



Frequently Asked Questions

We want you to know everything about this incredible, God-given opportunity for our church. So, we have put together a list of questions and answers to help as you prayerfully seek God's guidance on your participation.

Why is now the time to Go Forward?

Five years ago, we began the process to erase our debt. God proved more than faithful! The success of Rise Up is leading us to develop our campus, in support of our mission. The time has come to expand our campus so we can better accomplish our mission.

You're asking us to give sacrificially, but what's the church doing to run leaner and more efficiently?

Our staff has been very innovative and creative with their ministry dollars. Our ministries have always sought to run on frugal budgets. When it comes to our facilities, we work to keep a balance of preventative maintenance and repair before new purchases. The church has limited spending in every way possible.

How will GO FORWARD be funded?

After listening to God's voice and responding to His leadership, we will ask each family to make a three-year commitment, above regular giving. While not everyone is in a position to make equal commitments, each of us is called to equal sacrifice. As the body of Christ, each will play a critical part in making our vision a reality.

What has changed for us since becoming debt free?

Our overall budget hasn't changed much since Rise Up, but being debt-free has enabled us to increase our outreach by more than \$60,000/year in local and global missions and over \$135,000/year in ministry (Children's, Students, Life Groups, Connections, and more). At the same time, we have also allocated \$239,000 to rehab and replant The Chapel ministry in Mango. Furthermore, we have been able to make critically needed upgrades and repairs to our main campus (including exterior paint, handicap parking, crushed asphalt, multiple AC units, the Student Center Lobby, landscaping, redoing pavers, and much more).

"God is leading us to Go Forward."

Dear Lifer,

In 2013, we came together as a church to RISE UP and wipe out a debt that was keeping us from freely answering God's call to reach our world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Through the grace and prompting of God, we were able to eliminate the \$3.5 million debt a full six months ahead of our set schedule. If you were here then, you remember the joy we had in obliterating our mortgage. All praise and glory be to God!

Since then, we continue to see lives changed by the power of God on a regular basis around here. Hundreds have put their faith in Christ for the first time since our Rise Up campaign, and today, we stand on the brink of even greater things in this next season of serving God together.

The time has come for us to invest in a future of greater community impact through planting churches, giving more in support of global ministry, and building to minister to our children and students more effectively.

With Lifers like you—men, women, and children committed to Christ and ready to serve Him as He leads—I have complete confidence that we can realize God's hopes for us as a church.

It is time to GO FORWARD! And I know with God's help we can do it!

For His Glory,

Mark Saunders
Lead Pastor



Go Forward

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:6 (ESV)



Go Forward

Building Towards What God Has Next...



1017 Kingsway Rd. • Brandon, FL 33510 • Phone: 813.661.3696 • baylife.org



It's time to Go FORWARD!

God has much for Bay Life Church to accomplish in His name—

For nearly 25 years, God has uniquely positioned and blessed Bay Life Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Thousands have been changed forever by His grace through the ministry of this body of believers.

From humble beginnings, God has brought us far, but the time has come for us to go even further. We must GO FORWARD confidently, in faith, into the next phases of His work in and through us.



THE MISSION

Bay Life was established with a clear calling and purpose—to reach the lost and make disciples. As a Lifer, you play an important part in our mission to:

- Reach our community and the world for Christ.
- Welcome people of every spiritual, social, and racial background with open arms.
- Serve in ministries that make disciples of all ages while building strong families that reflect the standards of Scripture.
- Provide direction and the environment necessary for our next generation of Christ-followers to grow in their faith.
- Strategically plant churches in our region as God allows so as to extend our reach to those in need of the gospel.



OUR OPPORTUNITIES

Our mission will be better accomplished by investing in improvements to our campus and preparing for ministry expansion locally and globally. Now is the time to GO FORWARD and:

- Build an additional 15,000 square foot facility to disciple our next generation of Christ-followers.
- Partner in a new facility for the Women's Resource Center to expand their community impact and outreach and co-locate with the Bay Life Counseling Center.
- Refurbish current Student Center to maximize disciple-making with children.
- Repurpose existing portable buildings for office and meeting space.
- Update and modernize the Worship Center lobby.
- Construct covering / shade areas for the Bay Life courtyard to improve year-round usage and baptism areas.
- Prepare to revitalize other churches in the area as God allows (like The Chapel).
- And, as God directs, so much more!

THE BOTTOM LINE

We are prayerfully seeking to raise \$2 million to fund each of the aforementioned opportunities.



THE SOLUTION

Our church is blessed to have servants, like you — who will boldly stand up, GO FORWARD, and do whatever is necessary to make God's vision for us a reality. Our history is filled with stories of God's faithfulness, of ordinary people willing to take risks, make sacrifices, and trust God to provide. The time has come to GO FORWARD together into what God has next.

What comes NEXT?

» The success of the **GO FORWARD** campaign depends on each of us giving above and beyond as God leads. Personally stretching ourselves in this area can be scary and may even seem impossible at first. But God is faithful! Just as in our Rise Up campaign, by using the "4 P's", stretch giving is possible for everyone!

Prayer

Prayer starts it all. Nothing prepares our hearts to respond to God like seeking His heart through prayer.

- Ask for God's direction and guidance as we launch the **GO FORWARD** campaign in 2018.
- Ask for God's provision through other Lifers as they join us in support of our vision.
- Ask for God to lead you personally in how you might sacrificially give to help Bay Life to GO FORWARD.



Proportional

Strive to respond in proportion to God's blessing and provision. This will be different for each of us, and that's okay! Paul says that gifts are "acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have" (2 Corinthians 8:12). God gives resources in different amounts, and he's interested in our hearts, not just the amount that we give.

Pleasing

Seek a commitment decision that is pleasing to God. Our faith will likely need to be stretched through prayer and the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Here are a few questions to help determine if a commitment amount is pleasing to God:

- Does this amount really require me to trust God? (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)
- Does this amount show I value my hope of eternal reward more than material things on Earth? (1 Timothy 6:19)
- Does this amount represent a genuine sacrifice? (2 Samuel 24:24)
- Does this amount express the level of thanksgiving I have for the ways Christ and His church have blessed my life and family? (Psalm 54:6)

Peace

Look for and anticipate peace from God that surpasses all understanding after making a prayerful and proportional commitment that's pleasing to Him. This may be experienced in different ways: a confirming word or situation, a general sense of calm, or just a sensing of God's perfect will. You'll know.

In the coming weeks, we'll be sharing more details about exactly how you can make a difference through a three-year giving commitment. After much prayer and thought, you'll have the opportunity to "go forward" by making your commitment at the Celebration Event.

