



On the Edge

July 11, 2008

*“Enlarge the place of your tent, and let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; do not spare; lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes.”
Isaiah 54:2-3*

Precious Church Family,

All through the month of June we looked at this Scripture in Isaiah 54 and how the Lord was preparing the Children of Israel to return from their captivity in Babylon back to the Promised Land. This passage has terrific relevance to where we are as His people and how God is preparing us for an exciting future as we reach new people for Christ. The main word I would like to share with you is "**preparation.**" Often, even in the Christian Church, we "fly by the seat of our pants" in God's mission instead of carefully listening and preparing the way for the Lord's blessings. River's Edge needs to be preparing for the great opportunities that the Lord has in store. Our mission is to impact the world with the love of Jesus Christ. God has certainly blessed us over the 3 years we have been together. Our size has doubled since the beginning, we have seen new families continually come into the fellowship, we have a children's ministry, missions ministry, music ministry, apologetics ministry, and prayer ministry that are all truly amazing. Best of all, there is a real sense of community among the church body. These things could only happen by the hand of God and no one else! **What now? What else would our Lord have us to do to fulfill His mission?** I would like to mention two things from my letter in June to keep in mind as we proceed through the summer months. **First**, continue to move forward in the ministries God is blessing, and **second**, get ready to enlarge our physical tent of ministry by preparing to lease the entire building at 4280 Brogdon Exchange. Remember that through July we will receive the "**Enlarge Your Tents**" **commitment cards**. To remind you, these cards are merely a tool to get us thinking as a family about where we need to be in our stewardship before we lease the entire building. Please don't look at them in any other way but as a prayerful encouragement for all of us to do our best! We will expand in God's timing and in His

ways. River's Edge has always been about God's Glory and not our own! As the Lord leads you, place your commitment card in the wooden chest on the communion table. In August, we will stand amazed at how the Lord has worked in the congregation and give a report to the church family. Remember, only our financial assistant will look at the cards for the numbers only, not the names. Then the cards will be destroyed. The point is to get us praying and thinking! We will let God do the rest! I am excited about how our Lord is going to use us to reach people in our area. It's a terrific day to be a believer!

Vacation Bible School at River's Edge begins on **Monday, July 21st at 6:30 pm**. Thanks to all of you who are helping teach and work through this week. Thank you to everyone who has come out to place door hangers in the neighborhoods surrounding us. A special thanks to Margie Linnell who is our VBS director. I have already heard from new families who are excited to meet us during the **Outrigger Island Vacation Bible School**. Keep praying and come help us the next two Sundays as we do outreach and get the building and grounds ready for VBS. Just think of how many new families can hear about the love of Jesus during our VBS week!

Summertime Wednesdays continue next Wednesday night as we jump into a new Ray Vander Laan series called, "**The Death and Resurrection of the Messiah.**" We had a terrific attendance and learning time with the first series that ended last week. This one will be even better. Don't miss the teaching times through August 20th.

Awana will be beginning on **Wednesday, August 27th**. We will be offering a new class this year for our preschoolers called "**Puggles.**" If you would like to be a part of our Awana team of leaders, please contact Commander Doug Linnell and let him know you would like to serve. There will be a special **leadership training event on Saturday, August 23, 2008, at Hebron Baptist Church in Dacula**. We want to take **all** of our leaders to this event. Let Doug know if you can participate.

The Guatemala Mission Team is meeting and preparing for the October trip to build a security wall and minister among the people and missionaries. Thanks to everyone who has helped to financially ready our group. We desperately need you to pray for the team and our friends in Guatemala City who are undergoing persecution for their faith and ministry. God is doing a great work there and among us here. **The next team meeting will be Sunday, July 27th at 2:30 pm.**

I began a new sermon series last Sunday called, "**Following the Good Shepherd.**" This is a verse by verse study of John 10. I look forward to many of our folks being home

from vacation this week and the sweet learning and fellowship times we will have. Please pray for me as I prepare to share God's Word this Sunday!

I love you all!

Pastor Stephen