

ChangePoint Balloon Payment Information

A little over 20 years ago, about 70 people who started a small church called Grace Community in the bank building on the corner of O'Malley and Old Seward, across from Lowe's. Growth occurred rapidly and soon we were across the street from there in an old Foodland building (now the Alaska club). Within a few years, we purchased property and built a new building on Sentry Drive, near Fred Meyer on Lake Otis and grew in that facility until it required 5 services each Sunday to accommodate our family. We again felt the need to expand and enlisted teams of people to pray and plan toward building a larger facility on the Sentry Drive property.

As the teams prayed and planned, many team members were sensing that God had something for us that did not involve building on the Sentry Drive site. They were hearing God say things like . . . *"Your ministry field is not South Anchorage, it is the entire City and State", "Your campus must break down barriers between the church and the community," "Raise your eyes beyond south Anchorage," "This vision cannot be accomplished by yourselves, you will need to do things in partnership with others" and "What are we doing for the poor?"* Slowly we realized that God did not want us to expand on the Sentry Drive sight but wanted us to lift our eyes to the community of Anchorage and the State of Alaska. He wanted our home to be a center of hope for the lost and the poor.

Following the Lord's prompting we started looking for centralized locations where we could serve the whole city. We negotiated to purchase the University Center but God closed that door. We purchased property on the New Seward Highway and started designing a new building and we began what we called "church on the move," setting up every week at Dimond high school. We fully expected to raise money and build but in the middle of that process, one of our family members was walking along Raspberry road praying and sensed that God might want us here. She communicated that to the elders and we started a process that eventually secured our current facility on 33 acres of ground.

Purchasing this property involved lots of details and God was powerfully at work in those details. Here is a summary of how he provided:

- The purchase price was \$24.5 Million for over 200,000 square feet of space and 33 acres. That is an incredible deal per square foot and per acre!
- A \$1.0 Million down payment was paid by others.
- 1st year no payments or interest were required.
- We were asked to pay only the interest until 2016 at 3.5%
- The deal also required a \$3.0 Million balloon payment in June 2011

God also provided the resources we needed to renovate our facility so that we could use it and that a portion of it could be leased as warehouse space.

- The Sale of Sentry Drive property (\$5 Million)
- Sale of the Dowling/New Seward Property (a profit of \$1 Million)
- Lease of Land to Dome (\$1 Million)
- Capital campaign (\$5 Million)
- A \$500,000, 5 year interest free note to finish decorating the children's ministry area (this note will be retired in March 2011).

Since finishing the renovations we have enjoyed the facility ourselves but many others have used it as well.

- In the past 18 months nearly 100 outside organizations from our community have used this space. The uses include:
 - School testing
 - Tire and oil changes
 - Public health fairs
 - Native corporation meetings
 - Mission banquets
 - The Native New Life Musicale
 - The Dimond High School prom.

- We are Alaska's largest Red Cross emergency center
- More and more people are wanting to use this facility as a venue for their events
- Nearly all of the warehouse space is rented out, providing important income.

We have just begun to scratch the surface of how this facility can be a blessing to our city and are now praying about how to use it to more directly impact the poor.

When we moved into this building in 2006 we planned to spend a full 3 years raising money for the balloon payment. Several circumstances challenged that plan and it did not seem right to try to raise additional money while we were finding our way back to health. In spite of the challenges however, we did take steps to pay down this debt.

- 10/12/09 - \$425,000 was paid
- 11/25/09 - \$30,000 was paid
- 1/27/10 - \$25,000 was paid
- 4/21/10 - \$60,000 was paid
- In total we have already paid \$540,000 of this debt including \$8,100 of reinvested interest savings.

It is clear as well that God is graciously restoring the health of our church:

- General giving is increasing again.
- Our operating cash reserves have been replenished to targeted levels.
- There is a new unity around our vision and momentum toward mission.

It is time for us to face the challenge of raising 2.4 million dollars by June of 2011. We know that seems like a lot of money in a short time but we can do this if we all participate and if we see the long term value of staying in this facility. God is already helping us take huge steps toward that goal.

- Recently a gift of stock valued at just under \$40,000 was received to be used as we wished. The total amount was committed to the balloon payment.
- Since then another \$100,000 has been promised to this effort.

That is still a long way from 2.4 million but let us provide some perspective:

- There are at least 1500 Alaskan families who are actively involved here at ChangePoint (they call this their church home).
- In September/October of next year those families will all receive a windfall from the state of Alaska called the PFD. 2010's PFD is estimated to be around \$1400 per person.
- If each family that calls ChangePoint their church would give just one PFD we would raise 2.1 million dollars in one offering.
- Some may not be able to give a full PFD but others can give more.
- Together, we can do this if we want to.

What we are asking of you right now is to pray about and plan for how you can be involved. Here is what you need to know as you pray and plan:

- There will be 2 special offerings for the balloon payment this next year (September/October and April/May).
- You may start giving regularly now (just write "balloon payment" on your check or select "balloon payment" gift when giving on-line). Rather than a \$1400 gift in the fall some of you may want to give \$100/month until June of next year.
- Please resist the urge to shift your regular giving toward this; instead plan for something above and beyond your regular giving.
- Please continue to be faithful in your giving over the summer months so that we can head into the fall financially strong.
- Thank you for your faithfulness, and for considering how you can continue to "enter in" with us.