

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Over the past few weeks many of us have been excited about the possibility of purchasing the Moose Lodge property and having a place we can call our own. It seems that if things continue to progress as they have been, that will soon be a reality.

It's my sincere hope that this property will help us reach the people God has called us to reach, and I believe if we view it right and use it right, it can do just that. As I've been praying over the past few weeks, I've had a couple of thoughts come to mind that I would like to quickly share with you.

- *This building is not a church; WE are a church.* As a church, we are not a social organization but a mission organization, called to reach the world. Our main purpose for existing as a body is to serve and reach those who don't know Christ.
- *Buildings don't reach people. Programs don't reach people. PEOPLE reach people.* No building has the power to draw people to Jesus. That only happens through the power of the Holy Spirit working through us. So regardless of where we meet to worship or whether or not we own property, it is up to each of us to reach the people around us.

As we move ahead, I believe remembering these two things will help us keep the proper perspective and not lose sight of the church God has called us to be. Blessings,

Geoff

PRAYER FOCUS

"I am praying to you because I know you will answer, O God. Bend down and listen as I pray." Psalm 17:6

"Answer my prayers, O Lord, for your unfailing love is wonderful. Take care of me, for your mercy is so plentiful." Psalm 69:16

Pray: Lord, the words of these Psalms say just what we're thinking—**we need you**. All of the money, land, and buildings in the world won't mean anything without your blessing. Father, help us to trust in your plan, in your provision, and in your timing. Help us to not get so caught up in the pursuit of material things that we lose focus and take our attention from the mission you have called us to—reaching our community in your name. God, as we look ahead, may we put every bit of our hope and trust in you and in you alone. We praise you for who you are, for all you do, and for the privilege of partnering with you in your work in the world. In Jesus name, Amen.

FAQ's

Q. What's the latest on the acquisition of the Moose Lodge property?

A. *On Saturday, May 15 we signed a formal, written purchase agreement on the property, contingent on inspection, suitable financing, and appropriate rezoning. The seller has requested to close by June 30.*

Q. The Moose Lodge is clearly outside of Chandler. What about New Hope's efforts to reach Chandler?

A. *Much like the previous decision to go to the YMCA for the foreseeable future, we don't believe being located on Vann Road will keep us from reaching Chandler. Clearly, our efforts to reach the community will look different than if we were located in Chandler. We will also focus some of our efforts on serving and reaching people near our new location. However, our commitment continues to be serving the community of Chandler.*

Q. Are we still going to "Tithe" on our Hope² Funds?

A. *From the beginning of the Hope²: Exponential Impact campaign we have been committed to giving away the first 10% of what we raise through the campaign to further God's work outside of New Hope through local, national, and global missions. We continue to be committed to that goal and are currently setting aside that money in a special fund.*