

~ *With God all things are possible!*

**Overturned Obstacles**

When we last wrote, we asked for your prayers regarding our troubled building loan application. We are very glad to report that your prayers (and ours) have been answered. We closed on the loan, March 9th! Previous to the loan closing, one of our primary concerns was our project cash flow. Even though we had a tremendous giving response in 2005, we knew our major construction expenses would come in early 2006. The challenge has been that much of our pledged funding will arrive throughout 2006 and into 2007. Now that the loan is secured, we are in a much better position to pay our contractors and continue on pace toward a fall completion date. Since our loan functions as a line of credit, our avid desire is to utilize it as little as possible! We are continuing our efforts to raise enough funds to pay off both the auditorium and our existing mortgage.

**Financial Blessings**

Thanks to your generosity and your prayers, we had a banner year in 2005 and we are off to a great start in 2006. In March, **we were blessed with the largest single donation we have ever received in the history of New Life Church!** We know many of you are making significant sacrifices to give and we cannot thank you enough for each and every sacrificial gift. You are making our dreams come true before our very eyes!

**A2 Project - Key Financial Data**

<b>Construction Contract (Guaranteed Maximum Price)</b>	\$ 2,159,207.00
<b>Amount Paid toward Contract (through March '06)</b>	\$ 353,725.66
<b>Cash in Hand</b>	\$ 599,174.51

**Church Blessings – Spring Break, LT & Record Breaking Attendance**

Even as the building project is humming along, we have had an incredibly active Spring at New Life Church. We sent students, community members and staff all over the country and into Mexico for Spring Break '06. We wish we had the space to tell you the stories of life change in the fullest detail, but the short version is that people were won to Christ, made decisions to serve Him full-time in ministry, committed themselves to be free of past addictions, renewed commitments to God, and deepened relationships with one another. This is the stuff we live for around here. This is what it is all about!

In May, we'll be sending about 60 students to Virginia Beach, VA for our 10 week intensive Leadership Training (LT) program. Virginia Beach is a new location for us, so we would appreciate your prayers that everything will run smoothly. In our years of ministry experience, no single program has a stronger or more lasting influence for raising up workers than LT. We are expecting great things from God this summer

Last but not least, we held two special evangelistic services in March and we had a fantastic turnout. On one weekend, **we counted 900 people!** God is clearly working here in Ann Arbor!



April 6 – Primary 'demo' zone on the day the footings were poured

**Construction Progress**

Construction is coming along well. Demolition commenced in February and is now complete. Last week, the new auditorium footings were poured and that should place us in position to begin constructing the visible portions of the auditorium. It is both surreal and tremendously exciting to stand in the back of the lot, surrounded by vast piles of mud, and to know that in just a few weeks, the whole scene will change. The mud will be replaced by concrete, the roof and walls will begin to appear, and this project we have all dreamed about and sacrificed to achieve will be that much closer to completion! Praise God!

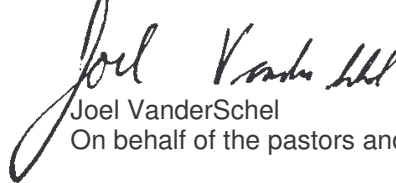
## Your Prayers are Still Needed

Throughout this project, God has been constantly teaching us to stretch our faith as we continually find ourselves against seemingly insurmountable obstacles. It has been an amazing journey to witness God's providence again and again. With this experience in hand, we know that we are likely to continue to face more obstacles now that we are solidly in the construction phase of the project. Would you please pray proactively against anything that might impede us from opening our doors for Fall Kickoff in September?

We would also like to request your prayer for another issue that arose last month. In December, 2005, we filed for an exemption from Ann Arbor property taxes on the basis of our status as a church. Based on previous conversations with the city on this issue, we thought we would receive the exemption and save ourselves the expenditure of over \$30,000 in 2006. However, we were denied that exemption by the City of Ann Arbor tax assessor and consequently filed for an appeal. According to our lawyer's understanding of the tax laws, there is absolutely no reason we should be denied this exemption. However, as you have all witnessed, this is a familiar theme in our dealings with the city. Right now, we have made our case and are waiting to see if our appeal was successful. Please pray that we get a positive response soon!

As this project becomes more and more a reality, we find ourselves ever grateful for those who have helped make it happen. Thank you for your shared faith and your passionate investment. We long to see God's name made famous as this mud pit is transformed into a center where men and women's lives are also transformed – made into lifelong workers for God's kingdom. Thank you so much for playing your part in this grand adventure!

With Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel VanderSchel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Joel VanderSchel

On behalf of the pastors and staff of New Life Church

**P.S.** If you'd like to receive more construction updates and pictures, please email me at [joel@nlcweb.org](mailto:joel@nlcweb.org) and I'll be glad to add you to our A2 Project Email List.