



Delivering Blessings

Quite often, the needs of a community are greater than the ability or the resources of a single congregation.

But, when more than 800 churches partner together through the SBC

of Virginia, it is possible to do more together than what can be done alone.

It is the mission of the SBC of Virginia to come alongside local churches so that together, our neighbors and the nations can be reached to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

One of SBCV's key initiatives is to mobilize churches to engage communities with Christ's love through mission projects. These mission projects provide churches with opportunities to meet the needs of their communities in practical ways.

A variety of mission projects are available through the year, but every September and October the project is Christmas Backpacks. Each year, hundreds of Christmas Backpacks are collected from around the state and at SBCV's Annual Homecoming.

The Christmas Backpacks give churches a chance to minister to their communities by gifting backpacks to school children in

need. But, more than just a backpack is offered because inside each backpack are school supplies, toys, and the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Community outreach events are created, and in supporting this work, the mission's generosity helps prepare the soil to share Jesus with these families.

Two churches in southwest Virginia received Christmas Backpacks. **Park View Baptist Church** in Bluefield ministers to more than 250 students monthly when Graham Intermediate School busses students to and from the church for Bible Release Time. This ministry provides a 45-minute worship service that feels like a mini VBS worship rally with a Bible lesson and worship music.

Last fall, Park View Baptist Church brought back from Annual Homecoming 290 backpacks to distribute during December's Bible Release Time. Pastor Jim Drake said, "What a blessing to hand out these backpacks, a resource we could not afford on our own. What a beautiful example of cooperation."

Grace Fellowship in Haysi received 180 backpacks to hand out at the Haysi Christmas parade. "Receiving the backpacks gives us an opportunity to be out in the community showing people God's love. These backpacks may likely be the only gift these kids will get,




and it is a tremendous blessing to see the smile and joy on their faces,” Pastor Gary Owens said.

He continued, “Through the cooperation and the heartfelt efforts of others, our church has the opportunity to serve, show the love, and share the Good News of Jesus with our community. This is an outreach that the church would be unable to have if it were not for this tremendous resource made available through the SBCV partnership.”

Christmas Backpacks are more than a project; they are a valuable resource enabling churches to minister to their communities. They are an opportunity to mobilize churches to pray, give, and go. They are a gift to those in need and a chance to meet the greatest need through sharing the Gospel. Make plans for your church to participate in this worth-while mission project. ■

RESOURCE:

For information on Christmas Backpacks, contact the Missions Mobilization Team.

 missions@sbcv.org

