

SENIOR PASTORS REPORT TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2000

MEMBERSHIP OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA.

By now you have had over a month to read through the draft copy of the Christian Schools Australia documentation. Even though it may still be 12 months before they fully form this new school association our membership at the initial stages enables us to make comments and express our views strongly at this vital phase. My recommendation is that we join the Christian Schools Australia and have an active role primarily through the Principal in guiding its formation until it is fully embraced.

ARABIC AGREEMENT

It was a very proud moment for the Arabic Church on Saturday September 16. That day they officially opened facilities that are to be used by their church. During the past few months the Arabic church has worked extremely hard to renovate the portables. Pastor Gaber has given the church an example of outstanding servant leadership as he has led the church in this endeavor. He has personally put in hundreds of hours of work in assisting a faithful group of people from the church in making this dream a reality. I think it would be appropriate and right for the Board of Directors to formally congratulate the (Arabic Christian Centre) on this fine achievement. Pastor Alun Davies the President of the Assemblies of God in Victoria formally dedicated and opened the facilities. I would like to also acknowledge Ray Helou who has been a faithful brother to Pastor Gaber Awad through good times and bad. Much thanks goes to Pastor Denis has taken a very active role in advising and overseeing this project on my behalf. He continues to guide the leadership of their church in major decisions as supervising Pastor. I want to also acknowledge Raff Marcucci help with the project. He has tirelessly helped with a number of building areas including plumbing and landscaping. This has been a real team effort. We all have much to be proud of.

Denis Smith has submitted to me a draft copy of a proposed agreement between the Arabic Christian Centre and Northside Christian Centre. Denis will be presenting a report to the Board in regards to the progress of this matter. He will also be presenting an annual report on the Ethiopian work under Getahun. You would be aware that this has been for some time one of our daughter churches.

BUILDING FOR LIFE

Since the last Board meeting in August, members of the Building Task Force have met with the Architect. He presented us with an up to date budget estimate conducted by a quantity surveyor. As we expected the budget was higher than initially quoted. The reason for this is because we have made significant alterations to the initial plans -for example the initial quote did not include an enlarged foyer. Surprisingly the quantity surveyor has estimated the cost of this addition at approx. \$150,000. The Building Task force had another meeting to discuss the options. It was felt that we should commission the Architect to develop full drawings and that during the tender process we ask builders for a number of different costings including and excluding some major items. It is also possible for us to do certain things ourselves at a much-reduced price. Another option we are considering is doing a little sub-contracting ourselves. For example painting, carpet, audio, lighting, video, heating and cooling etc could be projects that we obtain quotes for and coordinate ourselves. This could reduce certain costs.

Just before this Board meeting we have planned to meet with the Architect and engineer. The Architect will be submitting updated plans, which we will show you tonight. We will give you a verbal report of this meeting.

Different members of the task force have also personally met and spoken to consultants and engineers appointed by the Architect. These men have been adding their expertise to the project enabling the Architect to finalise specification for the new building.

BUSINESS MANAGER FOR BUILDING FOR LIFE

I have authorised Steve Skorobogaty to act as a business manager in regards to the new building on a voluntary basis. Steve has put many hours into investigating, potential builders and their work, audio - visual equipment, new telephone systems, seating, heating and cooling etc. I greatly appreciate his assistance in this area, as we do not have paid staff with the necessary expertise or time to do this work. His involvement has meant that the staff and I have been freed from having to get involved in this area of administration. I am sure his diligence in researching different options will in the end save us much money and will result in an excellent facility that we will all be proud of for years to come.

MASTER PLAN CONCEPTS

Recently I asked our architect for some concepts in regards to the future expansion of facilities of Northside. Nine Acres of land seem like a lot of land but when you have a growing school and church on the same site some long range planning is essential. Firstly I asked Peter Anderson if in the future the church was to build a 2000 seat auditorium where could it be positioned and how far would it extend into the site. I am submitting to you his concept on this possibility for your information.

The College is also very keen to put up a gymnasium come sport centre in the near future. They have already collected several thousand dollars by fund raising. I recently asked Raff Marcucci Steve Skorobogaty and Pastor Smith for their input into positioning of this facility. It seems the best position for a gymnasium is the drawing I have submitted indicates. We will need to give our approval for the position of this project.

ALLEGED ACCUSATION OF SEXUAL ABUSE.

I have recently received a writ against a teacher who was a previous employee of our College. Northside Christian Centre Inc. as the employer is liable if this case is proven to be true. I immediately got in touch with the "Australian Christian Services" who supply us with insurance. This alleged abuse took place in 1985. After a considerable amount of searching it was established that in 1985 we were insured with Ansvar. Ansvar immediately appointed a solicitor to represent them as the insurer and us as the insured. It is still very early days and these cases can be dragged out for months. We have cooperated with authorities all through the process. We obviously want to see justice done but do not want the school or the church's reputation in any way damaged. Please pray that this case will be handled with wisdom. I will give you further information in the meeting.

BUILDING FOR LIFE TAX EXEMPTION

We have been receiving advice from a number of sources as to how to proceed with this application. Because of the introduction of GST the laws surrounding obtaining Tax exemption status have changed. Suren Bartlett is seeking to interpret those laws and make the necessary changes to our submission. Josie Skorobogaty has and is continuing to put in many hours into this endeavor. It seems there are two possible options open to us. Either we introduce a totally new submission or we alter the old one in an attempt to meet their criteria for deduction. Either way it demands a considerable amount of work. I think it would be appropriate to formally recognise the many hours of research, and documentation that Suren and Josie have put into this project. I formal thanks from the Board of Directors by letter can only serve to encourage them to continue with enthusiasm.

CREDIT CARD

We have now given a credit card option to those who want to pay their tithes and building for life contributions. This credit card option is now printed on the back of the designated envelopes.

AGENDA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Tuesday, October 3 2000
NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN CENTRE INC.
31-61 McLeans Road Bundoora Vic 3083

1. Welcome - Chairman
2. Apologies – Denis Smith
3. Minutes of previous meeting – 06:00
“Minutes 06.00 accepted”
4. Business arising out of Minutes.
 1. Tax exemption – See Senior Pastors Report
 2. Arabic Agreement – See Senior Pastors Report
 3. Credit Card- See Senior Pastors Report
 4. Membership of Christian Schools Australia
5. Correspondence
6. Senior Pastor’s Report
7. Matters Arising from Senior Pastor’s Report:-
 - .1 Membership of Christian Schools Australia
 - .2 Arabic opening and agreement
 - .3 Building For Life update
 - .4 Business manager for Building For Life
 - .5 Master plan concepts
 - .6 Alleged accusation of sexual abuse
 - .7 Building For Life Tax Exemption
 - .8 Credit Card
8. Other Business -
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9. Financial Report - Mark Bezemer

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10. Next meeting – Tuesday, Nov 14 7:30PM

11. Close