

A Plan that will Work

Two Commitments

The *Growing by Faith* campaign is based on two commitments:

First, we are asking every member to tithe through the general church budget. Tithing is something God commands every believer to do.

Second, we are asking every member to pray and seek God's definite guidance concerning a freewill offering over-and-above the tithe through *Growing by Faith*.

A Bundled Offering

Would you like to be able to support missions on the installment plan? *Growing by Faith* is designed to do just that — and raise needed funds for the next phase of the building! Here's how it will work: each member gives a weekly offering, over and above the tithe, through the *Growing by Faith* campaign. Then, \$92.23 out of every \$100 goes to the Phase II building fund. And \$7.77 goes to support missions. With our goal of \$975,000, that will mean \$25,252 per year—a reasonable increase over what we have ever given to missions before. At Christmas and Easter, you won't be asked for one penny for missions. You will still hear the reports of what our missionaries are doing on the field, but you won't be asked to give to the building fund and then to give an amount above that! We won't be talking about money all the time. Other offerings (other than pocket change offerings for our seminary students and Baby Bottle change offerings for LifeChoice) will be disallowed in the church. So, we support the Phase II building, we support missions at a higher level and we spread out the giving over 52 Sundays!

What if I don't want to participate in *Growing by Faith* but want to support missions? Write "Lottie Moon" or "Annie Armstrong" on your envelope and that's where 100% of that offering will go. The goal of bundling is to help people budget more easily, and the church will be able to plan better if everyone participates. You're encouraged to do so.

If I give to the bundled *Growing by Faith* offering, can I specify my percentages going to missions or to the building program? No, that would be too complicated to be practical for the church office. It would be simpler for you to participate in *Growing by Faith* and then "sweeten" your missions or building offering by designating an extra amount, above your *Growing by Faith* offering.

Can I designate my offerings for the building fund without the missions causes? Yes, if you write "Building only" on your envelope, 100% of that offering will go to the building. However, you're encouraged to also support missions through *Growing by Faith*.

What if I want to give to debt reduction, but not *Growing by Faith*? If your offering envelope is marked "Principal," your offering will go to pay down the principal on the loan.

What if I don't have enough money both to tithe and to participate in *Growing by Faith*? Then, support the general budget with your tithe; that's where the ministry is!

Growing by Faith Goals

Victory Goal: \$975,000

Hallelujah Goal: \$1,250,000

Q. How did we arrive at these goals?

A. The workgroup used several “snapshots” as they prayed about the right goals for our church. In the *Challenge to Build* campaign we will receive an estimated amount equal to 1.73 times the undesignated budget receipts the year before that campaign. 1.73 times the undesignated budget receipts for June '04-May '05 (\$573,606) is \$992,338. The rule of thumb in such campaigns is that a church will receive one to two times the previous year’s budget receipts, and three times is not unusual for a motivated congregation. For us, two times would result in \$1,147,212 and three times would result in \$1,720,818. Other reasons for confidence is that we will have more families this campaign (302 compared to 187 last time), we will have the gifts for the entire campaign this time from many who joined during the last 34 months, and we feel that some who opposed relocation will choose to participate in Phase II.

Q. Will anyone tell me how much I should pledge?

A. No, no one will suggest any amount to you. We are asking our members to seek God’s definite leading for a specific amount.

Q. Who will know how much I pledge?

A. Only you, the financial secretary, and anyone you tell.

Q. Do I have to give weekly?

A. You can give weekly, twice a month, monthly, quarterly, or annually. You can mix a one-time gift with smaller amounts over the three years. Whatever works for you! Just explain it on your commitment form. The emphasis on “weekly giving” is due to the fact that so many people are paid weekly. Most of us can’t afford to give a large one-time gift, but on a regular plan over three years, our gifts can add up!

Q. I’m not sure I’m comfortable with pledging. What about that?

A. We pledge to pay our house payments and our car payments. If we pledge for appliances, why not for God? Pledging is in the Bible; Nehemiah 9:38-10:39 records an example of God’s people pledging. The pledges help the church plan. How could we know how much we can afford to build if no one would tell us how much they will give?

Q. What if my circumstances change—am I stuck with a pledge I can’t afford?

A. You will notice on the commitment form this checkbox: “I promise to contact the church office and revise my pledge should circumstances make it necessary.” This promise will be part of your pledge.
