

Dear Board, Board Teams, and Friends of Vision Ventures,

In less than a week Trish and I will be leading a group of 13 people on a fantastic tour of the cities found on Paul's second and third missionary journeys. Jim and Lynn McCallie, as well as Elizabeth Gressette will be going with us, representing Vision Ventures. In the future we hope that many of you will also be able to participate in some of the trips and events sponsored by Vision Ventures.

Before leaving town I wanted to give you an update on some of the recent events that have taken place in the ministry of Vision Ventures. This past Monday was launch day for the Pastors Coaching Network. We began with five pastors / churches being coached by PCN pastors who have been trained by us. We also have another five leaders who began the Coach Training Track. This actually represents a new development for PCN. We had only planned to train pastors, but I had several Directors of Missions ask if they could participate in the training. We are blessed to have these men. They are some of our finest, most progressive leaders in our state, and they are very excited about the potential of the PCN.

Some recent comments from the pastors who are coaching through PCN will give you additional insight into what has already begun to happen:

"Coaching has taken my personal mentoring ministry to a new level. Instead of scratching my head on how to help a fellow pastor, coaching allows me to help a pastor to discover the answer for himself. Coaching has radically changed my relationship with my grown children." Don Brock, Gateway Baptist

"As I learn better the dynamics of coaching, I am experiencing a personal transformation and am becoming a more sensitive pastor, a more understanding husband and a more supportive dad." Carl Martin, East Pickens Baptist

"I am really glad to be working with Steve Cloud and the Pastor's Coaching Network to learn how to coach. I believe coaching is a wonderful mix of counseling and accountability that will help you help the people around you. I also believe it will help you establish and reach goals that will please and honor God in His purpose for you."

Dick Lincoln, Shandon Baptist

I have been spending a great deal of time developing the materials we are using to train coaches in the Pastors Coaching Network. We are more convinced than ever of the tremendous need and potential for the Pastors Coaching Network. It is taking more time than I had anticipated to explain this new ministry to pastors but we are finding a growing number of leaders who are highly optimistic about the tremendous impact PCN will have in the days to come. We are still on track to have 30 to 40 churches in the PCN when we start with our second group in August.

Trish and Jim McCallie have both been busy helping to complete the PCN Coaching Notebooks, setting up the book-keeping and office systems for our ministry and preparing many of the foundational details that are so essential for a growing ministry.

The next major event on our calendar includes the Coach Training Workshop scheduled at White Oak for March 27-29. Master Trainer Tony

Stoltzfus will be leading the Training Workshop. On April 24th Dr. Ken Hemphill will be the key note speaker for a one-day training event held here in Columbia. Our dear friend Ken Smith will join us in speaking at a singles week-end at the Hilton Head Tennis and Beach Resort May 26-29.

Many of you know that I have been looking forward to being a grandfather for a number of years. What you may not have heard is that **both** of my girls are pregnant! Stephanie is due April 16th and Stacie is due Sept. 16th. We are thrilled!

Thank-you for your prayers, words of encouragement and financial support. We are able to develop this much needed ministry because of your prayers and support. We appreciate your confidence in us more than we can adequately express and your participating with us for Kingdom advancement.