



Capital Campaign *Light*

First Baptist Church, Tallassee

Campaign 3, Issue 4

A Testimony: Back to the First Capital Campaign

Our testimony goes back to when the first capital campaign began. We were convicted of the fact that we weren't faithful tithers to begin with. We both knew that we should tithe; we both believed in tithing, and we did give occasionally, we just weren't following through faithfully. We knew that we couldn't commit to something "above and beyond" without first committing to be obedient in giving a tithe. That was the first step for us in being obedient to God.

Once that was resolved, we began to pray separately about what God would have us give. After some time, we came back together to talk about what God had impressed on us. It seems whenever we take this approach that we come back with the same amount. We have done this for the capital campaign, for special one-time offerings, love offerings, etc. It's always amazing how God leads us to the same place.

The bundling aspect of the capital campaign has allowed us to give to missions where we rarely did before. I didn't grow up in a Southern Baptist church so the whole idea of Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong offerings was foreign to me. They never seemed to come at a

good time, if there ever was a good time. Bundling has allowed us to be more a part of missions giving than ever before.

It's also neat to look at the amount that the church has already paid off and know that we were a part of that. The amount that we have given through the capital campaigns is far above what we could have ever given in a one time offering. Although the monthly amount may not seem like much, it definitely adds up over time. It's encouraging to know that we have been a part of what God is doing here at First Baptist.

God has shown us that we were not giving an amount that could be considered a sacrificial gift in the earlier campaigns. Even though the theme for *Capital Campaign Light* is a reduction in gifts, we feel led to increase our giving. As someone once said, it's impossible to out-give God. He has proven that to us over the past few years. It's nice to be able to look back at how God has worked and blessed, especially as we try to teach our kids about giving.

— Gary and Barbie Buchanan

Phase I and Phase II Balances and Monthly Payments

Phase I Total Project Cost:	\$3,085,732	Phase II Total Project Cost:	\$1,566,239
Current Loan Balance (as of 8-11-08)	\$ 948,327	Current Loan Balance (as of 8-11-08)	\$ 597,649
Monthly Loan Payments	\$ 10,321	Monthly Loan Payments	\$ 4,492
Number of Payments Remaining	133	Number of Payments Remaining	213

Regular loan payments are paid out of the General Budget. Think of the ministries that could be enhanced—or staff members added—if we were to pay off one or both of these loans!

Amount Received for Missions Through *Growing by Faith*

Lottie Moon/International Missions:	\$ 40,832	Annie Armstrong/North America:	\$ 22,886
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These are the total amounts received to date, with two weeks to go in the official campaign.

These amounts were received over the three years of GBF. Lottie and Annie were split 60/40.

In each of the previous two years, through GBF, we gave \$13,658 to Lottie Moon & \$7,354 to Annie Armstrong.

Getting a Feel for the Amount You Should Give

If you are trying to get a feel for how much to give in *Capital Campaign Light*, here is some information to give you some benchmarks. Each person should give in proportion to their own income and at the leading of the Holy Spirit; we shouldn't copy what others give. Naturally, what is "carrying around money" for one may be very sacrificial for another family. So pray about your giving in light of your means and in light of your desire to give. However, you may hear the Holy Spirit speaking to you to affirm one of these amounts — or to cause you to react against one of them.

The **Average Pledge Amount** in *Growing by Faith* (taking the grand total amount pledged and dividing by the number of families pledging) was \$4,679.

- For the 3-Year Campaign: \$4,679
- For each of the 156 Weeks: \$ 30
- For each of the 36 Months: \$ 130

Typical Pledge Amounts:

- 36 Families pledged \$25 per week
- 25 Families pledged \$50 per week
- 7 Families pledged \$100 per week

Now, say you have been giving one of the amounts above, and for your family it was a sacrificial offering to the Lord. Say, you now need a little bit of a breather. What is 33 to 40% of your current weekly GBF amount?

\$25	at 33% would be \$8.25	at 40%: \$10
\$30	at 33% would be \$10	at 40%: \$12
\$50	at 33% would be \$16.67	at 40%: \$20
\$100	at 33% would be \$33.33	at 40%: \$40

Look these numbers over. Get a feel for them in light of your current financial situation. See if the Holy Spirit is making you feel good about one of these numbers -or- making you react against a number as too high or too low. For some of our families, the \$25 above would be excessive; for others, it wouldn't be worthy of the Lord. What exactly is the Lord leading you to do?

Testimony: We Both Came Up with the Same Number

A year or so prior to the *Challenge to Build* program, we started to get serious about our stewardship. God had blessed us in so many ways and we really needed to get serious about our giving, or more appropriately returning a portion of God's blessings. We also heard a quote that stuck in our minds. It states that "you can tell what is really important to someone by looking at where they spend their money and their time". As the *Challenge to Build* program started 6 years ago we were giving more than we ever had, but the lessons on stewardship convicted us that we needed to do more. As we all know, everything was created by and belongs to God, we are merely stewards for a short time.

It was easy to decide on amount to give to CTB. We prayed separately and God gave us each a very high number and we had no idea at the time how we were going to manage. Interestingly enough, we both came up with the exact same very high number. Setting the amount was easy, figuring out how to make it happen took a little more work. A set amount each month combined with more each year when the tax refund came in. At the end of CTB we met our commitment and we had managed to increase our tithe. The interesting part of this is that we have not had to do without anything that we truly needed and have been blessed with many things that we have wanted.

Growing by Faith was the same process, a recom-

mitment to continue to tithe as we prosper and prayer. The same number popped up again. Many doubts were present about our ability to meet our goals during both *Challenge to Build* and *Growing by Faith*. We approached *Growing by Faith* the same way, giving a set amount each month and then giving a portion of our tax refund each year. Having three kids helps the tax refund, but does not help the monthly expenses so much.

Capital Campaign Light will be the same way. We are recommitting to tithing. We haven't decided on an amount for CCL yet but it will be the same process. Prayer. A commitment to give what God asks of us. And we will find a way to make it work. With God's help, we know it will work. God hasn't let us down yet and won't if we don't get in the way. We just have to do our part, God will take care of his part.

1st Chronicles 29:15-17 (HCSB): "For we are foreigners and sojourners in Your presence as were all our ancestors. (A) Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. (B) LORD our God, all this wealth that we've provided for building You a house for Your holy name comes from Your hand; everything belongs to You. I know, my God, that You test the heart (C) and that You are pleased with uprightness. (D) I have willingly given all these things with an upright heart, and now I have seen Your people who are present [a] here giving joyfully and [b] willingly to You."

— Tom and Nicki Crawford