

Hi Everyone

Before providing an update on the project, I thought I would share with you some thoughts. Personally, I do not like referring to our building project as “Building God a house”. Yes it would be technically correct to say that we are “Building our church for God”, but this still implies that we expect God to leave His holy place and physically dwell within our building which is not biblical. In my bible study this week, the following passage jumped out at me:

This is what the Lord says:

“Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool.
Could you build me a temple as good as that?
Could you build me such a resting place?

Isaiah 66:1 (NLT)

Our God has made the heavens and the earth. In Old Testament times, to even contain His holy presence, God provided Israel with almost impossibly high standards for the design of the building, its materials, its craftsmanship and its ornamentation. This was as close to “pure” and “perfect” as a flawed human race was capable of achieving. But this arrangement was temporary. God, in His infinite wisdom and incomprehensible grace had a new place in mind for His holy presence – the human heart. Like the old temple, our hearts are too flawed to contain that presence – which is why God has given us new hearts when we receive Him as Lord (Ezekiel 32:26). Christ’s death and resurrection has made this possible. God’s dwelling within us is through His Holy Spirit.

Any human efforts to try and contain God, to try and impress Him with our skills and labours, are all pointless. They are like “filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6). How can our simple building impress a God that created the beauty of the heavens, the splendour of nature and the architecture of earth? It can’t! With that in perspective, how do we respond? With love, gratitude, praise and adoration. We build because we love; we make sacrifices because we are grateful; we serve out of praise and we labour out of adoration – for we have been given much and much is expected of us in return. For our church, we believe that a building is needed to allow us to serve God through loving each other and loving those that do not yet know Him. We build because we love God and with faith we step out to fulfil all that He expects of us. If ever we question our motives for why we step out – we need to return to this truth – that with our eyes always fixed on Jesus, we will have the endurance to run the race God has set before us (Hebrews 12:1-2).

As the photos earlier in the week show – we have had yet another productive week with the slab poured and cured. When standing on the slab, you can now visualise the size and shape of the building (though it’s still a little hard without walls). Formwork is now occurring on top of the slab for the tilt-up concrete panels. We will find for the next few weeks that progress will appear to slow down as the panels are prepared on the top of the slab and once they have been poured, will be lifted and put in place in the space of a day or two – still planned for late June. We spent much time this week confirming every single power point and electrical service to ensure that these are built into the panels – as you can imagine if there is a switch on the wall of a concrete panel, you need to put the conduit in the wall now. You can’t add the switch later ☺. Discussions have commenced also with a number of audio visual companies to prepare proposals for our needs for sound equipment, video and lighting.

Progress to date:

- Slab has been poured
- Services within panels confirmed
- Formwork commenced for the tilt panels

What happens next (subject to weather):

- More formwork for the tilt-up panels

Here are some progress photos:



Site looking NE – Standing at the main entrance. Boxes will eventually contain the concrete tilt-up panels.



Looking E – Sunday School / KFC Room. We have a number of meeting and other rooms that will be used for Sunday school or KFC groups – this is the largest and will also be over flow seating for church as we will stream audio and video to this room from the main auditorium.



Looking SW – Standing in the Sunday School / KFC Room looking back towards the entrance



Whole Site looking from Tyerpower balcony

The church leadership have repeatedly stated that the key to success for this project (and every endeavour the Lord calls us to) is prayer. Please take time to pray through the following:

Praise	Prayer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry weather • We have a slab! • Good progress this week and the project is on schedule. • No injuries on site this week • God’s financial provision for the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health of the builder – Dave Harney who broke his ankle on Wednesday. • Dry weather, especially as main slab will be poured next week • Good progress next week. • <u>Safety of the workers on site.</u> • That we can find ways to minister to the workers on site. • Financial provision for the project. • Dealing with Ergon and Telstra for them to connect services.

- Monster Garage Sale fundraising event planned for 9 July.

If you have not reviewed the property prospectus, I encourage you do grab one from church or download it from: <http://www.mackaybaptist.org/property/default.aspx>. This document describes the history of the project and the ways that you can be involved with the project through prayer, financial support and volunteer services. I encourage you all to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to the project on a regular basis.

If you do not wish to receive these updates, please reply to this message with the words “**unsubscribe**” in the body of the email message and I will remove you from the list.

God Bless

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