



11 February 2010

Dear Family and Friends

Welcome to a brand new year at MBC! With every day, Mackay Baptist Church draws nearer to the commencement of its building program. For those that are new to this fellowship, let me take the opportunity to introduce you to the MBC building project: its history and how you can be involved.

Mackay Baptist Church has been actively pursuing a solution to its property situation since 2005. Numerous alternatives have been explored and exhausted, and the best solution has been to completely redevelop the current property on Shakespeare Street which was endorsed by church members in 2009. The problems with our existing facility whilst obviously including crowding during Sunday morning services, also includes lack of facilities for Sunday School and other ministries. You can see the current plans for the new building on the walls in the church or on the church web site.

Project Status

You may recall the announcement just before Christmas last year that Mackay Regional Council had formally approved our building development application. A few provisions will need to be addressed by the engineers / builders with some additional expense (to be determined) including sewer upgrades but these are not likely to be "show stoppers". We give praise for this approval – we originally submitted our application with council 18 months ago!

Work is now in the hands of our architects and a number of sub-consultants including planning for electrical, mechanical and civil engineering as well as landscaping. This work is expected to be largely complete within the next few weeks which will allow the builder to provide a firm quote for all work. Unless there are any surprises with the quote process, we would therefore be looking to vacate the Shakespeare Street property by early April 2010. We won't give a specific move-out date just yet (the last ones we have given have slipped causing a little confusion). Rest assured, we will give at least 6 weeks notice before we need to relocate!

Progress over the past month has probably been slower than expected due to diminished capacity by our providers over the Christmas period. However work is now running at full speed.

Temporary Home

When the time comes to move out of our current buildings, we will be meeting in temporary facilities for up to 8 months, depending on any building delays. We had previously expected to be using the former Sugar Research Institute conference facility on Nebo Road during this period – however this option is no longer available to us and an alternative has been selected.

Unless there are any further surprises, we expect to be meeting at the former Parkside Timber and Hardware building located on Bridge Road, South Mackay. The owners of this property (Parkside Group) have graciously allowed us to have exclusive use of this building on a short-term lease at an encouraging rate. Unlike the SRI building, the Parkside building has enough auditorium space to comfortably seat everyone in a single service. We will also have exclusive use of the building meaning that we will not need to frequently set up sound equipment and furniture every morning. We can also use the building during the week if needed.



The challenge with this property is that it will require some effort to make it fully usable, safe and welcoming.

Obviously for a short-term use we don't want to spend too much time and money on improving the building, however some work will be required to increase the usable space available for small groups like Sunday School and KFC and also to make the auditorium comfortable and secure. This will involve a lot of cleaning, mowing and gardening as well as a small amount of building like replacing shadecloth etc. Most of this work doesn't require any specific skills – just a pair of gloves, some sunscreen and your time. The Board of Deacons is currently planning what work will be needed and announce the working bee in a few weeks once details and timelines have been finalized.

I need to say however that I am very excited about this building. Its in a great spot, will seat more people than we would ever expect to attend and is being provided to us at an extremely encouraging price. Most importantly we will be able to use it as much as we want without any additional cost. With the necessary work, it almost seems like it has been custom-made for our temporary use. We will provide more information about this property in a few weeks.

Getting Involved

There are a number of ways that you can get involved with this project:

Prayer	This project’s past and future success continues to be determined by our commitment to prayer. Please spend time alone or with others to consider the prayer needs of this project (which are listed below).
Practical Support	As we approach the time when we will be preparing the temporary site, relocating and then commencing construction of the new building, there will be increasing opportunities for assistance – including both skilled and unskilled workers. If you have a specific trade or resource and would like to offer your services to the project in some form, please make contact with Kel Purdue, Steven Tye or any of the church leadership team.
Financial Support	In July last year we prepared a DVD of the presentation made to the church regarding the project. This included a number of ways to support this project financially. Many of you have already made considerable sacrifice towards this project which is fantastic. If you would like to make a financial pledge towards the project and would like to, you can do this using the pledge cards at the front door. Donations can be made by placing your donations in marked envelopes in the offering, or through direct deposit to the church bank account: BSB: 014 640 Account No: 386467964 Marked as “Building Fund”

Prayer

Praise

- For official council development approval.
- For the continued offers of volunteer labor and services from within and associated with the church.
- For the provision of an alternate temporary home after our last one became unavailable.
- For God’s financial blessing to the church to date.

Prayer

- For volunteers to help coordinate the associated activities including refitting the Parkside building and relocation.
- For continued wisdom and protection for the property managers and other volunteers
- For the speedy completion of engineering, consultation and drafting associated with the finalization of the plans.
- For the continued provision of finances to support the project, prior to the commencement of the project and ongoing during construction and beyond.
- For the sustaining of relationships during the phase of transition and that we will not feel “displaced”.
- For the effective continuation and growth of existing and new ministries during the period of transition.
- For the health and protection of our builder, Dave Harney and his business, as well as our architects, Steve Turner and Andrew Allen and STEA.
- For the health, safety and protection of all volunteer workers on the project, especially those involved with demolition of the site.
- For the preparation of final quotations by Dave Harney – that these will be within expectations.
- That God will bless all givers (financial and volunteer) to the project.
- That the details of the use of the Parkside building will be finalized.

Yours in Christ

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Project Web Site:

www.mackaybaptist.com/property