

June, 2005

Focusing on Church Health and Growth

Sometimes when I leave meetings with churches and their leadership, I find my heart yearning to be back pastoring a local church. This desire stems from a firm belief that the local church is God's chosen vessel for expanding the Kingdom of God through life change and conversion. He has chosen to use the church to transform lives for eternity. What a privilege to serve as a leader of God's plan for eternity!

The Vision

Every time as I pray, meditate, and journal about this, I always come to see again that God is not calling me to serve Him in a local church at this time. He cannot fulfill His vision on my life to change the world unless I obey Him in leading not just one church, but coaching many churches to become Healthy Churches.

Pastors and Associates – You are a privileged people because you see and interact with the Bride of Christ every week, every day. You are special, honored ones. You are also greatly tested. And, you are greatly challenged to lead God's people into spiritual health as a group of believers.

The Passion

I want you to know that I see your challenges and that is why I exist. God has called the Florida Churches of God to build Healthy Churches that multiply and transform our communities, our state, and our world through Christ. I am compelled to serve you and to help you build healthy churches.

- I want to help our large churches in Florida become larger and healthier churches who transform their communities, filling up buildings as they disciple people into a life-long commitment to Christ. To help them become a model that will coach medium to smaller churches and an instrument to expand the Kingdom of God through planting new congregations.
- I want to help medium churches grow in their influence, health, and size as they more significantly impact their communities for Christ. To develop strategic growth plans and the facilities to accommodate the growth that results. We must assist in the assessment and building of a multiple-team staff approach and then be committed to coaching smaller congregations and planting new congregations.
- I want to help smaller churches overcome the obstacles to growth that have kept them from effectively seeing conversion growth and financial growth. To coach bi-vocational pastors to pursue their calling fully supported so that they can effectively lead their congregations to significant community transformation. To help develop partnerships with these churches that can see cooperative planting efforts become a reality.

The Mission

Mission One K is the vision to be a movement of a thousand healthy churches by the year 2015. This is not limited to the boundaries of Florida or even our nation but is strategically focused on reaching the lost through strong, healthy churches.

To accomplish this we must be committed to:

- Pursue reconciliation so that we are healthier as a team as we grow and learn from each other.
- Pursue called pastors (not career pastors) – those who want be part of the revolution of transforming the culture through seeing conversion and discipleship.
- Rearrange finances, staff and structure, and office location to accomplish what God is compelling us to do.
- Focus my time to be used in accomplishing our vision through coaching churches.

The Commitment

In the coming months and years, you can expect to see me setting a new level of accountability for me, my staff, and whoever works with me. If together we can't produce and coach Florida churches to life and health, then I shouldn't be here and we should get someone who can lead us to accomplish our vision. *The Kingdom of God is too important for my ego to get in the way.*

The Plan

You can expect me to bring Covenants of Health to local congregations who want us to coach them in health and growth. We will coach churches that commit to a level of accountability so they will not repeat past mistakes but grow beyond them.

You can expect new working relationships that allow the state and church to covenant together to expand the Kingdom of God through conversion and spiritual transformation.

We will do whatever it takes to accomplish this vision. Initially, you can expect me to:

- Expend funds – on the things that will reinforce health and growth
- Establish State Staff accountability
- Establish Pastor accountability
- Establish Board accountability and
- Establish Congregational accountability.

Thank you for your support through a tough year for all of us – through hurricanes, changes in office staff, and changes in office location. We are now back in stride.

Thanks to you, we continue to *Change The World...One Church At A Time.*

Your brother,

Greg