



**FAITH CHAPEL  
CHURCH OF GOD**  
*Extending the Invitation to Know Jesus Christ  
to Baton Rouge and the World*

**Rev. Dr. Bartholomew M. Riggins, Senior Pastor**  
**2023 Theme: Building Our Lives on The Rock, Jesus  
Christ! Luke 6: 46 – 49**

August 27, 2023

RE: Capital Campaign Challenge

Greetings Faith Chapel family, fellow labors in God's Kingdom, family members, and interested patrons. Following a very hot summer, we are looking forward with anticipation for cooler fall like weather. School has started and God has blessed us thus far this storm season.

When we think about the history of the building program and the challenges that have been overcome, we can truly say, "We have come this far by FAITH." We give glory and honor to God for His faithfulness. We have reached the stage of near completion of our new sanctuary, with interior finishing work remaining, along with the parking lot, covered entrance way, and landscaping (including fencing) which are necessary for occupancy. But let us take a brief review of the history of this project.

In the late 1990's, then Pastor JD Brown presented to the board of Trustees his vision for a new comprehensive ministry facility complete with a new sanctuary, child care facilities, gymnasium, and ample paved parking. In early 2000, church leaders started the process of acquiring the land where our building project is located. A capital campaign to cover the purchase of the land and to start the building was launched in 2003. In mid-2004, the property was paid in full providing over 12 acres of land (mostly wooded) for our new facility.

The church has made constant progress toward this endeavor with continuous fundraising and many faithful givers. The master plan for the property was approved by the city of Baton Rouge as part of the process to prepare to build. In late 2014, the decision was made to enlist the aid of a professional fund-raising company, InJoy Stewardship, to guide the church in a major effort to raise the estimated \$2.5 million dollars for the new facility, using the usage design approved by the city. There was also a commitment made by the Elder Board from our 2014/2015 campaign to use

funds raised only for the building; no campaign funds were to be diverted to other ministry projects or purposes.

As I stated earlier, we have encountered many challenges through the years, but God has remained faithful. One challenge occurred in 2016 as the city and region were hit by a historic flood. The disaster resulted in the church needing to redirect its focus in order to help impacted families. While the building campaign did not stop and there were persons who continued to faithfully give, the effect of the storm was such that the campaign was moved to the back burner. In fact, we have experienced a number of hurricanes since initially embarking on our building effort, but again, God has been faithful.

As we continued to fundraise, we reached out to several financial institutions for construction loans, thinking this was the best way forward. But God had a better plan, laying it on my heart to go forward with a pay-as-you-go building project. God connected us with a Christian builder with a heart for building churches who agreed to this plan.

In October 2019, Faith Chapel celebrated the groundbreaking of our new sanctuary facility. What a day of rejoicing that was. To God be the Glory! But again, another challenge arose, the global covid pandemic, which slowed down progress as we were limited in our ability to conduct in-person services. Yet, many Faith Chapel members continued to be faithful in their giving to the building fund. We resumed in-person, unlimited services in 2022 - and more progress was made on our building.

That brings us to today's important request. We are nearly finished with most of the major construction tasks necessary to occupy the building, and it is now time to GO TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STREET! We are asking that you seek God's guidance and commit to giving sacrificially to finish the sanctuary phase and break ground on the classroom phase. We want to raise \$500,000 in the next 75 days and cross over to our new facility by year's end. Caleb stated about the promised land, "We are more than able to take the land." The same is true of Faith Chapel, we are more than able to go to the other side of Staring Lane.

As you will see from our video, which depicts the stages of work completed to date, we are close. The work orders left consist of building a pulpit area,

fire suppression sprinkler heads, painting, parking lot, covered entrance extended into the parking lot, lighting and stage lighting, sound system equipment, chairs, children's ministry area furnishings, etc., and finally, the foundation for the classroom portion of our facility.

Please continue in pray for the Pastor, Ministers, Elders, builders, and one another as we prepare to move across the street. Again, this will all be to God's glory. It will also be our witness to His faithfulness - we are finally in the facility that was only a vision 24 or 25 years ago.

Your faithful servant,

Pastor Bartholomew M. Riggins, D. Min