

# ARISE & BUILD

SPRING 2008

NEWSLETTER

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION BY BARNES DESIGN GROUP, ARCHITECTS

*"The seed of ministry that Barnes Design Group planted into our church's heart from our very first meeting was...the seed of hope... and I want to thank you!"*

*Pastor Fred Hill, Emmanuel Way of the Cross*



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Thanks to Peter Clark

08-01-2003

THE CHURCH IS NOT BUT WOOD AND NAILS ...  
IT IS MADE OF THE PEOPLE WHO GATHER IN  
GOD'S NAME

## PASTOR'S CORNER

*"Thank you for your outstanding professional assistance through the years. The Lord has a way of putting people in our path to enrich our lives and to help us to know His perfect plan. He sent you just in time. We were praying and believing the Lord to help us in our desire to build Him an edifice.*

*As a relatively new ministry, we were turned down by several banks and other agencies that we sought out for assistance. Yet, you willingly supported us in our endeavors and designed a beautiful structure that was within our economical grasp. Thanks to the Lord and to you, our 'little' church is the talk of the town."*

*Pastor Albert Evans, Jr.  
Community Fellowship Church  
of Deliverance*

## CHALLENGES: CITY APPROVALS

Building a church building is never easy. There are complexities in the process that demand the church to acquire the services of an experienced church architect. In our last newsletter, I wrote about the delays and difficulties within the process.

Lets look at another challenge that is seldom understood when a church embarks on the long and tedious road of building a new facility. It is the process of acquiring the city planning and municipality approvals. In nearly every city there is both a planning and a building inspection department. Let me address the building inspection department, and its requirements first, as it is the easier of the two to understand.

Prior to the building of your new facility, the contractor must acquire a building permit from the city's building inspection department. The architect will provide final construction drawings that will be reviewed by this department. The building inspector will review the drawings and details to assure that all city and national building codes are met. These construction drawings will often include the architectural details as well as the civil/site engineering and the plumbing, mechanical and electrical engineering construction drawings.

However, prior to the construction drawings,

it is a requirement in most municipalities for the church to apply for a "Conditional Use Permit". This is applied through the city's planning department. The architect and engineer will provide preliminary design drawings that include master site plans and computer renderings of the final "architectural" look of the proposed project. This approval process is a lengthy one that often takes 3 to 4 months after the design drawings are complete.

The architect will provide the preliminary/schematic drawings to the planning department. They review the design to assure that it meets with all the local zoning requirements. Once the local planning department finishes their review, they will either recommend acceptance or denial to the city's planning commission. The planning commission is often an appointed group of local citizens that will hold a public hearing and review your design. Then the planning commission will recommend acceptance or denial to the city council. The city council, in a public hearing, will then review the entire application. Each step takes a minimum of 30 days.

Though it can be a trying process, God will work on your behalf during this time. It is often an opportunity for your church to pray for favor. It is a challenge, but God will see you through. And a good church architect that can pray and partner with your church can be a real blessing.

*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction,  
faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12*



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*Our Goal...*

*is to uniquely capture our client's vision and assist in transforming that vision into a reality.*

*Our Mission...*

*is to enhance our client's lives and consistently exceed their hopes and expectations as governed by our core values.*

*Our Commitment...*

*is to provide architectural design solutions of excellence, all the while adhering faithfully to our client's financial capabilities.*

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**NEWSLETTER**  
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**PRAYING THROUGH THE PROCESS**

**AUTHOR: MICHAEL D. BARNES, A.I.A., FOUNDER/CEO OF BARNES DESIGN GROUP, P.C., ARCHITECTS/PLANNERS**

Throughout this year, we will be addressing the major challenges in the building of a new church facility. This newsletter discusses the difficulty in acquiring the local planning and city approvals required prior to building. Though these processes deal with complicated city requirements and national building codes and the building process appears to be merely brick and mortar, it is actually much deeper than this.

I have never partnered with a church that didn't ultimately sense God was stretching the church in new and different ways. Though the building process does utilize "bricks and mortar", it is the spiritual process that I will address. It is not uncommon for the typical client to become disappointed with the city review process. Clients can become easily disillusioned with the process. But God does ordain local governments and the officials that work within the government process. Though one might find difficult individuals in any area of life, it is our opinion that most public servants do have the general public's best interest at heart. However, in the heat of battle, occasionally one needs a reminder.

I believe that the process allows an opportunity for the local church to pray for their

public officials. God works through the church and always works through their prayers but God also works through local city governments. We have experienced many miracles as God moved on the behalf of the intercessors in the local church.

Pray for favor. God bestows favor upon His people. As an example, I always pray for favor before we submit any drawings to the city for review. God moves through the process and will bring His people together in unity during trying situations.

Share with your congregation the challenges the church is about to face. Allow them to enter into prayer and become a part of the process. The church leadership is always interested in the "buy-in" of the parishioners. The greatest method of providing "buy-in" is asking for their help in praying for the architect, the pastors, the building committee and the city officials involved in the review process.

God will direct you and bless you as you reach out and fulfill His plan for your church's life. Believe and walk in faith. Pray for favor and walk through the challenges. He will not let you down.

