



P. O. Box 1636,
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501
United States of America
Phone: 616-785-7026

I believe that God is challenging us to start something new in our area. I read in the book of Isaiah 43:19 **"Look, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it? Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert."** We are in the midst of a hard winter here in West Michigan and many of us long for the coming days of spring. We look forward to the many new things that come with the change of season. With springtime comes planting and eager anticipation of new flowers and the beauty that gives us hope for better days.

I encourage us to **"look at the fields for they are white unto harvest"** even now. Literally, there are people everywhere we go, throughout this vast territory called Woodland Association, who need to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The challenge, I invite each of you to join me in, is to **START Something New!!** It is Harvest Time and work is in the fields. **"Don't you say, 'There are still four more months, then comes the harvest'? Listen [to what] I'm telling you: Open your eyes and look at the fields, for they are ready for harvest."** John 4: 35 HCSB

To reach our world for Christ, we must START:

S – Strategy

T – Teams

A – Awareness

R – Responsibility

T – Take it to the Streets

Let's START something new in our homes, churches, neighborhoods, and communities that helps build relationships, reach people for Christ and plant churches to expand the Kingdom of God.

STRATEGY:

It has often been said that when we aim at nothing that is exactly what we hit. Therefore the challenge before us is to reach our area for Christ. To accomplish this we need a plan:



P. O. Box 1636,
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501
United States of America
Phone: 616-785-7026

- 1. 20 churches and 20 new plants in our association by the year 2020. This would bring us to a total of 40 churches and church plants.** Currently we have 15 churches and church plants in our association. To accomplish this challenge we need to “Start Something New” and that would be new churches to help us touch the thousands of people who do not have that relationship with Christ.
- 2. 3 – 4 new church plants every year in our Association.** To add 25 new church and plants by the year 2020, we need to accept this challenge. The need is great and the work is very hard, but we serve a mighty God who will not forsake us but strengthen us for the work.
- 3. To expand the Kingdom new churches must be started.** We must seek new ways to expand as the population grows around us. We still have 4 counties in our association where we do not have a church.

TEAMS:

The work ahead is hard “and the laborers are few” to borrow that famous line from scripture. In order to accomplish this task, we need others to join us in the harvest:

- 1. Partners in Kingdom Work!** The North American Mission Board, Baptist State Convention of Michigan and Alabama Baptist Convention partner with us in our work. The Pleasant Grove Baptist Association in Alabama is partnering specifically with Woodland Baptist Association.
- 2. Church Planting Teams!** Church planters and their families are a very important part of this team effort. They need many others to join them in the work. Maybe there are specific ways you could come and help on the field to reach the community for Christ. Some could be prayer partners for the new works. Others are needed to prepare the ground for a new planter even before he arrives on the field. Maybe God has blessed you financially and could help provide monetarily to undergird the new work.
- 3. Churches Planting Churches!** If we are going to accomplish the task, we need God’s people to join in the work. Encourage your church to get involved in “Starting Something New” in your area to help us reach the lost world around us.



P. O. Box 1636,
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501
United States of America
Phone: 616-785-7026

- 4. Churches Partnering Together to Plant Churches!** Planting a church may seem impossible to many of our churches as they struggle to find leadership in the church. Partners are needed to help if a new church will be planted in their area.

AWARENESS:

- 1. Nearly 1.6 Million People in 10 Counties in WBA!**
- 2. More than _ Million without a Church Home!**
- 3. One church per 100,000 people!**
- 4. Do We Have a God-sized Vision for the lost of our area?**

RESPONSIBILITY:

The work is ours to accomplish; we are the ones called to the task. Jesus said, ***"...you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*** Acts 1:8 HCSB

TAKE IT TO THE STREETS:

There are many creative ways we can "Take it to the Streets" and join in the harvest:

- 1. Evangelistic Block Parties**
- 2. Begin a Home Bible Study or a lunch time Bible Study at your office**
- 3. Invite your neighbors over for some hot dogs and get to know them.**
- 4. Local Festivals and Parades, ex. Tulip Time in Holland, MI, Walker Days—Cold Water and a Witness**
- 5. "Start Something New" like the Gluten Free Food Fair in Grand Rapids, or a Local Health or Safety Fair**
- 6. 2008 Metro Cruise in Grand Rapids for Classic Car enthusiasts.**
- 7. Reach out to your local Police and Firemen who serve us so well. Celebrate National Night Out and invite your community.**



P. O. Box 1636,
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501
United States of America
Phone: 616-785-7026

- 8. Help your neighbor by shoveling the snow from their driveway or walk. Random acts of kindness may open the door to share the Lord with someone**
- 9. Invite others to join you in Prayer Walking your community.**
- 10. Create your own ideas to reach your neighbors with the Gospel!!**

Hopefully, you get the idea. If we all join in and **START Something New** this year, only God knows what can accomplish be accomplished. So, talk to your Pastor and your church, and ask them to join us in the work ahead. Together with many partners, I am here to help you along the way. Pray hard, Dream big, Work faithfully and God will be glorified in it all.