Grand Reopening of 101 E. Orangethorpe Ave.

**Dedicated to God for His Purposes**

**[INTRODUCTION]**

We are gathered here today for the Grand Reopening of this building @ 101 E. Orangethorpe Ave., Anaheim, California. We are here to dedicate it to God and to His service. In 2020 this building was closed because of COVID restrictions, and more recently because of renovations, but today it is opened again for God’s purposes.

**AS WE BEGIN THIS DEDICATION CEREMONY, AND BEFORE WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD WHO HAS MADE ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE, I WANT TO US TO SAY THANK YOU TO THE MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE WORKED TIRELESSLY ON THE RENOVATION OF THIS BUILDING**

* The Rock’s Tech team
* The Rock’s Band
* The Rock Staff
* A TON of young adults
* Many other volunteers
* Adonay Gutierrez
* Alex Sierra
* Luis (? Last name)
* Anthony Lozaño & family
* Herald (? Last name)
* Joe Geist
* Corey Theetge
* Jared Nitzel
* Matthew Hernandez
* Reegan Young
* Paul Pisenko
* Francisco Toledo
* Charles Atkins
* Mike Stark
* Jonathan & Marlene – Anaheim Campus Pastors

**[JONATHAN SHARE]**

**[THE HISTORY OF THIS BUILDING]** (101 E Orangethorpe)

* The original church’s move here
* September 12, 1999, Kimberly and I were introduced—in this room—as the senior pastors of Solid Rock church.
* September 19, 1999, I announced that the church was closed, and that we would be having weekly meetings to prepare the opening of a new church.
* April 9, 2000 was the first of three consecutive Grand Opening weekends… and this was the only building The Rock had…anywhere
* TODAY’S GRAND OPENING IS DIFFERENT
	+ Since we opened, we’ve planted/helped plant 35 other churches which are not part of The Rock
	+ We currently have active house churches in 42 cities in Southern California and across the US… and just getting started
	+ We currently have 9 online ministries… and counting
	+ The Rock still has 7 active campuses in 6 cities

**THE IDEA OF A PLACE FOR GOD TO DWELL AMONG HIS PEOPLE CAME FROM GOD HIMSELF**

**Exodus 25:1–2, 8 (ESV)** The Lord said to Moses, **2** “Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. **From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me**. **… Verse 8** And **let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.**

* V2 – The cost to renovate this building was much, much more than the contributions given toward it, but we did not borrow a penny. Everything has been paid for form the reserve funds that the Lord has provided. And for every person whose heart moves them to contribute toward this ministry project so that our reserves can be replenished, you can give toward the Heart for the Harvest fund of The Rock Anaheim Congregation.
* V8 – God wants this to be a place where we meet Him

**THIS IS WHY THE TABERNACLE OF MOSES WAS BUILT**

**Exodus 40:32 & 34 (ESV)** **When they went into the tent of meeting, and when they approached the altar, they washed, as the Lord commanded** Moses. **… Verse 34** **Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.**

* V32 – God commanded that when they approached the Lord, they should be washed… that’s true at home, in our cars, etc.
* V34 – the cloud covered the tabernacle and the glory of God filled it

**IT WAS GOD’S IDEA TO HAVE A PLACE TO DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE, BUT IT WAS DAVID’S IDEA TO BUILD GOD A HOUSE**

**2 Samuel 7:1–7 (NLT)** When King David was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all the surrounding enemies, **2** the king summoned Nathan the prophet. “Look,” David said, “I am living in a beautiful cedar palace, but the Ark of God is out there in a tent!” **3** Nathan replied to the king, “Go ahead and do whatever you have in mind, for the Lord is with you.” **4** But that same night the Lord said to Nathan, **5** “Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord has declared: Are you the one to build a house for me to live in? **6** I have never lived in a house, from the day I brought the Israelites out of Egypt until this very day. I have always moved from one place to another with a tent and a Tabernacle as my dwelling. **7** Yet no matter where I have gone with the Israelites, I have never once complained to Israel’s tribal leaders, the shepherds of my people Israel. I have never asked them, “Why haven’t you built me a beautiful cedar house?” ’

**AND THOUGH GOD WOULD NOT ALLOW DAVID TO BUILD IT BECAUSE HE WAS A MAN OF WAR, DAVID PROVIDED MUCH OF THE NECESSARY RESOURCES FOR HIS SON TO BUILD IT**

**DAVID SAID TO SOLOMON…**

**1 Chronicles 22:13–19 (ESV)** … Be strong and courageous. Fear not; do not be dismayed. **14** With great pains I have provided for the house of the Lord 100,000 talents of gold, a million talents of silver, and bronze and iron beyond weighing, for there is so much of it; timber and stone, too, I have provided. To these you must add. **15** **You have an abundance of workmen: stonecutters, masons, carpenters, and all kinds of craftsmen without number, skilled in working 16 gold, silver, bronze, and iron. Arise and work!** The Lord be with you!” **17** **David also commanded all the leaders of Israel to help** Solomon his son, saying, **18** **“Is not the Lord your God with you? And has he not given you peace on every side? For he has delivered the inhabitants of the land into my hand, and the land is subdued before the Lord and his people. 19 Now set your mind and heart to seek the Lord your God.** …

* Vv15-16 – The house of God not only requires financial resources, but it requires many ministry roles to be filled for it to function proficiently
* V17 – A well-run ministry also requires many leaders to take responsibility for various areas
* V18 – David reminds the people that if it had not been for the Lord, they would not be enjoying His blessing in their lives
* V19 – David called everyone t set their minds and hearts to see the Lord

**SO SOLOMON BUILT THE TEMPLE & WHEN IT WAS FINISHED, HE DEDICATED IT WITH A LENGTHY, HUMBLE & POWERFUL PRAYER… HERE’S HOW IT BEGAN…**

**2 Chronicles 6:13–15 (ESV)** Solomon had made a bronze platform five cubits long, five cubits wide, and three cubits high, and had set it in the court, and he stood on it. Then he knelt on his knees in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven, **14** and said, “O Lord, God of Israel, **there is no God like you, in heaven or on earth**, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart, **15** **who have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him**. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day.

* V14 – Notice that Solomon began his prayer by declaring that there is no God like our Creator… and that He has kept every promise He made

**AS SOLOMON WAS CLOSING HIS PRAYER OF DEDICATION, HE PRAYED THIS…**

**2 Chronicles 6:40–41 (ESV)** Now, O my God, let your eyes be open and your ears attentive to the prayer of this place. **…** Let your priests, O Lord God, be clothed with salvation, and let your saints rejoice in your goodness.

**GOD WANTS TO MEET US HERE… AND SO ENRICH OUR LIVES THAT WE REJOICE IN HIS GOODNESS.**

**OF COURSE WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS BUILDING WILL NOT BE THE ONLY PLACE GOD DWELLS ON EARTH… FOR ONE THING, IT IS NOT THE ONE-AND-ONLY TEMPLE AS IN SOLOMON’S DAY… BUT ALSO, THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT EVERY BORN-AGAIN BELIEVER’S BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT… YET STILL, WE COME HERE WITH MANY OTHER BROTHERS AND SISTERS TO MEET GOD, AND TO WORSHIP HIM TOGETHER AS HE DOES HIS WORK IN US.**

**THE PURPOSE OF THIS BUILDING & CAMPUS**

The purpose of this building and campus is not facilitate typical, traditional campus-style ministry. God has expanded us, and we must embrace the scope of His assignment on our church. So… the purpose of this campus is:

1. To be a place where people of all ages can come to meet with God in His presence… to be saved, healed, restored, refreshed and to receive pure and uncompromised teaching of the Word of God.
2. To be a house of prayer. There should be prayer meetings happening in this place every week.
3. To be a place for Regional Pastors, City Pastors, House Church Leaders and Online Ministry Leaders to use so that the Great Commission and The BFAM Strategy continue to advance far beyond borders of this campus.
4. To be a place where God’s people can come to use their gifts and talents for God, and to be trained to be proficient in the ministries God has given them.
5. To be a place where people from the community can find God, and be loved by God’s people.

**AS I PRAYED THIS WEEK, THE LORD GAVE ME A PROPHETIC WORD TO SHARE WITH YOU … I WROTE IT DOWN AND I WANT TO READ IT NOW ... HE SAID…**

“I’m not looking for an event, I’m look for a people. I’m not looking for a building, I’m looking for a church. These are truly the final days, says the Lord. The stakes are high and the consequences are great. There is no middle ground. Those who serve Me, and follow My instructions will be pleasing in My sight and reap an abundant harvest for the kingdom. I will bless them and favor them. I will lead them and guide them. I will protect them and provide for them because they are truly My servants. Those who do not serve Me, and those who do not follow My instructions, will neither please Me nor fulfill My purposes for their lives.

This house, this church, shall be called a house of prayer. If My people will sincerely call upon Me, I will answer them. I will walk with them. I will do signs and wonders in their midst. I will show My glory.

Put away from you that which is unclean. Repent of your disobedience, your complacency, serving money, and the relentless pursuit of pleasure. If you will serve Me I will walk among you. I will be your God and you will be My people. And I will bless you and cause you to fulfill your divine calling as a church. If you will serve Me and not yourselves, I will dwell in your midst, and I will cause you to be fruitful, to multiply, and to prosper. And your heart will say, ‘I have never felt more fulfilled in my life.’ All of this I will do if you will follow Me, says the Lord.”

**A COVENANT WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE ROCK**

The Lord wants to make a covenant with us. He calls us to make whatever adjustments He chooses. He wants us to be like Jesus from 12 years old when He said, “I must be about My Father’s business.”

It doesn’t mean that everyone quits their job or abandons their relational responsibilities. But it does mean that in everything we do, we do unto the Lord, and for His purposes. It means that when He speaks to us, we follow Him. It means that we take the God’s Word seriously. That we pray fervently. And that we pursue the Great Commission with passion.

God will call many of you to lead, or help lead, a house church. Not because it’s your preference, but because God is seeking to save those in your own neighborhood, and in the neighborhoods where your house church will plant yet another church. God has not commanded us as a church to consolidate, but rather to be fruitful and to multiply. And that will happen because many of us are all willing to go if and when God calls us.

God is calling many right now to serve in ministry here in this house of God. And here’s how you can sign up to serve: There is a flyer in the bulletin that you received, if you’ll put your name and contact info in it, and choose one or more ministries you’re interested in, our team will reach out to you and help you get involved.

**[PRAYER OF DEDICATION]**

So we’ve come now to the point of dedication. We originally planned to gather to dedicate this building as a House of God, but now God is calling us to also dedicate ourselves as the people of God, and to rededicate this ministry, The Rock, as a ministry committed to prayer, and the passionate pursuit of the Great Commission… to be fruitful and multiply.

**SO LET’S STAND NOW TO DEDICATE:**

1. This building – 101 E. Orangethorpe Ave., Anaheim, California
2. This ministry, The Rock – every campus, every house church, every online ministry
3. Ourselves, the people of God