

BUILDING GOD'S HOUSE

JOHOR BAHRU BAPTIST
CHURCH

29-Jan-16

BUILDING GOD'S HOUSE

- 1990 >>> Eviction Notice from Land Office.
- Aug-00 >>> My letter to Bro Steven Choong, chairman of JBBC.
- Jun-01 >>> “Trust me, as a ‘property man’ I believe
- 11-May-03 >>> Eviction Notice from MBBJ.
- Aug-03 >>> formal application to Land Office to convert land for religious activities.
- 06-Apr-05 >>> **A miracle!** Approval from State Government for conversion of land category from residential to church. Total time taken: 20 months!
- TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

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- *2 Samuel 7: 1, 2 After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had **given him rest** from all his enemies around him, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent."*
- The year was circa 1042 BC.

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- *2 Samuel 7: 5 – 7 “Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, **did I ever say** to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” ’*

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- Jan-06 >>> Building Fund stood at about RM50k
- Jun-06 >>> CBC set up and appointed by JBBC to develop plans for a new church building.
- Jul-06 >>> At a Business Meeting, it was mooted by CBC to raise funds with a target sum of RM 3 million.
- Sep-06 >>> JBBC members agreed to Ps Jerry's 2010 vision goal of 800 members for the English and 200 for the Mandarin congregation.
- Sep-06 >>> CBC propose to erect simple 1 ½-storey to replace old building.

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- *1 Kings 5: 4, 5 “But now the LORD my God has given me **rest** on every side, and there is no adversary or disaster. I intend, therefore, to build a temple for the Name of the LORD my God, as the LORD told my father David, when he said, “Your son whom I will put on the throne in your place will build the temple for my Name.” ”*

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- Mar-07 >>> LWL Design & Services (Derek Lim) appointed to provide architectural services.
- Jul-07 >>> decision to appoint Land Surveyor for amalgamation of land; proposal then was for a worship sanctuary of 250 – 300 seat; building budget set at RM1.5 million.
- Oct-07 >>> Global Financial Crisis hits the world.

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- 31-Dec-07 >>> John Chan implored the CBC to 'be wise'. What we need vs what we want. Explore all possibilities rather than embark on a building at huge cost.

Scriptural teaching has often advocated that God provides our 'needs' and not our 'wants'.

- *Hebrews 11: 6 "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."*

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- Jan-08 >>> Derek estimated cost for 3 storey church building at RM1.3 million (GFA 11,760 sq ft)
- Difference between Building Cost and Development Cost.
- Feb-08 >>> CBC propose a fund raising target of RM2 million by Dec-10 at briefing with members.

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- *Psalm 127: 1a “Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain.” (context: domestic shelter, children)*
- Mar-08 >>> Derek's Version No 5 then was enlarged to a 4-level building (17,400 sq ft)
- May-08 >>> Freelance QS estimated building cost at RM2 million, based on commercial building category.
- Apr-09 >>> CBC revised the estimated building cost to RM2.5 million due to price escalation.

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- *1 Chronicles 28: 19, 20 “All this,” David said, “I have in writing as a result of the LORD’s hand on me, and he enabled me to understand all the details of the plan.” David also said to Solomon his son, “Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished.”*

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- Jul-10 >>> PTG approved our application to amalgamate the 2 plots into 1 plot. Took 3 years to get approval!!!
- Dec-10 >>> Pastor Jerry stepped down as pastor to answer God's calling to enroll in a Master of Theology course in Vose Seminary, Perth.
- May-11 >>> New amalgamated title document issued for Lot PTB 23270 (13,796 sq ft).
- Sep-11 >>> CBC authority for LCT to review Derek's Version 5a plan.
- Nov-11 >>> CBC instructions to Derek to amend plans.

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- Mar-12 >>> Members approved Version 5b Building Plans for submission to MBBB OSC.
- Jun-12 >>> MBBB OSC rejected Version 5b plans as it was higher than 2 stories and hence, KM plans would have to be submitted to MBBB Planning Department first.
- Jun-12 >>> Derek's Version 6 plans were prepared, a smaller, lower building.
- Dec-12 >>> Artist's Impressions prepared.
- Jan-13 >>> Members approved Version 6x plans with GFA of approx. 12,700 sq. ft. Sanctuary seating capacity of about 300 seats.

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- Jun-13 >>> Fine tuning of our Proposed Finished Levels.
- Aug-13 >>> Submission of KM Plans.
- Oct-13 >>> MBBJ approved our KM application with condition that we must restrict the building to 2 stories (max 9-m high) and 1st Floor area to be restricted to 60 % of its size. We were also (unreasonably) required to undertake to follow all future authority requirements and to be responsible to settle all future problems with our neighbours. **Land zoned for commercial use along Jalan Dato' Sulaiman were ALL restricted to a maximum of 2 stories in building height since 2012 following gazette of JB District Local Plan.**

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- Oct-13 >>> We wanted to meet Datuk Bandar and/or his Planning Director to seek their assistance on our decision to appeal. Somehow, we were not successful in arranging for the meeting.
- Nov-13 >>> Letter of appeal submitted to Datuk Bandar, MBBJ.
- 27-Nov-13 >>> The Spirit told me not to follow up. ... for the battle is the LORD's. At the last minute, I drove away from the MBBJ office.

GOD'S HOUSE

- From Lee Cheng Thean
- To 'Tryphaena Tan Swee Lee'; 'teyks@unifi.my'; 'hslai@live.com'; 'Richard Tan SK'; 'Dr Hong'; 'Fong, Alex'
- Subject JBBC KM Appeal letter
- Received 27/11/2013
- Brothers.
- Since the appeal letter was submitted on 20-Nov-13, we have been praying.
- I have not gone in to follow up with the MBBB Planning Head as I believe that the battle is with the LORD.
- All we need is to be still and God will do the rest. His power is made perfect in our weakness.
- If our appeal is successful, it would be to God's glory.
- In-His-Name,
- ct

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- *1 Samuel 17:45, David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied”.*
- *1 Samuel 17: 47, “All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for **the battle is the LORD's**, and he will give all of you into our hands.”*

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- 24-Dec-13 >>> We received news that MBBB had accepted our appeal on the 2 critical matters (of 3 stories) and **approved our KM application without any new conditions!**
- TO GOD BE THE GLORY for his **Second Miracle!**
- *Joshua 1: 5, 6 “No one will be able to stand against you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.”*

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- Jan-14 >>> Johor weekend changed to Friday & Saturday, thus forcing JBBC to switch its worship time to Saturday evenings.
- Jan-14 >>> contacted C&S Engineer (C L Mo), M&E Engineer (Perunding Ace) and QS (JQS International).
- *Colossians 3: 17, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*

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- Apr-14 >>> TNB confirmed to M&E Engineer that we require to incorporate an electrical sub-station within the ground level of our site as a condition for their approval. We appealed to reduce the size of the impact by replacing with a compact sub-station.
- Aug-14 >>> TNB accepted our counter-proposal for a compact sub-station.
- TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

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- Dec-14 >>> when I shared this concession by TNB to allow a compact sub-station to my colleague in charge of authority approvals, he was amazed that TNB would allow such an appeal.
- TO GOD BE THE GLORY for another **'minor' MIRACLE!**
- *2 Chronicles 20: 12 Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but **our eyes are on you.***

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- Nov-14 >>> Members approved Version 6xx with a GFA of 12,680 sq ft.
- 08-Jan-15 >>> KM approved plans extended for a further 12 months.
- Jan-15 >>> Bomba wants our lift openings to be protected by Lift Lobbies otherwise we require to install pressurization system.
- Mar-15 >>> MBBJ/State Government finally confirms that we do not need to pay assessment charges, being a church property. (Matter referred to MBBJ since Sep-11)

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- Apr-15 >>> Building Plans submitted.
- 29-May-15 >>> Building Plans conditionally approved upon payment of additional processing fees and security deposit.
- 15-Jul-15 >>> BP formally approved. We have 12 months to commence construction otherwise require further extension. Development budget estimated at RM4.635 million.

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- 08-Aug-15 >>> Bro John's sermon on Ephesians 2: 1 – 10 'From death to life'. He concluded his sermon by reminding us that we need to move forward and **it starts with desiring God**. I was chairing and I concluded by referring the congregation to the Church in Ephesus (Rev 2: 1 – 7) in which Jesus held against the Ephesians that they had forsaken the love they had at first.
- Aug-15 >>> CBC members agreed that cost must come down.

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- Sep-15 >>> New CBC members co-opted into committee. Members now comprise Dr Hong Yong Huat (chairman), Tey Kim Soon (Secretary), Lai Hock Siong (Treasurer), Alex Fong, Tan Keng Chong, Ng Ching Hai, Fern Tang, Lim Chian Ho, Henry Chew and Lee Cheng Thean.
- Dec-15 >>> Revised budget after cost cutting measures, now stands at RM4.38 million.
- Our Building Fund now stands at RM1.094 million, with another RM400,000 + being our accumulated cash position from the General & other funds.

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- It has been 10 years since God commanded the State Authority to give JBBC rest.
- Since that time, our regular congregation size had shrunk to about 50 - 60 adults of which about 30 - 40 % are retired or semi-retired!
- We have not been led by a pastor since 5 years ago.
- What happened in our journey? Has God forsaken us?
- Have we lost the love we first had?
- How had we walked? Before 2005? After 2005?

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- 1042 BC >>> David expressed his intention to build a temple for the Name of the LORD.
- 1017 BC >>> David made extensive preparations for the Temple before his death.
- *1 Chronicles 22: 17 – 19 ‘Then David ordered all the leaders of Israel to help his son Solomon. He said to them, “Is not the LORD your God with you? And has he not granted you rest on every side? For he has handed the inhabitants of the land over to me, and the land is subject to the LORD and to his people. Now **devote your heart and soul to seeking the LORD your God**. Begin to build the sanctuary of the LORD God, so that you may bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the sacred articles belonging to God into the temple that will be built for the Name of the LORD.’*
- 1012 BC >>> Solomon began to build the temple of the LORD, 4 years after ascending the throne.
- 1005 BC >>> The temple was finished in all its details according to its specifications. Solomon had spent 7 years building it.

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- **Option 1:** Set fund raising target at RM4.38 million, give a time frame of 12 months to raise the funds. Proceed with our development plans, taking another 18 months to build and obtain CCC. Build up our ministries. Time frame: 2 ½ years.

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- **Option 2:** Go back to the drawing board for Version 7. Downsize building to about 8,000 + sq ft. Limit Sanctuary seating capacity to about 150 seats. Set development budget and fund raising at RM3 million. Submit new KM and Building Plans for approval. Build up our Ministries. Time frame: $9 + 24 + 18 = 51$ months (4 $\frac{1}{4}$ years)

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- **Option 3:** KIV the project but in its place rebuild a 2 ½ storey building on the same plinth as current (14.4 m D x 14.8 m W) with a GFA of about say, 5,500 sq ft. Budget say RM2 million with a development time frame: 9 + 24 + 15 = 48 months (4 years)
- Note ALL above Options would include JBBC's continual push to build up our Ministries and congregation size.

BUILDING GOD'S HOUSE

- Fund raising:
 1. Members giving sacrificially including interest free loans.
 2. Churches in Malaysia and Singapore (Previously in 2009 13 churches donated an aggregate amount of RM38,367).
 3. Use social media technology (e.g. facebook) to connect former members, friends of JBBC, etc for assistance.
 4. Use the power of crowd-funding, locally and internationally.
 5. Apply for Government grant/subsidy.
 6. Home school and/or kindergarten ministries to generate reasonable income to help fund re-payment of interest-free loans.
 7. Warning on sacrilege: *Matthew 21: 13 "It is written," he (Jesus) said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a 'den of robbers'."*

BUILDING GOD'S HOUSE

- *Numbers 13: 27 – 29 “They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.” ”*
- *Numbers 14: 6 – 9 “Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes and said to the entire Israelite assembly, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. **If the LORD is pleased with us**, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and give it to us. Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them.” ”*

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

1. We see God's Hand every step of the way (Past);
2. Our Faith Check, Pr Ben 16-Jan-16 (Present);
3. Trust God (for our Future).

LEST WE FORGET ... (the Past)

- Cenotaph at Victor Harbour, South Australia to remember those from the district who enlisted for service in the Great War.
- *Joshua 4: 9, “Joshua set up the 12 stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood.”*
- *Joshua 7: 26, “Over Achan they heaped up a large pile of rocks, which remained to this day.”*

FRUITFULNESS (The Present)

- Ps Kenson's sermon on 15-Aug-15 (the week after Bro John's sermon) entitled "Connected" with text from John 15: 5 – 30. Knowing God's Will and calling for us. What is important is the fruitfulness.
- By 2020, the RTS should have been completed and more and more foreigners and Malaysians working in Singapore would have settled in JB, in particular along Jalan Abdullah Tahir and Larkin and in general, the city of JB. The "Fruits" are out there!

REMAIN CONNECTED (The Present)

- *John 15: 5 – 8, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”*

OUR PRESENT MISSION

1. Need to stay connected to God to know His Will.
2. Remain in Jesus and he remains in us, then we bear much fruit.
3. It is a continual day-by-day process. Don't forsake our love we had at first. Lest we forget.
4. Consecrate ourselves. Change our attitudes.
5. Depend on God, thereby glorifying Him. There is Power in Him. The battle is the LORD's. Let the whole world see, know and be amazed!
6. We, in JBBC, move as a tribe. We glory with God together, we fall and fail together. We need to be ONE Voice, ONE Baptism, ONE Spirit.
7. Our Great Commission according to Jesus' last words.

OUR GREAT COMMISSION (The Present & our Future)

*Matthew 28: 18 – 20, “Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore **go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them to obey everything** I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” ”*

Today, what would Jesus do if he was in our shoes regarding our Building Project? May I suggest that he would still point to the Words of his Great Commission? Can we trust our Jesus?

BUILDING GOD'S **PEOPLE** & HIS **HOUSE** (The Future)

- It is imperative that JBBC enters into a **Fresh Encounter with God**. Build up our ministries until such a time as when God prospers JBBC with such a large congregation that we don't have room enough to accommodate.
- Friday prayer meetings started about a year ago. It is an important part of our faith journey to remain in Him.
- Trust Him!

BUILDING GOD'S **PEOPLE** & HIS **HOUSE** (The Future)

- *Ephesians 3: 14 – 19, “For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with **power through his Spirit in your inner being**, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all fullness of God.”*

BUILDING GOD'S **PEOPLE** & HIS **HOUSE** (The Future)

- *Ephesians 3: 20, 21* “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to **his power that is at work within us**, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”
- Will we give God the glory in raising funds BY FAITH so that in His Time He would be pleased to put his Name in the House of the LORD?

ACKNOWLEDGE THE PAST & PRAY FOR THE PRESENT & THE FUTURE

- Pray that:
 1. JBBC as ONE Body, devote our heart and soul to seeking the LORD our God;
 2. JBBC ministries will grow and bear fruit;
 3. The development process will continue in accordance to God's Will and Timing;
 4. The fund raising programme will be blessed by God for the battle is the LORD's;
 5. Each individual JBBC worshipper, young or old, will take up their own cross to serve and bear fruit FOR GOD;
 6. That he/she will take ownership of whichever ministry that he/she feels led by the Spirit to serve.

*Joshua 24: 16, 'Then the people answered, "Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods! It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we travelled. And the LORD drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. **We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God.**"'*

BUILDING GOD'S **PEOPLE** & HIS **HOUSE** (The Future)

- TO GOD BE THE GLORY!
- GOD BLESS YOU!

YOU DESERVE THE GLORY

- You deserve the glory and the honour
Lord we, lift our hands in worship
As we praise your Holy name (Repeat)

Chorus

For You are great
You do miracles so great
There is no one else like You
There is no one else like You (repeat)

- Terry MacAlmon