



committing today 
BUILDING TOMORROW
our faith journey

OUR HISTORY

CHURCH PLANTING DNA

The Urban Refuge is part of Evergreen Community Church which has embraced a “one church, many locations” strategy for reaching the Twin Cities and beyond with the love of Christ. Since 1988, five new locations have been founded: four in the Twin Cities and one in Berlin, Germany.

In 1999, Pastor Andy Gray led a team of volunteers on a “Mission to the City,” a new outreach committed to demonstrating Christ-like kindness to the people of Minneapolis. God used that time and stirred members’ hearts to plant a church in the city, and in January of 2003, The Urban Refuge was born in the Uptown area at Jefferson School.

THE LEARNING YEARS

While Jefferson School met our needs for weekend services, three obstacles to growth became apparent. First, our vision was more suited for a neighborhood church, where relational and service investment could take place. Uptown is a highly transitional community that was not conducive to this approach. Second, there was a need for a gathering space during the week which Jefferson School did not provide. Third, the majority of people attending the Urban Refuge lived in the Nokomis neighborhood or further south, which limited opportunities to invite neighbors to church. We decided to relocate.

FOLLOWING GOD’S HAND

In 2005, God teamed us together with a faithful group of believers from Edgewater Baptist Church who were praying for God to bring “new life” to their church. A partnership was formed as we began sharing the facility. In 2007, Edgewater sacrificially chose to end their ministry and paved the way for the Urban Refuge to continue meeting and purchase the facility at a discounted price.

A SACRED TRUST

From the dawn of creation, God has been revealing himself so that people might know and follow Him. He sent his Son Jesus to demonstrate how much he loves every person in the world. Jesus then committed to his followers the privilege and responsibility of revealing God’s heart to a broken world.

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

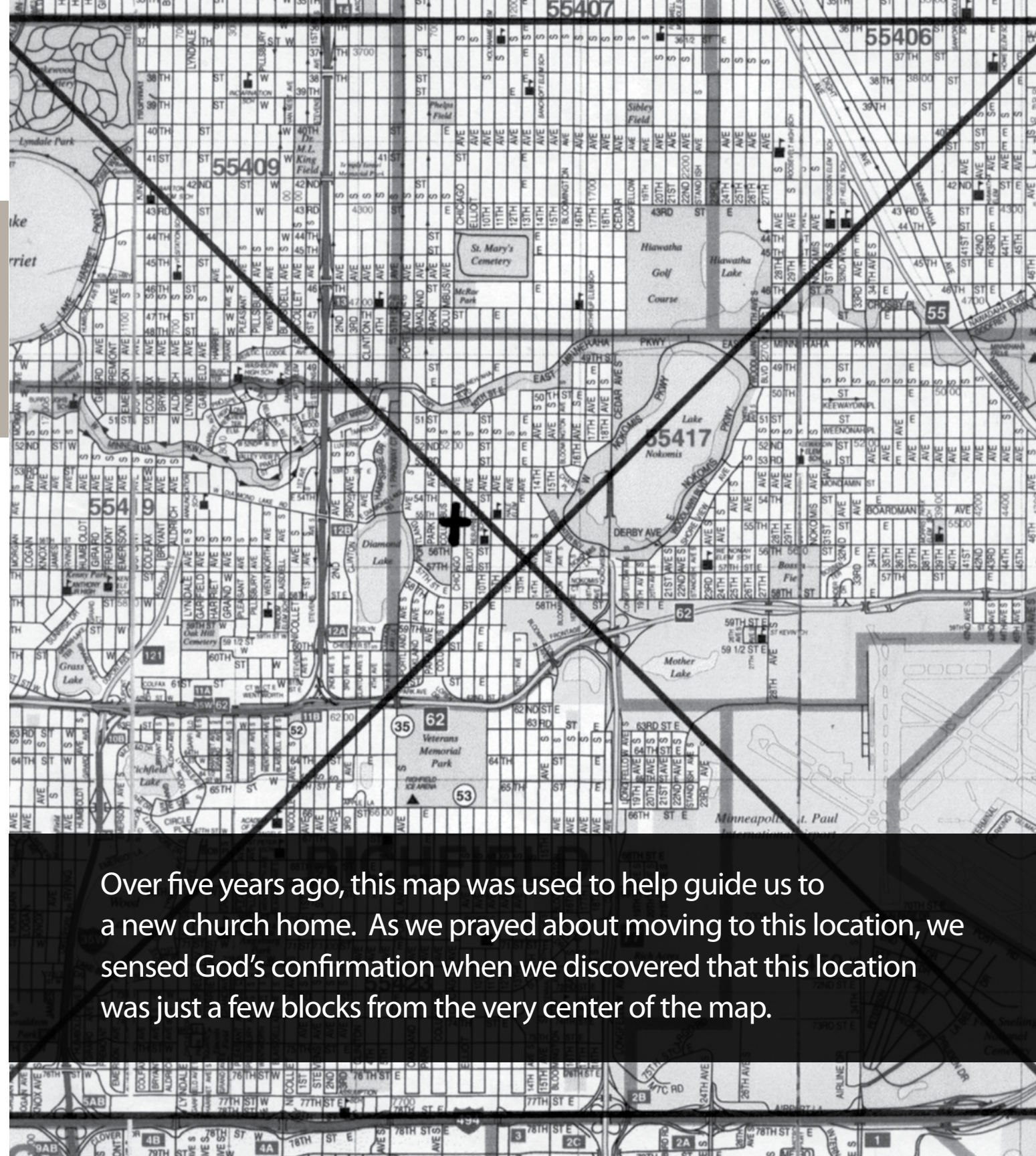
2 Corinthians 5:18-20

Century after century has gone by where ordinary men and women, just like us, took this commitment to heart. Our faith in God is in large part due to the many that have gone before us. Every day we have the opportunity to be a continuation of this great history.

BUILDING TOMORROW

There he brought the hungry to live, and they founded a city where they could settle. They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest; he blessed them, and their numbers greatly increased, and he did not let their herds diminish.
Psalm 107:36-38

God gave us this promise over five years ago and he's fulfilling it right before our eyes. He brought our hungry souls here to grow in our faith and to plant seeds of hope in this community. He has blessed us with significantly changed lives and a growing church. We believe this is just the beginning and that God will reveal himself in greater ways as we serve and follow him.



Over five years ago, this map was used to help guide us to a new church home. As we prayed about moving to this location, we sensed God's confirmation when we discovered that this location was just a few blocks from the very center of the map.

IMAGINED 2008

WAYS GOD HAS REVEALED HIMSELF THROUGH A PERMANENT FACILITY

IMAGINED 2008

WAYS GOD HAS REVEALED HIMSELF THROUGH A PERMANENT FACILITY

IMPACTING FAMILIES

Families at The Urban Refuge are learning what it means to follow Christ in meaningful ways together. Marriages are being strengthened and parents are serving with their children—building foundations of faith that will last a lifetime. Imagine generations of committed Christ followers growing up here and being sent all over the world to spread the Good News of Christ.

>> **IT'S HAPPENING:**
Youth group began in January 2009.



IMPACTING THE WORLD

In March of 2008, The Urban Refuge launched a Kids Against Hunger satellite location. Imagine the millions of people whose lives will be saved with all the meals we pack in the future and the opportunities they'll have to learn about the love of Jesus Christ through this program. Over 1,000,000 meals have now been packed and sent to help malnourished children in Haiti and two mission teams have went to share the Good News.

>> **IT'S HAPPENING: ALFRED**
Alfred is among many young boys that eats the Kids Against Hunger food on a daily basis to survive.



IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY

The Urban Refuge is drawing people from the surrounding neighborhoods. Over 75% of people new to the church are from South Minneapolis or Richfield. Imagine those who feel alone and discouraged coming to The Urban Refuge and finding hope in a meaningful relationship with Christ and connecting with a community of people who really care.

>> **IT'S HAPPENING: JERI KAY M.**
"At a very challenging and painful time in my life, what I found at the Urban Refuge was a warm and welcoming community of people willing to give me what I most needed, Christ-like love."



IMPACTING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Relationships with South Minneapolis organizations such as the Southside Boys and Girls Club and Minnesota Teen Challenge are established and growing. Imagine the potential harvest as we continue to serve and reveal God's light year after year. A number of young people have connected and become a part of The Urban Refuge family

>> **IT'S HAPPENING: BRENDON B.**
"When I came to the Urban Refuge, I felt locked up inside. The love that I've experienced from people and God here has unlocked and opened the door to a new life."



IMPACTING IMMIGRANTS

Mission to the City has been able to expand by using this facility as its headquarters. Hundreds of lives have been impacted through selfless love and service. Participants have had their eyes opened to the dynamic globalization of Minneapolis. Imagine the participants returning home with a passion to reach immigrant populations in their cities after their experience here.



>> **IT'S HAPPENING:**
Kansas City hosted MTTC-KC in 2009 and our Youth Program went as missionaries to serve alongside them.

IMPACTING MINISTRIES

We have been blessed to share this facility with multiple ministries. Imagine a place where Christians synergistically work together for the Kingdom and how greater investments can be poured into ministry by sharing expenses.



>> **IT'S HAPPENING:**
The Rock Church moved into the facility in September, 2010 on Friday nights.

IMPACTING THE FUTURE

This is just the beginning. Imagine with us how owning this facility will help us establish a greater community presence, provide us greater opportunity for ministry expansion to enhance discipleship, and afford us greater opportunity to spread the Gospel locally and abroad.



>> **IT'S HAPPENING:**
A new ministry called UR Threads created to connect and build singles and couples without kids is launching in January of 2011.

IMAGINE MORE...

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!"

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)

God is still the creator and is able to do more than we ask or imagine. We believe God wants to multiply new ministries and churches that are birthed out of the Urban Refuge to further reach our community, our city, and our world. It is estimated that hundreds of churches in the Twin Cities will close their doors in the next 15 years. We need to be ready and willing to go as God calls and leads us.

COMMITTING TODAY

WALKING THE JOURNEY TOGETHER

WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE HARVEST

>> *PROVERBS 14:4, NLT*
"Without oxen a stable stays clean, but you need a strong ox for a large harvest."

COMMITMENTS WERE MADE

In November of 2008, the opportunity to purchase this facility came before us as a church. It would require steps of faith by everyone. The response was tremendous, as the church came together and pledged above and beyond the \$850,000 purchase price of the building. To date, \$530,000 of the \$998,000 pledged has been given. If all of those pledges are fulfilled we will be able to pay off the building and have some funds remaining for needed repairs. Praise God!

\$998,000	Amount pledged in 2008
-\$850,000	Purchase price of building plus associated expenses
-\$45,700	Estimated interest on contract for deed.
\$102,300	Remaining if all the pledges are fulfilled.

A TOOL FOR THE HARVEST

Owning an ox is expensive and messy, but a farmer knows that an ox is necessary for a large harvest! In the same way, owning a building that requires continual care and financial resources to sustain it. Our building is an important tool that we must keep fit for the ongoing work of serving our church and community for generations to come.



OUR WORK IS NOT DONE

When we purchased the building in 2008, the owners sold it to us "as is", at a significantly reduced price (the estimated value was \$1.3 million). Some needed repairs have been completed, but there is still critical work to be done in order to maintain the infrastructure of the facility, improve safety, and reduce energy costs.

ITEM	COST
Replace Front Steps/Retaining Wall	\$17,400
Replace Fuse Panel with Breaker	\$2,700
HVAC East Wing Cooling	\$25,000
Re-roofing East Wing (South)	\$20,100
Windows Courtyard (Priority 1)	\$272,100
Windows Remaining (Priority 2)	\$158,500
Remaining funds if pledges are fulfilled.	-\$102,300
Total Needed	\$393,500

EVERY PART IS NEEDED

We do not have the funds in our current general operating budget to pay for this critical work. We are asking you to join in the journey of faith that we began together in 2008. Please prayerfully consider how the Lord would have you contribute financially on this journey. Remember that He has designed the Body so that mighty things happen when every part contributes. It's not important that we all commit to giving equally, but it is important that we all commit to sacrificing equally.

"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." Ephesians 4:16 (NIV)

As we follow in the footsteps of the many faithful generations that came before us, we hope that future generations will look back and be inspired that the ordinary men and women of the Urban Refuge followed God's leading and made sacrifices so that others could know God.

COMMITTING TO GIVE

FAITH-FILLED STEPS TO SACRIFICIAL GIVING

PRAY

- For God to guide you with an open mind and heart.
- For God to lead you to a specific amount to give.
- For God to help you respond to Him in faith.

STUDY

- Study the biblical examples and principles of giving and stewardship found in this packet.
- Read through the book "Fields of Gold" by Andy Stanley, available free of charge.
- Participate in a small group the week of November 14th to discuss your thoughts and ask questions.

ASK

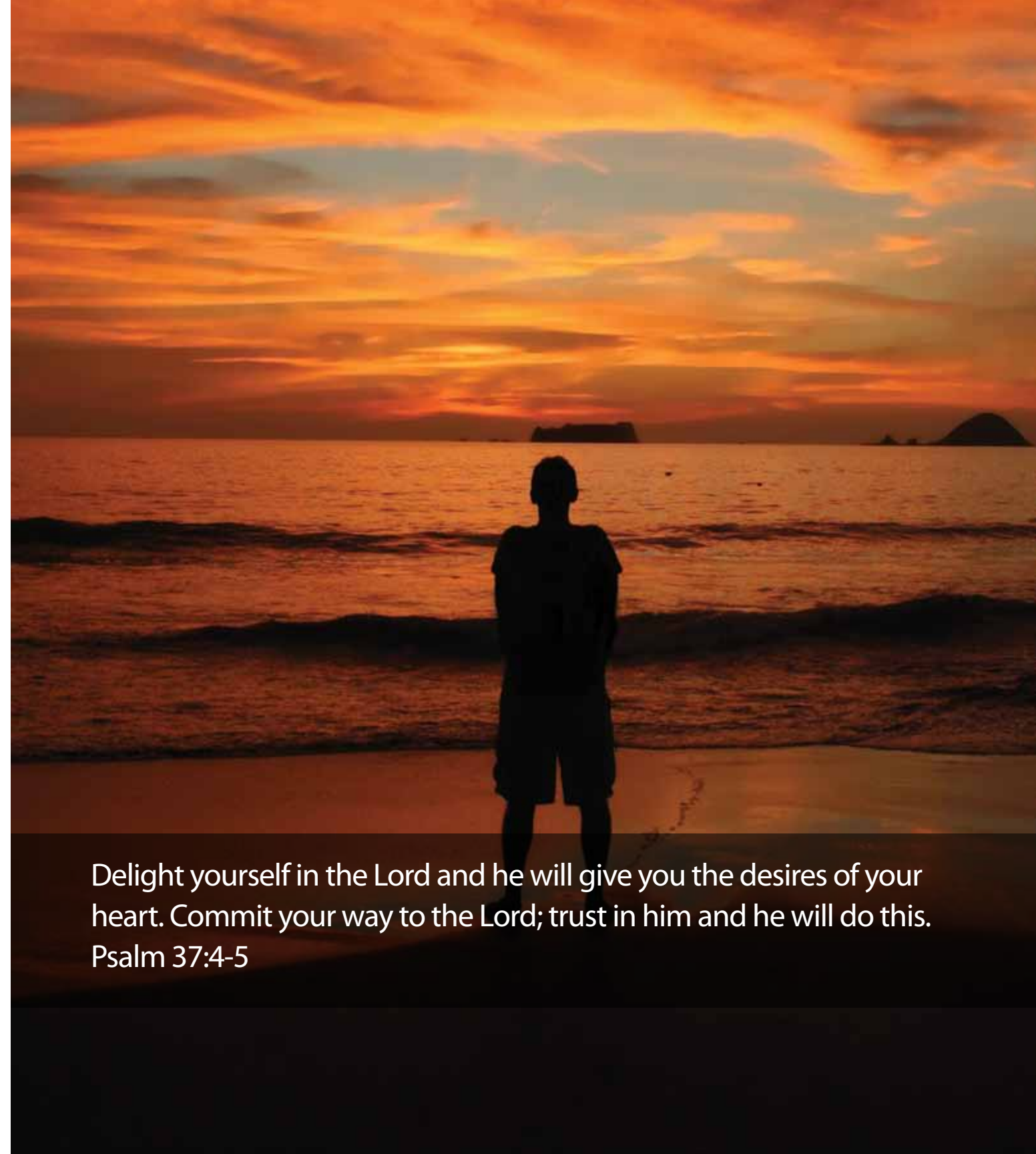
- Am I demonstrating an expression of faith in God with the amount I am pledging?
- What am I willing to sacrifice in order to participate?
- Will I give with a motivation to worship God and be thankful?

COMMIT

- Let God direct your steps over the entire journey as He builds your trust in Him.
- Engage yourself with the church's vision – join a ministry and small group.
- Faithfully follow through by giving your total pledge.

DELIGHT

- Rejoice in the satisfaction of finding and following God's will.
- Anticipate God meeting your greater needs as you sacrifice lesser things.
- Thank God for revealing Himself to you throughout the journey.



Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this.
Psalm 37:4-5

THE VISION OF THE URBAN REFUGE

Our vision is to be a church committed to raising fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ by being a people that Do Justice, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly.

DO JUSTICE

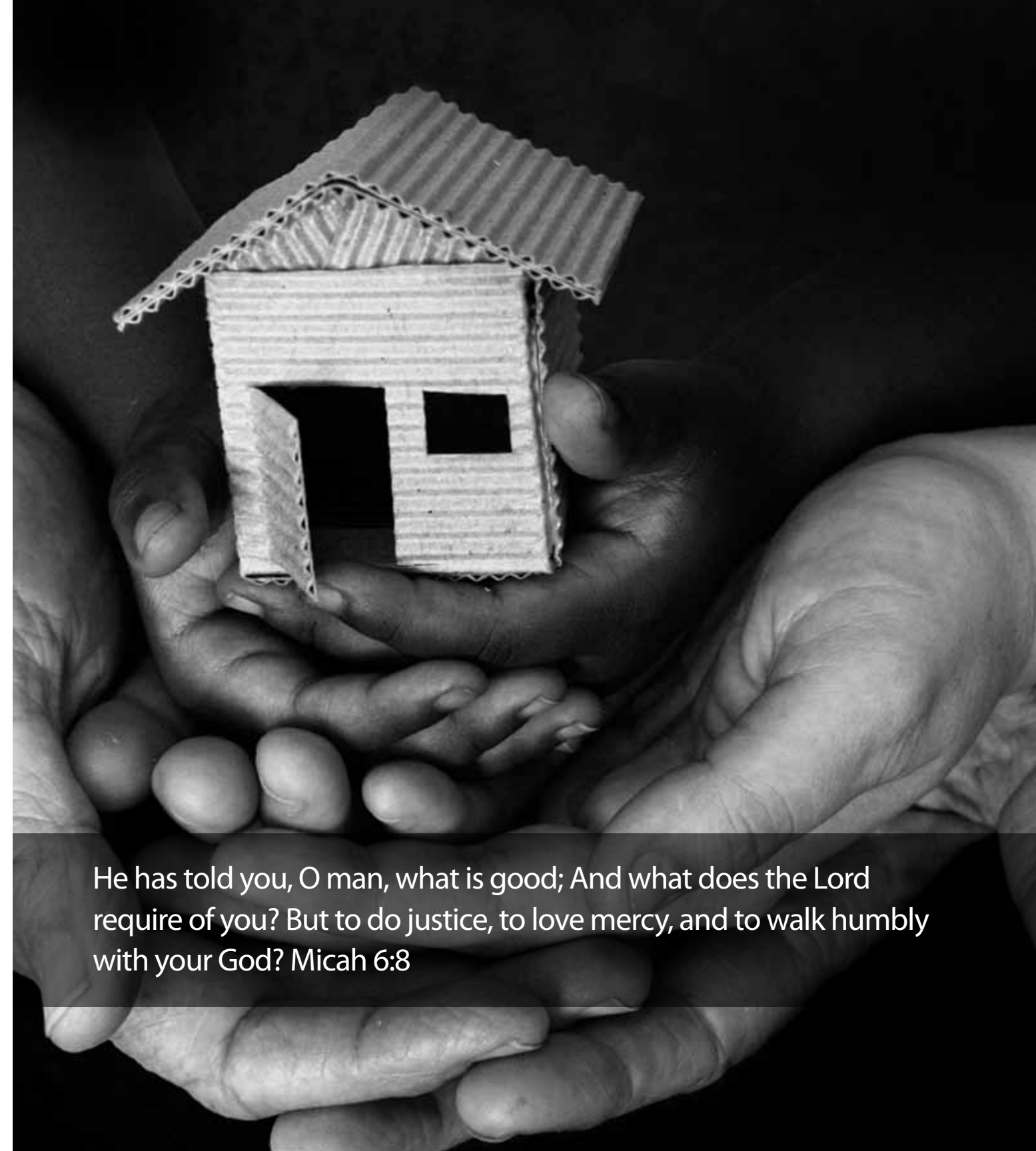
There's an ancient word in Hebrew – shalom. We translate it peace, but it's bigger than that. It has a connotation of wholeness & well being – a webbing together of all things under the arch of God and in His love. Whenever we see the fabric of life unraveling, whether it's emotionally, physically or spiritually, it's an opportunity for us to engage with God to build shalom.

LOVE MERCY

One of Jesus' most profound commands was that we ought to love one another the way that He loved us. This cannot be accomplished by human strength alone, for we all have our limits. It takes understanding, absorbing, and relishing in the love that God demonstrates toward us every day, so that we in turn can demonstrate Christ-like love towards others without limits.

WALK HUMBLY

We are wonderfully and fearfully made, at the same time we are all flawed. Failing to recognize our tendency to "go our own way" quietly sabotages our lives when we don't even realize it. When we approach God and His Word, both alone and together, we seek to do so in humility, knowing God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. We readily admit that we need The Great Shepherd to show us how and where to walk.



He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you? But to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

committing today 
BUILDING TOMORROW
our faith journey