



# SACRAMENTO CENTRAL

## SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

March 16, 2017

Dear friend.

Everyone who has a house takes care of it (or at least they are supposed to). We clean them, fix or repair broken things, and replace items that are worn out. We want it to look nice when we have family, friends, or guests over. We want our homes to be representative of who we are.

God felt the same way about His own house, the permanent structure that was envisioned by King David and built by Solomon his son. Solomon's Temple stood for nearly 400 years. However, over time, the temple had been allowed to fall into disrepair. Fortunately extensive repairs were initiated and completed under King Joash (see 2 Kings 12 & 2 Chron. 24). The Bible records the dedication and care that went into those repairs: *"So the workmen labored, and the work was completed by them; they restored the house of God to its original condition and reinforced it."* (2 Chron. 24:13) It was a success! God's house had been restored and as a result His reputation among the surrounding nations had as well.

There is another house that is important to take care of today - God's house, or the church. We need to care for it in two different ways. First, we need to care for the building itself. Inspiration reminds us, *"His people today are to remember that the house of worship is the Lord's property and that it is to be scrupulously cared for."* (Testimonies to the Church, vol. 9, p. 248) Second, we need to care about the building of God's spiritual house. Paul writes, *"In whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit."* (Ephesians 2:21, 22) God's building project is primarily focused on adding redeemed people to the church.

For nearly 130 years Sacramento Central has been working to build God's spiritual house in the Sacramento region. As a result of the Spirit-led efforts of past and present members not only has Central steadily grown, but other congregations have been established across the greater Sacramento region. Our most recent efforts have given rise to a church in Granite Bay and a Fijian company in the Sacramento area.

During our past we have successfully worshipped and served the community out of several church buildings. The latest, and most impressive of all the building structures is the one we currently worship in. This facility has provided a solid structure to allow our church to maintain it's soul-winning work for the last 45 years. Without a doubt, we can say God has done great things for us during our past, and today we are glad (Psalm 126:3).

However, there is still more building to do. God's spiritual house isn't complete. We know this because Jesus hasn't returned to take His church home. While the work of Seventh-day Adventist's grows in the greater Sacramento region, there still remains locations where there is no Adventist church or permanent presence; towns like Natomas (population of approx. 190,000) and Folsom (population of approx. 74,000), for example. **There is need to plant a new church in one of these towns.**

While our current church building remains strong and viable, after nearly 45 years of use our facility has shown wear and tear, and areas of neglect. Those areas include: the sanctuary HVAC system, breezeway-classroom roof, parking lot and driveway, Sabbath School classrooms, courtyard pavement and planters. **There is need to restore God's church to its original condition.**

As a result of the urgent needs in both our physical structure and in building God's spiritual house, a church Business Meeting was called at Sacramento Central on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 to address these items. It was an exciting meeting filled with reports from experts and anticipation of God doing great things for His church now and in the near future.

**As a part of the presentation, *Operation Joash*, a 5-year strategy for church growth and major building repairs was shared, (please acquaint yourself with the document on the next page).** This document is the product of many hours of discussions, meetings, surveys, assessments, and prayers conducted by the Campus Task Force, the Finance Committee, the Pastoral Staff, and the Church Board. **The 5-year strategy was approved in principle at the Business Meeting with the understanding that it will be a dynamic document subject to change according to immediate need and funding.** The costs associated with the various projects were not approved, but recognized as estimates until true bidding on the work begins.

It's been said if we fail to plan we plan to fail. God doesn't expect His people to be inattentive to the needs that exist around them. He expects them to have a clear vision and to execute that vision. The Bible says, *"Where there is no vision, the people perish."* (Proverbs 29:18) While the project might appear bigger than expected, we need to remember that true faith isn't exercised when we seek to accomplish only those things we alone can manage. The servant of the Lord encourages us: *"He [God] longs to have you reach after Him by faith. He longs to have you expect great things from Him."* (Christ's Object Lessons, p. 146) **We are assured that God is with us. He has provided for us in our recent past and we believe He will continue to do so until Jesus returns as we remain true and faithful to Him.**

Without having officially started the building portion of *Operation Joash*, \$30,000 has already come in to support this venture from faithful contributors like you. I am happy to announce that with these resources we plan to immediately do the following (subject to Church Board approval):

1. **Repair our breezeway/classroom roof** with a 5-year guarantee, no-leak, touch up. This will give us time to raise funds for roof resurfacing, which will happen later, and to prioritize our attention on phases 1-3 of the replacement HVAC system.
2. **Repair the existing HVAC water tower** to get us through the summer, giving us time to raise enough funds to begin phases 1-3 on the replacement HVAC system.
3. **Renovate and restore the Primary Room Sabbath School classroom.** To be completed no later than the end of summer.

What a great way to begin celebrating our 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year! Who can say that God won't be with us as we continue to venture great things for Him?

Because this is a church family venture that will require equal sacrifice, and because we are still in the "pre-launch" stage, we want to invite you to provide your ideas and feedback. In order to achieve the results God is leading us toward your input will be necessary. **We have provided two ways for you to communicate with the Strategic Planning Committee: 1) A "Response Box" will be placed at the hostess desk in the lobby of the church with paper and pens. 2) Also, you can email [operationjoash@saccentral.org](mailto:operationjoash@saccentral.org)** (will be available starting Sunday, March 25, 2017).

To learn more about *Operation Joash* I invite you to review the attached 5-year strategy and go to [www.saccentral.org/operation-joash](http://www.saccentral.org/operation-joash) to preview the PowerPoint presentation given at our January Business Meeting.

I'm excited to see what the Lord is going to do. How about you? Let's continue to commit *Operation Joash* to prayer and trust God to do great things for us.

Together with you in hastening the Lord's return.

*Pastor Chris Buttery*

