

# BUILDING THE BRIDGE WHILE WE WALK ON IT

1. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had a game plan way in advance of everything we need to do?

Not necessarily, for these reasons:

- i) Faith issue. (Heb 11:1, 6; Rom 14:23).
- ii) God may suddenly redirect us (revelation) (Acts 16:9-19).
- iii) Sometimes a window of opportunity suddenly presents itself to us (1 Cor 16:8-9). (Be prepared to seize the opportunity!)
- iv) Resources, opportunities and key people become available that previously were not (Titus 1:5), underlining the importance of timing (Gal 4:4; John 7:6-8, 30; Eccles 3:1ff)

2. In line with point 1, iv, The Baldivis Church is a good illustration:

- i) The Church commenced in October 1992, in the function room of Leisure Inn – because it was inexpensive and available.
- ii) Six weeks later, the church needed a bigger facility to accommodate adult worship as well as kids church – hence the move to PCYC.
- iii) A year or so later, it became apparent that a more permanent facility would be beneficial; over which the church had more control, that could accommodate more ministries and office space for staff, so the church leased a warehouse in Crompton Road, in the industrial area.
- iv) As the church gained stability, it became evident that it needed a profile outside of the industrial area, where it could build an identity and a long term, quality ministry in the community, preferably in a growth area. This necessitated searching for a property on which to build facilities with an eye to the future. In 1997, five years after commencing, the church purchased 8 ½ acres of land on Baldivis Road. To have bought the property earlier would not have worked, as there was very little housing in Baldivis at that time, there was no freeway, and a total lack of facilities.  
Also the church was not in a financial position to make such a purchase earlier. Because of the need to pay off the land, and put ourselves in a financial position to build on the property, another three years passed. This gave development in Baldivis time to take place (catch up!) Not only were we ready to build in the year 2000, but Baldivis was ready for us to establish our ministry here!  
And we became part of the infrastructure of this new and growing community – with the opportunity to make our mark, and make significant connections.
- v) In 2006, the decision to subdivide our property and sell off the back four acres for \$800,000.00 (we had paid \$375,000.00 for 8 ½ acres in 1997) put us in the position to become debt free, build the Children's Ministry Centre, and hire staff. But sale of four acres and building the CMC was a "building the bridge while we walked on it" exercise. This had not been our original plan

And hiring a Youth Pastor and a Children's Pastor as well as having the purpose built facility to house these ministries gave the church strategic opportunity to make inroads into the community.

- vi) In 2010 / 2011 – the building of the Admin Centre and transforming the old office space into a foyer and bookshop was not the original plan. Initially we had thought that office space and bookshop would have been included in the 700 seat auditorium building project for which we already have planning approval. But the financial size of that project, necessitates the more protracted timeline for commencement.

The current weekend congregational growth plus the growth in staff numbers caused us to come up with the plan for Admin Centre, foyer and bookshop. Seven paid staff are now housed in the new Admin Centre and the 8<sup>th</sup> staff member has his office in the shed!

The Koorong Bookstall is housed in our new bookshop. It is one of Koorong WA's largest bookstalls.

The foyer gives immediate access to the coffee shop, bookshop, prayer room and auditorium.

- vii) We still plan to build the 700 seat auditorium in the next few years, however, the building for which we have planning approval, will need radical changes in order to cater adequately for the ministry needs that we now have.

3. We need to make our plans, but we need to be prepared to have those plans adjusted to meet the needs, the demands and the opportunities of the hour, as well as to accommodate the challenges and hurdles of the hour, and to be sensitive to the voice of God as he leads, guides and directs us (Prov 21:5; Prov 19:21).
4. Of course, another unfolding aspect of "Building the Bridge While We Walk on it" relates to the hiring of staff. Through the history of The Baldivis Church, some staff have moved on, other staff have had their roles and JDs changed a couple of times, and the nature of the increase in population in Baldivis and surrounding areas may well cause us to make more changes as continue to walk in ministry and build the bridge while we walk on it.