

PROCLAIMER

MAY/JUNE 2005 ■ VOL. 7 NO. 3
THE OFFICIAL NEWS MAGAZINE
OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST
CONSERVATIVES OF VIRGINIA

LifeWay's
VBS

Ramblin'
Road Trip

PSALM

25:4

Which Way Do I Go?

The SBCV is a
fellowship of
Southern Baptist
Convention churches
cooperating to assist
local congregations in
their task of fulfilling
the Great Commission as
commanded by our
Lord Jesus Christ.

Special VBS Edition

EDITOR'S NOTE

Geoff Hammond, Senior Associate Director



VBS is the single most effective tool for evangelism in the local church. Or is it? It is if you enlist and train workers well ahead of time. It is not, if you wait until the last minute! It is, if you advertise your VBS creatively and have a plan for follow up of contacts in place before the week of VBS. And one more thing, don't forget that VBS is a great training ground for new leaders of all ages. I thank the Lord that my first opportunity to lead as a teenager was during a VBS. Make VBS your single most effective tool for evangelism in your church this summer!



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EDITOR

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SBCV STAFF & MINISTRY AREAS

For information about ministry areas and staff, please see our web site at www.sbcv.org. SBCV staff persons may be reached via email using their first initial and last name along with the suffix @sbcv.org.

SBCV Studentz Camp

ONE

JULY 11-15

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY, LYNCHBURG

Lord. Life. Love

Worship:

starfield

Drama & Improv:
Mad Dogs & Englismen



Cost: \$209 if postmarked by May 14
Final registration is June 14

Christian Illusionist:
Brock Gill



Guest Speaker
Ken Freeman

SBCV Studentz Camp is the official state camp of the SBC of Virginia and is supported by your partnership through the Cooperative Program



SBCV CALENDAR

For more information, please contact us at sbcv@sbcv.org or call 888-234-7716

2005		
MAY	6-7	DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING — Preston Oaks Baptist, Roanoke (MW)
	20-21	DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING — Chincoteague
	21	BIBLE DRILL — Beulah Baptist, Lynchburg
	26	CHURCH PLANTING NETWORK — Statewide
JUNE	3-4	DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING — Kingsway Baptist, Bristol (SW)
	6-8	TRANSITIONAL PASTOR TRAINING — Glen Allen
	10-11	DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING — Centerville Baptist, Centerville
	19-22	PASTORS' CONFERENCE/SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION — Nashville, TN
	23-25	COLLEGE BEACH REACH — London Bridge Baptist, Virginia Beach
JULY	11-15	SBCV YOUTH CAMP — Liberty University, Lynchburg
AUGUST	9-10	YOUTH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE (YEC) — Liberty Baptist, Hampton
	19-20	CHURCH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE — Mt. Pleasant Baptist, Colonial Heights
	25	CPN (Statewide)
SEPTEMBER	9-10	PASTORS, STAFF & WIVES RETREAT — Wintergreen
	11-14	EVANGELISM CONFERENCE (CW) — The Tabernacle, Danville
	11-18	WEEK OF PRAYER for State Missions
	24	Church Technology Conference— Fellowship Community Church, Salem
	26-29	FAITH CLINIC — Kingsland Baptist, Richmond
OCT	7-8	HARVEST FOR THE LORD Women's Conference — Cave Spring Baptist, Roanoke
NOV	14-15	SBCV ANNUAL MEETING — Grove Avenue Baptist, Richmond

2006

FEB	17-18	SWAT RETREAT (Eastern)
	24-25	SWAT RETREAT (Western)
MAR	13	EVANGELISM CONFERENCE
	24	STUDENT PASTORS/DIRECTORS RETREAT
MAY	20	BIBLE DRILL
JUNE	11-14	PASTORS' CONFERENCE, Southern Baptist Convention — Greensboro, NC
JULY	10-14	SBCV STUDENTZ CAMP

FACTOID

DID YOU KNOW?

Vacation Bible School is the single largest outreach event for most churches.

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PROCLAIMER



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A passion for missions and children brings about the natural outcome of a Vacation

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Bible School mission trip for Parkway Baptist Church. This adventure led nine team members to develop a Vacation Bible School in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico.



The Ann Baker Diary

Ann Baker is not alone in her feeling that VBS is the greatest evangelistic tool offered in the

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local church. The entire Baker family came to know Jesus Christ and was baptized all because Ann's daughter attended VBS in the summer of 1974.



A Link for Eternity

Discover a simple, effective way to mobilize college students to impact your community for Christ.

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Darwin Sokoken Goes to Washington

Asian communities won't be the same now that Darwin Sokoken has arrived.

Darwin and his wife are focusing their efforts in answering God's call to work in Washington, D.C. as a church planting missionary with the SBCV.

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God's Work in Quantico

Because of one faithful woman and two pastors a dream is becoming a reality.

Helpful HINTS FOR VBS DIRECTORS

- 1 YOUR PASTOR**
Share his vision for VBS. Encourage his participation in everything from the planning process to the closing program and follow up.
- 2 PLANNING CALENDAR**
Develop a plan with your VBS Strategy Team.
- 3 PROMOTION TEAM**
Enlist this team to saturate the surrounding communities with advertisements and invitations.
- 4 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**
Take advantage of the local VBS Clinics sponsored by the SBCV and led by a **LifeWay** trained team to train your VBS personnel and volunteers.
- 5 ENROLL EARLY**
Start thinking outreach by sending registration forms home with your church members to enroll their neighbors and friends. Don't forget shopping centers, schools, and community centers. Remember, people like the convenience of enrolling on your church's webpage. Your church may purchase the Online Tools to link to **LifeWay** online registration.
- 6 KICK-OFF RALLY**
Schedule this event several weeks before VBS to stir up excitement and anticipation.
- 7 PRAYER PARTNERS**
Once pre-enrollment has taken place, provide magnetic prayer guides (business card size) with the names of VBS leaders and future attendees. Place the cards on a bulletin board covered with grid wire where it is visible in a foyer or the worship center. Ask adult Sunday School members to take a prayer card and pray for them throughout VBS. Include prayer for VBS in your worship services.
- 8 FAMILY NIGHT CELEBRATION**
A great opportunity to praise the Lord for what He has done during the week. Children can demonstrate what they have learned and family members will want to show their support and encouragement. It's a great outreach opportunity!
- 9 FOLLOW-UP**
Enlist a VBS Team or utilize your church's ongoing outreach and visitation team. Don't forget that prospects are more open to people they have met, so a VBS teacher or leader visiting who take them a keepsake reminder of the week will go a long way.
- 10 REPORT YOUR VBS RESULTS**
These numbers represent lives that were reached, touched and changed during your VBS. Utilize the form on page 54 of the Administrative Guide for Directors or enter this information electronically on **LifeWay's** SBDS database at www.lifeway.com/sbds. Please send a printed copy to the SBCV office or to your SBCV Area Missionary. It will guarantee that your church receives early information about next year's VBS materials.



TAKING VBS TO International Streets

Parkway Baptist Church has a

passion for missions and children. Put them

both together and the natural outcome is a Vacation Bible School mission trip. It was this adventure that led nine totally different people to develop a Vacation Bible School in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico.

The mission team from Parkway, an SBCV church plant started just three years ago in Midlothian, saw God move in and through the team members. The best result was seeing 20 Hispanic children accept Christ as personal Savior!

But the VBS team also witnessed God doing the miraculous in their own lives. Someone who wasn't comfortable talking to kids found himself delivering children's sermons.

Another, whose life was built around structure, found herself having to "wing it". And someone else who was fearful of sharing her faith found herself openly sharing Jesus with Hispanic adults. The entire team witnessed first-hand the awesome power God uses to turn weakness into strength!

The lasting impressions felt by the Parkway team were the smiles, hugs, and tears of the little children. The eternal destinies of these children were forever changed and God will use these children to further extend His Kingdom. In Matthew 19:14, Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me...for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Take VBS to the Next Level

VBS time is almost here

and many churches are already planning their Ramblin' Road Trip across America, while others are planning a day at the beach with Beach Blast. This year, LifeWay is offering two curriculums! Beach Blast is designed for smaller churches and Backyard Bible Clubs. Some churches are taking Beach Blast for a road trip as a missions project to assist churches that would have difficulty doing a VBS on their own. VBS is not only an evangelism tool for your church, but it could also be a local missions strategy for your church.

NETWORKING IN 2005:

Networking is a part of what Southern Baptists are all about. (Hence the word "cooperative" in Cooperative Program.) What greater picture of cooperation than watching churches share their curriculum materials, ideas, decorations, and even workers to assist each other in doing VBS throughout Virginia.

To aide in this effort, the SBCV will compile a list of churches that attended the 11 VBS training clinics this spring. It will be on our web site at www.sbcv.org on May 15. This information includes the ministry area in which the church is located, as well as the date of the VBS, curriculum being used, and whether the church is open to sending a team of workers to assist other churches. If your church is not on that list, please contact 888-234-7716 so it can be added.

NETWORKING IN 2006:

Churches with resources can assist churches in need by planning VBS earlier in the summer next year, giving other churches an opportunity to borrow resources. Churches could choose the Club VBS curriculum next year so that workers would already be trained to go on mission to assist other churches in their VBS!

NETWORK IT!

State Bible Drill & Speakers Tournament

May 21, 2005
Beulah Baptist Church
Lynchburg VA

Registration Deadline: May 9, 2005
Register ONLINE at www.sbcv.org,
by EMAIL sbcv@sbcv.org,
FAX (804) 270-1834 or
MAIL to SBCV, 4101 Cox Road,
Suite 100, Glen Allen, VA 23060

Questions please call
888-234-7716 or
email the website.



The Ann Baker Diary

Ann Baker is an avid supporter of Vacation Bible School for an eternal reason. It all began at a VBS in Whitesburg, Kentucky.

In the summer of 1974, two summer missionaries, along with pastor Bill Mackey, visited the Baker's home and invited them to the local VBS. Ann's daughter, Mossie, begged her parents to let her go. Even though they were hesitant,

they allowed her to ride the church bus to VBS. Mossie loved it so much that she attended every summer and brought her fam-



ily and friends as well. VBS led to Sunday School, Youth Group and ultimately, **salvation!** Mossie was baptized in November 1981, and that very night her mother, Ann, made a public profession of faith in Christ. Later her husband, Charlie, and their two other children were saved.

Within 18 months of Mossie's decision at VBS, the entire Baker family came to Christ and was baptized! But no one could have foreseen that just a few years later, at the early age of 21, Mossie would be tragically killed in an automobile accident. Ann Baker knows that it was the Lord working



through VBS that brought the Gospel to their home, which in turn, secured her daughter's eternal life.

Ann Baker, now a member of First Baptist Pennington Gap, believes that VBS is the greatest evangelistic tool offered in the local church. Ann now serves as Director for one of the two VBS Training Clinic Teams for the SBCV. As Ann trains VBS leaders, she will also give testimony of how one life, changed through VBS, can affect so many others for generations to come.

"When you reach children — you reach parents," Baker says. "You should be praying for Bible School year-round ... I should be praying for people now who will be teaching, children who will attend and their parents. I know that VBS makes a difference in peoples lives because I am a living example of what God can do if we will allow Him to use us."





FIVE IMPORTANT FACTS

1 Club VBS is VBS in a box!

All the materials you need to do a full VBS for 40 children and 10 preschoolers.

2 Club VBS is designed to be done in a shorter time frame!

Club VBS is done in 2 hours instead of 3.

3 Club VBS is broadly graded!

- Babies–2's: in the Administration Guide
- 3's–Kindergarten: Two Leader Guides plus the daily Learner Guides
- 1st–3rd Grade: Two Leader Guides plus the daily Learner Guides
- 4th–6th Grade: Two Leader Guides plus the daily Learner Guides

4 Club VBS has fewer rotations!

- Bible Study
- Crafts
- Recreation
- Snacks

SIX Exciting Ways To Use Club VBS Beach Blast

1. Mission trips
2. Five or ten week summer series
3. Parents day-out material
4. Backyard Bible Club
5. Children's camps
6. Special series for an extended school vacation (spring break/time-off for year round schools)



Music is done through the Worship Rally. Currently there is not a missions rotation. However, LifeWay is looking to add a missions rotation next year.

5 Club VBS is available November–December!

This is an excellent opportunity to use Club VBS as an outreach opportunity during spring break, Backyard Bible Club, and even Christmas Vacation.

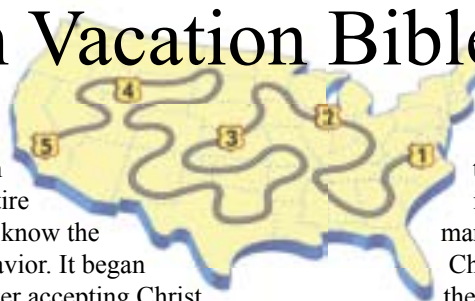


Evangelism Through Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is a great evangelistic strategy. Of course, that's nothing new! But, in 2004 many SBCV churches experienced it first hand. Many people were brought into the Kingdom through the efforts of pastors, members, and VBS workers presenting the gospel to children, youth, and

adults who attended VBS. For example, in Saltville, an entire family came to know the Lord as their Savior. It began with the daughter accepting Christ during VBS. She then shared it with her family and her parents accepted the Lord. This story is repeated time after time. Each year, countless numbers of children accept the Lord during VBS. Many of them will go on to be leaders in their church or answer the call to a full-time ministry. Others will become VBS workers in the years ahead.

Some churches use VBS as an evangelistic missions project to other churches.



First Baptist Church, Norfolk helped Grace Baptist in Bristol conduct VBS in 2004. This resulted in many decisions being made for Christ, as well as strengthening the work of the pastor and

members at Grace Baptist. This type of mission project can help churches that don't have enough workers to do VBS.

In 2004, SBC churches across America, reported more than 104,000 people accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior through the presentation of the gospel in VBS. It is a great way to win the lost in 2005 as well! VBS can make a difference for eternity in the lives of people all across Virginia and America.





YOUTH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

Y E C

Departure

Speaker:
Kirk Cameron



from the old to the new II Cor. 5:17



August 9-10, 2005
at Liberty Baptist Church in Hampton
Cost: \$25

For more information or to register
888.234.7716 or www.sbcv.org/studentz



Beach Reach is an event of the SBCV and supported by the Cooperative Program

FACTOID

According to "Youth Risk Behavior Survey" (2003): 51% of males and 49% of females in grades 9-12 have already had sex. Of those, 15.6%, or one in six, have had more than four partners. Nearly 6% said they had sex before the age of 13.

college beach reach

JUNE 23-25

College /Career (ages 18-25)
Bring \$ for lunches & dinners

London Bridge Baptist Virginia Beach

State Missions on VA Beach with a gospel blitz -- free tan included
for info or to register:
www.sbcv.org/studentz



2005 Evangelism Conferences



More than a thousand attended a first ever for the SBCV... simultaneous evangelism conferences held on two sides of the State — Salem and Yorktown. On Monday, March 7th, pastors and staff... along with their wives and many church members from all over the state of Virginia, came for a full day of instruction and encouragement.

Speakers included some of the country's finest teachers, evangelists and pastors: Steve Flockhart, Tony Nolan, Charles Lawless, Adrian Depres, John Avant, Ken Hemphill, Larry Grays, and Bill Fay.

Other teachers were able to give specialized instruction through various breakout sessions. Those in attendance heard among other topics, more about the Evangelism Response Center, how to evangelize through Sunday School, sharing Jesus without fear, how to use lay people in church planting, and how to reach youth in the 21st century.

Evangelism wasn't just preached at these conferences ... it was put into practice. Both sponsoring churches, Fellowship Community Church (FCC) in Salem and Bethel Baptist in Yorktown, focused on a high attendance Sunday and an evangelistic outreach the weekend before the conferences. As a result, many professed Christ as Savior and many others rededicated their lives to Him. Nine were baptized before the Monday evening service of the Evangelism Conference in Fellowship Community's portable baptistry.

In the Roanoke area, speakers of the Evangelism Conference also preached at Green Ridge Baptist Church and Cave Spring Baptist Church on Sunday. Both congregations saw the Spirit moving through professions of faith.

Thanks to the Lord for the people saved and the leaders impacted. Special appreciation goes to the sponsoring churches, pastors, worship leaders, and volunteers for all their hard work and prayer.

SBCV President

I remember

my first Vacation Bible School (VBS) as a pastor. Our small church was the only non-Catholic church within a seventeen mile stretch of highway. When I mentioned needing helpers for VBS our folks responded overwhelmingly. They shared with me that our church of thirty-five would almost triple in size that week as children would come from all over. I found out that our VBS was the highlight of the summer for children who never went to church nor had any Gospel knowledge. That week was our opportunity to plant seeds, water seeds already planted and see a harvest for Christ.

You know, not much has changed in twenty-five years. Children from all over our communities look forward to a week of being with friends, learning God's Word, and hearing stories of how much Jesus loves them and cares about



CARL WEISER
Senior Pastor
Hyland Heights
Baptist Church
Lynchburg

them. Our opportunity to reach them for Christ remains.

Think about it, VBS is an open window to impact the next generation for Christ. For one week we have the freedom to tell these children about Jesus and how He can change their lives. A week to plant a verse in their heart that the Holy Spirit can use to bring them to salvation. A week of kindness to let them know that church is a place of acceptance and security. A week to say Jesus loves you and so do we.

I challenge you to remember the importance of a child's soul to the Father. I challenge you to give VBS your best and make a difference in the lives of the families in your community.

FACTOID

About 28% of baptisms are the result of Vacation Bible School.



a link for eternity

youth rallies, block parties, worship,

College students mobilized to do hands-on church ministry with a simple e-mail request? Could it really be that simple to impact lives in my community by using college students from Liberty University? The SBCV says, “yes,” to both these questions through Liberty Link. More than 20 people came to Christ this year from Disciple-Now weekends to neighborhood canvassing and everything in between. The 40+ students of Liberty Link have a heart for ministry and are looking for even more opportunities to serve in SBCV churches. This unique ministry is designed primarily for one-time occasions; specializing in

Disciple-Now weekends, neighborhood outreach, and preaching.

“Liberty Link has provided me with opportunities to be actively involved with ministry while I am at school, and it has allowed me to share with other girls what God has taught me,” says Emily Handy, a junior at Liberty University and a member of London Bridge Baptist Church.

Student team leader, Rachel Hall, from Kentucky, put it this way, “Liberty Link has had a tremendous influence on my life. I have gained a greater love and appreciation for the local church. When traveling to various churches and

ministering to others, I was able to be a part of their task and realize how much the church plays a part in the spiritual growth of others. Liberty Link also gave me the push I needed to go beyond my comfort zone. I grew not only in my spiritual life, but also as a leader. Last but not least, Liberty Link refocused me and assured me of my calling in life. Nothing brings me greater joy than to travel to churches and be used by God to impact lives for eternity.”

Liberty Link is continually searching for new members to join the team. If you know someone at Liberty University who would be interested in joining us in ministry...let us know. Or, if you have a ministry opportunity in mind for this team please contact us at libertylink@sbcv.org or visit us at www.sbcv.org/studentz/libertylink.

TO THE UTTERMOST AND BACK

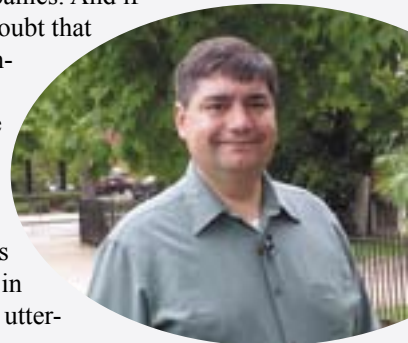
The first Southern Baptist Convention missionary to Argentina was sent out from Fluvanna Baptist Church (FBC) in 1907. While serving in Argentina, the missionary from Virginia helped start a seminary that would train young Christians to spread the Gospel at home and abroad.

Fluvanna Baptist continues to have a heart for the world, “There is more to Fluvanna Baptist than the four walls of the building. It extends far beyond,” says Senior Pastor Allen Acree.

The church has been trusting the Lord for the financial resources to complete the new sanctuary, fellowship hall, and education space for years. While many would rush to complete construction, this church understands that there is more to Kingdom building than building a structure. In just the past year, FBC has assisted with hurricane relief in Florida, taken a youth music and worship team to Taiwan, and children of church families have taught in schools and orphanages in South Africa. They’ve also been on mission trips to Australia, New Zealand and Peru.

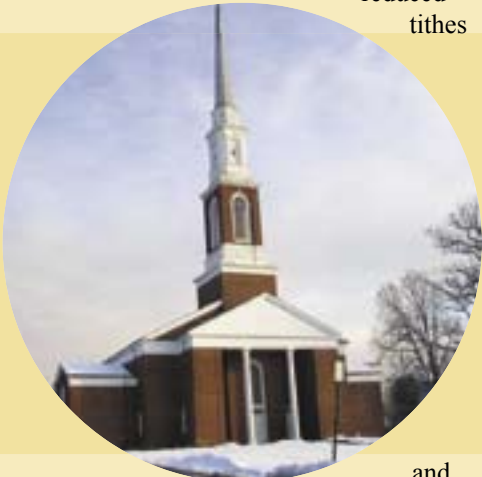


This is all because FBC is intentional concerning missions. In the future, that could even expand to include adopting people groups and assisting missionaries closer to home. They plan to assist Raul Hernandez, SBCV church planter in Washington D.C., in prayer walks, opinion polls and other church planting activities this summer. Raul, is a native Argentine and former member of Fluvanna Baptist. God has now called him to D.C. to reach Hispanics. And if there’s any doubt that God is in control... Raul trained in the very Argentina Seminary that Fluvanna was instrumental in starting! The uttermost to Raul was America, and Fluvanna Baptist is there to assist once again.



DEL RAY BAPTIST Redreams the Dream

How can you turn a century-old, dying church into a vibrant one? That question haunted the remaining members of Del Ray Baptist Church in Alexandria, when the once active congregation of more than 1,500 people dwindled to fewer than 40. In fact, because of the low membership and reduced tithes



and offerings, the church actually had to share its beautiful facility, located just 5 miles from the heart of Washington D.C., with Alexandria Presbyterian Church. When Del Ray lost its pastor in August of 2004, the church considered closing its doors.

That's where the story ends for many churches. But in a desperate attempt to save Del Ray, their church council contacted the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia for advice and recommendations. Healing and revitalization would not be easy... but there was hope! The SBCV helped Del Ray through the revitalization process, including develop-

ing a *vision* for the church's ministry in the next five years, and identifying the *core values* that the membership holds most dear. The church membership prayed and worked diligently for four months to discern God's will for the congregation, and finally adopted the theme of...

Re-Dreaming the Dream: their vision for reaching the neighborhood around them, and a plan to meet the needs of the professional couples and young, single professional women who comprise the largest demographic groups in the area close to the church.

In March 2005, the church called a new Pastor, John Koch, from Bailey, Mississippi. With this step, the church is well on its way to revitalization — but still needs much prayer. Pray that God will continue to use Del Ray Baptist in this new millennium to reach the lawmakers and lobbyists of D.C., with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as well as the thousands of citizens just steps away from their front door.



FACTOID

DID YOU KNOW?

More people have come to know Jesus as Savior through VBS than through any other single outreach event.



Transitional Pastor Helps Churches in Transition

The period when a church is without a pastor can be a difficult experience for any congregation, but it need not be a time of congregational decline. With effective leadership, this period can be a productive time of growth and progress.

George Mullinax, retired pastor (former pastor of Western Branch Baptist), recently completed an 18-month transitional pastorate at Deer Park Baptist in Newport News. He was able to provide much needed guidance to this congregation. Many times when a church is searching for a pastor they can only see problems—that's when discouragement sets in. Mullinax said, "It is important for the church to see the possibilities that lay before them. The focus is not to rebuild what was, but to see God build something new. My position was to help them celebrate the victories and the steps taken in the right direction."

Transitional pastors have the experience, training, and ministry gifts that prepare a church to move forward. The position allows them to serve as preacher, shepherd, and consultant during a vital time in the life of a congregation. SBCV offers Transitional Pastor Training in cooperation with LifeWay Christian Resources. If your church is without a pastor, the SBCV can help you. Contact your area missionary or call 888-234-7716 for more information about finding a trained transitional pastor.

George Mullinax summed up his experience at Deer Park Baptist, "Getting them to focus on the Word of God was the key. When that happened, the focus was not on themselves so much. It's important for the church to see that God wants to do a new thing among them."

God is indeed doing a new thing at Deer Park where Jonathan Judy is now the senior pastor.

LifeWay Training for TRANSITIONAL PASTORS

June 2005

for information visit: www.sbcv.org

Hosted by the SBC of Virginia



PASTORS STAFF & WIVES

Sept. 9-10

GUEST SPEAKERS:
Harold & Barbara O'Chester

The O'Chesters lead the largest men's and ladies retreat ministry in the SBC.

MARRIAGE RETREAT

Cost for first 50 paid couples: \$220

\$240 after the first 50 paid registrants

Only 80 spaces, so get your payment in early!

@ Wintergreen

register online at www.sbcv.org



Church LEADERSHIP Conference

August 19-20

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church
Colonial Heights

Equip
Your Leaders
for the
Work of Ministry



Risking
to
RENEW



Darwin Sokoken Goes to Washington

Darwin Sokoken and his wife, Norma, have answered the call to work in Washington D.C. as SBCV church planting missionaries. Darwin's main focus

will be to start churches among the various Asian communities living in metro D.C., and in the Capitol Beltway. Darwin was trained in urban ministry in Chicago and feels the Lord has been preparing him for such a time as this. More than a million people live in our nation's capitol with a very large Asian population, including many Filipino, Korean, and Vietnamese. As a former national missionary at the North American Mission Board to Filipinos, Darwin has already established relationships with Filipino churches, pastors and lay leaders in Metro D.C.

Sokoken has a three-pronged strategy for winning Asians to Christ in D.C. to Christ and starting churches.

■ **FIRST** and foremost are Bible Studies. A new study shows that a Bible study in the home is the most effective tool in evangelism and church planting among Asian people groups.

■ **SECOND** is a seed-sowing ministry among Asian diplomats and their families who work in embassies and international organizations.

■ **THIRD** is outreach to international students. Darwin says there is a huge need for second generation volunteers to minister to other second-generation Asian Americans. "God's call came to me while I was in university. I think that what God did for me, God can and will do in the lives of other Asian Americans. The future of Asian American work is in the hands of the second generation who respond to God's call to the ministry," says Sokoken.

The Sokokens have four adopted children and three grandchildren all living in the Philippines. Pray for Darwin and Norma as they begin their new adventure.



Life Community Church Constitutes

"It's easier to give birth than to raise the dead!" With those words, David Rhodenhizer, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria, greeted the members of Life Community Church (LCC) on a very important day, Constitution Day. Calvary is the sponsoring church of Life Community in Lorton, a SBCV church plant. Pastor Steve Markle left Calvary's staff three years ago to start LCC, "This day is exciting because it's the realization of a dream. To see the group of 25 become 150—you can't put that into words except, Wow! God is so good and I'm so thankful."

Hundreds attended the moving service where Markle and

his wife, Sherry, signed the constitution

first, followed by the rest of the congregation.

It doesn't matter how long the members have attended LCC, from three years to six months...they all agree on the ingredients of success: prayer and sincerity.

Donald Buttram, media director and one of the first members said, "I think what makes (the church) exciting and appealing is we're just real. There's a real sense of acceptance from everyone in this church."

Sherry Feehs, who recently joined the church in the last six months, said, "People remembered our name, they remembered my children's name — and it was only our second time here. Everyone is so warm and inviting, very welcoming and truly love God. It makes me wish I was here for the entire three years."

Life Community Church is no longer considered a church plant, but Markle



knows as he looks toward the future that they're not out there on their own. "The SBCV has been so important...I can't imagine doing this without them. I know we're in this together and we can learn from each other and from those that have done it before. I think that our people as a whole have gotten the vision that we're not just here for ourselves, to have a social club, to feel good. But we're here to reach Northern Virginia."

Eternal Disaster Relief

Todd Freeman, pastor of Kingsway Baptist Church in Bristol, says, "Being on mission with God may take on many different forms but the end result is always the same. It glorifies our Heavenly Father."

Kingsway sent two mission teams to Avon, Florida, to assist residents devastated by the storms last fall. "Six months later the devastation is still unbelievable," Todd says. "Standing in front of the home that we were working on, you could count nine homes that needed repairs before the residents could return."

One of the teams repaired a roof for pastor Ken Galloway, Pastor of New Day Baptist Church. As the team worked on the roof, neighbors watched with curiosity. Finally, a teen-age girl came over to check out what was going on. After she inquired about the work, pastor Ken asked her about her spiritual condition. Realizing that she was lost and needed the Savior, Ken led her to receive Jesus Christ. "Your work opened an opportunity that led to new birth."

First Baptist Church of Avon, Florida, hosted the second team and let them use their facilities. The team repaired the roof for an 80 year-old deacon of the church. "He told us that he had been on many mission trips to help others but now he understood what it meant to be the recipient of God's love working through others," Todd said.

Vernon Harkey, pastor of First Baptist, Avon, spoke during lunch on the last day. "I'm grateful that you were willing to come and minister to our community. God is using you to open doors of opportunity to share the gospel that may not exist otherwise."

If you would like to be a part of this dynamic ministry, email: disasterrelief@sbev.org for more information or visit www.sbev.org about SBCV Disaster Relief teams.



Southern Cross Changes Lives

Judy Henderlite, a faithful member of the South Fork Baptist Church near Marion, Va., signed up for the upcoming Southern Cross Mission trip to hand out Christian literature along with Chinese Bibles. While it seemed everyone else was excited about the opportunity to be "On Mission with God," Judy was just excited to go sightseeing in an exotic country.

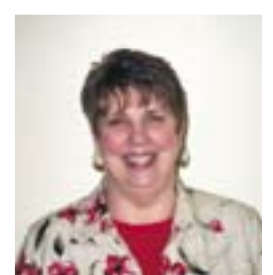
When team leader Mike Gwinn got everyone together for a preparation meeting, he asked team members to introduce themselves and give their salvation testimony. This scared Judy! She had never actually shared her faith with anyone... so when her turn came, she simply refused, saying she didn't know how. After the meeting, Judy decided she'd rather not even go on the trip than be faced with giving her testimony again. A good friend and member of the team insisted that she not give up but instead attend a NET training event that was to be held the following Saturday. The friend told Judy that the training was designed to help her develop her personal testimony.

Judy agreed and during this training event Judy's real problem came to the surface. "How can I share Christ with anyone else when I am fighting my own demons? How can I give a testimony that I don't have?" Soon after the meeting began, Judy interrupted the leader and with tears streaming down her face she confessed, "I'm not sure that I have a testimony. I don't have what the rest of you are describing."

The pastor, Mark Totten, stopped the meeting, shared Jesus with her and led her to pray and receive Christ as her personal Savior. Afterward, through tears of joy, she asked the team to listen while she shared her first testimony... her personal salvation testimony only minutes old!

"I'm still going to Thailand this summer," she said, "only now I will be much more effective since I have the assurance of salvation in my own heart."

If you would like to participate in a Southern Cross Mission Trip to Thailand... contact the SBCV Church Enrichment Missionary near you.



Han Chinese vacationing in Thailand receive a bag, like the one pictured along with a Bible.





Stand in front of many Southern Baptist churches and ask what it means to be Southern Baptist. For many it is hard to put it into words. Not so for Oak Grove Baptist in Richmond. It understands very well the importance of Cooperative Program Missions (CP) giving.

In 2004, Oak Grove wanted to do more for missions than it allotted in the annual budget. But the members knew they still had to be responsible to reach their own Jerusalem. So they voted, by faith, to give 50% of all money that exceeded their 2004 budget to the Cooperative Program. Oak Grove members say they want to share God's blessings with a lost and dying world. When God brought in the increase, Oak Grove was able to give an additional \$19,267 to the Cooperative Program...

"above and beyond" their normal CP giving of \$68,168! Now they're singing praises to God for His faithfulness and financial blessing.

God's Work in Quantico



Reach the town...build a church. Use the church to reach Marines...reach the world. That's the dream and hope in Quantico, and thanks to the Lord, one faithful woman, and two pastors...that dream is becoming reality.

"Miss Betty" has lived in Quantico, ("Q-town") for more than thirty years. What burdened her heart most was that in this town of 500-600 residents there was no church. What makes this situation unique is that "Q-town" is located right in the middle of a Marine Corps base that is home to thousands... thousands without a church!

In March of 2004 Clint Clifton and Naethan Hendrix first came to Quantico from Stafford Baptist to start Life Groups (small Bible studies). Naethan moved into town, got a job, and after a few months started four Life Groups. One group met in General Java's, a small coffee shop, where they met "Miss Betty". She prayed for years that the Lord would send someone to start a church. Naethan knows this was the catalyst in bringing them to Quantico, "I am confident that many times our sovereign Lord sets people to pray when He wants to do His work in a life." In a short time they outgrew the coffee shop and moved to Betty's home.

"Miss Betty" was so excited about the potential of a church that she began

going to the town

council meetings and asking leaders to allow them use of the community center. When she was turned down, Betty challenged them, "Well, Mayor, if you all want a church in this town why don't you write a special request to HUD that we be able to use the building for church." Within a month, permission was granted!

The Life Groups continue to grow with Marines, Corpsman and many



people from the town. "It is very exciting to see these Marines turned on to the possibility of spreading the gospel throughout the world," Clint

says. Naethan, meantime, can't wait to see what the future holds, "This is just a glimpse of what God has been doing here, and I pray that it is a foreshadowing of what is to come."

Editor's Note: Clint Clifton, an SBCV church planter, is planting a church in the Dumfries and Triangle area, sponsored by Stafford Baptist. Naethan Hendrix was a SBCV Church Planter Apprentice with Clint Clifton. He is now the church planter in Quantico fulfilling the SBCV vision of churches planting churches, planting churches!



TRAINING:

May 6-7
Preston Oaks Baptist,
Roanoke (MW)

May 20-21
Chincoteague

June 3-4
Kingsway Baptist,
Bristol (SW)

June 10-11
Centerville Baptist,
Centerville

SCHEDULE

Fridays
6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Saturdays
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

FULL TRAINING — \$25
includes training, shirt, hat, ID,
and Saturday lunch (trainees will
prepare a meal in the food unit)
FOOD/UNIT TRAINING ONLY — \$15



Where Jesus Builds His Church



DOYLE CHAUNCEY

Some of us can remember when Francis Schaefer said, “But one day you will wake up in the morning, and you will look around, and the America you once knew will no longer be there.” That America is now! The question is, where is the salt to curtail the decay and where is the light to dispel the darkness? Where are the churches, and what are they doing to penetrate the darkness we now see in an increasingly decadent culture?

Are the gates of hell prevailing against the church? Well-known author Henry Blackaby’s answer may surprise you: “Yes! Jesus says, ‘If I build my church, the gates of hell will not prevail against it.’ And where Jesus has built His church, the gates of hell are coming down. Therefore, if the gates of hell are

not coming down, we have to reach the conclusion that evidently what we call the church is something other than what Jesus has built and is building.”

What is the present state of our churches? During the media’s coverage of Terri Schiavo’s life and death struggle, the terms “persistent vegetative state” and “minimally conscious” were used to describe her condition. The condition of our churches is analogous. A few churches are in good health, many are in poor health, and others are near death: “minimally conscious” or in a “persistent vegetative state.”

Is it possible for an unhealthy church to be revitalized and a church near death to survive and later thrive? Absolutely! And it can happen in your church. There are a number of SBCV churches where

“the gates of hell are coming down.” But it is only possible when churches are willing to risk changing whatever needs changing to major in and master a constructive, impassioned evangelism. A church will come alive when it recaptures its intended purpose, rekindles its passion for the lost, and re-establishes an intentional evangelism strategy.

The SBCV is prepared and committed to help your church major in and master an intentional evangelistic strategy. Our goal is to help every church, regardless of size, experience the thrill of seeing at least one person won to Christ and baptized in 2005.

VBS SEASON Helps Kick-Off SBC President’s Challenge to BAPTIZE ONE MILLION

When the Southern Baptist Convention comes to a close in Nashville, Tennessee on June 22, President Bobby Welch will challenge the churches with the Great Commission and set a goal to baptize one million by the time the convention convenes in Greensboro, North Carolina next year.

As the messengers return to their respective churches, they will face “the single most important evangelistic outreach tool — VBS,” said LifeWay’s president James T. Draper, Jr.

Bobby Welch said in a December 9, 2004, edition of the Florida Baptist Witness, “Vacation Bible School is the absolute best way to reinvigorate us for our passion for reaching young people. Because VBS is fueled primarily by the efforts of lay people, any church, including small congregations and those without

pastors or new pastors, can immediately get involved in a renewed effort on VBS.”

Dr. Welch feels so strongly about VBS that it is the fifth strategy he suggests we use to reach the million for Christ. According to the latest figures, more than 3 million were enrolled in VBS in 2003. Of those, more than 100,000 said they accepted Jesus as Savior. Churches added almost 320,000 people to their Sunday School prospect rolls and more than 44,000 were actually enrolled in Sunday School as a result of VBS.

Doyle Chauncey, Executive Director of the SBCV said, “I am convinced that VBS is one, if not, the very best evangelism



strategy that Southern Baptist’s have used to reach children and youth. I highly recommend it to every church, especially to churches that did not baptize anyone last year.”

Carl Weiser, president of the SBCV and senior pastor of Hyland Heights Baptist Church in Lynchburg, posed the following question, “How do we reach our SBC President’s goal of 1 million baptisms next year? I know one way we often overlook, VBS!”

2005 Southern Baptist Convention

Reaching the World
for Christ

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July 21 with Kay Warren

Luncheon at Renaissance Hotel
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