



Until the Whole World Hears

BUILDING PROGRAM LEADS TO A TITHE TO MISSIONS

by Don Cockes, Church Health Strategist, Southeast Region



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"It all started with God speaking to my heart through a sermon on spiritual warfare," says Stewart McCarter, pastor of Southside Baptist Church in Suffolk. "God's Word says, 'The earth is the Lord's,' and I realized that we must send missionaries to take back for God what is rightfully His. I believe the Holy Spirit pointed out to me that missionaries were being prevented from going because Christians had spent the funding needed on themselves rather than on missions." The congregation was in the planning stages of a much-needed building addition. Due to space constraints in the current building, Southside holds three worship services and three Sunday School sessions each Sunday morning.

Pastor Stewart shared with the church what the Lord had laid on his heart—how the building program could be used to invest in sending missionaries. He suggested that 10% of every monetary gift to the building program go directly to Southern Baptist missions. In other words, the church would tithe from its building program. The congregation enthusiastically embraced this missions-integrated approach. In fact, the campaign to raise the

necessary \$5 million for the new building was aptly named, **"Until the Whole World Hears."**

Church members are making sacrificial gifts to make

this vision a reality. One told the pastor he plans to tithe from his disability check, and another plans to sell prized collectibles and give the money to the program. One family was surprised to receive twice the market value for a sale of timber and will give the excess funds to the capital campaign. The building program includes training in missions and has energized the people to both give and go. Southside hopes to break ground near the end of 2010. The tithed building contributions are estimated at close to \$500,000.

Several years ago, Southside Baptist Church embraced a new mission statement that is an acronym from the church's initials:

- S**urrender to His Lordship
- B**ecome His Disciple
- C**arry His Message

For the SBC family, adding a future building has become an opportunity both to live out their mission statement and to impact missionary work. Pastor Stewart put it this way: "Building a needed building should not be about us. It should be about taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth, until the whole world hears."

RESOURCE

■ Websites:

www.southsidebaptistsuffolk.com
www.sbcv.org/maturing

■ SBCV Contact:

Call 888-234-7716 for details from your region's missionary.

■ Consider:

Is your church investing in the sending of missionaries?



drawing of proposed new church building

