

Church Planters — an Attitude of Gratitude

Joyfully Supporting Vision Virginia

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

A lady was once asked: “Which is more important—the sun or the moon? She responded quickly, “Why that’s easy—the moon! You see, the moon shines at night when you need it, while the sun shines during the day when it’s already light!” Like this lady, sometimes we totally miss the point. I’m afraid that could be the case concerning our annual state week of prayer and special offering called Vision Virginia. It could be misconstrued as simply a date on our annual calendar, a time to emphasize some special state ministries and to request prayer and financial support. However, it is far more than that! It is about people standing in the gap, working, serving, sacrificing, and pouring out their lives to reach other people with the Good News of the Gospel. It’s about tangible things like food for the needy, Buckets of Hope, or helping with the needs of a new church plant. It’s about people serving as missionaries, planting churches in places like Brookneal, Ashland, Virginia Beach, South Hill, Richmond, and DC.

The Vision Virginia Week of Prayer for State Missions & Offering radically affects lives. Here are stories from a few of our church planters who have been directly impacted by Vision Virginia and why they support this offering:

Andy Ferguson, Pastor

Staunton River Community Church, Brookneal



The Lord made it possible for us to purchase an old warehouse in Brookneal, VA. That meant, however, that it would need lots of renovations. One major renovation was to install new heating and air conditioning. Thanks to the

Vision Virginia State Missions Offering, we received help that enabled us to do that. Also, with the help of Baptist Builders and several other churches, we were able to keep the cost minimal. We are so grateful that God chose to use the churches of the SBCV to help us in this way. [Due to] the fact that these funds helped us get to where we are today, we want to, in turn, give to the Vision Virginia offering. We want to do our part to see that money is available for other churches to help them in their time of need.”

Steve Swisher, Pastor

Essential Church, Virginia Beach



Our church has benefited from the Vision Virginia State Missions Offering in the past and, for that reason each year, we give to Vision Virginia. We want to give back in proportion to what was given to us. We’re very thankful to the

churches of the SBCV for their investment in us and, therefore, we want to, in turn, help other churches and ministries.

Paul McDaniel, Pastor

Family Life Baptist Church, Ashland



Vision Virginia State Missions Offering money goes directly to meet the ministry needs in our state. We have benefited and have used equipment that has been purchased with these offering monies. The block party and

sports trailers have helped us greatly in our outreach ministry. By our giving back to Vision Virginia, we feel we’re giving back a small portion of what God has given to us through the churches of the SBCV. It also helps us support other church plants that are just getting started with some of their needs.

Andy Davis, Pastor

Mecklenburg Community Baptist Church, South Hill



One thing we keep telling our members is that, as a church plant, we have benefited from many people’s generosity. Some of our needs, particularly in the early days, came from monies that were given through

the State Missions Offering. Therefore, in appreciation and gratitude, we want to give to Vision Virginia. We want to see many other churches planted all over Virginia.

With hearts of gratitude, may we commit all that we are and have to reach our world for Christ. Join these churches in our 2011 Vision Virginia Week of Prayer for State Missions & Offering.

2011 Week of Prayer: September 18 – 25

2011 SBC of Virginia Goal: \$250,000

visionvirginia

Vision Virginia

is about standing in the gap.

Vision Virginia

is about reaching people with the Gospel.