



A Seven-Day Journey in Prayer

A church of 120 members and among them, less than 30 families are able to make a regular monthly financial commitment. A depressed economy and rising real estate prices. How can we afford a new church while running monthly deficits? All we could do was fervently pray about our needs. Two months later, in a luncheon with other pastors, I was told that there was a church building for sale nearby, right next door to one of our deacons. We visited the building and while laying hands on the door, asked God to guide us with His own will. The next day we toured the church and were told that a developer had already made an offer on the church building, but the church had not accepted it. After discussion and prayer in our deacon board committee, we offered the church more than the developer's price. The church did not respond to our offer and I sensed that this was going to be difficult, with many hurdles to overcome. We started a whole-church prayer campaign. Just like Joshua led the Israelites for seven days around the city of Jericho, and saw the walls fall down, we walked around this property for seven days, praying for a miracle, and our walls fell too. Every night, I was joined by more than ten members and deacons to pray outside of the church building, and walk around it once. On the third day of our prayer campaign, the church decided to sell the property through an open bid process, hoping to have more prospective buyers and sell to the highest bidder. This decision was a big challenge to our faith. If we offered too low a price, we would have lost the property, but if we offered too high a price, we may not be able to afford it. So, either way, we had to offer our bid in faith. On the seventh day of our prayer campaign we arrived at an offer price, \$573,000. From our study of the market, even if we offered \$700,000, we might not be successful. With that price, and the balance sheet of the church in front of us, a wall of doubt slowly built up in our hearts. That same afternoon, we went back to the church and with the example of Joshua, we walked around the church property seven times. After seven times, the wall of the selling church didn't fall down, but the wall of doubt in our hearts did. Six days later, before we sent in the bid, we once again examined our price. Each time we took different methods of arriving at the figure and each time it was virtually the same one we received after the seventh circle of the building. After prayer we submitted the offer, and waited for God's hand to work. On Sunday, March 9, 2002, seven days after we walked around the building, the church opened the bids after their Sunday service. The first bid of \$460,000 was from an institution. The developer, who originally offered \$400,000, had the second bid of \$550,000. Ours was the last envelope opened, and our offer of \$572,850 was the

highest bid. But now, where do we get the money? We continued to look for God's provision by faith. The congregation unanimously approved purchasing the church and committed to increase their annual offering by 39%. We received 69 pledges for \$102,998 to perform the renovation work. I pray that our testimony will become an encouragement to other churches to pray earnestly and trust in God's mighty work by faith!

(On April 9, 2002, The Alliance Development Fund, Inc. approved a loan to the church for the remaining funds needed to purchase the building.)

Rev. Timothy S. Tin, Chinese Alliance Bible Church, Arcadia, CA Edited by ADF Staff

Pursuing God's Plan Together

Maranatha Bible Chapel in Horseheads, New York, recently completed their capital campaign using the Alliance Capital Development Program. Their theme for the campaign was "Pursuing God's Plan Together." The church came to ADF asking what steps they needed to follow to begin an addition to their facilities. We encouraged them to challenge their congregation with the project. As of June 16, 2002, they have commitments of \$576,000 towards their project. Pastor Dan Miller wrote to the congregation in a June newsletter, "I again want to express my gratitude to the Maranatha family for your prayerful and positive response to the capital campaign. Let's continue to trust God together for His perfect plan and provision." The church is now taking the next steps of (1) appointing a building committee, (2) proceeding with the design/development activities of the project, (3) contracting with an architect for their services with the design, (4) looking into financing options and (5) keeping the congregation informed. ADF is very pleased to have helped this church in securing commitments from the congregation and to be working with them on the financing of the project.

The 2010 Challenge

Rev. Donald A Wiggins, D.Min. Vice President for National Church Ministries A. B. Simpson was a man captivated by God's vision rather than one attempting a vision for God. His heart nearly broke with compassion for the immigrants streaming into New York City. He wept over the globe in his office because vast populations of un-reached peoples around the world never had received a witness of Jesus Christ. You will search his writings in vain for a finely worded vision statement. But Simpson knew the heart of God and responded.

In the past year, our president and other leaders of The Christian and Missionary Alliance have listened for the Master to speak. In keeping with our founding values and purpose, a picture has emerged of what we believe the C&MA can be by the end of this decade—the 2010 Challenge.

We believe Jesus Christ would be honored by:

- ✦ Adding 150,000 baptized believers to our churches
- ✦ Reaching 500,000 inclusive members worshiping in our churches
- ✦ Planting 900 new churches in America, for a net of 2500 congregations

- ✦ Raising up and sending out 300 new missionaries
- ✦ Plant churches among unreached peoples in Turkey and other 10/40 Window nations

What will it take to remobilize for God's cause? Nothing less than a recovery of the very same convictions that gripped Simpson. If we believe seriously that lost people matter to God, that Jesus is their Savior, that we are weak and only the power of the Holy Spirit will make us witnesses, that God is seeking worshipers to surround the throne, and that Jesus is coming soon for His bride, then we will mobilize! And God will work! (Editorial - The "2010 Challenge" means a challenge for ADF as well. Where will the funds come from to provide ministry homes for 2010 Challenge churches? Your investment in ADF can make it possible for these churches to worship in facilities of their own.)

57 Loans, over \$32 million Approved

As of September 30, 2002, ADF has approved over \$32 million in loans to C&MA churches and affiliates. Participation in ADF by C&MA family members have made it possible for these churches to build, buy, or renovate their ministry homes. We are deeply grateful for your continued support of C&MA churches.