



May 11, 2007

Dear Church Family,

As a Body, we have so many blessings for which we praise God:

- for bringing Art Werner and Darren Mooney to join our staff!
- that our giving for 2006 was 4.4% over budget!
- that so far this year, our giving is above our approved budget!
- for the seven missions teams and four individuals CBC sent out in the last year!
- for the seven people who have been saved through our visitation ministry since September!
- for the people being reached through out ESOL and Spanish ministries!
- for our teachers presenting the variety and quality of our Bible study offerings!
- for people discovering their gifts and area of service through PLACE seminars!

We are grateful for these blessings, but we want to press on fulfilling the mission that God has given to us, that of glorifying God by making fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ. Over the years and working to fulfill this mission, it has become clear to the elders, as well as to our ministry staff, many church members, friends, and visitors, that our facilities have become a physical restraint to our effective accomplishment of our mission. In many instances, our current facilities constrain and frame how we can do ministry.

At an elders retreat a couple of months ago, we came to the prayerful conclusion that these difficulties need to be purposefully, thoughtfully and prayerfully addressed. They need to be minimized or eliminated. As much as possible, our facilities need to effectively support and strengthen our ministry efforts. We believe that we, as a church body, need to seriously and prayerfully consider enlarging our facilities to accommodate our current ministries, as well as prepare for the people God is sending to us now and will continue to send to us.

Since I have mentioned this idea in a couple of messages, I wanted to write to you to share my heart and to address any questions that may have arisen for you. First of all, the elders and I want to assure you that we are not on the verge of launching into building a new facility. We simply believe that it is time to open this conversation.

The recent announcement about the formation of a building committee may have led some to believe that the decision has already been made without them having been included in the process or decision. This absolutely is not the case. Some broad and general guidelines have been expressed to generate discussion and assist in focusing these early efforts. These guidelines will be used by our “assessment, evaluation, and planning team” (probably a better description of what they will do than “building committee”). The preparatory efforts will involve the leadership, staff, ministry teams

and the congregation. Your approval of the people on this team will be requested in an upcoming congregational meeting.

Once the preliminary assessment work is completed, the committee will turn to studying the facility, what exactly is needed, how it can be accomplished, financing options, etc. This effort should clarify: the problems that exist today and why; what is needed and why; and how “what is needed” supports our vision and mission. With this information, we’ll be able to develop a viable plan that supports our vision and mission. That plan will be presented for feedback, adjusting, confirmation and final approval by the leadership and congregation.

The elders and I are committed to generating openness, transparency, collaboration, inclusion and participation in this journey. You should clearly understand what is needed, what is being proposed, and why. Along the way, you will be asked to make commitments and sacrifices that enable His church here at CBC, both for today and for the future, to provide ministry in our community.

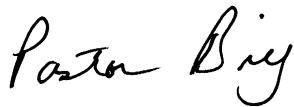
We can look forward to this as a great walk of faith as we look to Him to lead us, and we work for His good pleasure. This will be a spiritually exciting and enriching time of growth for each of us in seeing God work in and through us. We want a Spirit-energized beginning, grounded and supported by prayer. We desire for this to be deliberate, purposeful and focused, uniting the body as we explore together the possibilities God lays before us. As we walk on, we will face decisions that the leadership, staff and congregation must commit themselves to, while seeking God’s will and direction.

In the end, all this effort and planning is not about building a building. This is really about building up our people by living out our church’s mission of glorifying God by making totally devoted disciples of Jesus Christ by evangelizing, establishing and equipping all the individuals that His Spirit leads and entrusts to the body of believers here. Thinking of the list of blessings at the beginning of my letter, can you picture the new possibilities for reaching more people for the kingdom?

I want to encourage us all to stand firm and rejoice in the Lord, being of the same body, the same mind, the same love, united in Him, and empowered by the Spirit. His Spirit will lead us, protect us, and make our paths straight as we look expectantly to Him.

May we be found walking by faith, not by sight.

Pressing On,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Billy".

Billy Ross
Senior Pastor