

## PRINCIPLES OF OBTAINING A BUILDING

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### **Introduction: Right Foundations!**

We are called to build people first and buildings second. Relationships come before real estate.

People are more important to us than property.

As we build people, a building becomes a valuable tool to enable increased effective ministry.

Buildings are not a measurement of success nor are they status symbols.

We must avoid seeking identity, self worth and significance in buildings, but seek them in God alone.

When our motivation is right, buildings are in fact a tremendous aid to reaching and building people.

### **1. The Benefit and Significance of Buildings**

A building is a permanent statement to the community of the existence of the church.

It brings stability, convenience, a home for the Church family and an inheritance for future generations.

It enables the multiplication of ministry, e.g. a venue for child care, holiday programmes, etc.

The senior leader needs to be convinced of the benefits and possibilities it will bring.

### **2 Share The Vision**

It is necessary to begin with sharing the value, purpose and benefits of a building with leaders and key people in your church.

Also allow time for the vision to saturate your people so that they own it and it is not just the leader pushing it

Communicate the vision to the congregation in many ways, using all available means, e.g. preaching a series of faith building, vision imparting messages. Communication of the vision can be one on one, or in cell groups, etc.

Discuss with people their dreams and ideas about the proposed building project. Use a display board.

Visit other leaders who have successfully built buildings and gain ideas from them that will inspire you.

Sow financially into the building projects of other churches in NZ or overseas. *Lk 6:38*.

It is important to wait until the people are ready before moving into the building programme.

### **3 Locate A Suitable Property**

Realistically assess your needs as a church in the local community.

Does the property have potential for future expansion and other buildings?

Is it in a significant position so that it has public profile? Does it have easy access?

Is there sufficient room for parking?

Is the property a temporary measure or permanent home?

Do you have God's leading to purchase the property? – A rhema word?

Once you have a clear leading from the Lord, pursue your building with persistence and faith.

### **4 Develop A Purchase Plan**

How will you fund or gain resources to acquire your building?

Use Biblical methods and means as the **FIRST** way to obtain a building, through sacrificial, willing, faith filled giving. *Ex 35:5,21,26,29, 1Chron 29, 2Cor 9:5-7*

Invest time and energy into preparing people thoroughly to give freely and generously without manipulation or pressure. Let the giving be prepared, planned and promoted.

There should be multiple channels available for people to contribute through, e.g. one off gift, weekly amount, sale of assets, auction etc;

Expect supernatural intervention and release of resources. This is God's work.

Explore options to bridge potential funding shortfall, e.g. loan, money left in by vendor etc.

Encourage everyone to participate in some way because the building is for their family and needy people in the community. The building is to be a centre for souls to be won to Christ.

Avoid pressure, manipulation and controlling methods to get people to give.

### **5 Move Purposefully Toward Your Dream**

Occupy your building if you can until you purchase it.

Make faith filled declarations to reinforce the vision often.

Celebrate the milestones of progress with the whole Church.

Encourage, affirm, honour the whole team and enjoy the process.

Give glory to God, share your journey, it will encourage others.

Have a grand opening ceremony with great publicity.