

# ARISE & BUILD

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N E W S L E T T E R  
A P U B L I C A T I O N B Y B A R N E S D E S I G N G R O U P, A R C H I T E C T S



## HOW GOD BUILDS YOU: 7 Phases of Faith

As we explore the challenges of the building process this coming year, let me point out to you that God uses a very predictable process to build your character. I call it the “7 Phases of Faith.” If you don’t understand the process, you’ll often get discouraged when problems arise. But if you understand and cooperate with what God is doing, you’ll develop great strength. It is like stretching a muscle to make it stronger.

**Phase 1: A Dream** God gives you a dream; an idea, goal or ambition. Every great accomplishment first begins as a God-given dream in someone’s mind.

*“God is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of...”*  
Ephesians 3:20

**Phase 2: A Decision** A dream is worthless until you decide to do something about it. For every ten dreamers, there is only one decision maker. It is the moment of truth where you decide to invest your time, money, energy and reputation—and let go of security.

*“You must believe and not doubt...”*  
James 1:6

**Phase 3: A Delay** There is always a time lapse before your dream becomes a reality. God often uses this waiting period to teach you to trust Him. Maturity is understanding the difference between “No” and “Not yet.”

*“God says, ‘These things I plant won’t happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient. They will not be overdue a single day.’”* Habakkuk 2:3a

**Phase 4: Difficulty** Now the problems start popping up. The two most common types are critics and circumstances. Don’t worry, it’s all part of God’s plan!

*“At the present, you may be temporarily harassed by all kinds of trials. This is no accident—it happens to prove your faith, which is infinitely more reliable than gold.”*  
1 Peter 1:6-7

**Phase 5: Dead End** Your situation will deteriorate from difficult to impossible. You’ll find yourself backed into a corner; you reach the end of your rope; your situation looks hopeless. Congratulations, you

are on the edge of a miracle! Trust God.

*“At that time, we were completely overwhelmed. In fact, we told ourselves this was the end. Yet, now we believe we have the sense of impending disaster so that we might learn to trust—not ourselves—but in God who can raise the dead.”* 2 Corinthians 1: 8-9

**Phase 6: Deliverance** God provides a supernatural answer. Miraculously, things fall into place. God loves to turn crucifixions into resurrections so you can see His greatness.

*“I expect the Lord to deliver me once again so I will see His goodness to me.”* Psalms 27:13

**Phase 7: Delight** We experience delight as we embrace His deliverance. God plants within us our deepest desires and brings them to fruition as we delight in Him. So...delight in the Lord. Dwell in the land.

*“Trust in the Lord and do good. Dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.”* Psalms 37:3-4

*“The decision to grow always involves a choice between risk and comfort.”*

*-John Ortberg*

# MORE THAN BRICKS & MORTAR



## THE CHALLENGE OF THE CALL

I have never spoken to a pastor that did not express to me the sense of God's call on his life. Ministering to a congregation is more than a job. It is a call of God on one's life to serve God while minding His sheep.

Though the journey of a minister contains many challenges, perhaps some of the greatest challenges are those presented when the church is called to build. Ministry, in any church, is certainly not the physical facilities or the building.

However, in our culture, ministry takes

place inside of facilities. A growing church will always be faced with the challenge of expanding its facilities in order to maximize their ministry.

Pastors are called to love, to preach and to teach the Holy Scriptures. They seldom have any background in architecture, church design, building construction or project development. Here-in lies the challenge...and there are many challenges of "The Call."

Perhaps no one was more challenged in their ministry than the Apostle Paul. In 2 Corinthians 1:8-9, he states the following:

*"At that time, we were completely overwhelmed...In fact, we told ourselves this was the end. Yet, we now believe we have the sense of impending disaster so that we might learn to trust --not ourselves--- but in God that can raise the dead."*

It is obvious that Paul saw challenges as tests; simple tests of our faith that we might trust God who can actually bring

the dead to life. In the next series of newsletters, we will be addressing some of the most challenging aspects of a building project. Several years ago, we provided our pastors with a questionnaire entitled, "Challenging Church-Building Issues." The major challenges they faced ranged from "budgetary issues" to "city requirements" and from "building complications" to "selling the vision."

We will attempt through the course of 2010 to address these challenges and to give you biblical insight into dealing with such complications. Obviously, the greatest advice we can give you and our church clients is to make certain that you align yourselves with a Christian architect and planner that can adequately walk you through the challenging process.

Though it can be difficult, it is rewarding! The scriptures remind us, " 'Not by might nor by power, but by my spirit,' says the Lord Almighty."



## PARK VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

Perhaps nothing speaks best regarding working with an architect/contractor as a single source than an unsolicited letter received from Park View Baptist Church, whose renovation project was recently completed by Barnes Construction Group.

## CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

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*"We wanted to express our official thanks for helping us complete our renovation project at Park View Baptist Church. For almost a year now, you have assisted us in visualizing our dreams and have worked alongside us as we turned those dreams into a reality.*

*Your staff consistently displayed a high level of confidence and imagination in completing the project. Your team--particularly Jimmy and Gabriel--always made an extra effort and*

*went over and above the requirements. We realize that this project was not without its challenges but you remained committed to see it through on time. With your company, we knew that this project was about more than just getting paid; there was also genuine desire to help us be the church that God is calling us to be. We hope to work with you in the future as God leads us. For now, many thanks and our sincere appreciation for being hard workers and good friends."*

CALL US TODAY 757.340.9800

## NORTHERN HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH Norfolk, NE

We were first contacted by Pastor Matt Gilmore approximately a year ago regarding assisting them in their master planning for a new thirty acre piece of property the church had recently purchased.

Similar to other stories from our clients, they had hired an architect whom had submitted a design to the church on boards with the site plan, floor plan and multiple elevation studies. The church paid the architect for the services rendered and then began to raise money for the project. In short, the architectural design simply did not reflect the vision God had placed in their hearts. It is true that it was a good design and a pleasant looking building. However, they did not believe it was the vision God had for them.

We began the process by listening closely to their hearts and while visiting the jobsite, it became very apparent why they sensed a dissatisfaction with the original design completed by others. Though the area

around Omaha, Nebraska is not known for mountains, it is full of steep and rolling hills. For hundreds of thousands of acres around their town of Norfolk, the rolling hillside was covered with either corn, grazing cattle, soybeans or a combination of the above. The acreage the church had purchased was off the major highway and located approximately 35 feet in the air on top of a large rolling hill. The hill gave them the opportunity to evangelize in two major methods:

1. The building itself would act as a testimonial, in the sense that it could be seen for several miles coming both north and south on Highway 81. The building could stand as a living testament to Jesus Christ just as if they had planted three crosses on a hill that you often see driving down the highway.

2. The second opportunity that the site afforded them was to look out over the entire community and see that the fields

were really ready for harvest. By standing on the hillside, it became apparent that I could see most every aspect of the city looking for miles and miles towards the horizon.

Therefore, we were able to completely redesign the structure to take advantage of both opportunities. When they saw the design, they instantly sensed in their spirit that it was a reflection of the vision that God has for them. They are currently getting ready to build phase one of their new building, which will embrace all of their ministry concerns and be a living testament to those passing by on the nearby highway.



## PASTOR'S CORNER

Throughout the years, numerous pastors have commented on their personal experience with Barnes Design Group. It is always a blessing to reflect on our relationships with our clients, such as the ones below.

"Barnes Design Group cares about us as people, not just our business. They have shown unyielding support for us personally, as well as about our project,

always striving to do what is in the best interest of our church, our ministry, and our treasury."

*Dr. Maggi Curry- Williams  
Grove Baptist Church*

"I shared with Mr. Barnes that our church needed 'A New Face On Our Place.' In other words, it needed some POW! Barnes Design Group gave Mount Sinai Church the POW experience!"

*Pastor Richie Sessoms  
Mount Sinai Church*

"While assisting us in this venture, I have witnessed the intangibles that

I believe make Mr. Barnes such a valued architect and trusted friend: unwavering devotion to Jesus Christ, loyalty, commitment, dedication, kindness, genuine concern for all and a willingness to practice good stewardship over personal gain."

*Pastor William Tyree  
First Baptist Church, Berkley*

*"God's promises are like the stars; the darker the night, the brighter they shine." -David Nicholas*



**BARNES DESIGN GROUP, P.C.**  
101 N. LYNNHAVEN ROAD, SUITE 203  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23452

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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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WINTER 2010

NEWSLETTER

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION BY BARNES DESIGN GROUP, ARCHITECTS

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JOLLIFF UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION