

**Local Churches may request** at least three types of consultations on Evangelism which seek to equip local teams for evangelistic projects. Efforts to build a foundation for the holistic ministry in Sharing God's Good News define Evangelism within the context of the local church and discover opportunities for expression of the Good News there.

These include:

- **Witnessing Workshops** are available in Continuing Witness Training (CWT), NET and FAITH and other similar methods.
- Individual Consultations will be available to churches seeking to establish a **partnership internationally**. This will involve assisting the congregation to consider a covenant of partnership with the entity outside the United States and networking with Baptist partners in these activities,
- **Individual Consultations** with a church, helping the church members to examine the ministry of sharing the Good News, discovering the giftedness of the local church members in doing so and helping them to find ways that they can share the Good News effectively.
- God's Plan for Sharing (GPS), a Southern Baptist effort, during the Easter Season. Participants can share their witness over the telephone, the Internet or through prayer walking in their local neighborhoods.

### **Activities for 2010**

#### **January 13–“Starting New Churches”**

This fifteen-week course focuses on laity and clergy interested in starting a new church. The class will introduce the student to the

ministry of starting a new church, develop a way to analyze these efforts and explore models of church starting through locally-based case studies. All are welcome to take the class, but a particular focus will be on those who intend to start a new church in the coming months. There will be a fee for this course, which will be used to further the work of CHED this year and for the next two additional years.

**September 25–“Family Evangelism”** seeks to help families of both believers and nonbelievers to find a wholesome life together. The seminar will explore those aspects of family life (both nuclear and extended) that strengthen life together. Special emphasis will be placed on helping the healthy, Christian family to reach out to the non-Christian family through sharing God's Good News. This is a partnership with Upper Room Baptist Church

**April 18–“Vacation Bible School Training”** is an event which seeks to prepare workers for their ministry of leadership in Vacation Bible Schools. The schools which occur every Summer are one of the ways that DC Baptists reach out to people beyond their congregations with the Good News as well as sharing the Good News with some who have never professed Christ but attend regularly that local church. This occurs simultaneously with the workshop, **“Summer Evangelism Ideas.”**

**June-August**—Every two weeks a different church has the opportunity to host the **“Ministry on the Mall.”** This is a ministry of service as well as an opportunity for oral and written witness. Thousands of tourists explore the Mall every weekend, and DC

Baptists have for years taken the opportunity to share water and to share the Good News with these through personal conversation and through literature distribution. This is a good activity for building the efforts of Evangelism within members of the local church.

**September 3-5**—The group called **“Muslim Background Believers”** meets every year to bring together those who are followers of Jesus Christ. DC Baptists can experience the witness of those formerly Muslim and can discover how the Good News of Jesus Christ affects their lives. Lessons can strengthen the witness by DC Baptists to others relocating to our metropolis.

**June 5**—**DC Baptists want to partner with a local church to hold a Youth Rally** which will share the Good News with you in the convention and with youth who have not yet had any Christian experience. Lead your church to be the prime partner for this activity.

**September 11**—**“The Blessed Pot.”** DC Baptists Vacation Bible School Workers come together to celebrate what God has done through Vacation Bible School workers this year. The activity also hopes to excite believers across the Convention to **share the Good News of Jesus Christ** with others.

**October/November**—**“Creating Change in Baptist Communities,”** a course of study which continues over 4 weeks. The purpose of the course from the perspective of Evangelism is to assist Baptists in considering how to bring structural changes to both communities and congregations which share the Good News of God with others.

## Is Evangelism . . .

- . . . a basic expression of the ministry of Christ by local congregations?
- . . . a ministry of groups of people as well as by individuals?
- . . . an activity which shares the Good News, Jesus Christ the Son of God?
- . . . an effort of persuasion or one of invitation?
- . . . a creative form which expresses God's Good News?

## Possibilities for DCBC Churches:

- Envision Good News shared through DCBC churches.
- Celebrate future efforts in sharing God's Good News.
- Pray for people outside of faith in either your workplace or school.
- Motivate, train and utilize one another to address opportunities to share God's Great News.
- Develop teams within local churches who actively work on projects which affect their local community and its residents.
- Model forgiveness in your daily and church-based relationships.

The CHED Center invites members of DC Baptist churches to join the Team and to discover Evangelism through participation in the leadership and the activities of the Team. Team members can work on Team Tasks or design their own. Service on the CHED Team leads to personal, spiritual growth and effective ministry in the local church.

*DC Baptists have had an incredible run of starting new congregations in and around the Washington metropolitan area over the late fifteen years. Five new congregations started in 2008-09.*

*In recent years innovative ministers sensed the call to start new churches with little or no assistance from national denominations. Thankfully National Ministries (ABC, USA) and the women associated with it encourage some of these new congregations with funds assisting small projects.*

*Still, it is amazing to note that among marginalized communities, not having a sufficient Baptist witness, churches are beginning, are coming to life and are developing! While many note 80% failure rates among once well-funded, new congregations, 85% of the new congregations in the DCBC enjoy vibrant life today.*

*New congregations are one way that DC Baptists **show vitality** to their community and is one way that they **announce God's Good News to entire communities**. What makes DC Baptists so effective? Only **the mysterious power of God's Good News** provides the answer to such a question. What does so great a God have in store for us in the future.*

## The Center for Congregational Health, Evangelism and Discipleship

Robert D. Cochran, Associate Executive Director  
[robert.cochran@dcbaptist.org](mailto:robert.cochran@dcbaptist.org)

District of Columbia Baptist Convention  
1628 Sixteenth Street NW • Washington DC 20009  
202-265-1526 • [www.dcbaptist.org](http://www.dcbaptist.org)

10/6/2009

# LAYING FOUNDATIONS FOR SHARING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

