

One To The Next (Part 1) – Judges 2:6-15

Judges 2. Back in November, we announced our intent to renovate the south-end of our building for our children's ministry, and the time has come.

The time to begin a capital campaign, and Lord willing, make it happen.

So I'm going to take the next 2 weeks to roll that out, talk about why, what we *need*, and how; how we can do it.

And let me just say: if you're new to our church, you're just visiting or trying to figure out if this is where you want to call home, this isn't for you. Feel no obligation.

This is for those of us who *already* call this home. Those who *already* in. Members and regular attenders.

➤ That said, it's a build-out that we've been praying for as elders for several years now. And we believe that just like God's been faithful in the past, he'll be faithful again. Like his faithfulness in the Spring of 06, when 150 families gave \$1.6M in 6 weeks, to secure the financing and *purchase* this building. And his faithfulness in 2012 when a whole bunch *more* gave \$4.5M to build the north end. We were willing, and God was faithful.

And given the need, the responsibility, and the opportunity – we believe he'll be faithful *again*, with the south end.

So I'm going to lay out the reasons why. *Why* there's a need, and responsibility, and opportunity. Trusting that God will use them to spur us on.

14 Reasons to Renovate the South End

7 this week, and 7 next. Starting with the biblical, and working toward the pragmatic.

Here's the first:

1. The stakes are high.

Judges 2:6-15. The time is roughly 1400BC. The place is the land of Canaan, the promised land. The people are the ancient Israelites. And their leader is Joshua.

[6] When Joshua dismissed the people, the people of Israel went each to his inheritance to take possession of the land. [7] And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the LORD had done for Israel. [8] And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of 110 years. [9] And they buried him within the boundaries of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the hill country of Ephraim, north of the mountain of Gaash. [10] And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel.

[11] And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals. [12] And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the LORD to anger. [13] They abandoned the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroath. [14] So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them. And he sold them into the hand of their surrounding

enemies, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies. [15] Whenever they marched out, the hand of the LORD was against them for harm, as the LORD had warned, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were in terrible distress.

Just like the next generation didn't automatically embrace God *then*, they won't now.

We have to *pass* the baton. We have to do everything we *can* to teach our kids the ways of God. Everything we *can* to influence the next generation.

Because it won't happen by itself, and the stakes are high. From the displeasure and *discipline* of God, to the state of their souls.

The next generation may forsake God. Turn their back on him. Forget all about him.

Like it says in Y10b – *there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel.*

They didn't *know* him, because they didn't care. They didn't *want* to know him.

And because human nature is exactly the same, *our* kids won't care, if we don't do everything we possibly can, to pass our faith on.

The stakes are that high.

2. The battle rages.

In 2016, Barry Corey, the President of Biola University, a Christian school in California, wrote an article titled, "Why We Are Fighting in California."

Fighting for what's right. Citing reasons that apply to Christians everywhere. (**quote**)

He said, "*We are fighting for the preservation of a confident and coherent Christianity, one that's passed on to the next generation intact and not redefined according to the cultural zeitgeist.*" The spirit of the day. The cultural winds that blow.

He goes on to say, "*In an increasingly cutthroat world full of persons and nations only looking out for their own interests, we want to preserve the Jesus ethic that sacrifices for others and seeks first the kingdom of God.*"

Amen. We want to preserve that too. A biblical Christianity.*****

But the battle rages. And if we don't fight it, if we don't train our kids in the way they should go, if we don't *counter* our culture, if we don't refute unbiblical worldviews . .

If we don't give our kids every chance *possible* to stand and flourish in this world – *they* will not only lose out, but so will our culture; our nation.

And those *beyond* our nation who they might impact in the course of their lives.

We need to renovate the south *end* for our kids, because the battle *rages* for our kids.

3. Most people come to Christ as a child.

That's the third reason to invest in facilities for our kids.

Child psychologists tells us that a person's worldview is formed between the ages of 0-13.

In other words, how they *see* the world, interpret the world, and see themselves *within* the world, is all formed and set by the age of 13.

That doesn't mean it can't be changed, it just means it's a lot *harder* to change after 13.

So our window of opportunity to convey a biblical worldview, and lead the next generation to Christ, is short.

In fact, a 2015 survey found that **63 percent of Christians accept Christ between the ages of 4 and 14**. 63%. (National Association of Evangelicals)

While only **34% accept Christ between 15 and 29**. After that it's 2%.

So investing in facilities that help us *introduce* kids to Christ, and *grow* them in Christ, is a no-brainer.

Not only that, but one of the most important factors in determining whether someone will stay in church as an adult, is their *impression* of church as a kid.

Today's children are tomorrow's church, or not, based on their impression now.

Which is why so many young marrieds and young families in our church, are so excited about this. Take a look. (**Video** – Young families excitement)

The third reason to renovate the south end for our children and students, is that most people come to *Christ* as a child.

4. Our kids deserve the best we can provide.

Let the little children come to me [Jesus said] *and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.* (Mt 19:14)

Do not hinder them, by putting *obstacles* in their path. Do not hinder them, by withholding the best. The best that you can give.

Does that mean that what we can provide *is* the best all the time? No.

Just like some *families* can't provide as much for their kids as other families, some churches can't either.

We may not be able to provide the *absolute* best for our kids, but we should provide the absolute best we *can*.

And we believe this is it. (**Overview**)

Expanded check-in area. Larger nursery. More and larger classrooms – 11.

2 Large Group rooms. More bathrooms – 5 to be exact.

Multi-Purpose room – not only for children and students, but adults as well; even weddings and funerals.

And a Play Area at the very front with a two-story glass window to the outside.

In addition to that is the kitchen, on the north end, that we've never finished.

Here are some **3-D renderings**.

Outside, Play Area, Check-in, Hallway, Multi-purpose room.

Our kids deserve the best we can provide (*****), and we believe that's it.

5. Good facilities improve our chances of reaching *more* kids.

It's not just about us, but those yet to come. And good facilities increase the chance that they will. Because good facilities attract, and bad facilities don't. Period.

Especially for the *un-churched*. They judge a *church* by its cover, just like they judge a *book* by its cover. Not knowing what to look for spiritually . . .

They choose based on the same criteria they choose *other* activities and destinations – appearances.

If the facilities are appealing, they'll check it out. And probably return.

If they're not, they won't. It's as simple as that.

And the same is true of those who *have* a church background. If they see a cramped, sub-par children's ministry, we decrease our chances of reaching them.

Good facilities attract.

And by *good*, I mean fun and cool. Fun and cool is the currency and language of kids and students. You can fight it all day long if you want . . .

And think you're really pious in doing so, but you'll lose.

If we're going to reach the next generation, we have to speak their language. Not just in *what* we say, but *where* we say it.

We have to provide a setting that's fun and inviting. An environment that they want to *be* in; and return to.

That's not to say that facilities *make* a ministry. But that they can make it *better*.

And certainly improve our chances of *more* ministry; reaching *more* kids.

6. Our current facilities aren't very good.

We've made the best of them all these years, but they're not very good.

We have a back *hallway* and a large *meeting* room that's equal in quality to the rest of our church, but that's it.

And even then (**photo**), the hallway is pretty cramped and uninviting. Especially when it's packed. Which it is, every single Sunday.

And from there, it goes downhill pretty fast. (**Video** – walk through of current facilities)

The Great Room is large, but feels grungy.

The South *Entrance* is uninviting at best.

The office space is so confined and compartmentalized it can't be used. Which presents a security risk.

And the connection hallways *between* the new and the old, feel like a maze.*****

It's the best we could do in days past, but it's not great.

Perhaps most concerning though, is that the classrooms are too small.

We routinely have 18-23 kids in several of them, measuring 16x20 each. Think single car garage. 20 kids, in a single car garage, for 90 minutes.

Here's what some of our volunteers say. (**Video** – volunteers)

We need to renovate, because the current facilities aren't very good.

We need better flow, better security, and better space.

7. Children's ministry is the greatest outreach arm of our church.

One of the best ways to reach *parents*, is to reach their kids; disciple their kids; impact their kids.

So anything we can do to advance and improve our *children's* ministry, will advance and improve our outreach. Our ability to reach adults.

If we have good facilities, good security, bright colors, and adequate space – we'll go a long way toward reaching families.

Which makes children's ministry the greatest outreach arm of our church, and another reason to do all we can to improve it. (**Summary**)

Those are the *first* 7 reasons to renovate the south end. Summed up by this:

There's a need – for better space.

There's a responsibility – to provide the best we can.

There's an opportunity – to impact the next generation.

- The question, is how? How much does it cost, and how can we do it?
That's where the capital campaign comes in; over and above our tithes, our *regular* giving. We're calling it **One To The Next** – from one *generation* to the next.
Because it's from *us*, for the benefit of those who come *behind* us.

And the cost, is \$4M (**Circle Graphic**). Here's a graphic showing that in the middle.
That's a lot. But the good news is, we've already saved **\$1.25M**. Little by little.
Which leaves \$2.75M to be raised. And this is our plan to do so.*****

\$1M through large gifts; from those able to give \$100K or more.
\$1.5M through 2 year pledges; from all of us.
And \$250K in *initial* gifts from all of us.
Equaling \$2.75M.

- Regarding the **\$1M** of large gifts, we're looking and praying for 10 households to give \$100k each. 10. And praise the Lord, some have already stepped up to do so.

Most people aren't *able* to give that much, but some are. And if that's you, we need you.
The work of ministry has *always* needed large patrons. From the women who supported Jesus and the 12 in Luke 8, to those who have supported his work through the ages.

Like the man I heard about recently on a podcast: Humphrey of Monmouth. So obscure we don't even have a picture of him. But absolutely vital to the kingdom; the church.
Humphrey lived in England at the same time as William Tyndale, the Bible translator.
Early 1500's. He was a wealthy cloth merchant, and owned a large fleet of ships.

Meanwhile, Tyndale was trying to translate the Bible into English. Something illegal at the time.
So Humphrey decided to open his *home* to Tyndale so he could translate under cover, and then used his wealth to help him *print* the Bible in Europe (**photo**).

But perhaps most important, was Humphrey's efforts to bring the Bibles *back* to England.
Using his businesses, he wrapped them in bolts of cloth, hid them on his ships, and *smuggled* them into the country. Ship after ship.
Enabling the Gospel to spread and the church to grow like it never had.*****

In fact, 2 years later the king of England actually *asked* for more Bibles.
And a hundred years after that, the King James Bible was published, *based* on Tyndale's work.
So that a group of people called the Puritans could bring it to the New World and use it to establish a *new* nation.

God has *always* used large patrons to further the work of ministry, & now is no different.
So if you're able, will you pray and consider a large gift? (**Circle Graphic**)
Is it a sacrifice? Yes. But it's also an investment. One that keeps *on* giving, and one that makes an *eternal* impact.

- The other major part of our capital campaign is the **\$1.5M** in pledges. That too is going to require sacrifice. From *all* of us. *All* of us are going to need to participate.
The question is, how much? How much should you pledge?
And the answer, is it depends; on what you're *able* to give.

But if everyone pledges an amount equal to half their annual tithe, given over the course of 2 years, we'll make it.
A good goal, would be to take your total tithe last year, add 50%, and give that amount over the next two years.

Is *everyone* able to do that? Probably not. Which means those who are able to pledge *more*, are vital as well.*****

- So will you begin thinking and praying? God is faithful if we are willing.
And we have **packets** to help you; at the door. One for each family.
And inside you'll find a *Commitment Card* that looks like this.
With a space for your *Initial Gift*, and a space for your *2 Year Pledge* – the total amount you're committing to give over 2 years. 2 parts.

And you'll notice that Giving Sunday is *March 29th*. We need all gifts and pledges by March 29th.
That enables us to plan for our bridge financing, and start construction in June.

So be sure to pick up a packet and begin praying, will you?
And if you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

Prayer – Father, give us a vision for the next generation. And a heart of generosity. To pass the torch, counter our culture, provide the best we can, and reach more kids and families. For your glory and their joy.