



May 11, 2011

Dear Friends,

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 a hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

Wow! What a promise from God. We indeed do have a hope and a future. Our hope and future is not based on what we can do but it is based on what God can do.

I believe that God has a great plan for our future as a church family. He desires that we participate with Him in making more and better disciples of Jesus Christ and to that end we labor together.

The *Crossing by Faith* campaign, the capital campaign we began in October, has two goals - retiring our current debt and building up a savings for the future purchase of land (10-20 acres). I am pleased to report to you we have met our first goal. **WE ARE DEBT FREE!** In seven short months, we have given \$216,000, paid for the campaign and retired our building debt. Because you gave, we are saving \$12,000 a year in interest and can move on toward our second goal of purchasing land. The Lord is pleased as we honored Him with our faith and generosity even in these challenging economic times.

We will be celebrating God's goodness and faithfulness on Sunday, May 29 and I want to encourage everyone to attend. We will have one celebration service at **10:00am**. There will be no Sunday School. Please take note of the different service time and the cancellation of Sunday School. We will share with one another the goodness of God through testimonies, music, officially retiring the debt, praying over the land committee and looking at our future through the eyes of faith. We will also be remembering our fallen heroes. There will be a family style barbeque lunch featuring Huey's BBQ following the service. **You will not want to miss this historic celebration!**

The next river we need to cross by faith is to purchase land. All the funds given to the *Crossing by Faith* campaign will now go into a savings account for this expressed purpose. As this fund increases over the coming months, a land committee will begin to pray and search for the piece of land God has for us. This committee will begin the process of determining how much land we need as well as the location. They will be contacting those in our church family who are conversant with land acquisition and the wisdom of others in this important decision. As we go down this path, you as a congregation will be kept in the loop as to where we are in the process. Those who have agreed to serve on this team are: Roger Koertner (Chairman), Wendell Dorsett, Tom Sunderman, Barb Huizinga, Dick Johnson, Greg Mellema and Pastor Tom Nevius. Please be in prayer for us as we begin to seek God in this next step of faith.

I like how The Message paraphrases Ephesians 3:20, *God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams!* How true that is. We have witnessed a great miracle but there are more and greater ones to come.

Serving Christ Together,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tom'.

Pastor Tom

P.S. I have enclosed The F.R.E.M.O.N.T. Plan to help us stay focused on our goals and to keep before us as a matter of prayer.