

Frequently *asked* Questions



HE IS
able

Greater Than We Think
His Power Working In Us
Eph. 3:20



Frequently *asked* Questions



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Why are we building a new facility?

At Vineyard Christian Fellowship of North Phoenix we have always said that we will do whatever is necessary to accommodate the growth God gives us. Over the years, we have tried to back up our words with actions. In 1993 we outgrew the retail strip center at 51st Ave. and Thunderbird so we moved into the Olive Square Shopping Mall at 43rd Ave. and Olive.

God continued to add to our numbers as we grew from a weekly attendance of 400 to 1,200 in just a couple of years. We added a third Sunday morning service and later a Saturday night service to alleviate overcrowding, but we kept growing.

In 1996, as growth continued and the number of people coming to Christ accelerated, we began looking into buying land and building a church which would accommodate the people God continued to send our way.

In 1997, we purchased 35 acres at 63rd Ave. and Peoria and we began a three-year Stewardship Campaign called “Building our Future”. This campaign focused on paying off the land and building a facility to minister to the people that God was sending to us.



In January of 2002 we held our first service on our new campus. VCFNP grew by about 800 people in one weekend and has grown steadily since then!

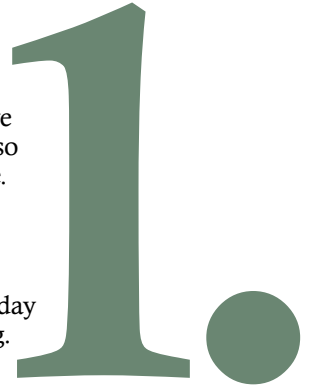
Since 2002 we have added another Saturday night service and another Sunday morning service to try and keep up with the influx of new people, but we continue to fill up the services that visitors are likely to attend.

Despite the growth VCFNP has experienced, this is only the second building campaign we have conducted in our history as a church. The main reason we are building is to keep up with God and what He has been doing in our midst.

As a church community, we are committed to doing whatever is necessary to accommodate one more lost or un-churched person. We refuse to put out a sign saying, “We’re full. Go home.” Anyone within driving distance of Vineyard North Phoenix is who we feel God wants us to reach with the gospel.

We have no idea how many people God will bring our way in the future, but we do not want the size of our “shoe” to determine how big our “foot” will grow. Already, our “foot” (our church family) is feeling pinched on Sundays because our “shoe” (our church building) no longer fits. On many Sunday services there are few empty seats in the auditorium. Throughout the week scheduling conflicts result because of all the different ministries vying for rooms.

Why are we building? Because God has blessed us with growth and we need to make a place for people to experience God and to grow as disciples.



What will the new facility look like? How big will the facility be? What is the seating capacity?

2.

Our new auditorium will seat approximately 2,350 people, which is about 2 ½ times larger than our current one. It will have a sloped floor with theater-style seating. The new stage will be equipped with professional lighting and curtains, which will enable us to develop the arts to better reach out to the lost. The style of the buildings will remain simple, although aesthetically more pleasing than our present auditorium.

The new lobby is designed like an atrium, with large windows bringing in natural light. We also are building a new bookstore and coffee bar with outside entrances, so they can be open during regular business hours throughout the week. The bookstore will be much larger than our current bookstore, and will enable us to increase significantly our book, tape and CD inventory. The coffee bar will be a great place to catch up with your friends and will also be used for meetings preferring a more informal atmosphere than a classroom.

In addition, we are adding almost 15,000 square feet of children's area for children birth through 6th grade.

We will also be building a new Compassion Building. Our compassion ministry continues to grow and we need a larger facility in order to continue to minister to the people God is sending us. This Compassion Building will be 6000 square feet, and we will be able to minister to over 80,000 people per year.

The new buildings will give us an additional 92,000 square feet, bringing our total square footage to 142,000 square feet. This is approximately 3¼ acres under roof! To give everyone a feel for the new building, a video, illustrating with computerized 3-D animation the way the finished building will actually look from the outside and inside, will be shown during our vision meetings scheduled in October.

What will our present auditorium be used for?

Our current auditorium will be used primarily by the Jr. and Sr. High School Youth on the weekends. Currently their facilities are much too small and this will let us reach out to more people in this important age group. This building will also be used all during the week as a multi-purpose facility. The classrooms in our current auditorium will continue to be used for Adult Education.

3.

What plans are being made to address the parking problems?

We will be adding over 250 new parking spaces in anticipation of the increase in cars on the weekends. We also plan to work with consultants to add another exit onto 63rd Ave. and traffic control officers to move cars in and out more efficiently.

4.



What will our future worship schedule look like? Will we keep a Saturday night Service?

Our current plan is to keep at least one Saturday night service and two Sunday morning services. We will continue to have a Sunday evening service. As God gives us growth, we will add more services just as we have in the past.

5.

Why not plant more churches rather than build a mega-church?

According to the common definition of a mega-church (any church over 2,000), we already are one. It's too late to decide not to be a mega-church! While we are thoroughly committed to aggressively plant churches in the Phoenix Metropolitan area, we do not believe that splitting this church is a viable solution to our current overcrowding.

We must remember that the vast majority of people come to VCFNP because they and their families are growing in Christ here. And the reason they are growing in Christ here is because of the vast array of ministries a large church is able to offer. They are meeting Christ through the messages, through the worship, through the small group ministry, through our women's and men's ministries, through our children's ministry, our discipleship ministry, our recovery groups, our compassion ministry, our youth ministry, and so on. Every one of our ministries is enriching someone's life.

The talent and financial resources of a large church like VCFNP provide opportunities for ministry that are simply not available at smaller churches.

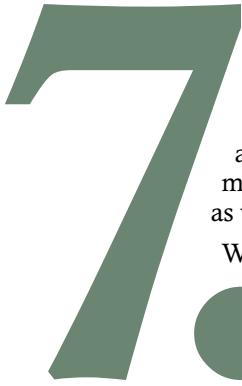
Because of our size, we can have a program like Vineyard Leadership Institute, in which people can receive two years of substantial biblical training for a very low cost, while remaining part of their home church. The only other option for similar training is to, at considerable expenses, attend seminary or Bible college.

Because of our size, we put together missionary teams to equip and bless churches around the world. Because of our size, we can serve as a resource and training center for other like-minded church and pastors. Because of our size, we can accommodate diverse people and minister to a variety of needs. Because of our size, we can support a food bank and a clothing ministry for the poor. Because of our size, VCFNP exerts growing influence in the cultural and political life of Glendale, acting as salt and light, a preservative for Christian values in our schools and workplaces.

In a society driven by mass media, mass entertainment, mass shopping (malls and superstores), mass education (Arizona State University) and mass advertising, size matters! It is a gift of God to have a large, strong, healthy church.



How much will the project cost?



The approximate cost of the building project—a 2,350 seat auditorium, children’s ministry classrooms, a new bookstore, coffee bar and lobby, a compassion building, renovating existing areas which are going to change functions and an additional 250+ parking spaces—will be about \$15 million dollars. These prices include sound and video equipment as well as chairs, carpeting and wall coverings for the new facility.

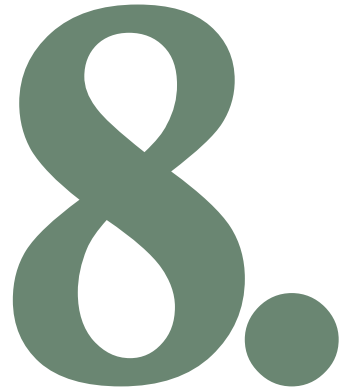
While a \$15 million dollar price tag may make you blink (it made me blink more than once), the new facility will enable us to grow to serve over 10,000 people on this site!

How will we pay for the building? Do we already have the money?

The new facility will cost approximately \$15 million dollars. We currently have about \$2.5 million dollars in debt (The debt was originally over 5 million just 3 ½ years ago). We hope to have this current debt below \$1 million dollars by the time we begin building.

We plan to pay for the building project through our building campaign. The goal of the campaign is to have church members commit to give financially over and above their current tithes for the next three years. Whatever is not raised during this building campaign will be financed through a mortgage with a local bank.

Your commitment to “He Is Able” should be an amount God leads you to give over and above your regular tithe and offerings. We must maintain our giving to the operating budget so that day-to-day church operations will be unaffected.



What is our philosophy regarding debt?

When we take Scripture at face value, we find that, generally, debt is not considered a good thing. It can tie your hands and make you subservient to lenders. So we at VCFNP historically have been extremely conservative about taking on debt. We currently pay only about 8% of our income each month towards our existing debt.

To put this in terms that are easier to understand, imagine if all of your debt (including your mortgage and loans) were 8% of your gross pay. Would you feel confident in the health of your finances? On the other hand, if we had not been willing to take on a moderate amount of debt to build our existing facility, where would Vineyard North Phoenix be today? We would not have reached and served thousands of people for Christ over the last 3 ½ years. We certainly could not have accommodated that many people at our former facility at 43rd and Olive. Our willingness to take on some debt has greatly advanced the flow of God's grace to people in the Phoenix Metropolitan area.

We are willing to take on some debt for the sake of advancing God's Kingdom, but we do not want to remain in debt. Our hope and prayer is to pay off the new building's debt within ten years.

Our church desires to leave a legacy to our children and grandchildren—a legacy of a debt-free facility that will serve as a light to our community into the next century.

In sum, we are willing to take on moderate, reasonable debt in order to facilitate current ministry. We desire to pay off that debt as quickly as possible, so that future ministry is not consumed by interest payments and our children and grandchildren are not saddled with a burden of debt.

It is worth pointing out that because of our conservative borrowing philosophy and our excellent financial record, lenders are competing to service the debt for our new facility. This is a very unusual position for a church. It results from the extremely sound financial management practices of Vineyard's leadership team. You should know that in the 20-year history of church, the church has never had a negative year-end budget.



Are we putting facilities and buildings ahead of people?

Our approach to ministry remains the same. We exist, first of all, to serve Jesus Christ. Secondly, under His direction and leadership, we exist to produce mature, reproducing disciples and plant mature, reproducing churches. In short, our second priority is to serve people. To put it in biblical terms, our two priorities are to love God and to love people. New facilities and expanded parking are just a means to keep doing what we have always been committed to do. The building program does not signal any change in VCFNP's vision or priorities.

10.

What am I, as an individual, required to give? Are you suggesting that I give a certain percentage of my income?

Nobody is required to give anything. We want individuals to give freely and not under compulsion, because the scriptures teaches that, "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7).

11.

There are two very different approaches in determining what you should give. One approach is to look at your checkbook and ask, "What can I afford?" This approach simply calculates existing resources and does not demand prayer, faith or God's surprising intervention. A second approach is to ask God what He desires you to give. Our church's leadership strongly recommends this second approach.

At the end of this campaign, we don't simply want to have raised a certain amount of money. We want more. We want each family and individual

to experience the thrill of hearing from God, to have their vision and their hearts expanded, to comprehend God's vision and heart for the Valley, to find a fresh experience of God's provision for them and to increase in gratitude to God for His extravagant grace toward us. In other words, we don't want this campaign simply to raise money to build a building. If that is all the campaign does (even if it raises a lot of money), it will go down as a failure in heaven's book. We desire this campaign to raise the overall level of our spirituality and faith.

Are there any guidelines for giving so that we might know how to pray?

Many people ask for guidelines so that they can pray more intelligently. We are hesitant to give guidelines except in the most general terms. The following figures should not be seen as requirements. Rather, they are meant to give some idea about the amount of money that needs to be raised. The important thing to remember is that giving sacrificially to God is really no sacrifice at all. All we own is ultimately the Lord's anyway—we are merely stewards of what He has generously entrusted to us.



A successful campaign would result in three-year commitments of \$8 million dollars. A very successful campaign would raise \$12 million dollars. A hugely successful campaign would raise \$15 million dollars and would pay for the entire building project without additional debt. The following chart outlines what raising \$8 million, \$12 million and \$15 million dollars would mean on an individual basis.

To raise \$8 million dollars:

If you are currently tithing/giving:

Current Per Year Giving	Additional Per Year Above Tithe	Additional Per Week	For a 3 Year Commitment of
\$1000	\$603	\$11.60	\$1810
\$3000	\$1810	\$34.80	\$5430
\$5000	\$3017	\$58.01	\$9050
\$10,000	\$6033	\$116.03	\$18,100

To raise \$12 million dollars:

If you are currently tithing/giving:

Current Per Year Giving	Additional Per Year Above Tithe	Additional Per Week	For a 3 Year Commitment of
\$1000	\$890	\$17.16	\$2670
\$3000	\$2670	\$51.35	\$8010
\$5000	\$4450	\$85.58	\$13,350
\$10,000	\$8900	\$171.15	\$26,700

To raise \$15 million dollars:

If you are currently tithing/giving:

Current Per Year Giving	Additional Per Year Above Tithe	Additional Per Week	For a 3 Year Commitment of
\$1000	\$1100	\$21.35	\$3300
\$3000	\$3300	\$64.04	\$9900
\$5000	\$5550	\$106.73	\$16,650
\$10,000	\$11,100	\$213.46	\$33,300

A simple place to start thinking about what to give may be a “double tithe”. Pray to see if God would have you match your current tithing/giving with an equal amount for the “He Is Able” campaign. For example, if you currently give \$100 per week (\$5,200 per year) you would pledge an additional \$100 per week (\$5,200 per year or \$15,600 for three years) to the “He Is Able” campaign. If everyone gave an equal amount to the campaign that they are currently tithing/giving over three years we would raise approximately \$13.2 million dollars.

Guidelines of any kind immediately require strong qualifications. Some people are currently not tithing. They should begin tithing as part of their response to the campaign. A significant percentage of people in our church have been greatly blessed by God financially and can afford to give substantially more than the amounts listed above. For the financially blessed, such an amount would hardly be sacrificial. At the same time, for some an additional \$10 or \$15 dollars per week would be financially impoverishing.

It doesn't matter where a person is on the economic spectrum. Everyone in Vineyard Christian Fellowship of North Phoenix, young and old, children and teens, rich and poor should give sacrificially toward our church family's new facility.

Parents should use this current building campaign to teach their children financial stewardship and sacrificial giving, or underline those perspectives about giving that they have already been teaching over the years. It is important that moms and dads don't simply give out of their resources. Thirteen year-olds can contribute out of their babysitting money or from money made mowing lawns. Adolescents can give a percentage of their paper route money. Even little ones can give something from their birthday money.

The entire church—singles, great-grandparents, little children, teens, moms and dads, the wealthy and the poor—will own this building. The entire church, therefore, must be rallied to give and share in the joy of giving sacrificially.

Are we becoming too large?

Growth is not optional for Christians. It is a command! Matthew 28:19-20 contains Jesus' command to “Go and make disciples... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...” An example is found in Acts 2:41, “...and about 3,000 were added to their number that day.” God wants thousands of people in the greater Phoenix Metropolitan area to come to know Jesus Christ! And as long as there are people who don't know Christ, we should be willing and eager to grow. We will never put out a sign that says, “There is no room for you.”

A large, stylized number '13' in a dark green color, followed by a solid green circle representing a decimal point. The number is positioned to the right of the text in the 'Are we becoming too large?' section.



Will we become impersonal with growth?

14.

A church's size does not determine whether or not it is personal. In fact, only when a church is personal and relational does it grow. The connection of individuals to each other promotes intimacy. People are attracted to that. We are whole-heartedly committed to reaching the un-churched and discipling them in faith, and we cannot do this without growing.

Our goal is to be organized in such a way that relationships and accountability function no matter our size. We have designed the

church around small groups to foster relationship, accountability, the use of spiritual gifts and the practical application of God's Word. For years we have said that we want "to get bigger and smaller at the same time." That means that while we continue to grow at our weekend worship services, we also multiply small groups. Every single person in the Vineyard needs an opportunity to know others and to be known. Whether we have 4,000 or 10,000 in our church family, we will remain committed to this goal.

If we are a healthy church, we will grow both in maturity and in size. That means there will be many people here whom you will not know personally. Studies tell us that most people only know about 67 people in a church family, no matter what the size of the church. So we don't expect you to know everyone, or for everyone to know you.

But you should know someone. That is why we are always thinking of ways to encourage fellowship and relationship building. That is why our small group ministry has been and will continue to be the foundation of our church's life. That is why we are investing in a new attractive Coffee bar and large Lobby area where people can meet each other in a highly relational setting. The new facility will have lots of furniture groupings and café-like seating to encourage more relationship building.

What if Brian becomes disabled or dies? Will another pastor be able to fill the new facility?

All successful churches across America have one key visionary, a strong leader who works with a skilled leadership team to pastor the church. God does not work in a vacuum; He works through people that unite around His will (Eph 4:11-13). But our church has always been larger than any single individual or even the collective efforts of our leadership team. Since the beginning, we have decentralized our ministry by refusing to build around one personality or personalities. That is why we have almost 100 small groups. There are many interconnected relationships and loyalties to different individuals based on participation, care and support. Our church is not built on any one person's gifting or ministry.

Having said that, if Brian or one of the other pastors becomes disabled or dies, we will look to the Lord, as we always have, to provide for the needs of His people here in the Vineyard.

15.

Are we more committed to beauty or functionality in the new facility?

16.

Vineyard Christian Fellowship of North Phoenix has not changed its approach to facilities. We are not interested in building something glitzy, gaudy or extravagant. We continue to strongly value simplicity in all that we do, whether architecture, dress, verbal expression or worship. But we desire that our facilities be aesthetically pleasing and approachable. We want the new building to enhance our ministry goal of making new disciples and planting new churches. So while our emphasis is functionality and simplicity, in our new building project

we did not overlook aesthetics and attractiveness. As always we will attempt to do this in a low cost, budget-wise way.

What about people who join the Vineyard in the next three years? Will they have an opportunity to participate?

We have a Follow-up Committee whose job, in part, will be to communicate about the Campaign to new members and to encourage their participation. Our desire is that everyone who becomes a member of the church in the next three years has at least some opportunity to hear about the reasons why we built our new facility and prayerfully to consider contributing to its cost financially.

17.

How do I give to the “He is Able” Building Campaign? When would I begin to give?

18.

There are three ways to give:

You can make a three-year pledge, over and above your regular tithes and offerings, on November 13, 2005. The giving period will last for three years starting November 26/27, 2005.

You can give far more when it is spread out over time, and you may choose to give weekly, quarterly, or even make yearly payments. Please elect the best schedule for you and your family.

Second, on November 26/27, 2005 each family will be asked to bring a “First Fruits” offering as we share in the victory of what God has done and is going to do in the life of our church. Ask God for creative ways to increase your gift. Involve your whole family in raising a specific amount for your “First Fruits” offering.

Third, you can give a gift of assets. While most people will choose to fulfill their three-year pledges in cash, others may choose to give stocks, bonds, or some other form of security as part of their gift.

Giving stocks can be financially advantageous for the giver. The full-market value of the stocks can be claimed and the giver doesn't have to pay capital gains taxes on the stocks given.

If you would like more information on giving stocks, bonds or another form of security, you can contact Mike Hall (623) 934-4000 ext. 376, at the church office for assistance.

Can I give goods or valuables to the campaign?

19.

We ask that you don't give cars, property, goods, or valuables to the campaign. If you feel that you want to give those items we ask that you sell them yourself and then give the money that you raise to the campaign. EBay, garage sales, and classified ads are excellent ways to turn the items you may want to give into cash.



Will my contribution be made public?

No. Absolutely not. Only the total of all commitments received will be announced on Celebration Weekend (November 26/27, 2005).

20.

There seems to have been a lot of money spent on this program: the DVDs, the printed material, the meetings, etc., why are we spending money to raise money?

21.

With the large number of people we have, we can't sit down one-on-one and share the vision of "He Is Able". We wanted to have material to take home and review; we wanted you to have a DVD to see the plans from our architects. You'll be pleased to know that the costs associated with the program are about 2 cents for each dollar we need to raise. We are committed to the lowest possible per capita cost while giving you the information you need.

Do we have to raise the entire \$15 million before we start construction?

No we don't, but obviously we need as much financial commitment as possible to go forward. The more money we have up front, the more loan interest we are able to save, and the more we can use our funds for equipping our people for ministry purposes.

22.



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Greater Than We Think
His Power Working In Us
Eph. 3:20



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