



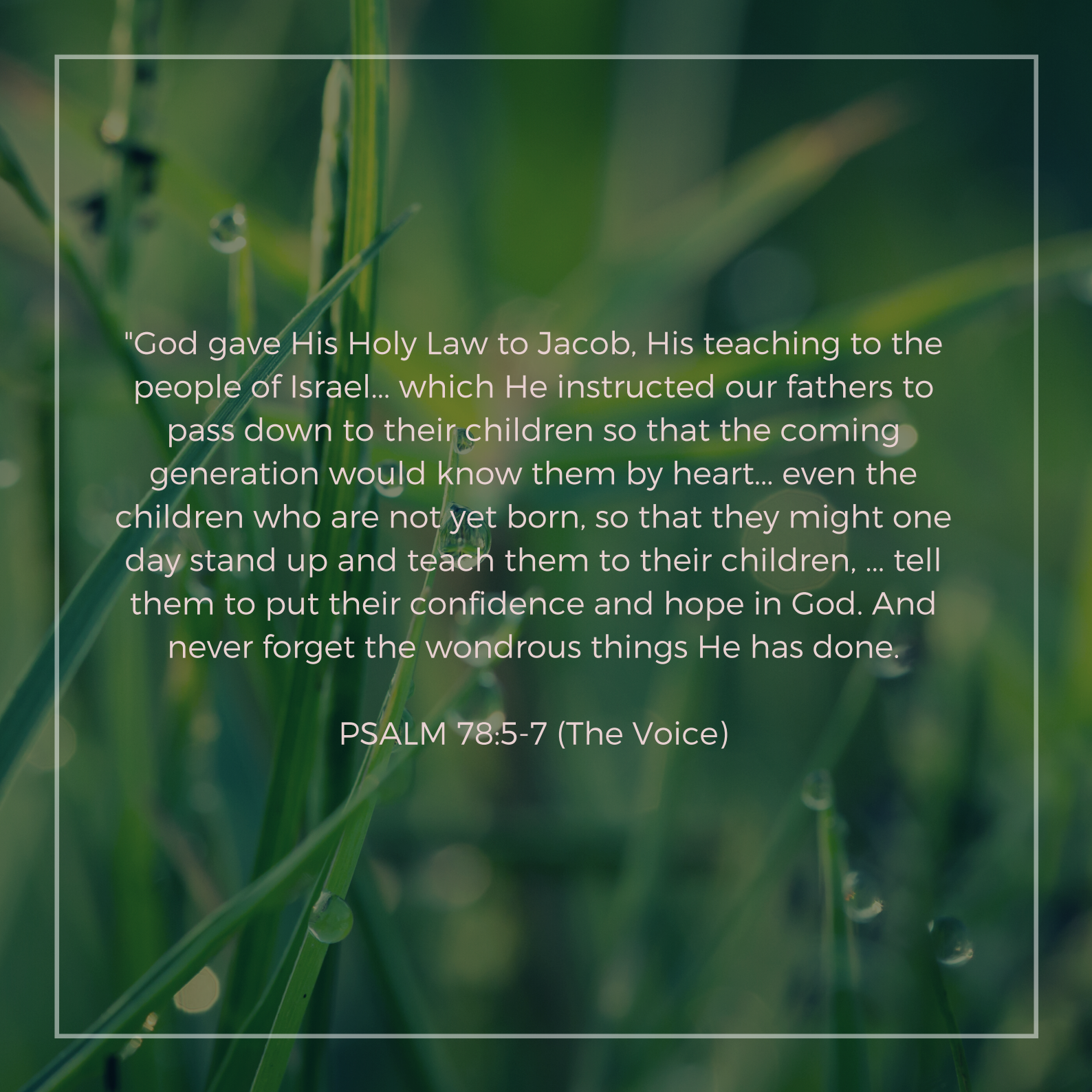
STICKY FAITH

We pursue a "Sticky Faith" reality - where the faith of one generation becomes the transformed faith of the NEXT.

*Blessing Children
Strengthening Families
Building the Kingdom
2020 and Beyond*

ebc
edwardstownbaptistchurch





"God gave His Holy Law to Jacob, His teaching to the people of Israel... which He instructed our fathers to pass down to their children so that the coming generation would know them by heart... even the children who are not yet born, so that they might one day stand up and teach them to their children, ... tell them to put their confidence and hope in God. And never forget the wondrous things He has done.

PSALM 78:5-7 (The Voice)

WHAT IS STICKY FAITH?

Most parents would give anything to anchor their children with a vibrant faith that sticks and continues to mature into adulthood. Yet, despite this deep desire, statistics indicate that up to 70% of youth drift from their faith when they go to university or into the work force, and leave church by the age of 22, not to return.

We know that parents and grandparents who are attracted to and connect with a community of faith, will introduce their children (or grandchildren) into that community.

Our hope is that one generation will pass on its faith, a STICKY FAITH, to the children, youth, and young adults of the next generation. A faith that is both personal and communal, celebrating a relationship with Jesus and others, a faith that is mature, but also growing, that will STICK for their whole life.

We need useful, attractive, and contemporary space for all generations and cultures, where children, youth, young adults and adults form a vibrant community of faith and experience the Yahweh God who desires to have a personal relationship with each of us.

OUR JOURNEY

Edwardstown Baptist Church (EBC) began in 1904, when a Gospel seed was planted with a group of Jesus-followers deciding to establish worship services in the Edwardstown district. The local Institute was secured for Sunday evening services and the Edwardstown Mission began. That seed and vision has grown into a Church that has provided a home and new life to thousands over the past 115 years, as God has directed the journey.

The journey has taken EBC from its beginnings in the Institute building to South Road, Price Street, and to St Marys, where God has directed the changes as we have developed our site to meet the needs of our community.

God has been at work in the lives of the Jesus-followers who call EBC their spiritual home, and the community that we connect with. However, the needs of our city, once known as the City of Churches, have increased hugely. There are people in places that now have little contact with the Gospel.

We are called to be a missional community; Living God's Story Together across the generations and cultures, from newborns to the aged, from new arrivals and second generation Australians, to those with deep Australian roots.

OUR JOURNEY

Reliable research tells us that almost 80% of Jesus-followers choose that pathway before the age of 21. In fact, many of us are Jesus-followers because of the seeds planted by our Sunday School teachers, Youth Group leaders or at youth or children's camps.

As early as 1916 it was in our church record that "There were more positive things regarding the Sunday School, where 28 scholars responded on Decision Day". In 1948 "Sunday School numbers were increasing" so that the Sunday School was moved to Sunday morning instead of the afternoon time. Towards the end of 1959 the Church was keenly searching for a means of accommodating the ever growing Sunday School. In 1964 "the All Age Sunday School commenced in April with 400 people on the roll. The Children's Department had 300 regularly attending".

We have a calling to continue the legacy left by those who have gone before us. We have the responsibility to:

- Bless Children
- Strengthen Families
- and Build the Kingdom

As we embrace this, it is exciting to visualise lessons being learned, the families being strengthened, and the way the kingdom is being built in the lives of these children, and families.

EBKIDZ TODAY

We take very seriously our responsibility to keep children safe. The Sticky Faith initiative will firstly impact the safety and effectiveness of our children's ministry as we construct new children's education space in the main building. This will remove the need to have our children travel across the car park. In addition to keeping our children away from the car park as they go to EBKidz, our children's safety will be greatly improved when they can be checked into the children's area by their parent or carer. The parent/carer will then go to the auditorium in the same building, with the additional benefit of having quick access to their children immediately after (and where necessary, during) the worship gathering.

With our current Sunday morning EBKidz program, immediately after the morning service and children's program, we are actually creating a "divide", as families head across the car park to pick up their children from the EBC Community Centre. Unintentionally we are separating families from our highest "connect time" in the church foyer as they cross the car park to go and pick up their children immediately after the service. It is a significant part of this building initiative to bring children and families back from across the car park, so as to be able to participate in the "connect time" that happens immediately after the morning service. We seek to maximise our opportunities to share life together.

Whether we like it or not, our buildings "speak out" about what we value... and with aging and dated facilities we are making an unintentional statement about the value we place on children (and children's ministry). It's time we addressed this.

VALUING THE GENERATIONS

IF WE ARE TO BLESS CHILDREN, STRENGTHEN FAMILIES, AND GROW GOD'S KINGDOM, WE NEED TO:

- **build a contemporary and effective space that serves our children, youth, and young adults as they are taught about a God who loves them.** A space of colour, imagination, life, and contemporary technology.
- **create a secure children's play area and adult community area, accessed from the foyer.** In a day of increasing risk to our children, we are mindful to build a ministry centre that ensures the ongoing safety and security of our children.
- **update the current church foyer to facilitate hospitality and connection.** A significant part of this hospitality conversation is that it will allow our young families to “stick around” after the service to build connections/relationships, instead of crossing the car park to collect their children. If we are to serve the families of our area, and our church family, this is an absolute priority. *The gospel always travels across relationships, not programs.*
- **build areas/spaces for children with special needs,**
- **build accessible toilets.**

ACCOMPLISHING THE VISION

1 *Pursue and Support Effective Staff*

The effectiveness of any strategic initiative and ministry is linked very closely to its leadership. So, the priority here has been to hire and support the very best staff person we can to lead the EBKidz ministry. With this in mind, the EBC leadership have hired a GREAT pastoral presence (Children's and Families Pastor) in Dan McGee in 2019, as an addition to the Next Generations ministry team.

2 *Increase the Volunteer Workers and Leaders*

Following staffing, volunteers are the most important piece. We will only be as effective as our volunteer ministry team and this means that we recruit, train, empower and support a team of children's leaders who love Jesus, and love children!

ACCOMPLISHING THE VISION

3 *Facilities Update*

Some of our ministry facilities (including the children's areas) are 60 years old, having been updated in some areas about 30 years ago when EBC relocated to St Marys. Our auditorium and foyer is the newest part of our facilities, having been updated 12 years ago. Our foyer and kitchen are becoming tired and dated due to the continual use.

We estimate that it will cost some \$400,000-\$500,000 to bring everything up to date through maintenance and modernising the buildings. This is without expanding and improving the space that we have, so that it is much more attractive for the current generations, and will serve for the next 20 years or more.

Our Master Plan includes an expansion of the children's ministry area, as well as completing the rejuvenation of the Community Centre, which will include the installation of a lift for more ready access for the 2nd floor.

We see a multi-use nature of the space – where we can run meetings, create training space, create smaller meeting spaces (up to 150 people) to facilitate funerals, weddings, youth meetings, and community meetings.

In order to do all this, we will move the current church offices from their current location across the car park to adjacent the EBC Community Centre, in order to free up the space in the main building to develop a contemporary and effective children's ministry space. It will also involve removing 32 car parks on southern side of church building, and replacing them with other car parks on the church property to facilitate a secure outdoor area.

ACCOMPLISHING THE VISION

4 *A Focus on Young Adults and Other Generations*

We have a vision for using our rebuilt space for more than a few hours on a Sunday. It will be available for youth, young adult groups, other EBC ministry groups, and community activities. We are trusting God to show how with more clarity.

We believe we are called to revive our building into an innovative and contemporary space for use by our youth and young adults.

We have a hope of training leaders through our young adult community to be the leaders for the future.

To this end, we are working on how this equipping should look, including developing and implementing mentoring & internship programs using some of our rebuilt space.

5 *Embracing Flexibility and Change*

If we are to grow in our capacity to serve more families, and more children, then we will embrace a flexible attitude when it comes to how we structure and program our Sunday morning gathering. Recognising that change is a welcome part of growth, we will do this by:

- shaping our worship services that youth and families are excited to be a part of
- be open to scheduling multiple services in order to free up volunteers and ministry leaders
- becoming more multimedia friendly
- embrace (and celebrate) that a lot of our growth will come from multi-cultural families. This will impact the way we function, worship and work as a church family. It will also mean that we will embrace our emerging identity as a thriving, multi-cultural church community.

PURPOSE

The Sticky Faith Initiative will:

- Embrace the challenge of developing our Community Centre and Gymnasium in order to facilitate local engagements including: Gwen's Pantry, Community Centre kitchen, Op-Shop, and possible Gymnasium upgrade
- Address the current “duty of care” challenges in discipling and serving our children, families, and multiple generations
- Greatly improve the kitchen and hospitality area
- Provide facilities to enable us to facilitate a future weekday training centre
- Provide a small Chapel for intimate funerals, weddings, meetings, etc.
- Provide a variety of meeting and/or conference areas
- Update and make compliant disabled and general toilet facilities
- Create a contemporary space that is both specific and multi-use
- Make the hire of the Auditorium more attractive with associated hospitality facilities

FUNDING

How Will We Fund This?

There are four stages of the Initiative:

		<i>Cost</i>	<i>Accumulative Cost</i>	<i>Funding Required</i>
Stage 1	Renovation for new offices	\$373,000	\$373,000	Nil
Stage 2	a) Renovate and extend the new EBKidz Space (~200 children) Foyer and hospitality space	\$1,726,000	\$2,099,000	\$929,000
	b) Finish renovating the Community Centre	\$150,000	\$2,249,000	\$1,079,000
Stage 3	Extend the EBKidz Space further (~300 children)	\$571,000	\$2,820,000	\$1,650,000
Stage 4	Extend the Auditorium part to provide prayer and storage areas	\$310,000	\$3,130,000	\$1,960,000
	Gymnasium upgrade (future considerations)	yet to be costed		

The cost of the initiative will be funded by:

- Monies raised through sale of housing property of approximately \$1.17m
- Possible Government grants
- Leaving the remainder to be raised through our faith giving

Our hope is that this season of change and 'building' is NOT just about "buildings"...but more about what GOD is building – and God always builds people.

THE GENEROSITY CHALLENGE FOR US

In your hands, you hold a document that challenges each of us collectively as a church, as well as individually, asking you to consider being part of investing in the future:

- We have a mandate to pass on our Sticky Faith, and invest for the next generation
- We have buildings that are improved to create fantastic space to this end
- We commit to a pathway of "Extravagant Faith" when we invest in our facilities in order to more effectively engage our local community
- We need to pray, serve and give to make this happen

It will require all of us to be sacrificial with our resources and time, and go outside our comfort and be willing to adopt new ways of leaving a legacy for the generations that will follow us.

Let us be amazed as God shows us:

- The investment God is asking each of us to make for the sake of His Kingdom impacting the next 30-50 years.
- The legacy we will each leave for future generations, given that we cannot take the resources God has entrusted to us to Heaven.
- The part we will each have in God sized giving, as we see God at work.
- How He stretches our imagination and faith, as His Kingdom grows.

EQUAL SACRIFICE, NOT EQUAL GIVING

We cannot all give the same amount, but we can all give an equal sacrifice. King David declared, "I will not make an offering to the Eternal One, my True God, that has cost me nothing." (2 Samuel 24:24, The Voice). David understood that if the gift is to touch the heart of God, it must first touch the heart of the giver!

Just imagine what could happen if we do not limit God by our humanness. Is God asking you to consider a commitment (over the next 12 months) of \$250,000, \$100,000, \$50,000, \$25,000, \$10,000, \$5,000, or some other amount?

for future generations \ 13

CREATIVE WAYS TO GIVE

Giving from Excess

Perhaps you have been saving money for a major purchase, such as a second home or a big holiday, that upon reflection, could wait awhile.

Sell an Asset

Our assets can be turned into cash. In the early years of the Christian movement, Christians like Barnabas sold extra property and donated it to the needs of the Church. Why not run your own garage sale or make a Gumtree sale?

Redirecting Present Expenditures

Perhaps you are able to take a part-time job with some extra time you have and use this to give more to the Initiative. This is especially true for families who are grown up or are living away from home, and for semi-retired couples.

Redirecting Expiring Expenditures

As you think about your financial commitment, think not just of your potential to give right now, but also of your potential to give in the future. Often, families have significant short-term expenditures for special needs. A commitment that finishes in a few months or a year, may free up cash which could then be directed to this project.

Leave a Legacy for the Future

Make provision for God in your will and estate planning. Having a conversation with a trained professional who understands estate planning will help establish a plan that prioritises God with your possessions.

MANAGING YOUR PERSONAL DEBT

Here are 10 proven ways to help you erase your own personal debt, to help you find the money you'd like to give to Sticky Faith:

- Compare car, home and life insurance to see if you can bring down your payments
- Downgrade your Foxtel package or get rid of it entirely
- Disconnect your home phone if you have adequate mobile service at your home or downgrade to a cheaper package
- Try to buy mostly sale items or generic brands at the supermarket to reduce your costs
- Review current expenses like magazine subscriptions, newspapers, manicures, gym memberships, etc.
- Find friends that you can trade services with...haircutting, handyman, photography, babysitting, pet-sitting...
- Give homemade gifts, baked goods or services IOU's rather than expensive presents
- Set a spending limit with family at Christmas and/or draw names
- If your haircut is too expensive, find a less expensive stylist or see if your hairdresser will cut you a break on price temporarily
- Pack your lunch – not once a week but regularly

"COMPASS" is a financial management course that EBC will run in the new year (2020). It is designed to help manage/eliminate debt, shape household and personal budgets, and maximise our generosity.

The "COMPASS" course has blessed many families, and will be available again to help you align your finances with God's priorities.

HOW DO I DETERMINE THE AMOUNT?

PRAY

Pray individually and, if you are married, pray as a couple. Ask God to individually place on your heart an amount to give.

ASK

Ask yourself what amount of money you desire to give, an amount which you believe God could provide for you to give.

DISCUSS

If you are married, get together with your spouse and share the gift amounts you think God has laid on your heart. It's likely that you will have decided on different amounts. If so, continue to pray, ask and reflect. If you're not able to reach agreement after going through this a few times, choose the lower sum as your gift.

REFLECT

Give yourself a few days to consider this amount; now ask yourself:

- Am I joyous about this amount?
- Is my gift sacrificial? What will I give up to enable this amount?
- Is this amount an expression of my faith in God?
- Am I convinced that I can give this amount with the motivation of worshipping God and an attitude of thankfulness?

PLEDGE

Once you reach an agreement on your gift amount, complete the Commitment Card and bring it along during our "Pledge" period in April, 2020.

GIVING TO STICKY FAITH

Giving to the Sticky Faith Initiative needs to be in addition to regular giving so that our existing ministries do not suffer. We cannot afford for our general operating budget to take a financial hit because people just redirect their current giving to this project. We want our ministries and mission endeavours to flourish.

The Sticky Faith Initiative will run for 15 months with giving concluded by 30th June, 2021.

There are a variety of ways to give. You can set up an automatic payment payable to a special Sticky Faith Account. In addition, there is GET GENEROUS mobile giving, credit card, EFTPOS, and giving envelope for cash and cheques. In each situation, please specify 'Sticky Faith' in the reference field (or on existing giving envelopes include in the 'Designated' line or specify as 'Sticky Faith'). This will avoid confusion with regular tithes and offerings.

WHY IS THERE A DIFFERENT BANK ACCOUNT FOR THIS INITIATIVE?

Financial commitments to Sticky Faith are different to our operational/general offerings. A separate account helps provide transparency around the different purposes of both accounts. Giving for Sticky Faith will not be used for ongoing operational costs.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO DESIGNATE MY GIFT TO THE SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THIS VISION?

Some people love brick and mortar. Others are more passionate to see new ministries begin. Others have a leaning towards mission. Sticky Faith launches us forward in all these areas. Each of them plays a part in our 2020 and Beyond vision. As such, giving is made to the whole project.

SO FAR

- Over the past year, we have vacated tenants from a number of the houses that EBC owns, in order to sell them and raise significant funding for the proposed building initiative. The purpose of this is to limit the amount of funding we will need to seek from the EBC community. To date, we have sold 3 properties.
- Many of the council permits and approvals have already been sought and granted for the proposed building redesigns.
- Architectural plans have been drafted to:
 - redesign the relocated EBC office adjacent to the EBC Community Centre
 - maximise and recreate effective children's ministry space within our main building
 - accommodate the parking needs of the EBC community with the changed building Master Plan.
- With the assistance of the SA Government, renovated and equipped part of the Community Centre as the new home for Gwen's Pantry.
- Started the updating of the Community Centre. We are also envisioning new plans to maximise community engagement in the Community Centre as well as, possibly the gymnasium, if funds become available.

PRAYER

- "Unless the Eternal builds the house, those who labor to raise it will have worked for nothing. Unless the Eternal stands watch over the city, those who guard it have wasted their time."
Psalm 127:1 (The Voice)
- Any "kingdom building" activity is ALWAYS done in partnership with God, and His Spirit. So, a part of our ongoing process to "bless/strengthen/build" will involve prayer.
- We will be seeking prayer partners during this process, as we seek God's provision, and His pathway. Any great building program recognises that the only real "building" that God is interested in is the "building" that happens in our hearts as we move with God.

NOTES

