

In the News

Prestonwood Baptist Church

The Raising of the Cross Prestonwood North Celebrates Milestone

In the shadow of their future home, more than 400 people gathered on Sunday afternoon to witness a historic moment in the life of Prestonwood Baptist Church. Pastor Jack Graham led members in a brief, yet powerful ceremony anchored in worship and prayer as a 15-foot cross was raised atop the new Prestonwood North building.

“As we lift up the cross, it’s a reminder that Jesus said, ‘If I be lifted up I will draw all unto myself,’” Pastor Graham said. “And, so, as a sign of commitment to the Cross, the cross we elevate today is a triumphant cross, the triumph of our Savior who is alive and forevermore the living hope.



“This cross will be a beacon to this community even as this church is a testimony to what we believe and what Christ has done in our lives.”



As the steel cross was hoisted into place, the crowd joined together to sing: “...O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross; Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live...” Prestonwood, a 26,000-member congregation with a location in Plano, began this second location two years ago—meeting in homes throughout Prosper, Celina and the surrounding area. The church is constructing a 77,000-square-foot facility, on Prosper Trail, just west of Coleman, which is expected to be completed in the fall.

The cross rests near the front entrance and nearly 60 feet above the ground. The east side of the building consists of the Worship Center, which will seat 1,500 people; the center portion will be The Commons; and the west side will house the Education Building. On the prairie land just south of the facility, the church plans to build athletic fields as well as a lake.

Pastor Graham is excited about the days ahead as people begin streaming in and out of the building, and motorists flowing on the Dallas North Tollway—just a few hundred yards to the west—spot the cross and the church.

“This is truly the beginning of what will be taking place at this site for generations to come,” he said. “There will be a day when there will be a 5,000- or 6,000-seat worship center on this property. This church has the potential to reach thousands of people for Christ.”

As a longtime member of Prestonwood, Mary Jane Phillips has witnessed many milestones in the history of the 30-year-old church. And she wasn’t about to miss this one.

“This was just another incredible moment, and I just know God is in control and He’s guiding and directing,” she said, “and we are blessed to have a staff that will follow that leadership and not try to take their own path.”

Teresa Robertson, her husband, Mark, and their children joined Prestonwood North when it began meeting in homes in 2006. She said the ceremony put in perspective what is to come.

“I’m looking so forward to coming and worshipping at our new building and bringing people to Christ,” she said. “As we were singing, I couldn’t help but think that my Savior was lifted on that cross and now we just want to lift Him up in everything we do.”

Prestonwood North Campus Pastor Marc Rylander said that although he visits the site daily, on this particular day it felt as if he’d never been there.

“There are certain moments in your life that are forever special,” he said. “When you stand at the altar and look into the eyes of the person who is going to be your spouse, when you watch your baby being born...For me, seeing the cross being lifted over a place you’ve prayed over and labored over; seeing the cross finally and rightfully set into place—it was one of those moments.”

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