

Saint Joseph congregations have had a legacy of reaching out to the community in ministry and missions. They have stepped out in faith with their next stage of growth. They have focused on others, instead of their own needs, and expressed joy, confidence and enthusiasm because they knew they were making a difference in the lives of others.

Will you join us in making the development of our Mission Field and the next phase of Saint Joseph's mission in our community a reality?

*He does not need our money, but asks us to show our faith by giving it.*

As we are faithful with what we have, He will be faithful to provide. Please be in prayer as each one of us is called to support the future of our Mission Field ministries.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: What are the immediate plans for the Mission Field?**

A: Drawings for the Mission Field are available outside of The Vine bookstore. The immediate plans for the Mission Field are to create ministry space for children's programs, family time and outdoor activities. The drawings highlight multi-purpose athletic fields, a walking path, a possible natural amphitheatre, parking and utility building.

### **Q: What ministry would we plan for the space?**

A: The proposed development on the Mission Field will allow us to step more fully into recreational ministries. Upward basketball and cheerleading has helped us see the potential for using recreation as a means of evangelism and Christian growth. Currently, to expand that ministry into flag football, soccer and softball will increase the number of families who will experience the message and presence of Christ. Secondly, it will provide a place for families from the community to gather and spend time together. Family directed ministry opportunities and suggestions will help families spend time together and build relationships with one another and other families. The development will also provide the opportunity for outdoor worship services.

### **Q: Who will benefit from the space and its ministries?**

A: The primary focus will be on people from the community around the Mission Field. Heather Foley, through her work with Mission Insite (a demographic study resource) has discovered that in a five square mile area, centered on the Mission field, there are 2,207 households. In those households there are strong connections to outdoor exercise and entertainment (jogging, bicycling, soccer, basketball, etc). One of the areas of focus for Saint Joseph is "Connecting Community" and the development of the Mission Field will provide space to enhance our ability to do this.

### **Q: Does the Mission Field and the programming for it follow Saint Joseph's mission?**

A: Yes. Our mission statement has three parts.

**To reach the unchurched:** The Mission Field will be a place where people who are not involved in church can gather, experience the love of Christ through community and be introduced to the saving grace of Jesus through programming.

**To develop fully mature disciples:** Part of our development as disciples is to share in serving and witnessing. The ministries on the Mission Field will provide more opportunities for people from Saint Joseph to offer their gifts through volunteer service.

**Be an authentic New Testament church:** The early church did not stay within the bounds of a particular site. They met in homes and synagogues and open fields. One reason was so they were more accessible to the community who needed to hear the message of Christ. The Mission Field will provide a place where Saint Joseph, and the community, can meet.

**Q: Does the Mission Field and the programming for it follow Biblical values?**

A: Acts 2:42-47 reminds us that the early church shared their resources commonly. They used what they had to facilitate meeting together, sharing meals, praising God, and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (46-47) Psalm 24 reminds us “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.” (1) The Mission Field is God’s, and while certainly growing crops (as in the past few years) is an honorable use of land, is that the best use of this land that God has entrusted to us?

**Q: How much is this going to cost?**

A: Cost for the initial Mission Field work will be announced as soon as the figures are received.

**Q: How will we fund this project?**

A: We will fund the Mission Field project through a Capital Fund Raising Campaign.

**Q: Will a Capital Campaign draw money from annual budget giving?**

A: If the congregation believes in the vision of the Mission Field Ministry, we should expect to see financial commitment and giving. \$565,000 in donations was received during a three month period in the fall of 2004 to purchase the 30 acres of land without a formal capital campaign. Our congregation does have the potential to successfully fund a capital campaign and maintain our annual budget.

**Q: Will we consider debt financing?**

A: At this time it is the intent to completely underwrite the cost of the site development.

**Q: When would we begin our Capital Campaign and how quickly would we start construction?**

A: The Capital Campaign would begin very soon after approval of the plan. The beginning of construction would immediately follow a successful Capital Campaign.

**Q: How much would it cost to maintain the Mission Field once it is completed?**

A: Approximately \$10,000 annually would be needed for general maintenance. Areas of the Mission Field that are not used for athletic fields would be planted with a “low-grow” natural grass that would not need to be mowed. It would grow to a height of approximately 12 inches. We are also considering “rain gardens” and other ecologically sensitive ground coverings.

**Q: Will there ever be a building/Sanctuary on the Mission Field?**

A: We believe there will be. What we believe we have discerned is that God has not led us to building at this time. However, our discernment, as a church, continues and God may lead us to building in the near future. Our faithful response is to continue listening for God’s leading.