

# MBC Building Project Update #40

14 March 2012

Hi Everyone

What's that you say? The property project has surely finished – why another email? Well yes – of course, we have now well and truly settled in to the new building. But I wanted to take one final opportunity to praise God for the important journey behind us but commit anew to the even more important journey ahead of us.

## Progress Update:

If you were not aware, most of the significant jobs of moving and settling in have been completed after holding our first service on 1 January. Of course, each ministry is still tweaking how they use the building, which may occur for years to come and that is all understandable. One significant job awaits us however, which is the installation of irrigation and planting of plants in the garden beds – we want this completed before our official opening in 4 weeks, plus we cannot obtain final operational works approval until it is completed. We hope to make the planting day a great working bee – with over 500 plants to put in the ground, mulch to lay etc – so expect an invitation for assistance to come from Ivan or one of the other deacons within a few weeks. Please pray for this also with good weather and for all of the arrangements to fall into place with Mark & Robyn Ziebath looking after the irrigation.

With the exception of a few small items which the Deacons are addressing, there are no more corrections and adjustments to be made to the building as part of *this* project. This does not mean that we can't make improvements in the future, but please consider that these would be all out of scope and would have a new cost which must be paid for. However, can I please make a request on behalf of all of the Deacons – if you have any such suggestions or concerns, unless they are really urgent (like the toilet is overflowing), can I please ask that you refrain from raising these at church on Sunday morning. The Deacons are mere human beings with the same desire for Sundays to be a time of worship and rest as you have. Many of our Deacons, myself included, are weary from a long journey and need a "Sabbath" just like everyone else. If all we hear on a Sunday morning is weal-meaning suggestions and poorly-worded complaints, we are being robbed of that rest. The last thing any church needs is their leaders resenting coming to church because they fear more work being put on their plate.

If you have such an idea – by all means the Deacons want to hear it – but please now send these through the church office during the week. Raise them by phone or email them to [admin@mackaybaptist.org](mailto:admin@mackaybaptist.org). More urgent items will be redirected to the relevant Deacon for investigation and others will be addressed at the next Deacons meeting. Please don't be offended if your "helpful" suggestion is lovingly redirected towards the church office.

## The Work That Remains:

You have heard me and the other church leaders repeat this several times throughout the course of this project: Our mission is not to be a builder of buildings but a maker of disciples. We now have facilities which grant us great flexibility and capacity to fulfil our church vision statement, to be "Passionate Lovers of God and Others" – something the church was unanimously called to in years' past. But our mission remains before us – to declare Christ's love for mankind; to make disciples of our city, our nation and our world. Make no mistake, the challenges ahead of us are impossible to overcome by human effort alone. But with our eyes fixed on Christ, with a heart full of love for Him and His people, we will change the world, one soul at a time for glory of God.

That journey will involve sacrifice and discomfort. "Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal 6:2). One burden we face will be the financial debt that we carry. As I said at church a few weeks ago, we are now required to be making full loan repayments in excess of \$14,000 per month, yet our past few months have full significantly short of this. If you call Mackay Baptist Church home, this is *your* burden. Pray about it regularly – consider that your generosity of all kinds demonstrates where your heart is. "Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."" (2 Cor 9:6-7).

My prayer is that all of us, myself included, in response to the generosity of God's grace and unmerited favour, would respond in kind with all kinds of generosity. Our mission is not to repay a debt, but to glorify God and proclaim the Good News. The more we cling to Christ and fulfil that mission – the more He will be faithful to meet our

material needs. “And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 4:19)

### Opening Weekend

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> of April from 10:00am – 1:00pm is our community open day. We hope to have many family activities on the day and be a real community outreach: an outpouring of love to our neighbours. This event needs people to organise activities and set up and pack up. I will not be leading this ministry – Max has put his hand up to run this event, however I believe there are also others with gifts of organisation that God is calling to assist – so please let Max know if you can help. That evening at 7:00pm will be our formal opening ceremony – more information will be provided on this, but we hope to welcome a large number of past members and delegates from the community, other churches and the Baptist Union.

### Prayer

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"><li>• We are Finished!</li><li>• God is great</li><li>• Recent patio sealing and front entry tiles</li><li>• A unity of spirit after a testing period</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completion of the remaining landscaping and irrigation activities.</li><li>• A generous church</li><li>• Those who have worked on the project and been touched by God in the process.</li><li>• Rest for the weary</li><li>• Open day and Opening ceremony</li><li>• Open day organisation</li></ul> |

### Thanks:

I feel I need to pay specific thanks to a number of people who, throughout the course of this project have been a practical and spiritual support throughout the course of this project. Firstly, my fellow Deacons & Elders who have borne the large brunt of the organisational and physical work through the course of the project. People like Ivan Ritchings, Doug Batterham, Max Streidl and Mark Ziebath have made huge contributions of work and personal time as well as a number of our elders like Vince and Jeff. Our builder, Dave and foreman Rick who have walked the journey with us every step of the way with grace, generosity and helpfulness. Our architect, Steve Turner who I think will be content to have finally finished the building he started planning about 30 years ago. The hard-working volunteers on site like Pat and John and everyone else that helped us with things from making sandwiches, soldering audio cable, mounting projectors, chopping down trees and painting walls. Recently also I thank Pat, Kel and Keith who have resurfaced the patio and tiled the front entry area.

Greater thanks must go to my wife Alison and my family for the time I have spent working, talking about, thinking about and praying about this project. They have made a great sacrifice and are overjoyed to have their Daddy and husband back. I am looking forward to a season of recuperation. I also need to thank my work – whilst I am self-employed, my staff have had to pick up the slack from the many work hours I have spent disappearing for hours or making phone calls at work – there have been a few times I have called a client and accidentally introduced myself as “Steve from Mackay Baptist Church”. Thanks to Ryan and Kellie for tolerating their boss’s absence.

Finally of course, the greatest thanks go to God for the opportunity to serve and see Him glorified through my labour. We know that no good works we could do can make Him love us more than He already does, but we serve to demonstrate and test our love for Him. We know that our worship of Him causes Him to delight in His children – and what child does not strive to bring delight to their father?

### Final Thought:

And as my final act, I hereby tender my resignation as Property Project Manager to the church. Philippians 4:13.

God Bless

---

**Steven Tye**

*Deacon: Worship*



**Mackay BAPTIST CHURCH**

Cnr Brisbane and Shakespeare Streets

PO Box 1045

Mackay, QLD, 4740

[www.mackaybaptist.org](http://www.mackaybaptist.org)

**Mobile:** 0408 071 771

**Email:** [steve@tyeware.com](mailto:steve@tyeware.com)

---

Mackay Baptist Church