

May 2008

Dear Church Family,

This past week Pastor Matt Stovall and I gave an update on the time2build project. In case you were not able to attend the service, we want you to have the same information that was reviewed:

- Proposed building bids off of complete set of construction documents are approximately \$1,000,000 more than original estimates last fall: \$8,600,000 vs. \$7,600,000.
- Commercial Development capital contribution (\$1,000,000) from the Paul Hemmer Company is delayed due to the economic slow down. The 8000+ homes planned for construction west of our property are now on hold.
- Lenders are requiring significantly more "up front" money for down payments as they implement more stringent loan requirements.



After prayer and consultation from our elders, church leaders, building committee and business partners, we have concluded the following:

- We recommend building at least 32,000 square feet versus the original 50,000 square feet building (see blue print at www.time2build.com). This will allow us to do church activities on our land, (Sunday worship, Wednesday Café 4:11, children and youth programs, offices, daily Bible studies) and be a presence in our community.
- This first phase would include the sanctuary, lobby, meeting rooms, multi- purpose rooms and church offices in the upstairs balcony.
- The proposed cost for this phase of the plan, if built before spring 2009, is \$7,700,000.
- In order to begin building, we need to receive **50% of the building costs** to meet the church leadership's covenant on overall church debt. The elders of the church have agreed that we will not exceed 27% of the annual operating budget for service of long term debt.
- \$3,800,000 of funds received prior to construction keeps our church well within these guidelines if we build prior to spring of 2009.
- The total long term mortgage for our church must be well under \$6,000,000 including land & building debt.

Granted, the realization of more "up front" money in hand from the capital campaign may delay our start of the new facility. However, God is very much at work in a mighty way as we realize this new path. As I mentioned in Sunday's message:

- The enemy will stop at nothing to attempt to dissuade us from honoring God via the ministry at Crossroads. Opposition and obstacles should not surprise us or overcome us.
- We must remember that God is still sovereign in ALL THINGS! The building is just a tool we can use to enable ministry; it is not the sole purpose and reason for the Lord's ministry. God will provide the resources necessary for his ministry in a time when he deems our church body ready.
- A delay is not a denial from God. Will we rest and wait patiently for the Lord's leading? There is always a blessing on the other end of God's delays if we remain obedient and diligent within the plan he had laid on our hearts.
- God is more interested in our character than our comfort. The Lord does not waste training! Maybe I need to learn patience, trust in his ways completely, persist in meeting my financial commitment to his plan or even getting involved with a financial commitment for the first time. Rest assured God is always about finding the person(s) in the body of Christ who are faithful and interested in being used for his Glory only.

God moves before us and with us at Crossroads each and every day. He will deliver a permanent church facility as a means to refine us instead of to define us as His faithful followers. Until that time comes, He only looks for those courageous enough to serve Him completely and humbly seek His ways through the GRACE of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As 2 Corinthians 5:17 states, "Those who are in Christ are a new creation; The new has come and the old has gone." The TRUE CHURCH is made up of HIS new creations. Let's continue to BE THE CHURCH daily and never become a CHURCH that is defined by a building!

If you have any questions at any time, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Matt, elders or me.

May God richly bless you!
Pastor Ed

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9