



# Displaying a Kingdom-mindset

## NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH

by Ron Kidd, Church Planting Strategist, Central-East Region

In 1992, Josh Turner, a native of Louisa County, graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in forestry and wildlife. After working in North Carolina for a time, God brought him back to his hometown to work in a local business. At the same time, the Lord began calling him to vocational ministry. He impressed upon Josh a desperate need and urgency to reach his friends and neighbors with the Gospel by planting a new church. In obedience, Josh and his wife Stacey assembled 30 friends, relatives, and acquaintances to share their burden and vision. At that 2002 meeting, New Life Community Church in Louisa was officially born.

In November of the same year, the church held its first public worship service with 75 in attendance. Josh began as bi-vocational, serving as pastor while working in the secular world. Eventually, the needs of his growing congregation led him to become full-time at the church, but he remains a proponent of bi-vocational church planting. "It helped our church financially and kept me in constant contact with those outside of Christ."

After studying the doctrinal beliefs and positions of the Southern Baptist Convention, Pastor Josh led the previously non-denominational church to join the SBCV in 2003. As a young church planter, he realized the need for practical training and accountability. Through SBCV's Basic Training and monthly Church Planter Networks, he received both. Some of the brothers he met at those

gatherings still serve as accountability partners today.

Because of his unique circumstances, Pastor Josh was never financially funded by the SBCV or sponsored by SBCV churches. Even though he did not receive funding as a planter, he is a strong supporter of the Cooperative Program (CP) and is actively involved in SBCV church planting. Pastor Josh led New Life to give faithfully to the CP from the time it joined the SBCV, and he currently volunteers, encouraging and assessing present SBCV church planters. "I believe wholeheartedly in the CP," says Pastor Josh, "and I see great value in partnering through ministry with others. The way the CP supports missions through the IMB is awesome. [CP gifts] helped our church by providing a church planter apprentice to help us as we prepared the soil to plant in Charlottesville. I'm very grateful that the CP has also helped me personally with my seminary education expenses."

How blessed we are in the SBCV to have pastors and churches like Josh Turner and New Life Community Church! With their Kingdom-mindset, they are faithfully supporting the CP and church planting, helping reach the millions of Virginians who are still without a saving knowledge of Christ.

### RESOURCE

#### ■ Websites:

[www.newlifeinlouisa.com](http://www.newlifeinlouisa.com)  
[www.sbcv.org/multiplying](http://www.sbcv.org/multiplying)

#### ■ SBCV Contact:

Call 888-234-7716 for details from your region's missionary.

#### ■ Consider:

What are ways your church can build relationships with the people in your community?

