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April 2, 2019

And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him - a threefold cord is not quickly broken. – Ecclesiastes 4:12 ESV

I have been thinking a lot lately about the purpose of our Fellowship. The FEBC Constitution says this about our purpose: *“The Fellowship exists to provide a framework which enables member churches to stimulate and encourage each other to be more effective in building the Church of Jesus Christ...”*

Whenever I consider this purpose, I am reminded of the early Church. Scriptural examples abound of churches reaching out to other churches to “stimulate and encourage each other.” How many of those churches would have failed if not for a visit or letter from someone like Peter, Paul, Timothy, Barnabas and many other church leaders?

We certainly won’t have to walk as many miles as they did. Our letters arrive in a matter of seconds rather than weeks or months. Funds can be transmitted electronically rather than carried by messenger. Things are different now... but churches still need to be stimulated and encouraged to greater effectiveness.

We offer advice, training, words of encouragement, scholarships, physical assistance, monetary assistance, opportunities for refreshment and restoration and more. We share resources to help church leaders avoid “reinventing the wheel” when a new situation arises. We assist in vetting, training and properly licensing pastors to ensure effective Biblical teaching.

Whether your church is providing or receiving these resources, you get to participate in the great blessing of watching God connect giver with receiver. We all celebrate his great provision as we see his hand work among our people... and his hand works *through* his people. He uses your giving, your time and your faithful prayer to stimulate and encourage churches.

Thank you for the part you play in making our churches more effective.

Serving Him together,

Kevin Stone

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