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**Fellowship of Companies for Christ
 Greater Hartford Chapter
 R HOUSE Restaurant
 February 29, 2012**

- Opening prayer / praise reports
- FCCI membership and outreach
- Today's topic: **Status Quo or Grow?**

The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof. —Matthew 13:31-32



Last week, I taped a TV interview with the owner of Johnny Appleseed's Farm in Ellington, and met with the owners of Windy Acres Florist & Greenhouse in Woodstock. With spring around the corner, I began to think about the topic of *growth*.

Would you agree that businesses experience many different seasons? That these cycles can be very similar to nature—spring, summer, fall, winter? Let's talk about business cycles you've been through, and how you made the transitions from winter back into spring.

- First of all, how did your business start?
- What were the key milestone growth steps?
- Have you ever reached a plateau (status quo) and then shrunk?
- Have you ever shrunk so much that you were on the edge of going out of business?
- How did you respond to the challenge, re-invent your business, and resume growth?

Do you believe the Lord wants your business to grow? If so, how? Growth takes many forms, not just revenue, staffing, facility or geographic expansion. Growth can take other forms such as personal maturity, professional development, influence, impact, or Kingdom-building. *How you define growth is crucially important, because some day you will give an account for what you did with His business!*

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? —Mark 8:36

Evaluate yourself from 1 (weak) to 10 (strong) in terms of "growth?"	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits might you enjoy by being more growth-oriented?										
What specific actions can you take to be more growth-oriented?										

- Upcoming events/news
- Closing prayer