



N.C. CHURCH PLANTING HIGHLIGHT: SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

JOEL SMELLEY

VERTICAL CHURCH | CHARLOTTE, N.C.

As the biggest city in our state, Charlotte is also one of our largest mission fields. South Charlotte is one of the fastest growing areas, which made it ideal for a new church plant. It was there that Joel Smelley helped start Vertical Church.

Initially gathering in a rented church building, Vertical Church then met for a time in a movie theater before moving to a public school building near I-77 in 2019. Nearly 100 people attend services each week. With its new location, between two pockets of lostness that the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina has identified, Vertical Church is poised to be a light to so many in need of the hope of the gospel.

Joel prepared for ministry by attending Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, which we help support through the Cooperative Program. Through our continued giving to the Cooperative Program, our church has enabled the convention's Church Planting Team to train and support Joel as Vertical Church began.

Let's pray for Joel, his wife and their three children as they serve in Charlotte. Let's ask God to help Vertical Church grow and reach thousands of people for Christ in South Charlotte and beyond.