



## Sermon Title: What God Has Done

### **IN** *Opportunities to connect and pray as a group*

1. Which building have you visited that impressed you? How did it impress you?
2. If you grew up in the church, describe your 'church' building.  
How did it serve the community?  
If you did not grow up in the church, where did you go for community?

### **UP** *Time that is devoted to the Word of God*

1. Tell how long you have been involved at Centre Street Church.  
What has CSC meant to your spiritual growth?
2. Review the dates in the history of CSC. What is significant for you as you look at them? What surprised you?
3. Read Numbers 13:31-14:9. At this time in the history of CSC, how important is it that we consider the Israelites' refusal to step out in faith and enter the Promised Land?
4. Pastor Henry outlined that 'Buildings Matter':
  1. because God regularly calls His people to gather together for worship;
  2. because all people matter to God;
  3. because they are a visible sign of God's presence in the Community.

How do Matthew 28:18-20; John 3:16; Acts 2:41 and 2 Peter 3:9 give the foundation for these points?

### **OUT** *Seek to be the Community of God's people in your community*

1. In what way is Joshua 1:6-9 and Isaiah 43:18 helpful for you as CSC undertakes the BUILD Initiative?
2. What do you believe the mission is for 'our' generation'?  
What do you see as being our legacy to both the present and future generations?
3. As CSC enters this time in its history, pray for the wisdom of leaders and committees who are tasked with decision making.
4. Ask God how you can commit your 'time, talent and treasure' to the mission of the BUILD project.

**UP – IN – OUT** *reflect a balanced life including a focus on our personal relationship with the Father (UP), staying connected to the Body (IN), and reaching our world (OUT).*

### **THE WORD (NIV)**

#### **Joshua 1:6-9**

<sup>6</sup>Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.<sup>7</sup> "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. <sup>8</sup>Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. <sup>9</sup>Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

#### **Isaiah 43:18-19**

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

#### **Matthew 28:18-20**

<sup>18</sup>Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

#### **John 3:16**

<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

#### **Acts 2:41**

<sup>41</sup>Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

#### **2 Peter 3:9**

<sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.



Throughout Centre Street Church’s history, we see individuals taking a step of faith as they gave generously and sacrificially, combining their resources to advance God’s kingdom locally and globally.

- 1958 60 Young Adults from Salem Evangelical Church (Bridgeland) organize a church plant in ‘north Calgary’
- 1978 200 people attending Centre Street Church work together to build the gymnasium and educational wing
- 1981-1985 The ministries with Youth and Young Adults expands
- 1993 1,000 congregants committed to further growth of facilities and ministry opportunities
- 1996-2003 3,000 people in five worship services
- 2004 (March) Move into the Central Campus
- 2007-2016 Development of NW/Airdrie/South/Bridgeland Campuses
- 2018 BUILD More Room Initiative

Looking back, what if sometime during the past sixty years, our church had refused to step out in faith and closed the door saying *“Enough is Enough. We do not need to expand.”* Like the generation of Israelites who refused to step out in faith while standing on the threshold of the Promise Land, our church would not have fully realized God’s plan – to use it to continuously bring more people to know, love and live for Him.

Though our church has experienced exponential growth, there are still hundreds of thousands in our city alone who do not yet know or believe in Jesus. As our church continues to make a bigger impact in our community for God’s glory, more building space is needed. Why do we need to invest in buildings? Pastor Henry gives three reasons why church buildings matter in advancing God’s kingdom.

**Buildings matter because in the Scriptures, we see God regularly calling His people to come together to worship.** In the Old Testament, God called His people to gather in the Tabernacle or Temple to worship, offer sacrifices and thanksgiving. The early church met in homes, but they also gathered together in large public spaces to worship and to invite others to hear the gospel. For example, in Acts 2, over 3,000 people came to believe in Christ in a single day.

**Buildings matter because people matter.** John 3:16 and 2 Peter 3:9 show us that God loves the world and does not want anyone to perish. As Christians, we are called to advance God’s kingdom and bring more individuals to Christ (Matt 28). Let not the lack of space be the reason why people are turned away. Let us not focus on the cost or size of the buildings but the size of the harvest.

**Buildings matter because they are a visible sign of the church’s presence in the community.** As a hospital is a visible sign to those seeking medical treatment, so is a church building a visible sign to those seeking hope, healing, meaning and community. Yes, we the people are the Church, but a church building can be one of the tools God uses to draw people to Himself. A person may have attended a funeral, wedding or Stampede breakfast at our church building at some time in their life. Now out of curiosity or seeking an answer to a desperate need, they remember our church and come. In God’s time, they may commit their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ.

May we not be the generation that says, *“Enough is enough. I’ve got a seat. I’ve got a place to park. My children have friends already. We don’t need to expand.”* Let us rather count ourselves privileged to be part of CSC’s BUILD initiative. May we heed God’s call to commit and give sacrificially of our time, talent and treasure – leaving a legacy to the present and next generations.