

beyond

imagination

God's Power-Through Us-For All Generations

Ephesians 3:20-21

News

Grace Baptist Church

Volume IV

May 2003

Making the Dream a Reality



The Beyond Imagine campaign will allow Grace Baptist Church to not only build a new facility but also build life-long stewardship.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Amazing! We have received nearly \$1,300,000 in cash and pledges so far—incredible!

Indeed the Beyond Imagination campaign has been an incredible blessing. We

heard from many people about the way God was working in their lives through the process of stewardship—that is very encouraging to us as a body of believers, who took on this endeavor together.

So often, it is easy to pre-

tend the issues around stewardship don't exist; however, we didn't do that. Instead, we faced the challenge head on. In doing so, we have drawn closer to God and have raised a significant level of committed capital towards our relocation. I sense God is not quite through with us and I would encourage all of you to keep asking God what He would have us do. We were all reminded that stewardship is a life long part of the journey on this side of eternity.

Since we began this journey together, let us encourage one another. If you experience God teaching you in a special way, please share it with your family here at Grace. What God can do and has already done is truly Beyond Imagination.

Serving a powerful God together,

*Randy De Mers
Executive Director*

Pledge Totals

As of April 29, 2003,

208 families had pledged a total of **\$1,181,981.**

So far, Grace has received **\$107,911.50** in one-time, non-pledged cash gifts.

That brings the grand total of contributions to the

Beyond Imagination

Campaign to

\$1,289,829.50.

If you would like to make a

pledge to the campaign,

it's not to late! Contact

the church office for more

information.

Amazing Youth Outpouring



Student Ministries pledged \$20,000—in addition to any adult pledges!

I have just completed my first Capital Campaign as a church staff member. I do have to admit that I entered into it with nervousness, doubts and fears about how the students would respond to this challenge. As we are continually in the process of challenging our teens to develop spiritual disciplines such as Bible study, prayer, evangelism and discipleship, I felt that the concept of giving was an area they may not be ready to participate in. I thought that their response would be minimal.

Boy was I wrong!

God taught me a lesson in humility, and I was blown away by the awesome faithfulness of our teens! As the final pledges have come in, we are just shy of \$20,000 in pledges from junior and senior high students alone. Let me assure you that the adult leaders' pledges were not factored into the student ministry totals. That amount is solely from students!

Praise God for how He is working in the lives of our students! Many of them have taken the challenge to invest in the future of this church as they look for-

ward to share in the harvest of God's blessings. If you ever have any doubts about teens in our day and age please take pride in what God is doing among the teens of Grace. The future of our church will be in good hands as this younger generation comes of age and is expected to assume greater responsibilities within the body of Christ. The future's so bright I gotta wear shades!

All in the Family,

Scott A. Russ
Pastor of Student Ministries

The church will provide assistance for those wishing to donate non-cash gifts.

Non-traditional Gifts

The Beyond Imagination Stewardship campaign provides methods and expertise for individuals who wish to donate to the campaign in ways other than cash gifts.

These gifts could include:

- ◆ Insurance
- ◆ Annuities
- ◆ Stocks/Bonds
- ◆ Real Estate
- ◆ Coin Collections
- ◆ Works of Art
- ◆ Other Collectibles

The church will provide individuals with expertise in any non-cash items that may be given. Please contact Mel Nelson at 833-7566 with any of your needs in the above areas.



Prayer has given us faith and will help us persevere.

From the Prayer Team

The prayer team was pleased with our April Prayer Vigil. We would like to thank everyone who participated in this special evening. We continue to pray for God's guidance in our personal lives and in the life of our church.

Many of us prayed for faith to make financial commit-

ments to our Stewardship Campaign. We also continue to pray for perseverance as we trust God in this matter and we pray that we are found faithful. May we encourage one another along the way.

Some of you will have testimonies to share about your involvement in the Steward-

ship effort. There will be opportunities for you to tell of important decisions you have had to make. We would love to include a few personal stories in future articles. If you would like to report on your step of faith, please contact Becky Biebel at 838-0705.