

PROCLAIMER

2020 | VOLUME 22, ISSUE 1 | Telling the stories of *Vision Virginia*

BLESS
EVERY
HOME
in Action

New Life from Old

New life beginning in
old church buildings.

Virginia March for Life

Marching to support
the cause for life.

BEH Impacts Local Church

Reaching communities
with the Gospel.



You are
not alone.

Bless Every Home Reach Every Nation

God has called us to bless every home and reach every nation. In this edition of Proclaimer, you will find stories about God working through churches to bless every home and reach every nation as they proclaim the Gospel of Christ. You will find opportunities that are upcoming that you and your church family can utilize to extend your reach and ministry capacity.

For the past 18 months, SBC of Virginia has been mobilizing churches to bless every home in Virginia and Metro DC as we pray, care, share, and disciple. Approximately 150 churches are partnering to proclaim the Gospel as part of our Bless Every Home initiative. Almost 190,000 homes are now being "blessed" as we pray, care, share, and disciple.

Recently, I worshipped and preached at **Franklin Heights Church** in Franklin County with Pastor Stan Parris. Pastor Stan cast a vision for their church family to adopt every home in their county and they are fulfilling that vision! At

last count, **The Heights Baptist**, which is pastored by former SBCV president Randy Hahn has more than 250 people mobilized and is blessing almost 10,000 homes. Whatever your church size, wherever your church is located, you can be a part of blessing every home.

Likewise, your church is part of seeking to reach every nation. SBC of Virginia churches are partnering to plant churches among the nations right here in our local communities. Through our cooperative Gospel partnership you are sending missionaries around the world to reach the nations through our Southern Baptist International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board.

SBC of Virginia exists to partner churches to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world. You are not alone as you bless every home and reach every nation!

May we be united in following the example and answering the call of our Lord Jesus: And Jesus went throughout

all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the Gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (Matthew 9:35–38 ESV) ■

Your brother in Christ,
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BLESS EVERY HOME Impacts Local Church



London Bridge Baptist Church of Virginia Beach had been searching for a tool that would help them reach their neighborhoods and communities with the Gospel. So, when the Bless Every Home initiative was introduced at the SBC of Virginia Homecoming in 2018, the church staff was enthusiastic. But, Senior Pastor Greg Brinson, knew that if this tool was going to be embraced and have an impact in their church and community, he would have to lead by example. Initially, he introduced the tool to the staff, deacons, and an outreach team. He and his wife, along with this core group of leaders, signed up to be lights in their own neighborhoods. They each adopted 25-40 homes to pray for, receiving email reminders to pray for five of them daily. He followed this up with a preaching series on the four components of Bless Every Home: Prayer, Care, Share, and Disciple. Then a challenge and invitation was given to the congregation to join them in the initiative. London Bridge Baptist Church is so committed to this resource that they have contextualized logos, printed materials and an elaborate set in the church's foyer to serve as a reminder that the mission field is where the congregation lives. To date, the church has well over 200 lights, which means that at least 8,000 families are being prayed for on a weekly basis. Because the church is a partnering church with Bless Every Home, they have access to the latest demographic information as well as an alert of newcomers moving into their neighborhoods. Pastor Brinson encourages the church each week with their recorded activities and provides opportunities for the congregation to submit and share their testimonies. He recently shared excerpts of three of those testimonies.

TESTIMONY 1:

Two doors down from me is a family that I have been inviting to church for more than 10 years. Bless Every Home has caused me to intensify my prayers for this family. Saturday night before Easter, our doorbell rang at 10 p.m. It was my neighbor, asking, "When are your church services tomorrow?" We were delighted to tell him. As we arrived for Easter service, their car followed us into the parking lot. They were warmly greeted at the welcome center and the Pastor's wife was able to connect their teenage daughter with others her age.

TESTIMONY 2:

My neighbor and I have young kids in common, and we get together frequently. One night after the kids were asleep, she invited me over. The conversation focused on our personal lives, families, and faith. She wanted to know what I believed and did not know much about being a Christian. I was able to tell her how the Gospel had changed my life. She did not accept Christ that night but listened intently. I kept thinking about how I had prayed fervently for her and her family through Bless Every Home and now I am seeing the fruit of my prayers and God is opening new doors.

TESTIMONY 3:

On Monday evenings, my Sunday morning Bible Study small group meets in homes. On this night, we divided into three teams based on the family composition. Bless Every Home helped us know the makeup of the families around us so there was already a background connection. We visited six neighbors, made interesting connections and had many conversations. We gathered back at my house with a bunch of prayer requests and additional information about my neighbors. We prayed over the requests and shared how awesome God orchestrated our encounters. ■

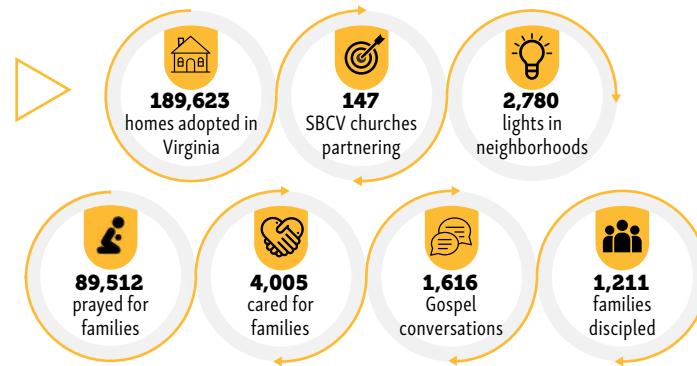
RESOURCE:

Bless Every Home is having a big impact at London Bridge Baptist Church and it can in your church as well. For more information, visit:



sbcv.org/blesseveryhome

IMPACT





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Is your **church**
reaching its **community?**



PRAYER



CARE



SHARE



DISCIPLE

You can be a light in your neighborhood.
Learn how to sign up and get started at
sbcv.org/blesseveryhome