

Strengthened & Built Up

Monthly Musings from Pastor Greg

You've prayed. In fact, you have prayed about this for years. You have asked God to allow the church to impact the city with the gospel. You long to see people converted, baptized, and discipled. And then, suddenly, unexpectedly things begin happening. People are turning from their rebellion toward God as they embrace the gift of His grace found in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Baptismal waters are being stirred week after week. People's lives are being dramatically changed, marriages are being mended and flourishing, homes are being restored. Worshipping and serving God is a joy and sacrificing for the sake of the gospel is a privilege.

You've prayed. Fruit is being produced. The church is overflowing with people. Yet you are deeply disturbed. Why? God answered your prayers! The city is being impacted by the gospel! But, all this is happening, NOT at your church, but rather at the church across the street. Your church remains the same. How do you feel? What are you thinking?

If it is about the Church and not my church, we might struggle a little but we will rejoice and praise God. If it is about my church and not the Church, well I think you know.

Is it a carnal thing to desire numerical along with spiritual growth? Not necessarily. Yet our depravity will always pull us toward the vortex of self-centeredness and pride. One way to counteract this natural tendency is by praying for God's blessing upon other churches. Beginning this Sunday, the pastoral prayer will include supplication for a sister church in the area. Kennedale needs the *message* of the gospel. The *means* God uses is His sovereign choice. May our Lord help CLBC to be a church that desires gospel growth within and beyond our local church assembly.

Blessings as you prepare for worship this Lord's Day,

Pastor Greg