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## **Greater Grace Church Moreleta Park**

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### **WHY ARE WE MOVING TO A NEW BUILDING?**

As we have grown throughout the years so has our vision for the work of God. In 2017 we decided to relocate the Pretoria church from Arcadia (Pretoria) to a new location on the other side of town called Moreleta Park (Pretoria). We realized that we needed to be in an area with more families and more stable households to grow the church and be sustainable in our growth and discipleship. The move came as a massive leap of faith as we did not have the financial capacity for the new building. But for the first time, we would have a place of our own, a place we can make a home for the church. Previously we had always rented chapels or buildings shared by other people and thus we could never really settle and make it home or even be there at any time. Thus we took the step of faith and trusted God for the new building's rent and expenses, which was double that of the place we were in then. When we moved we had nothing for the building, nothing but an old sound system and some cups for tea and coffee after church.

Looking back now we can clearly see God's faithfulness in the last 3 years as He has blessed us with so much. Since we moved we never came short for our rental payments, not even once. God has added to our church everything we needed to do His work and to build His church. God has also been blessing us with many new people and families in the church. We are eternally grateful for what God has done and for every person that has contributed to His work in every and any way.

This year has been a tough year, for the whole world, we found ourselves not being able to gather for several months due to Lock-down restrictions, but even during those months, God carried us. And as soon as the government ended the hard Lock-down we opened the church doors on the very next Sunday. Slowly people started coming back to church. But then, against all our expectations the church started growing even beyond where we were at the beginning of the year. We have also been seeing many souls come to Jesus Christ by faith both in church and in our evangelism to the local communities.

With this new growth came new opportunities and new challenges. We now have a delightful problem on our hands where we no longer have enough space to cater for our Sunday school. With the increase in Families we have been seeing many new children come to church and the space we used before for the Sunday school has not been sufficient for some time now. With the children's spiritual wellbeing on our hearts, we started looking at new solutions to find a space where we can have Sunday school. We approached the owner of the property that we are leasing from to see if we can perhaps use a small portion of the vacant building next to us for our Sunday school on Sundays. The building has been vacant since the Lock-Down in April 2020 and we

thought that it will be an affordable option for us just to rent a room there on Sundays, or at the most, just rent the bottom floor.

After meeting with the property manager and owner they advised us that they are not interested in leasing out the building in part but only as a whole. They asked us if we would perhaps consider moving into the building and taking over the whole building for our church. To be honest, at first, we did not think much of the idea as it would mean that we have to start all over again in terms of turning the space into a „Home“ for our church, and on the other hand, we knew that we would never be able to afford the rent, not even taking into account the cost of renovations and fitment.

But we told them we will pray about it, we can never assume God's will for us, but we must ask and listen and follow. So we prayed, and prayed, and prayed some more. We spoke about it, considered the options and the vision. After some time we decided to take a step of faith and put our feet into the water to see if it will part. We put in an offer for the monthly rental for the building, something way below what we knew the owner wanted for the building. We offered them the same amount for the whole building as what the previous tenants paid for the ground floor only, effectively cutting the price in half. And about two days later the owner responded with a response we did not expect. With slight adjustments to the price and the conditions, they accepted our proposal. When we heard the news we were filled with joy and with a sudden shock, realizing that this is all real, realizing what God is doing, realizing that now it's time walk through the waters that God has parted for us, an exhilarating but equally scary road to walk on.

Suddenly the vision we have had for our church for so many years became a clear possibility and not just a dream.