

From March 2017 Communique

After 11 Years, Alpharetta Members Can Finally Build a Church



“Lord, let us not be grasshoppers in the sight of these land prices,” shared Rusty Williams, pastor of the Alpharetta church in northern Georgia. “That was my prayer 11 years ago.”

His lesson was taken from the Bible story about when the Israelites looked into the eyes of giants who lived in the Promised Land (see Numbers 13).

Alpharetta church members decided to exercise faith in God as the only way to conquer 2005 land prices of \$150,000-\$175,000 per acre. After seven years, the congregation had raised \$100,000, so building committee chair Rick Mosley began to search for land.

At the bottom of the downturn in the economy, God gave the church 10 acres for \$400,000, but the members were not able to build a structure on it. As the congregation continued to pray, it felt led to sell God’s investment for a \$507,000 profit.

Then, after putting a contract on another 10 acres, the members hit opposition. Wealthy neighbors from across the street said they were not against a church per se, just not in that location. Alpharetta members continued to pray, and while it did not seem like the answer they were looking for, one outspoken neighbor offered to reimburse the church \$24,000 of site-specific expenses and give it \$164,000 to walk away.

Williams recalls: “It took us a year to find another (and more expensive) property, but we continued to pray. After the contract was signed, a series of unusual events lowered our price by another \$60,000. Including the \$25,549 of interest God gave us on all these transactions, He has been our biggest contributor—with a grand total of \$756,549. Just in time for Thanksgiving this year, we closed on 8.8 acres of prime real estate with a price tag of \$932,025. We now have paid for land that cost the church only \$19,940 per acre! What an amazing God! We are eager to start construction in the spring of 2017.”

As the Bible says, “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it” (Psalm 127:1, NKJV).

by Rusty Williams, pastor of the Alpharetta Church