



Community  Youth

Family  Children



the Continuing LEGACY

*"For the promise is unto you, and to your children,
and to all that are afar off..." Acts 2:39*

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY:

We are approaching yet another defining moment in our history. I sense a growing spirit of faith and anticipation as we prepare to continue our legacy and set our sights on a preferred future in the Kingdom of God.

The Continuing the Legacy campaign can be boiled down to one word – souls! Yes, there is a plan for relocation and expansion of ministries; however, each of these objectives has one common denominator: greater spiritual impact on lives in Billings and Yellowstone County. In short, we are expanding our present vision with the core intention of seeing lives transformed by the Gospel in our community.



In this brochure, you will be reminded of those that have continued the legacy of Pentecost through the years in our local assembly. You will see that we are grateful for the numerous sacrifices and successes of previous generations and leadership. You will also see that while we celebrate a rich history, we look forward to a bright future. We believe the best days for our church are still yet to come!

Allow me to encourage you to participate in the Continuing the Legacy Stewardship Campaign. After a time of personal prayer and fasting, God will undoubtedly lead you down the ordered path of His perfect will. Your decision to partner with the vision will tremendously impact both your life and the Kingdom of God. The investments of our time, talent, and treasure in this campaign will pay dividends that are literally out of this world!

It is an honor to serve as your pastor as we grow to connect with God and each other for our community and our future.

In His service,

Pastor Edward Sermon



As we continue our legacy, we respectfully look back at the points of continuation in our past.

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Nelson responded to the gospel presented by traveling ministers sometime before 1940. Their zeal and burden impacted numerous families, including the Alan Hull family. Members of this family felt led of God to donate land and build a building for a church.



The small group of believers contacted the UPCI, and in 1948, Rev. Philip G. Tolstad became the first pastor of the United Pentecostal Church of Billings. He pastored the church until January 1952, when he became an instructor at the Tulsa Bible College as he prepared to go as a missionary to Uruguay.

Rev. Clarence and wife Elaine Lewis had served as assistant pastor for two years and accepted the pastorate to replace the Tolstads. They pastored here until 1955.

In 1955, Rev. W.A. and wife Edith Wilson became pastor. The church was incorporated in 1967, a few months before Pastor Wilson resigned.

Rev. Terry with his wife Dorothy Hardt became the 4th pastor in 1967. Pastor Hardt resigned in early 1970 to start a church in Laurel.

Rev. John with wife Norma Russell assumed the pastorate in May, 1970. Pastor Russell had a ministry spanning 37 years. During his tenure, the church moved to its present location in 1980. The impact of this couple's leadership included over 25 years as the Rocky Mountain District superintendent of the UPCI.

On May 22, 2007, Rev. Edward and wife Regina Sermon joined the ranks of pastoral leadership for our church. The church has continued to grow under the direction of Pastor Sermon and his wife with fresh vision, practical teaching, and dynamic leadership. The members and leaders of POB support Pastor Sermon's vision and look forward to realizing their future together.



Throughout its history, the Pentecostals of Billings has been a relevant and effective conduit for the power and grace of God in reaching our community. This congregation is connected to a purpose that is vibrant and biblical. We understand that the New Testament church is not about buildings, but people! It is the priority of POB to meet the spiritual needs of its community—to the elder as well as the child, to every individual without regard to gender or social status.



There are many facets to our commitment to reaching the greater Billings area. Events such as the Christmas program, Praise in the Park, and relationship seminars are strategically planned for the express purpose of serving the community and strengthening the church family.

Not only is it important that we bring the Gospel to every neighborhood, but we are also committed to ministering to individuals of every age. The dedicated Sunday school staff weekly communicates the Word of God to children from nursery age through teens. The Sold Out youth ministries, made up of junior-high and senior-high students, are very active in empowering our youth through fellowship, activities, and worship. Our Bible Quizzing program provides another challenging and exciting way to familiarize our kids and teens with the power of Scripture. As well, Bible studies—both at the church and in individual's homes—are conducted weekly to equip a range of adults whether married, single, or parents.

In addition to our calling and responsibility to Yellowstone County and the greater Billings area, POB also is committed to being a globally minded church. As a result of this conviction, POB has an active missions program currently supporting 10 missionaries worldwide. All the ministries of this church are a reflection of its belief in the restorative power of grace and a biblical mandate to share the life changing truth of the Gospel.

Finally, POB envisions itself as a multicultural, multigenerational church. We understand that the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ was promised to every tribe and to every nation (Revelation 5:9). Many people remark how refreshing it is to come and worship in a church that is diverse in race, age, and culture.

In short, POB is a dynamic, engaging community of believers from all walks of life, committed to sharing the Gospel with all through a variety of activities, programs, and events so that “whosoever wills” can have their spiritual needs met.



OUR *Vision* INCLUDES EVERYONE

The Pentecostals of Billings (POB) is a vibrant fellowship with a vision to serve the needs and growth of all of its members. Our church is about connections, where people connect with God, each other, and the community. Everything about our church encourages individuals of every age to establish and strengthen their ties with God as they develop into mature disciples. Our programs are designed to challenge individuals in their relationship with God and give them opportunities to develop relationships with others. Training for ministry and ministry itself become part of the cycle of growth. We believe that it is God's will for our church to grow, and everything we do is to facilitate that growth.

Children: "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them!" [Luke 18-16 NLT]

From infants and toddlers through elementary age, children are a priority. Our Sunday school format makes learning the Word of God and biblical principles a fun and engaging part of their lives. Our Bible Quizzing program provides another challenging and exciting way to familiarize our children with the power of Scripture. While we are blessed with great curriculum and a faithful team of teachers, we desire to equip them with a classroom environment that will assist in the growth of this vital ministry. A large portion of our future facilities will be committed to classrooms, nursery care areas, and safe outdoor space.

Teens: "But ye are a chosen generation..." [1 Peter 2:9]

God has blessed POB with a spectacular and growing group of young people. The "S.O.L.D. OUT" youth ministry comprised of the high school and middle school age. Teenagers in today's world face great challenges and dilemmas; they need an environment in which they can explore issues and life's difficult questions with caring adults. Our teens are considered an essential part of the church and our relocation plans include cutting edge facilities to house this vital ministry.

Singles & Families: "...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." [Joshua 24:15]

POB is made up of unique adults and families. The vision that God has given us will allow us to be in a facility that will offer ministry for every member of the family. Adequate classroom space will allow for specialized teaching and training to meet the needs of men, women, singles, couples, and seniors; multiple classes that can take place at the same time. Furthermore, a large fellowship hall is planned for the purpose of bringing various groups and the entire church family together in fellowship.

Community: "Upright citizens are good for a city and make it prosper..." [Proverbs 11:11]

God has positioned us to be a light to Billings and Yellowstone County. Our vision is to be a spiritual, social, and material asset to our community. Our relocation will provide many open doors for POB to provide more services to the community.

20/20 Vision

- 2015*
- Launch *Continuing the Legacy* campaign
 - Reestablish the vision, mission, and purpose of the church through teaching and preaching
 - Establish a voting membership roster
 - Begin a new members class as the first step in spiritual development program
- 2016*
- Evaluate and adjust current ministries to align with church vision and purpose
 - Continue establishing and implementing spiritual development program
 - Encourage discipleship through bible studies
 - Appoint exploratory committee to research new facility options
- 2017*
- Begin actively seeking to purchase land, remodel, or purchase a new facility
 - Establish a first impressions team involving all church connections with the community
 - Focus on relationships as key to outreach
- 2018*
- Purchase land or building
 - Contract with architect to begin planning and design of new or renovated facilities
 - Establish Sunday School classes for every age level
 - Establish leadership and ministry development pipeline
- 2019*
- Move, build, or remodel
 - Cultivate ongoing cycle of membership involvement and development through evangelism, worship, fellowship, training, and ministry.

Goals & Objectives:

- Align the church culture and structure to expect and encourage growth.
- 5 new families a year = 15 new souls a year = 75 souls in 5 years

This number would max out our facilities. At that time, our future facility will be a needed purchase.

It is our vision to have both the financial ability to provide funds and the ministry level to sustain growth that would require the need of a new building within 5 years.

THE PROBLEM

Our current facility was built in 1970 and purchased by faithful members of this assembly ten years later. Although our building has served us well over the years, we are in great need of added square footage to meet the demands of our expanding membership.

Church growth experts reveal that it is difficult for a church to sustain numerical growth when their facilities are at capacity. Visitors who can't easily find parking or seating in an auditorium find it hard to believe there is a place for them within the local assembly.

Our discussion about relocation is driven by the following facts:

- Our present location does not have adequate room for expansion of the building, parking lot, and green space.
- Our present facility has limited parking and provides a number of challenges, including inadequate restroom facilities with no restrooms on the main floor.
- Our sanctuary has limited seating and a tight, crowded baptistry that is difficult to reach.
- Our current facility has an inadequate number of Sunday School rooms and no administrative space.
- Our current fellowship hall is not large enough to seat members and guests, it has no noise insulation, and doubles as Sunday School space.
- Our kitchen does not have a good work flow or adequate storage space.
- Our youth class has to share their class space for other activities.

THE SOLUTION

We are thankful for our present facility and have found ways to maximize the space. However, as we continue to grow, some of the space restrictions will become increasingly difficult to overcome.

The solution is to purchase an existing facility that is either large enough or expandable to serve the vision of the Pentecostals of Billings.

STEP 1 – Begin financial preparation now.

STEP 2 – Begin an earnest search for God's intended destination for the Pentecostals of Billings family.

STEP 3 – Purchase and, if necessary, renovate a facility that meets the following criteria:

- Adequate acreage with good visibility and room for expansion when necessary
- 15,000 sq. ft. facility on one level
- Adequate and accessible parking based on sanctuary capacity
- Sanctuary seating for at least 300 people
- Kitchen and fellowship hall
- Adequate administrative space, prayer rooms, and storage space
- Dedicated classrooms for children, teens, and families
- Adequate restrooms/drinking fountains

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

How much will each member be asked to contribute?

No individual can determine the amount of another's commitment. The Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 8:12 stated the voluntary principle when he said, "For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has and not according to what one does not have." Again in 2 Corinthians 9:7 he said, "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Each person and household is challenged to seek God's will in determining a personal giving commitment.

How long will I have to fulfill my commitment?

Our vision is to give POB members three years to fulfill their financial commitment. This extended period will give each of us a chance to do something significant for the Kingdom of God.

When will giving begin for the Continuing the Legacy Stewardship Campaign?

The first offering for the Continuing the Legacy Stewardship Campaign will be received on First Fruits Sunday. (May 17, AM Service). The first Sunday of each month for the next three years will be called Continuing the Legacy Sunday. Continuing the Legacy Sunday will keep the campaign at the forefront of our minds; members will be encouraged to give their monthly offering on this Sunday.



Won't our regular giving be reduced because of the campaign?

History has shown, and our consultants confirm, that general stewardship is affected very little during such an effort. Some churches have reported increases in various areas of giving. However, it is very important for us to not lose sight of on-going ministry needs in the midst of this campaign. Members should not designate their tithes to the Continuing the Legacy Stewardship Campaign as this would be biblically unacceptable. Our giving to the Continuing the Legacy Stewardship Campaign is in addition to our tithe.

How will my donation be used?

All funds will be deposited into the Continuing the Legacy fund and will be used for the projects outlined in Vision Service #1. All money will be used for making necessary improvements to our existing campus and the development of a campus for the future.

The Pentecostals of Billings church board is committed to being good stewards of all God given resources. All funds will be used with the proper approvals.



HOW CAN I PARTNER WITH CONTINUING THE LEGACY?

The Miracle Equation

Many people do not realize their capacity to bless the Kingdom of God financially. The five following considerations comprise a tremendous equation for a sacrificial pledge for the Continuing the Legacy Stewardship Campaign. As you consider what you will give over the next three years, think about the following components to a true miracle pledge!

1. Disposable Income or Cash Reserves

A person who desires to bless the Kingdom of God might consider financial resources such as savings or investments. Often God blesses us with enough resources to give out of the abundance of blessings we have.

2. Monthly Giving

Review your monthly income. What amount could you pledge from your monthly income for the Continuing the Legacy Stewardship Campaign? Setting aside \$20 per week for a monthly offering would add \$3,120 to your overall pledge during the course of the next three years.

3. Disposable Assets

Many people accumulate tools, toys, equipment, and vehicles. Often these items are no longer used or treasured. Some have even sacrificed things that they had originally intended to keep as God moved upon them. What items could you sell and give the proceeds from to the work of the Lord?

4. What could I do by way of fundraising?

Fundraising can be a fun way to bless the Kingdom of God. One man asked his church to bring their cars to him when they needed an oil change. A woman made apple pies and sold them in her community. Another family collected used cell phones and sold them to a cell phone dealer. One personal fundraiser a year could add \$1,000 to your overall three year pledge. How could you bless the Continuing the Legacy Stewardship Campaign by fundraising over the next three years?

5. What will I trust God for?

It is important to trust God for provision. Above and beyond your personal assets, income, and fundraising, what will you trust God to miraculously provide? Stewardship is about trust. Can we trust God to make a pledge by faith and believe He will provide? Can God trust us when He blesses us to give the blessing to His work? God will pour out abundant blessings upon those who are willing to be a conduit for His provisions.

Finally, it is important to consider all 5 components of the Miracle Equation when considering your three year financial commitment. Do not focus on only one component.



Equation FOR A MIRACLE PLEDGE

EQUATION FOR A MIRACLE

DISPOSABLE INCOME/CASH RESERVE _____

DISPOSABLE ASSETS _____

MONTHLY GIVING X 36 MONTHS _____

FUNDRAISING _____

MIRACULOUS PROVISION _____

TOTAL MIRACLE PLEDGE _____

PER	WEEK	MONTH	1 YEAR	3 YEARS
\$	5.77	25	300	900
\$	9.23	40	480	1,440
\$	11.54	50	600	1,800
\$	13.85	60	720	2,160
\$	17.31	75	900	2,700
\$	23.08	100	1,200	3,600
\$	28.85	125	1,500	4,500
\$	34.62	150	1,800	5,400
\$	46.15	200	2,400	7,200
\$	57.69	250	3,000	9,000
\$	69.23	300	3,600	10,800
\$	92.31	400	4,800	14,400
\$	115.38	500	6,000	18,000
\$	138.46	600	7,200	21,600
\$	184.62	800	9,600	28,800

Begin by praying every day...

"Lord, I want to give sacrificially. Please show me how to give a gift that will stretch my faith." If you're married, pray together with your spouse.

Give yourself time!

Don't rush your decision. You will find that the longer you genuinely pray "Show me how", the more ways God will show you, and you will be able to give more than the first amount that popped into your head.

Plan a family conference

Ask your family members to begin thinking of ideas in advance. Be sure to involve your children, no matter how young they are. This is a great opportunity to teach giving and faith.

Go to scripture!

At your family conference, read the following Bible promises and instructions and make a list of what you learn: (Proverbs 3:9-10; Proverbs 11:24-25; Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 9:6-12; Matthew 6:18-20)

Search your heart!

In your family conference, ask yourselves these questions aloud:

• **Regarding our cash gift:**

- How much cash could we gather by May 17th?
- Is there anything we could sell or convert to cash?

• **Regarding our 36 month commitment:**

- Are there ways we could decrease our expenses in order to make a larger commitment?
- Are there ways we could increase our income in order to make a larger commitment?

Decide as a family the total amount you will give.

Ask each family member how they can sacrifice and contribute.

Reflecting

ON YOUR PLEDGE

Before you make your pledge at the Commitment Service on April 26th, ask yourself the following five questions:

- Is my gift born of prayer?
- Is my gift sacrificial?
- Does my gift include an element of faith?
- Does my gift reflect the way God has blessed me?
- Does my gift reflect my love and appreciation for God?



HOW CAN I PREPARE?

What can I do to prepare for Commitment Sunday?

Much has already been said in this brochure about how you can partner financially with *Continuing the Legacy*. It is important to know that you will have the opportunity to fill out a commitment card during the Commitment Sunday Service. We are confident that your pledge will reflect an amount that has been born out of prayer and fasting and will serve as a strong foundation for the future of the Pentecostals of Billings. You will have three years to fulfill your financial commitment for this campaign. Also, please remember to refer to each component of the Miracle Equation when considering your pledge.

What can I do to prepare for Celebration Sunday?

But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD.
(Psalm 115:18)

Celebration Sunday will be a beautiful time when you will realize the magnitude of God's plans for the Pentecostals of Billings. Pastor Sermon will be announcing the amount that has been pledged by the entire congregation. This service will give you a great sense of anticipation and pride about the future of the Pentecostals of Billings. Prepare to celebrate!

What can I do to prepare for First Fruits Sunday?

God expects His people to give out of the abundance whereby He has blessed them. Each family of the Pentecostals of Billings should consider giving a sacrificial cash offering to the Lord on First Fruits Sunday. Your First Fruits cash offering will be your first investment in the Pentecostals of Billings Stewardship Campaign and will be credited to your pledge. You can prepare to give by: holding a garage sale, selling baked goods to co-workers, or asking each member of your family to set aside money each week for a family offering. Tax returns could also be considered since the *Continuing the Legacy* Offering is being held during tax season. We believe that the Pentecostals of Billings will receive the largest cash offering in our history!

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY:

Pastor Edward and Regina Sermon will celebrate 30 years of marriage on June 22, 2015, and consider it a great honor and privilege to serve the Pentecostals of Billings family.

Edward J. Sermon was born in Milwaukee, WI on March 7, 1966. His parents' ministry led them to multiple locations that included churches in Montana, Wyoming, Wisconsin, and Texas. Rev. Sermon met Regina while they were both attending college at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, LA. Shortly after they started dating, he transferred to Texas Bible College; they married the following summer. After graduating from TBC in 1987, Rev. Sermon pursued additional study through the Center for Advanced Pastoral Studies program. Upon graduation from CAPS, the Sermons moved to Wharton, Texas in 1988 where they were involved with the youth and outreach at Peace Tabernacle. Their first son Aaron was also born there.



In 1989, they returned to Texas Bible College and served as the Student Services Director and Music Director. Approximately one year after their second son Jordan was born and Rev. Sermon and his family moved to Lake Charles, LA where he assumed the position of Assistant Pastor and Music Director at Livingway Pentecostal Church. They served there faithfully until May of 2007, when they were invited to accept the pastorate at The Pentecostals of Billings.

Since that time, the POB family and the Sermons have grown to deeply love and appreciate each other. The Sermon boys have since grown, moved away, and started ministries and families of their own. The extended Sermon family now includes daughter-in-law Hannah (Aaron), and granddaughter Aryce. Jordan will marry Sarah at the end of May this year.

In 2008, Rev. Sermon became a chaplain for the Billings Police Department, and currently serves as the coordinator of the BPD chaplaincy program. Since 2009, he has also served in various positions with the Rocky Mountain District of the UPCI, and is currently the district secretary for North American Missions. Pastor Sermon is very passionate about creating a framework in which ministry can develop and thrive, and has experienced firsthand how God's transformation and restoration can make us all "better together".

the Continuing
LEGACY



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