



WORDS FROM
Pastor Randy

"Many churches die simply because they do not expect to grow. They have no vision. They do not plan to grow because they have no intention of growing and no desire to grow. No church will grow until it desires to grow, plans to grow, and intends to grow." Those words are from **Dr. Larry Lewis**, the former president of the "Home Mission Board" of the Southern Baptist Convention. They are a reminder of the greatest strategies for church growth: Vision & hard work.

Do we really believe that God wants our church to grow in 2010? I'm confident that He wants it much more than we do. It's easy to settle for far too less and get satisfied with status quo.

The fact is: **it's much easier for a church to die than it is to grow**. With about 80% of our churches in decline, growth has become the exception rather than the rule. Growing takes time, energy, money . . . blood, sweat, and tears!

No church ever grew that didn't want to! It always happens on purpose and as a result of the consecrated efforts of its staff and its people.

Are we able to see? *"Where there is no vision, the people perish"* (Pro. 29:18). Can you *see* our congregation baptizing someone every Sunday in 2010? Can you *see* your Sunday School class doubling in attendance this next year? Can you *see* your church going on mission trips to actually do missions? Can you *see* our sanctuary filled to capacity? Can you *see* . . . Can you *see* . . .

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Never let it rest

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And the better is best!

If we are satisfied, well then . . . I guess no more needs to be said.

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