

How do your gifts make a difference?

Gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering are used to train and resource missionaries in church planting and compassion ministries. Gifts are also used to create evangelism resources. New churches are being planted, hurts are being healed and lives are being transformed by the gospel because you give.

National Goal

\$75 Million

Find out more

Visit anniearmstrong.com



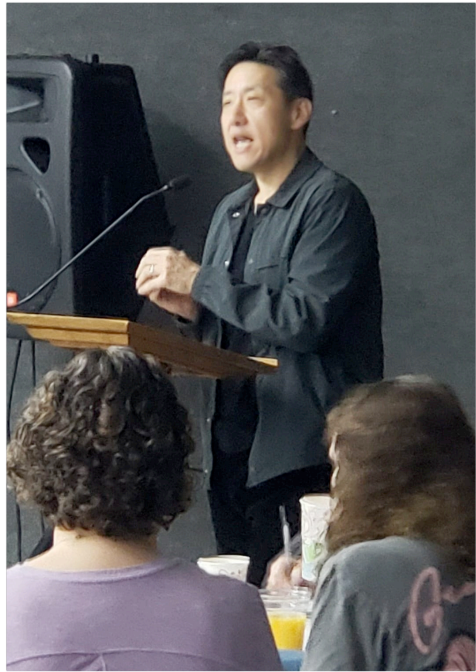
What is the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering?

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) is the primary way Southern Baptists fund missions in North America. **One hundred percent** of gifts given to AAEO go to the field to support more than 2,900 missionary families serving across the United States and Canada.

Because of this, Southern Baptist churches have planted more than 10,000 churches in North America since 2010



WHAT WILL YOUR CHURCH'S GOAL BE IN 2024?



Evangelism Training

Saturday, January 27, the Blue Ridge Baptist Association hosted an inspiring evangelism training event at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, marking a day of learning, fellowship, and, of course, delicious muffins.

The event, the first of many planned for the next few years, brought together members of the community eager to deepen their understanding and skills in evangelism. It was a perfect blend of spiritual enrichment and community engagement.

Keynote speaker Dan Hyun, the BCM/D Church Partnership Team Leader, led the session. Dan, known for his dynamic and engaging speaking style, shared insightful strategies and personal experiences in evangelism. His message focused on practical approaches to sharing faith in a way that's both respectful and effective, resonating well with the attendees.

The event also provided a great opportunity for participants to engage in meaningful discussions, exchange ideas, and build stronger connections within the faith community. The informal setting, coupled with the warmth of fellowship and delicious muffins, created an inviting atmosphere that encouraged open conversations and new friendships.

The Blue Ridge Baptist Association's commitment to fostering a strong sense of community and enhancing the evangelistic efforts of its members was evident throughout the event. It was a reminder of how gatherings like these not only equip individuals with the tools for evangelism but also strengthen the bonds within the Christian community.



As the event concluded, participants left feeling inspired and more confident in their evangelistic endeavors, carrying with them not just the knowledge they had gained but also the warmth of the fellowship they had experienced.

The success of this event is a testament to the power of coming together in faith and learning, and it paves the way for more such enriching experiences in the future.



Casting Wide Nets:

The Parallels Between Evangelism and Commercial Fishing

By Rev. Phil Graves - Pastor of First Baptist Church of Brunswick

In the world of fishing, there are two main approaches: sport fishing, which often involves a rod and reel for catching individual fish, and commercial fishing, which uses broad nets to catch many fish at once. This analogy beautifully mirrors the approach we, as Christians, are called to take in evangelism.

Just as commercial fishermen cast wide nets to gather as many fish as possible, we are called to spread the Gospel far and wide, reaching out to as many people as we can. This approach aligns with the biblical command to be fishers of men, a vocation that requires dedication, persistence, and a broad reach.

In sport fishing, the focus is on the thrill of catching a single fish, often for sport or pleasure. While this method has its place, it's not the model for evangelism.

Evangelism, like commercial fishing, isn't a hobby or a pastime; it's a calling and a way of life. It's about reaching the masses, casting our nets wide, and bringing as many souls as possible into the fold.

This broad-net approach doesn't diminish the value of individual interactions. Just as every fish in the net is important, every soul we reach is precious. However, our focus should be on the bigger picture - reaching entire communities, societies, and nations with the message of Christ.

Commercial fishing requires teamwork, another essential aspect of evangelism. Just as fishermen work together to cast and pull in the nets, we too must work as a united body of believers, supporting each other and combining our efforts to spread the Gospel effectively.

In conclusion, as followers of Christ, we are called to be more like commercial fishermen, casting our nets wide, working as a team, and focusing on the greater mission of reaching as many as possible. This is the essence of true evangelism – going beyond the individual and embracing the multitude.



BCM/D Revive Women's Conference

Made For More: A Counter-Cultural Approach To Womanhood

This year, on March 8th and 9th, Riva Trace Baptist Church, Davidsonville, MD, will host an extraordinary event that promises to be a beacon of inspiration for women across the community. "Made For More: A Counter-Cultural Approach To Womanhood," this two-day conference is designed to help women identify and understand their Gospel potential and encourage them to make a Kingdom impact in their daily lives.

The conference aims to create an empowering environment, where women from all walks of life can come together to experience a deep sense of community, engage in heartfelt worship, and receive impactful teaching. It's not just an event; it's a movement towards embracing a counter-cultural approach to womanhood, rooted in the transformative power of the Gospel.

"Revive Made For More" is more than a conference; it's a call to action. It challenges women to step out of their comfort zones, embrace their God-given roles, and make a significant impact in their families, workplaces, churches, and communities. It's about understanding that every woman is made for more - more than society's expectations, more than their own limitations, and more than they could ever imagine.

This event is set to be a transformative experience for all who attend. Women will leave not only feeling revived and inspired but also equipped with practical tools and a renewed sense of purpose to make a tangible difference in the world around them.

For more information and to register for the event, please visit bcmd.org/2024-revive.




revive
CONFERENCE

BCM/D 2024 Men's Conference

The Whole Gospel for the Whole Man

On April 13, 2024, Riva Trace Baptist Church is set to host a remarkable gathering dedicated to uplifting and empowering men in their spiritual journey. The conference, aptly named “The Whole Gospel for the Whole Man,” is poised to be a pivotal event for men seeking to deepen their understanding of the Gospel and its application in every facet of their lives.

This one-day conference is designed to explore the comprehensive impact of the Gospel on the male identity, addressing the spiritual, emotional, physical, and social aspects of what it means to be a man in today's world. It aims to provide men with a clearer understanding of how the Gospel speaks to their entire being.

Spiritual Empowerment and Growth Central to the conference's theme is the idea that the Gospel is not just a part of life but is life itself. Speakers and leaders, renowned for their insight and wisdom, will guide the participants through sessions that delve into how the Gospel influences and transforms a man's spiritual life, shaping his relationship with God, family, and community.

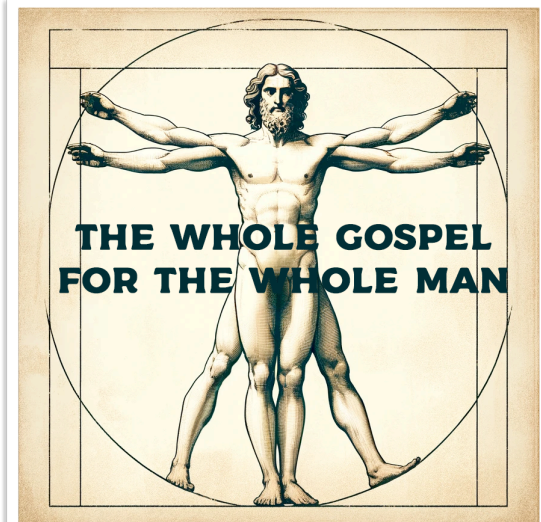
Addressing the Modern Challenges In a world where men often face unique challenges and pressures, this conference seeks to offer biblical solutions and strategies. From navigating personal and professional responsibilities to leading with integrity and compassion, the conference will touch on practical aspects of living out the Gospel in the 21st century.

Fellowship and Brotherhood More than just a series of talks and workshops, “The Whole Gospel for the Whole Man” conference is a celebration of brotherhood in Christ. It provides an opportunity for men to connect with others who share their faith and values, creating a strong support network that extends beyond the event.

Physical and Mental Wellbeing Recognizing that man's wellbeing is not just spiritual, the conference will also include sessions on physical and mental health from a Christian perspective. These sessions aim to equip men with the knowledge and tools to take care of their bodies and minds as temples of the Holy Spirit.

Making a Lasting Impact Participants will leave the conference not just inspired but also equipped with practical knowledge and spiritual tools to impact their families, workplaces, and communities positively. It's about embracing the whole Gospel, for the whole man, for a wholehearted life.

For more information or to register please visit bcmd.org/event/mens-conference.



Annual Church Profile

Deadline in February 15, 2024

In the life of any church, certain administrative tasks are vital not just for its own growth and health but also for the broader church community. One such critical task is the submission of the Annual Church Profile (ACP). The ACP serves as a key tool for individual churches, as well as for state and national conventions.



**Annual
Church
Profile**

A Snapshot of Church Health The data collected through the ACP provides a snapshot of the health of congregations. This encompasses a range of metrics, from membership numbers to baptism rates, attendance figures, and much more. By analyzing this data, church leaders can gain valuable insights into the growth trends and areas needing attention within their congregations.

Enhancing the Effectiveness of SBC Ministries The ACP data plays a significant role in shaping the strategies and initiatives of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) ministries. It informs decisions on resource allocation, program development, and other key ministry activities, ensuring that they are effective and responsive to the current needs of churches.



A Tool for Wider Collaboration Beyond individual church walls, the ACP fosters a sense of unity and collaboration among Baptist congregations. By sharing this information, churches contribute to a larger database that benefits the entire community, offering a comprehensive view of the collective health and impact of the Baptist faith.

How to Complete Your ACP Completing the ACP is now more convenient than ever. Churches can fill out a short form provided by the Blue Ridge Baptist Association (BRBA), use the SBC Workspace, or directly contact the Baptist Convention of MD/DE at 1 (800) 466-5290 for assistance.

In conclusion, the Annual Church Profile is not just a formality but a vital instrument for strategic planning and communal growth. It's a way for churches to contribute to the larger narrative of the Baptist community and ensure that both local and broader church initiatives are as impactful as possible.

GuideStone: 2024 Federal Reporting Requirements for Churches



If you are responsible for your church's tax reporting requirements, download GuideStone's free resource — the Federal Reporting Requirements for Churches — to make reporting season less taxing.

The Federal Reporting Requirements for Churches is written by Richard Hammar, CPA, attorney and specialist in legal and tax issues for ministers, and addresses the tax issues directly affecting churches.

This digital resource includes information on maximizing tax benefits for ministers as well as step-by-step federal payroll tax reporting obligations for your church.

Visit <https://bit.ly/download-guidestone-guide> to download

BCM/D Strengthening Churches Grants

These funds are made available to assist in projects designed to expand the outreach and ministry of churches in existence for three years or more. The maximum grant per project will not exceed \$4,000. Grant funds are approved by a BCM/D General Mission Board (GMB) Committee. Only one project request will be considered from any church or association. If a church has received a grant in a previous year for a project, additional applications for a grant must be for a different project.

BCM/D is accepting STRENGTHENING CHURCH grant applications through **April 30th, 2024**. You will need to submit to the Convention:

1. A copy of your current budget.
2. Your most recent monthly or quarterly financial statement.
3. A detailed explanation and cost projection for the proposed project.

Email

If emailing, scan all documents and email to: dbennett@bcmd.org

Mail

If mailing documents, send to:

Demetra Bennett
Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware
10255 Old Columbia Road
Columbia, MD 21046-1716



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Reports:

- **Pleasant Valley Baptist** goal: \$800. Our congregation was very generous. Our total donated was \$2934.00. Very blessed.
- **Greenbrier Baptist** sent \$300 to Lottie Moon.
- **South End Baptist Church** We did not set a goal for Lottie Moon, however we have about \$4,400 collected thus far.
- **Paramount** Praise the Lord, our goal was \$30,000.00 and prior to yesterday we stood at \$30,066.83 total collected from the church. We love our imb missionaries!
- **Smithsburg Valley Baptist Church** \$4,207
- **Fellowship** We met our goal of \$300.00 and have collected \$395.00 so far.
- **Third Day Community Church** met their goal of raising \$350. to support international missionaries. (This was the first time the church participated in the LMCO).



Pastor's Prayer Breakfast

We warmly invite pastors and church staff to join us for a Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast, sponsored by FBC Brunswick. It will be a time of encouragement, sharing, and fellowship, at **Penny's Diner at 620 Souder Road in Brunswick, MD on Saturday, March 2, 2024, at 9 am**. We are meeting here due to space limitations at the church. This gathering will be a wonderful opportunity for you to connect with fellow leaders in the faith community, share insights, and find mutual support in our collective ministry efforts. Come and enjoy good food, great company, and an uplifting start to your day. We look forward to seeing you there and strengthening the bonds within our spiritual community. Please mark your calendars and prepare for a morning filled with fellowship and inspiration.

Register to attend by visiting blueridgebaptist.org/breakfast

Prayer Requests

Pastor Bruce Conley is doing well in his recovery. Please continue to pray for our Director of Missions

Please pray for the following churches:

- THIRD DAY COMMUNITY CHURCH -- without a pastor + looking for new worship space
- VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH -- without a pastor
- WHIPS COVE CHURCH -- without a pastor
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BRUNSWICK - Building campaign and financial pressures.

