

2nd Anniversary of Freedom on Powers



Testimony

On Sunday, the 26th of October we will celebrate the second anniversary of our *Freedom on Powers* debt reduction campaign. This celebration is to praise God for His blessings on our church and to thank all of those who have contributed to the campaign over the past two years. The importance of each and every contribution can hardly be overstated.

The *Freedom on Powers* campaign was initiated to reduce our mortgage debt and to put the church in a financial position to take whatever steps God leads us to in service to Him. Our overall strategy is to accommodate our continued growth in the next few years by optimizing the use of our existing facilities, to position ourselves for future expansion by reducing our current debt, and to expand our facilities when the Lord calls upon our hearts that the time is right. *Freedom on Powers* is a fundamental part of this strategy.

Thanks to the generosity of our church body, the *Freedom on Powers* campaign has been very successful. At the start of the campaign our debt was \$5.6M. Through the sacrificial giving of the church body, as evidenced by increases in the amount budgeted for debt reduction, as well as contributions to *Freedom on Powers* over the past two years, we have been able to lower the debt to \$4.0M. *It is especially rewarding to know that every dollar given to Freedom on Powers is 100% applied to debt reduction. Interest charges on our debt are permanently eliminated by your gift.*

The benefit of *Freedom on Powers* giving is shown below. The table shows the amount we are applying to the principal and interest on our debt and the tremendous value *Freedom on Powers* has had, combined with our budgeted debt reduction, in quickly reducing the debt.

Year	Principal Payment	Interest Payment	Debt Amount
2006	\$119,674.00	\$332,759.00	\$5.6M
2007	\$686,783.00	\$309,981.00	\$4.8M
2008	\$757,234.00	\$250,686.00	\$4.0M

Freedom on Powers – Sacrificial Giving Making a Difference

Please make plans to attend our *Freedom on Powers* Second Anniversary celebration on Sunday, October 26 at the 6:00 p.m. worship service. We wish to thank you for your support. If you haven't participated yet, we encourage and invite you to be part of this blessing. The theme for the anniversary service is Thanksgiving – Honoring the Lord for the blessings He has bestowed upon our church. *We must never forget that our purpose in all we do is to Honor and Glorify His Name.*

I was blessed by being born into a family that was strongly committed to Christ. My early days were filled with activities at church and camping experiences at Christian camps. I accepted Christ as my Savior early in my life and have always known that I made the right decision. I attended Ottawa University, a Baptist University in Ottawa, Kansas, and that experience enriched my Christian commitment. In November 2002 my wife and I moved to Colorado Springs to be part of the establishment of Integrity Bank & Trust. Now, I have been in banking for over 50 years. Last year, my wife of 57 years passed away.

I have found that Vista Grande Baptist Church fulfills my needs for a church. Pastor Holt preaches from the Bible; the Sunday school class I attend has excellent teachers leading a study of the scriptures; the class members and members of the church are friendly, caring and compassionate. God's Spirit is evident throughout the Church.

One principle that I have felt is most important is that stated in 2 Corinthians 9:6, "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." My observation through the years has been that the more we give the more we will receive. Whether it is friendship, respect, love, or financial gifts, if they are given in the true spirit, then those attributes are returned to us in so many ways. The Bible also says, God loves a cheerful giver, so we should give our gifts cheerfully.

We are so blessed as Americans and need to take more time to reflect on those blessings and give thanks to God. The direction to render unto Caesar all things that are Caesar's and unto God all things that are God's makes us consider whether we are generously responding to God. Our government may require 15%, 28%, 40% of our income and we fulfill that requirement. How generously do we respond to the needs of God's Church? We give and support the operating needs of the church and need to also support the growth of Vista Grande Baptist Church by contributing to the Freedom on Powers program. I plan to give the Freedom on Powers program my continued support and hope you will do the same. God's work depends upon each of us. We should respond in a generous and cheerful manner.

L. Blaine Rush



Testimony

What Will Our Legacy Be? We are living in a very tumultuous time, from a financial perspective. The world economy is in a mess, the stock market has had record breaking losses and our government is implementing bailout or rescue plans (depending on your perspective.) While all of this is going on, Vista Grande is at the two year point in our Freedom on Powers debt reduction campaign. Many people may be wondering what their financial future is going to look like over the next several months and what they should be doing with the resources they have available to them. I think we all would agree that if we prioritize things, we must first take care of our family's basic necessities: food, health care, clothing and shelter. As Christians, we must also set aside money for tithing. After satisfying these basic needs, we may have additional funds that economists like to call "discretionary money"; money that we have a choice on how to spend.

We could allocate this so-called discretionary money in a variety of ways: savings, education, new house or car, new flat screen HD television, going out to eat, etc. One thing we should consider when deciding how to use our money is "what will the legacy of my spending be?" Looking back on my life and how I have spent my money, I realize that for some expenditures that I have made, I have nothing to show for the expense. Perhaps the best example is the Corvette I bought shortly after graduating from college. My dad had given me a one year old Chevrolet sedan that was completely paid for. But, I was a Zoomie and muscle cars were the in thing, so I went into debt and bought a new Corvette. I soon realized the folly of this decision as my discretionary income plunged to near zero after making car payments. A year after purchasing the Corvette, it was stolen. Although it was insured, I lost a few thousand dollars in depreciation. (Maybe the Lord was telling me something.)

What would have been the difference if I had invested those few thousand dollars lost in depreciation into a church expansion program? Perhaps that money could have allowed the church to touch the lives of people, leading to their salvation. Even if only one person was saved, wouldn't we have a better world? All of this leads me back to the theme of this testimony: "What do we want our legacy to be?" Freedom on Powers offers us an opportunity to touch the lives of others through investment in an expanded Ministry and Education program. An expanded Vista Grande could be the "shining beacon on the hill" that attracts additional lost souls and shares the Gospel, thereby converting them into believers. Do we want our legacy to be a beacon to the world or possession of a worldly object like a new car or flat screen TV that depreciates in value and utility every day? There is one sure way to help us decide what our legacy should be and how to invest our discretionary money wisely: go to the Lord in prayer. We thank all of those who have been sacrificial givers to Freedom on Powers and encourage those who have not yet participated to join us in this blessing. May God bless you.

John Angell

"Be Prepared" On this, the second anniversary of our Freedom on Powers debt reduction campaign, we might pause to reflect on the scouting motto. "Be prepared for what?" someone once asked Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the World Scout movement. "Why, for any old thing," he said. But he wasn't thinking just of being ready for emergencies. His idea was that all Scouts should prepare themselves to become productive citizens and to give happiness to other people. He wanted each Scout to be ready in mind and body for any struggles and to meet with a strong heart whatever challenges might lie ahead.

As Christians, we have a calling higher than the scout motto. This motto can serve to remind us that we should always be prepared to do God's work. God has truly blessed Vista Grande, but He is not done with us yet; He has great plans for our future. Someone once said "If you don't have a destination in mind, any path will get you there." At Vista Grande, we recognize that God is in control of our destination and that He has a path in mind, as described in the Bible, for us to follow to enable fulfillment of His plan.

Jesus was a master at simplifying and clarifying the message of the Bible. On one occasion He was asked, "What is the greatest commandment?" He took the opportunity to condense the message of the Bible into two profound statements contained in Matthew 22:37-40: "Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

One way of expressing our love for God and our neighbors is through fulfillment of the Great Commission, another significant passage in the Bible which states: "Then Jesus came to them, and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'" (Matthew 28:18-20)

Freedom on Powers is helping Vista Grande honor God's direction to implement the Great Commission by using the bounty and blessings He has bestowed upon us to help eliminate the hindrance that debt has on growth. In reaching out to expand our ministry and answer God's calling to "...make disciples of all nations..." we must continue to pray for God's guidance regarding use of the financial resources needed to accommodate future growth. Thanks to you and your sacrificial giving through Freedom on Powers, we have reduced our debt by approximately \$1.2M over the past two years. We respectfully ask for your prayers and continued support for the campaign. Vista Grande is better prepared and positioned to continue following God's plan.

-Freedom on Powers Committee