

Strength in Presence

by Bill Wennersten, Church Planting Strategist, North Region

MULTIPLYING



In the past few years, the SBC of Virginia has had a growing presence in Washington, DC. The Gospel is being shared with hundreds of people, and servant evangelism is meeting real needs of real people who live in our nation's capital.

This kind of ministry would not be possible without an around-the-clock presence in the city through the SBCV's DC Mission Center (DCMC). The DCMC provides a place for SBCV churches and other partners from around the country to live and work when they are in the city. It allows teams from churches like Oak Grove Baptist Church from Big Stone Gap to send youth mission team for a week to serve with Living Water Church and church planter Art Thompson in the Anacostia neighborhood of DC.

Teams from North Carolina, Georgia, Indiana, and as far away as Oklahoma have joined in the work of Restoration Church and church planters Nathan Knight and Joey Craft. Nathan says, "Restoration Church has been strengthened in part by the availability of the Mission Center for coordinated and strategic Gospel ministry." Joey Craft agrees, "The Mission Center has been invaluable to the ministry of Restoration Church as we labor to plant a vibrant, Gospel-centered church in Washington, DC." Art Thompson and his church have benefited as well. "The Mission Center is a real blessing to the work of Living Water Church."

The DCMC also provides a location for church planters to hold team meetings and host Bible studies and other Gospel-related events. The Bridge and church planter Jumaine Jones use the center for weekly small group discipleship meetings. Restoration Church hosts an outreach meeting there on the last Thursday of every month. This meeting, called "The God Who Is There?", attracts a range of folks from atheists and non-Christians to committed followers of Christ. Living Water Church uses the center for leadership meetings and for part of its Men's Ministry. SBCV Church Planter Network meetings and meetings with other Great Commission partners take place at the DCMC. In addition to housing a variety of meetings and mission teams, the center is the official address for the SBCV's work in DC. Having a DC address gives our work an identity in the city, which helps

overcome the view that we are outsiders without a vested interest. It shows our commitment to being part of the city the Lord has called us to serve and see transformed by the Gospel.

The DC Mission Center is only available because of the Vision Virginia State Missions Offering and the commitment of SBCV churches to see the Gospel proclaimed in our nation's capital. From those of us who work in the city and the hundreds of volunteers and others who have benefited from the DCMC, thank you, SBCV churches!

"The Mission Center has been invaluable to the ministry of Restoration Church as we labor to plant a vibrant, Gospel-centered church in Washington, DC."

*Joey Craft,
Restoration Church*



RESOURCE

- **Websites:**
www.sbcv.org/multiplying
- **Contact:**
Call 888-234-7716 for details from your region's missionary.
- **Books:**
Urban Ministry: The Kingdom, the City & the People of God by Harvie M. Conn and Manuel Ortiz
A Theology as Big as The City by Ray Bakke

