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# Proclaimer

2026



**SBC Virginia**  
*You are not alone.*

Volume 28 • Issue 1 • Spring

# Proclaimer

Spring 2026 • Volume 28 • Issue 1

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**BULLETIN INSERTS** — single and two-to-a-page



**Amber and Nick Sroka**  
Brazil • April 12, 2026

In our prayer time today, let's remember Amber and Nick Sroka, missionaries serving in Brasilia, Brazil.

Some Indigenous families in Brazil face an unimaginable choice to either follow tribal traditions of infanticide or face rejection from their people. Babies born with disabilities, diseases, or in the case of twins, are often at risk. Families who refuse these practices are sometimes forced to leave their tribes.

The Srokas are bringing the hope of Christ into this darkness. Partnering with a Baptist church from Missouri, they hosted a summer event where they met children like Jessica, who was born with muscular dystrophy. Her parents left their tribe to protect her.

Amber and Nick serve through ATINI, which means "voice" in a local Indigenous language. ATINI is a ministry center that provides medical care, education, and tutoring, while also walking alongside families with the love of Christ.

One couple, Edgar and Elisa, now living at ATINI with their five children, recently placed their faith in Jesus. Their testimony shines as evidence of God's transforming power.

Let's pray that more Indigenous families will see the worth of their children, hear the story of a loving God, and find hope in Christ.



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**SLIDE GRAPHICS** — standard and wide-screen



**Landon and Megan Williams**  
Chile



**Beza Merna**  
Virginia

**SOCIAL MEDIA GRAPHICS**

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# From the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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In this edition of Proclaimer, you will read about how God is at work through followers of Christ, who are walking with God and serving with bold faith. When I think about walking with God, Enoch from the Bible comes to mind. The first mention of someone walking with God is in reference to Enoch (Genesis 5:22). The Bible doesn't tell us a lot about the man named Enoch. His story comes right after Cain and Abel's in Genesis 5, and it takes up a grand total of 81 words, most of which are about how long he lived and who his relatives were. The only real detail we are given about Enoch is encapsulated in that last verse: "Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him."

And yet, thousands of years later, Enoch appears in Hebrews 11, the Great Hall of Faith! Here is how the author of Hebrews puts it: "By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken, he was commended as having pleased God" (Hebrews 11:5).

There is one other mention of Enoch in the Bible, which is in the book of Jude:

It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." (Jude 14–15)

Enoch boldly testified about an upcoming judgment. He didn't just walk with God privately and keep to himself; he faithfully testified to people around him that God was in charge and that, ultimately, they were all going to give an account to Him.

Enoch's life was marked by walking with God. Think about it: Enoch lived for several hundred years, yet his whole life is summed up very simply—he walked with God. He was so close to God that one day, God just took him directly to heaven.

Enoch reminds us that leadership doesn't always need a platform. Sometimes, it simply requires a walk with God. I'd like to offer a few encouragements as we strive to lead and serve these days...

**1. Godly leadership begins with intimacy with God.** I need to be a leader whose daily prayer and scripture habits shape my decisions more than trends, pressure, or popularity.

**2. Godly leaders remain faithful in a corrupt culture.** Enoch lived during a time of increasing wickedness, yet he remained faithful and proclaimed God's coming judgment.

**3. Godly leadership proclaims truth with conviction.** According to Jude 14–15, Enoch prophetically spoke about God's judgment and justice, even when such messages were unpopular.

**4. Walking by faith in God is the core of Godly leadership.** According to Hebrews 11:5–6, Enoch pleased God through faith. Scripture emphasizes that faith is what matters most to God.

Enoch's leadership reminds us that closeness with God is more important than prominence among people.

Your brother in Christ,

*Brian Autry*

Executive Director, SBC of Virginia





## APRIL

- 5 **Easter**
- 11 **Disaster Relief and Rebuild Unit Leader Training**  
*Ministry Support Center, Glen Allen*
- 15 **Seminary for a Day**  
*Cave Spring BC, Roanoke*
- 16 **Seminary for a Day**  
*Grace Community BC, Henrico*  
*Crossway Church, Virginia Beach*
- 17 **Deeply Rooted Leadership Training**  
*London Bridge BC, Virginia Beach*
- 17-18 **In the Word with Jen Wilkin**  
*London Bridge BC, Virginia Beach*
- 20-23 **Catch the Vision Tour—Puerto Rico**
- 22 **Virginia March for Life**  
*Richmond*
- 23-24 **Disaster Relief Chaplain Training**  
*Ministry Support Center, Glen Allen*
- 25 **Disaster Relief ICS/IMT Planning**  
*Ministry Support Center, Glen Allen*
- 27-28 **Residency Builder**  
*Liberty Mountain Conference Center, Lynchburg*

## MAY

- 2 **Discipulado Biblico Relacional**  
*Iglesia Bautista del Camino, Norfolk*
- 2 **Disaster Relief Basic, Chaplain,  
and Advanced Training**
- 3-9 **Pastor Vision Trip**  
*Dakar, Senegal*
- 4-5 **Executive Board Meeting**
- 7 **National Day of Prayer**
- 10 **Foster Care Awareness Sunday**

## MAY CONTINUED

- 11 **Coaching Map**  
*Ministry Support Center, Glen Allen*
- 11-12 **Church Plant Training**  
*Ministry Support Center, Glen Allen*
- 16 **Conferencia de Mujeres—Arraigadas en Cristo**  
*The Heights BC, Colonial Heights*
- 16 **Disaster Relief Basic, Chaplain,  
and Advanced Training**
- 19 **Send Network Connect**  
*First BC, Springfield*  
*Ministry Support Center, Glen Allen*  
*The Hill Church, Roanoke*
- 21 **Send Network Connect**  
*First BC, Norfolk*
- 29-30 **Worship and Technology Conference**  
*Liberty University, Lynchburg*

## JUNE

- 8 **SBCV Dessert Reception**  
*Orlando, Florida*
- 8-11 **Southern Baptist Convention**  
*Orlando, Florida*
- 20 **Disaster Relief ICS/IMT Operations**  
*Ministry Support Center, Glen Allen*
- 22-26 **Student Fusion Mission Camp**  
*Mount Pleasant BC, Colonial Heights*
- 27 **Seminary for a Day Español**  
*Iglesia Biblica Jesucristo es el Camino, Richmond*
- 28-30 **Chinese Fellowship**  
*Staples Mill Road BC, Glen Allen*

## JULY

- 16-18 **Family Fusion Mission Camp**  
*Virginia Beach & Bluefield*

## AUGUST

- 1 **Women's Ministry Leadership Roundtable**  
*Staples Mill Road BC, Glen Allen*
- 7 **Church Planter Family Day**  
*Kings Dominion, Doswell*
- 8 **Disaster Relief ICS/IMT Incident Commander  
Training**  
*Ministry Support Ctr, Glen Allen*
- 13-14 **Disaster Relief Chaplain Training**  
*Ministry Support Ctr, Glen Allen*



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SBC of Virginia  
Dessert Reception at the  
Southern Baptist Convention

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Date



**MONDAY, JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup>**

*following the evening session*

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are invited to a time of fellowship,  
sweets and treats.*

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If you happened to die *Today*,  
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go to heaven?

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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  
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heart. Contact us today to let us know your decision  
and any questions you have: [info@sbcv.org](mailto:info@sbcv.org).



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# Evangelism Partnership

## *Missionaries and Churches*

Field Personnel Orientation is a time for spiritual and emotional preparation, security overviews, and cultural research.

**E**very International Mission Board (IMB) missionary spends seven weeks at Field Personnel Orientation (FPO), a period of training and preparation before heading to the mission field. It all takes place right here in Virginia at the International Learning Center (ILC). This training is a time for spiritual and emotional preparation, security overviews, and cultural research.

A growing partnership with SBC of Virginia churches in the central region is also creating opportunities to proclaim the Gospel throughout the Richmond area. During each Field Personnel Orientation, missionaries partner with more than 25 local churches to evangelize neighbors and the nations—and this partnership is bearing great fruit.

Pastor Kenny Van Horn of **West End Baptist Church** in Henrico is thankful for the partnership his church has with the ILC. He says, “Partnership with ILC helps strengthen our vision for collaboration



in missions and facilitates our own personal evangelism in our community. We have also seen real fruit from regularly linking up with FPOs, seeking out Gospel conversations in our neighborhood and the surrounding communities we are trying to reach.”

Missionaries and church members team up to engage in marketplace evangelism, seek out pockets of various people groups, and visit community gathering spots in hopes of starting Gospel conversations and seeing lives transformed and souls saved.

Mark Stevens, IMB’s Director of Field Personnel Orientation, says the value of this partnership is immense and the fruit is amazing! Stevens shared, “During one week in November of 2025, 429 people heard the Gospel, 13 professed faith, and 78 expressed a desire to hear more. Local church participation has been vital in ensuring that those who profess faith and who want to hear more are connected for long-term follow-up.”

This partnership also builds ongoing relationships with missionaries around the globe and fosters a culture of sending and supporting global Gospel work. Van Horn loves that this evangelism partnership gives his church “faces to remember when we are encouraged to support overseas Gospel proclamation.”

Carl Peyton, pastor of **Transformation Church** in Chesterfield, explained, “Partnering with the IMB to equip each new class of missionaries is one of the greatest privileges our church has. These men and women are stepping out in obedience to the Great Commission, often at great personal cost, to take the Gospel to places where Christ is not yet known. When our people come alongside them—teaching, encouraging, praying, and sharing real-life evangelistic experiences—they get a front-row seat to what God is doing globally. It brings mission conferences or that line item in the budget to life and makes it personal. Our members leave those weeks with a renewed fire for sharing Jesus right here at home and a deeper willingness to say ‘yes’ if God ever calls them or their kids to the nations. This partnership doesn’t just equip the missionaries we send out; it has mobilized our church to live sent.” ●



## JOIN THE MISSION

*Partner With  
Missionaries Passing  
Through the ILC*

If your church would like to partner with missionaries passing through the International Learning Center in 2026—for evangelism or to encourage them through prayer and support—**contact Brad Russell at [missions@sbcv.org](mailto:missions@sbcv.org).**

# Displaced but Not Deterred: *A Pastor's Call Continues*

Shepherded by  
Grace—God's New  
Beginning for a  
Bengali Church in  
Northern Virginia

When William Samadder and his wife, Dipika, arrived in the United States in September 2024, they did not come with plans to plant a church.

Samadder had spent many years pastoring and planting churches in his native Bangladesh, focusing on evangelism and reaching the more than 180 million people who call the country home. Reaching the millions who have not yet heard the Gospel has long been his calling and passion.

In the years leading up to their arrival in Virginia, the couple experienced increasing persecution and pressure in Bangladesh. Extremist groups in the predominantly Islamic country, emboldened by growing political instability, began to target Christians more aggressively. In late summer 2024, their home was attacked, and it became clear they would need to flee for safety. They arrived in Dumfries, Virginia, where their son and daughter-in-law



were attending **Pillar Church**. The church immediately began to care for them during a season of distress and transition.

### **Planting Hope Among Bengali**

As Samadder realized they would be staying in Virginia long-term, he began seeking the Lord and speaking with leaders at Pillar Church about reaching Bengali speakers in Northern Virginia. As he moved throughout the community, he encountered more and more Bangladeshi people, whom he described as “sheep without a shepherd.”

Over the past year, the couple has engaged in consistent outreach hosting fellowships, visiting families, sharing the Gospel, and building a core group of believers who now regularly gather for worship, prayer, and Bible study.

This year of ministry development culminated in a Christmas outreach that gathered 150 Bengali-speaking people at **Pillar Church of Mount Vernon**. It was a powerful evening of community connection and a clear presentation of the Gospel at the heart of the Christmas message.

When this journey began, Pastor Samadder never imagined that God was opening a new door to ministry amid such difficult circumstances. Yet even in the midst of persecution and displacement, it has been evident that God is at work. He is currently a church planter candidate preparing for assessment with Send Network Virginia, and together with his sending church, he is pursuing God’s mission to reach the people the Lord has called him to serve, right here in Northern Virginia. ●

*left, Pastor William Samadder shares the Christmas message;  
below, Teaching Pastor Colby Garman at Pillar Church, Dumfries, speaks.*



# Bold Faith ON CAMPUS

## *How God Used His Word to Transform Students at Bluefield University*

**AS** the Fall 2025 semester began across Virginia, one campus in the southwest corner of the Commonwealth was preparing for more than move-in days, class schedules, and student orientations. At Bluefield University, the new academic year launched with something far more eternal—placing the Word of God in the hands of every incoming freshman and transfer student.

### **Students Given Access to God's Word**

This moment began months earlier. In spring 2025, a group of pastors and SBC of Virginia staff met with Corey Mullins, Bluefield's Vice President for Student Development & Athletics. During that conversation, a significant need emerged: many new students were arriving on campus without a Bible of their own. In a cultural moment when young adults are



*When the Word of God is placed in open hands and open hearts, transformation follows.*



*Students display their newly received CSB Everyday Student Bibles.*

searching for meaning, identity, and truth, Bluefield’s leadership longed to ensure that every student had access to the eternal, unchanging Word of God.

The SBCV quickly responded by providing each new student with a CSB Everyday Student Bible. Romans 15:4 captures the heart of this partnership, “For whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that we may have hope through endurance and through the encouragement from the Scriptures.”

The prayer was simple—that God’s Word would take root in students’ lives, awakening hope, conviction, and faith.

### **Holy Spirit Moved Among Student Body**

That prayer did not take long to bear fruit.

In September, Bluefield hosted its annual Spiritual Emphasis gathering, themed “Bold Week,” drawn from 2 Corinthians 3:12, “Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness.”

Over several days of preaching, teaching, and intentional ministry, the Holy Spirit moved powerfully among the student body. The Scriptures they had received only weeks earlier were now being opened, explained, and applied—and students were listening.

By the end of the week, dozens of students responded in repentance and faith, publicly professing Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Conversations continued in dorm rooms, hallways, cafeterias, and athletic facilities as students wrestled with the Gospel and surrendered their lives to Christ.

But God wasn’t finished.

Following Bold Week, at least 27 students took the next step of obedience through baptism, publicly declaring the new life they had found in Jesus. For many, these were their first steps on a lifelong journey of discipleship. For the campus community, these baptisms served as a vivid reminder: when the Word of God is placed in open hands and open hearts, transformation follows.

### **A Campus-Wide Movement**

What began as a simple desire to give students Bibles became a campus-wide movement of salvation, boldness, and spiritual renewal. As these students continue to grow in Christ, the SBCV and Bluefield University remain committed to walking alongside them—trusting that the same Word that stirred revival this fall will continue to bear fruit for years to come. ●

*(left) Students pray at the altar during Bluefield University's Spiritual Emphasis, "Bold Week."*

# Neighbors Partner for *Revitalization*

*“My prayer is that this will provide some natural avenues for ongoing outreach and evangelism as a church.”*

**Mount View Baptist Church** in Charlottesville reached a crucial point in its history. The church had been in decline when current pastor David Hallingshead sought the aid of Rusty Small, the SBC of Virginia (SBCV) Revitalization Strategist. After trying new strategies to reach the community, the church saw some growth, but it was not sustainable. Additionally, Pastor Hallingshead announced his upcoming retirement. Not wanting to hand over the reins to a new pastor who would inherit the current trends, Pastor

Hallingshead reached out to a neighboring pastor he had met at an SBCV Christmas Banquet some years earlier.

Keith Goad, pastor of **Jefferson Park Baptist Church**, shared that its congregation has always had a vision to assist smaller, declining churches in revitalization. Pastor Goad continued, “The key to this partnership always begins with building relationships.” He regularly invites pastors to small gatherings to study the book of Titus. As a result of these relationships, Jefferson Park has sent some key leaders



to help churches with pulpit supply, interim pastorates, and even conflict resolution.

When asked how the church had leadership to release into service, Goad responded, “As an elder-led congregation, our vision is to invest in and train up leaders who can be sent out to bless other churches.” Goad quoted Paul, who wrote to Timothy: “What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2). The church’s goal is to continually train such leaders for the present and future generations.

The training consists of Bible and sermon preparation studies to discern whether potential leaders are gifted and able to handle God’s Word. It also provides opportunities for teaching Sunday School or Wednesday night services. More recently, Jefferson Park has begun offering formal seminary classes through the Virginia Institute of Theology (VIT).

When Pastor Hallingshead reached out to Pastor Goad about a potential succession plan, Jefferson Park was eager to partner. Goad introduced the leadership of Mount View to Ben Bullard, who had served as his assistant pastor. Pastor Ben was born and raised in Charlottesville. He was saved at age 18 while studying at the University of Virginia and attending Jefferson Park—he was brought on staff in 2014. He went on to earn

his Master of Divinity degree from Southern Seminary.

To build on this relationship, Mount View invited Pastor Ben to preach once a month for a period of time and to get to know many of its members. He was also given a special teaching time with the congregation to share his vision and conviction about the biblical model for church governance. Mount View was open to this crucial shift. Ultimately, Pastor Ben was voted in as the new pastor. When Pastor Goad shared this good news with his church, many members were eager to join the work of revitalization. In fact, some 40 people will join Pastor Ben in the work. Goad added, “We want to send Ben with a team to encourage and support him in the work.” Pastor Ben said, “With no children attending Mount View currently, I felt it was especially important to have families join in the work.” Desiring to be a church that reaches its diverse community, some Spanish-speaking families from Jefferson Park will be part of this ministry. Pastor Ben added, “My prayer is that this will provide some natural avenues for ongoing outreach and evangelism as a church.”

When a neighboring church partners for revitalization, it could mean something as simple as pulpit supply, but it could also involve a commitment to send a trained leader to pastor—or even an entire team for greater community impact. ●





# CHURCH PLANTER FAMILY DAY

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# Unshakable Joy



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# Rural Church Plants

## ARE NOT ALONE

**Acts 8** tells a powerful story of God moving in Samaria. Persecution pushed the believers out of their comfort zone, eventually to Samaria, where, for all intents and purposes, revival broke out.

*“Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Christ to them. And the crowds, with one accord, paid attention to what Philip said when they heard him and saw the signs he performed. For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was much joy in that city.”* (Acts 8:4-8, ESV)

Most of us at this point would be trying to figure out how to grow the organization, hire staff, and penetrate the city with the Gospel even more. However, by the time we reach verse 26, God told Philip to leave the hustle and bustle of Samaria and go to a rural place where few people lived—if any. Demographically, it made no sense for Philip to leave the ministry activity in Samaria and go to the desert.

Recently, two rural church planters were endorsed by the SBC of Virginia

and Send Network to return to their rural hometowns and plant churches.

Church planter Clarence Bailey, who is also a public-school teacher, planted **Shore Community Bible Fellowship** on the Eastern Shore of Virginia in the small rural town of Painter (population 304). This is the first English-speaking church plant on the Eastern Shore partnering with the SBCV.

Pastor Clarence recently hosted an outreach event where over 150 people showed up. He partnered with a sister SBCV church to co-host the event to reach the lost. Pastor Clarence stated, “This was a huge feat because that area of the Shore has not had much Gospel outreach in years and is encouraging to see that God may be showing us some fertile soil.”

There was a “God-moment” at the event for Pastor Clarence. He states, “For me, one of the best moments was having about a dozen students from the high school where I work show up. I invited them for weeks, but I never received a concrete response that they were interested or would attend. They showed up and had a great time. They were welcomed, loved, and most importantly, heard about Jesus! Also, it seemed to create a spark of encouragement for our core group,

showing that they could actually relate to the next generation. My core group is largely older individuals and has expressed concerns about how they can be relevant to the next generation. I was able to capitalize with the students by continuing to build relationships beyond the classroom to help them consider taking spiritual matters more consistently, specifically pursuing Jesus. Overall, it is encouraging to me as I go to work at the high school that I have an “everyday mission field” that God is giving me favor in.”

Please pray for Shore Community Bible Fellowship in Painter.

In addition, travel eight hours west to the small town of Richlands, Virginia, and you will find a new church plant: **Risen Church**. Church planter Christopher Hess recently launched public services, with close to 100 in attendance, in a town of 5,000 people. Risen Church recently called a new elder to serve its congregation. Hess’s desire is that Risen Church would plant more churches that plant more churches.

Both of these rural churches have recently baptized new believers as they serve as missionaries in their small-town communities. We thank God for those willing to answer the call in rural areas across Virginia. ●



# Meeting Simple Needs

## ROOTS and the Mitten Tree

---

# Giving Students **HOPE** in the Midst of Desperation

---



**Y**ou never know who you'll run into at the SBC of Virginia Annual Homecoming, but you can always rely on God's perfect timing. When Dolly Mink, Women's Ministry Coordinator at the SBCV, sat down on a bench outside the sanctuary to catch up on a couple of emails, she had no idea that the Lord had appointed that bench and that time for a divine encounter.

A few weeks earlier, Mink reached out to Mandy Helvig, the Women's Ministry Director at **River Oak Church** in Chesapeake, to ask about the missions work the women's ministry is involved in. Being a member of River Oak, Dolly wanted to learn more about how God is working through the church to reach women, students, and faculty at the local schools.

Years ago, it was determined that many students at Oscar Smith High School were considered "at risk," not knowing where they would eat or sleep on any given night. This meant they were also unsure whether they would have breakfast before school. A need was identified, and the women went into action: breakfast bars, pre-packaged pastries, protein bars, and other breakfast items were collected and delivered to the school. In addition, a women's Bible study group saw a need to supply toiletries so students could shower in the morning before school.

In just a few weeks, counselors reported that not only had behavior among these students improved, but grades and attendance were also on the rise.

Today, this program, known as ROOTS (River Oak Outreach Program for Schools), has grown to supply mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves, as well as toiletries, breakfast items, and school supplies. Now the Children's Program also collects and gives to the schools. The women of 18 different Bible studies have adopted the Mitten Tree, which benefits local elementary and middle schools.

That evening in Roanoke, as Dolly checked her email, another woman approached her. Through tears, the woman explained that a family member had been personally blessed by the generosity of the women's ministry. She hoped her personal connection could be shared so the ladies of River Oak would know just how important this mission was. By meeting simple needs, students' situations went from desperate to hopeful. Indeed, those students and teachers know they are not alone.

Mandy Helvig summarized the mission's strategy, "Through women's ministry, we have the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community—supporting local students and teachers, meeting practical needs such as mittens, school supplies, or meals, and showing them they are seen and valued." ●

# A FORGOTTEN TRIBE

## *No Move*



*The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.*

Psalm 126:3

**God reminds us** in His Word that we are not forgotten. John 3:16 tells us that God so loved the world that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, for us. We are not forgotten—but in 2012, the Lord led **GraceLife Baptist Church** in Christiansburg to reach “the forgotten tribe of Zimbabwe.” What God has done since then is unforgettable!

Working alongside the SBC of Virginia and other local churches, GraceLife accepted a challenge from the International Mission Board of the SBC to adopt an unreached people group—the Ndaus of Zimbabwe—as part of a long-term missions partnership. The Ndaus, located along the border of Zimbabwe and Mozambique, are a tribe of more than half a million people. This “forgotten tribe” was considered the only unreached and unengaged people group left in the nation. At the time, less than two percent were evangelized, and most of the Ndaus had heard little or nothing about the truth of Jesus and His saving work on the cross.

The strategy was simple: send small teams into select unreached Ndaus villages where there is little or no Gospel witness. Each team of four to six members spends mornings sharing the Gospel in homesteads and leading evangelistic meetings in the evenings. Afternoons are spent leading discipleship sessions, children’s ministries, and leadership training.

These Gospel efforts have led to the establishment of more than a dozen churches and preaching points. Hundreds have come to faith in Christ. Amazingly, the Ndaus people group is no longer listed as an unreached and unengaged people group. They are truly no longer the “forgotten tribe.”

Teams work closely with Ndaus pastors who are part of the Chipinge Baptist Association. The association is led by longtime Ndaus pastor and church planter Karakadzai Manyanga. Teams continue to share the Gospel in the Chipinge district, disciple new believers, and take every opportunity to strengthen the work among the Ndaus. They have also partnered with Baptist Global Relief and the Baptist Seminary in Gweru to serve in the cyclone-ravaged area of Chimanimani.

The current and future strategy centers on sharing the Gospel alongside committed Zimbabwean pastors and lay leaders in ways that are sustainable and reproducible by local believers in their churches and communities. As the Gospel is shared in unevangelized areas, the goal is to see people saved, disciplined, and embraced by new and established churches among the Ndaus people.

According to Tim Hight, pastor of GraceLife, “We have learned that we can’t do it alone. We have chosen to partner with other churches and are grateful to SBCV for its encouragement to take the leap.” Randy Aldridge, pastor of **Hillcrest Baptist Church** in Ridgeway, who is also involved in the partnership, has seen God do phenomenal things on these trips. Randy said, “It is incredible to see God raise up churches, pastors, and even a church planting network there. Two more villages are on the horizon, and a recent convert wants to plant a church in his village. God is at work.”

Truly, we are not forgotten—and neither are the Ndaus people of Zimbabwe. ●



# Making the One OUR PRIORITY

By Doug Echols, Senior Pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, Yorktown; President, SBC of Virginia

“What man among you, who has a hundred sheep and loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open field and go after the lost one until he finds it?

Luke 15:4 (CSV)

A few months ago, my wife and I were on Royal Caribbean’s Oasis of the Seas with approximately 6,000 other guests and 2,000 crew members. On the third day of our cruise, at 8:00 a.m., the captain made an important announcement. He said the ship was making an emergency stop in Jamaica because one of the passengers had a medical emergency requiring immediate attention. We watched as the massive ship carrying 8,000 people pulled into the dock and sent one person for the necessary medical treatment. As we pulled away 30 minutes later, the captain announced: **“The health and safety of every person on board is our number one priority.”**

This experience reminds me of Jesus’ parable of the lost sheep. In Luke 15, Jesus says, “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing... Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

If I am honest with myself, there are many times when I become so focused on the needs of the “ninety-nine” that I miss the one. It is natural to stay with the familiar and the comfortable rather than searching for the one wandering sheep. Sometimes the search can be expensive and exhausting. Yet Jesus reminds us of the priority we must place on searching for the one lost sheep. He also emphasizes the great joy that comes when the one lost sheep comes home.

As SBC of Virginia churches plan ministries and events throughout the year, we must continually remember the “one.” The “one” without hope and direction must never be overlooked. While we do not abandon the ninety-nine, we must make it a priority to make sure that every person has an opportunity to hear the Gospel message. We may be inconvenienced, and we may have to adjust our schedules, but the one lost sheep that is found will be thankful that your church placed a priority on their salvation. Let’s make the salvation of the lost in our communities our number one priority. ●



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APRIL 15

10:00AM - 2:00PM

Cave Spring Baptist Church  
Roanoke



SPEAKER  
DR. DANNY AKIN

APRIL 16

9:00AM - 1:00PM

Crossway Church  
Virginia Beach



SPEAKER  
DR. HERSHAEL YORK

APRIL 16

10:00AM - 2:00PM

Grace Community Baptist Church  
Henrico



SPEAKER  
DR. DWAYNE MILIONI

JUNE 27

10:00AM - 2:00PM

Iglesia Bíblica  
Jesucristo es el Camino  
North Chesterfield



JUNTO AL CONFERENCISTA  
DR. ARNALDO ACHUCARRO

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# No Building, Still Sharing

Even beyond their ability...

they begged...for the privilege of  
*sharing in the ministry*  
to the saints.

2 Corinthians 8:3-4 (CSB)

*“We don’t even own a building,  
but we share a building.”*

Two SBC of Virginia (SBCV) congregations share space at a public school in Dumfries, Virginia. Three SBCV congregations worship together at a public school facility in Centreville, Virginia. These partnerships represent a unique approach to doing ministry and mission together.

While many English-speaking congregations are beginning to invite a congregation that speaks a different language to share the facility they own, other congregations may not have considered other partnership models.

**Pillar Church of Dumfries** (English-speaking) and **Iglesia Bíblica Gracia Eterna** (Spanish-speaking) lease space at Potomac Shores Middle School. While some of their setup and takedown responsibilities are similar (even in separate spaces), the rental burden is lessened by their shared partnership. Pastors Colby Garman and Jose Mazariego report that the partnership encourages them personally and enables the two churches to conduct joint community outreaches.

Twenty-five miles away, **Calvary Hill Fellowship** (English-speaking), **Eleos Bible Church** (Spanish-speaking), and **Agape Chinese Christian Church** (Chinese-speaking) meet at Providence Elementary School in Centreville, Virginia.

Pastor Robert Han of Calvary Hill Fellowship shared, “We started sharing our rental space a number of years ago primarily to serve and share our resources with other SBCV church plants. We saw it as an investment in ethnic churches and people groups that we ourselves could not reach easily on our own.”

The generous sharing is not one-sided. Pastor Robert and Calvary Hill list the benefits they have received:

- “Regularly connecting with other pastors is a great encouragement.”
- “We have engaged in various ministry efforts together in partnership that I believe God used to advance His Kingdom in ways our church would not have been able to achieve as easily on our own (e.g., a mission trip to Ecuador).”

A distinctive of SBCV churches is the core value of collaboration. God’s mission is too big to accomplish with solo or siloed churches. While God certainly has unique local callings for each local church, He often calls congregations to partner together to accomplish some portion of His mission. It’s possible that God may call your local church to share something it doesn't even own.

*“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.”*  
– 2 Corinthians 9:8 (CSB)

---

## Is your church partnering with another-language congregation?

We would love to hear how you partner together. We may highlight your partnership in a future issue.

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

---

# Next↑Level CONSULTING


Church leadership can bring a variety of challenges. From managing personnel to developing outreach strategies to navigating facility issues, those entrusted with church leadership face daily challenges that defy simple solutions.

“

*“My heart is to help churches find clarity in how best to use their strengths, resources, organizational structure, and strategic planning for God's glory.”*

*Dave Velloney, SBCV Next Level Consulting; Senior Lecturer, Regent University School of Law; former executive pastor at River Oak Church 2013-2022*





In the New Testament, church leaders faced challenges as well. Paul reminded Titus to “set right what was left undone” (Titus 1:5, HCSB). Paul also wrote to Timothy to explain “how people ought to act in God’s household” (1 Timothy 3:15, HCSB).

**SBC of Virginia church leaders don’t have to navigate these complexities alone.**

Next Level Consulting, a new SBC of Virginia (SBCV) initiative, offers church leaders a trusted voice as they navigate important decisions. Dave Velloney, who helps lead Next Level Consulting, explains, “It’s a privilege to come alongside pastors and church leaders to help them evaluate their ministries and discover the unique ways God wants to use them to make disciples and further His kingdom. My heart is to help churches find clarity in how best to use their strengths, resources, organizational structure, and strategic planning for God’s glory.”

Almost a year of monthly meetings helped **Kingsland Baptist Church** in Richmond see how aligning mission, values, and strategy with resources and organizational structure led to a renewed vision for the future. Pastor Pat Fiordelise shares, “We are a 120-year-old church that needed help determining how best to move forward to reach our community with the Gospel. Dave [Velloney] did not tell us what to do or attempt to modify our church to fit his ideas about what a church should do (or look like); rather, he helped our pastors and key leaders examine ourselves and prayerfully seek God’s wisdom on how to take tangible, practical steps in the right direction.”

In addition to ongoing meetings, Next Level Consulting offers shorter consultations. Pastor Michael Howard of **Seaford Baptist Church** in Seaford found help in a one-time consultation with Next Level Consulting. Dave Velloney met with Seaford Baptist Church’s leadership team to explore several leadership components. He led the church through an exercise to uncover what is working, what’s not working, what’s missing, and what’s confusing. He also helped the church discuss Sunday School class names, signage, and how to communicate identity, mission, and values. Pastor Michael shares, “We feel like we are a church that is thriving in so many ways, but we often feel like we hit a glass ceiling created by our lack of knowledge in certain areas. Next Level Consulting helped us gain the insight we needed to take the next steps as a church that is looking to reach our community with greater effectiveness.” Dave also helped the church think through the importance of social media versus the role of a website.

Many churches will either spend thousands of dollars on a consultation or never ask for help because they can’t afford it. Next Level Consulting offers an affordable partner as your church moves forward. Velloney shares, “We have a 6-hour (one day) and a 6-month version of the Next Level program, but it all starts with an email. Pastors simply need to let me know that they’re interested, and I’ll follow up with a phone call and a visit. Reaching the next level starts with taking your next step!” ●

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To request more information from the team, visit [sbcv.org/nextlevel](https://sbcv.org/nextlevel).

# Inspire

A word of hope, support, and encouragement.

“

“...I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me.” EXODUS 20:2-3 (NASB)

## The Cultural Cafe

God’s word is always pure, precise, and productive! By His word, God brought Israel out of Egypt and out of the house of slavery. Just listen to and discern His voice in the opening verse, and consider its spiritual implications for us today.

The symbolism of “Egypt” and “house of slavery” represents good old-fashioned philosophical humanism! The idea that the world has a better idea is the “idol” we often put before God in our thinking. Should we continue ordering meals from menus crafted by the devil and his cultural narratives? Or have we been trained to know the difference in our spiritual palates? It burdens me to see the blindness in saints who try to satisfy their appetites from best practices or popular social media fare, with heaping helpings daily, rather than the soul-satisfying nourishment from God’s word (Colossians 2:8).

The apostle Paul says that though all things are available to us, not all things are profitable (1 Corinthians 6:12). Because God is particular about the food for our souls, so should we. God commanded Israel, “...do not learn the way of the nations...” (Jeremiah 10:2). The

“ways of the nations” are fleshly entrées marinated in antichrist sauces (1 John 5:19), which produce godless eating habits and obese human mindsets. Believers have become careless in their dining, attempting to mix worldly dishes (Egypt) with Godly food (Truth), resulting in pretentiousness and consecration (John 17:17).

Sadly, some don’t even care enough to repent. If you’re guilty, I beg you, be swift to repent. His loving arms await you! Saints, let us feast on God’s Word (Hebrews 6:5), constantly partaking, practicing, and proclaiming it boldly! Let our lives reflect that we dine in “His Kingdom” cafeteria, at a table prepared for us, and that the tab, including tip (Ephesians 3:20), has been paid in advance (1 Corinthians 6:20)! ●



**Milton Harding**

Prayer and Care Minister

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



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# Unexpected Journey



## Successful Outreach Through Children's Ministry Partnerships

Strengthening Church Growth Through SBCV Kids and Upward Sports

Children's ministry is an avenue for church outreach and growth through the many programs available to churches, some of which are fully managed in partnership with other organizations. The SBC of Virginia Children's Ministry works with Upward Sports to bring a full-package to our partnering churches. **Gospel Way Baptist Church** in Williamsburg has found this partnership successful.

Beth Orne never liked change. But, after 13 years of teaching first grade, she realized God was leading her in a different direction, and became the Director of Children's Ministries at Gospel Way Baptist Church.

Orne also never really liked sports. But when she started at Gospel Way, the church had just launched an Upward basketball league, and would experience firsthand how God can work through this program in unexpected ways.

Orne has since celebrated 20 years in ministry.

She is an all-star Upward league director and was selected as an Upward ambassador—an example for others to follow. She says, "Even though I played no sports and had no background in sports at all, that just shows what God can do. God can use you in a big way, even in an area where you feel inadequate ... I've learned a lot about basketball over the past 20 years."

While her interest in sports grew over time, she already had another helpful skill for a league director: she is organized! She explains, "It's like a huge puzzle just managing and making it all work. And so, I'm good at that. God used my skill set."

Orne knows parents value organization and communication. She appreciates how Upward's software makes league management easier. "Upward Sports can be such a light in the community ... the whole family will come to





cheer on these athletes—and what an opportunity it is to reach them with Christ’s love through our actions.”

Gospel Way averages about 320 attendees on Sunday mornings. With Upward, Orne says, “We get a whole season to reach more than 1,000 people every single week with the love of Christ.”

The league added a more competitive high school division a few years ago, but they still want everyone to have a great experience. She says, “I think on all of our teams we have some children with special needs and special abilities who still want to play and be a part. They're very successful, and they get the same equal playing time as some of our advanced players. It's about encouraging and developing these

young athletes at whatever level they're at and showing Christ through all of what we do.” ●

You can find more information on the SBCV Kids partnership with Upward at [upward.org/sbcv](http://upward.org/sbcv).



# REVIVED BY *Faithfulness*

East Stone Gap Baptist Church

**SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL**  
happens when folks  
*bloom* where God has  
planted them.



Churches face many challenges today, regardless of geographical context. Churches in small towns and rural settings in Southwest Virginia are no exception. Many small towns are losing families to larger towns that offer better jobs and more opportunities. As a result, many churches are in decline, with shrinking congregations, dwindling finances, and few to no baptisms each passing year. Adding to the challenge is attracting and keeping pastors.

### Revitalization

Church revitalization is a key topic these days. It has many different models and theories, but what we have come to know is that there is no one-size-fits-all approach. Just as each geographical situation is different, so are churches.

For **East Stone Gap Baptist Church** in Wise County, revitalization has become a reality. They are seeing an uptrend in measurable metrics. Attendance at worship, in youth ministry, membership, and baptisms has increased. They finished 2025 with more than 25 baptisms celebrated. To put this into perspective, those baptized represent 25 percent of the total worship attendance.

### What are they doing?

What is their strategy? What have they changed? Actually, it's not what they've changed, but what they have been faithfully doing all along. What they are experiencing is the fruit of faithfulness—the fruit of God's faithfulness. When we stay faithfully where God has placed us, doing what He has given us to do, He will, in the fullness of time, pour out His faithfulness in our work.

Pastor Lonnie Brooks is beginning his 23rd year at East Stone Gap Baptist Church. Pastor Lonnie said, "When God called me here, I committed

myself to stay here, to raise my family here, and to not look for somewhere else to go." He further explained, "I made it a point to pastor everyone that the Lord gave me, whether they were ready to join the church or not. So, I have loved them and looked after them as though they had." Brooks has always prioritized preaching and teaching God's Word accurately and faithfully each week. Through this pastor's long, faithful tenure, God is now able to show His faithfulness.

It's not only the pastor but also the faithful ministry leaders God has placed around him over the years—such as John Slagle, who has faithfully ministered to youth for a decade. They are seeing the fruit of those years today in young people surrendering their lives to Christ and being baptized. It is their faithfulness, serving and seeking God over the years, from which He is now bringing revival.

### Faithful partnerships

Brooks acknowledges that neither he nor the church has gone it alone through these years. In fact, a healthy relationship with a partner who is faithful to the Word of God and the Great Commission, such as the SBC of Virginia (SBCV), has been essential. Their commitment to coming alongside the local church to resource, train, equip, and encourage has been instrumental. Brooks recalled early on, shortly after partnering with the SBCV, that they were able to provide monetary support for a much-needed feeding ministry the church had been struggling to operate. Through faithful partnerships, the faithfulness of God shows that they are not alone.

Every church in every context has its challenges and struggles, but there is something beautiful that happens when folks bloom where God has planted them. "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1 KJV) ●

*(left) Pastor Lonnie Brooks baptizes two, joined by John Slagle (far right), minister to youth.*



“For I was *hungry* and you gave me something to eat; I was *thirsty* and you gave me something to drink...”

MATTHEW 25:35 (CSB)

# PREPARING FOR IMPACT

Recently, feeding volunteers with SBC of Virginia Disaster Relief partnered with the City of Suffolk for a community-wide sheltering drill designed to test the city’s emergency response systems.

While it was only a simulation, the volunteers’ work was very real, preparing meals, coordinating service flow, and supporting first responders, shelter staff, and evaluators on site.

The drill provided a valuable opportunity for the Disaster Relief feeding team. Shawn Ames, Relief Ministries Coordinator, highlighted the significance of this type of training:

“SBCV Disaster Relief exists to send help, healing, and hope to those impacted by disasters, and readiness is vital. Drills such as this allow volunteers to work in a realistic environment without the pressures of an actual crisis.”

These experiences strengthen confidence, reinforce teamwork, and offer new volunteers a sense of what deployment can feel like. Volunteer Clay Bernick, from **First Baptist Church of Norfolk**, reflected, “I found the most valuable parts of the drill were fellowship with other team members and interacting with other relief organizations.”

David Jones, a volunteer from **BridgePoint Church** in Gloucester, added “I am thankful for the opportunity to learn the ropes in a realistic but low-stakes training scenario.”

The exercise also allowed SBCV Disaster Relief to evaluate its equipment and systems. Setting up in a live environment helps identify improvements in workflow, equipment readiness, communication, and coordination. Linda Wallace, member at **Oak Grove Baptist Church** in Colonial Beach and SBCV State Feeding Coordinator, explained, “It’s one thing to read about it on paper but another thing to operate in real life.”

Wallace continued, “It is important to maintain connections with partner agencies so responders know who they can call on in a disaster and what they can expect from us.” Steven Bilski, Coastal Community Disaster Specialist for the American Red Cross, added, “It’s a way we can build trust and capability.”

Ames noted, “There are 138 counties and independent cities in Virginia. We want to provide a platform for partnering churches to mobilize to any one of these communities in times of disaster. Drills like these prepare us to better support the broader mission of the SBC of Virginia, which is to come alongside local churches, and advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ together to reach our neighbors and the nations.” ●



## From the Editor



Brandon Pickett

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📘 facebook.com/brandon.pickett

# Pray & Protect

There are certain times in our personal and ministry lives, whether we are going through them or just after, that we recognize as pivotal moments. I believe that this year is one of those times. That is why I am writing a unique editorial for this edition.

This November, Virginians will be asked to consider and vote on two proposed constitutional amendments concerning marriage and abortion. Constitutional amendments are not ordinary legislation. Once approved by voters, they become the legal framework of the Commonwealth—often for generations. Because of their lasting impact, these amendments deserve careful, prayerful attention from God’s people.

**At the heart of both amendments are questions not of politics but of Scripture.**

King Jehoshaphat, in 2 Chronicles 20:12, famously prayed, ***"We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you,"*** when facing a massive, superior invading army. This honest, desperate prayer led to a divine promise that the battle was God's, resulting in an incredible victory. **So, in the face of incredible opposition, we don't look to the opposing forces but to the Lord.**

**Does God care or say anything in Scripture about life? About marriage? About gender? Of course, we believe the answer to all of those questions is a resounding YES!**

## THIS NOVEMBER ...

Virginians will be asked to vote on two proposed constitutional amendments:

1. Redefining marriage.
2. Abortion.

The two proposed amendments are:

**1.** One allows for an almost unchecked freedom to abort babies until the moment of birth by anyone, at any time, anywhere (titled: *Virginia Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment*). Even the name of this amendment is meant to cause confusion and mask its real purpose.

The Bible affirms that life is sacred and purposeful. ***"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb"*** (Psalms 139:13–16). God’s words to Jeremiah reaffirm this truth: ***"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you"*** (Jeremiah 1:5). These passages remind us that human life is not accidental or disposable—it is known and valued by God from the very beginning.

**2.** The other proposed amendment redefines marriage and removes the specific God-given difference between a man and a woman (titled: *Marriage between two adult persons/repeal of same-sex marriage prohibition/affirmative right to marry*). Currently, the language in the Constitution of Virginia states, “That only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by this Commonwealth and its political subdivisions.”

## Read the full amendments:

### MARRIAGE AMENDMENT:

<https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20251/HJ9>



Scan to view  
House Bill HJ9

### ABORTION AMENDMENT:

<https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HB781>



Scan to view  
House Bill HB781



The Bible shows us that marriage is not merely a cultural tradition but a God-ordained covenant. Scripture declares, **“A man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife”** (Genesis 2:24). Jesus Himself reaffirmed this in Matthew 19:4–6. This biblical understanding of marriage is a cornerstone for family stability and the flourishing of children. We know and believe that God, as the Creator, specifically designed both man and woman from the beginning to be unique and gifted in their own special way (Genesis 1:27/Psalms 139:14).

The abortion amendment is often presented as a matter of personal autonomy. We’ve heard the phrase, “My body, My Choice.” We know that this is meant to distract us from the real goal – to destroy a life. Proverbs urges us to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves and to protect the vulnerable.

**“Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute.”** — Proverbs 31:8 (ESV)

Genuine compassion for women actually comes through support systems that offer hope, resources, and life-affirming options for both mother and child. And a love for women and children doesn’t stop with what happens during pregnancy and birth but continues with love, care, and support throughout their lives.

As pastors and church members, our calling is not based on political loyalty but on faithfulness to the Gospel. The churches of the SBC of Virginia have always sought to proclaim the Gospel clearly while standing courageously for biblical truth. In times like these, let us lead through prayer, speak with wisdom, and act with conviction—protecting women, strengthening

families, and upholding the sanctity of life. May we remain faithful.

A former pastor and boss of mine used to say, “What is the action item?” Here it is as plainly as I can write.

This is a time when we cannot be silent. Every pastor and church must ask the Lord what they should do within their God-given mission. We understand that each church is unique and will tackle this as God leads.

**But, we can all PRAY!**

**We can be INFORMED.**

**And, we can use the privilege we have to VOTE.**

Please urge your congregation, family, and friends to Vote NO on both proposed constitutional amendments. ●

## Resources Available

**We will have resources for your church.**

Feel free to use any or all of these as you preach, teach, and share the truth of God’s Word and how it speaks to these issues.

Please be on the look out for resources this summer.



## Not Alone: *Wives of Hispanic Pastors*

Pastors' wives need spaces where they can connect with other ministry wives, trust in God's grace together, and share one another's burdens.

Ministerial life is a blessing for pastors and their families in local churches, yet it also presents unique challenges for the wives of Hispanic pastors and church planters in Virginia. Many live far from their families in their countries of origin, and their ministries unfold in multicultural settings. Although united by a common Spanish language, Hispanic churches include members from various nations, each with its own cultural context, even though all these countries speak Spanish.

These women often have full schedules—managing their homes, marriages, and children; holding secular jobs; and meeting the church's ongoing needs.

Amid such a demanding rhythm, it becomes essential for them to find moments of encouragement, safety, and vulnerability. They need spaces where they can connect with other ministry wives, trust in God's grace together, and share one another's burdens, which is an invaluable gift.

In response, the Hispanic Ministry of the SBC of Virginia, together with Send Network Virginia, has sought not only to equip these sisters through training and resources but also to strengthen their spiritual lives. In 2025, cohort groups began forming across Virginia, visiting and meeting with the wives of Hispanic pastors. Whether gathering

one-on-one over coffee or sharing lunch with a group of sisters, these meetings allow them to encourage one another and discuss challenges specific to their local mission fields. Support for these women continues through the Church Planter Care program in Virginia.

Marisol Santamaría, Hispanic Ministries Consultant, has described these gatherings as a great blessing. They bring together pastors' wives within each region, creating opportunities for shared prayer, mutual encouragement, and relationships that grow stronger with each meeting. The goal is for these gatherings to multiply within local churches, fostering ongoing support under the guidance of the SBCV Women's Ministry.

Building on this momentum, the 2026 conference, *Arraigadas en Cristo* (Rooted in Christ), will feature special guest Cathy Cheraldi, the wife of Dr. Miguel Núñez of the International Baptist Church, along with other workshop leaders.

All of these ministry efforts are made possible by the generous support of Vision Virginia and the Cooperative Program.

The wives of Hispanic pastors and church planters in Virginia are not alone—and they are deeply valued. ●

# Arraigadas en Cristo

CONFERENCIA DE MUJERES

**16 DE MAYO**  
THE HEIGHTS  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
SOUTH CHESTERFIELD



Conferencista  
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