



MINISTRY INITIATIVES

2009

FBC *Vision Statement*

We exist to delight in, display, and declare the glory of God, equipping His people to spread that delight to all nations through Jesus Christ.

FBC ELDERS

Eric Campbell

Steve Correll

Andrew Davis

Ron Halbrooks

Ryan Hutchinson

Chris McKeel

Tim Pyrant

Andy Winn

Dear Church Body,

This is a very exciting time in the life and history of First Baptist Church. Having adopted a new church polity, we are now mobilized for greater kingdom growth and fruit for the glory of God! Even still, there is much work to do. As elders we recognize our biblical responsibility is to pray daily and encourage you in the Scriptures through biblical teaching; however, the Scriptures also compel us to provide leadership for the flock, that we may make progress in our journey with Christ.

To that end, we have prayerfully considered four ministry initiatives for 2009. First, we intend to start an internship program at FBC to prepare young men for a life of fruitful, biblically faithful vocational ministry. Second, we envision the implementation of a biblical counseling ministry. Third, we desire to see progress in local church planting. Fourth, we would like to see every member of the church use his/her spiritual gifts in a regular pattern of ministry connected with FBC.

There are many other areas in our church life we will seek to remain faithful in, including God-honoring corporate worship, Home Fellowships, Bible For Life, ACTS, etc.; however, we hope these four new ministry initiatives for 2009 will provide a much needed stimulus toward progress in the internal and external journeys. Please continue to pray for us as we seek to lead the church in accordance with God's will and in ways that will please Him. It is our joy to serve!

Thankful for you,
The Elders

I. Brief Synopsis

The FBC internship program is intended to prepare young men for a life of fruitful, biblically-faithful vocational ministry. We desire to provide God-called men with biblical training and ministry experience that would further equip them for a life of effective ministry. Due to FBC's proximity and partnership with Southeastern Seminary, an added benefit of the program is that interns would receive credit hours of graduate level seminary training. Under the direction of Andrew Davis, the interns will spend much of their time reading, discussing, and writing papers about ecclesiology, church history, and preaching. They will also contribute to the mission of the church by spending a few hours a week assisting with the various ministry needs.

II. Theological Foundations

By establishing an internship program, FBC would be following the biblical pattern of training up pastors through personal discipleship. Though seminaries play a vital role in equipping individuals for the gospel ministry, they are no substitute for the discipleship, training, and mentoring that a local church can provide. Jesus taught His disciples and then sent them out to teach (Luke 9:1-2). Likewise, Paul trained Timothy to be a pastor and then instructed him to train others—"You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:1-2). The pastors and elders of FBC should likewise be passing on what they have learned to "faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

III. Why FBC?

- *Reputation of FBC Durham.* FBC has a rich history of evangelistic zeal throughout the Durham community and has demonstrated over recent years the importance of doctrinal integrity. Our congregation, in general, is character-

ized by a number of traits (e.g. expositional pulpit ministry, a plurality of elders, willingness to practice church discipline, missional priorities, urban location) that are appealing to many young men who are preparing for vocational ministry.

- *Pastor Andrew Davis.* Our pastor, Dr. Davis, is a fine scholar and preacher, who also has years of experience in church reform and leadership. He is widely known for his commitment to Scripture memorization and is becoming increasingly known for his involvement in The Gospel Coalition.
- *Membership of FBC.* We are blessed with a large number of members equipped to assist with an internship program. We have a number of current or former missionaries, pastors, parachurch ministers, and college/seminary professors at FBC that could greatly contribute to the program by providing a wealth of knowledge and experience.
- *Proximity to SEBTS and other universities.* Due to our proximity with local universities, not only would we have a pool of prospective interns, but the program would also provide a logical springboard for graduates to pursue vocational ministry. Our proximity to Southeastern provides the feasibility of partnering with them to further develop the internship program as well as offer seminary credit.

IV. Goals for FBC in 2009

- *Define FBC's internship program and designate funding (Spring of 2009)*
- *Establish partnership with Southeastern's Equipping Center (Late Spring 2009)*
- *Develop intern curriculum, schedule, and financial assistance (Spring/Summer of 2009)*
- *Recruit first class of interns (Late Spring/ Early Summer of 2009)*
- *Complete first semester-long internship of 2 interns (Fall of 2009)*

I. Brief Synopsis

We envision starting a counseling ministry in 2009 to those active in the body of First Baptist Church Durham. The counseling would be incorporated into our current Wednesday evening ACTS. One-on-one focused training in righteousness would be offered to individuals or couples. Participants would register in advance for counseling by completing a personal data inventory form identifying their problem. Based on their identified issues, a trained counselor or counselors would be assigned to them for the duration of the ACTS semester. The counseling and information provided will be treated confidentially. The sessions would occur on Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. God willing, from this beginning, a nouthetic counseling ministry will grow and produce much fruit at FBC Durham. God's Word instructs us in how we are to display the glory of God. Nouthetic counseling ministry will assist individuals or couples to be made new in the attitude of their minds.

II. Theological Foundations

Ephesians 4:21-24 - "So surely you have heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desire; to be made new in the attitude of your minds and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

Romans 15:14 - "I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another."

Colossians 1:28 - "We proclaim him, admonishing (noutheteō) and teaching, everyone with all wisdom so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ."

To this end Paul labored struggling with all his energy. Therefore, First Baptist Church Durham should labor to this same end with a nouthetic counseling ministry to the church body.

III. Why FBC?

- We have many in our congregation who have been trained by the National Association of Nouthetic Counselors.
- Personally assist members in their Internal Journey to become more like Christ.
- Allows those gifted in counseling to use their spiritual gifts to edify the body.
- Provides an effective resource to those who are entangled in sin to become free of the bondage of sin.
- Provides a structured means for the church to speak the truth in love.
- Assist a husband and wife to reach oneness in their marriage.
- Assist families in leaving a godly legacy.

IV. Goals for FBC in 2009

- *Identify four or five trained counselors who possess goodness and complete knowledge of the Word to nouthetically instruct individuals or couples*
- *Provide four equipped rooms for counseling on Wednesday evenings*
- *Conduct four counseling sessions every Wednesday evening*
- *Encourage individuals to grow spiritually through the trials and challenges they face in life*

I. Brief Synopsis

Church Planting is simply starting new churches. The history of the church from the time of Paul until now shows this is the norm. First Baptist Church from its start in the mid 1800's had this as its norm and 10 churches were planted in its first 50 years.

II. Theological Foundations

God's ultimate purpose is that His glory be spread over the earth (Habakkuk 2:14). This is accomplished by God's kingdom coming into the earth through Jesus Christ (Matthew 6:10, 6:33). The church is the means (agent, organization, or tool) through which God has chosen to advance his Kingdom through the earth to give Himself glory (Ephesians 3:10). The book of Acts and almost all of the epistles of Paul and general epistles make plain that it is the local church and its growth which accomplishes this. It is also clear that these local churches grow through starting and nurturing new churches (Acts 15:29, 16:5).

III. Why FBC?

- It is the one of the two New Testament means of evangelism (other is new believers come to the mother church).
- It gives the mother church joy as it sees new believers come to faith (Luke 15).
- It challenges the mother church to address every issue the church must address, which if left alone may not or would often not address, lostness, doctrine, theology, how to start structure, leadership development, etc.
- It challenges the mother church out of complacency and selfishness.
- It challenges the mother church to see in its community what is lostness and where it is located within its community.
- It challenges the mother church after it learns the local skills of local church planting to how they can use them with more skill in cross cultural means.

IV. Goals for FBC in 2009

- *Pray that the whole church gains a vision for church planting*
- *Pray that God will raise up a team of people within FBC Durham with a heart for church planting*
- *Pray that God will show exactly where to plant a church*
- *Begin equipping a team to plant a church*
- *Plant a church in 2009*
- *Work toward developing CPM's (Church Planting Movement's)*

I. A Focus for Elder Ministry--2009

Premise: That the elders make it a focus in prayer and active shepherding ministry to ensure that every member of FBC use his/her spiritual gifts in a regular pattern of ministry connected with FBC.

II. Theological Foundations

The doctrine of the interconnected Body of Christ and of Spiritual Gifts is taught clearly in three main places: Romans 12:1-8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-31, and Ephesians 4:7-16. The summation of these passages is this: 1) the Church of Jesus Christ is like a human body, with various parts that have different functions; 2) every individual member of the Body of Christ is specially gifted by God to play a vital role; 3) these spiritual gifts are essential to the final maturity of the Body of Christ; individual Christians nor the Body of Christ corporately cannot reach full maturity without the exercise of these gifts.

III. Why FBC ? - Practical Issues

- *The “80-20 Rule”:* This focus will seek to defeat the pattern known to so many churches of the “80-20 Rule”: i.e. 80% of the ministry is done by 20% of the members. The harm of this is to both the Body as a whole and to the individual members in it: the Body (FBC) is able to do less ministry overall, and individual members miss out on the blessings of active service (such as sanctification growth and rewards given on Judgment Day). Members at FBC in particular need to 1) be educated in available ministries; 2) be challenged to develop an eternal perspective in the use of their time; 3) be held accountable to develop an ongoing pattern of ministry over the years. Further, we need to be sure the ministries are strategic and eternally fruitful, not merely “church work.”

- *The Elders' Role in Priming the Pump:* According to Ephesians 4:11-16, as the word of God is faithfully taught, God's people are prepared for works of service, and when those works of service are done, the Body of Christ is built up to maturity in Christ "as each part does its work." So elders need to be teaching the word of God faithfully and comprehensively, especially in the area of spiritual gift ministry.
- *Identify Gifts:* Each member should be encouraged and equipped to identify his/her spiritual gifts based on passages, such as Romans 12:1-8, that teach how us do this.
- *Develop Gifts:* In the spirit of Paul's exhortations to Timothy to "fan (his) gifts into a flame" (2 Timothy 1:6) and "not neglect the spiritual gift" within him but to "make progress" (1 Timothy 4:14-15) each member should be trained and exhorted in how to develop their gifts.
- *Use Gifts:* Elders should work with individual members to fit their gift package (their particular array of spiritual gifts) into existing or developing ministries (Romans 12:5-8). Members should be held accountable to do their ministries faithfully. Elders should streamline ministries of the church and focus the membership strategically.
- *Home Fellowships:* I would especially urge that Home Fellowships be a major focus for the members to use their gifts.

IV. Goals for FBC in 2009

- *The elders will identify the existing avenues of spiritual gift ministry presently connected with the church and present patterns of ministry service*
- *The teaching ministries of the church will emphasize Every Member Ministry" in Sunday morning sermons, Bible for Life classes, ACTS classes, and Home Fellowships*
- *The elders and deacons will seek to assign and assimilate as many members as needed to each ministry team*
- *The North Tower Resource Center will make practical ministry books available and advertise them on Sunday mornings in appropriate ways*

FBC **Core Values**

The Glory of God

Love for God and others

Christ's death and resurrection, and Lordship

Scripture as perfect and sufficient

Progressive sanctification in holiness

Progressive disciple-making in evangelism and missions

Body life in Spirit-filled families and church



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