

## Counting Our Blessings

*In fall 2009 at Emmanuel Faith Church, we will celebrate 70 years as a church body. We look forward with great anticipation to this spiritual and historical landmark.*



*At the same time, we are facing significant financial challenges ahead, both as a nation and as a church. While we desire to reach out and serve our church body, as well as our local community, we are also faced with a reduction in giving, and a desire to retire our building construction debt.*

*We seek to honor the Lord in this endeavor, and ask you to read on in this brochure to discover how you might be able to help us attain our goals . . .*

From the Scriptures, we know that the Lord wants us to be wise and obedient stewards, and to please Him with our finances. He also wants His children to be giving and generous. *A thought came up the other day: What if 1,500 EFCC people gave a one-time gift of \$50? That adds up to \$75,000 alone. Or if 1,000 people gave gift of \$100 (\$100,000), etc.?*

We also know that the uncertainty in the stock market may have led those, with a stable income and retirement, to withdraw money from investments and wait for a better market forecast before investing again. If this describes you, please seriously consider investing a portion of those funds into your home church. *The returns net changed lives now and also eternal rewards!*

Some of you have already or are planning to make EFCC a beneficiary of part of your estate via a will or trust. With research and advice from your estate planner, you may want to consider a Charitable Lead Trust or Charitable Remainder Trust. *Both are instruments that may make fiscal tax sense for your situation even in these economic challenging times, and will give you assurance that your giving will indeed address the needs as you see them today.*

If you would like to consider giving a gift, please note on your check, giving envelope, or online giving that it is for the "Building Fund." Or contact the Accounting Dept. at (760) 781-2154.

Thank you for your continued, generous giving to the ministries of Emmanuel Faith Church!

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## Multiplying Our Movement Beyond IMPACT



Emmanuel Faith Community Church  
Spring 2009

*A Plan for Financial Ministry Empowerment Through  
Debt Retirement*

## Our Movement: A Look Back

In 1996, the Emmanuel Faith Elder Board started seeking the Lord concerning His direction for future expansion options for our church campus. We were experiencing the blessing of God on our ministries to the point of overcrowding our facilities during its peak hours. It was time to seriously consider what lay ahead. As we did, it became clear that our options for further expansion on the Felicita campus were severely restricted without major structural changes to our buildings.

So the Elder Board began looking off campus, to other parts of North County to see if the Lord would lead us to a new Emmanuel Faith “larger campus” location. After much prayer and searching, it became apparent that His plan was not to move, but to “multiply the movement” through church planting. Mission Hills Church (MHC) eventually emerged, its initial vision starting back in 1999 as our 5th worship service called “The Eleven.”



As the MHC family grew (*current worship service venue pictured above*), an opportunity was presented of purchasing 32 acres in San Marcos for our expansion into San Marcos. The Lord gave His hearty endorsement of this purchase through an overwhelmingly generous \$5 million anonymous

gift. Seeing this as “seed money,” we challenged our congregation with a three-year capital campaign called *Blessed to be a Blessing*. Before the three years were up, our church family had generously contributed \$9,843,000 (more than 102% of the money originally pledged). Again it was clear that God wanted to multiply our movement.

## Plan for Expansion: 5 Key Building Projects

*Blessed to be a Blessing* focused on completing five projects: **(1)** the Mission Hills Church campus; **(2)** a 400-seat Chapel on the EFCC campus for additional worship services, memorial services and weddings; **(3)** the relocation of the Children’s playground



to bring it into code compliance and some basic remodeling of our Children’s buildings; **(4)** complete a Café / Resource Center for encouraging connecting and fellowship; and **(5)** a shade canopy over our Courtyard.

We completed the Chapel, the MHC campus and the Children’s ministry remodeling a few years back and they are all being used for ministry today. We give thanks to the Lord for the lives changed at Mission Hills Church each week. Our two Resonate worship services meet in our Chapel, as do many small groups/adult fellowships, plus the almost weekly weddings, memorial services, and other events that we are blessed to host in the EFCC Chapel. In addition, our children play daily on a safe playground adjacent to the rear Parking Lot. Since we have cancelled any plans for a canopy, the last of the five projects, the Café/Resource Center, is currently in process with hopes of being completed soon.

## Where We Are Financially Today

All together, over \$25.5 million was expended on these four expansion projects. Because of God’s blessing and the faithfulness of His people, as of April 2009, we only owe \$3 Million on all the projects. How we praise the Lord for His generosity and mercy toward us. We are very close to being debt free again which would allow us to reallocate the \$277,000 mortgage and interest expense.

We’ve been asking the Lord: “How can we pay off our building debt faster so we can more effectively and efficiently care for the needs of our church congregation and community needs today?” Everyone is being impacted by this economic recession, so what should we do?”

## What Can I Do to Help?

The Board of Elders has no plans of doing another capital campaign to eliminate this debt. Nor do we have plans for expanding with another large campus. We simply want to make this need known again to our church family to see if God is directing any to help us eliminate this debt this next year.



As you think on these various blessings and lives changed through these construction projects, please pray about how you might help EFCC pay off this debt. We understand the difficult economic times for many in our congregation. Each week we counsel and assist families who have lost jobs, medical insurance, and even their homes.

(cont. on back)