

# WHOLE HEART

a ten day devotional

*Heart  
for the  
House*

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In late September of 2021, our elders and pastors traveled to the Cumberland Plateau to pray together, study God's word, and seek God's desire for the next chapter of Fountain City Church.

It was there that **HEART FOR THE HOUSE** was born. What began as a discussion about a building quickly became a celebration of God's faithfulness, how He had provided throughout every season, and how blessed we are to join Him at work in our community and around the world.

One of many refrains throughout the weekend was that this is not a "financial campaign" for a building, but instead a "spiritual campaign" for our church. **HEART FOR THE HOUSE** isn't centered on fundraising or construction, but rather on our church coming together, uniting our hearts, and looking to the future.

It is the desire of our elders and pastors that you begin your journey in this campaign with this devotional before contributions of any kind are made to **HEART FOR THE HOUSE**. We encourage you to spend time in prayer, study God's word, hear the hearts of our elders and pastors, and seek how God has called you to be a part of this opportunity.

*Then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the LORD.*

1 CHRONICLES 29:9

*Heart  
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## THE INTRODUCTION

At the close of 1 Chronicles we find King David's time was coming to an end. He's gathered all kinds of resources for the building of God's Temple, years of work and countless hours of organization, all to find out that God never intended David to be the one to build it. The Lord had instead chosen David's son *Solomon* to build His Temple.

So David charges Solomon to pick up where he left off with one of the greatest building projects in the history of mankind. Although we might think that this interaction would begin with important details like how to build everything or what all needs to be done, it doesn't. David instead begins by imploring Solomon with three callings: to know God, to serve Him, and to seek Him.

And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve Him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek Him, He will be found by you, but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever. Be careful now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong and do it.

**1 CHRONICLES 28:9-10**

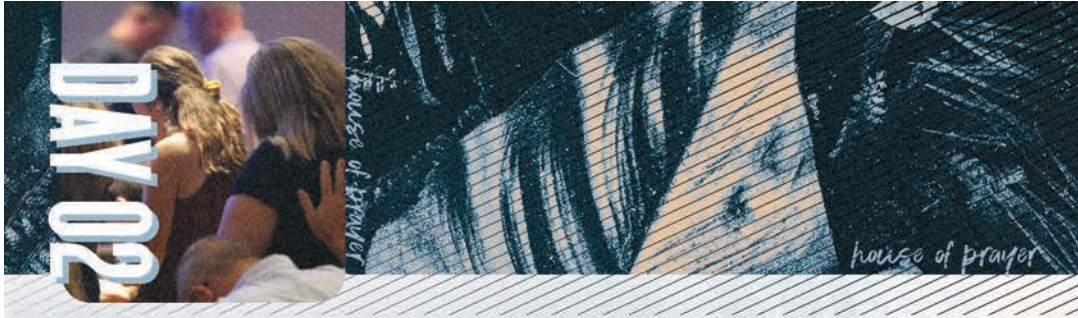
And for us, Fountain City Church, we might try to begin this campaign by thinking about how much this is all going to cost, how desperately we need to remodel the Kids Area, how our Worship Center is falling apart, or any of the multitude of issues our current building presents every week, but, just like Solomon, that's not where our charge begins. All of those things are important, but they are not what is most important. We must begin by *Knowing* God, *Serving* Him, and *Seeking* Him.

So, as you begin this 10-day devotional, remember to seek to know God more today and every day. Don't lose sight of that. Then along the way, allow Him to guide you in how He is calling you to take part in this campaign.

And, by His grace & just like David's charge to Solomon, "be strong and do it."



**DONNY WADLEY**  
lead pastor



## HOUSE OF PRAYER

And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD to minister to Him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be His servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does no profane it, and holds fast My covenant - these I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

ISAIAH 56:6-7

These words from Isaiah were important to the Jews in Isaiah's day. The Jews were in captivity as part of their punishment for disobedience of God's law. One of the things they had done was profaning the Sabbath – the day set aside for worship and rest. Punishment was severe. God was not to be mocked.

These same words were recalled by our Lord as He “busted up” the tables where the people were profaning the house of the Lord in Jerusalem just a few days before His crucifixion. Jesus' actions were severe. His Father's house was not to be mocked. It is to be a house of prayer.

Does Jesus also want His house to be a house of worship? Of ministry? Of teaching? Yes, of course! But I believe He was implying that prayer should undergird and be the very foundation for all of the wonderful things taking place “in His house”.

As we enter in and move through the process of rebuilding the place where Fountain City Church gathers, let us remember the words of Christ as He taught the people about the importance of prayer.

One of the **WAYPOINTS** we have at Fountain City Church is that *PRAYER IS OUR FIRST RESPONSE, NOT OUR LAST RESORT*. So, before we gather to worship, to minister, to teach and be taught, let's pray first. Let's lay the foundation on our knees and make sure that 2801 Holbrook Drive is known as a house of prayer.



**KIRK SMITH**  
elder



## HOUSE OF WORSHIP

I love the time we set aside each week to come together and worship our Savior. We see God move in so many wonderful ways. This precious time of unity and gospel proclamation is overflowing with potential... oh the tears that have been shed! The lives changed! Wrongs forgiven! Hearts of stone broken! Church, we must steward this opportunity well. May we never again take for granted the blessing of being together. In His conversation with the woman at the well, our Savior reveals the desire our Heavenly Father has for worship:

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit & truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit & truth.

**JOHN 4:23-24**

Today I invite you to pray with me. First, pray that we worship Him in spirit - that from the deepest parts of your emotions you would cry out to God and tune your heart to His. Second, pray that we worship Him in truth - that you would be faithful to God's word in everything you sing and that it would take deep root in your heart. Last, pray we would remember the responsibility we have to each other as we gather each week - just as Paul reminds you in Ephesians:

... addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

**EPHESIANS 5:19-21**

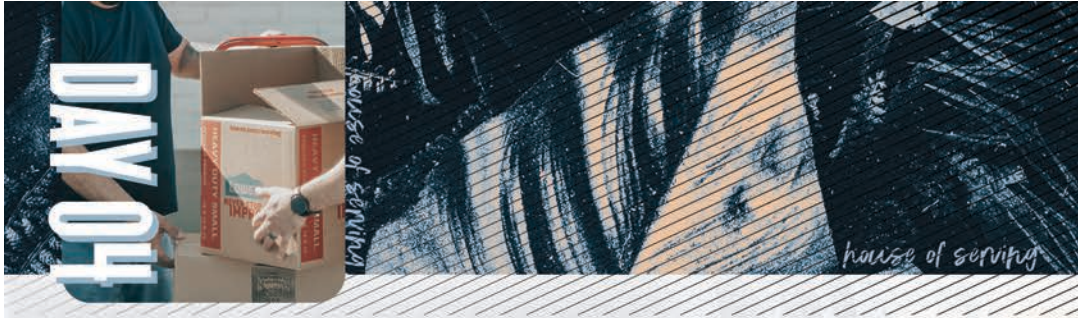
Oh that we would not take lightly the opportunity we have to come together to worship God, to encourage one another with His good news, to remind each other of His kindness, and to join in with the song of a people who have known His faithfulness for so many generations:

For He is good and His steadfast love endures forever!

**2 CHRONICLES 5:13B**



**DAVID WILLIAMS**  
worship pastor



## HOUSE OF SERVING

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

**PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4**

The gospel of Jesus Christ transforms sinners against God into servants of God. In order to follow Christ completely, *servicing others* has to be a part of our lives. As Jesus said, “even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve...” (Matthew 20:28). Motivation to serve should be obedience to God, gratitude, gladness, forgiveness, humility, and love.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10 gives us some insight into what we might have to do and/or give up to truly serve others:

Be involved in other people’s lives, even when others will not. The Good Samaritan helped the person that was placed into his daily walk.

Be willing to have our daily schedules disrupted. I am sure the Good Samaritan had a full and busy day, just as we all do.

Have compassion. We see the man’s immediate needs were taken care of. Medicine and bandages were applied to his wounds.

Be generous people. The Good Samaritan loaded the injured man onto his own donkey and took him to the inn so that he could rest and get better. He told the innkeeper that he would take care of any expenses owed.

One of our **WAYPOINTS** at Fountain City Church is *SAVED PEOPLE SERVE PEOPLE*. We remember what it was like to be lost in our sins, separated from a Holy God. We also know what we have become through the gift of Jesus Christ. Being children of God should give us hearts of thanksgiving, compelling us to serve others. Pray that this would be our heart as Fountain City Church.



**GERALD LAY**  
elder



## HOUSE OF GENERATIONS

Now therefore in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God, observe and seek out all the commandments of the LORD your God, that you may possess this good land and leave it for an inheritance to your children after you forever.

1 CHRONICLES 28:8

The house of God that Solomon was commissioned to build would indeed serve his own generation. The kingdom of Solomon would enjoy a time of possessing a "good land" for themselves. But this house was not for Solomon only. In fact, quite the opposite seems true. The entire goal of the laborious project was aimed at those who would follow Solomon and his people. God sees His house not as a gift of mere instant gratification, but a gift of generational inheritance.

Church, **HEART FOR THE HOUSE** is about exponentially more than us enjoying improvements to a building. It's about effectively passing a baton to those chosen by God to run the next lap. Do we want our children, our grandchildren, our great-grandchildren to inherit merely the tired ruins of a building when we are gone? Or do we want them to praise God that their forerunners were bold, steadfast, and faithful with this inheritance?

Some of us are nearing the final chapter of our lives. Others of us are just now forming families and becoming adults. Yet, we all share two responsibilities: to faithfully steward what our children will one day possess and to look beyond ourselves towards generations that are yet to come (read Psalm 78:5-7).

Imagine, ten generations from now, a people praising God for the foundation you and I helped build. Who wouldn't want to be a part of that? Oh, to see the planting of these simple seeds turn into abundant fruit for decades to come!

Right now, we can begin making deposits in our legacy as spiritual parents and mentors to "the children yet unborn." To that end we have a heart for the house, trusting that, by His grace, He will make it a house for the generations.



**ZACH BARNHART**  
youth pastor



**BE CAREFUL NOW,  
FOR THE LORD HAS  
CHOSEN YOU TO  
BUILD A HOUSE FOR  
THE SANCTUARY;**

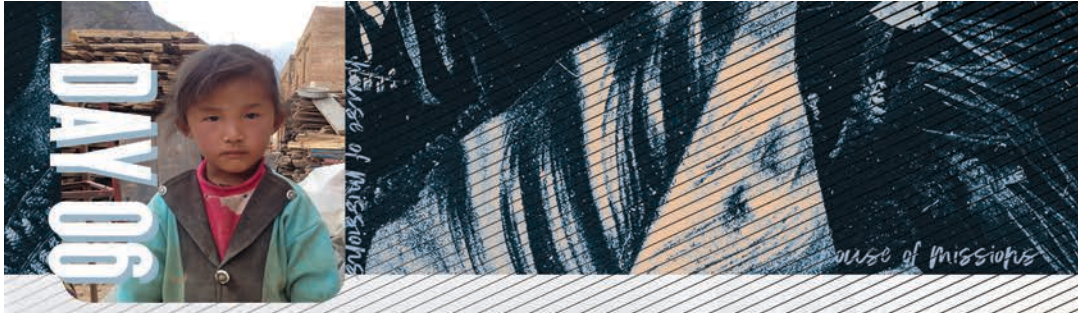




**BE STRONG AND DO IT**

**1 CHRONICLES 28:10**





## HOUSE OF MISSIONS

For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off,  
everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself.

**ACTS 2:39**

Mission trips are amazing experiences. The team is prepared and focused, the plan is put into place, and we go intentionally with the mission in mind.

One morning I was working on a study of the Book of Acts with my men's group when I came across Acts 2:39. It immediately made me think of my first trip to the mountains of Tibet. This place was incredibly far away. In fact, I'd describe it as going to the back side of nowhere and taking a left!

I heard something during that trip that I had never heard before: I asked one of the locals if he knew Jesus and he replied, "Jesus who?" Thinking of the sweet, hospitable people of Tibet having never heard the name of Jesus both saddened me and made me fully realize the reason we were there.

As I continued reading the Acts study that morning, I came across this profound explanation of what being "far off" truly means: "being *far off* is not just geographical; by His death and resurrection, Jesus Christ has reconciled to Himself all of us who were formally 'far off' from God and from one another."

The truth is there are many right around us who may have heard of Jesus, but do not *know* Jesus. They are just as "far off" from Christ as the men and women in the remote mountains of Tibet.

Having a heart for missions means living each day intentionally and sharing the good news no matter where we are. My prayer for us as we go through this campaign is that we would see Fountain City Church as a launching place of sharing the Gospel to all who are far off from Christ, both across the world and across the street!



**KEVIN ROGERS**  
elder



## HOUSE OF RESTORATION

We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and we are rebuilding the house that was built many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and finished.

**EZRA 5:11**

In the book of Ezra, we find God's people, the Israelites, in a very familiar position. The Jewish people were returning home from exile to find Jerusalem and the temple in ruins. Before the city could return to prosperity and the temple restored, major spiritual restoration was needed. The Holy Spirit would begin His work long before the physical reconstruction would ever take place.

It began in the hearts of the people, calling them to repentance and faith in the one true God. Some hearts were dismayed that the new temple glory would fall vastly short of the former in Solomon's day. Yet others rejoiced in what the Lord had done, bringing them to worship together in spirit and truth.

Thinking back to Fountain City Church's launch service in 2017, I can recall when my heart began to rejoice and become increasingly confident in the plans that God had to restore this family of believers in Fountain City. Through much prayer and the power of the Spirit, our hope and rejoicing will not only be in the restoration of this physical house but also in the eternal house made up of living stones, with Christ as our Cornerstone.

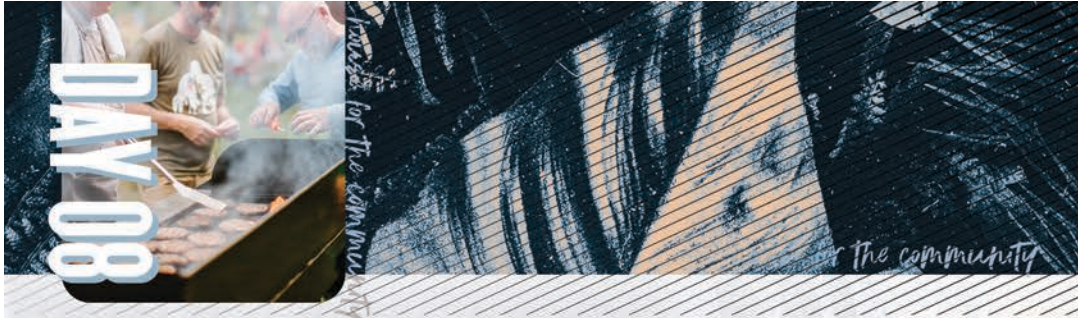
As you come to Him, a living stone, rejected by men in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

**1 PETER 2:4-5**

Join me in praying that we would continue to rejoice in the work God has done in each of our hearts and seek to praise Him for allowing us to willfully take part in restoring this place of worship. Soli Deo Gloria!



**CHAZ GOODIN**  
elder



## HOUSE FOR THE COMMUNITY

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

**MATTHEW 9:36-38**

Here we see our Savior impacting the community by showing compassion to those outside the walls. He told His disciples to pray to the Lord for laborers to follow His example. Are you willing to be an answer to this prayer?

As a *CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY* we strive to open our doors to the community as well as go through our doors into our community.

Our vision to *FOLLOW CHRIST COMPLETELY* has birthed in us a desire to improve our facility in order to be more hospitable. Currently we host community groups such as Dance for Joy, Ms. Courtney's Art Studio, 4-H, "Thank God for New Beginnings" Recovery, Medic Blood Mobile, DCS Training Events, Street Hope, The Active Knoxville Podcast, and many more!

Our vision has also stirred our hearts to serve the community where they are. We are sent out to mentor at Fountain City Elementary School, deliver Mobile Meals, meet needs through Fountain City Ministry Center, donate school supplies, provide baby showers through Hope Resource Center, assist Renew Clinic in addiction recovery efforts, and a host of other opportunities.

Having a heart for our community will challenge us in numerous ways. We can begin by offering ourselves as laborers for His service, by enhancing our facility to hospitably receive our community with compassion, and by having an engaging environment to equip laborers to be sent out into His harvest!

Church, let's be an answer to Jesus' prayer by uniting our hearts, asking Him to fill us with His compassion, with His message, and with His power so that we might labor for His glory in our community.



**DAVID HAYNES**  
mobilization pastor



## HOUSE OF FAITH

Faith is essential to our lives as Christians. We are promised forgiveness of our sins and restoration with God through faith in Christ's death and resurrection.

As I walk around our church, I see evidence of God's faithfulness in both my life and in the lives of those around me. I walk past the rooms in which I was taught about God's steadfast love as a child. A few of these teachers are actually still with us today! I walk by pastors of our church who teach us God's word faithfully and pray for us. I walk past the room where I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior. I walk past rooms where my brothers and sisters have gone through life together and reflect on how God has been there for them. I see those around me who left a comfortable church to come alongside us when we were struggling and help us revitalize this family. I see faith everywhere I look.

When we experience hard times, it can sometimes be difficult to remain faithful. It is important for us to look back at how God has worked in the accounts of the Bible, our lives, and the lives of those around us to remind ourselves that God is always faithful and that we can have faith that God is working all around us.

In the book of Joshua, God instructs Joshua to construct a memorial of twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan River to commemorate a special event.

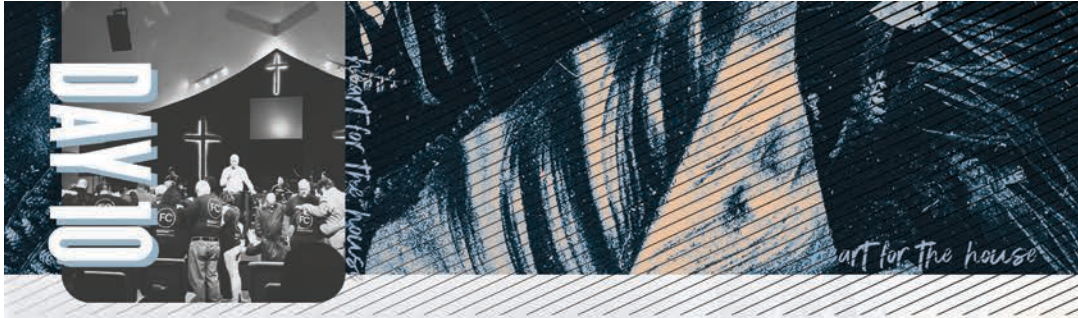
And he said to the people of Israel, "When your children ask their fathers in times to come, 'What do these stones mean?' then you shall let your children know, 'Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.' For the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over, as the Lord your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up for us until we passed over, so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever."

**JOSHUA 4:21-24**

Let the walls of our church forever echo with reminders that the hand of the Lord is indeed mighty, and let us fear the Lord our God forever!



**JOHN LONGMIRE**  
elder



## HEART FOR THE HOUSE

Then David said to Solomon his son, “Be strong and courageous and do it. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the Lord God, even my God, is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the Lord is finished.

**1 CHRONICLES 28:20**

Just like many of you, I long to see God move in Fountain City and in Knoxville. I want to see Him work in our lives through **HEART FOR THE HOUSE** in how we give and what this project ends up looking like at 2801 Holbrook Drive.

I believe this is going to be hard. It is not just going to happen overnight and be finished and beautiful. It is going to take time and have moments of rejoicing and times of difficulty. Nothing in my life that’s been worthwhile has been easy. King David knew that to be true as well.

Early in 1 Chronicles 28, David gives a charge to his son Solomon and then outlines all the work that needs to be done. Then, he comes back at the close of the same chapter and reminds him of a couple of things. Take a few minutes to dwell on these powerful words in 1 Chronicles 28:20 and hold them close to your heart during this season.

God may be asking you to do something that you don’t think is even possible. He might be asking you to give an amount that you can’t imagine giving right now. He might be asking you to give up something so that you can know Him more, trust in His provision, and be a part of something so much larger than yourself.

It will be hard. It will seem difficult. Trust me, no one is saying this will be easy. But I believe the word for us during this season is to not give up, God is with us.

“Be strong and courageous and do it.”



**DONNY WADLEY**  
lead pastor

**THANK YOU FOR JOINING US IN THIS TEN DAY DEVOTIONAL**

For more info on how you can be a part of this campaign, stop by the  
HEART FOR THE HOUSE CAFE before or after our worship services  
or visit [WWW.FOUNTAINCITY.CHURCH/H4TH](http://WWW.FOUNTAINCITY.CHURCH/H4TH) at any time.

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