

CITY BAPTIST CHURCH

CHURCH PLANTING IN THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GA

Mark and Katie McElreath and their five children are church planters in Atlanta, GA. City Baptist Church began holding services in November 2021 and chartered in March 2022.



A CHURCH HOME!

We rejoice to report that the church property has been officially secured! What a miracle the Lord has done for us! We saw the Lord's hand in every step along the way. Here is a condensed recap of how it happened.

We remember when we first stepped foot on this property. Our previous location had let us know that we were not allowed to renew our lease. Our church was growing, and our needs were beyond what they we could accommodate. Our search for a new property led us to our current property. It was not for rent and it was not for sale, but it was an abandoned church building in an amazing location! While Mark walked the property, peering in windows, Katie started googling the property and found an image from when it had been for sale 4 years prior. We called the number in the picture and 5 calls later, we miraculously talked to one of the owners themselves.

This particular owner asked if we wanted a tour and allowed us to see inside the building. It was a much larger space than we needed, yet we felt the Lord was at work. The owner told us we could purchase the building for \$4 million—an impossible amount for us. Not wanting to miss the mind of God by having too small a vision, Mark sought the Lord to try to discern what He wanted. The Lord very clearly assured us this was His will. One of the verses that God used was "Be strong and of good courage, and do it:" (1 Chronicles 28:20-21)

Full of assurance that this was what God had, we contacted one of the greatest financial minds in the Lord's work that we knew, Dr. Charles Prescott. "I see it!" He exclaimed when we described what God was doing. He graciously boarded a plane and helped us negotiate a rental agreement that allowed us to rent for three years while coming up with the \$4 million to purchase the property. We were also allowed to renovate and then move our family into the top floor of the building. The new landlords warned us that they were not responsible if we were homeless at the end of the three years. They were very clear of one thing: if we did not come up with the \$4 million at the end of 3 years, we must vacate the property.

Still, the Lord kept us fully assured. The owners were somewhat surprised we wanted to continue forward and demanded a guarantor for the property. If at anytime, we could not make our rent payments, the guarantor would have to step in. We could not find a church able to be a guarantor in the amount of time they gave us to find one. We prayed about what the Lord would have us to do, and He impressed us that we personally would be the guarantors. Obviously, we did not have the 3 years' rent if the Lord did not come through, but He is always trustworthy! He assured us He would come through.

We got the keys to the property on the exact Sunday we needed them! This testimony is already too long to recount our Lord's great faithfulness over the past three years! He has provided every month. With being a church near a college campus, our congregation looks different every season; yet the Lord has financially provided during each season. He has provided through rising property taxes, and necessary maintenance. He has saved lost souls, helped believers find victory over their sin, and has given courage to believers to begin sharing their faith with others. He has reassured us in the uncertain times and kept our feet from falling. He has been so faithful!

In January 2025, Great Commission Properties, a non-profit that purchases church buildings in cities, told us they wanted to purchase our building for \$4 million! God had provided the money for them to be able to do this. We were overwhelmed at God's provision!

In June 2025, we met with the property owners to announce we were ready to purchase the building. "We never thought you would actually come up with the \$4 million," they commented. "We just thought you would maintain it until we were ready to do something with it." In their disappointment, they made the closing process drag on as long it possibly could. We gathered as a church family and marched around the church praying. The Lord came through and just 10 days later, we officially closed on the property! Great Commission Properties will hold our property until we either purchase from them or get a conventional bank loan to purchase the property. The Lord has come through in such a miraculous way, and it has been so exciting to watch our great God in action!

Watch our Announcement at <https://tinyurl.com/yruardr7>

Prayer Requests

- Building Dedication - October 26
- Souls to be saved
- Laborers to go to our cities
- Boldness in Evangelism

Contact Us to Get Lots More Stories and Pictures in the Email Newsletter!

Find us online for more updates and pictures!

