



CP Dollars Reach the Field and Back

STAPLES MILL ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

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

There's a unique phenomenon at Staples Mill Road Baptist Church (SMRBC) in Glen Allen. The church family doesn't give missions dollars through the Cooperative Program to receive a reward, but the Lord always seems to provide a return on their investment back at home.

The very Cooperative Program (CP) dollars that supported Rev. Warren Rice and his family as International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries in Indonesia brought him back to the United States to serve as pastor of SMRBC in the 1980s. Such was the case with SMRBC's current senior pastor, Dr. Jim Booth. He and his family served as IMB missionaries in South Asia before coming to SMRBC, bringing with them a fresh passion and vision for missions. Serving alongside Pastor Jim is Rev. Mike Bowles, associate pastor for discipleship and missions, whose family served in Thailand prior to returning to the States. Rev. Danny Panter, associate pastor for students, grew up as a missionary kid overseas. SMRBC is conveniently located near the IMB's International Learning Center in Rockville and the IMB headquarters in Richmond. It is no wonder many IMB staff members and missionaries in training find SMRBC to be a warm and welcoming church home.

In addition to international missions, CP dollars make seminary education affordable for men and women called out from Staples Mill to prepare for future ministry. Just ask Mike Bowles who went out from SMRBC to seminary and was approved as an IMB missionary before returning home. Just ask the regional church health strategist who went out from SMRBC to seminary, served as a pastor for 14 years, and has now returned to the region as the church's SBCV missionary. Many others have been called out from this church family and are currently being trained

for missions and ministry. There are SMRBC members presently serving in Honduras, South Asia, and Thailand with the IMB.

Out of this atmosphere of going and sending, Staples Mill has increased its CP giving and missions activities in recent years. Darryl Franklin, SMRBC missions coordinator, testifies that the church's impact reaches near and far through their *Acts 1:8* strategy. Locally, the church assists with the Pregnancy Resource Center, Lamb's Basket food ministry, AWANA, Good News Jail and Prison Ministry, and more. Outside Virginia, the church has ministered in New Orleans for several years with the North American Mission Board's N.O.A.H Project and, this summer, will conduct Vacation Bible School for a church there. SMRBC has recently assisted a church plant in Connecticut and plans to participate in a Power Plant trip to Philadelphia this year. When considering the "uttermost parts," SMRBC has taken annual trips to Thailand and will participate in a student World Changers and Power Plant trip to the Ukraine this summer.

Staples Mill Road Baptist Church is a church on mission through giving and going. Pastor Jim delights, "I'm thrilled with the recent mission efforts our folks have been a part of. I'm looking forward to seeing that continue to unfold."



Darryl Franklin, Missions Coordinator



New Orleans team member, Don Griffith, taking time to pray

RESOURCE

Website:

www.smrbc.org
www.sbcv.org/maturing
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SBCV Contact:

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