



# Churches Doing CP Well

by Jack Noble, Church Health Strategist, Central-West Region



Often the Cooperative Program of the Southern Convention is viewed solely in terms of its financial benefit—churches cooperating monetarily to out missionaries. But CP is also about churches parting together in action and exponential resources to make incredible impact. Let's take a look at how churches in the Central-West Region have banded together:

## Praying

Several churches in the Central-West Region are going beyond just praying off a page or holding prayer meetings. They are banding together in prayer to serve their community. Pastor Jackie Carver of Palestine Baptist Church in Huddleston and Pastor David Timma of Quaker Baptist Church in Bedford are just two of the pastors who gather weekly in prayer. Their goal is to pray for revival, particular issues in their churches, the community at large, and the world.

"We have developed a friendship between ourselves and [an] openness to communicate about issues that affect our churches," says Pastor David. "We have also learned about community issues... from people in our communities but not our particular church."

## Giving

Pastor Curtis Nester of Mountain View Baptist Church in Catawba says, "Do not touch my CP." Earlier this year, he willingly took a reduction in salary to enable the church to continue giving 10% to CP. Nester's commitment is representative of SBCV churches that believe that together, we can do more.

## Doing

Over the last few years, Marion Baptist Church and its pastor, Hank Meadows, have made significant investments in the Baptist Center in Savannah, GA. During yearly mission trips, their goal was to share the Gospel, and they prayed that the children would see Jesus in them when they wiped a tear from a cheek, taught discipline, or played a game.

The Marion team began to see hunger, fears, and hurts that they had only seen on the news. In addition to going, it became clear that doing was necessary. They began to collect Bibles, Christmas presents, clothes, gift cards, backpacks, and food to make a physical, tangible difference where they were already sharing spiritually.

"It has helped me see firsthand that all children just want to be loved," Meadows expresses. "It does not matter where you come from or what you have—

God loves you and wants to have a relationship with you. When Jesus told the disciples not to suffer the little children to come to Him, it means me also. I feel a much stronger need now to go to the children of this area."

## Going

Fellowship Community Church in Salem just culminated its 10th year of ministry by taking 10 mission trips. When their mission teams venture to Zambia, Australia, or Thailand, they see firsthand how CP dollars are invested, and they always return with a deep impression of the dedication and commitment that IMB missionaries possess.

Stephanie Painter, director of missions at Fellowship, shares, "Whether or not people have gone on an international trip, I'm noticing that more people are continually becoming more missions-minded. They want to give more. They want to serve more."

"Slowly but surely, people are beginning to understand and accept that this call is for them as well," says Pastor Ken Nienke, "not just for the 'exceptional' few on the mission field. This is the call of the believer—to go into the world."

## Networking

Six SBC of Virginia churches partnered together to host Breakaway, a two-day student event at First Baptist Church of Roanoke. Students from Fincastle, Cave Spring, New Century, Good Shepherd, Grace Life, First Roanoke, and other churches came together for a retreat weekend with over 500 students and 100 adult volunteers. During the retreat, the youth in attendance served on numerous mission projects in the Roanoke Valley.

Men at Craig Valley Baptist Church in New Castle connected with men from Main Street Baptist Church from Alexandria, KY to have a retreat. Soon that group expanded to include Life Pointe Church in Roanoke (Craig Valley's church plant) and Grace Baptist Church in New Castle,

Greg Rawe, an attendee from Kentucky, testified, "The men of Craig Valley Baptist Church are nothing short of spectacular! ...I have never seen a group of men more concerned for each other's wellbeing and sharing the Good News of our Savior with everyone they come into contact with. They are the definition of Christian brothers."

Yes, CP is about cooperative giving, but in order to have the full impact of being together on mission, churches of the Central-West are praying, giving, doing, going, and networking to impact their neighborhoods and the nations for Christ.

## RESOURCE

- **Website:**  
[www.sbcv.org](http://www.sbcv.org)
- **Contact:**  
Call 888-234-7716 for details from your region's missionary.
- **Subscribe to the IMB prayer request list:**  
[www.imb.org/main/pray/prayerrequests/default.asp](http://www.imb.org/main/pray/prayerrequests/default.asp)
- **Subscribe to the NAMB prayer request list:**  
[www.namb.net/prayerrequests](http://www.namb.net/prayerrequests)

## Central-West Counties

Alleghany	Augusta	Bedford City	Campbell	Covington	Franklin	Highland	Martinsville	Roanoke	Salem
Amherst	Bath	Botetourt	Charlotte	Craig	Halifax	Lexington	Nelson	Roanoke City	Staunton
Appomattox	Bedford	Buena Vista	Clifton Forge	Danville	Henry	Lynchburg	Pittsylvania	Rockbridge	Waynesboro

