

Dear Refuge Family,

I want you to know how humbled and grateful I am to serve you. Your consistent faith in the Lord is very encouraging. The Lord will most certainly bless you all for the sacrifices you have made to support Pastor Settles and this congregation. I am certain the world has presented many traps and diversions to discourage you, but you prevailed because you've put your trust in God. Just as Nehemiah had to stay focused as he rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem, we too must maintain our focus on Christ as He leads us into our next phase of service.

The promises of God, whether for an individual or a congregation, will come with obstacles and challenges. God's promise is that He will never leave us and that He will lead and guide us to all truth. To experience God's promises, we must continue to trust Him.

There are two known factors that must be exercised to succeed in God's will: prayer and the study of God's Word. As a church, we know these standards must be paramount in our lives. The leadership team, in an effort to see God's favor on our ministry, re-committed ourselves to holding mid-week bible study and consistent corporate prayer for the congregation.

Refuge Church's foundation is in the study of God's Word and Prayer. There are many who can testify about their miraculous encounters as a result of this church and our stand for the Lord. We believe there is a heart stirring revival taking place among us. One thing about a God-driven revival is that it's contagious. We want to expand and grow far beyond our level of our thinking since the time when we first received Christ. This expansion and growth will reflect and positively impact our thinking and actions.

Our greatest desire is for us to become more selfless and more focused on others. We want the Holy Spirit to purge our lips as He did for Isaiah, and we too will say, "Here am I Lord, send me." We want a renewed heart for nurturing and discipling others, that they may know Christ in a way that's livable. We want our refreshed hearts to feel a strong passion to love and touch those who are unchurched.

This refined direction that we're seeking and believing God for requires your support and prayers. We sincerely ask that you stand with us, as we go forward to the next phase that God is so lovingly preparing for Refuge Church. We're asking three things in our prayers for this phase: first, the Lord's favor in the Olney area; second, influence and connection with those who will help build us up spiritually and financially; and third, that our outreach center will be paid in full.

Again, we appreciate your tireless effort and the support you give so unselfishly. We believe that with God, nothing shall be impossible. As we enter this last quarter of the year, please plan for completion and success in every endeavor. May the Lord bless you and keep you through His gracious power.

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Orlando*