in Midland, VA on March 31–April 1. Approximately 40 Chinese Christians from six Chinese-majority SBCV churches received encouragement and training regarding reaching the second generation.

Hispanic Church Planting

In 2022, eight new Hispanic planters were assessed, and two Hispanic churches affiliated with the SBCV: Iglesia Bautista Gracia in Virginia Beach and Iglesia Capital in Falls Church.

On December 11, 2022, after two years of studies, 21 Hispanic students graduated with associate degrees in biblical studies. Mostly church planters (with some members from their churches also), they will continue their studies at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. This is a great accomplishment in theological preparation for Hispanic church planting in Northern Virginia.

The PRIMER (church planting introductory workshop) was offered in Virginia Beach in October, with an attendance of 18 Spanish-speaking people. As a result of that workshop, a new church is being started in the Chesapeake Bay area (Iglesia Biblica a las Naciones, Virginia Beach, Pastor Hector Nolasco). Another training was given in March with 20 participants. As a result, Iglesia Bautista El Camino (Pastor Vernig Suarez) already has a candidate in mind to plant a Hispanic church in Norfolk in 2024.

In January and March 2023, regional one-day intensive trainings were held for Hispanic church planters in Richmond, Roanoke, and Falls Church, with a total of 20 people each month. Topics included vision, membership, and pastoral care. Iglesia Bautista Spotswood in Fredericksburg also provided spiritual leadership training to three churches in January 2023, with a total attendance of 30 people.

To strengthen Hispanic churches in theology/biblical studies, three Hispanic church planters started the Bible Training Center for Pastors and Leaders (BTCPL) seminar classes. The goal is to train volunteers and future leaders and strengthen churches. One training began in the month of February at Primera Iglesia Bautista de Roanoke (Pastor Pedro Alvarado) with an attendance of 21 students, including one who has expressed a call to the ministry.

At Seminary for a Day and at the Prayer Summit in Woodbridge in March, Hispanic churches in Northern Virginia experienced Polyglossia for the first time, a new simultaneous translation device SBCV has purchased.

In March, three Hispanic church planter candidates and one apprentice were approved at Assessment Retreat. These planters will be starting churches in Newport News, Annandale, and Salem.

Four Fields, a training for evangelism and discipleship, was offered in Richmond (March) and in Leesburg (April) with a participation of 50 Hispanics.

A residency program in Spanish has been planned for the first time with the support of Send Network Español at Iglesia Bautista Spotswood in Fredericksburg, where a Church Planting Center is being started with three Hispanic residents.

Current Cohort

The two-year cohort model that was launched in 2022 is working very well. The expanded two-year time frame is allowing ample time for a strategy to be devised, implemented, and adjusted. Further, the expanded time frame is allowing for deeper relationships to be established among the members of the cohort. As we move through 2023, the revitalization plans in many of the churches are very clear, and they have implemented strategies and are deploying additional initiatives. Additionally, the comradery among the cohort members develops a new community where continued collaboration occurs outside of the bi-monthly meetings.

Here are a few highlights from the first part of the year –

- Pastor David Hallingshead (Mt. View Baptist Church, Charlottesville) has been able to sell a piece of property to fund needed building upgrades and is reaching into the community with multiple community events that are attracting new families from new neighborhoods around his church.
- Pastor John Hare (Cardinal Baptist Church, Ruther Glen) has been able to start a marriage cohort in his church that is developing discipleship through marriage. The church has been repainted and an outreach and mission team has been established to explore and execute mission opportunities both locally and abroad.
- Pastor Jim Jones (Waverly Baptist Church, Waverly) has diligently guided the church through a transition. Soon Jim will be able to hand the baton to a new pastor. The church is ready for change and is stable in both membership and finances.
- Pastor Tinney Parrish (Central Baptist Church, Norfolk) is partnering with First Baptist Norfolk to have its first VBS since 2019. Further, there is fresh outreach happening to a local elementary school (Taylor Elementary School).
- Pastor Darren King (North Stafford Baptist Church, Stafford) is partnering with local churches to do a combined VBS and hold a marriage seminar. Further, Darren is open to the possibility of a merger or replant due to the continuing small number of attendees.

Communication and Collaboration

All the cohort members will have submitted an updated revitalization plan that has been sent to all the regional strategists. This will enable the wider team of the SBCV to clearly understand what is going on in the revitalization of the churches in their region. While the church revitalization strategy is a niche ministry, collaboration happens across the other ministries and with the regional strategists. This way, adequate resourcing and collaboration can occur for maximum effectiveness.

Developing Strategy

The church revitalization strategy has an opportunity to develop in the following ways –

A. Developing a tiered or vetting process for the 2024/2025 cohort

Right now, the 19 churches in the church revitalization cohort are at many stages. Some are progressing along with a quality strategy and ample resources to move their church forward. Other churches need to be in a deeper strategic relationship such as church fostering to have adequate resources to fulfill their plan. Lastly, some are on the verge of needing to be replanted. The Baptist Convention of North Carolina gives a simple 10-question assessment that places a church in tier 1 (consulting), tier 2 (fostering), or tier 3 (replanting). If SBCV were to do a simple preliminary assessment, we could cluster churches together in a cohort of churches in similar life stages. This would mean running multiple cohorts, not just one, based on where the churches are in their life stage.

B. Establishing a next steps/consulting tier

It is important going forward to rebrand an aspect of the church revitalization strategy for churches that are not on the verge of closure. It would be ideal to create an attractive cohort for churches that are merely plateaued or are just needing a fresh strategy to reengage their church. This would be accomplished through the communication of a fresh approach and onboarding attractive coaches that the churches in this tier would want to consult with.

C. Establishing a fostering church revitalization tier

For church fostering to thrive, it needs a clear structure and recruitment/training of quality churches that can foster. The Baptist Convention of North Carolina has established a contractual covenant between churches that enter a foster relationship. Ideally, for many of our churches to flourish in the SBCV, they will need outside resources and encouragement from other churches.

D. Establishing a replanting tier

As SBCV deepens our relationship with NAMB, utilizing the resources of replanting with the revitalization strategy appears natural. There needs to be continued collaboration between Josh Turner, Rusty Small, and the regional strategists to identify churches in the final stages of the church life cycle and tactfully offer them the replant pathway. With continued ties with Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and Liberty University, it is possible to identify possible re-planters that could become prospective pastors in SBCV churches open to replanting.

Personnel

2023 has brought a few additions and changes in personnel.

- Rachel Clark joined the SBCV team on March 20 as the Ministry Resources and Events Coordinator.
- We have also added a new part-time Ministry Assistant position to the team. Ramona Beam joined our team on February 27, 2023. In addition to her general administrative support responsibilities, Ramona will also provide administrative assistance to SBCV Hispanic Ministry.

To enhance ministry support, adjustments were made to two other positions.

- Mindy McCord now works closely with John Sharp as the Administrative Coordinator for the Strategy Team, which includes the Regional Strategists, Missions, and anything related to Church Engagement.
- Christina Garland's role has been adjusted, and she now works with Josh Turner as the Administrative Specialist for Church Planting and Church Revitalization. She also helps maintain the SBCV Job Board and assists with the Proclaimer.

SBCV Job Board

On January 16, the new SBCV Job board (www.sbcv.org/job-board) was launched. As of April 20, 2023, the job board has had the following activity:

- 54 positions have been posted.
 - These positions have been searched 4891 times and viewed 3690 times.
- 175 Pastors/Ministers have created profiles, and 100 have added applications/resumes.
- Pastors/Ministers have logged into the job board 775 times, and churches have logged in 277 times.

Ministry Scorecard

- The scorecard continues to be a useful tool for communicating ministry activity throughout the SBCV.
- Andrew Pegram continues to work on transitioning the collecting and tracking of data to a customized database solution.

Annual Church Profiles (ACPs)

- The 2022 ACPs were completed in March. The data received from reporting SBC Virginia churches indicated:
 - 219,779 - Total Members
 - 5,218 - Total Baptisms
 - 103,806 - Average Weekly Worship Attendance
 - 41,515 - Average Weekly Sunday School Attendance