

Building Update

Pastor Perry Burkholder

Church Family, for a year and a half, we have worked hard to occupy this building, use this space for God's glory and to try and get a purchase agreement.

Last week, I shared that the purchase agreement we were working on was interrupted as another church entered conversations with the developer.

On Tuesday we were told the building purchase was set to be finalized by the end of the week.

I want you to know we made great efforts to work something out so we could continue to call this home but we were unable to do so.

The building was sold to the other church on Friday.

This was unexpected and for sure we are saddened by this outcome as we had many hopes and dreams for this space.

At the same time we are reassured in the knowledge that God is faithful to provide and we are confident that His will is perfect for us.

We are also grateful we had 1 year here to rebuild after covid. Many of you poured hours of prayer, practical service, and ministry to make this place a home for us. And on behalf of our elders and leadership team, we want to say thank you. You have done amazing things.

I know this news will impact each of you in different ways. We want to encourage you to feel all the feels and take your grief to the Lord and to each other, and process it healthily. It has taken a few days for Danielle and I and our team to work through our emotions with the Lord and together.

During our time of grief this past week, I want you to know that we have felt surrounded by love. Many pastors in the city who love us, have encouraged us, and let us know they are standing with us for a new home. In fact one pastor in the area said to me...

over and over..you will not be left homeless, and offered the potential use of their building for our use.

We have also been surrounded by pastors of EN...the amount of texts, calls, and prayers that have been sent to us are too many to count. It has brought us to tears to see the love of Jesus through our spiritual family.

You may be wondering - What are our next steps? Here is what we know.

- We have not been given any date for when we need to move out. But I want to reassure you that when we are contacted we will have plenty of time to move and find a new place to meet.
- In the meantime we will continue to operate as normal until that time as we have full run of the building 24/7.
- Also please note in your calendar- we will have a church family meeting on Aug 7 to give a time for processing this outcome, asking questions, and giving us opportunity to share any additional news we might have at that time. . So be on the lookout for those details.

We Want to Encourage You:

- Now is the time to come closer together. Love one another. Be present together. Trust God for our future.
- We know that He loves us and is for us, and has a place for us to gather.
- We will faithfully pray each day that God will lead us to the next place and we ask you to join us in that.
- We will continue to be the multi-ethnic, multi-generational family we are called to be, and we will continue our mission to honor God and make disciples of Jesus who love well.
- We will continue to grow in the image of Jesus and commit to imaging Jesus in all we say and do.
- We will continue to Be the church. For the church is not a building but a body of people committed to loving Jesus, one another and doing God's will together.

Lastly I have intentionally not named the church. We don't think it will be helpful at this time to focus on them but to put our focus on King Jesus and his mission for our church family in this city.

A Tent People & Temple of God

Pastor Greg Mitchell

2 Samuel 7:1-17

After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.”

Nathan replied to the king, “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you.”

But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying:

“Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” ’

“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. And I will provide a place for my people

Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders h over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“ ‘The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.’ ”

Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation.

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), 2 Sa 7:1–17.

Tents are Temporary

Isn't it interesting that God preferred to identify himself with a people who thought about themselves in terms of tents rather than temples. It's as if the unimpressive tent and its lack of permanence says something to how God thinks about the church.

The buildings are temporary, and there is an idea in the Bible that our bodies are tents that will be set up and taken down as well.

And we, as ENCS, as part of who we are, have a “tent church” identity.

The church isn't a building, but a people. We are a tent church.

Blessings as Identities

Part of our growth and maturity requires us to see past God's blessings to who God is, instead of taking God's blessings and making them part of our identities.

You can't brag about what you own when you're a renter.

Our identity is in a who, not a what, and that it clarifies why we exist.

Your church community is exactly what Seattle needs - a community that loves Jesus together and will be there for others. —
Dr. Greg Mitchell

It is a vulnerable place to be a tent people. We are not attractional, but a community walking toward Jesus together.

Buildings do not catapult us into our destiny.

Deuteronomy 8:2

Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to

know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Dt 8:2.

The best reason in not keeping God's commands is discouragement. It gives us a window to be disobedient. "You discouraged me God, so I get a free pass to not obey you."

There is something powerful about a community that stays committed to Jesus and to one another in the face of discouragement and attack.

This moment is not a pause or a detour; deserts and tents are a launch pad — they clarify our faith, hope, and love. Will we be found faithful as a family on mission?

The Martyrs For The Church In Korea

When the Gospel was first brought to Korea, the Christian missionaries were killed on the sea shore before they could begin preaching. And 20 years ago, the biggest church in the world was in Korea, pastored by Dr. Yonggi Cho. Everything that has been built in the kingdom has been on the backs of those nameless martyrs.

I don't know whether we'll be the martyrs on the sea shore or Dr. Yonggi Cho, but can we be faithful in who Jesus has called us to be in our generation?

As a church here in Seattle, may we be found faithful living in a tent. As we move forward, this moment is a launchpad into what Jesus is calling us into.