

## a letter from Monte

God has been writing a story of hope and redemption and it started here in November of 2001. God called a group of followers to plant a church at 990 Star Shoot Parkway in Lexington. God has remained faithful and NorthEast Christian Church has been reaching people in Lexington and surrounding counties for nearly 20 years.

What motivates us is the charge that Jesus gave, known as the Great Commission, in which He calls us to make disciples. We are committed to that mission. From the little ones who visit NCC Kidz, to those who have walked with God for decades and everyone in between, we have had the opportunity to minister to our community and share the hope of Jesus Christ.



When I began as Lead Minister in January 2012, we owed \$10 million on our debt. We never missed a mortgage payment through seasons of highs and lows, and we have slowly chipped away at the debt, little by little. Then God did something that was immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine. In June of 2019, we owed \$8.9 million with a fluctuating interest rate and pre-payment penalties of \$900,000. Our hands were tied. This debt has tethered us, slowed us, and hindered our ability to do ministry the way God has called us to do ministry.

### Then God moved!

Christian Financial Resources (CFR), who we had been working with for a couple of years, negotiated with our mortgage lender and was able to purchase the debt for \$5.5 million. If you're doing the math, that's a \$3.4 million forgiveness, that only God could have orchestrated. Today, with mortgage fees, our debt totals \$5.63 million. God has done more than we could imagine with our finances. Ephesians 3:20 says "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us" and we have already seen what He can do.

That brings us to today, where God has placed us in a unique situation. We have a

3-year, interest-only loan and are allowed to pay as much down on the principal as we are able. At the end of the three years, we will restructure our loan into a traditional mortgage.

So we have launched **more than**, an initiative designed to move NorthEast further in our spiritual maturity, as we grow in faith, stewardship, and generosity. One focus of this initiative will be to increase giving through offerings and commitments above and beyond our congregation's tithes, which will enable NorthEast to pay down our mortgage.

Every dollar paid on our loan principal during this period will lower our monthly mortgage payment and reduce our interest payment, releasing resources to be used for more ministry.

But **more than** is much more than eliminating debt. It's about others. 10% of contributions will be given to several ministries to build facilities for an orphanage in Africa, provide resources and volunteers for two local ministries that minister to those involved in the sex industry, and serve underprivileged children at Liberty Elementary.

It's also about growing our faith by trusting God more. It can expand our vision to see what God can do. We can even experience a **more than** miracle. It's about our mission to make disciples.

On November 10, we will host a special Commitment Sunday, in which we are asking for each of you to stretch the bounds of generosity so that we can free up resources to do more ministry and bless others. We are praying that we will see the largest giving Sunday in NorthEast's history and commitments being made to join with us over the next 25 months to pay as much of our principal as we are able.

So please consider your gift to **more than** on November 10. Let's pray that God will stretch our faith as we give generously and then pray again to see God do immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine!

On mission with you,

Monte Wilkinson

Lead Minister, NorthEast Christian Church