



COUNTING THE COST

For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Luke 14:28 (ESV)

In this verse Jesus is relaying to the crowd that was following Him the cost of being His disciples. Many that followed Jesus at this time were looking for something: a healing perhaps, a miracle that would turn a small portion into a meal for thousands, a word of blessing, or maybe a leader that would drive out the Romans.

But Jesus knew their hearts and communicated to the crowd that following Him would come at a cost. He said in Luke 12:53 *"The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother-in-law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother-in-law"*. Following Jesus requires Christians to take a stand.

At KBPA, as a board and as staff, we too are starting to count the cost on a different but somewhat similar way. We are starting to explore the idea of purchasing land and building a new facility. The building would expand our current capacity from 22 to approximately 60 individuals, which would include housing and services for women.

This expansion would also require an increase in staff, more offices, etc. The ideal facility would also incorporate a worship center that could also be used for meetings and other activities. We are required to count more than just the financial cost. Do we seek federal and state grants at the cost of losing the ability to require residents to attend bible studies and church services? We discussed this in 2013 when KBPA was just getting started. We said that we did not want to get in a situation where we had to rely on grants like this.

So, we are counting the costs and counting on the support of the community. There are also questions to be answered. Do our communities see the value in walking alongside the men and women who are seeking a new and different life as they re-enter society? What would be the cost if these men and women do not get the help that they need? Would it be just more of the same brokenness that led many of them to a life of addiction and incarceration. The cost to build will be high, but the cost to these men and women could be even greater if we do not.

Please pray for the board and staff as we count the cost.

Thank you

Jeff

Jesus, I will wait for You.

Through pain, tears, and uncertainty, help me to not become weary but to rest in Your provision.

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