

T-R PHOTO BY ANDREW POTTER  
Pastor Randy  
Mason has seen huge  
growth in the membership  
over the past two years at  
Liberty Baptist Church.



# Growing by 'Leaps of Faith'

Liberty Baptist  
Church seeing  
continued growth

By **ANDREW POTTER**

TIMES-REPUBLICAN

Liberty Baptist Church in Marshalltown started with one family three years ago.

To see how far they've come, well, could be considered a small miracle. The church saw its membership grow 60 percent in 2007 and so far in 2008 they have grown another 65 percent.

Pastor Randy Mason expects 100 percent growth in 2008 by the end of the year.

He said faith, vision and prayer have led the congregation to this point as well as a love of one another.

"This is the most unusual church I've been with as far as love for people," he said. "People stay after and talk. They love one another and hug one another. When they come here they feel loved." Liberty offers services in both Spanish and English and Mason

said the growth in membership has been primarily with the English-speaking visitors.

<p>This may soon change as Israel Becerra joined the church as a Hispanic pastor last month. “With our Hispanic pastor, we expect (Hispanic membership) to ratchet up,” Mason said. As growth has the membership now totaling more than 80 people with dozens more attending regularly as non-members, the church will eventually outgrow the location they rent on Center Street.</p> <p>IN August of 2007, the church</p>	<p>Was able to raise \$102, 000. To purchase land near the intersection of 18th Avenue and Iowa Avenue. The next step will be raising the money for the proposed \$500,000. New building project to be housed on the land. Mason said they will do the same thing they have since opening the church – trust that God will provide.</p> <p>“Every time there has been a need supernaturally God has provided for those needs,” he said. “We trust God for all our resources.”</p> <p>Contact Andrew Potter at 641-753-8621 or <a href="mailto:apotter@timesrepublican.com">apotter@timesrepublican.com</a></p>	
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