



Monday Morning Missive

“I had a dream....” With those words, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. changed the world. I can’t tell you how many times I have listened to that speech or how many times I have read it. And with all that he had to say, the part that has burrowed its way deep into my heart is this: “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.” I have to tell you that I join in that dream because I know that the only way to heal the racial divide in this great nation is when we as a people consider what is in the hearts of others instead of judging them by their skin color. If you think about it, you could change the color of their skin to the size of their waist or the beauty of their face or just about any basis upon which we judge others. That is what Jesus did when he commented on the centurion’s faith in Matthew 8. He was a hated enemy of the Jews, but all our Lord saw was what was in his heart. Whether you appreciate the legacy of Dr. King, realizing that he was a flawed human being like the rest of us, or not, his call to end racism echoes the heart of Jesus.

We had a great day yesterday at First Baptist. What a great spirit as we joined our hearts together for worship and celebration. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make our ordination service a great event. We are blessed not only by a great ministerial staff but also by so many willing volunteers who so often work behind the scenes without recognition. As I said yesterday, we are part of the greatest church in the whole United States.

As we look to the future, there is still lots going on around here. Next Sunday evening is our regular quarterly business meeting. I love that we start at 5 p.m. with a potluck supper and then take care of our business like a family. We have several “big” items of business that we will be dealing with. First, we will be voting on our new Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws that we have been discussing for the past year. The Missions Committee has finalized their updated policy, and we will be voting on it. And we will be voting on our new Ministry Safe child protection policy. All of these can be found on the website at www.fbcdadeville.com/news. If you need a hard copy, come by the church office and Glinda will be glad to print one for you.

I think I mentioned this last week, but I want to make sure that you are aware that your Strategic Planning Team is continuing to work through the Field Guide that we received from Visioneering Studios. We have been prayerfully working through this process, for several months now, and we are

asking that you please pray that we have the wisdom to make the right recommendations based on this information. Bro. Billy and the rest of the team are committed to present to you what we believe is God's plan for our church, and our goal is to bring to you our report and recommendations in the next few weeks so that you can begin praying even more specifically about where God is leading our church in the years to come.

I want to clarify one issue concerning the house on the corner that we purchased last year. I feel badly because there has been some misinformation about what we are going to do with it. First, let me say that until the church approves a plan for the use of that property, nothing will change. When the house is vacated, our building committee and others will evaluate the condition of the house to see what kind of condition it is in – in other words, we don't know whether or not it is feasible to be used as is. We want to be good stewards of what God has blessed us with, and that means being sure that we get the highest use of the property in the most cost-effective manner. My personal hope is that we will be able to use the house for educational space because that is a priority need, but that is only my preference. Once we are able to determine what is a good plan, we will bring it before the church, and all of us will make that decision. That's what I love about being a Southern Baptist. We work together for the purpose of glorifying God through every decision we make.

As I have prayed this morning, I have asked the Father to bless you with love, grace, peace, and rest. May you know the joy of walking in His presence today.

Bro. Ben