



# Growing the Kingdom of God

*"What is the kingdom of God like? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches." Luke 13:18-19*

Dear Partners in Kingdom Growth,

**"And the birds of the air made nests in its branches..." Envision it!**

"A picture paints a thousand words..." As I meditate on planting seeds, growing the Kingdom of God, and these inspiring words from Luke 13... images of a secure home for mature song birds making glorious melodies and chirping baby birds yearning for nurture come to mind. It's a pleasant pastoral scene to be sure! It's a beautiful scene from the picture windows, kitchen windows, and glass deck doors of many MLC member homes. Our Lord Jesus paints a telling, lovely word picture of God's Kingdom for the disciples with this powerful simile. God's generous provision, protection, and providence are all presented in promise. The certainty of God's Kingdom growth is also assured, if only the seeds are planted and cultivated.

Quickly my mind and heart move to another picture, of MLC... a visible expression of Jesus' picture of God's Kingdom, a secure home for us and others not here yet. We are and will make glorious melody in lively traditional and contemporary worship. We are and will make provision for Christian discipleship and fellowship for children of all ages (pre-birth to 100+) with dynamic faith formation ministries. This letter comes to you with a respectful request for you to prayerfully consider for the next few weeks how you and your household can help plant more seeds and "paint an even more beautiful and bountiful picture of God's Kingdom among us." We will accomplish this by painting more children into our picture of God's Kingdom family here.

In the weeks leading up to Sunday, March 21, 2010 and our 5 to 7 PM Festival of Kingdom Growth, we will be praying and conversing, imagining and envisioning MLC's faithfully positioning ourselves to fulfill the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-39) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). We will invest in seedlings and seasoned trees in order to grow the Kingdom of God here where we are planted. Our goal is to grow faith and stewards who will commit \$210,000 in second mile gifts over the next three years (2010-2012). We hope you will enter into the joy of the Kingdom of our Master by seeking God's will and glory in your part of this worthy mission.

With Hope in Christ Jesus, our Lord,

You're Pastor and the Growing the Kingdom of God Team

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