

Testimony – Spencerville Adventist Academy Building Committee Chairperson Merle Poirier.

In 1998 the Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church decided to build a brand new PK through Grade 12 private educational facility. An ambitious project for one church, the congregation stepped out in faith in the Lord's leading. Thinking the project might take a few years in fundraising and construction, its actual complete date was in 2011—14 years later! While a journey full of challenges and sometimes discouraging turns, it clearly would not have been as successful had it not been for our partnership with Nitz Development and Construction.

The Nitz team came to us through a providential encounter with one of our building committee members. We were just about to make the decision as to who would manage the construction from three potential interests when it was arranged to interview Bob Nitz. The interview lasted several hours and it was clear by the end that this was the company whom we should select.

The mission of Nitz Development is to build churches and schools connected with churches. The ability to work directly with someone who is a Christian and understands what churches are about is invaluable. Working with churches can be a unique challenge since all of the people involved are volunteers and often consider themselves construction managers in their own right. This can make committee work challenging as well as reveal the measure of one's patience. Because Nitz has worked primarily with churches, they come into meetings confident, willing to take the time to explain, as well as listen to ideas. Their presence, both Bob and his son, Dwayne, brings a degree of confidence to the room, which makes difficult options and decisions easier to discuss and manage.

As building committee chairperson and project manager, I spent many years working as the point person with Nitz Development. I always found them (including Cindy York, office manager) courteous, available, and interested. I especially appreciated the freedom to speak in faith-related terms including time to pray about challenging circumstances. Our project, which took so many different turns over such a long period of time, was especially prone to times of discouragement. It was nice to know that you had more than just your church praying for your project and to hear periodic calls of “good news” from Nitz demonstrating that we were moving forward albeit not always at the speed either of us desired.

When we first signed with Nitz, it was without written financial terms. The project was tied up in preliminaries that should have taken several months, but instead took several years. Other companies might have moved on or demanded some payment, but Nitz worked with us for some time simply because they had signed a letter of intent. They demonstrated their commitment to us early in the process and never relented. This often involved many hours dealing with county regulations, workers, and meetings. Once the time came to bid the job, they came in with numbers that were amazingly low compared to other projects in the area.

The building that now stands at 2502 Spencerville Road is a tribute to God's leading a church and a builder. It is a building that has all the latest innovations and technology including being LEED certified (completely led by Dwayne Nitz). The building is routinely complimented by those who enter, including being used as part of a PBS documentary series on excellent education. After it was built, Nitz continued to monitor the building and assist with maintenance issues long after the construction was completed simply as part of “good service.” He also has been willing to help work with county issues related to bonding issues or inspections up to two years after project completion.

I can highly recommend without reservation Nitz Development and Construction. To make them part of your team is to have already determined the success of your project.

Merle Poirier, Building Committee Chairperson , Spencerville Adventist Academy