

KINGDOM INITIATIVE



...Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did
it to one of these brothers of mine, even
the least of them, you did it to Me."
MATTHEW 25:40





Dear First Family,

You hold in your hands the best effort of our church leadership to reduce a God-sized vision to words, graphs and pictures that we hope will capture both your hearts and your attention. For most of the past year, behind the scenes, our leaders have been praying, working and planning, under the leadership of the Spirit, in an effort to rally the First Family to something far bigger than ourselves.

You see, the Kingdom of Heaven is forcefully advancing and, according to Matthew 11:12, "forceful men lay hold of it." The work of advancing the Kingdom is not for the faint of heart. It requires individuals and churches to step boldly forward and grasp the opportunity. As always, timing is critical. We cannot wait until we are ready to move forward on our own. Author Henry Blackaby, taught us that "when God speaks, that is the time to obey." Through the combined prayers of our staff and leaders, we have become convinced that God has called us to move forward now!

You will see this vision fleshed out in more detail in the rest of this publication, but the bottom line is this—young families are moving in around us in unprecedented numbers; the needs of the hurting, hungry, homeless and hopeless around us have never been greater; and it is time to get our house in order to move forward to meet those needs. Now is the time!

It is an unprecedented opportunity and an unprecedented challenge. If we do only what we can do through our human capacity, the goal of \$3,000,000 is impossible. However, the weapons of our warfare are not earthly, but are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. We must pray. God has not called us to do a typical fundraising event, but He has called us to pray and then obey. Will you continue to pray about your part? Will you obey? Will we together seize this opportunity and meet this challenge?

It will not be easy. It will require sacrifice. That sacrifice will not look the same for all of us. For some, sacrifice will mean you can give \$2,000 above your regular giving toward the Kingdom Initiative in the coming three years. For others, it will mean \$50,000 above your giving over the next three years. However, to meet the challenge, all of us will have to sacrifice. Lori, Jonathan, Sarah and I have been praying for months about our part. God is telling us things we cannot grasp, but we are going to go with Him and trust Him. Will you join us in praying and obeying that the Kingdom might truly come, and God's will can really be done in and around Southern Middle Tennessee?

Please know that we will not be singling any of you out or placing you in a category of what we think you should commit to the Kingdom Initiative. We do believe it is a matter of your family seeking God and obeying. It will be up to you and your family to make that commitment. At our Commitment Celebration on November 11, we will invite you and your family to join us in placing our written commitment cards on the altar. Then, our leadership will take those commitments and move forward with faithful planning and implementation of this God-sized vision!

Expectantly,

Pastor Pete

KINGDOM GROWTH THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

1856

In July of 1856 in a meeting at the Maury County Courthouse, the Baptist Church of Columbia (later called First Baptist Church) was organized by J.R. Graves, Elijah Hanks and E.W. Benson. There were 13 charter members.

1888

A brick building was completed on property that had been purchased in 1871 on the corner of 8th and High Streets. Funds to purchase the property were raised by a circular letter sent out by the women of the church requesting a \$1 donation to aid in the undertaking. An educational building was added in 1936.

1948

The original sanctuary was demolished and a new auditorium was built at a cost of \$141,572. The new building was dedicated the following year. A second educational wing was added to this facility in 1960.

1988

General Motor's decision to build the Saturn plant in nearby Spring Hill triggered rapid population growth in Maury County. The church recognized the need to expand its facilities to reach this growing population. After efforts failed to acquire additional property adjacent to the church, a 32-acre plot was purchased at the corner of Pulaski Highway and Sheegog Lane.

1997

A "Vision 21" team was organized for the purpose of seeking God's guidance, gathering information and presenting recommendations concerning church properties and facilities as we moved toward the 21st century. Upon the recommendation of the team, the church voted to relocate to the Pulaski Highway property and construct a new facility.

2001

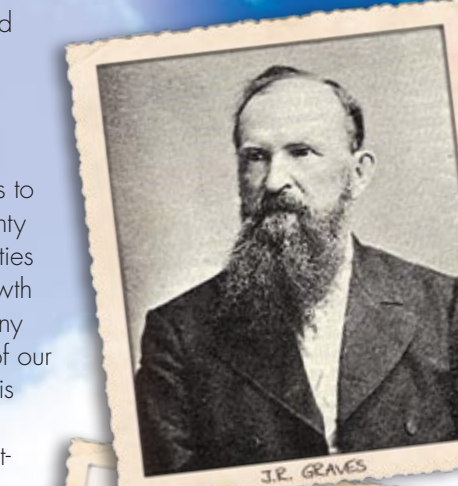
On February 4, 2001 the church "crossed over" to the new facilities with a processional of cars from the South High Street location to the new facilities on Pulaski Highway. The church experienced an immediate growth in attendance with an increase of nearly 30% during the first year at the new location.

2003

With the explosion in attendance, additional space was needed. Funds raised in the *Now - By Faith!* campaign completely paid for this new addition, which included Faith Hall, an expanded Student Ministry Center and dedicated space for KIDS Town and Kindergarten Sunday School. An additional 10% of the funds raised were used to reduce the church's long term debt.

Today

150 years after our church began, God continues to move, providing us opportunities to reach people like never before. Maury County includes one of the fastest growing communities in the nation in Spring Hill. Much of this growth is already spilling over to Columbia with many new homes planned within close proximity of our location. Most of the growth we are seeing is young families, many of them unchurched or chronically dechurched. We are also committing to reach out to those in our community who are in need. We have an opportunity as a church to join with our current partner ministries, future partner ministries and our developing ministries in reaching those whom Christ spoke of in Matthew 25—the least, the last, and the lost. The Kingdom Initiative is our opportunity to look beyond what God has done in the past and present and to look forward to the opportunities He is providing us for the future. To do this we must challenge our present members to claim the future for the Kingdom of God by doing whatever we must to raise funds and reduce debt, freeing up operating dollars to be used in more strategic ways and to build adequate facilities to reach the families God is placing at our doorstep.



1948

2001

Kingdom Vision for the Future

God has called the First Family to make fully devoted Christ followers. We do this by leading every member to worship, connect, serve and pray. To fulfill this call, we must make sure that our "house is in order" and that we have the facilities and ministries in place that will enable people to accomplish all four of these goals. The Kingdom Initiative is a three year process to do just that.

Worship

In order to worship at a time when the un-churched and chronically dechurched can and will attend, we must provide adequate childcare. With all of our children and preschool facilities bursting at the seams, each week has become quite an adventure. If we are going to make fully devoted Christ followers of young families, we must have space to minister to their children.

CONNECT

Each of our age group ministries, including the children's ministry, is committed to this model. Additional space is needed for our children to be able to make meaningful connections. As

more adults connect in small groups, our existing facilities are more taxed. A bottleneck at any one place, either in facility or leadership, will slow our momentum.

SERVE

God has called us to serve Him inside the church in ministry and outside the church on mission. The Kingdom Initiative will free up badly needed funds, enabling us to partner more effectively with existing local ministries and to develop much needed new ministries so that we may touch the ones Jesus described in Matthew 25.

PRAY

The Kingdom Initiative is not just another "campaign." It is a clarion call to pray for God to do something God-sized. We are entering a three year process of praying that God's Kingdom will come and His will shall be accomplished in the Southern Middle Tennessee region.



The First Family exists as a church to connect people with God through authentic worship; to connect people to each other for encouragement and accountability; and to connect people with opportunities to serve, either inside the church in ministry or outside the church on mission. We are committed to undergird all of this with prayer.

The Goal

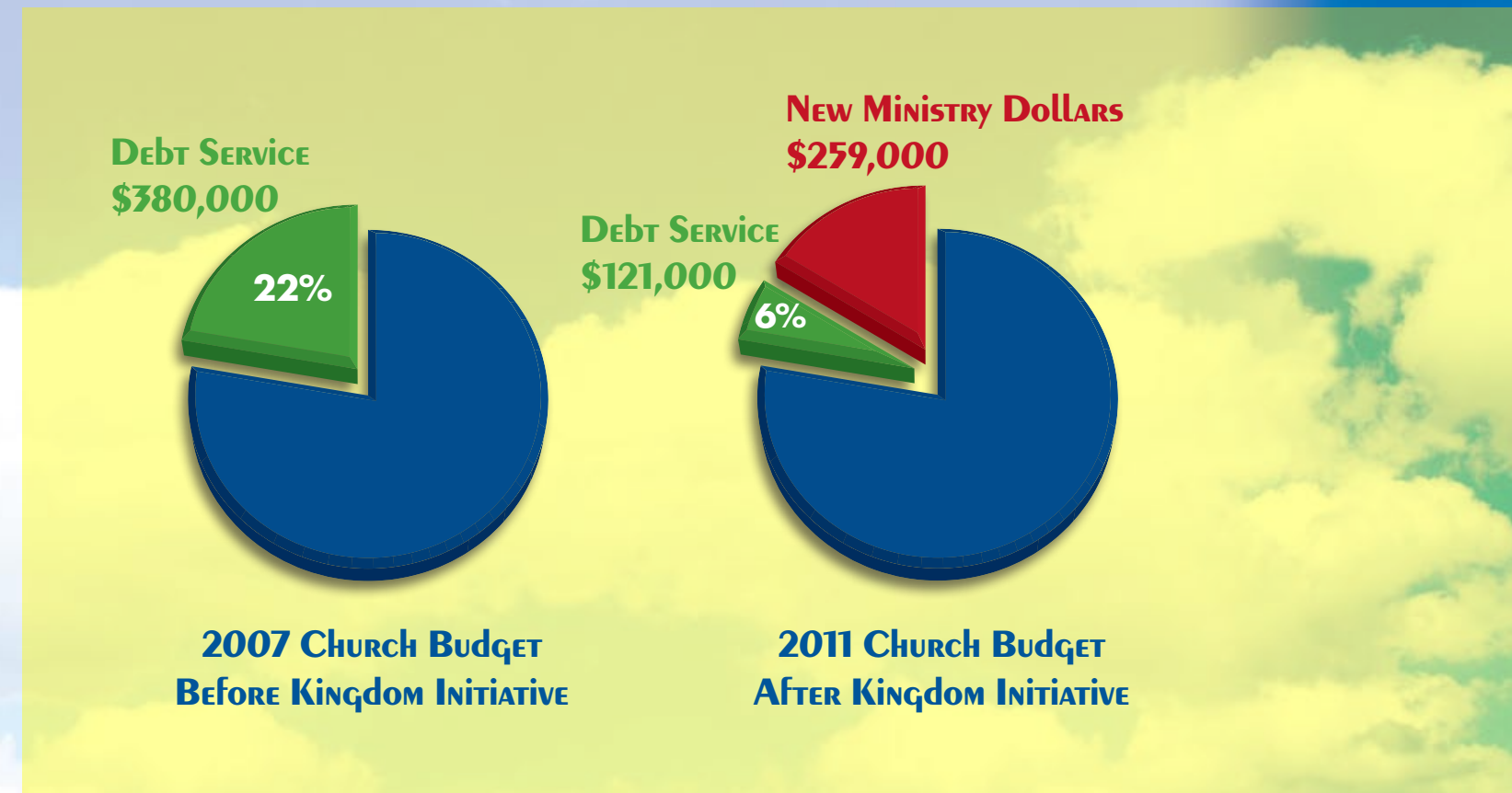
The Kingdom Initiative is a strategy to expand the Kingdom of God in Maury County and beyond by investing in local ministry through:

- expansion of our facilities
- existing ministry partnerships
- new ministry opportunities.

The Kingdom Initiative emphasis will call our church to raise funds to reduce our debt and

become more involved in ministry. The first 10% of Kingdom Initiative funds will go to local ministries. Our Goal of \$3,000,000 raised over three years will provide:

- an additional \$100,000 per year to local ministries in the first three years
- \$1.5 million for construction of a children's wing
- a reduction of our debt to \$930,000 and debt service to \$121,000 annually.



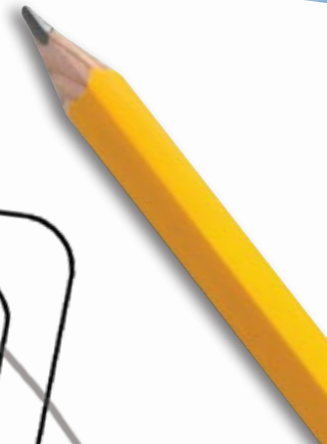
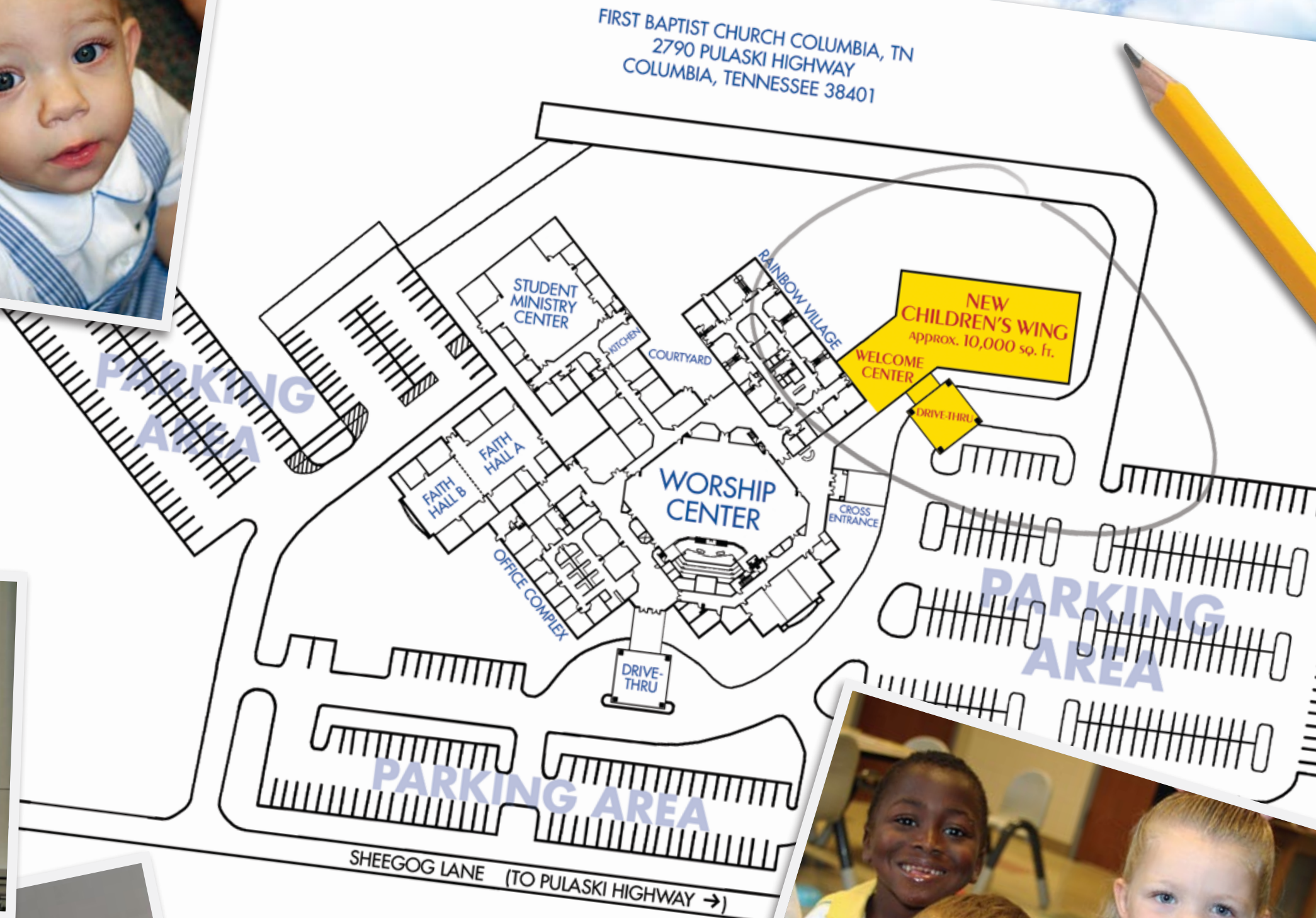
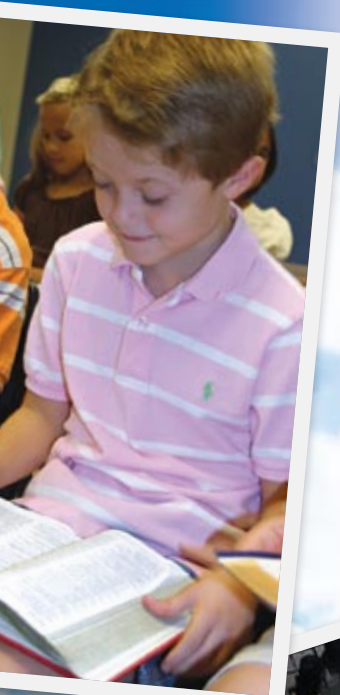
The following pages will detail how Kingdom Initiative dollars will be used.



Expansion of Facilities

Part of the goal of the Kingdom Initiative is to expand our facilities in order to reach the large number of new families moving into our area. Currently, our most critical need is for children's space. \$1.5 million of Kingdom Initiative funds will be used for the design and construction of a new children's wing that will feature:

- At least 10,000 square feet of new space
- Classroom space for grades K-5
- Children's worship/large group activity areas
- Common registration area for Preschoolers and Children
- State-of-the-art security
- Covered drop-off entrance (drive-thru) for inclement weather
- Bright, colorful, age-appropriate décor.



MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Over and over in the Scriptures, God told His people to bring the first fruits of their harvest as an offering to Him. The principle behind that challenge was always trust. God is teaching us that if we trust Him with the first fruits, we can depend on Him to use the rest to meet our needs. It is tempting to think we should take care of our needs first and then, after we build a children's building and reduce our debt, start giving. However, God has clearly called us to step up and trust Him to meet our needs. Thus, our leadership is recommending that we take the first ten percent, or a tithe, of the Kingdom Initiative and invest it in local ministries. (We have already moved this year to get all of our existing local partnerships in the church budget.)

The first fruits of the Kingdom Initiative will be primarily used in the following three ways:

- Gradually increase the monthly commitment to our existing local ministry partners. (These partners are subject to change as the Lead Pastors, Global Missions Ministry Team, and Steering Team make recommendations and evaluations. We may add others and some of the existing ones may drop off as our calling, their purpose, or their needs change.)
- Assist our church plant, Cornerstone Church, in their effort to build on the land we helped them purchase last year on Bear Creek Pike.

- Develop local ministries as needed through our small groups and as God raises up people with vision from within our congregation. Our goal is to one day have a person in our office who is giving 100% of their time to knowing the giftedness and calling of our people and the needs of our community and matching them up.

All of these will continue beyond the three years of the Kingdom Initiative as we free our budget dollars after 2010 to do what the first fruits of the Kingdom Initiative have done up until then.

A Woman's Place
An unplanned pregnancy is a difficult thing to face. A Woman's Place empowers women to make an informed choice.



Food Pantry
Through the Kingdom Initiative, it is our hope to expand the storage capacity for our current food pantry so that we can serve more families.



Discipleship House
The Discipleship House provides help for women just released from jail who have no place else to go.

Maury Chaplain Ministries
The Maury Chaplain Ministries coordinate volunteers who go to the jail to teach Bible classes and serve as mentors.

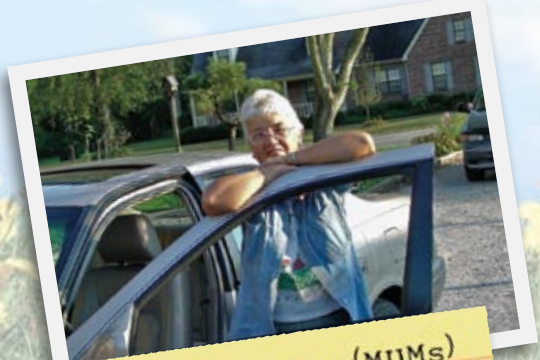


Cornerstone Church
Cornerstone is a church plant partnership of the First Family that targets the working class people of northern Columbia and Maury County. It is pastored by Jerry Jeter, a long-time member of the First Family. Cornerstone currently meets in a storefront on HWY 31 North. As part of the Kingdom Initiative, we hope to help them to build and get moved into a new building in the next 18 months.

The Exchange Network (EXN)
EXN is committed to partnering with local churches to raise up 7000 Shout Prayer Mentors for 7000 teenagers in this area. Believing that prayer can turn the tide for teens against the onslaught of a culture that wants to destroy them, the EXN will not rest until every family has a partner in praying for their student.



Servant's Heart
Servant's Heart is committed to sharing Christ's love by meeting the needs of the poor with clothing, furniture, etc.



Maury United Ministries (MUMs)
MUMs provides transportation for those who otherwise would not have a ride to work, doctor appointments, etc.



The Kingdom Opportunity

...the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.
—Matthew 11:12

We believe it is a privilege to be a part of the advancement of God's kingdom at First Baptist Church Columbia. Now we have the opportunity to prepare together for the future God has set before us. The Kingdom Initiative will not only continue to bless us and our families, but will bless our community and future generations as well. For the next 36 months, we will each need to make a special commitment, in addition to our regular giving. This is our opportunity to advance the Kingdom of God and leave a legacy for future generations.

- Ask God what He would have you give to make this vision a reality.
- Trust God to provide what He impresses upon you to give.
- The Scriptures do not teach equal giving but equal sacrifice to accomplish God's work.

THREE WAYS TO GIVE

- 1. Give a cash gift.** Ask God for creative ways to increase your gift. You might consider cash from savings, tax refunds, garage sales, or an extra part-time job. Also consider reducing your expenses or deferring a major purchase as a sacrifice to God. Refer to the Kingdom Initiative website at www.thefirstfamily.org for additional creative ways to give. Involve your entire family in giving a specific amount.
- 2. Make a 36-month Faith Commitment.** The Bible teaches that spiritual maturity includes developing the habit of regular giving. Giving our tithes, the first portion of our income, shows that God really has the first place in our lives. Giving above our tithes and offerings shows a faith in God's provision. You can give far more than you thought possible when it's spread out over time. See the chart entitled, "My Potential Giving Schedule" on the next page.
- 3. Give stocks, securities or other non-cash assets.** Simply contact the church office for information on giving gifts other than cash. Our church will graciously handle these on an individual basis.

What Should I Do?

PRAY

Sacrificial giving moves us outside of our comfort zone and stretches our faith as we take steps to give beyond our normal tithes and offerings. Let the amount of your gift be a matter of prayer each day as you seek to find what God wants you to give.

For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability...but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.

—2 Corinthians 8:3-5

PREPARE

Individuals and families should take time to discuss this matter and seek God's guidance. It is a perfect time for the entire family to be involved in the decision you make.

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

—Deuteronomy 6:6-7

PARTICIPATE

Once you pray and faithfully seek God's guidance, then express that faith on a commitment card. The challenge that God has placed before us will only become reality through the sacrificial commitment of us all.

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

—2 Corinthians 9:7



COMMITMENT CELEBRATION!

Sunday, November 11, 2007
9:00 a.m. Brunch
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

We will celebrate the Kingdom Initiative journey by bringing our faith commitment cards, included in this brochure, indicating our one time gift, our 36-month faith commitment and/or other gifts.

My POTENTIAL Giving Schedule

| WEEKLY | MONTHLY | ANNUALLY | 3 YEAR TOTAL |
|---------|---------|----------|--------------|
| \$1,000 | \$4,333 | \$52,000 | \$156,000 |
| 500 | 2,167 | 26,000 | 78,000 |
| 200 | 867 | 10,400 | 31,200 |
| 100 | 433 | 5,200 | 15,600 |
| 50 | 217 | 2,600 | 7,800 |
| 30 | 130 | 1,560 | 4,680 |
| 25 | 109 | 1,300 | 3,900 |
| 20 | 88 | 1,040 | 3,120 |
| 10 | 44 | 520 | 1,560 |

The chart at the left will help you to understand what a three year faith commitment looks like. For example, if you give \$25 per week for the next three years and multiply that amount by 52 weeks for each year you will have given a total of \$3,900 for the three year span!

DETERMINING My FAITH COMMITMENT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE OVERALL PURPOSE OF THE KINGDOM INITIATIVE?

The purpose of the Kingdom Initiative is to spend the next three years reducing debt so we can expand local ministries, develop new ministries, and add facilities to reach the large number of new families moving into our area. It is expected that at the end of the three years, we will have significantly reduced our monthly debt service and significantly expanded our investment of people and money into the kinds of ministries Jesus encouraged in Matthew 25.

WHAT IS OUR CURRENT INDEBTEDNESS?

The only indebtedness our church now has is the mortgage on our building. We are in the 5th year of a 15-year mortgage, and the remaining balance on our loan is approximately \$2.75 million. The final payment on our current mortgage is due on December 1, 2017.

DOES THIS FACILITY EXPANSION COMPLETE OUR MASTER PLAN?

Our "Master Plan" is an ever-evolving plan to use our property and buildings in the most effective way possible to reach our region for Christ. Thus, it truly will never be complete until the Lord returns. We anticipate that as the needs of our region change, the Master Plan will change with it.

WHEN WILL CONSTRUCTION START ON THE NEW CHILDREN'S WING AND HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO COMPLETE?

Shortly after the Commitment Celebration, the church will name a Project Development Team to oversee the process of selecting a

builder, designing a building, and completing the construction. Our hope is to begin construction sometime before the end of 2008 with completion the following year.

HOW IS MY KINGDOM INITIATIVE FAITH COMMITMENT DIFFERENT FROM MY TITHE?

Your tithe represents 10% of the financial blessings the Lord gives you on a regular basis. The First Family uses your tithe for our general fund operations, which would include the day-to-day administration of programs, outreach efforts and staff. The Kingdom Initiative is a special offering, based on your commitment, that is above and beyond the tithe.

WHEN AND HOW WILL COMMITMENTS & GIFTS BE RECEIVED FOR THE KINGDOM INITIATIVE?

Kingdom Initiative faith commitment cards are included in this document and will be available at Information Central throughout the weeks leading up to our Commitment Celebration on Sunday, November 11. Members will be encouraged to prayerfully consider a financial commitment for the next three years and then bring their commitment cards to the Commitment Celebration. Thereafter, a special Kingdom Initiative line item will be placed on the regular offering envelopes that will be distributed at the first of the year. You may give weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually or in a lump sum. You may also give stocks, securities or other non-cash assets.

the first family
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