

MBC Building Project Update #17

6 July 2011

Hi Everyone

We have walls! Praise God! If you haven't driven past the new church building, I encourage you to do so. As of yesterday, the lifting of the tilt panels was completed in good time with few issues. As you will see, the building now really takes shape and having now walked around inside it, you get an awesome feeling of the size of the building. When you have spent over 3 years looking only at 2 dimensional plans of the building, scrutinising every single room, wall, power point and pipe, actually seeing the framework of the building complete is immensely fulfilling. Still, as we all know, our joy does not come from earthly things or the things that we create, but from our Lord and it is to Him that we give the glory and praise.

I mentioned last week that the process of lifting the panels is one of the most dangerous activities on our project and that we should all pray for safety on site. God has answered that prayer – the lifting process went without major problem and with no injuries. There *was* however one event which had the potential to cause significant problems. As mentioned, each of the panels have a number. A crane is used to lift these panels into position via rigging points on the panels which are attached by chain to a piece of equipment and then to the crane (sorry don't know the technical name for this). Yesterday after successfully lifting several panels up to 20 tonnes, this piece of equipment failed when lifting a much smaller 3-tonne panel. This had the potential for significant injury or worse, as you can imagine a panel lifted up is not something you want falling on you. Fortunately (and praise God) there was no injury or even damage to the panel. This piece of equipment met all previous safety tests and standards and the contractors had never heard of this device failing in this way before. Ironically, the panel was numbered 13. Jokingly, our foreman Rick inferred that we mustn't have been praying hard enough for safety on site. I responded that he is lucky that we were or it would have been a whole lot worse 😊.

The structural steel, which was delivered on Saturday will start to be installed tomorrow. Last update I gave you a wrong date – the structural steel will be completely installed by *next* Friday, not this Friday. You will see from the photos that the panels are currently supported by temporary struts – these are removed once the steel is in place. A few final tilt panels are yet to be lifted on the front left side of the building – this was to make room for the crane to lift the panels and also the steel. Once the steel has been completed, the final panels will be lifted, enclosing the building. This has the project therefore on schedule as planned to have the roof complete by the end of July. Some internal walls will be made from block work and this will occur also in the coming weeks.

Progress to date:

- Panels lifted and in place

What happens next (subject to weather):

- Structural steel will be installed

Here are some progress photos:



Damian took this panoramic photo from the Tyrepower balcony as I was away during the panel lift.



The front of the building. The main entrance is on the right. The open space to the left is where another entrance and the crèche will be. There are a small number of panels still to lift to complete this wall. Structural steel delivered on the right.



The main auditorium looking at the stage. I must confess, when the slab was finished and I stood in the auditorium, I thought it seemed a little small. Now that the walls are up, it feel enormous.



Sunday school / KFC room.



Standing from the front of the auditorium (stage) looking back. The two walls you see will be enclosed with concrete blocks from the left to the right of the photo.

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"> • Safety and protection during the panel lift. • Good progress this week • Great progress – we have walls! • No injuries on site this week • God’s financial provision for the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety of the workers on site • Health of the our builder – Dave Harney who is recovering from ankle surgery • Dry weather • Good progress next week. • That we can find ways to minister to the workers on site. • Financial provision for the project. • All planning activities – wisdom and patience

- Queensland to win the State of Origin...

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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