

pastor's brief:

Building the Vision

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Letter

From the Pastor's Heart

Dear Saints,

Grace (the extension of God's love and provision, based in his character) and Peace (the state of security resulting from trust in God's provision) to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is my first official newsletter, and I want to begin by explaining to you the reason for its genesis.

As we have grown together as a family, we have always had the opportunity to sit down and chat around a meal or in a dorm room. But, as I expressed a few Sundays ago, I just am not finding the time to be with everybody like I could when there were only 20 or 30 of us. So, I am hoping to send out a personal newsletter every month to keep you filled in on what's happening.

It was during those chats that we could identify our vision and how we personally fit into the plan. Those times provided opportunity to make specific applications of what God was saying to our lives. I believe a significant gift of any pastor is the ability to help people find what God is saying to them as individuals in light of what He is saying to the body as a whole.

God is blessing us with a growing number of people who have the ability to see what God is saying and help others make application. As this situation matures, I'm finding a need to relate to every person the overall direction of the body and specific ministry functions they may need to be involved in.

So, as you get this letter you should find overall direction for the church, including the major emphasis, as well as specific dates. Most of all, I will be trying to "Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." Habakkuk 2:2-3.

I am excited that ministry among individuals is growing and am looking forward to deepening my own relationships with those who are laboring together in this field. I hope this letter will help us sharpen our vision and do our part.

Bless You,

Billy

Our Growing Vision

In order to accomplish what God has called us to, we must see how our part fits with God's greater vision. If the leadership of the local church can see what God is doing in the world, then we can do our part. If each individual member can see what God is doing in the local church, then he or she can do his or her part.

The overall plan of God is to establish His Kingdom in the earth. That means He is going to bring everything under submission to the Lord Jesus. He plans to do that worldwide through individual local churches.

It becomes the responsibility of those local churches to identify their field and then care for it.

LCF began with college students reaching out to other students. It was birthed in our hearts by the Holy Spirit to establish the Kingdom of God at U.K.

In time, God showed us that the way to reach the campus was not merely a Bible study, but by establishing a local church. A local church has so much more to offer a student, such as mature leadership, a family atmosphere, and a general state of stability.

Now, we are a local church. But we must work to remember our call is to the mission field of the unreached. God is using us in different ways in the community, but we must be faithful with our first call to help fulfill the overall plan.

It would be easy to settle down to a comfortable church. But we are a violent people. And we are committed to forcefully taking what is rightfully God's. Get the mentality of a missionary and let's do it!

Campus Outreach: We Have a Job for You!

Classes begin at U.K. next week, and we are "mounting an attack" on all of the returning students. This article should fill you in on how you can be involved.

The outreach begins this Friday. We will be armed with a newspaper published by LCF that challenges students to radical commitment, and introduces them to our church. Since Friday night is the night to roam campus, we will be roaming with intent to share.

The following two weeks will be crucial in reaching out and we are putting together a special E-team (evangelism team) to do the job.

If you would like to be a part of this team, contact Curt Eiden and attend the planning meeting, Thursday, 7:30, at Jimmy's house.

Specific ways you can be involved include:

"Are You Going" and "Two Question Test" Booth. August 22-26 and September 5-9, any time from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Two people will sit at this booth with the express purpose of sharing the gospel.) Call Chris Shutt at 276-1196.

Man the church welcome booth, August 22-26, any time from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (This booth will be in the activities fair that is sponsored by U.K.). Call Cathy Perry at 252-6903.

Join the E-team for preaching and one on one sharing every Wednesday, the special campus home-group on Wednesday nights, and Saturday night fellowship times with students around a meal or movie. Call Curt Eiden at 277-2346.

Help pass out the U.K. paper anytime, on campus.

Special Guest Speaker

Paul Petrie to Speak This Sunday: Don't miss it!

Paul Petrie, President of International Outreach Ministries, will be ministering at our regular Sunday night meeting, August 26, at 6:00 p.m. Paul will be a special ministry for Lexington Christian Fellowship because of his experience both in Lexington and working with college students.

From Toronto, Canada, Paul did his undergraduate work at Asbury college, and graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary. In 1968 he began Christ Center in Lexington. This ministry was multifaceted with a strong impact among university students.

After a period of time in Europe, Paul returned to Lexington and established Covenant Church. (Most of you will be familiar with Steve Humble and John Meadows who have spoken for us, and are pastors at Covenant.) He has also been involved in establishing a number of other churches in the United States as well as other countries.

Paul now splits his time between Lexington and Brussels, Belgium. While based in Lexington, he ministers throughout North and South America. From Belgium ministry extends to Europe, Africa, and Asia.

We have already received much from Paul's ministry through Covenant Church. We are anticipating great things as he comes to be with us in person for the first time.

Coming Teaching

The Journey; God's Preparation for Overcoming The

We will be beginning a teaching series entitled, "The Journey", at our August 27th, meeting. The series will deal with the period of history in which God delivered the children of Israel from bondage, took them through the wilderness, and established them in the land.

The major theme will be, "God's dealings in our lives to prepare us for the promised land." We will be paying special attention to God's dealings in the wilderness and how that applies to our own Christian Journey. The series will last, at least through October, God willing.

If you would like to prepare ahead of time, read the following scriptures: Exodus 1:1-20:1; Numbers 10:28-14:45; and Joshua 1:1-5:9.

Don't Forget

Ongoing Meetings of LCF

PRAYER MEETING- 6:00 a.m. every morning, in Billy's office. (On Thursdays, the men meet at Jimmy's house and the women are in the office.

HOME FELLOWSHIPS- We have three different home fellowships. One meets every 2nd and 4th Friday at Gregg Greer's house. The others meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday. One meets at Jimmy's house, and Billy's home fellowship has moved to Rob Scales' house.

You are enjoyed when there, and missed when not.

CTS Update

Monday, August 15, was officially the last day of CTS. This was the first year for Curt Eiden to direct a school, and we had seven students involved.

We especially want to thank those of you who gave financially to support both the students and the outreach.

A summer spent in the school revolutionizes a young person's life.

Lori Truitt will be returning to Portland, and Bobby "Cupcake" Winston will be heading to Fort Knox until December.