

May 1, 2006

Dear North Shore Fellowship,

We are a church longing to enjoy and embody Jesus Christ in the North Shore area, Chattanooga, and the world. This past week in face-to-face conversations and in our worship we ministered to...

...a young man who was burned by a legalistic church and has lived a homosexual lifestyle.

After meeting one of us, he stepped into church Sunday for the first time in 10 years.

...a young couple who want to be married. She was turned off by the judgmentalism in the church, and he is new to church. After meeting someone from our body, they came to church together for the very first time.

...a family broken by the monster of sexual addiction. As they worshipped with us, the Spirit ministered healing through, "every word spoken or sung."

Our vision is becoming a reality. We long...

- ✓ to become a church so transformed by the gospel that we continually grow in love for God, one another, and our neighbors.
- ✓ to be a safe place for the emerging generations to discover Christ in an intergenerational community.
- ✓ to sacrifice for the transformation of North Chattanooga by meeting needs and multiplying ministries and churches in the city.

However, we are running out of space in our facility to continue growing as we live out our mission and vision. The Lord's vision for our church was greater than ours! The original vision was to fill a hole in the city for a gospel-centered church. Beyond what we would have imagined, people from all over Chattanooga have come to this church. We thank God for this. Yet fewer than fifty worshippers are from this area of town. ***We need more space to welcome the very people our church was planted to reach at the 11:00 service.***

The Lord has provided a solution that we would never have devised. If each of you could sit in the lap of a friend or family member...just kidding! One of the area pastors to whom Joe Novenson has ministered the gospel, has a large sanctuary with a very small congregation. This pastor offered our church the use of their facility if it would help us. *If it would help us?!* This facility can help us immensely because of its large size and strategic location!

Beginning in August, if approved by their congregation, **we are planning to hold our 11:00 worship service at this facility!** Our elders, deacons, and staff have researched this possibility extensively and believe this is a door that the Lord has opened for us. Though this will involve sacrifice on our part, it is a response from our desire to live out our mission and vision for the people in this city who desperately need an authentic encounter with Jesus.

We have a plan of action we would like to share with you this Sunday morning in a Town Hall meeting format. We will hold two **Town Hall Meetings in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15 and 11:00.** Rodger Piersant and I will lead you through the rationale and the plan at that time. We look forward to interacting about this next step!

Please pray about this opportunity. And please come this Sunday to hear more!

Grateful for you,