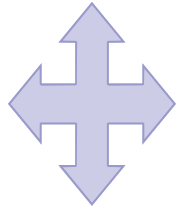


**First day to give  
Growing by Faith  
Offerings**

**Sunday, September 5**



# Growing by Faith

## Commitments to be Made This Sunday

**Growing by Faith** emphasizes two commitments, has two goals, and supports two causes.

### 2 Commitments

1. Tithing through the general church budget.
2. Supporting the building program and missions with offerings over and above the tithe.

### 2 Goals

Victory Goal:  
\$975,000

Hallelujah Goal:  
\$1,250,000

### 2 Causes

1. The Phase II building program. It helps us make room for more, enabling us to reach more people in the Tallassee area.
2. Missions. This helps reach more people in North America and around the world.

7.77% goes to missions  
and

92.23% goes to the  
Phase II building  
program

Enclosed in the envelope with this newsletter are your *Growing by Faith* commitment form and a folded privacy envelope.

When and how do we turn our form in? On Sunday morning, August 28, we will have "Joash's Chest" at the front of the worship center. (You can read about "Joash's Chest" in II Chronicles 24:1-14.) As part of the service, we will walk by the chest and place our privacy envelopes with our pledge forms in the chest. The time for testimonies and sermons will be over; this will be the only part of the service connected with the building program.

What if I have already turned in my commitment form? If you made an advance commitment, just walk by the chest and place a dollar in your privacy envelope as a symbolic gesture of solidarity.

What if we will be out of town that Sunday? You can drop your form by the church office in advance.

What do I do if I am not participating? Just take one of the extra forms in the foyer, write zero on it, insert it in a privacy envelope, and place it in the chest.

Should we make a family commitment? You can, but if family members wish

to make individual commitments they may do that.

When do the gifts begin? Sunday, September 5. We will use our present offering envelopes which have a place to indicate the amount we are giving to the building fund. If you wish to give to the building fund only, and not *Growing by Faith*, add the word, "only" after "Building."

Can I change my commitment later? Yes, you may revise your pledge up or down; in fact, that is part of your pledge: "I promise to contact the church office and revise my pledge should circumstances make it necessary."

### Stocks and Bonds

If you have stocks or bonds, you would like to give to *Growing by Faith*, then please call Treasurer Russell Chandler or Financial Secretary Angie Jolly, 283-2287.

The church will work with your broker in making arrangements to sell the investment and to send the proceeds to the church. Generally, this helps the donor with savings in capital gains taxes.

The way it works, the church acknowledges your gift, but your broker provides you with the median value of the stock on the day of sale.



"I'd like you to meet Irving R. Simmons. He's heading up our stewardship drive, and we thought a nice, monogrammed briefcase would make his job easier."

## ***Nothing Great Happens Without Commitment***

“I pledge allegiance...” “On my honor...” “To tell the whole truth...” “I do...”

You can't live without making commitments. The person who refuses to commit himself or herself will be a person without God, without country, without a family, a job, voting rights, a driver's license, and possibly a car, a house, and many other things. There is no love... no faith... and no hope—without commitment!

The willingness to make commitments is a mark of maturity—both emotional and spiritual. Only the immature try to slide through life without committing to anything. It's the fear of commitment that causes many to miss God's blessing.

Nothing affects your life more than the commitments you choose to make. God says that my commitments: 1) Reveal my values (Matt. 6:24) 2) Shape my character (Pr. 4:23), and 3) Determine my destiny (Mark 8:36-37).

There is tremendous power in a pledge. Commitment always unlocks the door... to opportunities... to potential... to spiritual growth... and to miracles. Successful people are just ordinary people who've chosen to make commitments that others are unwilling to make.

***"Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him to help you do it, and he will." Psalm 37:5 (LB)***

### ***Advance Commitment Total Announced***

At the Sunday Night Banquet it was announced that advance commitments have already been received from numerous church members. So far, 32 families have pledged a total of \$332,500 through *Growing by Faith*.

It was also announced that the Phase I Challenge to Build campaign has exceeded its Victory Goal of \$700,000, the initial pledge amount of \$738,277, and the current pledge amount of \$750,161. The total amount received through CTB stands at \$802,310.79!

*"A leader is one who see more than others see, who sees farther than other see, and who sees before others do."*  
— Leroy Eims

### ***How Much Should Our Family Pledge?***

The *Growing by Faith* Campaign has emphasized giving by revelation, that is pledging the amount God tells you to, after prayer. This means:

***Being careful not to give on emotional impulse.***

This decision should be thought through and prayed through (Prov. 21:29).

***Being careful not to give based on reason alone.***

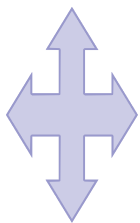
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5).

***Pledging a faith amount, not just a safe amount***

Hebrews 11:6, 32-34; Romans 14:23

***Giving sacrificially and not just leftovers***

"Not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice" isn't just encouragement to the widow with her little mite, it applies to everyone. (Mark 12:41-44; II Sam. 24:24)



### ***Growing by Faith***

Faith sees the invisible,  
feels the intangible  
and achieves the  
impossible!

"If you are reaching people, and people are being ministered to, you can't look at it as if "We've arrived..." "We've finished..." "This is all we'll ever need..." It's not! God has a bigger vision than that.

You've already grown into the space God has provided... The next addition to your facilities is a critical need... and it's important that it be provided."

—Jim Swedenburg, at First Baptist Church Training Revival

***The Growing by Faith campaign will***, over three years, pay for most (or, with a high rate of member participation, all) of the Phase II building. This will leave us with more space, the same building payment, and a reasonable increase—if any—in loan principal. The key is for everyone to give something. Members are not asked for equal gifts, but for equal sacrifice. Without the campaign, we would continue making similar payments on roughly the same balance, but without enough space.