

REIGNITING THE PROMISE – JANUARY 2018

This year we will turn a new page in Grove's history and, as we prepare to wade through these new and uncharted waters, I pray that you are as excited as I am to embrace this journey. As we **'reignite the promise'** of a new year, each of us should pause to reflect upon the amazing legacy and many blessings God has already bestowed upon Grove Church. As I've said often, with blessings come burdens. Please join with me as we prayerfully and expectantly accept the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, while rejoicing in the promise of blessings to come.

God has given me the vision and the heart to love, help and empower others by demonstrating the love of Christ, not just talking about it. Our new facility—the Melvin O. Marriner Family Life Center—serves as one of many avenues in which God is giving you and me opportunities to further accomplish that, while fulfilling the vision that He has given me of drawing the 'unchurched' to Grove.

In this New Year, I ask that you join with me in a caring and committed manner to be the change God wants to see in a world that is hurting. Let's work together to find ways to love and accept others—*despite our differences*. Let's create an agenda that enables us to accomplish God's will and not our own, as we continue to meet the needs of people in our community. Let's purpose in our hearts that we will never become so blinded by the limelight, that we forget to serve as beacons of light and hope in a world that the enemy would prefer us to see as bleak, hopeless and defeated.

As we **reignite the promise** in 2018, let's commit to be better and *do better*. I challenge each of you to evaluate and, if necessary, adjust your *attitude* toward others so that God will, individually and corporately, increase our *altitude*—not for ourselves but for His glory! Let's strive to be givers and not takers—through small, grandiose or selfless gestures. Let's make ministry matter by stretching ourselves, committing to service, studying the Bible, and prayerfully seeking God's guidance for our lives and the work that we do in His Kingdom.

The new Family Life Center is just a building, but within its confines we have the awesome chance to help change lives, give hope, build new and lasting relationships, and of course, bring others to Christ! Let's make sure that—with each opportunity given us—our daily 'walk' aligns with our 'talk'.

Our new building symbolizes what God has called us to be—bright, new, lovers of humanity and manifestations of Him here on earth. Please join with me as we **reignite the promise!** God bless you this year and always.

Peace and power,

Pastor Marriner