



From your Pastor's heart

It is exciting to see our campus filled with worshippers! Over 2,700 have attended Sunday School each Sunday since summer officially ended and our school systems went back in session. Our Wednesday night participation in our LIFE classes, missions organizations, choirs, etc. has been outstanding. It is wonderful to see believers developing into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ!

With the large crowds on Sunday mornings, our parking is becoming a greater challenge. We took an aerial photograph on Sunday, August 15 during the worship service and there were only about ten empty parking spaces on the entire campus and those were across the street! On that day, over 60 cars were in the Charter parking lot taking the shuttle. We believe we can park about 150 cars in the Charter lot so let me encourage you to park in that lot and take the shuttle. Everyone who takes the shuttle frees up a parking space on campus that can be used by guests. There is nothing sadder than to watch a car pull up on campus, circle the parking lot, see no empty spaces, and drive away. We still have room in the worship center so lets make room in the parking lot!

On September 5, we will commission a mission team going to Utah. This is significant because that will be the 50th state that we have done missions in since the inception of the 2010 Vision thus completing our goal of ministry in all 50 states. Praise the Lord!

As we see the conclusion of the 2010 Vision, I am praying that our hearts will be prepared for what God has in store for us in these next five years. On October 3, I will share our mission for the next five years entitled "**Touch the World 2015.**"

To be prepared I hope that you are reading or have read "The Hole in Our Gospel" that we provided for each family. This book gives a vivid picture of our world and the pressing needs. It should open our eyes and hearts to what we as believers need to be doing.

But we also need to keep our eyes on God and get a fresh vision of who He is. ***It is because of who He is that we go where we are called to go.*** To help us get a fresh vision of God, I will begin a sermon series on September 12 entitled "**The Attributes of God.**" How wonderful it will be to learn about the beauty and majesty of God and to be reminded of His mercy, grace, and love!

On September 11, Keith Habermas will celebrate his tenth anniversary as Executive Pastor. I am so thankful for Keith and his abilities to organize, delegate, to work with people, to get things completed, and to effectively lead our staff. Take some time this month and let Keith and Marla know how much you appreciate them and their investment into the life and work of SMBC.

These are great days at SMBC and it is a joy to be your pastor! See you Sunday!