

(Jesus) "I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it." - Matthew 16:18

THE JOURNEY CHURCH BUILDING FOR *life* OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

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What the Next 12 Months Means for You and Our Church

As the calendar turns to October, we have come to an important milestone in our Building for Life initiative...

The Final 12 Months of this Important Initiative for the Future of Our Church



Jason Hatley,
Lead Pastor

Building for Life began in November 2019 as our 36-month initiative to secure our future in our Ministry & Worship Center, pay down our debt, and invest in needed work to our facilities.

I'm writing to share a timely and important update on how together we can (and need to) meet our goal for Building for Life and our obligations as a church.

So, I want to encourage you to read this newsletter, and challenge you to continue giving (or give for the first-time) to help us accomplish this work .

I am sending this newsletter to those who have given or made a pledge to Building for Life, those who love our church, and a select group who are new to The Journey to share with you about the future of our church... and how we can move forward together into what God is calling us to do as a church family.

Keep reading

12 Months to Hit Our Goal

Where We Are and How We Can Get There Together!

In August and September of 2019, Pastor Nelson and I first shared the vision of Building for Life with Journey members at a series of Vision Dinners in our brand-new Worship Center!

We had just moved into the Ministry & Worship Center a few months before after meeting in rented facilities for 8 years. It was an exciting time for our church as together we had sacrificially given to raise the funds to make the downpayment and renovate the former "Chickie's Night Club" into a home for our church. The dream had become reality. But we still had a long way to go!



Journey Members gather to pray in the space that would eventually become our Worship Center.



Pastor Jason & Pastor Nelson share the Vision of Building for Life at the first Vision Dinner in 2019

We had made the downpayment and renovated the interior for our Worship Center and Journey Kids classrooms... but there were (and still are) **major projects** that needed to be completed to the exterior of our building. PLUS: we needed to now **meet our monthly obligations** to pay for this incredible ministry space God had brought us into.

So, **Building for Life** was launched in November 2019 with the goal of raising \$630,000 over 36-months to **accomplish four strategic initiatives**:

- 1 Beautify our property** by completing much-needed work to the exterior of our Ministry & Worship Center, including painting the building, installing a new sign on the side of our building to increase visibility, refreshing our parking lot, and renewing our outdoor patio for greater ministry use.
- 2 Secure our future by paying down our debt** so we can remain in our new Ministry & Worship Center for years to come.



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3

Build our future baptistry by renovating our outdoor patio space and transforming the outdoor fountain into a functional baptistry where we can baptize all year.

4

Support a New Cross-Cultural Regional Missions Church that will be able to reach people that we are not able to reach. *(We have identified a new church plant in Miami to partner with and I will share more details about this partnership soon.)*



Over the last 24 months, many in our church have given sacrificially (above and beyond their tithe) to **Building for Life** to get us to this point. Because of their faithful giving in the midst of the greatest global crisis in a century we have been able to:

- Aggressively meet needs and share Jesus throughout the pandemic by turning our Ministry Center into a hub to serve the community and broadcast Church Online,
- Re-open weekly in-person services where we have welcomed hundreds of first time guests in the last 5 months,
- Complete several of our Ministry Center improvement projects including a complete parking lot and landscaping renewal,
- Pay down a portion of our debt (though we have not been able to do so at the level needed).

We have made good initial strides with over \$230,000 given. But because of the pandemic's 18-month interruption - that means that we are only about **40% of the way toward our goal of \$630,000 with only 12 months left to close the gap.**

I share this with you not to discourage you, but to encourage and challenge you. As your Pastor I believe we can do this **TOGETHER!** Here's how...



People fill our Worship Center today. Your giving to Building for Life makes it possible for us to stay in this beautiful space.

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How We Can Meet Our Goal Together

There is much that we want - *and need* - to accomplish through *Building for Life*, including:



Now through October 2022

- Paying our debt on the Ministry Center,
- Painting the exterior of the church and adding a new sign to increase our visibility
- Turning our outdoor fountain into an outdoor baptistry,
- Adding proper drainage to the outdoor patio to prevent flooding during a hurricane,
- Beautifying our outdoor patio to provide a space for ministry events (weddings, special events, Sunday fellowship space, and more)

The simple truth is, if we don't catch up, then we can't move forward on the projects listed above because we risk loan default or failure to make our minimal repayments, which puts everything in jeopardy. But together... we can accomplish this vision IF...



Those who have already made a Faith Pledge will commit today to give faithfully to fulfill your pledge.

As Paul writes to those who had made financial pledges in the Corinthian church in 2 Corinthians 8:10-11...

"Last year you were the first who wanted to give, and you were the first to begin doing it. Now you should finish what you started. Let the eagerness you showed in the beginning be matched now by your giving. Give in proportion to what you have."

OR... perhaps you are in a position to **INCREASE** your pledge and give even more to help us close the gap. That would be such a blessing!

And if you have **NOT** yet made a faith pledge, here is your next step...

2

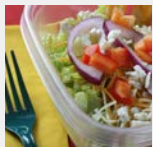
If you have not YET made a Faith Pledge -- will you join us in this effort by making a 12-month PLEDGE today to give a certain amount (above your normal tithe) between now and October 2022 to the **Building for Life** initiative?

Pray and ask the Lord how he would have you give... and then step out on faith to make a pledge and begin giving to Building for Life. The amount is up to you. But if I could make a suggestion...

If those in our church who have NOT made a faith pledge would pledge to give \$250 per month (**just \$8 per day**) -- we would accomplish our goal.

So, here are some creative ways to save \$8 per day (\$250 per month) so you can give to further God's kingdom through Building for Life:

Creative Ways to Save \$8 per day...



Take your lunch to work. Instead of dropping \$10-\$25 per day eating out for lunch, decide to take your lunch on certain days, and give the money you are saving to Building for Life.



Instead of buying a coffee @ Starbucks twice a day make your own coffee and give the money to Building for Life between now and next October 2022.



Instead of buying a new car, drive your current car just one more year and give what you would have spent on a car payment to Building for Life.



Or go BIG... if you sell a piece of property, jewelry, a car, or even your house, make a one-time significant gift off of the sale!

You get the idea! Oftentimes, the most important financial decision we make are a matter of **DETERMINATION** (if I want to) and **DECISION** (I'm going to choose this over that for now). Will you decide today to let God use you to help fulfill the mission of The Journey through Building for Life?

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What is Your Next Step?

1) Use the enclosed Offering Envelope to make a first-time gift or pledge by completing the red Building for Life area on the top flap. If you have not yet made a pledge, would you pray and ask God how He would have you give, above your normal tithe, to this initiative? And then give your first gift today. A monthly gift of \$100, \$200, or even \$500 makes a big difference!



2) **Step Up Your Pledge.** For some, God has blessed you with even more since you first made your faith pledge. If so, would you prayerfully consider increasing your pledge for the final 18 months of the initiative? You can increase your pledge today by completing the pledge form here: www.BocaJourney.com/Life.

3) **Automate your giving to Building for Life.** The best way to stay consistent in your commitment to *Building for Life* is to automate your giving. This will allow us to plan boldly for the future. You can automate online at www.BocaJourney.com/Life.

We grow according to our commitments. So, let the Lord lead you and stretch your faith as you prayerfully consider the right next step for you. Together we can move forward on the God-sized goals of this initiative, and step confidently into the future God has for our church.

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” - 2 Corinthians 9:6

*“They said, ‘Let’s rise up and build.’ So they strengthened their hands for the good work.”
- Nehemiah 2:18*

“Our hope is that as we help your faith grow larger, you’ll be able to help this ministry to you grow larger, too.” - 2 Corinthians 10:15



Ready. Set. Grow!

As you consider how you will be involved with Building for Life, I want to know that your sacrifice over the next 12 months will result in significant growth.

1) You will grow! We grow according to our commitments and when you commit to a life of generosity, God blesses you and takes your faith to the next level. But also...

2) Our church will grow! Every week we welcome new families and first time guests to our in-person services (over 220 since we restarted weekly in-person services in May -- that's 11 first-time guests per week!). Our church is growing! And through your commitment to Building for Life we will be able to remain in our Ministry Center and keep growing! reach new people with the love of Jesus.

And with our new Life of Paul teaching series, the conclusion of "2021 The Year of Maturity" and all that God has in store for us in 2022... there is no better time to be part of what God is doing right now at The Journey.

God has given us a mission... to give the people of South Florida the BEST opportunity to become fully developing followers of Jesus. Let's accomplish that mission together in Jesus' name!

Pastor Jason

"But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus —the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God." -Acts 20:24

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IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

- **A Major Milestone:**
12 Months and Counting to meet
our goal... and HOW we can do it!
- Creative ways to **save money**
(and **invest in God's work**)
- **Building for Life** by the numbers.
Where are we today and what's next?
(See Inside!)

