



INITIAL

impact!
Ministry Expansion Project

Frequently Asked Questions

EAQOS

What is a ministry expansion project?

We are undertaking a two-year ministry expansion project to address some present facility limitations and expand our Kingdom impact regionally and around the world so we are better prepared for our ministry future. Each aspect of this ministry expansion project will move us closer to the vision God has given us as a church. This project is critically important to our short-term and long-term ministry goals.

An important part of the ministry expansion project is a two-year stewardship campaign that reflects our belief that everything we own truly belongs to God, and one way of demonstrating our faithfulness to him is to give more of ourselves and our resources back to him. As a church, we want to be good stewards of everything He has entrusted to us. Life-changing ministry for Christ is our goal and the stewardship campaign is an important element that will help us accomplish that goal.

Why are we calling our campaign *Initial Impact*?

Our new logo depicts a cross hitting a quiet pool of water. The impact sends ripples across the water to the outermost edges of the pool. We selected this logo because it is our intent that Bible Fellowship's ministry be initiated and directed by Jesus Christ and that the impact of our ministry is felt locally and around the world. We believe God has an exciting future for Bible Fellowship Church and this ministry expansion project is an important initial step toward that future.

Bible Fellowship Church has experienced significant growth in recent years. Our facility is at or near capacity in several areas; including space for worship, classrooms and parking. We believe the proposed ministry and facility projects associated with *Initial Impact* will enable us to continue significant disciple-making ministry in the short-term and prepare us for an exciting long-term ministry future.

How will the *Initial Impact* ministry expansion project help us make disciples?

The *Initial Impact* ministry expansion project contains several components. Together these components will help us expand our impact on the Kingdom of God and help us offer ministry that will allow people to come to Christ and to grow as disciples. However, we are facing significant space limitations in the areas of parking, children, youth, and adult discipleship that are already hindering our ministry. We also need to prepare ourselves to minister to those people whom God may bring to Bible Fellowship Church in the coming years.

NEW CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SPACE

The present youth ministry room will be converted to classroom space for our growing children's ministry. Our children's classrooms are already at their capacity limit on Sunday mornings. We have plans to offer a Sunday morning children's worship ministry that includes music, large group teaching, drama and small groups, but we need more space to do this. The additional classrooms will be used throughout the week by our ongoing ministries as well during special ministry events such as our summer Kidz Kamp.

NEW YOUTH MINISTRY SPACE

If we receive all approvals, we will install (4) 24' x 36' portable classrooms. One classroom will be designated for Junior High and one for Senior High. Each of these rooms are 864 sq. ft. As a comparison, our Woodside Room is approximately 650 sq. ft. The four classrooms will be connected by a 12' wide covered boardwalk.

NEW ADULT MINISTRY SPACE

Two of our new 24' x 36' portable classrooms will be designated for adult ministry space. These classrooms will allow us to offer an expanded adult discipleship ministry on Sunday mornings. The new classrooms and the present Woodside Room will allow us to offer three adult classes during each Sunday worship service. In 2010 we plan on introducing a new Sunday morning ministry model with intentionally developed classes on such topics as books of the Bible, basics of the Christian faith, marriage, membership classes, Bible study methods and many more. This new portable classroom will also be utilized throughout the week for various ministries.

KENSINGTON MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP

To expand our regional impact for Christ, we will be partnering with Cornerstone Community Church in the Kensington section of Philadelphia. We will send our people over the next two years to help with a church-sponsored community block party each August. Cornerstone Community Church reaches over 800 people each August through this event. We will also help with ministries such as their neighborhood Kids Club, Sunday meal ministry and their weekly Teen Club.

Bible Fellowship has committed to help refurbish a row house owned by Cornerstone Community Church. The house will be the future home of a missionary couple coming to serve the church as coordinators of a job placement/development ministry for recovering addicts. Our plan is to provide \$25,000 and to send teams to help with the refurbishing.

PERU MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP

To expand our international impact for Christ, we will be partnering with Craig and Sue Querfeld, our supported missionaries, to help plant a church in Peru. The Querfelds serve with TEAM, The Evangelical Alliance Mission. This new church, El Camino (The Way) will be planted in the Ciudad de Dios (City of God) section of the city of Arequipa. Our plan is to provide \$25,000 and to send short-term teams over the next two years to help with such things as evangelism and construction.

ADDITION OF (2) USED MINI-BUSES

The church recently purchased two used mini-buses that will be a great asset to our Sunday morning parking shuttle ministry. In recent weeks over 40 cars have been parking off-site. Even with that level of off-site parking we have regularly run out of parking spaces during our 11:00 AM service. A well-done and consistent shuttle ministry will greatly help our parking crisis and provide a very welcoming experience for future guests. The money allocated to this project will cover needed bus repairs, painting, inspection costs and 2009 insurance.

Presently we are regularly renting vans for youth ministry activities. In 2008 we rented vans 26 times at a rental cost of \$6,500. The new mini-buses will be used by the youth ministry for non-Sunday youth activities. We should be able to save up to half of what we annually spend on van rentals with the addition of the two mini-buses. This would be a significant savings to the church budget that could then be used for other ministry opportunities.

LONG-TERM FACILITY EXPANSION

We are presently investigating the option of purchasing 39 acres of land on Edgewood Road in Yardley. There are a number of issues we must consider before making a decision. Should we determine it is God's will to purchase the land, we will use some of the *Initial Impact* funds toward the purchase. If we don't purchase the land, we will use the funds for a different expansion option or toward paying down our current mortgage.

Our 11:00 AM service is at capacity and our 9:15 AM service is growing. Why aren't we expanding our seating capacity at this time?

God has been increasing our worship service attendance. What a great "problem" to have! To address this, we have several steps that we can take in the coming months and years.

Our first step will be to begin our new Sunday morning Kidz Worship: a church service for children with music, a message, small groups and more, at 11:00 AM and extend it through the entire service. Presently children from age three through grade 4 are in the first half of our 11:00 AM worship service. Families will have a choice with the new Kidz Worship schedule. This change will free up seats in the 11:00 AM worship service.

With the new classroom space we will offer three adult class options at both 9:15 and 11:00 AM. We hope that the Sunday children's and adult discipleship offerings will make it a better option for more people to attend the 9:15 AM service.

Our second step would be to offer a third service. We don't have plans developed yet, but we are very open to this option as we continue to experience growth. We will be sure to communicate with our church family if and when we take this step.

Adding additional worship space would require a facility addition. We have a lot of investigative work to do before we will be prepared for permanent expansion. The biggest hurdle we face is providing the necessary parking for an expanded facility given the amount of land we currently own.

How will the *Initial Impact* ministry expansion be funded?

The ministry expansion project will be funded by a two-year stewardship campaign with a goal of \$500,000. The giving to this stewardship campaign must be over and above the giving to the annual operating budget of the church. We are trusting in God and our people for this result.

Can Bible Fellowship Church raise \$500,000 beyond our annual budget?

We believe \$500,000 is a very attainable goal for our church. The annual budget for the 2009/2010 fiscal year is \$1,114,881. We project approximately 275 giving units (individuals or families) will give in 2010 toward our annual budget. This represents an average of \$4,054 per giving unit (family or individual) to meet the annual budget need.

If we combine the annual budget need and \$250,000, representing the first year of the *Initial Impact* goal, the total is \$1,364,881. This represents an average of \$4,963 per giving unit in 2010.

The Barna Group reports that only 9% of evangelicals tithed 10% or more of their income from 2002 through 2004. If we as a church family commit to tithing at that level, we will far exceed our goal. God is more concerned about our hearts than the amount we give. God wants us to give sacrificially. That looks different for different people. We can't think in terms of equal levels of giving but of equal levels of sacrifice. If we commit to giving sacrificially, we will not only easily exceed our goal, but we will be amazed at how we are blessed in the process.

Bible Fellowship Church took on a similar endeavor when the present facility was built in 2000. Our church family raised more than \$500,000 with less than 50% of the # of people attending our church today.

A common benefit of stewardship campaigns is that once people become accustomed to increasing their level of giving, they recognize the blessings associated with it. In many instances, the level of giving to the church remains higher after the campaign has ended.

Is it wise to launch this ministry expansion project in this economy?

We believe it is for several reasons. There are multiple projects to our *Initial Impact* ministry expansion. We will proceed with those projects as the funds are received. In doing this, we will not incur any additional debt.

This is a very difficult economic time. We realize it won't be as easy to raise funds in the coming two years as it may have been when the economy was stronger. However, Bible Fellowship Church has experienced significant growth in recent years. God has given us a vision for the future. We believe these ministry expansion projects are critical to our ability to reach more people for Christ and to help people grow through life-transforming ministry.

What will we do if giving exceeds \$500,000?

It is our hope that we face this situation. Donations beyond our goal of \$500,000 will be used toward either the Edgewood Road property purchase, a different long-term expansion option or for debt reduction.

Can we give non-cash gifts to the ministry expansion project?

Yes, we would most welcome your gift of stock, mutual funds or other property that can be converted into cash to fund the project. A gift of this nature qualifies as a tax deductible charitable contribution, and the donor can avoid any related capital gain taxes as well. Contact the church office at 215-321-3326 and let them know you would like to talk with one of our Finance Team members and one of our team members will be glad to assist you in this process.

When will we proceed with each of the associated projects?

The Board of Elders has developed a project timeline that would release funds to the various projects and debt reduction as donations are received during the course of our *Initial Impact* ministry expansion project. We would like to hold closely to this timeline but the Board of Elders may alter the release of funds if it is determined to be appropriate.