

Four Mistakes Churches Make in Relocation...and How to Avoid Them

As churches start to grow they start evaluating their long-term facility needs. This need is most often felt in the children's ministry. I hear statements like, "we have kids everywhere on Sundays and we are trying to figure out what to do with them." This often leads to serious discussions and evaluations of a relocation. These congregations realize that facilities often times restrict churches from fulfilling their mission.

This is the time for the leadership team to sit down to develop a specific, detailed plan that is in alignment with the vision that God has given them for their church and their community. Here are the 4 mistakes to avoid in a relocation plan.

- 1. Faulty information** – Collecting and relying on estimates that don't take into account the total cost of relocation will set the entire project on a bad foundation from which recovery may be impossible. Take your time to understand every moving part of a relocation before you begin to put together your plan. Count the cost before you set out. (See #4)
- 2. Over confident estimates** – God is in this with you, but he wants you to be a good steward of what you have now. Understand what your capacity is and what is available to you for a new location. (see #4) Don't get trapped into thinking "if we build it, they will come". That was a movie about a baseball field, not the lives of disciples God has given you responsibility for.
- 3. No thorough project plan** – In thinking through a plan the most important starting point is a communication plan. How are you going to inform and get buy-in from your congregation? They need to understand why you need to move, how you chose the new location, how it fits into the vision and mission of the church and what their part is going to be in the relocation project. The rest of the plan is executing the "work". But without a good communication plan, you will "work" more to bring you people along than to actually move.
- 4. No team of experts** – A poorly thought out relocation plans that fails will weaken a church and the credibility of its leadership. Save your dollars and your leadership team's reputation by building a team of professional advisors. Moses had Jethro to be an advisor, you should have no less. Hire professionals in their field that understand how a church makes decisions and have the experience to help you develop a winning plan. Your team would include Church Real Estate Professionals, a construction company, an architect, and a project manager.

Don't worry! These are great problems to have in a growing congregation. These are the times that you will talk about for years to come. Have fun!!

