



Miracles Great and Small: Using Public Shares to Build a Church

Building or purchasing a church home is a big undertaking for any congregation. The Camrose congregation had for several years been building the financial base required by the North American Division with the goal of building a modest 4,500 sq. ft. church on the only piece of land available in Camrose for such a purpose—which they already owned. After doing the cost and membership analysis, however, they concluded they could not afford to build.

They had been faithful stewards.

The new pastor, Olaf Clausen, could see the deep desire for a permanent home and was confident that God would open a door, though what that door would look like wasn't clear.

That was when the miracle started to happen.

Through relationships that had been built in the community, the little congregation found themselves at the top of the list as preferred purchasers of the local Pentecostal church. Five other local congregations were on the waiting list.

With a lot of goodwill on both sides,

an agreement was reached, and the Camrose congregation began worshipping in their new home in October 2012. The need for funds to renovate and pay the mortgage was answered by donations from within the congregation and outside of it. One of the important gifts was made as a direct gift of public shares.

The shares, purchased many years earlier, had appreciated significantly. The donor discovered that giving the shares to the Alberta Conference for the benefit of Camrose rather than selling them and giving cash would

See & hear from the Camrose pastor and first elder in the video on the website: www.albertaadventist.ca/means&meaning or ask your pastor for the DVD copy provided to your church.

RESOURCES



On-going Miracles - An in-kind gift of a grande piano was also received recently.



Pastor Olaf Clausen and his wife, Rhonda, believed the Camrose congregation's faith and good stewardship would be rewarded. They and, indirectly the Alberta Conference, continue to contribute sweat equity—many hours of physical labour—in renovating their congregation's new home along with building contractor and first elder Ken Taylor.

The Camrose congregation had been without a permanent home since August, 2002, when part of their land was expropriated by the city and their small church demolished. Their new "Miracle Church" is almost four times the size, and the congregation is growing, thanks to the many and varied contributions of its members and friends—such as the gift of shares.

Gift of Shares

\$1 Cost to donor



\$3 gift to Church

significantly increase the money that would go to help Camrose. By transferring the shares, the donor avoided the requirement to pay capital gains tax, and also got a tax credit worth 50% of today's value of the shares. This credit could be used against other taxes owed for the next six years (see diagram).

Through the donor's tax-savvy stewardship, money that would otherwise have been paid as tax was transformed and dedicated to a higher purpose: establishing a permanent house of the Lord in Camrose.



Lynn McDowell
Director of Planned Giving I Philanthropy
Alberta Conference

Gift of Shares

\$10,000 Shares
Purchase Price: \$2,000

Give direct

Church
Gets: \$10,000

PLUS

Donor pays no tax
plus gets a \$5,000
tax credit!

Cashed

After Tax: \$8,500

Graphic illustrating Gift of Shares
(created by Higher Path)