

A PATH TO *Restoration*

Behind **Restoration Church** in Phoebus, Virginia, a patch of woods separates the church parking lot from an adjacent apartment complex. Families live in those apartments and may have little or no interaction with the church on the other side of the trees. Some families in the apartments use the woods as a shortcut and pass through the church parking lot. Eventually, these families created an impromptu path worn down by kids and neighbors looking for an easier way.

But where locals were paving an impromptu path, Pastor Mike Smith and members of Restoration Church saw God building a bridge for ministry. The church invested money and time into developing the path into an official walkway.

That simple act of missional intentionality opened the door

for six years of practical, consistent ministry to that community. Members of the complex saw the church welcoming them. One group of young siblings began attending the church while mom and dad refused to go. But God was at work.

Recently, Pastor Mike received a call from the mom that her daughter was putting Scriptures up around the house and the youngest child wanted mom (who is not a believer) to read the Bible to him every evening.

Restoration Church is a normative-sized church that took the simple step of missional intentionality to minister to its neighbors. Look around your church. Who has God strategically placed

you to reach and serve? How might you leverage your church location to build a pathway to restoration? ■

