

THE BERREY FAMILY NEWSLETTER

A MIRACLE ON MATAHIMIK STREET



August 2017

Dear praying friends,

Many of you have contributed to the new BJMBC building! Earlier today I was thinking of the miracle happening at 125 Matahimik Street, where BJMBC's four-story building is rising. Then I realized that a good part of the miracle is really the many willing-hearted givers that God has raised up all over the world. Gifts have come in from people in Papua New Guinea, Vietnam, Burma, South Korea, Singapore, and China, besides the expected countries of the Philippines and the United States. That people in all those places have willingly given—many of them to a project they have never seen—is truly a miracle, comparable to the miraculous working David remarked on in those willing to give for the Temple that his son, Solomon, would build (I Chron. 29:14).

I would like to give you a rather extensive update about the building, since I believe you have a right to know what is happening and where we currently stand.

As you know, the amount needed has changed over the course of the project. This happened early on when we realized we could save significantly by completing the entire building rather than dividing it into phases. At that point we rounded our overall project cost down from an estimated \$1 million to somewhere around \$910,000.

Since that time, some additions have occurred in the building project. Some of these were beyond our control. The height of our building now requires **an elevator** (\$63,000). Another code with which we must comply is **a fire sprinkler system** (\$86,000). Some of this we were anticipating (for overall fire safety) but not all.

In addition, we made some needed **modifications to the chapel space** that will enable us to seat almost 500 persons (\$52,000). This will allow us to accommodate larger conferences in the future such as the Fundamental Baptist Fellowship International and other like-minded gatherings. Included in this additional cost was **an extension of the roof deck** that maximizes the available space there.

Also, our limited day-to-day cash flow has prompted advice from consultants to consider **solar panels** for our electrical needs, and a gift of \$10,000 has already been pledged to cover

about thirty percent of the cost.

Recently, we directors crunched some numbers to estimate what is needed to bring the building project to completion. We threw in numbers for everything from windows to chairs to pianos to synchronized clocks. Our estimate is that **we are only \$230,000 from completion**. Some of this is for immediate construction needs; other aspects of this can be purchased incrementally over time as God provides.

The amount remaining may seem like a large amount, but this is where I come back to the miracle of what God has already done. Approximately **\$850,000** has been given toward the BJMBC building over the last three to four years—about \$190,000 of that in the last three months alone. This means that we are at about **79 percent of our updated cost of just over \$1 million** (\$1.08 million, to be exact).

Let me just assure you that **we are doing our best to be careful with the money you are investing** in the project.

Every decision is thoughtfully weighed. We have, on occasion, waited to see God's hand of provision before proceeding on a planned aspect of the building. We have incorporated ideas that will keep future maintenance at a minimum. Repeatedly, our considerations have come down to the realization that we are stewards of a relatively-small 623 square-meter lot (about .15 of an acre), and we are trying to maximize that space in every possible way. We believe that, by God's grace, we stand poised for growth and want our building to be ready for whatever He does in the future. In addition, we want it to be a place where He is glorified in the look, use, and feel of it.

So, thank you! Thank you to those who have given. Thank you to those who have prayed. Thank you to those who have rejoiced with us. May God continue the miracle of making His people willing to give. May all of us—myself included—be made willing to give all that God wants us to give in order to see this project completed. Truly, anything that we have given is really His anyway. And to Him belongs all the glory.

—Tim and Laura Berrey

Watch a video update on the building at
livewithamission.com/bjm-bc-building-project

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