



A "Hearing from God"
Capital Stewardship Campaign
Building God's Way | Forward in Faith
www.bgwservices.com/

Dear Friends,

At Owosso Church of the Nazarene, we have been part of an exciting journey as God has used this congregation to reach our community with the hope of the gospel. Over the past ten years, we have experienced growth in attendance, in facilities, and in giving. Most importantly, we have grown spiritually through discipleship and worship. As amazing as this journey has been, I am confident that God has even greater things in store for this fellowship.

Back in 2002, as our new Community Center was being built, I stood in the skeletal structure of that building and asked God, "What next?" As I turned to look across the field, God revealed to me a large sanctuary filled with thousands of worshippers. At the time, it seemed like an impossible dream.

As we continue to experience God's growth and blessing, the dream is now becoming a necessity. Church growth statistics say that when a congregation reaches 80% capacity in their sanctuary, they will cease to grow. Our track record here has proven that. Our attendance has grown to over 600 at several points only to shrink back to 450 because of lack of space. Our recent 75th anniversary and Easter Celebrations pushed our capacity beyond the maximum.

Imagine the opportunities a new Sanctuary could bring to our fellowship:

- ◆ Strengthening unity through combined corporate worship celebrations
- ◆ Expanding worship spaces for our children & students
- ◆ Hosting nationwide artists & community events in a large venue

One possible way to approach a new sanctuary project would be through fund raising. But this kind of campaign would be based solely on human effort and resources. In human terms, the idea of building a new sanctuary seems to be an impossible task. To raise \$4 million dollars to build a 1400 seat sanctuary is an absurd proposition, especially considering our current economic situation. The task before us will require a miracle from God. Raising money alone will not provide the solution. In order for God to accomplish this miracle through our fellowship, we need to hear from God. We need to be transformed into vessels through which God can work to accomplish His purposes.

Over a year ago, our church board made the decision to partner with an organization called "Building God's Way: Forward in Faith." This organization specializes in helping churches to hear from God regarding His will for building and expansion. Much behind-the-scenes work has gone into preparing our fellowship to embark on this life-changing experience. We will fast and pray together, we will listen and learn together, and we will grow together. Our church leaders began the fasting and praying process on March 16. On April 20, our entire congregation will have an opportunity to begin hearing from God and catching a vision for the future of our church. We are committed to a three year process of praying, growing, and giving.

The campaign process allows us to "set the table" for what we believe God has called us to do at Owosso Church of the Nazarene and in our community, to share various ways in which we can partner with each other, and to invite people to participate in an exciting journey together in seeking His guidance in terms of personal involvement.

The Hearing from God Program

- ◆ Centers around prayer & fasting
- ◆ Focuses on asking God questions
- ◆ Encourages journaling
- ◆ Appeals to the heart

Our goal is that everyone in the congregation will participate in the campaign process. Our passion is that they might look back at the campaign experience as one of the most spiritually enriching times of their life.

Here are some things you can look forward to over the next several weeks:

- ◆ Vision-casting sermon series
- ◆ Small group and Sunday School lessons that will prepare us for what God has next
- ◆ Letters and emails to keep you informed and updated
- ◆ Reports of spiritual transformation
- ◆ Financial commitment updates
- ◆ Radical transformation in every area of our lives

There is a world outside our own that God longs to reveal to us and Jesus' disciples realized this when asking to learn more about how to pray. They could see Jesus' great commitment to prayer, the time dedicated to seeking the mind of God, and the impact the "times alone" had upon His work & ministry. God also longs to reveal Himself to us. He is in the business of caring for His own, desirous to meet our needs and longs to provide direction in a world that seems to have lost it.

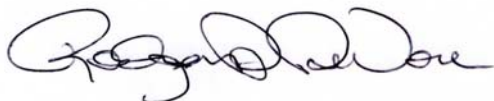
The "Hearing from God" campaign might be a NEW beginning for you! The results may surprise you! As God speaks and His children obey, very significant things occur!

Introduction of Campaign Team Leaders:

- ◆ Lead Pastor - Rodger De Vore
- ◆ Forward in Faith Team Leaders - Lori & Fred Fernette
- ◆ Hearing from God (Prayer) Team Leaders - Dick & Wanda Ordway
- ◆ Communication Team Leaders - Tom & Kim Cruce
- ◆ Office Team Leader - Deidre Marks
- ◆ Hospitality Team Leaders - Lois & Scott Walker
- ◆ Personal Contact Team Leaders - Jim & Ann Buffa
- ◆ Follow-Up Team Leaders - Clare & Joyce Goff
- ◆ Gift in Kind (GIK) Team Leaders - Jim & Kay Bullock
- ◆ Children & Student Leader - Kim Samson

If you have any questions about the "Hearing From God" Campaign, please contact our Team Leader, Lori Fernette at 989.723.8986 or flfamily@chartermi.net or myself at 989.723.2229 or ocnrodger@michonline.net

Your Fellow Servant,



Rodger D. De Vore
Lead Pastor

Campaign Calendar Dates

- ◆ **Vision Sunday- April 20th**
One Combined Service at 10:45 a.m. & Prayer for Campaign from 6-7 p.m.
- ◆ **24-Hour Prayer Vigil - May 23rd & 24th**
Begins Friday at 5 PM and ends Saturday at 5 PM
- ◆ **All-Church Vision Banquet - May 30th**
7 PM in Community Center (catered meal)
- ◆ **Celebration Sunday - June 8th**
- ◆ **Firstfruits Sundays - 1st Sunday of the Month for 3 years**

*If you would like to be **REMOVED** from our "Hearing from God" Stewardship Campaign mailing list, please contact us in the church office at 989.723.2229 or email us at ocnoffice@michonline.net*