

# FCC - Our Relocation Story



God's will is always easier to see behind us than in front of us. He rarely reveals more than one step at a time, and we seldom see the entire path. The FCC elders have clearly seen God working throughout our relocation efforts, and we want to recap his divine interventions.

*I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly; I do not seal my lips, Lord. Psalm 40:9*

For at least a decade, the elders have sensed God wanting to do something more at FCC. About seven years ago, this sense moved into a definite vision of a growing church at FCC—and we knew our current property limited that vision. We explored the options to expand at our present location. Our efforts to buy the property just north of the church on Murfreesboro Road proved fruitless; same with our effort to swap property with the subdivision east of us on Hwy 96. Nothing worked. We concluded it was time to look for a new place.

The first thing we needed to do was get out of debt. God blessed our Focus on the Future campaign, and four years ago we paid off our debt. We were now in a position to buy new land. FCC is one of only a few churches in Franklin east of I-65, and we believed it was important to stay on this side of town. But choices were very limited. Nothing along Hwy 96 was big enough, or close enough to the freeway. Going north toward Cool Springs doubled or tripled the price.

Then unexpectedly, a real estate broker approached us regarding a 35-acre farm less than half a mile from FCC that had not yet been listed for sale, and the owner preferred not to sell to developers. After several months of negotiating and what could only be God's intervention, our offer was accepted. Not only were we able to acquire the 35 acres, but we were only required to purchase 25 acres at closing for \$3.8 million and could purchase the remaining ten acres for \$1.2 million at a later date. FCC members voted to approve the purchase. Truly the Lord was helping us take the land.

After buying the land, we hired a design/build company that specializes in building churches and plans for a new building started to take shape. The elders and staff toured two churches constructed by our builder and are convinced that an open floor plan will allow a "community feeling" that we could never have at the present location.

As expected, the enemy opposed our efforts. FCC endured a painful leadership change, but God led us to David Welsh who, among his many gifts, has significant experience in church building projects.

An important piece of our relocation is the sale of our current property. Prospective buyers tend to balk at waiting two years to take possession of property after purchasing it, which is the time needed for us to stay on our current property while we build on the new property, so we were not receiving any offers. After some time on the market, a nearby church made an acceptable offer, but the agreement was contingent on the sale of their property. They experienced the same issue that we had and received no offers on their property because of the two-year possession requirement.

In December of last year, Erwin Brothers Entertainment (a company that makes Christian movies) came to Nashville looking to relocate from Birmingham, Alabama. After seeing nothing in the Nashville, Brentwood or Franklin areas that suited their needs, Jon Erwin toured the FCC property and deemed it perfect for their company. He offered us our full asking price and agreed to lease back the current church building to FCC for two years while we build our new building. Upon also seeing our new property on Clovercroft and discovering that FCC was contractually required to purchase the additional ten acres within the three years remaining on the purchase agreement or lose the right to acquire the acreage, Jon offered to purchase the ten acres now and then sell the ten acres back to FCC at the same \$1.2 million price within ten years when we were financially ready. This was nothing short of a miracle as this would permit FCC to continue moving forward with our relocation plan and allow FCC's vision for ministry on the total 35 acres to remain intact.

The most exciting part of these transactions is that our current property will continue to be used for Kingdom purposes. Today we ask you to affirm what God has been doing on our behalf and prayerfully consider the sale of this building and the related 10 acres.

The FCC Elders