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From the Desk of.... J. David Pittman, Director of Missions

For many years our churches have been striving for church growth. They have been working diligently in discovering new ways to reach people who do not know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior with the Gospel message. As a result of their efforts their church has experienced numerical growth. This is what our churches should be involved in and my prayer is that this will growth will continue into the future. I believe that God is pleased when we choose to be involved in growing our church for the Glory of God.

The early church grew when believers took the time to share their faith with others. This is the biblical model, people reaching other people with the gospel message and numerical growth is the natural outcome. It is what our churches should be doing.

We must not in any way discourage any church from making growth a priority in their church. However, I want to put forward another concept for your consideration.

The concept that I would like to encourage you and your church to adopt is Kingdom Vision or Kingdom Growth. This means that churches join together with other churches in working for the Kingdom of God. Churches do not complete with each other but do their best work when they choose to join together. We should all realize that we are on the same side; God's side! By choosing to join together with other churches in our association we can more effectively reach Rutherford County. I believe this is pleasing to God.

When we loose our Kingdom vision, the potential for conflict emerges. This can show itself in many ways. Some of them are differing worship styles, personal preferences, control issues, personal pride and other related issues. By allowing these issues to gain a foothold in our thinking we loose sight of our mission and choose to major on the minors. Our task is too important to let minor issues detract us from our mission!

Remembering our Kingdom vision will compel us make an active choice to work together with other churches in our association. When we do this we will have a greater impact on our community for the Kingdom of God. Now, doesn't that sound like a worthy goal!

Let me encourage you to choose to become more active in the Concord Baptist Association. By joining together with other churches your Kingdom Vision can be enhanced and this association can help your church more effectively minister to the people in Rutherford County.

Our Folks

Wards Grove will be in revival April 22 – 25. Reverend Greg Nimmo will be the evangelist. Sunday morning service will be at 11:00 am. All evening services will begin at 7:00 pm. The theme will be: Are you Walking with Jesus? There will be special singing at each service.

LaVergne First will celebrate their 50th anniversary as a church on April 22 during their Homecoming Celebration. James Porch, Executive Director/Treasurer of TBC will be the guest speaker. For further information contact the church at 793-6423.

Tim's Notes Tim Fisher, Kingdom Growth Coordinator

I have been with the association almost 10 years and I have heard comments like this. *Our church is so small it is difficult for us to really participate in missions. About the only thing we can do is to contribute financially to the Cooperative Program, the association and to the special offerings that support SBC missionaries. It is great that our bigger churches can promote mission trips and projects but it would be really hard for our church to participate, but we do pray for them.* **HOG WASH**

Listen to what has gone on at Grace Baptist Church in Murfreesboro since 1997. Pastor Russell Richardson shared with me what a church of 70-90 people can do when it comes to missions. They have had 27 members go on 23 mission trips ranging in time from 2 weeks to 2 years since 1997. They have traveled to Canada, Morocco, Florida, Colorado, Brazil, Egypt, Lebanon (in the Middle East), Spain, France, Japan, Kuwait, Indonesia, Haiti, Nicaragua, Afghanistan, New Orleans, and mainland China. They also had a young lady to serve as a summer missionary for us (Concord Baptist Association). On these mission adventures they performed various mission activities such as resort ministries, Backyard Bible Clubs, water reclamation projects, campus ministries, internet café ministries, hurricane relief efforts, tsunami relief work, revival preaching, scripture distribution, music programs, drama productions, Christian comedy, and personal witnessing. During that time they continued to support Southern Baptist Missions through the Cooperative Program, the Lottie Moon Offering, the Annie Armstrong Offering, and the Golden Offering. They also sponsored a young lady, not from Grace who did campus ministries in Australia.

At the present moment they are into their seventh month of assisting the Ndaizeye family, refugees from Burundi, a country in central Africa. These seven youngsters ranging in age from 10 to 27 are orphaned by ethnic conflict in their native land and are currently living in their former parsonage. The five who are high school age and below are enrolled in Murfreesboro schools and the two oldest young men are locally employed. They are active in learning English. Their native tongue is Swahili. Grace Baptist Church sees this as mission in action as they seek to share the love of God with this family.

Isn't it amazing what a small church can do?

Urgent News: Concord Baptist Association will have four summer missionaries serving this year beginning the first of June. If your church has interest in using these missionaries please contact me immediately so we can reserve your spot on the calendar.

Bible Drill and Speaker Tournament: April 15, 2:00 pm at Riverdale Baptist Church. If your church has children or youth who are participating, please contact the association office immediately to let us know how many are coming at 890-6409.

Go for the goal!



The 2007 VBS Conferences were awesome this year. Stones River and Crossway did a wonderful job hosting the events. Thank you to both churches. This year we had 100 participants representing 20 churches. Our coaches did a great job leading the conferences.