

Obedience to God

Quotes to Consider

- * We are one generation away from losing the church. There is a generation of people that have yet to be born who will need a place to come together to worship our God and King.
- * Obedience starts with giving God what is God's.
- * May we continue asking God to bless our efforts, purify our hearts, and eliminate any pride that might be present while seeking that Jesus be glorified in all that we do.

We Want to Praise God that We Are a Debt-Free Church

We want to praise God for the fact that we are a debt free church and we owe no man anything. That is a rare statement in our culture today, so let us praise God for that.

In remaining a debt-free church while building a new ministry tool, we have been able to maintain our budgeted general fund as we grow in our obedience to God.

As individuals, God will continue to bless us in this area. So, let us praise God for that as well.

While building this addition and maintaining our general fund, we've also had the capability of adding new staff, continuing to help us focus on God's plans and needs for our congregation.

As we praise God for blessing us, we also want to make sure we give God thanks for the work of His Son Jesus Christ who paid for our sin so that we don't have an eternal debt hanging over us. The only appropriate re-

to reach out to our community.

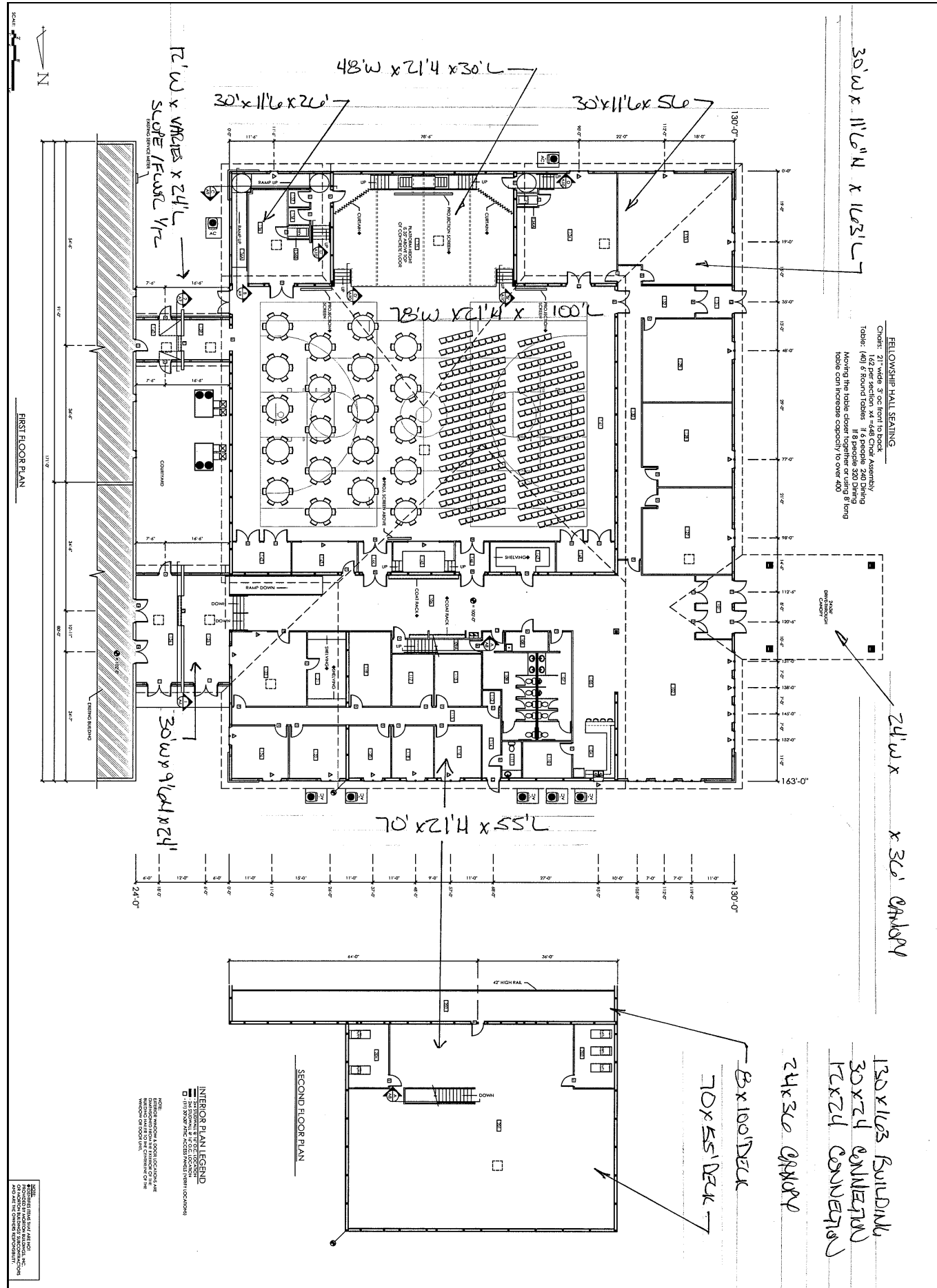
There are many organizations that are looking for places to meet. The more that people are in our facility, the more comfortable they will become. It is no big secret that the weather here in west central Illinois is, at best, unpredictable. It's also no big secret that we have many senior adults and



sponse to this is to do as Jesus commanded us, to share His life saving message with the rest of the world. This then, is the purpose of the building as a ministry tool. We see this as an opportunity to minister to many others.

This building will
give more opportuni-
ties than ever before

retirees who enjoy a good walk. With unpredictable weather patterns, it is often hard to get that in. So we see this building as an opportunity to minister to our senior adults and to provide them with a safe environment to walk, to study the Bible together, or just to spend time in fellowship with one another.



We also see this facility being used to break down barriers and to build bridges in our community among adult individuals through activities such as basketball and men's and women's fellowship groups.

Currently, limited space provides us with only two adult Sunday school class rooms while hosting six adult classes. The new facility would give us an adequate number of class rooms/space.

In a September 2006 issue of The Macomb Journal it was reported that the greatest need in Macomb is a free safe place for kids to meet after school. Our new facility could provide an environment that students in Jr. High and High School would feel comfortable using, allowing us yet another opportunity to minister.

As our adult ministries are transitioning into the new facility, nearly every square inch of our current facility will be utilized by our children's ministry. We will be able to provide them with rooms that are the appropriate size for the number of children we have attending. This would allow us to provide an extremely safe environment for our children and allow parents to rest assured that we have the best interest in mind for their children.

We are one generation away from losing the church. There is a generation of people that have yet to be born who will need a place to come together to worship our God and King.

We have a responsibility to ensure that the future generations will indeed have such a facility, a facility that is paid for so that they are not strapped with debt. This building is not about us, but it is truly about the Kingdom of God and those who will come to know Him.

We want to continue to praise God by the way we live our lives for Him through continual obedience to Him and absolute faith in Him.

We want to continue to praise God through the way we live. That is done through continual obedience and absolute faith in Him.

Habakkuk 2:4, *"but the righteous will live by his faith."* We cannot go through life relying solely on our own strength. Our faith and obedience to God is

what will sustain us through all trials. In Malachi 3:8-10, God accuses man of robbing Him through withholding his tithes and offerings. When men, (or in our case) the church, is obedient and faithful to God, His Word says, *"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."*

We cannot expect God to be faithful in blessing us when we, as a corporate body, are not being obedient and faithful to Him. We know that this is a daunting decision, if we look at it through man's eyes. But it is not for man. We know, with complete faith, that God owns it all and God will provide. We as a leadership desire to show our obedient and excitement to Him by continuing to exercise our faith; allowing Him to work through us in His exact timing and with His full provision.

So, how do we live out faithful obedience to God? We must reflect our unity with excitement. As a leadership we are in one accord and excited about the vision God has placed on our hearts. We are honored to be used by God to advance His Kingdom, not just in our lifetime, but also in the lives of future generations. So we must step into faithful obedience as a church.

Obedience starts with giving to God what is God's. Not just spiritually, but materially. Do we believe that God owns it all? Do we believe His provision is infinite? Do we believe that God will honor us if we are obedient? Do we believe that God will entrust us with more when we have been obedient with a little? Your leadership believes the answer is *YES* to all these questions! If each of us begins to tithe, that would be a first step in showing our obedience to God. Tithing is giving God the first 10% of our gross income. Some of you are thinking, "Well, tithing is an OT practice that was abolished in the New Testament". Nothing could be further from the truth! The NT never negates tithing. As a matter of fact, the NT pushes the envelope even further. Tithing is not sacrificial giving. Sacrificial giving is giving from our need as Jesus describes in Mark 12:41-44.

Tithing is a beginner's step in worship and obedience to God. This may be exhibited by dipping into your grocery budget in order to be able to give more to the Kingdom work of God. If we withhold for ourselves what is rightfully God's, would we expect Him to entrust us with more? The answer to that would be NO!

So, what does this look like to us as a church? We have a foundation that is awaiting a building. As each step has been taken, we have seen God's hand in it, and we have seen Him provide each time...*In His Time!*

Over three years ago, the leadership made a commitment to build our new addition debt free. Our current leadership is just as passionate about remaining debt free as we have been since the inception of an additional ministry tool/building. Each of us desires to please God and we believe that God does provide in His timing.

Our current agreement with the builders requires that we make a decision. To erect the building's fully enclosed shell will cost \$492,835. The total overall cost of bringing the project to completion is \$3 million. After this phase, we will have paid over \$844,000 towards the overall cost. In order to preserve this price we need to order the building before June 1, 2011. To delay would result in an increased cost when we are ready to proceed. This will not allow occupancy, but is the next step of many more steps to having a usable building.

The question is, do we stop and regroup to raise more money before moving forward, or do we step out in faith and watch as God provides? Your Elders believe that God is calling us to move forward, doing so with full faith that God will provide. Will it look like what we envision today? We really don't know! It will likely be greater because as we move forward He will reveal more of His plan to us, and it will be our role to be obedient servants. We fully trust Him. Why? Because He is our King and we are His servants!

How do we proceed? We believe as the Elders of this congregation that we must lead by example. We are asking you to step out in faith, not because we believe you need to do so, but because we need to do so. We first must show that we are being obedient to God so that you may have the confidence you are not stepping out alone. Each of us and our families have made a personal commitment of our resources to see God's vision to reach current and future generations with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We proceed together with each of us committing our personal resources to seeing God's will accomplished through us in this place in order to bring Honor and Glory to HIS Kingdom.

We close by asking that God bless our efforts, purify our hearts, and eliminate any pride that might be present. We also ask that Jesus be glorified in all that we do and pray that our obedience will be an example to others to follow Jesus. We also want to encourage you to join us on May 17, 2011 to pray and fast for the future ministries and the future generations that God may use to advance HIS Kingdom in this place.

Joshua 1:9, *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*

