



17 September 2008

Dear Family

This is our second official update on the building project. I have spent more time in this update in fleshing out the specific points of praise and prayer and would ask that you set aside time to pray through these issues.

### Response by Council

The council have provided a written response to our application for planning approval along with a verbal report provided to architects [Sanders Turner & Ellick \(STEA\)](#). The response received was mixed with some feedback being encouraging whilst others presenting some challenges. These are outlined as follows:

1. The council requires that the “crossover” (the entrance to the property and the car park) must come off Brisbane street rather than off Shakespeare Street as is drawn on the plan.
2. There must be a 2m landscape strip between any parking, driveways or buildings and the northern and eastern fence lines.
3. We will most likely have to comply with (and pay for) the redevelopment of the footpath on the council strip to comply with council’s new standard, which you can see if you walk up and down Victoria Street.
4. The proposed number of car parks (48) whilst being 7 less than the council requirements has been accepted.
5. We are permitted to build closer to the Shakespeare and Brisbane Streets if necessary, with the “setback” reduced from 6m to 3m.

The end result of this feedback is that the plans need to be altered in order to be acceptable by council. Whilst we can look at the current plans and speculate as to the impact of the changes, it will be up to the architect to take original requirements, the current plans and the new requirements by council to come up with a new plan. This plan may involve only subtle changes to the plans we have seen, or they may need to be more substantial. At this moment, the best we can do is pray that all of these things can be worked out.

So right now, we wait upon the revision of plans by [STEA](#) which, once completed, will be circulated for review before being resubmitted to council. It has always been expected that we would need to make some alterations to the plans and resubmit them, so please do not presume that we are back to square one ☺.

I find a few positives in the response from council, however it is also very easy to focus on the negatives. Realistically, some of the feedback from council *may* result in additional construction cost. It may also result in some form of compromise on a few of our requirements – which we would all need to consider before deciding to proceed. However, the most important thing to remember is that we serve a God that created the heavens and the Earth; a God that can raise the dead and part the oceans. On a scale of difficulty, finding a solution to these problems does not even rank in comparison with the power of our God.

The passage listed to the right may sound familiar. This was the inspiration for the song “Everlasting God” by Brenton Brown which we have been singing over the past few months at church. We are reminded through this song that “our strength will rise as

<sup>28</sup> Have you never heard?  
Have you never understood?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of all the earth.  
He never grows weak or weary.  
No one can measure the depths of his  
understanding.  
<sup>29</sup> He gives power to the weak  
and strength to the powerless.  
<sup>30</sup> Even youths will become weak and tired,  
and young men will fall in exhaustion.  
<sup>31</sup> But those who trust in the Lord will find  
new strength.  
They will soar high on wings like eagles.  
They will run and not grow weary.  
They will walk and not faint.  
— *Isaiah 40:28-31 (NLT)*

**Praise Points:**

- Council have accepted our plan's provision of car parking spaces and provided concessions on setbacks.
- For the diligent and gracious services of Steve Turner and Sanders Turner & Ellick Architects.

we wait upon the Lord". During the course of this project, we will have many obstacles and challenges to overcome. Our response must always be to lay these before the Lord in prayer and ask for his wisdom and understanding. He is always in control and he is not unaware of our needs. Only when we fully trust in Him will we find new strength and receive his direction. You can listen this song at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jP2nz6PG8KM> (if you have broadband).

## Property Development Committee

You will recall from the last update that we wish to establish a committee to help with the administration of the project. So far, Ivan Riching and Di Lindores have graciously volunteered to provide assistance and we intend to meet in the very near future to, at the very least, go through the project plan and pray through some of the issues we face. There is no set number of people on this committee – if you feel that you could contribute, please feel to contact Steven Tye. Even if you are not sure, I can provide you with a scope statement for this committee to explain what its responsibilities will be – and these are not just limited to the building itself. Also important is the coordination of prayer, providing communications updates (like this one), fundraising and accounting.

## Budget Estimation

The MBC Board have always been conscious of trying to reach a suitable compromise between the size and scope of the building development and the ultimate cost of delivering that building. Effectively, the direction given to the architects was to work backwards from a maximum development cost of 1.2 million dollars and deliver the largest possible building within council regulations. However, until plans are finalized with council and a relationship established with a building, the likely final cost is still uncertain. Once a final cost and budget has been estimated, after council approval has been received and the project has been fully costed by a builder, this must be taken to church members in a special general meeting for discussion and approval. More information will be provided regarding pricing as the project progresses. This is obviously a point for continual prayer for wisdom and God's provision.

## Next Update

In the next update, I hope to inform you of the progress of the alteration of our plans for resubmission to the council and will discuss the all-important project fundraising process. Over the next few weeks Pastor Jock and I also hope to provide a DVD update on the project. If you have any questions about the project, please email them to me and we can respond to them.

Yours in Christ

**Steven Tye**

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**Prayer Points:**

- That the new council requirements can be easily and quickly accommodated in the plan.
- That there will be no cost implication for having to make adjustments to the plans, specifically the requirement for development of the footpath.
- That council will approve our request to delay the removal of the church manse to reduce cost.
- If it is not possible to retain the manse for a period of time, pray that God will provide alternate suitable short or long-term accommodation for the Whittaker family.
- That God will raise up people from the congregation to help in the administration of the project.
- The final estimated cost of the project be within expectations and that God will provide for our financial needs.