



*Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church  
Cumming, Georgia  
Established 1881*

## **March 2009 Pastor Randy Richards** *Sunday School 9:45 ~ Worship Service 11:00*

We live in a big world and are living in a time of “largeness”. Most people have bought into the idea that more is better. Fast Food and sit-down restaurants have dived into this way of marketing. Many dining places now have larger portions and offer something like a 2 for \$20 special which not only includes 2 entrée’s but also usually an appetizer and/or a dessert. Fast Food places for years now have enticed us into “up-sizing” their “value” meals to large or even jumbo-size. Many times people will choose a restaurant that offers larger portions even if the quality of food is a little less. Why? If people are going to spend money to eat out, then they want to get their money’s worth. There are some that might prefer taste over size, but many prefer simply goodness and largeness.

What about the local church? I have thought a great deal about the size of our churches today. Is large always better? Look around us, there seem to be more “mega” churches that are being built than smaller ones. These churches have huge numbers in attendance. Why are they growing at a tremendous rate, while the smaller churches seem to be either getting smaller or just holding their own? Don’t misunderstand me! There is nothing wrong with a large church or church growth! It’s every pastor’s dream to have a packed house with people having trouble finding a seat. I understand that some go to these churches because, for whatever reason, they feel more comfortable with being one among the multitude. Others may attend because they feel like they can dress more casually. Like in all churches, there are those that show up just to be seen or to socialize. The thought or question, I want to address and consider this question: **Is God blessing the bigger church more than he is the smaller church?** When we hear about the attendance and growth of these “mega” churches, we might start thinking that we wish our church was that large. The large Church that is growing is admirable if the main goal is to see many souls won to Christ. However, some people seem to think that “bigger is better” not because they are seeing more people saved, but rather because they think a larger church offers more activities, increases their popularity, and somehow better shows that they are a Christian. The New Testament *never* said that we must have big local churches. Again, huge churches have always existed including during New Testament times (Acts 2:41). However, a church can please God, without being extremely large in number, but by being extremely large in other ways. Consider the following four ways which any size church should be large in. **(1) Any church should be large in faith and extremely faithful to the Scripture.** Like the early church, we must “continue steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine...” (Acts 2:42) What makes a church a church is not its size, but it is the commitment to strive to live by the Bible. To be honest, there are churches that have grown large in number because they have not been committed to Scripture or to the gospel of Jesus Christ. It would be very foolish to want what they have. **(2) Any Church should be large in Love!** John writes, “Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.” (1 John 4:11) You may never be the largest church in town, but we should try hard to be to most loving. We sometimes mistakenly think that the big Church is the one that has the most impact. Sometimes, it could be the smallest church with the greater impact—the one that is largest in showing a sacrificial, Christ-like love. **(3) Any Church should be large in Evangelism.** Jesus said, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark: 16:15) This applies for every church, big and small. Big events at a large church building are not required to evangelize and to spread the Word. God just needs a few good men and women to be disciples and not be ashamed to tell others that the Gospel “is the power of God unto Salvation...”! (Rom.1:16)

**(4) Any Church should be extremely large in their dependence upon God.** Without God, the church can do or be nothing except a social club. It doesn’t matter how full of a calendar or how many activities a church may have. Without a humble, prayerful dependence on the Lord, all is in vain. However, when we rely upon an almighty God, the church, gets what we need, and God gets all the Glory!

Large or small, the Church has a clear purpose and mission. While every church has areas it can improve upon, I am so thankful and blessed to have had the privilege of serving as the pastor of a church who has been large in its faith, love, dependence upon God, and has always had a great desire to spread the gospel and see people saved!

God bless each of you and as always pray for revival, the sick, the lost, and one another!

In Christ’s Love,  
Randy