

## **Look What the Lord has Done!**

**June 3, 2018**

*By Cere Muscarella*

**A Little Life Story!** March 1985, Life Church was born! June 1985, moved into the store front! June 1987, moved into our first building! March 2003, moved into the South Campus complex! *"Borrowed space!"* Adding more kids space every 2-3 years for the next thirteen years! Began this building in 2016! Received O.C. Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018!

**Today, June 3, 2018** First project for adults since 1987! Just added 20,000 square feet floor space! \$3.5-4.0 million building... For \$1.8 (inc. furn/fixt/parking)! Professional kitchen to produce thousands of meals for our gatherings and the community! Set-up to run with the County Disaster Relief Office to feed 1<sup>st</sup> responders/displaced!

**Look What the Lord has done...** Through a lot of really good people... Giving their tithe and offerings faithfully! Special offerings/discounts/refunds! Willing to work hard, and tirelessly, for the cause of His kingdom! Extra Props to Bob, Alex, Randy... And MVV: Mark Ebert! All getting the vision of increased ministry to the community around them!

**Today we're doing a 'Soft Opening!'**

**Soft Opening!** For the next four weeks, talk 'softly' when you tell people... "There's something new at Life Church!" Not everything is finished... New things will appear each week. Nursery conversion... Children, Jr. and Sr. High conversions... Play zones for all three... Tech learning curves for smooth op's!

**Soft Opening!** It's really important for us to not let up! To work with willing hands! To give our tithes and offerings with glad faithfulness to pay as we go... quickly! "NO ONE DOES THAT!" (But we do!) We have to be able to complete so that we can offer the full services we say! Right after the 'conversions' we need to get the Dining Room built/back!

**Advance Addenda...** July will be our month for public announcement/celebration! June is for family to acclimate/prepare! **July: "ONE WEEKEND SERVICE MONTH!"** Bringing the whole family together... Join with the community...

***Wendy Nolasco, 8<sup>th</sup>; Steve Riggle, 15<sup>th</sup>, (for the dedication), Rodney Bowman, 22<sup>nd</sup>, will be guest speakers!***

**But today is a 'soft opening,' a time for us to worship, and to set up our future with God's word!**

**Back to the Beginning...** 1985 Life Church got started... 1995 Life Church got new leadership! Personal epiphany: "I desire transformation not transfer!" Everything had to change/changed! 2000 new fire burning/new buildings going up... 'Two generations down' born/backed up! Two services began to meet needs! 2003 the 'Living Room' opened up! 2004 Ken Houts, Church Growth expert came w/one caveat: no advance pic's! That day he walked in, unaccompanied... Stood next to the entry doors, smiling... I thought he was having a great time! After service I asked: "What did you think?" It was a rhetorical question... I was certain I knew the answer!

*"It's easy to see you have a loving congregation... the people loved each other well..."  
"Problem is, they didn't love me..." "Not one person approached me..." "They were too busy  
with each other to notice or care about a visitor!"*

**That's when we adopted the Care Ministry! And Life really began growing!**

**The Gospel is most powerful when it's inclusive... when it's sacrificial! And that truth needs to  
be renewed from time to time!**

Easy to get comfortable with what God is doing 'in our midst!' Need seasons of transition/discomfort to remind us of the need for connections! A time like this one; lots of changes!

**John 4.1-38 (abr)** *"Following the compulsion of God's directive, Jesus went out of His way, on His return to Galilee... up the mountain to Sychar of Samaria... and being weary from His journey He sat down at the town well and there came a woman of Samaria and He struck up the conversation, "will you draw me some water to drink?" She replied, 'How is it that you, a Jew, are speaking to someone lowly like me?' But Jesus continued to talk to her... "When His men came back with lunch they saw Him talking with the woman and asked, "Why are you talking to her...?" Jesus said, "Haven't I heard you say that you have time before the harvest? I say to you, 'lift up your eyes, see what I am seeing, the fields are ripe right now and he that reaps receives wages and gathers for himself fruit in eternity, I sent you to reap where others have planted to partner with their labors!"*

**Look What the Lord has Done...**

**How do we say thanks for it all?**

***By taking advantage of the transitions!***

***By getting comfortable with discomfort!***

***By making our way, even going out of our way, into the 'fields!'***

***By striking up life changing conversations!***

***By sticking with it when it's not going well!***

***By making Life Church, your home, a home and a resource center, for many more!***

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