

Director of Missions Report



This past year has seen several changes as we move forward in fulfilling our mission to assist one another in the fulfilling of God's Great Commission. Our focus as an association this year has been to develop our mission partnerships. We have seen our NE Italy partnership grow with three trips this year representing seven churches. At the same time we have begun a new partnership in Alberta Province Canada, taking a mission team and a vision team this summer representing nine churches with others planning trips in the new year. We believe that healthy churches focus on taking the gospel to those that have never heard. By God's grace we are seeing more of our churches engaging in this vital task!

Our partnership in missions with the Charleston Baptist Association (CBA) was expanded and formalized this year as the CGBA and the CBA voted to share associational leadership. This partnership has financially enabled us to bring Roger Graham on full time while also seeing more volunteers and churches participate in the shared ministries of partnership missions, church planting, church revitalization, and the Baptist Collegiate Ministries. In addition to an increased number of people and churches partnering with us, the CBA recently voted at their annual meeting to include the Church Planting Center and Church Revitalization Team in their new annual budget beginning October 2018. After a short six months of our shared leadership agreement, we are already seeing early fruits from our combined efforts to be faithful stewards of God's resources!

For many of our churches this has been a trying year as they have found themselves without pastoral leadership. In spite of our numerous preachers available for pulpit supply, we have been short on trained men who can serve as interim or bivocational pastors. To meet the need we are continuing to offer our Bible Training Center for Pastors/Leaders and have started a new group at Fruitland Community Church this Fall. These groups are open to men and women from all our churches and we encourage you to consider recruiting people to attend the training, especially men who might serve one day as a pastor of one of our churches. To help in this recruiting process we voted at our April Executive Board meeting to create a book entitled "Why not me?" to give to men that may not have ever thought about pastoring but should. This book is written and edited and awaiting publication which should be in the next 30 days. It contains the stories of eight bivocational pastors in our association to show the variety of people and circumstances that God uses to pastor His churches. We will be sending out a few books to each church for this use as soon as we have printed copies.

It is a great privilege to serve as your Director of Missions. Thank you for your continued support and partnership!

For the Glory of God,
John Vernon
Director of Missions