

#ThatWillNeverWORK, #HereNearAndFar

"You're doing what!"

"You can't do that!"

"That will never work! Not in Minnesota. Not in the summer. Especially in the summer!"



Well, we are doing it here at Discovery Church in Sauk Rapids, Minnesota. We are conducting a capital campaign during the summer months so we can begin construction on an expansion this fall. We are using The Daring Faith Campaign developed by Saddleback Church. Some people have commented that conducting the campaign during the summer months may be the biggest, daring faith (others say foolhardy) step of all.

The focus of our expansion is providing increased space for youth and children ministries that couldn't be provided when we

relocated from St. Cloud in 2012. As church leaders are well aware, there are always budgetary restraints that make it impossible to do everything we want to do. We knew from the day we moved in that this would have to be done in the future—and that future is now.

Following relocation there has been steady, sustained growth that has resulted in the need to move ahead now. Having recently added a new Pastor of Students to the staff (Jon Monsour) to use a youth space that he describes as "underwhelming" and having to place some caps on how many children can attend AWANA on Wednesdays, the expanded space will provide new opportunities to reach out to our growing community.

In our campaign this time, our leadership was also convicted that this should not be limited to building an expanded facility for our use alone. We established objectives to focus on "Here, Near and Far." The building for student ministries is here. We have targeted two ministries in our area who have projects that will make a significant Kingdom difference. A portion of what is raised will be given to them. That is near. Finally, we adopted two unreached people groups in the past few years. These are groups who had never heard about Jesus where there are now baptized believers and established outposts. We are hoping to adopt at least five more unreached groups over the next five years to do what we can to fulfill the Great Commission by helping reach the estimated 3,000 unreached people groups that remain. That is far.

And so the lazy days of summer are anything but that. Our Discovery Hour for adults has significantly more people (30-40%) attending than during the school year. We have had to order extra participant's manuals twice. People feel motivated to meet the challenge and have been heard saying, "I can't miss Sunday."

What we are finding is that it's true, "We can't do that." But, God can!

Pastor Art Cotant

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