Celebrating NEW LIFE in the Valley

Fishersville Community Church

A strong sending church is one of the most vital ingredients for a successful church plant. According to the North American Mission Board (NAMB), "A Sending Church partners with a new church plant in prayer, participation and/or provision, taking responsibility for the plant until she is self-sustaining, self-governing and self-propagating."

One of the ways a sending church can participate is by having a "Sending Service" to rally support and prayer as the planter is being sent to a new community to plant.

Church planter Chris Smith, who served on staff at his sending church, **Crosslink Community Church** in Harrisonburg, Virginia, was recently sent out to plant **Fishersville Community Church** in Fishersville, Virginia. The sending church rented out the fairgrounds and combined services for what was to be a grand celebration for the new church plant. Lead Pastor Matthew Kirkland wanted his church to see their commitment to planting churches in areas that need new churches.

According to Church Multiplication Pastor Rob Spencer, "We wanted to

pause long enough to celebrate what God was doing in Fishersville, so we all came together for a time of sending and celebration. We wanted to look back on this day as being special. Pastor Matthew's heart and vision to reach the valley through church planting was essential."

Pastor Rob noted that "this celebration service was bigger than just one Sunday, and it was bigger than just us. We wanted everyone to see what God was doing all over the Valley."

As churches across the SBC of Virginia begin to plant more churches, it is anticipated that a movement of sending church celebrations and cultures of multiplication will point to efforts to reach the lost across all of Virginia. ■