



Connecting Chesterfield and Beyond with Christ

KINGSLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

by Steve Bradshaw, Director of Maturing Churches and Church Health Strategist, Central-East Region

Kingsland Baptist Church in the southern part of Richmond is reaching people in its “Jerusalem” and beyond with the Gospel. Through a focused outreach strategy and a variety of ministries, they live out their motto—“**Connecting People with Christ.**”

In 2007, Pastor Pat Fiordelise introduced his congregation to *Operation Chesterfield*, a strategy to help members connect their county to Christ. Through this method, the church family spends four consecutive Sunday afternoons canvassing neighborhoods, sharing the Gospel, and inviting people to church and an upcoming block party—a free community event with moon-bounce machines, games, food, and fun for families.

Church member Harvey Mayes explains, “[*Operation Chesterfield*] is a great opportunity for me to share with others what Christ has done for me in my life and to help [them] see that Christ is the answer.” Pastor Pat shares, “Harvey was my teammate canvassing a neighborhood just a mile south of our church. Harvey is a recovering addict who came to Christ a few years ago, and his life has dramatically changed.” At the first house they visited together, the owner did not want to listen to Pastor Pat, but Harvey was able to connect with him, sharing the entire Gospel. “Today,” says Pastor Pat, “Harvey is the leader of our ministry to the Bellwood Flea Market.” Chris Fens, another church member, appreciates that “[*Operation Chesterfield*] is an organized way to strategically go out and connect the community with Christ. It has opened my eyes to

the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of folks in our community. I have prayed for so many hurting people out there.”

When the SBC of Virginia announced the GPS *Find It Here* campaign in partnership with the North



American Mission Board, it was a natural fit for Kingsland. GPS provided a method for churches to reach their communities with the Gospel and invite neighbors to church. This initiative connected smoothly with Kingsland’s existing strategy. Over the past three years through *Operation Chesterfield*, they have contacted 15,000 homes with a personal visit and shared the Gospel and prayed with hundreds of people at their homes and in the community. Many have come to know Christ, been baptized, and now attend Kingsland.

In addition to *Operation Chesterfield*, the church connects its community with Christ through American Family Radio, broadcasting Pastor Pat’s sermons throughout the city each week. Kingsland also participates in nursing home outreach, backyard Bible clubs, first-responder ministry to firefighters, public school ministry to administrators and teachers, flea market ministry, prayerwalking, and community service through home repairs. In the fall of 2009, Kingsland expanded its community connection even further to sponsor a Hispanic church plant. God provided Pastor Fernando Mangieri to plant Iglesia Bautista Nueva Esperanza (New Hope Baptist Church). At the time of this writing, there had recently been 47 in attendance! Pastor Pat testifies, “many are now coming to Kingsland Baptist Church and Iglesia Bautista Nueva Esperanza because church members care enough to connect them to Jesus in word and deed.”

At Kingsland Baptist Church, “Connecting People to Christ” is more than a catchy slogan. It’s a commitment to spreading the Gospel in Chesterfield and beyond. It is a way of life!

RESOURCE

■ **Website:**
www.kingslandbaptist.com
www.findithere.com

■ **SBCV Contact:**
Call 888-234-7716 for details from the missionary in your region.

■ **Consider:**
What kind of strategy can you put in place to connect people to Christ?

