



# imagine

Dear BSCC Family,

A little more than 31 years ago, a group of dedicated Christ followers began a journey with God. They imagined what it would be like to step out in faith and plant a church in the relatively small but growing city of Blue Springs. Steady growth happened over the next twenty years in both the city and this new spiritual family that chose to call itself Blue Springs Christian Church.

In 1998, our journey continued as we imagined the Lord providing for us a 20 acre campus on South 7 Highway, one of the most strategic locations in all of Eastern Jackson County. In November, 2002 we moved from Lake Village to our current campus and opened a 50,000 square foot multi-purpose Ministry Center (MC). Since that time we have grown from ministering weekly to 600 people to sharing God's love with over 1,100 people each week.

In 2008, we began construction on a Children and Students Center (CSC) because most of the rooms designated for students and children had been at or above capacity for quite some time. On June 6, 2010 we opened a beautiful, spacious facility custom designed for kids. The CSC is a place where teenagers enjoy hanging out and inviting their friends. It's a fun, safe environment where every week hundreds of children are either starting or growing life-long relationships with Jesus.

From May 2008 to May 2011 we were able to raise \$2,022,770 toward constructing and furnishing the CSC, as well as adding the parking lot to its north. In this newsletter you will see information about the remaining CSC and MC mortgages. I encourage you to read not only this newsletter, but also the other information pieces that will come your way. As you do I believe you will find yourself both challenged and inspired to be a part of this next stage of our journey.

We are calling this stage *Imagine the Possibilities* because we want everyone to imagine all of the additional lives we could touch for Christ's Kingdom once we free ourselves financially from these two mortgages. Together, we want to imagine the additional mission trips both domestic and foreign, the additional ways we could represent Christ's compassion and love to the needy and hurting in our community, and the additional outreach initiatives we could resource for bringing the message of Jesus to those who do not yet follow Him. This is the vision behind *Imagine the Possibilities*.

All I am asking you to do right now is pray that God will speak to you and lead you as we travel this faith journey together. And remember: Scripture says, "*God can do anything—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams.*" (Ephesians 3:20-21, The Message).

Love in Christ,  
Dave

the

# possibilities

## why are we taking this journey?

We are doing *Imagine the Possibilities* because we need to take good care of the facilities and campus God has entrusted to us. The evidence that our Lord's plans for BSCC included relocating from Lake Village across 7 Highway to our current location is both persuasive and wonderful. Hundreds of baptisms have occurred and thousands of lives have been changed by Christ inside the walls of our Ministry Center and Children and Students Center. Also, we are positioned facility-wise and location-wise to reach great numbers of additional children, students and adults for Jesus in the years to come. Our confidence in this future comes from the Lord's promise in Matthew 16:18, *"I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."*

However, when we relocated our campus, revised the master plan and began construction on the Children and Students Center, we did not anticipate being in the place that we currently find ourselves in financially. The size of the two mortgages and the burden they have placed on BSCC indicate that mistakes were made. We did not sufficiently value verses like Proverbs 22:7 which warns us that *"the borrower becomes the lender's slave."* (NAS) Lessons have been learned that will help us make sure we do not get in the same situation again. The current economic picture has underscored the danger and liability of long-term debt. Just as each family and individual needs to follow biblical principles related to financial debt, so we as a church need to operate by these same principles.

On the next page you will see guidelines that will help to ensure we adhere to financial principles established by our Lord. Also, you will see numbers related to what we hope to accomplish through this mortgage reduction program. Our church has always met financial challenges head on, using them as a way to trust God and express our faith in His plan for us as a church and as individuals. This is the vision behind *Imagine the Possibilities*. Together through this 3-year journey we will reposition the church's financial picture so that in the years to come we are able to invest increasing amounts of resources into ministry and mission rather than debt service. As we move forward we will draw inspiration from Scriptures such as 2 Corinthians 9:10, *"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."*

# your questions answered

## what is being done to ensure this problem does not occur again?

The following guidelines have been established:

1. We commit to not build, acquire or obligate the church to any additional debt until both mortgages are entirely repaid.
2. Any future facility expansion steps will either be paid for in full with available funds, or if a loan is necessary it will be a minor percentage of the project with a conservative plan in place for repayment of the loan as quickly as possible.
3. When considering any future facility expansion project, we will thoroughly analyze what the costs are going to be and how to control those costs. A team will be empowered with financial oversight of any such project.

## why is the csc mortgage greater than anticipated?

There are several factors that contributed to this result. The economy and loss of employment had a negative impact on Building Lives Together. It also dramatically slowed down anticipated housing developments to our immediate east and south. We incurred increased construction costs due to less volunteer involvement than we had with our first building. The revised Master Plan called for a relocation of the CSC, adding about \$300,000 in site development costs.

In hindsight, it appears that we may have been ahead of God's timing in the construction of the CSC. However, we are extremely grateful for this incredible ministry space and are excited to see how the Lord is going to use it in the years to come to reach hundreds if not thousands of additional young people for Christ. In the meantime we humbly come to you because we need everyone's help to work toward eliminating the remaining CSC mortgage.

## what are the two mortgages and what is the need?

The Children and Students Center (CSC) mortgage is \$2,600,893 and the Ministry Center (MC) mortgage is \$1,091,596 (as of 2/29/12). Payments to the MC mortgage are included in the annual operating budget but the monthly mortgage for the CSC is not. The CSC mortgage is being paid with remaining Building Lives Together (our previous construction stewardship program) funds through the end of May. Making these monthly payments beginning in June will be the initial priority of *Imagine the Possibilities*. Remaining donations will be used to accelerate payments on the CSC mortgage.

## what are the financial goals of imagine the possibilities?

A goal has been set of receiving \$1,500,000 in donations during the three years of the program. Meeting this goal will enable us to pay the monthly mortgage on the CSC of \$18,568 while also saving around \$850,000 in interest. If this goal is met the mortgage note balance at the end of the three year period will be approximately \$1,435,000.

## how is the church going to make cuts that will help with the debt?

The operational budget in 2012 is \$38,280 less than it was in 2010. In addition we have absorbed many new costs into the budget associated with the CSC (utilities/insurance/cleaning/maintenance/security). This is an overall impact to the operational budget of \$125,780 since 2010. Included in these changes have been the reduction of staff by 1 full-time and 1 part-time position. These responsibilities have been allocated to the existing staff and overseers. As we go through 2012 we will be looking to reduce costs every way we can while ministering to a growing number of people.



## What is our goal?

The goal of this mortgage reduction journey is to clear a path for our future so we can increasingly invest in missions and outreach until our Lord returns. One of the reasons we chose the name *Imagine the Possibilities* is because of the incredible savings that could end up being secured through this program. For instance, currently for every one dollar given toward the principal on the CSC mortgage we will save over one dollar in interest. Imagine if every BSCC family will ask God how He wants them to participate and then respond accordingly. The savings could end up being so significant it would be nothing short of a miracle. In Luke 6:38 Jesus offers us this promise, *“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”*

Reducing and moving toward eliminating our mortgages is about changing the future of BSCC. Repositioning the church’s financial picture will not just impact ministry for two or three years; it frees the church to reinvest in Christ’s Kingdom for the next 10, 20 or 30 years. *Imagine the Possibilities* is good stewardship and a strategic next step as together we work with the Holy Spirit in guiding as many children, students and adults as we can into a fully devoted relationship with Jesus.

In Jeremiah 29:11 we find these words, *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”* Together, through our commitment to *Imagine the Possibilities*, we will invite God to lead BSCC into a future filled with increasing numbers of children, students and adults that are growing in their faith and becoming fully devoted in their relationship with Jesus.

## Here’s some great news!

Over the past nine months we have been receiving some \$23,000 a month in donations toward paying down the principal on the Children and Students Center mortgage. Also, some wonderful servants of our Lord have stepped forward and paid in full the Neighborhood Improvement District loan of \$205,577 for the sewage system infrastructure on our west twenty acres. God is already doing a great work and *Imagine the Possibilities* is just now getting started!

*“God can do anything -- far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams.”*

Ephesians 3:20-21