

September 9, 2008

Dear First Family,

On September 28, once again as a congregation, we will have the opportunity to be part of a special tradition here at First Baptist. This tradition was started years ago by Dr. Lindsay, Sr., and we know it as "The Chest of Joash." For those of you who are new to the church, you will find the story about King Joash in 2 Chronicles 24, where you read about the neglect of the house of God and the idolatry of the people. When Joash came to the throne he wanted to restore the temple and the worship of the one true God, Jehovah. He built a chest and placed it outside by the gate of the house of the Lord so that people could drop their gifts into it. The Bible says:

And all the officers and all the people rejoiced and brought in their levies and dropped them into the chest until they had finished.

Over and over again in the word of God you read that when the people gave, God did extraordinary things and the people experienced a supernatural joy. There is a great connection between our trust, giving, God moving, and our level of joy.

The Chest of Joash is a time when every family, having sought God's wisdom and leadership, comes forward in a public testimony of pledging not just their tithe, but their lives.

There is also a special offering that will be taken up on September 28. This is an offering above and beyond the tithe. This special offering will go to the Budget for Immediate Renovation Needs around the church campus. These are items that, Church, quite frankly we cannot wait on any longer. The history of this church is that we have not borrowed money for over 70 years. The reason for this is because the people have given to meet the needs. This must be one of those occasions. Since I have been at FBC JAX, I have not come to you with an emergency, but this is one.

Enclosed you will find a sheet detailing the items needed and an approximate cost. As you will see, these are not "want" items; but these are needs that have been on hold for some time.

Deb and I look forward to participating in the Chest of Joash. It is however with a measure of sadness this year because Mrs. Lindsay will not be with us. We always invited her to sit and walk down with us on this special Sunday. However, our loss is heaven's gain and though sad we rejoice for her. It is but a reminder that this now falls to a new generation. While we are not capable of so great a task, never forget our God is capable and willing to do it through us. Amen and Amen.

Because of Him,



Mac Brunson

Immediate Renovation Needs

1. RLA chiller replacement

This has been inoperable since June; we are getting by through the sharing of chilled water from the Preschool Building. Anticipated cost \$200,000.

2. Preschool Building roof replacement

This has been on the major repair list for at least 5 years. Anticipated cost \$250,000.

3. Preschool Building exterior wall waterproofing

This has been on the major repair list for at least 3 years. Anticipated cost \$100,000.

4. Preschool classroom wall cover replacement

This is due to the water intrusion caused by the exterior wall waterproofing need. Anticipated cost \$60,000.

5. Preschool Building classroom carpet replacement

Replacing the carpet only is a stop-gap approach since the building will receive a total renovation within the next 12-24 months, but this must be done since it is worn out and coming loose from the floor in many areas. This has been on the major repair list for at least 4 years. Anticipated cost \$125,000.

6. RLA roof repairs and ceiling repair

This has been an ongoing maintenance problem for more than 5 years. Anticipated cost \$50,000.

7. Administration Building carpet replacement on floors 2 and 5

This has been on the major repair list for at least 4 years. The carpet is worn out, soiled, fraying and coming loose from the floor. Anticipated cost \$ 80,000.

8. Children's Building renovations to accommodate offices for the Academy

Though this will ultimately be paid for by the Academy when it repays the loan, the cash is still required to do the remodeling. We have greatly reduced the scope and cost of the work to create enough office space to get the school running. Total cost less than \$125,000.

Total immediate need: \$990,000