

I was just thinking...

Are We United? Pastor Ronny Russell

February 7 was a significant day in the life of our church. This was our third annual SuperVision Sunday. It is becoming something akin to a holiday (holy day) celebration for our “tribe” known as Mission Baptist Church. To recap, here are the themes of our three SuperVisions to date:

2008 Expand Here..Extend There 2009 Invest and Invite ‘09 2010 Invest and Invite ‘10

All three themes reflect the balance between inreach and outreach, care for each other and carrying the gospel to the world, ingrown and outgrown, gathered and scattered. Too much looking inward is very dangerously dysfunctional. We need to heed warnings of people like Dallas Willard who say, “The most dangerous place a church can be is gathered.” Conversely, if all we do is look outward, we are like the family that neglects its own children to take care of everybody else’s.

Our mission is to carry out the last will and testament of the One who died for us, Jesus the Christ. His wish was that we “go and make disciples of all nations...” This is the one mission that unites us.

On February 7 we had close to 500 people in attendance at the one service. That’s a big gathering—too big to really experience fellowship or community. But not too big to experience unity—unity of purpose and mission; i.e., “go and make disciples...” Love. Connect. Serve.

Going and making disciples will scatter us, perhaps even fragment us. It should be noted that on that February 7 gathering we had some of our tribe in South Africa and China—making disciples of “all nations.”

Are we united? Well, that depends on your definition. Here is where we can be united...

- United in purpose and mission? Yes.
- United in our love for each other? Yes.
- United in extending to the uttermost parts of the world? Yes.

But on the other hand, there are some distinctive places where we are not united, at least not in the sense of being together in one place at one time...

- United in programs and activities? Not always. One size doesn’t fit all.
- United under one roof? Rarely. Maybe once a year.

If you are not feeling a sense of unity perhaps you should examine what you believe church should be. If you are primarily interested in what you can get out of it, otherwise known as consumerism, then all this talk about taking grace to the world will be upsetting to you and will leave you feeling frustrated.

If, on the other hand, you see your role as a Jesus-follower as being part of something bigger than yourself, otherwise known as a mission, then taking grace to the world will be an exciting adventure, one in which you can’t wait to participate.

Grace Life Conference

This conference is a practical, Biblical explanation of the “how to stop depending on yourself, instead of Jesus Christ in you”. You also learn the Christian’s identity in Christ and of your freedom from law through God’s grace. In it, each participant hears how it is possible for them to live in a heart to heart relationship with God by transferring their dependence from themselves to Jesus Christ in them.

The truths shared are intended to minister to 3 basic types of people:

- Those hungry for intimacy with God and who want to mature as a Christian.
- Those struggling to live a successful Christian life.
- Those who are wrestling with emotional struggles, marital difficulties, destructive habitual sins, parenting problems, spiritual strongholds, and more.

The conference will be held on the Mission Campus with founder and president of Grace Life International, Mark Maulding, as main speaker. The cost is \$50 for a new attendee, \$10 per alumni with fees due by March 7th (\$5 additional after March 7th). Scholarships are available. Brochures are available on table in church lobby. Contact church office for more information or visit their website at www.gracelifeinternational.com.

Community Mission Opportunities



There is an immediate, and will be an ongoing need, for firewood at the West Stanly Christian Ministries. Their primary source of heat is a large wood furnace. Smaller limbs can be cut in 4ft lengths, just keep in mind the ladies that work there load the furnace. If you have any type of wood to burn, green or dry, it would be greatly appreciated. They can also take donations of log lengths in hopes we can get volunteers to cut and split the wood if needed. Please respond to Patsy Street at 704-888-6406, Mon-Thur 9am-4pm or Sat. 9am-12pm. You can also contact Reggie Simpson at 704-485-8342.

West Oakboro Baptist of Oakboro, and Euto Baptist of New Salem are combining efforts to help the family of Waylon Mills. Waylon had been unable to work for over a year with a medical condition that has still not been diagnosed. He has been to many specialists and is currently going to see a specialist in Florida who is running tests trying to find out why he continues to lose weight, and have severe balance problems. Waylon and his wife have a 3 year old child. The wife is recently unemployed and medical bills continue to mount. **There is a spaghetti supper planned for Saturday, March 13th, with gospel singing by the Hatley Family, at Euto Baptist Church from 5pm-8pm.** The church is located across from New Salem school on Hwy. 205. The minimum donation requested is \$8 per person, checks made payable to West Oakboro Baptist Church. Please come out and help this family if you can. If you would like to just send a donation, see or call Reggie Simpson 704-485-8342.

Fellowship Club



The Fellowship Club will meet on Monday, March 8th at 11:30 am. The meal will be Arby's Roast Beef sandwiches so bring your favorite side or dessert. Stephan Almond will present a musical program following lunch. Don't miss this time of food and fellowship!

Sunday Worship Times

Praise and Worship:
8:30am and 11:00am
(worship care provided for
infants through age 3)

Mission @ Stanfield 10:00am

Bible Study for all ages: 9:45am
(Mission Campus)

The Mission Messenger

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Grace Life Conference
March 21-23, 2010

Sunday 4-7:30pm
(dinner included)
Monday & Tuesday 7-9pm



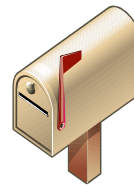
MEMORIALS

LAFOLLETTE BUILD PROJECT

IN MEMORY OF RANDALL GRUBBS BY:
MR. & MRS. JIM SCAFFE

HAITI RELIEF FUND

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES BURRIS BY:
MRS. TAMMY HARWOOD, MRS. LUCILLE BURRIS



Letters of Note...

The family of Jan Smith acknowledges with deep appreciation your kind expression of sympathy. Thank you for the flower you sent in honor of our mother and grandmother. Your thoughts and prayers have been felt throughout our family. *The Family of Jan Smith*

Dear Church, Thank you so much for the flowers, cards, food, visits, calls, and prayers during the recent death of my father. Thanks and God bless, *The Leonard Barringer Family*

Kindergarten Registration Night at Ridgecrest

Monday, March 29 at 6:30pm

If you have a child or know of a child that will be 5 years old before August 31, 2010, please call the school office at 704-485-3825 and give them the child's name.

March 7-14 is the week of prayer for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The theme is "Live with Urgency: Share God's Transforming Power". Prayer guides will be available during the week of March 7th.



Help!

Many of have seen some of the short teaching videos by Rob Bell called **Nooma**. These short yet powerful teaching videos have had a great impact on many at Mission. If you happen to have any of these videos, please return them to the office as soon as possible. We have a new small group starting at the Stanfield Campus that will be watching the entire series. If you have borrowed one to use in a group, please double check and make sure you turned it back in. Thanks for your help!!

Children's Camp Registration Fees of \$105 are due by
Wednesday, March 24th.

(Remainder of cost is paid for by the church)
This is for both boys and girls camps.

Journey to the Cross



We read the account in the Bible of Jesus death and burial, we hear sermons preached on the pain and suffering that Jesus experienced for us. However, in our busy and chaotic lives, we rarely slow down long enough to truly reflect and allow to sink into us just the price that was paid by Jesus for us.

On Sunday and Monday, March 28 & 29, the Mission Campus invited you participate in a "Journey to the Cross". It is an opportunity for you and your family to take a walk through Jesus' final hours and reflect, pray, and experience the journey that Jesus took to the cross and beyond.

"Journey to Cross" will be held from 6:00-7:30 pm each evening and will be held in the fellowship hall.

If you have any questions about this event or would like to be a volunteer for the event, please contact Jeremy.

Mission Welcomes New Members

Bryce Currie
4925 Fulton Ct.
Concord, NC 28025

Amber Watson
PO Box 782
Locust, NC 28097

Seth Lambert
20692 Running Crk. Ch. Rd
Locust, NC 28097

Steven and LouAnne Lucas
309 Old Hickory Rd.
Locust, NC 28097




CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:
Joining families in TRAINING
their children to be followers
of Jesus Christ

Opportunities for children & their families:

March 19 – Easter Fellowship  1st – 6th Children from 6 to 7:30

March 21 – Preschooler Egg Hunt from 1:30 to 3:00 

 March 28 – Palm Sunday & Children's Day

April 18 - Parent/Child Dedication – Sign up soon 

 July 11 – 15 Journey to Jerusalem 

July 26 -30 Summer  Camp for 3rd-6th boys & 4th -6th girls
 Forms available in preschool lobby area

March Calendar for Worship Care

Hostesses: Mar. 7, Volunteer Needed; Mar. 14, Shelly Hyde; Mar. 21, Tammy Joyner; Mar. 28, Misty Broadway
8:30 Babies and Ones: Mar. 7, Paulette Harris, Alice Hatley; Mar. 14, Melissa Eudy, Candice Mullins; Mar. 21, Cami Yost, Wesley Joyner; Mar. 28, Roxanne Hiott, Wendy Tucker
8:30 Twos and Threes: Mar. 7, Eddie Harris, Dwight Hatley; Mar. 14, Clint Eudy, Andrea Efird; Mar. 21, Dewayne Eudy, Michael Sides; Mar. 28, Shelley Hancock, Greg Tucker
11:00: Mar. 7, Pam Grant, Connie Trowbridge, Bobby Barbee; Mar. 14, Tom Moore, Reba Tucker; Mar. 21, Danny Harwood, Debbie Green; Mar. 28, Barbara Lowder, Jim Lowder



Students meet every
Sunday morning
 in the Café,
9:45am-10:45am
 for breakfast,
 fellowship, games, and
 Bible study.

Students meet on
Wednesdays
6:30pm-8:15pm
 For a time of
Fun, fellowship

 **Charlotte Bobcats**
Faith & Family Night
March 12, 2010
Charlotte Vs. LA Clippers
Family Force 5 Concert to follow
Bus will leave at 5:00pm

There is a 7-8 grade guys small group that meets at Pastor Gerald's house once a month on Sunday from 5-8pm. If you would like more info on this group please contact Gerald.

Caswell August 2-6, 2010
Total Cost for week \$310
(includes all 13 meals)
Deposit of \$200 due on or before
MARCH 28TH!
7 Chaperones (24 or older) needed.

48 Hour Mission Trip
 Lafollette Build Project
 Coming up during Spring break!
 This is one of 4 mission projects that will be a prerequisite to the international trip planned for summer of 2011.

March Breakfast List
 March 7: Adam Cartagena, Madison & Tanner Inman
 March 14: Gerald Weideman, Leighton & Logan Dry
 March 21: Cody Yandle, Crystal & Thomas Childers
 March 28: Anissa & Marissa Huneycutt, Courtney Grant