

A person is standing on the edge of a dark, craggy rock formation on the right side of the image. The person is silhouetted against a sky that transitions from a deep blue at the top to a soft orange and yellow near the horizon. The landscape below is a vast, rugged mountain valley with various rock formations and peaks. The overall mood is one of solitude and contemplation.

Daring FAITH

New Life Church - 2023

Daring **FAITH**

Doing Good and Sharing Hope

"Because of our FAITH in Him we DARE to have boldness, courage, and confidence in coming to God with freedom and without fear." Ephesians 3:12

DARING FAITH – Doing Good and Sharing Hope is a series designed to empower YOU and New Life Church to grow in faith like never before.

GROWING IN FAITH: A pathway to help you MATURE in faith.

SOWING IN FAITH: A process to help you GIVE by faith.

GOING IN FAITH: Opportunities to help you LIVE by faith.

Our goal is the same as that of the Apostle Paul:

"Our hope is that as we help your faith grow larger, you'll be able to help this ministry to you grow larger too." 2 Corinthians 10:15

Letter from Pastor Troy

September 10, 2023

New Life,

These are exciting times as God continues restoring men, women, boys and girls into His image and transforming hearts for His glory through the ministries of New Life! Our vision is to reach so many more; therefore with much prayer and discussion, New Life leadership believes now is the time for a critical facility expansion. To make that possible, we are moving forward with a capital campaign to fund this next season of ministry effectiveness.

Over the coming weeks, New Life celebration services will focus on — you guessed it — ***Daring Faith***. Don't worry, this series is NOT going to be all about giving! Yes, that's an element of it but it's not the bulk of it. These messages will apply to all of us, including the friends you bring with you, on many different levels.

Daring Faith culminates by giving each Lifer the opportunity to make a 3-year pledge commitment. Regardless of the financial outcome, please join us in prayer that our campaign accomplishes awesome things for the glory of God as we continue to *do good, and share the hope of Jesus!*

If this booklet doesn't answer your questions, please feel free to contact me.

This is your opportunity to draw closer to God and become more like Him, defeat materialism with generosity, put God's promises to the test, invest for eternity, make a significant difference by being a part of New Life's story, and demonstrate your love and gratitude to God.

LET'S DO THIS!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy McNeil". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Pastor Troy

Contents

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| <i>Letter from Pastor Troy</i> | 5 |
| <i>New Life's Story</i> | 11 |
| <i>Vision of Daring Faith</i> | 13 |
| <i>Frequently Asked Questions</i> | 21 |
| <i>Guide to Discerning God's Will</i> | 24 |
| <i>Ways to Give</i> | 26 |
| <i>My Plan for Giving</i> | 27 |

New Life's Story of
Daring
FAITH



Our Story

"Without faith it is impossible to please God." Hebrews 11:6

New Life's journey began in 1983 as Evangelical Church of the Nazarene; a small group of people meeting in the Columbia Gas building in Bangs, OH. Through the faithfulness of this small group, lives around Knox County were transformed by the hope of Jesus Christ, and this small group began to grow. In search of more space, this growing church met in multiple locations throughout the years including the Foursquare Bible College, Mount Vernon High School, the home of founding pastor – Dr. Don Martin, Mount Vernon Middle School, the YMCA, and a building on Mansfield Road.



In October 1991, this group of people finally found a home on Newark Road with enough room to meet the needs of their growing congregation. In 2001, Pastor Troy McNichols became the Lead Pastor. By 2009, after moving to multiple services and maximizing space in the sanctuary, it became obvious that the Newark Road location was no longer big enough. This started a 4-year journey meeting at Mount Vernon High School, trusting that God would reveal next steps regarding Newark Road facility expansion.



Little did we know, God had another plan in mind — a plan that can only be described as a God-sized miracle. In the midst of planning for a Newark Road facility expansion, a New Life member walked into the 84 Lumber building on Harcourt Road to buy some screws on a cold day in January 2012

and learned that the building was up for sale. God provided the quick sale and purchase of the building we now call home while also creating a way to sell the parsonage and Newark Road facility - *all within a two week period!*



The history of New Life Church exemplifies that the church is **More Than Walls** — it is a movement of God. Less than three months from purchase, the **More Than Walls** capital campaign was launched. A vision was presented for a \$2 million renovation project, with our consultant estimating we should be able to raise \$350,000. God showed up and your pledges exceeded **\$444,000!** Our **More Than Walls** Celebration Sunday in April 2012 will forever be a big part of our journey. We celebrated God's work through New Life and you supported the vision with your pledges. We completed Phase One of renovations – which included an auditorium, nursery, and kids area – and moved into this building Thanksgiving week of 2013. A second pledge campaign was launched and you stepped up again – allowing us to build and renovate space for a teen life auditorium and office space in 2017. As we continued to grow, the teen life auditorium allowed for overflow seating with a live feed from the auditorium.

Now with 3 Sunday services, we are reaching over 600 people every weekend including last Easter which reached over 1000 people. All Out Sports is making a huge difference in our community with over 900 participants. We believe the best is yet to come because...

1. We dare to **Dream Great Dreams for God!**
2. We dare to **Expect God to Act on Our Behalf!**
3. We dare to **Risk Failure!**
4. We dare to **Offer Unconditional Love!**
5. We dare to **Make Sacrifices and Never Give Up!**

In the next couple of pages you will see how these daring statements of faith can become reality, and then you'll see the great challenge God has given us today. We are excited to step out in **Daring Faith** to see what miracles God has in store for the future!

Will you join us on this courageous journey? You haven't really trusted God until you've attempted to do something you can't do on your own strength. We dare you to let God show you how much more He can do in your life when you trust Him!



A Vision of Daring Faith

As we move into this next season of ministry effectiveness, God is calling New Life to step out in **Daring Faith!** This campaign and subsequent building project will allow New Life to make room for the next 500 people who aren't here yet, but who God is sending our way to shepherd and lead. Did you know that there are over 180,000 people who live within 20 miles of New Life? And of those, 116,000 do not claim a religious affiliation. There are people in our community who are just waiting for someone to tell them the Good News of Jesus! New Life WILL be a place for those who are searching for the hope of new life in Jesus.

The proposed gym/auditorium will accommodate our growing All Out Sports ministry, providing more opportunities on our campus for students to grow in a faith-based, competitive environment. The additional seating provided in the auditorium will create space for you to invite your friends and neighbors with confidence that there will be enough space for them to be comfortable. The renovated Kid Life space will increase our capacity to impact kids and families in our community. The additional space will also provide a gathering space for corporate and community events. As we reach out into our community, this building campaign will also make our campus a community destination for those in Mount Vernon, breaking down barriers that stop people from attending church for the first time! We are truly called to *do good and share the hope of New Life in Jesus* throughout Knox County!

God's blessing combined with your generosity and faith carried us to this point, and now we simply need to follow God's lead in taking us to another level. We are confident in the promise given to the church in Philippi, that "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Phillipians 1:6)

"May God accept all your offerings and be pleased with all your sacrifices. May He give you what you desire & make all your plans succeed." Psalm 20:3-4



Above: Seen from above, the new construction will build out to the west side of the current property. Right: A new lobby/entry space will tie the existing building in with the new gymnasium. This space will be a beautiful connecting spot with plenty of space for coffee and connections before and after services and events.





Above: Auditorium set up for a Sunday morning service. You can see the stage will come out into the room to give depth to the area. The auditorium will accommodate over 750 seats for a Sunday morning service. This space will also be a primary meeting place for Teen Life on Sunday nights.



Above: After Sunday services, the stage is tucked away and it's time to play. Full sized, wooden courts will allow for basketball, volleyball, pickleball, and a variety of other activities throughout the week.



The current lobby and auditorium will be remodeled for a Kid Life expansion. The current Kid Life area will become primarily a preschool space. The current lobby (above) will be a secure, centralized check-in for all of Kid Life. After check-in, kids will go to an expanded nursery, dedicated preschool space, or the newly renovated elementary space.

Right: The current auditorium space will be renovated to include four classrooms as well as a large group worship area for Kid Life.



Frequently Asked Questions

Isn't our church large enough?

New Life leadership feels we must continue to make more space for more people to hear the Good News of Jesus and the hope He offers. We are thankful for New Life's growth over the past 20 years and we believe that there are so many more who need to hear the message of Jesus. As we continue to grow, we understand the need for close relationships. New Life is committed to providing Life Groups, teams, and connection events so that as we grow numerically, we also grow deeper relationally.

Are there enough people in Mount Vernon to make it worth building?

A normal rule-of-thumb for churches is to look at people in a 20-mile radius. There are well over 100,000 people in that radius of New Life who claim no religious affiliation.

If we need more space, why are there still seats open on Sundays?

There will always be some open seats. The principles/ideals we must keep in mind are these: When an unchurched family walks in, we want them to have the best first impression possible. If there are not enough seats for them to easily sit together or if they have to go to the front row, that will not be a great experience for many of them. Please also understand we need to make decisions based on our fullest service, which is typically the time most first-timers will attend (the reason we move the 3 services during the school year). Also, New Life has seen consistent numerical growth for over 20 years. Short of God doing a financial miracle (which He surely might), from the time we begin a campaign it is likely 3-4 years before we can complete the project, which means we will be that much more packed by then.

Why don't we just stay at 3 services?

Three services is a good option for short periods of time. Our experience is we can't maintain the quality and energy needed to offer 3 services as our ongoing plan with all the personnel needed to pull it off with children, worship, connections teams, etc.; and maintain the goal of allowing those involved in leadership or ministry teams to maintain proper life balance and margin. 3 services also makes it very difficult to maintain a sense of unity and connection with others who attend New Life. With 2 services, there is more of a chance for people to connect with those from the other service in the lobby. We are aware that some churches pull off 3 or more services as their long term plan. Through much discussion and prayer, we do not feel that is the best decision for New Life at this point in our story.

Why don't we do a church plant? Why can't we just continue to use other people's facilities for sports ministries, etc.?

We are open to partnering with the right pastor who is called and passionate about planting a church in a

neighboring community, but that will not take care of the people God continues to send our way in Mount Vernon on a weekly basis. With the continued growth and facility-needs of our sports ministry, we are quickly reaching the limits of renting and borrowing other spaces available to us. All of those questions have been thoroughly discussed and prayed over, and we believe God is calling us to this next facility expansion.

Why are we having this Daring Faith Campaign? Why not just announce that we need funds to build? Why a three-year campaign?

There are some who do not need a campaign and are ready to give generously with an announcement. There are some who will not give no matter what. There are many who need to catch the vision, gain a better understanding of how God is leading us as a church and how He wants to stretch our faith both personally and collectively. That third group is primarily who this is for. It takes much time and effort to fully communicate the vision, the purpose, the goals, and the need to everyone. We would be very happy to announce the need, receive an offering, and begin building because all the money needed came in. But that's generally not how it works. Over the years, churches have found a three-year pledge is a good length of time givers can get their arms around for committing an amount. Most people are surprised when they see how much God can enable them to sacrificially give over that period of time through consistent weekly or monthly giving. A campaign like this is also a tremendous time of spiritual growth as God stretches our faith, so spending a number of weeks focusing on faith helps each of us become more mature followers of Jesus.

Are we paying a fundraising consultant or company for this campaign?

No. We are using strategies and materials from a very effective church that has been through multiple successful campaigns, that are based on the biblical instructions God gave for raising money to build the Temple in 1 Chronicles.

How much will this phase of expansion cost?

In consultation with our contractor and engineering team, and adding post-construction expenses (sound, lights, chairs, sports equipment, furnishings, etc.); if we started construction today, the overall cost would be in the \$5,500,000 - \$6,000,000 range.

How will the money we raise be used?

The building fund is kept separate from the general ministry funds. All Daring Faith donations will be used to pay the expenses of building and renovating facilities. It is important to remember that our Daring Faith gifts are to be in addition to our regular tithe giving for ongoing operations of the church. Otherwise, our day-to-day ministries would suffer.

Why would we consider taking on debt?

We would love to build with 100% cash, as would every person or family when buying or building a home. That is rarely a reality though in growing churches that need to build, or for families buying a home. Just

as in our personal lives, there are formulas and safe ranges for mortgages when buying a home based on income track record and projections, the same is true for churches. The Church of the Nazarene also has extra safeguards in this area. We cannot sign for a loan without the approval of our district properties board; which has professionals in the construction, banking, and church realms who oversee these requests.

When are we building? What is the timeline?

Our timeline is based on finances. When we have the amount of cash and pledges in hand needed to maintain a reasonable mortgage based on our income, we will pull the trigger on construction.

I am a single parent with kids ... or a college student ... or have experienced hard times recently ... or am widowed.... I want to be a part of this building project, but have very little financially. How can I give?

First, THANK YOU for your heart's desire to give. Look at how Jesus honored a poor widow for her faith in giving in Mark 12:41-44: "Jesus sat near the Temple offering box and watched the people put in their money. Many rich people gave large sums of money. Then a poor widow came and put in two copper coins. Jesus said, I tell you the truth, this poor widow gave more than all those rich people together! They gave only what they did not need. This woman is very poor, but she gave all she had; she gave all she had to live on." From this moving example of sacrifice, Jesus taught three important truths: 1. Your attitude is more important than your amount. 2. It is always possible to give something if we really trust God. 3. God measures our faith by comparing what we've given with what we have left. This is why we say, "equal sacrifice, not equal giving". As you pray about what a genuine "sacrifice" will mean to you, read the story of the miracle that happened when a single parent gave what little she had (1 Kings 17:8-16). God took care of her for the rest of her life. God is still doing miracles today in the lives of those who dare to trust Him. New Life also offers Financial Peace University (FPU) free of charge which teaches individuals and families how to get out of debt and live on a budget. FPU is available as a class or individually on-line. Contact the church for more info.

Will my commitment be kept confidential?

Absolutely. As with all giving to New Life, who-gives-what is only seen by our small offering-counting team and a couple of staff members.

What happens if my financial position changes over the three years?

Even though we need to know details of the pledges to help inform our decisions, ultimately your pledge is between you and God. As a church, we will trust that if God laid a pledge on your heart, and something happens over those 3 years that makes you unable to fulfill the pledge; God will still provide for your needs personally, as well as for the church. His resources are unlimited and He is trustworthy.

How can I give non-cash gifts?

The Nazarene Foundation can help with this. Brochures and information are available.

Guide to Discerning God's Will

"According to your faith, it will be done to you." Matthew 9:29

What God would have you give to this Daring Faith campaign is a major decision. How will you know what God wants you to give? As you pray about it, remember that giving is about equal sacrifice, not equal gifts. Don't compare your commitment with anyone else's. This is between you and God.

Here are some practical steps to help you seek clarity and wisdom in your decision.

1. Pray daily: "Lord, show me how to give in a way that stretches and builds my faith more than ever. I trust you for a miracle." God is more interested in you trusting Him than in the amount you commit to give. As you pray daily, ask God for clarity about the amount He wants you to give. If you are married, pray with your spouse.

2. Don't rush your decision. Spend time alone with God each day. Practice the discipline of being still in His presence, listening to and waiting on Him. As you sincerely seek His guidance for the amount He wants you to commit to giving on a consistent basis or a total for the 3 years, He will be faithful to help you come up with that number and give you peace.

3. Decide whether you will give by reason or by revelation.

When giving based on reason, you simply look at how much you have, figure out a "reasonable" amount to give, and then commit to give that amount. This is the most common way people give to charities. It is an act of unselfishness, but requires no faith, and no sacrifice, so there's no room for a miracle. Reason simply asks, "What can I afford to give?"

In contrast, when giving based on revelation, Pray, "Lord, what do you want to give through me?" Allow faith to lead the way. The Bible says, "Without faith it is impossible to please God." Hebrews 11:6 (NIV). That's why God honored the people of Macedonia: "They gave not only what they could afford, they gave even more than they could afford!" 2 Corinthians 8:3. When you give more than you can afford, you are trusting God in faith to keep His promises. God has more promises in the Bible about generosity than on any other topic. Here is one: "God loves it when we give cheerfully, so He then provides us with everything we need, and even gives us more than we need, so we can keep on being even more generous!" 2 Corinthians 9:7-8.

4. Hold a family meeting, or set aside time alone with God to talk about your contribution. If you have children, no matter how young, get them involved! This is an opportunity to teach them about faith and generosity.

Ask everyone to suggest creative ideas for reducing expenses, increasing income, or selling personal items in order to contribute more. Read these Bible promises and instructions together and make a list of what you learn from reading God's Word.

Proverbs 3:9-10, Proverbs 11:24-25, Luke 6:38, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, 2 Corinthians 8:1-12, 2 Corinthians 9:6-12, Matthew 6:19-20

Remember, your Daring Faith commitment includes a 36-month giving commitment, and a cash gift in November. This allows giving more than you imagined. By developing the habit of consistent giving, you will be blessed by spiritual growth.

5. Celebrate your commitment, and what God has revealed to you through this faith-growing process. If you are married or have a family, do this together.

Ask Yourself:

- Will I give based on reason or revelation?
- Does this amount really stretch my faith?
- Does it show I prioritize the work God is doing in people more than my personal possessions?
- Does this amount represent a genuine sacrifice?

If you sincerely ask these questions, you'll arrive at a specific amount to give. The amount will almost always be larger than the first number that pops into your mind since it reflects your step of faith.

"Father, this is a big step for us. We're asking You to stretch our faith, strengthen our faith, and deepen our faith through our commitment to be generous. We realize that everything we have comes from You, so we have made our commitment for four reasons. First, to express our gratitude for all You've provided to us in the past. Second, to show our desire for You to be first in our lives. Third, to demonstrate our faith in Your promises to provide for us in the future as we honor You now. And finally, to show our love and support our church and community in making a difference for eternity. We are grateful for this opportunity to grow and trust You more. We pray this church-wide campaign brings You Glory! In Jesus' name, Amen!"

Four Ways to Give

Equal sacrifice, not equal gifts

Sacrificial giving happens when I give every possible way I can.

David said, "I will not offer to the Lord that which costs me nothing" 2 Samuel 24:24

GIVE A CASH GIFT

Ask God for creative ideas to raise cash: eliminate eating out for a month, hold a garage sale, collect spare change, postpone a major purchase, gift dividends or tax refunds

MAKE A 36-MONTH GIVING PLEDGE

You can give far more when it's spread out over time. See chart to the right.

PLAN ON GIVING REGULARLY FOR THE DARING FAITH CAMPAIGN

Set up reminders to schedule your giving as a three-year pledge.

GIFT STOCKS, BONDS or PROPERTY

New Life can receive these gifts via the Nazarene Foundation. Contact the New Life office for information on non-cash giving.

There are two basic approaches to finding more cash to give:

- Look for ways to reduce your expenses.
- Look for ways to increase your income.

By using a combination of these two during the next months, you'll give far more cash than you thought. Be creative! Imagine - if 100 families in our church each found an extra \$500 cash to give through these ideas - that alone would offer an additional \$50,000 toward our project.

New Life can help! New Life offers a free membership to Ramsey+ giving you access to Financial Peace University! Learn how to live on a budget and tell your money where to go! A Financial Peace University class will be offered at New Life this fall. For more information, please contact the church office.

MY GIVING POTENTIAL

Each of us can give far more than we think by giving that amount over a three-year period. Here are some examples:

| Weekly = | Monthly = | 3 years = | Weekly = | Monthly = | 3 years = |
|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| \$1,000 | \$4,333 | \$156,000 | \$115 | \$500 | \$18,000 |
| \$500 | \$1,733 | \$78,000 | \$100 | \$433 | \$15,588 |
| \$400 | \$1,733 | \$62,400 | \$58 | \$250 | \$9,000 |
| \$300 | \$1,300 | \$46,800 | \$50 | \$216 | \$7,800 |
| \$250 | \$1,083 | \$39,000 | \$25 | \$108 | \$3,900 |
| \$230 | \$1,000 | \$36,000 | \$23 | \$100 | \$3,600 |
| \$200 | \$866 | \$31,200 | \$15 | \$65 | \$2,340 |
| \$150 | \$650 | \$23,400 | \$10 | \$43 | \$1,560 |

My Giving Worksheet

\$ _____ Pledge by giving _____ every _____ for three years.

\$ _____ in stocks, bonds, or property.

\$ _____ Cash gift

How to Make Your Gift and Commitment

November 5th will be the opening day for pledges. Pledge cards will be passed out in service with a chance for people to complete and turn in cards at that time. If you are unable to attend on November 5th or need some additional time to pray about your part in the campaign, an online pledge card is also available by using the QR code below.

Once your pledge is submitted, it will be entered into Planning Center. You will receive an email confirming your pledge. At that point, you will be able to see your pledge in the "My Giving" section of the Church Center App.

You can give toward your pledge by giving online and marking it "Building Campaign". You can also give with check and put in the memo line, "Building Campaign".

