



Crisp Questions...
... Fresh Answers!

#1: Should A Church Spend Millions Of Dollars On A Building?

Introduction – A Brief History Of God With Us

- Eden Genesis 3:8
 - Partnering With Moses Exodus 3:7-10
 - Dwelling with his People Exodus 25:8
 - Tabernacle Exodus 29:44-46; Leviticus 26:11-12
 - Temple 2 Samuel 7:1-11
 - Promise Ezekiel 37:14
 - Jesus Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:22-23; John 2:21
 - Church Matthew 18:20; John 14:23; 1 Peter 2:5; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:19-22
 - Homes Romans 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 1:2
 - Rented Halls Acts 19:8-10
- End of New Testament -----

THE BOOK OF ACTS SHOWS US THE FIRST FEW YEARS OF CHURCH GROWTH.

THE QUESTION IS...

- a) Do we try to duplicate what we see in Acts (and other New Testament writings) down to the letter?
- b) Or do we read the New Testament asking God for the wisdom to apply the principles to our context?

EACH OPTION HAS INHERENT DANGERS...

- a) Short-sighted legalism.
- b) Human design replaces Scriptural principles.

Growing A Church vs. Building A Building

Genesis 11:1-9

“CHURCH” = *ecclesia*: a purposeful gathering; an intentional assembly of people; a Roman word originally used to refer to town meetings (as in **Acts 19:32, 39, 41**); a people-in-relationship; the purposeful gathering of the community of Christ.

OUR APPROACH AS LEADERS AT THE MEETING HOUSE...

1. What are we called to accomplish?
2. Is converting a warehouse a *WISE* step toward that goal?

Ephesians 1:16-17; Colossians 1:9; 3:16

IS CONVERTING A WAREHOUSE A WISE STEP TOWARD OUR GOAL?...

- a) Cultural Agora equivalent. (PPP)
- b) A first step that Home Church cannot be for some people.
- c) Leveraging production site to resource multiple outposts.
- d) Critical mass gets attention, one city at a time.

Conclusion – Rescuing Every Moment

Ephesians 5:15-16; Colossians 1:9; 3:16; Colossians 4:5

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

1. Talk about your reaction to this quote by John Chrysostom (347-407 CE): *Things themselves do not remain, but their effects do. Turn the things you have into eternal effects.*
2. Use your notes to review this week’s message. As you go, talk about what points most challenged, perplexed, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read Jesus’ teaching on wealth and resources in **Luke 16:1-15**. a) The main character of the parable seems to be a bit shady. How can Jesus use *him* as an example to teach spiritual truth? (Also see **Luke 18:1-8** to help answer this question.) b) What is the overall point Jesus is making in this story? c) Note **vv. 10-13**. According to Jesus, what things characterize the relationship between money and spiritual growth? (Can you think of any other teaching of Jesus on this topic?) d) Note **vv. 14-15**. In what ways can Christians be like the Pharisees regarding wealth and possessions? What does God have to say to us about that attitude?

SO WHAT?...

4. *It’s Simple.* We want the entire city to hear. The vision of The Meeting House is to have a PPP (Public Preaching Point) within a 30 minute commute of everyone in the Hamiton-GTA corridor, a Home Church within a 10 minute commute, and a stable hub to resource the extended vision. (After that, we’ll take a deep breath, and ask God what is next.) This is our best attempt at finding the right “wineskin” to help us fulfill Jesus’ calling on the church in **Matthew 28:18-20 & Acts 1:8**. As one church, we can’t do it all, but we are expected to do our part, knowing that **“much is required from those to whom much has been given” (Luke 12:48, NLT)**. What do you think are the unique strategic strengths of the particular approach of The Meeting House? What do you think are our correlative weaknesses? Pray for our church, that together we might maximize our strengths and not fall prey to our weaknesses.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, September 25 / October 2, 2005