



# EXPOSITION

Monthly e-Bulletin from Virginia Beach Theological Seminary



## *From My Window*

In *The Journal of John Wesley*, Wesley writes of his trip to Georgia to convert the Indians. On the long boat trip, he would rise at 4 a.m. to pray and read his Bible. From 9–noon he studied his Greek NT and a German grammar so that he could talk with the 26 Germans on the ship. After arriving in Georgia and spending two years (1735–37) as a missionary, he left a defeated man. He writes, “I went to America to convert the Indians, but oh, who shall convert me?” Wesley’s view of Christianity was to be moral and disciplined; yet he had no relationship with Jesus Christ. Though he was saved a year later, May 24, 1738, his pre-conversion life magnifies Jesus’ words: “Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of Heaven” (Matt. 7:21a).



Pastor Paul Campbell announced last month that he is resigning as youth pastor at Colonial Baptist Church (CBC) in Virginia Beach, Virginia and moving across country with his family to plant a church in Logan, Utah. (See the back page for Paul’s testimony regarding the need and opportunity in Utah.) We rejoice with Paul and his family as they follow the Lord’s leading in their lives. We are also grateful for the 13 years of service they have given to Colonial Baptist Church. Paul and Abbey began serving CBC in 2007 as youth leaders when they moved to Virginia Beach to start seminary. Then in 2009 Paul assumed the full-time youth pastor role. During the Campbells’ full-time ministry with the CBC youth group from 2009–20, God graciously blessed Paul and Abbey with four wonderful children and enabled Paul to complete his Master of Divinity degree. Under the Campbells’ leadership, the youth group greatly prospered and the church was strengthened. Paul and Abbey’s passion is to model and explain God’s Word to God’s people, and watch God build his church. We pray God’s blessing upon them as they move to Utah and plant a church in a community that has little access to the Gospel.



## ***Why Plant a Church in Utah?***

***Guest author: Pastor Paul Campbell***

**When looking at Utah from the outside**, we see a population of hardworking, family-oriented American citizens with conservative morals and conservative political views. And the strong economy in Utah (recently ranked #2 by U.S. News and World Report) might suggest its residents are content in their relative prosperity. However, a closer look at the statistics shows that many in Utah are hurting.

- Utah reports the highest rates of clinical depression in the country and prescribes more anti-depressants than any other state.
- Utah reports one of the highest rates of suicide in the country, with Salt Lake City reporting the highest rate of suicide for women.
- Salt Lake City, Utah reports the highest rate of plastic surgery for women.

**What accounts for the hurt** in this “wholesome” and successful state of Utah? I would propose that Mormonism, the state’s majority religion, has much to do with this. One example of how Mormon beliefs might cause depression can be seen in the teaching regarding women and the afterlife. Many Mormons believe that a woman must be called out of the grave by her husband in the afterlife to become a goddess of another earth-like planet (where she will be eternally pregnant in a polygamous marriage). If she is not called up by her husband, she will remain in the grave. This understandably creates a culture where women are constantly trying to impress by hiding faults and sorrows in a never-ending facade.

**The solution for the deep spiritual needs** in the state of Utah is the Gospel of Grace. The need for redemptive truth in Utah is massive. Many cities in Utah would be considered “unreached” because the number of evangelical Christians in those cities is less than 2% with no local Christian churches (see Joshua Project definition of “unreached”). Only 2.2% of the residents *in the entire state of Utah* claim to be evangelical Christians.

For your reference: 2.3% of the population in India claims to be evangelical, 3% in Iraq, 4% in China, 6% in Cuba, and 7.2% in Vietnam. In other words, there are fewer Christians in Utah than any country in the Western Hemisphere. This comparison is staggering! Clearly, Utah needs the good news of Jesus. Utah needs Christians. Utah needs grace churches.

**My family has been presented the opportunity** to lead a church plant in Logan, Utah, where the evangelical presence in this city of 50,000 residents is less than 1%. We will be partnering with Gospel Grace Church (planted 2012) in Salt Lake City to launch their first church plant. We are excited and humbled by this opportunity. Abbey and I have sensed the Lord's leading and we've discussed this opportunity with our church leaders, mentors, and friends. It has also been affirming to see a leadership team begin to form as other families (in Utah and here in Virginia Beach) sense the prompting of the Lord to join us. We are thankful to see God provide the people to accomplish His purposes in this hurting place where the healing power of the Gospel is not known. We are grateful to be a part of what He is doing. Thank you for praying on our behalf!

*If you want to follow us and stay updated regarding the Lord's work in Utah, visit [campbellsforutah.com](http://campbellsforutah.com) and subscribe to our email list.*