

“Trading Spaces”
Devotion for Leadership Campaign

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Have you seen the television program “Trading Spaces?” It is one of my wife’s favorite shows. Friends agree to exchange homes for two days while they redecorate a room in each other’s house. The homeowner has no idea what their friends are doing until the changes have been made. As you would expect, the final minutes of the show are filled with surprises as each couple goes home to see what their friends have done.

This evening, I want to encourage you to do some trading. I want to challenge you to trade a dream you have for another dream. Let me explain.

During capital campaigns, leaders talk about the need for church members to make sacrifices to achieve financial goals. I understand this logic and have used it many times. Tonight, however, I want to take a different approach.

A couple of weeks ago, Jackie and I were watching “Trading Spaces” when it dawned on me. This is what we need to do. We need to trade a dream we have for the use of some of our resources for a dream that God has for those resources. This is precisely what we have done.

Like everyone here, Jackie and I have no money that is not connected to a need or a dream. We have no resources that are lying around waiting for us to decide what we’ll do with them. Quite frankly, I don’t know anyone that has. To the contrary, I would be willing to say that all of us have more dreams than resources.

So, supporting our church in this capital campaign has not occurred because we found a stash of money that was not going to be used for anything and decided to give it. Instead, our support has come from trading a dream we had for this money for a dream that God has.

All my life I have believed that everything I have is God’s, not mine. I am a steward and honored to be. I am flattered that God would be so generous and trust me with His resources. Down through the years, I have sought His will for the time, talents and resources He has entrusted to my care. I try not to ask, “How much I am going to give God,” but “How much of His resources am I going to keep for myself?” Sometimes, answering that question means I need to trade dreams.

Isn’t this what Jesus asked his disciples to do, though? Didn’t he approach Peter and challenge him to trade his dream of fishing with a boat and net for fishing for men? Did not he ask Matthew to cash in his dream of being a lucrative tax collector for being his disciple? Didn’t Saul even trade his name along with his dream and become the missionary Paul?

Trading dreams is not new with you or me, is it? The concept has been around a long time.

Why do you think the disciples traded dreams? I think it had something to do with an irresistible offer from Jesus. As much as they loved their dreams and the direction it was taking them, it was not strong enough to make them resist Jesus’ offer to trade

dreams. Somehow they knew that his dream would reap greater rewards and I have to believe it did.

I hope you have made your commitment to our campaign a matter of prayer because if you have, I know what He has said to you. "Trade your dream for mine and follow me."

By the way, the last time I traded my dream for his was January, 1999. That was the time I followed Jesus to Atlanta and the Smoke Rise Baptist Church. It was the best trade I ever made. I can hardly wait to discover the blessings of trading my most recent dream.