

The Mission

1730 S. Federal Hwy #267 • Delray Beach, FL 33483
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Mission Family,

On Monday of this week I called an urgent meeting of all the ministry team leaders and some of our intercessors in my living room. I shared with them some challenging news. I felt fortunate that I have never had to have that type of meeting due to a matter of moral failing, marital strife, sickness, or division in the leadership of The Mission Delray. The news was urgent nonetheless.

I received a phone call from Ms. DePuma, the principal of Orchard View Elementary that due to staffing issues, they would no longer be able to honor the lease we have with them. She said that she was unable to find a way around it and wanted to tell me as soon as possible. Likewise, I wanted to tell the ministry team leaders as soon as possible as well.

As it stands right now, this Sunday is the last Sunday we can meet at Orchard View Elementary.

We have been meeting there for two and one half years and have a great relationship with the administration. We were not asked to leave. We did not lose our lease. Ms. DePuma has put in requests to the district for help but none has been found.

This is as much out of her hands as it is ours. At the same time, it is clearly in the Lord's hands.

When I got the news I immediately remembered the message the Lord had for the house the day before. You can [watch it here](#) or download the [audio here](#). If you don't do it now, at the end of this letter go back and listen to or watch this word I delivered to the house.

God was not caught off guard by this. In fact He has been speaking repeatedly to the intercessors about us moving. In the past few months several people have had virtually identical visions or dreams of us meeting in a new location but with more people.

I also have been talking about and investigating the possible location for permanent offices or meeting space for mid week gatherings. It was not my plan for that to be the week of Christmas and certainly not on a one week notice.

In my meeting Monday night, after I shared our circumstances, reminded the group what the Lord had been speaking to the house, and answered the obvious questions, we took this to the Lord in prayer.

God spoke clearly to each person in the room that He is in control. We are not to be distressed because He is in the midst of this. Sometimes it is hard to believe that God can be in the midst of our discomfort but the Bible clearly shows that sometimes to follow Jesus, you have to get out of the boat. . . literally.

We say time and again that The Mission Delray is not built for comfort, it is built for power. It is important to remember that strength is forged in fire. If we are going to be the church we are called to be, we have to be faithful even when the going gets tough.

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Let me be clear. Every person at the team leader meeting felt that God was in this and in the end we will call this season of transition a win for The Mission Delray. We have not received a single word of correction or warning from the many apostolic and prophetic voices that the leadership of this house is in relationship with. When I shared this situation with the elders in my life they each have encouraged me. This is not God correcting us. At the same time I believe God is forcing us into where He wants us.

The most important thing we can do right now is to pray.

Right now we are following up on leads for a location for Christmas and New Year's Day service. We are also looking for the best place to store our equipment while we find a permanent solution.

As I told the leaders, please do not forward the location of every empty storefront you come across. Right now we are looking at locations that are already zoned and structured for large groups to meet. If you or someone you know has access to a medium sized meeting location with smaller rooms for children's ministry in the Delray Beach area we would love to talk to them.

Let me reiterate, The Mission Delray is a healthy, growing church. Last night I posted on Facebook that I was going to prayer walk this request and fifteen people showed up to walk with me. This Sunday we will give out almost a dozen baptism certificates.

The Mission Delray started as an outreach that just kept growing. Before beginning Sunday morning services we met in my living room, a small Haitian church, Holiday Inn, Pompey Park, and Cason United Methodist Church. God was with us in every location and we have partners today that joined us at each stop along the way.

Orchard View Elementary has been great to The Mission Delray and I wish the transition could have been smoother but it is time for the next chapter. If we can drag this one out a little longer we will but it is clearly time for a shift.

Again, please keep this in prayer, do not be dismayed, God is in control. We are truly excited to see how God reveals His goodness to us in this next chapter of our church's future.

Again, be sure to catch the prophetic word for the house from this past Sunday. You can [watch it here](#) or download the [audio here](#).

Yours in Christ,



Carl Thomas
Lead Pastor
The Mission Delray