

Kingdom Builder

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Five Churches Sign on with Building God's Way

Local Churches needing new facilities are finding the Building God's Way program is a blessing. Five area churches have signed on to build their new facilities using Building God's Way. A construction program that incorporates Biblical principals is a good fit for churches with growing memberships who are concerned with practicing good stewardship.

Building God's Way's emphasis on Biblical stewardship is an attraction for ministries with limited budgets who also see the importance of investing in quality facilities. **Willott Community Church**

in St. Peters is the first area ministry to have their BGW design under construction. Willott's multipurpose and classroom addition should be completed late this Spring.

Union Avenue Christian Church in Moberly has completed their custom design as well and is nearing the end of the working drawings phase. They plan to break ground as soon as possible. Two other churches have also finished their custom designs and are looking into capital campaigns and financing possibilities. **Lafayette Church of Christ** in Ballwin and **Apostles Lutheran** in Dardenne Prairie

finished on-site charettes where Daniel Cook and Associate architects designed their new facilities to fit the needs of their respective ministries.

The most recent church to join the BGW team is **Immanuel Lutheran** in Wentzville. The building committee unanimously

recommended Building God's Way and the congregation voted affirming their decision. A design charette will be scheduled in the near future to begin the process of turning another vision into a reality.



(L) Willott Road Community Church is the first BGW project in the St. Louis area.

Psalms 8:2 — Out of the Mouth of Babes

Dear God,

Please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now. Amanda

Dear God,

How did you know you were God? Who told you? Charlene 12.

Dear God,

My Grandpa says you were around when he was a little boy. How far back do you go? Love, Dennis

Dear God,

Please send Dennis Clark to a different summer camp this year. Peter

Dear God,

Is Reverend Coe a friend of yours, or do you just know him through the business? Donny

Dear God, In Sunday School they told us what you do for a job. Who does it when you are on vacation? Jane

Dear God,

In school we read that Thomas Edison made light, but in Sunday School they said you did it first. Did he steal your idea?

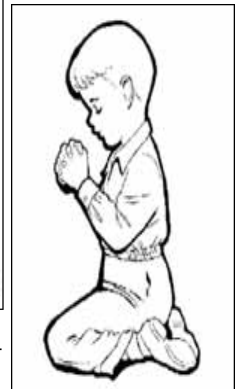
Sincerely, Donna

Dear God,

You don't have to worry about me. I always look both ways before I cross the street. Dean

Dear God,

Thank you for the baby brother but what I asked for was a puppy. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up. Joyce



Hide and Seek: Finding Finances

Building a church or Christian school starts with a vision that God lays on the heart of one or more people. An organization with a God-focused vision is at the starting point of an incredible journey.

Fulfilling God's purpose and vision for a building project includes managing and securing financing for the construction. Financing and budgeting are two tasks that can often be problematic for ministries.

Providence Financial is helping to take the stress out of finding finances by leading organizations through the complex maze of faith organization financing.

This past month, a Building God's Way church in California selected **Providence Financial**, and received a financing blessing, which amazed even Tom Brown, Managing Director of **Providence Financial**.

"This is the best payment amortization we have ever seen, 30 years; most church loans are set up with 20 years amortizations, and sometimes 25 years, but this is the first we have ever seen in our careers at 30 years," said Brown. The loan is 4.95% throughout the construction process and will be fixed once construction is complete.

In the past month, **Providence Financial** was hired by two Building



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God's Way churches and is currently reviewing feasibility reports for 11 other Building God's Way churches and schools.

Alonzo Johnson is serving as the Director of Client Services, for the St. Louis area for **Providence Financial**.

Churches and schools are invited to complete a feasibility report through their website.

www.ProvidenceSolution.com



Legal Commentary: Church Involvement in Politics



Edmund Burke has apply commented, "The only thing necessary for evil to succeed is for good men to do nothing." In this election year many churches face the controversial question of what role they should play in equipping their members to battle evil and support good in the political arena. The following is a thoughtful commentary from the Pacific Justice Institute on Church Involvement in Politics:

Most Americans have heard the phrase "separation of church and state," but it particularly rings loudly during election time. And with President Bush's recent endorsement of the Marriage Amendment, the call to churches to be politically involved will seem even more resonate. The fact is, churches generally want to encourage their members to vote and be good citizens, but they also want their members to vote intelligently, fully informed on the issues. But how far is too far?

The fact is, churches have complete freedom to register their voters, to express concern over issues, to occasionally comment on legislation and initiatives, and

even mention candidates behind the pulpit, so long as the pastor makes it clear the church is not endorsing any single candidate. Churches can even set up tables where members may place political information for anyone who is interested. For example, we were recently contacted about a letter written by Dr. James Dobson endorsing Jim Gibson, a candidate for the California Assembly. The churches contacting us wanted to make the letter available, but did not want to be accused of endorsing a candidate. During their consultation, we instructed them to set up candidate forum tables, where members can place letters of endorsement on behalf of different candidates, along with other campaign material.

The bottom line is simple: churches and their members can play a major role in shaping the future of America. Once they know what they can do, it's only a matter of following their divine calling in the roles they are to play.

For a free consultation regarding related questions, please contact our office.

The Pacific Justice Institute is a non-profit 501(c)(3) legal defense organization specializing in the defense of religious freedom, parental rights, and other civil liberties.

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