



# The Crossbow

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## Servants For The Lord

We live in a consumer driven society. Our society may be the most consumer- driven that has ever existed. Given that my description is accurate, I believe there are challenges that face Christians in such a society. First, no Christian is removed (i.e., living in a cloistered group) from the world and nor should he or she be removed. Being a Christian is to engage the world with the Gospel of Christ. In fact, the Great Commission says to go into the world and to make disciples. Of course, in order to make disciples, we Christians must engage the world. And we can only engage the world when we accept the fact that we are a part of the world.

Second, even though we engage the world we must retain our uniqueness as Christians, remembering to whom we give ultimate allegiance and loyalty. Our consumer-driven society mandates, in so many ways, that we must acquire this gadget or have that gadget. The consumer-driven society pushes us to think of ourselves first and foremost, conducting all of our business in a way that shows we always put ourselves first to the neglect of "the least of these." It is all too easy for Christians to get caught up in what a consumer-driven society dictates. Once Christians have been lured into this trap, Christians begin to "justify" why they need this gadget or that gadget. When the justification rationale begins, then one's sight has shifted away from the Lord.

Christians need the essentials of life. We all want what is nice and what is good for ourselves, our children, and even for our nation at large. As we pursue the acquisition of these things and of this way of life, our focus must remain on the Lord so that we do not forget we have a service to humanity that must be rendered in His name.

Finally, by the very nature of the word "service," the implication is that there is a person who gives and a person who receives. Christians have the responsibility to "give" Christ to the world.

This said, the challenge to give Christ to the world is directly related to the circumstances and background of the person who receives Christ.

And this is where Christian ministry becomes so interesting to me. At this juncture, if the church is spiritually healthy and has the heart of a servant, the church will determine in what way(s) it can "give" Christ to the community in which it is located. One thing is for sure: no church can sit on its laurels and think by virtue of just calling itself a church that some one will have an experience with the Lord and then show up in the sanctuary or Sunday school room. If we the church call ourselves the body of Christ, then the experience of the gift of Christ to others comes through our personal contact with them.

As we encounter people around us with the gift of Christ, we are not given a guarantee that other folks will "receive" Christ and invite Him into their lives, their homes, or any place. But along this journey in ministry of sharing Christ with others, someone will accept the gift we have to offer. And we will rejoice with them in their acceptance of Christ. We will then experience the joy of seeing another person began a relationship with Christ. How many of us cannot rejoice because we have not shared Christ with another person and subsequently see them began a new life in Christ? I trust that all of us know this sort of experience because we have been the servants of the Lord the Lord has called us to be.

We are supposed to serve others for Christ. We live in a consumer-driven society that would have us become more like it than like our Lord. We can be more like our Lord in such a society as long as we keep focus on Him. One way to strengthen spiritually the Central Virginia Baptist Association and us is to serve others, knowing service to others depends on our willingness to look beyond ourselves to that other person. Otherwise, we focus simply on ourselves and that is not a spiritual and Biblical concept. Let us remember to reach out, reach up, and bow down because we are servants to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace,

Clarke Hawkins

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Daylight Savings  
this month  
April 3, 2005  
Spring Forward one hour



The Executive Committee of the CVBA has formed a Grant Committee. In the hopes of helping the Churches of the CVBA to do ministry. To the right you will find the guidelines as written by the committee. This will be brought to the Spring meeting for vote. Please read and get more information from your Pastor or Church Representative to the Association. You can call Lowell Vaught of Bybee's Road or Alan Thompson of Hillsboro for more information. →

The font is small to get on Page. Your Pastor will have a copy. Please read and discuss before the Spring Meeting April 26, 2005.

## Meetings and Conferences

Emerging Leaders Summit & Collegiate Leadership Conference, University Baptist, 1223 W. Main Street, Charlottesville – April 15, 2005

CVBA Library Workshop, April 17th, 2:30 pm at Belmont Baptist, 830 Monticello Ave, Charlottesville –

**WMU Spring Meeting**, April 26, 2005, 4:00-5:30 pm Scottsville Baptist Church. Cheri Wise of WMUV will guest.



### *The Annual Spring Meeting of the CVBA*

April 26th, 2005, Scottsville Baptist Church, Scottsville VA

Worship 7:00 pm, General Meeting 8:00 pm

Theme: **New Beginnings**

Rev. Eric Howell, pastor of Broadus Memorial Baptist Church, will be our guest speaker.

Dinner reservations should be made by April 22, 2005. Call 434-589-6080 or *email*:

[office@centvaassociation.org](mailto:office@centvaassociation.org)

Dinner will begin at 5:30 PM. Cost will be \$7.50 per person. Reservations are required

NAW retreat - May 12 (3 pm check-in) & 13 (2 pm check-out). This is for NAW persons and spouses. Place of retreat will be Camp LittleCrossroads.

NAW Meeting and Virginia Missions Forum - Feb. 8-10, 2006, at the Roslyn Diocesan Conference Center

## CVBA Church Growth and Ministry Grants Purpose:

The CVBA exists to support and assist member churches in growth and congregational health and to support and assist member churches in reaching their communities in evangelism and ministry. The CVBA Church Growth and Ministry Grant program has been established . . .

(a) to enable member churches to implement innovative congregational growth strategies, and/or

(b) to enable member churches to implement innovative community ministries that communicate the gospel to their mission field . . . the accomplishment of which requires resources beyond what that church can reasonably afford. Therefore, while these grants are available to all associational churches, the priority is on those churches that are most in need of assistance from the larger community to foster new growth and enable greater community outreach.

The CVBA Church Growth and Ministry Grant is a vehicle for demonstrating our mutual interest and concern as churches in voluntary association and cooperative mission. It is a declaration that our concern for God's Kingdom is greater than any one church, and that the success of each church is a cause for celebration for us all. These grants are expanded mission and ministry, and are not to be used to cover the regular budget expenses of the church, supplement staff salaries, or for the maintenance and construction of church facilities.

### **Qualifications:**

1. CVBA Church Growth and Ministry Grants are available to any CVBA member congregation or CVBA entity deemed by the Steering Committee to be vitally linked with, supportive of, and active in the CVBA throughout the previous 12 months.
2. Grant requests will not be considered for individuals but will only be considered by a requesting member church having officially voted to seek the grant or by a participating CVBA entity that has obtained approval from the Steering Committee to seek the grant.
3. Churches receiving a grant must agree to provide a full report to the Association on the outcome of their church growth or ministry project within a period of 18 months from the receipt of the grant check, and abide by other terms of the covenant as detailed on the application form.
4. Churches receiving a grant will not be eligible to apply again for a minimum of two years or for a period roughly equal to one year per \$1000 granted, whichever is longer.

### **Oversight of the Grant Process:**

The process of applying for these grants, the evaluation of applications, and the oversight of current grant-enabled projects shall be handled by the CVBA Steering Committee. This committee will limit the total of grants approved annually to an amount that provides for the continuation of the grant program, and shall make budget requests for the continued funding of this program.

The maximum granted to any single congregation is \$ 5000.00 — this amount to be reviewed annually by the Steering Committee and adjusted as needed by Associational vote.

Please note that these guidelines do not anticipate all possible situations and future needs, so flexibility is needed. Therefore the CVBA Steering Committee may, by unanimous decision, make exceptions to these guidelines in cases of special need or opportunity.



**Women on  
Mission  
Unlimited**

## Easter Angel Project Update



The Central Virginia Baptist Association along with Patty DeCourcy and Peggy Moyers from Swift Run would like to say a big "THANK YOU" to all the area churches and congregations that helped make the Easter Angel Project a HUGE success this year. You helped us prepare and



deliver 195 baskets to area children whose mom's and dad's are incarcerated at the Charlottesville Albemarle Joint Security Complex. We also prepared 46 baskets for MACAA this year. A grand total of 241 baskets. God's work, using our hands, reached

so many this year.



I took some pictures of the baskets that we delivered on Thursday, March 24th. We loaded the Swift Run van up with the help of Chris Martin from our church and off we went. We delivered all day and had a great time meeting people and sharing Easter blessings with the families that received the baskets.

Again, thank you for your participation and we will look forward to

doing this again next year. Please feel free to e-mail me at [pbm7v@virginia.edu](mailto:pbm7v@virginia.edu) if you have any suggestions for next year.

God Bless you all!  
Patty DeCourcy  
Swift Run Baptist Church



WMU Annual Spring Meeting  
April 26, 2005 4:00-5:30 pm  
Scottsville Baptist Church, Scottsville VA

### NEW BEGINNINGS

Your are invited to attend the Annual Spring Meeting of the WMU of Central VA Baptist Association.



Our Guest Speaker is Cheri Wise, Associate of Missions Leadership & Innovation. Cheri will participate in a Roundtable discussion of the CVBA WMU.

We are seeking to fill Leadership positions, promote and support the missions & ministries of the CVBA churches, and have a representative to the Executive Board of the WMUV.

Dinner and the CVBA Annual Spring Meeting to follow. Cost of dinner is \$7.50. Reservations are required. Call 434-589-6080

### CHURCH LIBRARY CONFERENCE

Come to the spring **Virginia Baptist Media Library Conference** at **Eagle Eyrie** on **May 13-15, 2005**. Our guest consultant is **Beth Andrews** from Dallas, Texas who will teach courses in Developing Your Church Library Ministry Team, A Timetable for Successful Automation, and The Church Library Meeting Sensitive Needs.

Other courses offered include training in basic library administration, space design for church libraries, classification and cataloging, processing media, book repair, creative promotions using the Ellison Die-cut Machine, and much more.

There will be worship, fellowship, and lots of sharing of ideas and concerns. Details of the Conference will be in the VBMLA VOICE newsletter that will be mailed to church librarians in March. For more information contact Nancy King at 804-781-0151, or email [NancyKing@URonline.net](mailto:NancyKing@URonline.net), or go to the website: [www.VAchurchlibrary.org](http://www.VAchurchlibrary.org).

# April 2005

S	M Clothing center 10-12 am open to public	T Clothing center 9-11 am open to public	W Clothing center 10-12 noon Referrals only	T Clothing center 9-11 am open to public	F Clothing center 10-12 noon Referrals only	S Clothing center 10-12 noon open to public
					1	2
3 Daylight Savings Spring Forward One hour	4 Clothing Center Spring & Summer available	5	6	7	8	9
10 Cooperative Program Day	11	12	13	14	15 Emerging Leaders Summit & Collegiate Leadership Conference University Baptist W. Main Street	16
17 CVBA Library Workshop, 2:30 pm @ Belmont Baptist	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Annual Spring Meeting of the WMU 4:00 pm & CVBA 7:00 pm , Scottsville Baptist Church	27	28	29 GA Mom & Me I Eagle Eyrie	30 GA Mom & Me II Eagle Eyrie

Dates to Remember

- May 1- Virginia Baptist Homes Day
- May 8- Mothers Day Benevolent Sunday
- May 10- Executive Committee, Richmond, Budget Committee, Richmond
- May 13-15 Media Library Workshop, Eagle Eyrie
- May 22-28- Associational Missions Emphasis/ Week of Prayer

## Clothing Center Corner

815 Bolling Ave, Charlottesville, VA 22902  
434-977-6876

The Spring and Summer collection is now on display. Come by and visit us!

We need volunteers who would be willing to remove trash from the premises daily and deliver unusable clothing to Salvation Army Bailing. Call the Assn office at 434-589-6080.



**Needs:**

Large sizes

**Volunteers**

Linens & towels  
good condition

**No toys or dishes.**

Center hours  
M, W, F, Sat 10-12  
Tue & Thur 9-11  
Referrals Wed & Fri

Central Virginia Baptist Association  
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Crystal Carpenter, Missions Assistant

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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