



# Dover Diary

Newsletter of Dover Baptist Association

*“a resource and ally for churches and their leaders”*

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## ESL Teacher Workshop

Over 100 languages are spoken in the greater Richmond area. Many who speak other languages would like to learn English. Maybe God is calling you to serve right at home, helping them through ESL. We will offer an ESL Teacher Training Workshop at the Dover Center, August 8-10. The cost of \$35 includes a workbook, continental breakfast, and box lunch. Sessions will be held Friday from 6:30-9:15 p.m., 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and Sunday from 2:30-5:30 p.m. If you attend all sessions you will receive a certificate from the North American Mission Board. Please preregister with the Dover Office by July 31.

## Pastors' Wives Brunch

Dover will host a brunch for wives of Dover pastors on Saturday, August 16, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Dover Center. Please call the Dover Office to make your reservation.

## Association Missions Offering

**Goal: \$27,000**

**Received to Date: \$6,195.90**

Thank you for your prayers and gifts. The association will continue receiving 2008 Association Missions Offering gifts through Friday, October 31.

*God brought Louis Orsatti and his family to us five years ago. Their visa gave them five years here. It expired on June 2, before the U. S. government had finished processing their application to stay. In order to comply with U. S. law, Louis and his family returned to Mexico just before their visa expired. (Two adult children remain here on student visas.) Here is the latest news from Louis.*

## Report from Mexico

We have returned to Mexico and await permission to return to Richmond. For now, we are living with my wife Rebecca's mother in a small town about twenty minutes from Mexico City. Of course Rebecca is happy, and I am too.

The Lord is in control of our lives. Our whole family found it hard to understand God's purpose when we had to return to Mexico. La Primera Iglesia Bautista de Richmond Monte Calvario, our Richmond church, now has a pastor doing missionary work in Mexico. Little by little, the Lord is showing us the wonderful plan He has for us.

In the last five years we have met a lot of Mexicans who live in Amelia and Richmond. Many of them have put their faith in Christ. Some were baptized. A few of them have returned to Mexico.

One day, during a Bible study, we prayed that God would send someone to present the Gospel to the relatives—family and friends—of the people we met in the U. S. No one of us knew that God would send me and my family to present the Gospel to them.

Some of these people are illiterate. Some speak a dialect other than Spanish. We are coming to understand that we have the privilege and the skills to present the Gospel among these people. The people may have heard about us from their relatives. They know us by phone, by letters, by testimonies, and by some hearing of us from new believers who have returned to Mexico. For now, we have a ministry here.

Our ministry in Richmond also continues. We have continued our radio program there. We interview new believers. They present powerful testimonies, telling the Latino community in Richmond how wonderful God is as He touches and transforms lives, families, and communities in Mexico.

The same technology that has made it possible to continue the radio program makes it possible to keep preaching at Monte Calvario. I record my sermons in MP3 format and e-mail them to Richmond. The church can hear the voice of the shepherd God sent them, and I can keep preaching and caring for the flock to which God sent me five years ago.

Please pray for us. Pray for Monte Calvario. We and they are suffering the physical separation from each other. Pray for the people to whom God sends us to present the Gospel and that we can accomplish our task in Mexico. Pray that USCIS (the U. S. immigration agency) can give us our documents to return to Virginia and continue our ministry there. Please pray, too, for Francine and Stephanie, our daughters who remain in Richmond. We thank God for you and keep on praying for you too.

—Louis Orsatti

*After Louis sent this article, he heard his application to return to the U. S. has taken another step forward. Pray it will keep moving.*

## The Gift of Sabbatical—from the View of the Minister...

I have the privilege of serving as pastor of Emmaus Baptist Church. I find it a joy. Having said that, the stress of being on call 24/7 can lead any pastor to recognize the need to get away for an extended time of personal renewal.

Dan Bagby describes the pastorate as the ministry of interruption. I saw my need for an uninterrupted time of rest and intense prayer. Looking at the biblical models of Moses and Jesus, I concluded that I would like to be given “40 days” on the mountaintop away from everyone and everything.

On January 1 I left for the Abbey of Gethsemani where I spent 40 days in rest and prayer. After a brief transition time, I resumed my duties on Sunday, February 17. I will forever be thankful to Emmaus for the gift of a sabbatical. It has made a profound difference in my spiritual life. I believe the congregation might say they got a new pastor.

What made this possible? In the fall of 2006, I asked our Pastor Relations Committee to begin praying with me about the possibility of sabbatical. I also asked them to research the subject. They agreed to pray and investigate.

When we met again they voted to proceed with the idea. We developed a timetable for presenting this to the church and for the sabbatical itself. The next step was to present the idea to the deacon body. The deacons agreed it was a good idea.

It was also agreed that church leaders would ask Mike Harton from Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond to present the idea to the congregation in a town meeting format. An invitation went to every member. Many members attended that meeting. They asked good questions. The church approved a sabbatical policy soon after.

The details of the sabbatical were worked out. The deacons and I agreed that Bob Boggs would be asked to serve as supply pastor in the interim.

The hardest issue the church and I struggled with was what should we do if a member were to die while I was away. After much prayer, the committee and deacons insisted that I would not be called under any circumstances. This was very difficult for me, but I came to see the wisdom of it.

The details of the sabbatical were written out and made available to every member. (We tried to think through all of their concerns and used a question and answer format.) After a time that concluded with a discussion meeting, the church voted to give me a sabbatical.

That made it possible for me to spend 40 days in rest and prayer. I will be ever grateful, and I think the church has already benefitted from having a renewed pastor.

## ...and from the View of the Interim

A church may think it is giving a minister a generous gift when the church gives a sabbatical. What a wonderful gift it is—for the minister and for the church that gives it!

The weariness showed in Pastor Vallerie King’s face on the eve of her sabbatical. Seven weeks later I was greeted by Vallerie’s sparkling, bright, smiling face. She appeared refreshed and enthusiastic about returning to her work. It was a transformation!

The happy congregation had celebrated Vallerie’s return with a banquet. Even the children had made a special banner for that joyful event.

So, who benefits from a sabbatical? Both the church and the minister(s) who serve the church can benefit when the minister has such a renewing time.

Emmaus had never granted a sabbatical. Vallerie planted the idea and asked church leaders to pray about it. They did. Then, with great care, they led the church to consider the idea.

How could the ongoing work of the church, especially the duties of its pastor, continue in her absence? How could the church budget for the cost of paying both the pastor and her substitute? The church’s leaders found a way to answer these questions.

Nearly a year before her sabbatical was to begin, Vallerie shared her vision with Barbara and me. She asked whether we might serve in her place.

In 2002 and 2003 I facilitated the church’s stewardship campaigns. Barbara and I had formed a working relationship—and friendships—in those years. That summer, I preached on a day when Vallerie was away.

Substituting during Vallerie’s sabbatical required more time than Dover staff members usually have to serve with one church. I shared the request, and it was approved.

When Barbara and I next met with Vallerie, she had prepared a workbook of detailed assignments. I was to preach, attend prayer services and lead Bible study. I was also to attend deacons’ meetings, committee meetings (including a new building committee meeting), and moderate the business meeting. Vallerie and the church expected me to attend the Senior Citizens’ luncheon, hold staff meetings, write a newspaper article, help plan worship services, and check on every Sunday school class each Sunday. They expected me to make hospital visits and pastoral calls as needed. Substituting for Vallerie meant coming out of retirement as a pastor!

Vallerie planned and prepared well. She introduced us to the church staff; we talked about how to handle our time together. The deacons and I got acquainted at their December meeting. Barbara and I attended Bible study.

The Sunday before Vallerie was to leave, she introduced Barbara and me to all the Sunday School classes, and we began our duties. I explained ‘sabbatical’ in my sermon that day, telling of times Jesus withdrew from the constant tasks of ministry. The congregation “laid hands on” its pastor, a blessing for Vallerie. It was the perfect send-off.

Barbara substituted for Vallerie in a unique program for children. Vallerie assigns a Bible memory verse each month. One by one, the children stop by her study to recite the verse from memory. When successful, a child may choose a toy from a huge trunk—a treasure chest—in her study. It almost always takes more time to select the toy than to say the verse. Barbara learned the names of the children and what was going on with them. That proved a real tie with the congregation.

It was a delightful experience with a caring congregation. However, when the end of our time arrived, it was time to go. The church was planning a Valentine’s banquet—a loving celebration—for their beloved pastor’s return the next day.

There was only one additional obligation. We had a breakfast appointment to meet with the pastor to share each other’s stories from her time away. Vallerie King was beaming that morning.

The church has a renewed pastor, and we look forward to seeing what God will lead Vallerie and Emmaus to accomplish together now. I expect great things!

—Vallerie King, Pastor, and Bob Boggs, Interim

## Pray for These

- July 6 **Mattaponi Indian** ..... without a Pastor  
Gertrude Custalow
- July 13 **Mechanicsville** ..... Joe Holland, Interim Pastor  
John Bryant, Brenda Brown  
Brenda Jennings, Thomas Rawls  
Peggy Hildreth, Debbie Turner, Martha Loving
- Middle Eastern** ..... William Khalil, Pastor
- July 20 **Mount Olivet** ..... Dale Ashley, Pastor  
Claudia Phillips, Cindy Weston, Shirley Mills
- Mount Pleasant** ..... Barbara Filling, Pastor  
Lisa Dixon
- July 27 **Mount Vernon** ..... Donald Runion, Jr., Pastor  
Larry Hoyle, Jamie Nuckols, Sarah Beasley  
Eugenia Freiburger, Kathy Jones, Jean Grubbs  
Gayle Oliver, Nancy Allen, Virginia Coleman  
Jessica Benson, Gayle Christian, Melody Fowler  
Rod Roberts, Julie McGowan, David Jones  
Darie Lee, Rusty Lee, Clint Beasley

## Our Sympathy

Our sympathy to **Richard Moore** in the death of his brother, Kenneth who passed away on May 22. Kenneth was a retired Methodist minister in North Carolina.

To the family and friends of **Alma Hunt** on her death of Saturday, June 14. Alma was the former executive secretary of the WMU, Southern Baptist Convention. The Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions was named in her honor in 1998.

## Personnel News

Congratulations to **Dr. Ed Shepard** on his 25th anniversary of serving as pastor of Beulah Baptist Church. The church honored Ed on Sunday, June 1.

**Rev. Paul Beith** has been called as the pastor of Pioneer Baptist beginning July 1. Paul has served in Tappahannock for seventeen years. Welcome to Dover, Paul and wife Sharon!

## Positions Available

**Oak Hall** in Sandston is seeking a part-time church secretary (3 days per week, 4 hours each day). Please contact Brenda Horton, 730-2574, for more information.

**Atlee Community** is in search of a creative and dependable receptionist/administrative assistant to work Monday-Friday, 40 hours a week. Proficiency in Microsoft Office is essential, with the ability to multi-task in a fast-paced and ever-changing environment. E-mail (office@atleechurch.org) or fax (804-730-3459) resume with salary requirements. No phone calls, please.

## 2008 CVBM Church Leadership

### Development Conference

**Monday, September 22 at Branch's Baptist Church**

**Monday, September 29 at Mount Vernon Baptist Church**

This year, Central Virginia Baptist Ministries will offer our annual leadership conference on two evenings—one north and the other south of the James River. Each evening will feature sessions for key church leaders. Mark your calendar and look for details in the next issue of the "Dover Diary."

## Missions Awareness Day

**For Ages 3-Adult (nursery provided)**

**Thursday, July 17, 10:00 a.m.-Noon**

**Goochland Baptist Church, 2454 Manakin Road,  
Goochland**

Guest speakers will be Rev. Pete du Plessis, Director of Missions at Richmond Baptist Association, and Paul and Sally Cline, former missionaries.

Bring a sandwich; drink and desserts furnished.

## Spiritual Enrichment Study

**Thursday, August 21, 6:00 p.m.**

**Sharon Baptist Church, 901 Sharon Road, King William**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Morgan Day, Interim Worship Leader at North Run Baptist.

Make dinner reservations (\$6.00 each) with Carolyn Hollins, 5028 Mechanicsville Turnpike, Mechanicsville, 23111. Preschool care provided.

## GA/CIA—Experience Uganda!

**Saturday, September 6, 9:00 a.m., Lunch at Noon**

**Berea Baptist Church, 15474 Ashland Road, Rockville**

Guest Speaker will be Sarah Michael Milner.

Join other GAs and CIAs for this mission event. For questions, call Kim Gilman (804-798-3914) or Brenda Woodcock (804-883-7883). R.S.V.P. to Brenda at brenwood01@embarqumail.com.

## Missionary House Dedicated

Cool Spring Baptist Church hosted an open house on Sunday, June 29 from 3-5 p.m. to honor Dr. Roy and Joyce Wyatt. The church purchased and will operate "The Wyatt House" to provide housing, church fellowship and love to Southern Baptist personnel on stateside assignment.

The Wyatts were appointed as international missionaries to Spain in 1953. They also served in South America until their retirement in 1993. Cool Spring is Roy Wyatt's home church.

## New Resources @ Dover Office

The Dover library has some new resources that churches and their leaders may borrow. Some of the new resources are: *Tear Soup, A Recipe for Healing After Loss* (DVD), a story for all ages, affirms the bereaved, educates the unbereaved, and is a building block for children.

*Go Fish* (DVD) is a six-session study exploring the motivation behind sharing your faith and how it can become a natural part of your life. Shelved with its companion study guide.

*Why Men Hate Going to Church* (DVD) shares eye-opening research and a persuasive grasp of fact to explain why men are the world's largest unreached people group and "calls the church back to men."

## Holiday Closing

The Dover Office will be closed on Friday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.



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***“a resource and ally for  
churches and their leaders”***

Non-Profit Organization  
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Sandy Weakley, Administrative Assistant  
Sue Hall, Office Secretary  
Bob Boggs, Associate for Ministry to Church Leaders  
Barbara Boggs, Associate for Ministry to Church Leader  
Families  
Nita May, Regional Ministries Coordinator, CVBM  
Louis Orsatti, Regional Latino Church Planter Strategist,  
LAMP

## Church News

**Ashland, First** will sponsor a mission trip to help build homes for Katrina victims in Lower Plaquemines Parrish, LA, August 2-10.

**Beaverdam** is planning three mission trips this year. They will send two teams to Nicaragua and one team to Uganda.

**Colosse** held their annual appreciation Sunday for law enforcement personnel, support staff, dispatchers and their families on May 18.

**Corinth** donated lap robes, pillows, socks, and t-shirts to the Veterans Hospital. They also have an ongoing project of knitting/crocheting baby caps and blankets for area hospitals. Recently they donated 35 baby caps and 13 blankets.

**Faith** held a special worship service to honor and show appreciation to the fire and rescue workers in Goochland County on Sunday, March 9. During the service many people told personal stories of how the fire and rescue companies had acted quickly to calls of distress and saved lives. The church also noted the fire companies' quick response when called to the church fire in November 2001.

**Little Elam** will have six volunteers going to Vitoria, Brazil on a mission trip July 28-August 9.

**Middle Eastern** had thirty-nine people attend the 39th Arabic Annual Bible Conference in Millersville, PA.

**Mount Olivet** will hold Vacation Bible School, July 14-18. A team from Kipling Avenue Baptist Church in Toronto will assist with VBS. The team will return to Toronto with the supplies to do their own VBS later this summer.

**New Bethesda** sent a team to participate in Impact Virginia mission trip in Staunton, June 15-21.

## Beth Moore Simulcast, August 1-2

In Dover, the simulcast will be at Mount Olivet (883-5950) and Cool Spring (746-0800) Baptist Churches. Please contact one of these churches for times and cost.

## Students Heading to College

The Dover Student Ministries Council wants the names and home addresses of new high school graduates who will be attending college this fall. We would like to send them information about Baptist Collegiate Ministries. Please include the school they will be attending so that we can also pass their names to their respective campus ministers. You may e-mail this information to david.chrisman@juno.com or mail the information to David and Jennifer Chrisman, 202 Sumwalt Street, Sandson, VA 23150.

## A Ministry Idea for College-bound Students and Their Parents

The youth of Faith Baptist Church sponsored a roundtable made up of college students (some still in college and others graduates). The idea was to give high school students an idea of what college life is really like.

They talked about a wide range of subjects from dorm life to sports to dealing with college studies and work. Great tips were given on how to succeed, how to pick a college, how to study, and how to save money on books.

The church offered a simultaneous session for parents. A representative of *College Solutions* offered ideas on making decisions on finances and the best education for their youth.

## Thank You!

Don Carter led a group of thirty people from several Dover churches (Antioch, Cool Spring, Hillcrest, Mount Vernon, New Bethesda, New Highland, and Sharon) on a mission trip. The group repaired homes in Tylerton, MD (off Smith Island). Thank you, Don and volunteers!