



For Here August 23

Upgrading Our Home Base to Launch the Future

- To upgrade the Southlands Campus with the infrastructure needed to launch future campuses.

Scripture: Psalm 126:1; John 4:35

"When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed." (NIV)

"Do you not say, 'Four more months and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." (NIV)

Devotion: It is incredibly easy to mistake a season of fruitfulness for a finish line. Right now, we are living in the middle of answered prayers, and witnessing a rare and sacred moment where God is moving, people are stepping into what's next, and lives are being radically transformed. It feels like a dream. But a growing harvest requires faith and trust. If we don't intentionally prepare our fields, the very growth God gives us can overwhelm our capacity to care for people. When Psalm 126 talks about God restoring Zion, it's a celebration of God establishing a home base for His people - a place of refuge, worship, and strength. Our Southlands campus is that launching pad. Investing in For Here isn't about property maintenance or funding another project; it's about gospel hospitality. When a family walks through our doors for the first time, every detail matters - from finding a parking spot to checking in their children safely and finding an open seat in the auditorium. We are upgrading our home base to ensure that we never miss a story God is starting to write, and that our current campus remains a place that provides an open invitation for anyone seeking hope.

Reflect: Think back to your first few times visiting EHills. What made it easy or welcoming for you to encounter Jesus here?

Pray: Lord, thank You for our current campus. Thank you for the hundreds of stories of life-change happening right here. Help us to steward this space well, to expand its capacity, and to never let our comforts outweigh our commitment to those who have yet to walk through our doors. Give us a heart of hospitality that willingly invests in our church building, ensuring that the next person who walks through the doors encounters a safe space that has been prepared for them to experience Jesus. Amen.



For There August 30

Removing Obstacles and Multiplying Our Reach

- To renovate and launch the East Hampden campus with brand new kids' spaces, a larger auditorium, and a welcoming lobby for our first new campus.

Scripture: Acts 15:19

"It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for those who are turning to God." (NIV)

Devotion: The natural gravity of every church is to turn inward. Left unchecked, organizations naturally drift toward comforting those already there rather than reaching those who aren't there yet. In Acts 15, the early church faced a similar crossroad. As people with only Gentile (non-Jewish) backgrounds began turning to God, some established church "insiders" wanted to set up theological and religious hoops and cultural barriers, making it difficult for people to follow Jesus. But the church leadership took an extreme stand, declaring: We should not make it difficult for those who are turning to God.

The For There pillar is our intentional, strategic fight against that inward drift. By launching a new campus, we are making a definitive choice: we will not just build bigger walls to contain our own comfort; we will expand our reach to meet people where they are. This is a vision that refuses to divide the world by cultural preferences or political lines. Instead, we see the world the way Jesus does - divided simply into lost and found, dead and alive. Going there means removing the physical barrier of distance and planting a vibrant gospel community right in the neighborhoods where people live, work, and raise their families.

Reflect: True faith often requires us to step out of what is comfortable to make room for others. In what ways are you tempted to favor personal comfort over the calling to reach those who are close to you physically but far from God relationally?

Pray: Jesus, thank You for coming to where I was when I was lost. Give our church a collective courage to expand beyond our current walls. As we prepare to launch this new campus, protect us from an inward focus, and help us tear down every unnecessary obstacle standing between people and You. Amen.



For Others September 6

Becoming a Light and Owning the Pond

- To build a ForAurora Center as a part of our East Hampden campus to increase outreach: Serving schools, feeding people, solving social issues, and being a light in our city.

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16

"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven. (MSG)

Devotion: A church that exists only for itself eventually stops being a church. Jesus called us to be salt and light—not a fortress that hides from the world or a country club that serves only its members, but a people who bring hope and transformation wherever they go. Through the establishment of the ForAurora Center, the For Others pillar is our vision to expand our impact throughout the city by addressing economic instability, resource insecurity, and systemic pain in Jesus' name.

This vision goes beyond temporary relief. Our goal is to empower and resource people toward lasting restoration. As we support local schools, provide meals, and step into social issues with the posture and tone of Jesus, we aren't playing common-enemy politics. We are simply ForAurora.

Reflect: What does it mean to move from "short-term aid" to "lasting restoration?" How does that mirror the way Jesus handles our own spiritual brokenness, offering us eternal transformation rather than a temporary fix?

Pray: Lord, break our hearts for what breaks Yours. Fill our hearts with Your deep compassion for our city. May our church be known not for what we are against, but for who we are FOR. Give us a legacy-minded generosity so that the ForAurora Center can shine Your light into the dark places, bringing true dignity and life-change to our community. Amen.



For the Future September 13

Dreaming Big for the Next Generation

- To secure land in Aurora Highlands to establish a gospel presence in the city's fastest-growing community.

Scripture: Psalm 126:1-3

"When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.' The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy." (NIV)

Devotion: A little more than 40 years ago, a small group of faithful Jesus followers looked out at a developing city and chose to dream. They couldn't have predicted the thousands of lives that would be transformed, or the massive gospel impact their steps of faith would make. Today, most of us are enjoying the momentum of a church we didn't build, and benefitting from a foundation we didn't lay. We are the recipients of someone else's courageous generosity, and we don't want to take that for granted.

Now, we stand at our own historical crossroads. The city around us is exploding with growth, with tens of thousands of new homes being built in areas where no church presence currently exists. The For the Future pillar is our opportunity to secure land and establish a gospel anchor before the concrete even dries. If we choose to stay exactly where we are, we risk burying what God has entrusted to us. This is our moment to trust. It challenges us to look past our current spreadsheets, overcome our fears, and invest in a future we may not fully see. By securing land in Aurora Highlands, we are ensuring that generations yet unborn will have a place to experience that following Jesus makes life better.

Reflect: When you think about the future of our community, what does it mean to leave a "spiritual legacy?" What is the specific "wrestle" in your heart when it comes to trading present control for future kingdom impact?

Pray: Father, You have done great things for us, and we are filled with joy! We refuse to let our vision stop at the boundaries of our own lifetime. Give us an expansive, generational faith. As we invest in the future of our city, we trust You with our resources and our lives, praying that cities and nations will look at what happens here and praise Your holy name. Amen.