

SPECIAL SERVICE OF VISION CASTING

MAY 3, 2009

PRESENTATION OF THE OAKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS PLAQUE TO CHURCH

Thank you for being here this morning and for taking the time to come to our special gathering with all present at one time. This sight of us all together at one time will give you a better idea of what happens every Sunday when we are scattered in three services.

It was Henry Blackaby who reminded us that “God is always at work. Find out what God is doing and join Him in the work”. That is the basic premise for our meeting this morning. We are seeing the Lord at work. We know that He has great things in store and “more to do in this city”. What you are about to hear is a combination of “God workings” and “vision castings” that your pastor, staff, and church leadership have all had a part in shaping. I want to thank several folks as I start....

The staff for their insight and vision. What you are going to hear is a compilation of months of work by our ministerial staff refining the needs of the present and future, and planning solutions to meet those needs. Throughout the presentation, I will be mentioning several of our staff by name. However, some who are very vital to the success of this venture may not be singled out because the nature of their work does not require additional provisions for financial, physical, or tangible additions to their work. For example, Hobe, Genea (Preschool area), Paul Abbott and Susan Clawson (who have worked tirelessly in getting financial info and working with vendors and members to gather the most accurate data through our business office), Robbie and the ministries to families, and our clerical and support staff without whom we could not operate.

Our church leaders who met with us to refine and add additional aspects that take dreams to a new level.

Several of our members have spent significant time in researching info for this presentation, in gathering data, cost estimates of projects, and plans where plans were needed. To each of you, I say “thank you”.

To you as a church who are demonstrating the kind of faithfulness in weekly service roles that facilitate “daring to dream”. When many churches are facing closure or rift, it is good to be where a people want to dream, expect for dreams to come true, and dare to dream bigger because we believe we serve a God who makes God-sized tasks realities.

And, I truly thank the Lord for allowing us to be here for a “time such as this” when we stand week after week in His Presence and see Him changing lives and adding to His church. God is so good!

The facts of the presentation that you are about to hear will be located on our web page. You can access that by going to the website of FBCBA.org and then to the link DARE TO DREAM. You will be able to find all of the facts, photos, and drawings that you will see and hear about today..

And with that, let me begin....

FBCBA, although she is now 105 years old, is still a young lady—vibrant and alive. The diversity of ministries is remarkable in this church. We have so many things provided that most of the time, our great story is unknown to our own members. In a weeks’ time on this campus we go from Midwestern Seminary extension classes on site to soccer practice; from a public school choir concert to a car care clinic; from helping the needs of people at Arms Around Broken Arrow to a mission trip in sites like Arizpe, Mexico. On a Sunday, we have every part of this facility alive with babies, children, students, college classes, Singles, Adults of all ages, and many types of planning, discipleship, Bible study, music, and training events everywhere.

In recent weeks, you would want to know something about what God has been doing in bringing people to Himself through this church....

Averages over the last six months...

The average # of visitors weekly – 19

The # of additions to the church – 112

The average # in worship each week – about 2200

(Easter Sunday attendance was 3172)

THE GO CELEBRATION STATS

YTD needed for GO - \$87,074

YTD gifts to GO – \$98,812

PEOPLE COMMITMENTS FROM THE GO CELEBRATION, 2009

7 people made commitments to Full Time Mission service

73 people made commitments to evangelism/outreach

92 people made a commitment to go on a mission trip this year from FBCBA

EVANGELISM

Because of God allowing us to live in a growing community, we want to be more aggressively seeking relationships with those around us.

Last week, Brother Kevin did a great job in unveiling NEIGHBOR INITIATIVE. The plan is clear.....treat every community, business, “gathering” as a tribe or village to be reached. You and I are the missionaries. What is going to be our strategy to reach that “people group” with the Gospel? Kevin has developed a Neighbor Initiative Kit that will give assistance in what a person can do within the group. That training will be tonight at 6 PM. We have already had 60 people agree to host a group in their home, business, or an alternate site.

Todd and Kevin are working to build more outreach opportunities into and through the Sunday school. This fall, they will be unveiling a very timely and practical method whereby all of us can be involved in relationships that will provide evangelism opportunities either through personal witness or bringing a person to an event where the gospel will be plainly shared.

We thank the Lord that our children’s ministry (Bryan Church and Neva Haley) and student ministry areas (Kyle Raney, Jamie Pope, Dusty Gallup, Brooke Crow) continue to do an excellent job of casting the nets so that we regularly see children and students baptized. Praise the Lord!

In order to enhance those who do come as guests to FBCBA as a result of your invitations, we want to provide a better way of greeting and welcoming our visitors. What you are about to see is an attempt to do that very soon....

- 1) The video and/or renderings of the new Welcome Center where Wholly Grounds is located presently.
- 2) The floor plan drawing (and any other rendering) we may have of the Guest Receiving Room.
- 3) The Resource Center that will be included in these renovations.

And, to make it easier for folks to find the church, to know that there “is” a church up here, and to know what is going on at the church, we have been working on getting info about an new church sign for our entry. Here is the sign company’s rendering of what that would look like as you enter FBCBA....

(show the latest sign video from the sign company) I will email that to you for the presentation.

MISSIONS

How blessed we are to have such a great mission minded church! We often hear about the work of our Ends of the Earth teams and we thank God for international partnerships between FBCBA and Vietnam (Wagoners), Cambodia (Henry and Neri Tran), Venezuela (Larry-Ruthann Wells), Columbia (Steve Wolfe), Thailand (Hetricks, Doris Whisenhunt, Dennis – Martha McIntyre), India (Randy Willis), and Mexico (Joe Vaughn). This past year, the number of baptisms radically increased in these mission sites and the number is approaching 1000 baptisms there. As a result, FBCBA will have 17 mission trips this year to these sites in order to encourage the believers and to reach more who are just waiting to come to Christ.

Did you also know that “locally” because of your gifts, you provide assistance for a Women’s Shelter for battered women, crisis pregnancy center, a hospitality house for folks with critically ill patients in the hospital? Did you know that you are a part of a race track ministry through Joey Keith, an ongoing prison ministry through a number of our men and ladies who go weekly to jail, and a ministry in times of disaster to help those affected with food, chaplaincy, and chain saw assistance to clear debris?

We also partner with about eight other churches to provide a ministry called Arms Around BA under the direction of Hugh Zimmerman. This work assists folks with food, clothing, some general medical assistance, and limited financial assistance in times of need.

(show the photos of the old AABA and the new site)

Because of the success of Arms Around BA’s ministry and because of the difficult times for so many people, the building where we have been housed that has served us well is too small. So, the Board of Directors of AABA (Hugh Zimmerman, Robbie Evans, Kevin Cottrell, Nellie Lawson) have just voted to lease a larger building on Elm that will be the new home of AABA. It provides easier access, visibility, and room to help more people.

ARC

(show the pictures of the ARC)

For about 18 months, we have been enjoying the newest addition to the church property and our ministry. The Athletic and Recreation Center (ARC) has become what we hoped.....a site of constant and diverse activity on the campus. Mike Whitson, our Director, and Patti Geary, his associate, has launched numerous ministries for folks of all ages. You can see the wonderful diversity of ages and activities as folks have come to love and use the ARC.

(show pictures of the new ball field)

Because of your gifts, we have recently been able to expand the fields where we have had flag football and soccer. The ground has been rough and has needed new soil, sod, and irrigation.

You have provided that already and the work is being done as we speak. You would want to know that the soil for the improvement was donated to FBCBA from a construction site so once again we have been the recipients of good gifts from the Lord!

Athletic Fields-North

-The field area will be a little over 3 acres of playing surface. It will be completely level and have bermuda grass sod plus an irrigation system that can water the entire surface. This will provide a safe multi use surface.

-The field area will be used for a variety of purposes. The field area will be able to be divided into numerous fields of differing sizes according to the sport or activity.

Here are some of the uses and the benefits that it provides FBCBA:

- Upward Flag Football & Cheer - Will involve 150 participants (Kindergarten - 7th grade) this Fall. Each week starting in August and going through the 2nd week of October Upward will bring these participants and their families to the FBCBA campus twice a week. Many of these families will be non-churched so it is a tremendous outreach.
- Summer Sports Camps - This Summer (2009) the ARC will host two Next Level Sports camps (Football & Soccer). Projected attendance of those camps is around 100 participants. These participants will be a mix of FBCBA members and non-members. This is another outreach opportunity to unchurched kids and their families. Devotionals will be shared each day of camp.
- Summer Day Camp - The Kids Summer Day Camp (iKamp) and the Childrens Camp (Winshape) will be able to utilize this field area for games and activities that will take place during their camps.
- Church-wide fellowships - These fields provide a great area for when the FBCBA membership has any kind of churchwide activity. A multitude of uses for church-wide activities on a nice level grassed well groomed surface.
- Adult Flag Football & Soccer - These fields will provide the surface area to be able to create opportunities for outreach to young adults through Flag Football and Soccer leagues.
- Field Rental - These fields will be available for rent to outside youth teams that need practice areas. This will not only provide money to help in the upkeep of these fields, but also it gets these teams and their families on our campus and provides an opportunity for us to connect with the community.

Throughout the children's and student ministry areas, we are seeing the need for upgrades as our staff and ministry leaders continue to provide the finest that we can do in innovative ministries with the best in video, audio, and technical support. We are overdue in the children's area with some upgrading and we have some plans on the table to enhance the technical support systems in the large room sometime soon.

In the student area, one of the most urgent needs is "outside" the building. Some of the first lights that were installed on the property almost 15 years ago for security were the lights on the student center parking lot. They have served us well. However, the amount of light that they emit in comparison to the newer lights throughout the property cause them to look "yellow" and at night, not as effective or efficient as newer lights.

(show the lights while I am talking including the newer lights that are proposed and then move to show the diagram of "where" they will be at this point in the presentation).

Soon, we hope to install new, light poles with two lights on each pole. The poles will be 30 foot poles that are steel. There will be about 10 light poles that will replace the wooden ones we now have on the student center parking lot. The difference in appearance, efficiency, and security will be remarkable.

WORSHIP CENTER

It is very hard for me to believe that it has been 10 years ago this January that our church family made the march from Broadway to Albany for the first day in this “new” worship center. Over this decade, we have enjoyed many different types of events and many wonderful worship encounters. As is true with every building, however, the time comes for upgrades and we are at the place where that time is rapidly approaching for our worship center. The staff who are responsible for the technical presentations are continually helping us to upgrade the system incrementally with the best that we can do to make it better. Brother Russell, Dax Pogue, Jody Casper, along with several of our laymen who are knowledgeable in the audio/video/tech support areas work constantly to make sure that we have the finest tools to make communication clear.

The electronic support systems (screens, projectors, lighting trusses, etc.) all need what is now more effective than we had available to us 10 years ago. We need to provide 2 new cameras. Two of those we have had just recently recorded their last video.

We need the capability of darkening the room from outside light for videos and special presentations and that would be better facilitated with electric shades. We would like to connect all of the televisions throughout the building to show announcements in the classes or have special video presentations in the Adult classes to start or end a lesson.

All of these are good things but all require money to enable them becoming a reality.

Just outside these windows to my right and your left, we have a large grassy area. From the day we moved in and even more so when we opened the ARC, we have desired to landscape that area with shrubs, trees, flowers, and lighting so that we have something very attractive to see when folks are in the worship center. Out of that desire, the vision grew to make that site a prayer garden with benches, perhaps a fountain, and make it a quiet place where folks could retreat on pretty days for a time with God. It could be used for small weddings or groups gathering for special prayer times so that it would be quiet and yet easily accessible. You can see on the screen the plan that has been researched and reviewed by Syndy Thrash, Brad Hale, and several of our staff and church leaders.

From the time we moved on the property, several of us have longed for a spiritual symbol to mark this hilltop as a church so that when the community is going to work on the BA, entering the city by coming up the Muskogee Turnpike, doing business in the rapidly developing retail centers around us, having events at the high school, or looking toward Broken Arrow from Tulsa...they would be able to see a marker on this hill that would cause them to pause, consider the symbol in their journey with God, and to become a landmark that is easy for folks to use for directions.....that symbol would be large cross.

Likewise for the members of our church and community, the hilltop site of a cross overlooking BA to the south, the high school, commercial and residential areas, and the BA Expressway with folks traveling to and from our city, we would have a natural place for prayer gatherings. Individuals, SS classes, prayer groups, circles of friends could meet “under the cross” and pray

there. With benches added at the foot of the cross, it could become an excellent site for quiet reflection and spiritual refreshment as folks meet with the Lord.

Because of the elevation of this hilltop, a cross (or crosses) on this site would be readily visible for miles around. For the last several months, Rusty Thrash along with an ad hoc team of church members has been looking at the possibility of erecting a cross on this site. The work is still in the preliminary stages but since it is the project that sparked the most interest in the last two presentations that I have brought to you, I wanted to give you an update. You can see photos of what a cross would look like that would be up here. We are not in position to tell you a “time” when we might could begin to see construction, but we do know more than we have known in the past about such a project....

1. These crosses are made of steel that are strong enough to withstand winds in excess of 100 mph or a small plane crashing into them.
2. A cross would take about 6 months to construct.
3. A cross would be about 150 feet tall (the water tower is 100)
4. We brought a crane on site to see what 150 looks like and here is the sight.
5. A cross would be lit at night.
6. A cross would cost about \$500,000 to construct. The benefit would be that it would be up here for all of the days that the church is here.....

Now you would want to know that there are other things that we are not presenting today that are also being examined. One of those is storage space. We never have enough. We have recently been giving a new “lift” and a tractor by members of the church. These along with other large pieces of equipment need a more accessible and secure storage building. We know some other things are needed like a new children’s or youth facility with church offices in that addition.....a way to alleviate some of the crowd press in the foyer between worship services.....church planting possibilities. Those will come at a later time when we have more definitive directions.

Now let’s examine how we can do the work that has been proposed in this presentation....

1. You will see the first five projects that I mentioned on the screen with an our best estimated costs. Please note that none of these are firm proposals but are the best estimates that we have secured that we believe to be very close to the actual costs. These five with their assigned costs would be the first projects completed. This list has come from the work of our staff and having been seen by a cross section of our leadership teams and deacon body.
2. The remaining projects you see listed with an approximate total for the remaining five. We are still working on some of those to get a proposal but our best guest from info that we have received thus far would lead us to believe that the number you see is within a good range.

3. Thus, the overall cost of doing all that you have heard this morning would be about \$1.7 million.
4. After meeting with our church leadership, the finance team, and deacons, we are proposing that we begin June 7 with an 18 month campaign to construct or purchase the items on this list of projects. During the 18 months, we would ask our members to bring a financial gift over and above budget and missions to complete these tasks. We know that the number is large; that the economic times are difficult; but we also believe that our folks have done the work that we now enjoy in a church at Albany through difficult financial times in the US and Oklahoma.
5. We are further proposing that June 7 be a grand in-gathering day for the purpose of getting a jump start this summer on the first 2-3 of the projects you see listed at the top. So, we are going to pray and believe for a \$250,000 day to get us started. Then, each week for the remaining 18 months (from June 7, 2009 until Jan. 1, 2011) we will bring designated gifts to go toward accomplishing what you have heard presented.
6. The priority will be to do the first five projects. The second five are more fluid and some are not yet solidified with all of the factors required to make them viable projects. So, we have listed the total amount so that you know the first five and as we get those done, we will make you aware of which project is “on deck”.

Now may I move to some of the issues that are on my heart. How grateful that we can dream dreams of upgrades, ministry expansions, and enhancing the site God has given to us. But like you, my heart is heavy because of needs that we are facing that are changing daily. The world we are in is changing. Our country is changing swiftly. Churches are changing and people are changing. Some time ago, David Johnson sent me a clip about how rapidly we are changing. I want for you to watch this .

DAVID, SHOW THE YOUTUBE CLIP HERE.....

Perhaps your first response is “I don’t want to think about that or know that”. We don’t have that luxury. We are either contributors which shape change or we are the ones who live with the changes that have been made for us. Our nation is changing rapidly away from its moral and economic roots.

Hate Crimes law passed this week by the house – 249-175.

Pro-gay marriage – Iowa became the first state to legalize it this week

Pro-abortion cabinet

Pro-porn atty general

Pro-stem cell research

Government moving quickly in owning banks, car companies, “collectivism” in the marketplace, and soon your healthcare.

Pro-debt – Has anyone ever recommended that the way to prosperity is to accrue as much debt as you possibly can?

Adrian Rogers once said:

You cannot legislate the poor into freedom by legislating the wealthy out of freedom. What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving. The government cannot give anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else. When the other half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work because the other half is going to take care of them, and the other half gets the idea that it does not good to work because somebody else is going to get what they work for, that my dear friend, is about the end of any nation. You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it.

Pro-empathy for a Supreme Court Justice replacement – the strength of the law is that is it impartial. Partiality can move both ways and result in great bias.

SBC is changing – fourth straight year of decline in baptisms. Cooperative program is basically holding its own in the midst of declining numbers in SS and in church growth.

Families are changing. More mobility. Less loyalty to a church or denomination. Less understanding of doctrinal differences. Less difference between church families and students and the world.....same stats, same entertainment, same outcome.

Churches are become more and more liberal in their thinking.....no longer convinced that Christ is the only way to heaven, no longer convinced there is a hell. No longer convicted about alcohol, pornography, gay marriage, abortion, divorce, etc.

Several of you have begun writing to me with concern. “What can we do?”

Let me also share that we need some help with ministry and people issues very soon. So, I am proposing the formation of some short term and some long term ad hoc ministry teams to help with research and development of plans to be brought to the staff and church leadership groups. Here is a list of those groups. On the way into the worship center today, you received a blank piece of paper. Now is when that is to be used. If you would like to be considered to serve on one of these teams and you have the time in the next 6-9 months to meet to make the plans, please put the name of the group that interests you, your phone number, and we will do our best to accommodate you. Please know that sometimes we have many folks want to do “one” and we will try to keep the groups small enough to meet easily so you may not get to serve on the one that is your choice.

1. Innovative Ministry
2. Innovative Mission

3. Confronting and Engaging the Culture
4. Support for Parents
5. Rescuing from the Darkness – helping people who are trapped by addictions.
6. Exploring innovative approaches to infrastructure in the future (power sources, water, etc.)
7. Christian World View and Baptist Distinctives

A Christmas Club type approach to helping people.....

Today, we dare to dream. I have no desire to be a “mirror” of our society but rather to minister to our society. I am not interested in pasturing a church that just wants to be a thermometer to measure the spiritual coldness of our generation. I pray we would be a thermostat that would affect the temperature of the spiritual climate around us. We don’t have to win for the outcome is the Lord’s. He has already won the ultimate victory. But the present battle is for our generation and we must not be AWOL and forfeit.

I dare to dream....

....of doing God’s work and God’s will.

....of making a difference in our generation.

.....of being a church that reaches lost people.

.....of believing that God is going to do mighty things with us.

.....of the Lord raising up

Strong, cohesive families

Courageous men

Christ-like women

Committed students

Contented Children

I dream of the Glory of God covering the earth as the waters cover the seas.....

The passage of Isaiah 1 is so very clear in its message to our generation. The burden of God’s heart for a people who have forgotten God is revealed in the first verses. Then God enumerates the sins of a wayward nation. Isaiah 1:18-19, God calls the people back to Himself and calls for their repentance....”Come, let us reason together....” The hope of a nation’s restoration and

rebirth is a return to the Lord God. And, His invitation is clear...”Come....though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow”.

The beginning of God working is when God’s people call on Him in earnest and are willing to do what God says. In that way, we are giving God our best today! We give Him our best by...

Giving up our sin

Giving up our selfishness

Giving ourselves fully to Christ

Giving our offerings with a grateful heart

Giving our best for our Master....no guarantee of tomorrow. We cannot make up tomorrow what we should have done today.

John Wooden – MAKE EVERYDAY YOUR MASTERPIECE...

John said that when he saw a player goofing off and slacking during practice, he would pull the player aside privately and say, “I see that you are not practicing that hard today and as I notice you are not giving your all I believe I know what you are thinking. You’ve had a busy week, a couple of tests, have another coming up and since it’s been a busy week, you’re just going to take it easy today. Tomorrow you will make up for it. But, that’s the problem—at any given time and place all you can give is 100%. So, tomorrow you think you can make it up and give more, but you can’t do 150%...it just can’t happen...all you can do is 100%. You can’t do more. And, whatever you leave on the table today is lost....gone. You don’t make up tomorrow what you did not do today—you left it. So, MAKE EVERYDAY YOUR MASTERPIECE.

So that is a glimpse of what is happening, what has been addressed as ministry and site needs, and the proposals that have been circulating among leadership for almost a month now.

Before we wrap up this presentation with an invitation, please complete the blank piece of paper with your name and with any team that interests you and we will do our best to get you connected and started to work. Please put your papers in the hands of one of our ushers at the doors along with your offering for the day.

The ushers will collect your papers and your offerings in baskets. We will announce the results of the budget offering in the service tonight.

