

May 15, 2010

Dear HBC Member,

Late in 2009, the Elders agreed that Hunter Bible Church should begin the process of prayerfully trying to obtain a building from which we can continue to preach the gospel and call people to meet Jesus at HBC.

Seeing how much numerical growth God has given us in the last 10 years, owning a building seems a logical “next step” for HBC. However, we do this prayerfully, not presuming anything of God’s will, and acknowledging that Jesus is sovereign over all things. We hope you’ve joined us in praying that (a) God *would* convert thousands of people in Newcastle, and (b) if owning a building would help HBC facilitate that, that God would generously lead us to give the money to buy one.

Over the past 12 months or so as we’ve been researching and considering a building, several things have happened:

1. The Building Feasibility Committee has recommended that HBC move to an acquired building, and that “buying and renovating” a building would most likely be the best value for money option.
2. The Building Feasibility Committee has also come up with a list of minimum requirements which a HBC Building would need to have, for HBC to conduct all of its ministries. This is estimated to cost between \$3m-\$4m depending on location and other factors.
3. The Elders have setup bank accounts and a Fund which is awaiting approval from the ATO to be classed as a tax-deductable fund. (The tax laws have allowances for “school buildings” which include buildings where “religious instruction” and “Sunday school” takes place. We have named the fund, the “HBC Christian Education Centre Building Fund”)
4. A building has come on the market (60 Hudson St, Hamilton) which seems at first impression to meet almost all the minimum requirements set out by the Building Feasibility Committee. It’s currently priced at \$2.3m but would need renovations.

At this point however, *there’s not much we can do until we have a better idea of how much money might get raised.*



We'd like to investigate renovation costs, council requirements, lease costs etc... but doing any of those things will cost us money. It seems unwise to put money towards those things now if we're not likely to get near that \$2.3m figure. In other words, we don't want to commit ourselves down a certain path if God is not providing the necessary resources at this point. Rather, it seems wise to get a general idea of how much people at HBC are thinking of donating to the Building Fund *before* we started asking for funds.

Therefore, we are asking if you would prayerfully consider how much you *might* be willing to donate to the HBC Building Fund. Please note (a) this is not a "pledge" (though we'd like a realistic figure, we're not taking names or expecting the amount indicated will in fact be donated) and (b) this amount needs to be considered "separate to" (i.e. "on top of") your regular giving to the work and running costs of HBC.

Also, if you are in a position to lend money to HBC at a low or zero interest rate (to lower the loan costs) please indicate that below.

Please fill in this form, put it in an envelope marked "Building Fund Donation Estimate" and return to a Sunday Congregational Red-Box or post to: PO Box 246 Jesmond 2299.

Kind regards,

Dave Moore and the Building Feasibility Committee
Hunter Bible Church
0402 026842 // dmoore@hunterbiblechurch.org

HBC Building Fund Donation Estimate

- a) I am able to give an up-front gift of \$_____ in the next 3 months.

- b) I expect to be able to give gifts of \$_____ every [week / month / quarter / year],
over a period of [1yr / 2yrs / 3yrs / 4yrs / 5yrs / ___yrs],
commencing [2010 / 2011 / 2012 / later].

- c) I am able to give a loan of \$_____,
with a repayment period of _____ years,
with an interest of [0% or _____%].

Please fill in and return to a "red box" or post to
"HBC Building Fund" PO Box 246 Jesmond 2299