

THE BUILDING

A Journey of Faith

A Briefer Brief!

God is Speaking

We are at a cross roads as a church. Bulmershe Leisure Centre (BLC) has been good for us, but the facilities now don't allow us to do the type of things we want to do. In order to be an effective church, we need an effective church building.

The churches call to mission

Matthew 24:14 (ANIV)

14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

The verse above tells us that the only significant history between the two comings of Christ is **redemptive** history. It means the church's mission is more important than the United Nations or the problems in the stock market or the Middle East crisis. The hinge on which history turns is mission. As George Ladd says, *"Do you love the Lord's appearing? Then you will bend every effort to take the gospel into all the world."* For us at RVC that means taking our mission up to the next level: 24/7. It means facilities that allow us to do that.

Mission exists because Worship doesn't

Our primary motivation in all we do is to bring glory to God. It is the first petition of the Lord's Prayer – *"Hallowed be thy name..."* As John Piper says, *"To hallow God's name means to put it in a class by itself and to cherish and honour it above every claim to our allegiance or affection. Jesus' primary concern – the very first petition of the prayer he teaches – is that more and more people, and more and more peoples, come to hallow God's name. This is the reason the universe exists. Missions exist because this hallowing doesn't!"*

God's desire is that all the earth should worship his name. *Psalms 66: 1-2 (ANIV)* *"Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name, make his praise glorious."* To be truly passionate about worship (the hallowing of God's name) we must also be passionate about mission, which is simply expressed in the Great Commission - *Matthew 28:19-20 (ANIV)* *¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you..."*

As George Ladd says, this is what human history is about. If we are going to be passionate about mission, then at this time, our part in it is to invest for the future so we can equip ourselves with facilities that will allow us to do ministry and mission, 24/7, for the glory of God.

Compassion

One of our aims is to grow sustainable compassion ministries that will make a significant spiritual and material difference to the lives of the people served.

Effective compassion ministries require resources- they need people who are willing to invest time, energy, money and talent into making a meaningful impact on the spiritual, social and material deprivation around us. If we allow church growth to be limited, then we limit our capacity for mission in all areas- but most noticeably for compassion. We need a building that facilitates our expansion, thereby

Our new facilities would allow:

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|----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Coffee Shop | Marriage Courses | After School Clubs |
| Storehouse | IT Training | Holiday Clubs |
| Childcare Provisions | Music Ministry | Breakfast Clubs |
| All Types of Events | Debt and Crisis Counselling | Youth Clubs |

strengthening our resources and enabling ministry.

In addition, 10% of everything raised for the building will be set aside as a fund for our **Compassion ministries**. Raising £2 million would therefore give us a fund of **£200,000**.

How exactly would a building affect our mission?

Is it worth it? ... The leaders of Trent Vineyard- the largest Vineyard church in the country, and one that has gone through several building campaigns- say this:

*Size + Functionality
= IMPACT*

“There is a clear and direct relationship between the size and functionality of the church building and the impact we have in our community...”

What if we don't get enough money? That would cause a delay and perhaps a revision of the scale of our plans. We have lots of building needs ranging from offices to a range of midweek meeting venues, but we would prefer to have it all! We would continue to take active steps to raise money both within and outside the church to reach our target and/or choose a stepping stone on the way to our preferred solution.



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