



## Positive words of encouragement from the members of Pelham Road Baptist Church



December 2011

# POSITIVELY

## PELHAM ROAD

While we were in Italy, we took a tour through the ruins at Pompeii with a Ph.D. in archeology. Over lunch she asked me what I did for a living. I told her I was a minister. Her eyes widened and she said, "From America." I answered, "yes." Her response was, "It's an honor to join you today. Of which department are you a minister?" Her widened eyes and reaction told me she thought I was a minister of defense or minister of the interior, not a minister of the gospel. In Europe what we call the secretary of defense, they call the minister of defense. Knowing she misunderstood, and further knowing she was Catholic, I tried to remedy the misunderstanding by saying I was a priest. This corrected the case of mistaken identity; she now knew I served God and the church but now I had to explain how I was married to Jo Ann.

Words have different meanings in different places. Words after a while lose their power and identity. Now that everything is digital, we seldom use the word *analog*. Further the word *missions* during a time of war means operations to take a town or to capture a terrorist. To those in the church *missions* means the act of someone taking God's love to someone who needs it. An orphan child, an immigrant, a terrorist, a starving family in the Sudan, anyone separated from grace and in need of God's presence. But like *minister* and *priest*, *missions* means different things to different people. To some Christians *missions* is what is done to tell people about Jesus. For other Christians it is what is done to show people Jesus. For others missions should be done across the street before it is done around the world.

Our Christmas offering is an attempt to reflect the changing times and the varied ideas about missions. There is only one goal, although there may be several options—**to spread God's gracious message of love and salvation.**

This year's offering is **God's Work, Our Hands**. The 2011 Christmas gift to global missions has three destinations, but only one goal.

*One destination is the global missions work of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Specializing in working with third world nations and in underdeveloped countries, Cooperative Baptists build, preach, and share the gracious words of Jesus with the broken.*

*A second destination is the global mission board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Since 1845 Southern Baptists have been sending missionaries to all corners of the globe. Preaching the "good news" of Jesus Christ to all who will listen. Your mission dollars go to support the work of faithful servants from Taiwan to Egypt.*

*A third destination is sending our own into God's field. Your gift goes to provide funds to help the youth mission project with Haitian refugees in the Dominican Republic.*



The youth will distribute food, do street Vacation Bible School and minister at a local hospital.

If you would like to designate your mission gift to one of these three groups, please indicate on your check or envelope. Otherwise the offering will be divided among the three global mission efforts.

Thank you for your gift, and for caring about God's work. While there are three choices there is only one goal, to spread God's gracious message of LOVE.—John

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only son."*

# Top Ten Reasons Why...

## OUR YOUTH SHOULD NOT GO ON MISSION TOUR NEXT SUMMER:

**10. It will distort their perception of the world.** Every teenager in the world doesn't have a Wii and an iPod. We certainly don't want our youth messed up by enormous feelings of gratitude for all that we have.

**9. They will experience sadness they have never felt before.** When you see real suffering, you are liable to feel uncomfortable about the food on your table and the shoes on your feet. You might see the real value of \$150 Nike tennis shoes. In fact, you might come home and start a campaign to collect shoes to send to Haiti where kids' feet are often amputated because of infections they have from not owning shoes.

**8. They might spend more time in prayer.** Once you see the work of our missionaries, you will come home knowing how to pray for them.

**7. They might do more outreach when they come home.** It's easy and even fun to tell people about Jesus when you talk through a translator. But be careful, you might learn that you can share Jesus with people at home too.

**6. They won't be able to watch those "feed a child" commercials on TV again with the same heart.** Most of you can sit in front of the TV with your supper in your lap and be completely unaffected by the "poor starving children commercials" you see. But once you've met them in person, you may alter how much money you spend on "mocha cappuccinos" and want to give that money to the poor.

**5. They might come home with a greater commitment to Christ and His plan for the world.** Doing God's work overseas and seeing

results is like starting a fire. Once you get a taste of it, you want to do more.

**4. It will make them harder to live with.** The way you view life will change. Your likes and dislikes will change. Your family and friends won't understand or appreciate your sudden changes.

**3. They could feel a pull toward going overseas again.** The problem is you could slowly, subtly get sucked into thinking about doing mission work again or even being a missionary.

**2. They may get a better understanding of people and their universal needs.** You may find out that people, though they may look different, are the same all over the world. They have the same feelings, hopes, and desires – these kids will grow up to be teenagers too.

**1. They will not come home the same person.** The way you spend money, the way you look at the world, your priorities and wants, your appreciation, and your relationship with each other and with God will all change. Look in the mirror before you get on the plane. That person will not be coming home the same. —Sam



I heard a man say at a missions conference that the number one responsibility of a Christian is worship and one of the primary modes of worship is doing mission. That statement clarified something I have felt since, as a little boy, I watched my father and the other farmers in our community gather home canned fruits and vegetables, cured pork, and even hay for animals to be sent to Connie Maxwell Children's Home. They were doing mission and in so doing they were participating in perhaps the highest form of worship. Attending church, Bible study, praying and singing hymns are all an important part of worship but those forms of worship are incomplete unless we also worship by doing mission.— Spencer LeGrand

As Christians, we feel that contributing to missions is not optional—God compels us to help others—both physically and spiritually. Although we cannot help everyone, we can help many by combining our monies with others to support mission activities. —Patti & Norm Cox



We view missions as helping people and organizations fulfill spiritual and physical needs, whether at church, in the community, or away from home. At Christmas, we are particularly mindful of the Lottie Moon emphasis on foreign missions. Jesus wants us to take his message to everyone. One way to do that is by providing financial support for those who are sharing that message. Giving money to missions is an act of obedience to Christ. —Dave & Beverly Sampson

## Birthdays

### *in December*

Joe Farry	12/01
Pat Girardeau	12/03
Jackson Taylor	12/03
Mike Twitchell	12/03
Wynell Long	12/04
Tim Tucker	12/04
Jane Farry	12/05
Eddie Bopp	12/06
Carol Ogburn	12/06
Larry Spitler	12/06
Thomas Briggs	12/07
Frank DeVita	12/09
Brittany Hauser	12/09
Carson Pelley	12/09
Brooke Craft	12/10
Beth Ferrell	12/14
Robert Woerner	12/14
Jan Stiles	12/15
Mike Parks	12/16
Gant Taylor	12/16
Susan Schwab	12/18
Randy Hull	12/19
Jim Leach	12/21
Sharon Adams	12/22
Barbara Rich	12/24
Nolen Brunson	12/25
Ellis Elmore	12/26
Kevin Ashmore	12/27
Bessie Bridges	12/27
Janna Lee	12/28
Charles Ashmore	12/31
Tommy Crain	12/31
Summey Ferrell	12/31

## Children learn about missions by doing

The CDC has been involved in helping people in our community and in other parts of our country as well. We want to involve even our littlest ones in helping others from the start. We ask our parents—as the first teachers—to help us by contributing to the various projects we support.

This summer we collected new underwear for the Children's Hospital Emergency Room. So many times children will come to the Emergency Room and need fresh underwear and they already feel uncomfortable in a strange and scary place. A new pair of underpants can lift their spirits and make them feel more normal from the start.

Last spring the children raised money through our Trike-a-thon for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. The children collected money for each lap around the parking lot on their tricycles. This spring we are going to have a Trike-a-thon and a Jump-a-thon so that all of our children can participate. Even those who cannot ride yet or don't have trikes can par-

ticipate by jumping up and down. We hope that in this way we can get even more families and children involved in this worthy project. Over the years that the CDC has been raising money for St. Jude, more than \$10,000 has been collected by the children of the CDC.

During the month of December last year and again this year the CDC families will be collecting canned goods for Eastside Crisis Center. There will be a grocery cart in the lobby of the Sanctuary for the food. We did so well last year that we had to use one of the buses to deliver the food. This year we hope to need two buses!

Parents can show their children how to care for others by participating in these activities as a family. Children learn so much by watching what the grown-ups around them do. The CDC is part of this community and has a special interest in the welfare of children so we intend to continue giving back through the generosity of our families. —Susan

Our CDC families practice missions all year long. In the summer, they brought underwear to be used by the Children's Hospital and during December they are collecting food for Eastside Crisis Center.



# PELHAM ROAD

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## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

December 2011

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# PROJECT HAITI:

## The transformation we'll see will not be just among the Haitians.

This year, some 500,000 Haitian refugees will not be home for Christmas. After the devastating earthquake, they have fled to the Dominican Republic in hopes of finding work in the sugar cane fields. Their Christmas wish is just to have enough food for their families.

Next summer our youth will work with some of these Haitian refugees in the Dominican Republic. We will work with food distribution, street Vacation Bible Schools for 100s of children, and help the local hospital there.

We go because we can and because Jesus commands it. The opportunity to see poverty and mission work "up close and personal" will be transforming. Nothing helps cement the faith of young people more than ministering to the absolute "least of these my brethren."

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere. The mind can't imagine the devastation to families

caused by the earthquake last year. We can give hope and help.

This Christmas, you have an opportunity to partner with us and help fund the project on the ground. We will be buying food, clean water jugs, and supplies for our street Bible camps. Money for transportation to five different work areas, translators, meals and housing is needed. Our team will be supporting the local economy just by being there. Each youth family is raising the cost of the plane ticket themselves. Right now, we are just working to raise money for the project itself. Our goal is \$11,050.

I hope you will consider giving all or some of your global missions Christmas offering to this project.

You can give anytime during the month of December. Simply mark your envelope "Haitian Refugee Project."

**We specifically want to take up this offering on Sunday night, Dec. 18**, when our youth will sponsor a "Christmas Carols Dinner Theatre." The choir, handbells, children and soloists will bring special music. All funds raised that night will go toward this project! Your generosity will go a long way and have eternal benefit not only to the people of Haiti, but to our young people as well. —Sam

