



# Understood Trust

## A MULTIPLICATION FACTOR



by Larry Black, Church Planting Strategist, Central-West Region

For pastor and catalytic church planter John Wyble, aligning with the SBC of Virginia has enabled him to fulfill God’s plan for his life to reach the Deaf of Virginia. He observed Pastor Marvin Suitt lead Living Word Baptist Church in Forest to align with the SBCV. John, pastor of Living Word Deaf Church, a church plant out of Living Word Baptist, was skeptical at first. The Deaf community with whom he’d been involved was not open to aligning with the SBCV. Pastor John’s wife, Denise, came from an independent background, having grown up in the Caribbean with missionary parents. Therefore, she was unfamiliar with and cautious of the SBCV too. Though John and Denise were hesitant, the Deaf church made the decision to align with the SBCV. The Wybles are now grateful for the decision and give testimony of their gratitude for the SBCV.

the ideas they learn. The new church in Roanoke used a CPN idea at an annual Deaf Club meeting. Members of the church wore matching shirts and volunteered to be the cleanup crew. This one service project gained the church recognition and respect in the Deaf community.

What have been the benefits for you personally?



John Wyble

Denise says that after visiting her parents in Aruba this year, she saw “a lack of networking and encouragement.” She’s been sharing with her dad the information she learns at each CPN. For John, he “values the accountability, knowing he is being prayed for” and that he is able to request advice and help without being “looked down on.”

John and Denise, what have been some benefits of SBCV-alignment for the Deaf church?

*“We have been able to network with other churches, which has been a blessing. Vesta Sauter, the International Mission Board’s Deaf missions coordinator, has been a great source of encouragement [and has provided] other networking opportunities. Another benefit has been the resources provided through training.”*

The Cooperative Program has provided the necessary resources for John to serve as the SBCV’s Deaf missionary. The Deaf and hearing-impaired make up 2% of America and are a neglected people group who need to know Jesus died for them. In addition to serving as pastor of Living Word Deaf Church and Roanoke Deaf Fellowship, John trains Deaf leaders to start new churches among this often-forgotten people. Consider how your church can be involved in taking the Gospel to the Deaf and hearing-impaired.

When Pastor John started a new Deaf church in Roanoke (partnering with Cave Spring Baptist Church in Roanoke and Living Word Baptist Church), the leadership team attended the SBCV Basic Training for church planters. They saw first-hand the resources provided through the Cooperative Program by the SBCV staff. John and his team also attend statewide and regional Church Planter Network (CPN) meetings and utilize in the Deaf community

Deaf Sunday School class



### RESOURCE

**■ Websites:**

www.lwbc.net  
www.sbcv.org

**■ SBCV Contact:**

Email Larry Black at lblack@sbcv.org or call 888-234-7716 for details from your region’s missionary.

**■ Consider:**

How can your church reach out to the Deaf in your community?

