

Potomac Pastors

JUMP for BGMC!



By: Tim Vance

Would you go Up in the Air for BGMC? Several other children's pastors from the Potomac District (District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and part of Pennsylvania) recently joined me in doing just that – going up in the air two miles, then skydiving for missions. Up in the Air for BGMC is part of a national effort to raise awareness and money for missions, which includes children's pastors sitting on billboards, mountain climbing, and now skydiving for BGMC.

We don't do these things for the excitement of the experiences, but we do them for the joy of knowing that every penny given to BGMC goes to support missions work around our country and around the world.

Our adventure began when I wanted to skydive for Buddy Barrel. I shared the idea at the Potomac District Children's Pastor's Retreat during our district BGMC banquet. I mentioned that I would like to have someone else make the jump with me. Seven others expressed their interest in participating. In time, several others, including some senior pastors, joined in the effort. The plan was that each of us would set a goal for BGMC for our church, and once we met the goal, we would skydive! Wayne Rimmer, Potomac District CE Director, agreed to join us in the jump if the combined total of money raised was \$50,000 by March (or if we raised over \$200,000 in the coming year as a district).

March Missions Madness was our primary time to focus on fund-raising and meeting those goals, although we each had planned to extend fund-raising into April. The offerings came in— from children with Buddy Barrels to men and women in our churches with check-books—and the totals added up. By the end of April, we

had raised \$40,000. This was an incredible amount but not enough to get Wayne Rimmer to jump out of the airplane.

Skydiving is just awesome! Ask anyone who has done it. Here is the list of people who have jumped in the Potomac District:

Tim Vance, children's pastor, Spotsylvania Assembly of God in Spotsylvania, Va.;

Bob Ryan, children's pastor, Central Assembly of God in Cumberland, Md.;

John Quinn, missions director, and Doug Seaman, senior pastor, Central Assembly of God in Cumberland, Md.;

Greg Hammond, senior pastor, First Assembly of God in Westernport, Md.;

Brian Griswald, children's pastor, Trinity Assembly of God in Lutherville, Md.;

Terry Willians, children's pastor, First Assembly of God in Alexandria, Va.;

Wes Johnson, senior pastor, First Assembly of God in Alexandria, Va.

Bob Ryan said, "It was incredible. I'd do it again!" Senior Pastor Greg Hammond of First Assembly of God in Westernport, Md., was very enthusiastic in joining the skydiving experience.

Among the exciting things to come from this skydiving adventure has been an increase in BGMC giving for the year. As of the end of July, 122 churches in the Potomac District have given a total of \$122,000 to BGMC. This is over 60 percent toward our goal of \$200,000. We need to see the remaining churches in our district join us in giving to BGMC so we can reach our goal. Wayne Rimmer says that IF we reach our goal of \$200,000, he will skydive. Let's send him Up in the Air for BGMC!

