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Whole-Hearted Commitment: Making an Eternal Investment in God's Kingdom

Beloved Church Family,

I greet you in the name of God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have received all things necessary for life and godliness. May God continue to pour out His grace upon us, and may He continue to allow us to participate in advancing His kingdom until the return of Christ.

Simply stated, our mission is *to see all peoples become whole-hearted followers of Jesus Christ*. Notice that our mission relates to *all peoples*. Without discrimination, we are to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to all peoples beginning where we live and continuing to the rest of the world until God's name becomes famous in the uttermost parts of the earth. The question I want us to consider is, "what will it take to reach *all peoples* with the gospel and see them become *whole-hearted followers of Christ*?"

If We Desire to Reach All Peoples . . .

If we desire to reach *all peoples* with the gospel, then we must be a people of prayer. We must fervently plead with God to open the eyes of the spiritually blind that they may see the ugliness of their sin and the beauty of Christ. We must recognize that we are spiritually poor but that Christ is infinitely rich to supply all our needs for life and ministry. In my devotional time this morning I read the following comment by Charles Spurgeon:

"The act of prayer *teaches us our unworthiness*, which is a very salutary lesson for such proud beings as we are. If God gave us favours without constraining us to pray for them we should never know how poor we are, but a true prayer is an inventory of wants, a catalogue of necessities, a revelation of hidden poverty. While it is an application to divine wealth, it is a confession of human emptiness. The most healthy state of a Christian is to be always empty in self and constantly depending upon the Lord for supplies; to be always poor in self and rich in Jesus; weak as water personally, but mighty through God to do great exploits; and hence the use of prayer, because, while it adores God, it lays the creature where it should be, in the very dust. Prayer is in itself, apart from the answer which it brings, a great benefit to the Christian."

May we benefit greatly from prayer; may we express our utter dependence upon God through prayer. Enclosed you will find a prayer guide for your personal use. Though we should continue to pray for unbelieving family, friends, co-workers and neighbors, this prayer guide directs our attention to the capital campaign that will be the focus of our ministry efforts in the weeks to come.

The prayer guide reminds us of the second necessity in advancing the kingdom: giving. We must be a people who give out of our abundance to kingdom causes. This is the focus of our capital campaign, called *Whole-Hearted Commitment: Making an Eternal Investment in God's Kingdom*. The financial goal of our campaign is \$2,000,000.00 over a three year period beginning January 1, 2007. By sacrificing together as a body through the grace of God, we can reach this goal! Let me give you just one example of the sacrifice of which I speak. In any given week, my family and I go out to eat at a fast food restaurant. The cost of the meal for the seven of us is about \$25.00. What if we decided that instead of spending the \$25.00 per week on fast food we would give that to *Whole-Hearted Commitment*? If we faithfully committed that \$25.00 each week for one year, that would amount to \$1,300.00. If we continued giving this amount for three years, of course, it would be \$3,900.00. At High Pointe, we have over 400 families/individuals who give. What if they did the same? In just three short years, we would raise \$1,560,000.00. In other words, together by God's grace we could raise 1.56 million dollars as a church just by putting our weekly burger money aside. Now, my family is willing to do more. What if other families joined us in doing more? The possibilities would be both mind boggling and God-honoring.

We exist to see all peoples become whole-hearted followers of Jesus Christ

We, the elders, desire to reduce our church debt in half over a three year period so that we can focus more of our monies toward ministry and missions. However, we do not have to wait for three years for such a commitment. We can give to missions now by setting aside 10% of the commitments collected in *Whole-Hearted Commitment* toward missions. This 10% would make up our annual missions budget. Thus, our missions budget would actually increase from what has been given over the last two years. In 2005 you gave just over \$47,000.00 to missions. In 2006, if we continue at our present rate of missions giving, we will receive just under \$40,000.00 for missions. Therefore, if we meet our goal of \$2,000,000.00, our missions giving would amount to \$200,000.00 over three years. So, if the first year we receive \$600,000.00, then our missions budget for that year would be \$60,000, far exceeding our missions budgets in 2005 and 2006. As you can see, *Whole-Hearted Commitment* would allow us to reduce the debt AND increase our missions giving. Praise be to God! I invite you to begin praying now about what the Lord would have you give toward *Whole-Hearted Commitment*. We will be hearing more about what this will mean in the weeks to come, but for now, I want to invite you to come to one of our evening meetings during the week of October 16. During that week we will meet in the children's church room from Monday through Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. in order to answer any questions you may have regarding *Whole-Hearted Commitment*. Plan on being with us for one of these evening meetings. Child care will be provided on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings only. Also, please take advantage of the study by Randy Alcorn that has been enclosed in this letter.

Thirdly, if we desire to reach all peoples with the gospel, we must go where *all peoples* are. According to the strategy Jesus laid out for His disciples in Acts 1:8, the gospel was to go to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth. Here, I believe, we see a helpful evangelism and missions strategy for High Pointe. We too must go to our Jerusalem (Austin), our Judea (Texas), our Samaria (North America) and the uttermost parts of the earth (the nations). By God's grace, we are strategically placed to reach a large number of people in the city of Austin. Just this week I learned that the Pioneer Crossings neighborhood, which is less than half of a mile South of us on Dessau road, presently has over 200 homes. In the future, this development is planning for approximately 700 homes, not including a planned apartment complex. As I drove South on Dessau road from Pflugerville yesterday, I noticed that a new subdivision was being raised to my left, while the Brookfield subdivision was expanding to my right. As many of you know, I live in ShadowGlen in Manor. Just in our subdivision, new sections are being opened up for further construction, while new subdivisions continue to be raised between Manor and Elgin. At this present time the growth in that area is incalculable to project in light of the toll road that is to open in the future. My point is simple – we desire to reach *all peoples* with the gospel beginning in Austin, and God has placed us in the area of greatest growth. After all, we are in the middle of the city of Austin's preferred growth area!

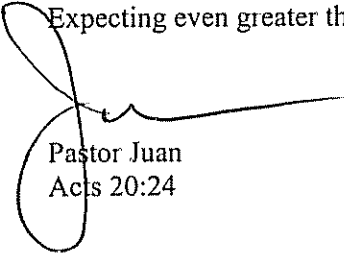
In relation to central Texas, our desire as elders is to get to a point where we can begin planting new churches with High Pointe's DNA structure throughout the Austin Metro area and beyond. This would require a church planting strategy that would include training church planting interns for a period of time here at High Pointe. Once these interns fulfill the necessary training, we would hope to plant churches in some of the outlying areas where some of our people already live and where small groups are already viable.

We also pray that the Lord would allow us to take the gospel to areas of North America where there is little gospel influence. There are various ways of doing so, but one would be to employ our church planting strategy on a national scale.

Finally, we must not let up on the urgency to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. With the help of our Missions Team, led by Daniel Franz, we hope to focus our efforts on the most strategic places and people groups.

As you can see, we have great desires to reach *all peoples* with the gospel from Austin to the ends of the earth. I pray that you will join us by praying, giving and even going when the opportunities arise. Please make every effort to join us for one of our evening informational meetings the week of October 16. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me personally. I cannot wait to see what great things God has in store for His people at High Pointe Baptist Church. May God grant us much grace to make eternal investments in His kingdom.

Expecting even greater things,



Pastor Juan
Acts 20:24