



**COURAGEOUS**  
MOVING FORWARD IN FAITH

**SAVE THE DATES:**

- March 2nd >> *Courageous Initiative Begins*
- March 8th >>> *Advance Commitment*
- March 30th >>> *Commitment Sunday*
- April 13th >>> *First Big Give Sunday*



[thedwellingtx.org/courageous-campagin/](http://thedwellingtx.org/courageous-campagin/)  
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*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*

**Joshua 1:9**



## A NOTE FROM PASTOR SETH

For the next five weeks, I want to invite you, and everyone at The Dwelling, to go on a faith journey together. This guidebook is your roadmap for this adventure we're calling Courageous. God has done so much in and through The Dwelling over the past several years. We are excited about

the next steps He is calling us to. God has already done more than we could have ever imagined (Ephesians 3). We know He wants us to reach even MORE disconnected people, helping them become disciples of Jesus as well! This is an important moment in the life of our church. Courageous is an opportunity for each of us to rally around our mission and vision like never before. To accomplish this, here's what I'm asking you to do over the next 5 weeks:

- » Plan to join me for all five weeks of our Courageous message series that begins March 2nd.
- » Get plugged into a G2 group; all of our groups will be discussing and praying through this initiative.
- » Join in the Bible reading plan during the month of March.
- » Prayerfully read through this guidebook and begin asking God what He wants you to do in response to this Courageous initiative.
- » Open your heart to all that God wants to teach you during this season!

I believe this is a time in the life of our church that we will all look back on with great joy and remember how God used the Courageous campaign to change us for the better. I am thankful to be on this faith journey with each of you!

Seth Kunze

# WHO WE ARE

## OUR MISSION

Reach Disconnected people and help them become Disciples of Jesus!

## OUR VISION

God's People Gathering and Going

**Gathering** around God's Word and Prayer

**Daily** in your own home

**Weekly** in God's house

**Bi-weekly** in a small group

**Going** with Jesus living inside us where we:

**LIVE WORK WORSHIP PLAY**

building relationships with the people around us.

*The Dwelling is a church where you can come as you are because we believe God wants to meet each of us where we are!*







**May 2017**

First Church Service



**September 2017**

First Church Service at The Yellow Rose



**September 2017**

First Baptism at The Dwelling



**September 2018**

Helped start a new church, Lazarus

**March 2020**

First Service at Embassy



**December 2020**

Chartered as an official congregation



**2022**

Helped start a new church, Christ My Savior



**2023**

First Baptism at Christ My Savior



**2023**

Land Purchase



**2023**



**2024**

Missionary House / Christ My Savior



*What is the next step of faith God is calling us to take in order to reach more disconnected people?*

**2017-2025**

**Baptisms: 61**

**Other churches helped start: 5**

**Operating small groups: 10**

**Number in small groups: 80**



# COURAGEOUS INITIATIVE

## PRIMARY GOAL: 100% ENGAGEMENT

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We want each person at The Dwelling to grow in their faith through this Courageous initiative. This will be an opportunity to spend time listening to what God is saying to us as individuals and as a church regarding stewardship of our treasure, our time and our talents, in context of our relationship with Him. We believe God will provide everything needed as we each take a courageous faith step in following Him.

## SECONDARY GOAL: \$2.25M

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God has already done so much at The Dwelling, and we see a future where He continues to do even more! We see a vision for a Multi-Purpose Facility on our property as well as growth in our present ministry to reach even more disconnected people!

## WHY MAKE THESE OUR PRIMARY GOALS?

This Courageous initiative is an opportunity for all of us to engage and support the ministry God is calling The Dwelling to, not only land and buildings, but also the entirety of being on mission, reaching disconnected people, starting new churches, and helping our people grow in their faith walk with Jesus. This Courageous initiative will be a faith growing opportunity as we each ask God what He is saying to us around our giving and generosity. It will impact each of us differently:

**Those who already give - *what is God saying?***

**Those who tithe - *what is God saying?***

**Those who have never given - *what is God saying?***

**Those who think the church is just after my money - *what is God saying?***

**Those with their financial priorities in the wrong place - *what is God saying?***

**Those who give, but don't do it with joy - *what is God saying?***

Our leaders recognize the need for a new multi-purpose facility. An increase in our regular giving will be required to make this possible. Although our time at the Yellow Rose and now Embassy have been true blessings from God, there are challenges if we remain, with a few noted here:

- Limits our capacity to reach more disconnected people.
- Don't have the weekly space available for larger group use, Bible studies, G2 groups in need of space, worship practice, youth events.
- Don't have space for home school co-ops, counseling sessions, community events, weddings, funerals etc.
- Limits what we can offer other church plants for office space or meetings.
- Expensive rent we could be putting towards a mortgage.
- Limiting the opportunity for another church being planted at Embassy.
- Doesn't show how committed we are to putting roots down in the community.

# 1 FUND / 2 YEARS / 3 INITIATIVES

## ONE FUND INITIATIVE

Instead of giving toward multiple funds (general fund, building fund, etc.), we will be combining all generosity toward one Courageous initiative fund for the next 2 years. This will include fulfilling our everyday ministry (budget) as well as the future vision we are moving toward, one fund, two years, three initiatives (Ministry, Missions and New Facility).

**1 FUND**

**2 YEARS**

**3 INITIATIVES**

One of the most exciting things about a one fund initiative is that everyone who participates in Courageous will be able to say they are part of the entire ministry of The Dwelling. Not just the building. As we plant churches, witness baptisms, form new G2 groups, build a facility, etc, we will all be able to say "We give to that!"... "We are part of all of that!".

### MINISTRY \$882K

This category represents two years of our ongoing operations at The Dwelling. These funds will be directed towards reaching more disconnected people and helping them become disciples of Jesus.

### MISSIONS \$288K

The Dwelling strives to model generosity. A percentage of every dollar from this initiative will be used for church planting and our ministry partnerships. This is something our church has always done and wants to continue.

### MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY \$1.08M

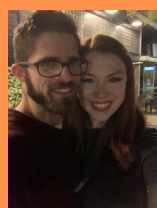
This category represents the vision for a new multi purpose building to be placed on our property. This facility will provide new opportunities to reach into this region with our mission. Daily use, larger spaces for kids and worship, Bible studies, small groups and events, are just a few of the blessings we will see with this new facility.







# MISSIONS



The Dwelling has always been a giving church. We have tried to model this for our people as well as be good stewards of the resources God has provided us over the years. We have given to multiple organizations, seminary students, and church plants including a few seen here:

## Organizations

Mission Northeast  
Family Promise  
LINC Houston  
Glocal Missions  
Humble Area Ministries  
Celebrate Recovery  
KSBJ Radio  
Houston Church Planting Network

## Church Plants

Lazarus Church  
Grace Hill Church  
Absolution Church  
Project 242  
Christ My Savior  
Church start in San Antonio  
Willis Church Plant

## Seminary Students

Michael Saxton  
Jeffrey Reuter  
Matt Kuntz (just starting)

Since 2021, The Dwelling has given \$281,293 in total to the above efforts! We are so excited to continue being a conduit for the resources God provides over the next two years!



## FUTURE BUILDING & LAND VISION

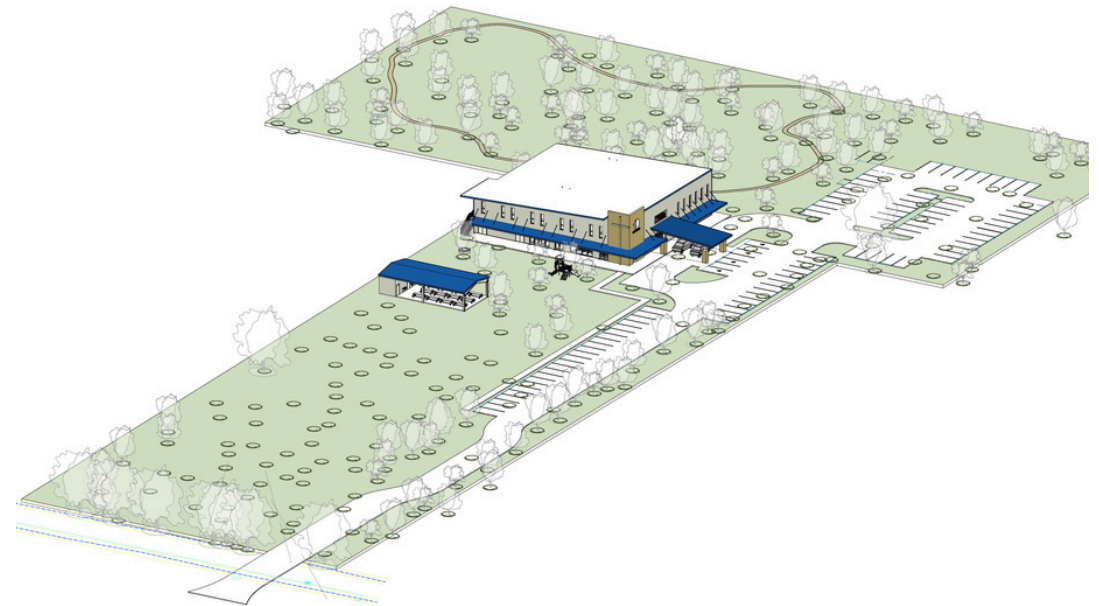
The Dwelling's land and buildings will be used in joyful service to Jesus and the mission and vision He has called us to. The land will help accomplish the needs of buildings, provide outdoor space for activities like Fire, Food, Friends, and be a resource for those joining Jesus on His mission. The initial building will be a simple design consisting of multipurpose spaces, specifically designed to support Sunday worship and to be a resource for The Dwelling's vision of gathering and going.

### Specific needs:

- *Designed with disconnected people in mind*
- *Multipurpose and Welcoming space for up to 250 worshippers*
- *Flexible seating*
- *Multipurpose and Safe space for Little Dwellers*
- *Multipurpose spaces used by church and community groups*

### Examples include:

- *G2 groups (small groups)*
- *Bible studies*
- *Athletics*
- *Youth and children's activities*
- *Banquets*
- *Homeschool groups*
- *Church planting initiatives*
- *Parking for up to 100 cars*
- *Kitchen facilities*
- *Additional land to support growth for The Dwelling's mission*



# PHASES APPROACH

As we take steps toward putting a Multi-Purpose Facility on our property, our leadership sees the need to take a “phase” approach to development. Due to costs, as well as our desire for some “sweat equity”, we see the facility being developed over 4 phases. The later phases may be accomplished through some “do it ourselves” work. The Courageous campaign is focused on funds to be raised to start phases 1 and 2.

## PHASE 1 >>

*Land developed (This is already in motion)*

## PHASE 2 >>


*Shell of building, bathrooms, kitchen, pavilion  
(Constructed with contractor)*

## PHASE 3 >>

*Build out interior first floor (Do this ourselves,  
utilize a contractor, or a combination of both)*

## PHASE 4 >>

*Build out interior second floor (Do this ourselves,  
utilize a contractor, or a combination of both)*



*The Courageous campaign's financial goal is focused on funds to be raised to start phases 1 and 2.*



## HELPFUL TOOLS TO PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER:

On the following page you will see both a “Commitment Card” and a “Giving Chart”. These are tools for you to use as you walk through the discipleship process of asking Jesus how He would have you courageously respond during this initiative.

The Commitment Card shown here is a picture of an actual card we will ask each family from The Dwelling to fill out and bring with them on Commitment Sunday (March 30th). After the commitment card has been filled out, everyone will be asked to come forward and lay their commitment card on the altar to the Lord. As you study the card, allow it to stretch you as you consider where you are now in your giving, and how the Lord may be calling you to take a courageous step of faith.

The Giving Chart is a tool showing a possible way for our church to reach our goal. This is not meant to be a way to show who gives more or who gives less. Each of us are at different places in regards to our giving. We are all called to be faithful to what God is saying. To reach our goal, it will take each of us taking a courageous step no matter where we find ourselves on this chart. You are encouraged to consider where on this chart looks “comfortable” and what section on this chart might represent a courageous commitment from you.

### MY/OUR TWO-YEAR COURAGEOUS COMMITMENT

PLEASE CALCULATE WITHIN THE WORKSHEET BELOW

\$  WHAT I/WE NORMALLY GIVE IN ONE YEAR

+

\$  MY/OUR EXPANDED ANNUAL COURAGEOUS GENEROSITY

=

\$  X 2 YEARS = \$

+ \$

MY/OUR GIFT(S) FROM STORED RESOURCES (stocks, real estate, savings, selling items, etc.)

=

MY/OUR TWO-YEAR  
COURAGEOUS COMMITMENT:  
APRIL 2025 - APRIL 2027

\$

### THE DWELLING TWO-YEAR GIFT CHART \$2,250,000

(24-month commitment)

Gifts Needed	2-year Gift	Annual Gift	Monthly Gift	Gift Level Total
1	\$400,000	\$200,000	\$16,667	\$400,000
1	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$8,333	\$200,000
1	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$100,000
2	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$150,000
8	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$400,000
8	\$35,000	\$17,500	\$1,458	\$280,000
10	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$1,042	\$250,000
10	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$625	\$150,000
10	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$100,000
10	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$313	\$75,000
15	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$208	\$75,000
15	\$2,400	\$1,200	\$100	\$36,000
15	\$1,200	\$600	\$50	\$18,000
Many	<\$1,200	<\$600	<\$50	\$16,000
			Total Gift Goal	\$2,250,000

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## ***What if I have never given to The Dwelling before?***

Courageous was crafted specifically with you in mind. Courageous is a “one fund” generosity initiative. It’s different from a traditional capital campaign where you are called to give an extra gift above and beyond your normal giving, thus creating two steps for people who aren’t yet giving. Courageous is a call to sacrificial, gospel-centered generosity for everyone at The Dwelling. If you have never given before, this is your opportunity to get in the game. We really hope you will.

## ***Are there additional ways I can give toward Courageous?***

Be creative as you explore ways you and your family can give toward Courageous. You might have some stocks, property, or other items of that nature. You may have stored resources that God has blessed you with in the past that He just might be calling you to give during this time.

## ***How is Courageous different from previous generosity initiatives?***

We are focused on everyone at The Dwelling seeing their giving as an integral part of the discipleship process, and then being challenged by God to take a next step. The bulk of this notebook is focused on helping us dig into some key Biblical principles that guide us in this area as we follow Jesus. This is our first priority—100% engagement in the process. Even if someone wrote us a check today for our secondary goal of \$2.25M, we would still do this initiative. Whether we’re just starting in our giving journey or we’re very committed givers, we all have a next step to take and room to grow in this area.

## ***What are cost estimates for phases 1 and 2 of a multi-purpose facility?***

Initial cost estimates range from \$2.5M - \$3.4M (including contingency costs of up to 20%) for phase 1 and 2 of the multi-purpose facility. The congregation has approved a project cost of no more than \$3.4M dollars for these two phases. Once we begin receiving bids, we will have much more clarity around the cost.

## ***If we hit our financial goal, will we begin building the new facility?***

Our Senior Leadership Team will take the results from our Courageous Campaign and spend time deliberating and praying about what percent of debt The Dwelling is able to take on without negatively effecting our mission and vision as a church. Fluctuating material costs and mortgage rates will all play into this.

## ***What if we don't hit our financial goal?***

We will continue operating focused on our mission and vision. Any dollars raised over and above the needs for ministry and missions will be saved for next steps around our future facility. It may be a situation where we need to simply wait a few more years before moving forward with construction.

## ***Do we have a consultant helping us through this campaign?***

Yes, The Dwelling hired a consultant through the company Generis. You can read about them at Generis.com.

## ***When would construction start on a building?***

If our Senior Leadership Team feels good about the results from the campaign, is comfortable about cost estimates and continues to feel the Lord is still moving in this direction, we could break ground as early as the beginning of 2026.

## ***Would we be able to worship in the new facility if we're able to complete phase 1 & 2?***

Absolutely! We would be able to use the facility with the completion of phase 2.

## ***What are you asking me to do?***

First and foremost, we are asking that you pray and seek God’s direction for how He is asking you to grow in giving and generosity as a follower of Christ in this season. Prepare your heart to hear Him and then listen to what He says. In obedience, take your next step. Engage in personal reflection with God in this guide. Talk with your spouse, your family, or others about what this commitment will mean for this season of your life. Finally, we are asking that you make a sacrificial commitment to gospel-centered generosity—whatever it is that God leads you to do. Follow His leading.

Please mark your calendar for Commitment Sunday, March 30 and prepare to experience a defining moment for our church and our own faith.

## ***What if I am new around here?***

Courageous is about the vision for our church and our personal discipleship in giving as followers of Jesus. We believe that the local church is one of the most worthy missions. If you choose to plant roots and make The Dwelling your home church, we invite you to join us in Courageous when you are ready.



## WHAT'S NEXT?

Be Courageous! Will you journey with God and your family to take the biggest step of generosity you've ever taken? It will take courage to spend time listening to what Jesus is asking at this time. God will speak to each of us in different ways, and He will guide us and provide for us if we let Him.

### 1. READ AND REFLECT

Begin reading scripture. At the end of this guidebook is a Bible reading plan, which talks about giving and generosity. God has so much to say on these topics and as we allow His Word to speak, He will begin to shape us. Spend time reflecting on what God might be saying to you. Talking with others in our families about fears, questions we might have, and God's promises will be important.

### 2. PRAY

Pray that God would use this initiative to grow our faith. Begin asking God how He would have you and your family respond. Pray that He would do abundantly more than we ask or imagine. Consider setting a phone alarm each day at 5:07pm (*2 Corinthians 5:7*). Join others in prayer at that time each day.

### 3. ENGAGE

Help us reach our goal of 100% engagement. During the month of March: Attend each of our Sunday gatherings, study God's Word with your small group, read through the Courageous Bible reading plan, and ask God what He is saying to you through all of this.

### 4. GIVE GENEROUSLY

After you have asked God to show you what it looks like to give in a way that changes you, take the courageous faith step He is asking of you.



*2 Corinthians 5:7*  
*"...for we walk by faith, not by sight"*

# WEEK 1

Week 1 / March 2nd

***(Joshua) Courageous Following***

**Word of the day: COURAGEOUS**

**Key Scripture: Joshua 1:1-9**

## **Key Faith Thought**

God calls us to courageously follow Him even when things look difficult. Remembering God's past provision helps us as it propels us towards the possibilities of the future.

## **Key Courageous Thought**

Has God ever not provided for you? Remembering God's past provision is an important part of stepping further into generous giving.

## **SERMON NOTES**

# WEEK 2

WEEK 2 / March 9th

***(Abraham) Courageous Faith***

**Word of the day: Faith**

**Key Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9**

## **Supporting Scripture**

2 Corinthians 5:7

2 Corinthians 9:9-11

## **Key Faith Thought**

We walk by faith not by sight.

## **Key Courageous Thought**

God's math and the world's math don't always line up. Sometimes we are called to give even when it doesn't make sense.

## **SERMON NOTES**



# WEEK 3

WEEK 3 / March 16th

**(Nehemiah) Courageous Prayerful Action**

**Word of the day: Pray**

**Key Scripture: Nehemiah 1:1-2:8**

**Supporting Scripture**

Ephesians 3:20-21

**Key Faith Thought**

When we see a need, we need to pray and act.

**Key Courageous Thought**

Ask the Lord how he would have you give to this initiative.

**SERMON NOTES**

# WEEK 4

WEEK 4 / March 23rd

**(Stephen) Courageous Surrender**

**Word of the day: Surrender**

**Key Scripture: Acts 7:44-60**

**Supporting Scripture**

Proverbs 3:9-10

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

1 Peter 1:18-19

**Key Faith Thought**

It's important we realize our whole life is the Lord's. We are not our own, we have been bought with a price.

**Key Courageous Thought**

As we prepare for commitment Sunday, is our whole life on the table for what God may want to do through us?

**SERMON NOTES**

# WEEK 5

Week 5 / March 30th

**(Mary of Bethany) Courageous Generosity**

**Word of the day: Generosity**

**Key Scripture: John 12:1-8**

## **Supporting Scriptures**

1 Chronicles 29:3-5

2 Corinthians 9:7

## **Key Faith Thought**

God loves an offering that comes from our thankful heart towards Him. It's an offering that is beautiful and "smells good".

## **Key Courageous Thought**

Is this a time God is calling you to make a special offering to the Lord?

## SERMON NOTES

# BIBLE READING PLAN

## **Week 1 / Courageous**

Joshua 1:1-9

John 10:27

Psalm 119:133

Psalm 31:24

Deuteronomy 31:6

Psalm 31:24

## **Week 2 / Faith**

Genesis 12:1-9

2 Corinthians 5:7

2 Corinthians 9:9-11

Hebrews 11:1-7

Hebrews 11:8-12

Ephesians 2:8-9

## **Week 3 / Pray**

Nehemiah 1:1-3

Nehemiah 1:4-11

Nehemiah 2:1-8

Ephesians 3:20-21

Mark 11:22-25

Philippians 4:6-7

## **Week 4 / Surrender**

Acts 7:44-53

Acts 7:53-60

Proverbs 3:9-10

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

1 Peter 1:18-19

Psalm 9:10

## **Week 5 / Generosity**

John 12:1-8

1 Chronicles 29:3-5

2 Corinthians 9:7

Luke 21:1-4

Luke 6:37-38

Proverbs 11:24-25

**As you walk through this Bible Reading Plan, below are a few questions to consider each day.**

- *What might God be saying to me through this reading?*
- *Is God teaching me anything about Himself from this reading?*
- *What does God want me to do?*

**The word of the week can be used as a prayer focus or can be a topic to chat about with your children. Below are questions to consider with your child/children.**

- *What does the word of the week mean to you?*
- *How have you seen this word in action?*



