



...A Time To Build...

Ecclesiastes 3:3

I have been asked many times "when are we going to start building?" It's a question I have asked myself many times as well. Whenever I reflected on that question I consistently received the answer or had the sense that simply, now was not the time. For more than two years that has been the feeling, it was just not time. But all that changed recently, about a month ago the sense I felt in my spirit and the response I felt from God now told me that the time had come. It felt a bit like the message Moses received from God as Israel was crossing the Red Sea:

Exodus 14:15 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites (the people of God in Lithgow) to move on.

It's time to move on, it's time to focus on the next step that God is calling us to and take it. It's time to build.

As we begin the process of building it's important that we acknowledge the dangers and not enter into the process lightly. The following issues stand out:

1. Aside from moral failure a church building program is the biggest reason a pastor leaves a pastorate.
2. A decline in mission, ministry and church attendance often occurs as a result of a building program.
3. A building program is one of the biggest single stressors in the life of a church.

Let us make the commitment now not to be a statistic, not to lesson our commitment to ministry and mission, to maintain our unity and commitment to each other.

First Steps

As we begin the building process I am mindful of Jesus' words in Luke's Gospel:

Luke 14:28–30 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? (29) For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, (30) saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

It would be foolish to jump in and begin building without doing our homework, gathering information and most importantly committing ourselves to prayer. With these things in mind the first things I think we need to do as we begin the process of building are to:

1. Commit ourselves to prayer
2. Establish a building committee
3. Begin gathering information regarding our needs

Prayer

Prayer will be the key and we will need to make strong commitments and be intentional to praying for wisdom and God's provision.

Before we appoint or establish a building committee we need to appoint a prayer champion or warrior to keep prayer high on our agenda and to drive and guide prayer so that it underscores and covers all that we do.

Building Committee

The building committee will gather information, keep the church informed and ultimately bring the final recommendations. It is envisaged that the building committee will consist of no more than five suitable persons.

Because of the crucial nature of the building committee it is extremely important that we define the nature and make up of the committee and prayerfully consider the people God has in mind. We won't be appointing a building committee today.

What are our needs?

As we begin the process it is important that we hear from everyone about our needs and requirements.

Everyone is invited to make suggestions and recommendations about what should be or could be included in a new ministry facility. All suggestions will be considered but not guaranteed to be included.

Our first goal is to establish a clear picture of our needs and requirements so we can take them to an architect and get a clear picture of building costs.

Building Response Form

In establishing a building committee, what requirements and skills do you consider important for those who will make up this kind of committee?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Do you have someone in mind you would like to recommend for the building committee because they meet your requirements above?

.....
.....

What do you consider are the important needs and requirements of a new worship/community facility?

Must have

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Nice to have

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Signed:.....

Please return to Grahame Edgell by the 10th October 2010