



THE VISION THAT WILL LEAD US TO VICTORY

We have chosen *“Setting Up a Pillar of Service”* for our present *Capital Stewardship Campaign* because we wanted to emphasize its *real spiritual purpose*. Our focus is not merely to raise substantial financial resources among our families over the next three years above and beyond our regular weekly giving. Although these funds will be used to help finance the expansion and improvement of our facilities and parking area, whatever we are able to build will be only a physical means to a spiritual end. *This campaign is primarily about providing an adequate place for God’s household—the church of Christ, to offer heartfelt worship, to be built up in the most holy faith by the Word of His grace, to share it with the lost so that they can come to know the Jesus we love, and to meet the physical needs of the saved and the unsaved—in other words “setting up a pillar of service!”* “Over thirty years ago a small band of faith-filled brethren sacrificed to set up the first pillar of service at our location on Lake Harbour Drive in the center of Ridgeland and at the cross-roads of the tri-county area of greater north Jackson. *Due to the present and potential growth of the congregation, the time has come that we must move forward in faith once more to expand and improve it for the future.*



The idea for this challenging spiritual agenda to *“Set Up A Pillar of Service”* was inspired from a unique event in the life of the patriarch Jacob found in *Genesis 28:10-22*. Jacob

dreamed he saw a ladder set up on the earth with the top of it reaching into heaven, and God’s angels ascending and descending on it. He saw the Lord standing above it restating the promise that had been given to his father Abraham that from his offspring all the families of the earth would be blessed. Early the next morning, Jacob’s awareness of God’s awesomeness caused him to do three profound things. *First*, he took the stone that he had used as a pillow and set it up for a pillar and poured oil over it. *Second*, he called the name of that place *“Bethel,”* which means *“house of God.”*

Finally, he vowed, *“of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you.”* These actions were designed to memorialize this holy site as the place where Jacob had met the living God and to retain it in his memory as the occasion on which he made a deep and lasting commitment to the Lord who had touched his life.

Because God has touched our lives, we are trusting him in one of the worst economic times in the history of our nation to graciously and generously work through us to provide the largest contribution in the history of the Lake Harbour church of Christ so that we can set up a pillar of service to his glory. We are God’s pillared people seeking to serve Him so that one day this promise of Jesus: *“I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God” (Rev. 3:12)*, will be fully realized. *It is this vision that will lead us to victory!*

John Pigg

IMPORTANT DATES

Q&A Distributed - March 8th

Awareness Gathering - April 5th

40 Days of Prayer begins - April 7th

Stewardship Class begins - April 19th

Leadership Response Event - May 6th

24-Hr. Prayer Marathon begins - May 8th

Commitment Sunday - May 17th

Celebration and First Fruits - May 31st

Begin 36 months of giving - June 7th

MY QUESTION.. WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE WE DOING?

Here we are, a relatively small congregation, with a relatively small church budget, in a relatively comfortable building, doing what we can to serve our Lord. Yet, we are professing the audacity to think we can initiate a campaign to raise a relatively large sum of money to improve our facility. This is all being done as we each face in our own personal and collective ways the tremendous challenges before the entire world at this particular moment in history. Again I ask...What in the World are We Doing?

Well, I wish I had a list of good honest answers, but I don't. I only have one. I truly believe with all my heart that this is God's will for this church family at this point in our history.

Why do I believe this? I believe that when we look upon our near past, we can remember a church of unity and friendship that God took and severed. A portion was planted elsewhere to root and grow and shade a new community with His Word, and it does grow. He then took the wound that remained and healed it quickly with those from outside the original body who were seeking a renewed personal walk in Christ. Now the current is stronger than the former and the new is growing on its own. Who of us would have fashioned it this way...not I.

In Judges 7, God shows us once more that He often requires the elimination of the "relatively easy" and reduces it to the "seemingly impossible" for one specific reason...to keep us from the pride and arrogance of self sufficiency. Here in these verses we find Gideon with an army of 32,000. God said it was too many and reduced it to 10,000. He again said it was too large and reduced it to only 300. Then came the victory. God did not ask for or need them all. He did not need even a third. He needed less than 1%.

Perhaps with this in mind, our first and most important question should be a personal question. Instead of our question beginning with why, or what, or how...perhaps it should begin with "am." Am I one percent of God's will? If the answer is yes for each one of us, then we as a unified family of brothers and sisters in Christ will follow God to the whole victory.

The elders at Lake Harbour Drive church of Christ have prayed, reviewed, studied, prayed even more, and made what we believe is a decision based on God's will for our family. We believe that the words of Revelation 3:8-12 are as relevant today, to us, as they were to the church at Philadelphia some two millennia ago. Christ professed that He "knew their works...set before them an open door...and to them that overcame...made a pillar in the temple of God."

May the Lord bless and keep each one of you, this church family, and may His will be done.

On Behalf of the Eldership
Morris Houston