



A View From The Bridge

March 2023

Annual Spring Mission Project

This year, we are partnering with Safe House as they hope to rescue 200 Human Trafficking Victims in our region. Our goal is to provide 150 filled backpacks and \$150 per rescued victim. The backpack provides essential supplies for their first 24-48 hours and the \$150 provides money to secure transportation and a safe place to stay for their first night of freedom.

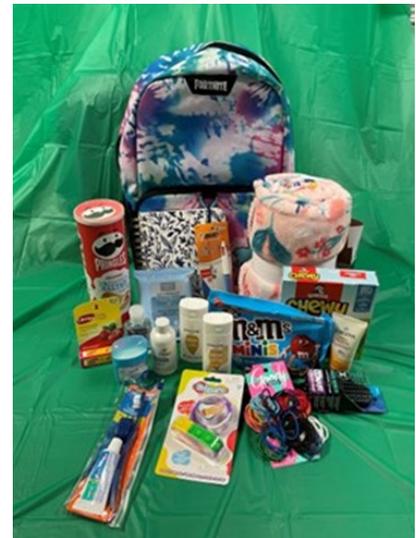
Items to fill each backpack:

Travel size:

Shampoo
Conditioner
Body wash
Lotion
(Please put liquid items in a Zip-Lock bag)
Deodorant
Face wash towelettes
Hand sanitizer

Regular size:

Comb and brush
Elastic hair ties
Lip balm
Small journal with pens,
Stress ball/fidget toy/squishy toy (no company names)
Prepackaged non-perishable food snack
Thin blanket
Encouraging note (sign your first name only)
\$30 MasterCard or Visa gift card*



Deadline is the Spring meeting, April 27th

at Great Bridge Baptist Church or
you may bring them to the office prior to the meeting.

*Please make sure the gift card does not have an inactive card fee as some backpacks may be stored for several months. The small print on the back of the card will identify if it deducts money from the card if it is not used immediately.

March Staff and Spouse Birthdays

1	Karen Soblotne	Whiteheads Grove
1	Stacey Carpenter	Exmore
5	Russell Goodrich	Cape Charles
6	Doyle Wells	Rivercrest
9	Donna Brooks	Coastal
9	Anitress Chambers	One Generation
9	Luann Kirk	Indian River
11	Eulogio Vazquez	Mappsville
11	Lisa Woolston	Real Life
13	Charles Peterson	Cheriton
14	Kim Jessie	BNoC
15	Maggie Harrington	Temple
19	Bubba Pugh	Calvary
21	David Denny	Drummondtown
24	Chuck Moseley	Oak Grove

BABY BOUTIQUE



Here at Baby Boutique we have been sorting clothes and other items and getting ready for spring! The thought of warmer weather is a welcomed thought! If you know of anyone in your church or community that could use our help, please have them go to

www.thebridgenet.org and fill out a Baby Boutique application. The application can be found under Resources. Once we receive it, we will be in touch to set up an appointment. We offer a one-time visit for moms to get needed items for newborns through approximately age 2.

Since we depend on donations, we are always happy to receive baby items! Please contact me directly if you would like to donate and I'll be happy to let you know our current needs and what we do not accept. Thank you for your continued support!

Bonnie Cuthriell, Director
(757) 681-7056



How Do I "Restart" My Ministry in This Church?

PUSH TO RESTART (7) Creating Movement



In West Texas, the mountains all look like someone scraped off their tops; they are capped with flat, open plateaus. A traveler from Colorado, where the Rocky Mountains push high into the sky and reach majestic

peaks, would likely chuckle at Texans for calling these flat-topped, rocky projections, "mountains."

Plateaus are natural formations of the earth and plateaus are natural places for churches to reach.

Can a plateau be transformed into a time of growth? In some cases, yes, but probably not in all churches. **The objective is not growth, but movement.**

Every church needs to be moving forward and outward to stay beneath the clear mandate of the Great Commission given by Christ our Lord. The purpose of this article is to show a clear path to creating movement (which often leads to growth) in a congregation.



A time of stagnation, plateau or decline stirs up negativity by its nature. In the heart of a pastor, that negativity will sometimes take the form of self-condemnation and judgment, feelings of inadequacy and a sense of personal failure. While these are unhealthy emotions in most situations, I have learned to interpret them positively; they serve to create in me a **desire** to change things.



Desire is the first step to creating movement in any situation. If you are sitting on the couch and are thirsty, the desire for something to drink pushes you to go to the refrigerator for a bottle of water. If you have a desire to see movement in your church, it is likely an indication that God wants to do a work through you.

But **desire alone is not enough to create movement.** How many committee meetings have you sat through in which the participants created a lot of discussion, some good ideas,

but no actionable deeds? **We must guard ourselves against being mere "idea men" who think that concept building is the same thing as kingdom building; it is not.** Quite often idea men sound bold and big in their words but in their heart they fear failure so much they never attempt to prove their ideas to be valid.



The **fear of failure** is huge at this first stage toward movement; if we do not sweep it aside, we will never move forward. (More about conquering fear in a later article.)

The second stage of movement is vision. As we spend copious amounts of time in the Father's presence, He begins to formulate a visual in our mind of what He wants to accomplish through us.

When we outgrew our facilities on Town Point Road, I began talking with the Father about relocating the church. He spoke to my heart and said to ask Him for five acres of land with a sanctuary that seated two hundred (I still have the page in my journal where I wrote it down). I did not have a great faith that He would do it; I simply obeyed Him in asking for it and I began searching for a five-acre plot of ground we could purchase, assuming we would have to build on it. But His plan was better: a dying congregation a few miles away indicated their willingness to swap properties and, to God's glory, they owned five acres and a 200-seat sanctuary with a separate educational building (and they had 12 toilets compared to our 2!).



The challenge with the **vision** stage is being careful **not to supplant God's vision with our own fantasy. He only provides for what He proposes;** He is not obligated (or interested) in fulfilling our overactive imaginations.

Maybe one reason you are frustrated, pastor, is because you do not understand why God is not helping you live out your dream. A better plan is to spend enough time with Him until you get your directions from Him! He will guide you. He will help you. He will move on your behalf, but only if you move forward in obedience to His specific instructions.

The next article will cover stages two and three of creating movement in a congregation: experimentation and insights.

Dr. Donald Lynn Hardaway

Network Missionary
The Bridge Network of Churches
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The Bridge Network of Churches **Ignite Hope: Be the Spark** **Women's Conference** **Saturday, March 11, 2023;** **9am-Noon** **Coffee Bar opens at 8am**



Thalia Lynn Baptist Church
4392 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462
Speaker: Sharon Glasgow
Proverbs 31 Speaker, Author, & Pastor's Wife

Early Bird Registration: \$25 until February 15
February 16 – March 10: \$30
\$35 at the door
For group tickets of 10 or more email
admin@thebridgenet.org for information



Annual Spring Meeting:
Thursday, April 27 at Great Bridge Baptist Church.
Mark your calendar now! More information to come.

Holy Land Trip October 10-19, 2023



Have you ever wondered what it would be like to witness the events of the Gospels? Although going back in time is not possible, you can go where the events of the Bible took place. Join Dr. Lynn Hardaway and Dr. Prentis McGoldrick as they visit the Holy Land. The cost round trip from Norfolk is \$4,046. For information or questions email admin@thebridgenet.org.





1407 Stephanie Way
Suite F
Chesapeake, VA 23320



Well With My Soul
Pastors' Wives' Retreat
March 10, 2023

5:30-9pm

Hyatt Place, 335 Independence Blvd.
Virginia Beach, VA



Register by March 6th, choose meal option
use QR code or call 757-938-9793

Hotel group rates good until Feb. 10
<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/ORFZV/G-BNCR>



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