

# OXFORD TERRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

Est. 1863

October 2016

Dear Oxford Terrace Supporter

This letter is going out to more than 100 people across the world, all with a link in their personal journey with Oxford Terrace. At the 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations of the church we promised to keep in touch with the many interested folk as we inched towards our rebuild. A key reason for keeping in touch was because we knew then, that whatever we built, it would need more funding than we had. Since then a lot has happened! This week we are delighted to have machinery on the ground, fences up, and contractors underway. A 10-12 month build process has finally begun, and we look forward to opening a new, 'fit for purpose' facility later in 2017.

## **THE PURPOSE OF THIS LETTER**

The reason for writing is very plain. Can you help us? We are underway with fundraising, and have nearly reached \$500,000 of our goal of \$1.5million. These funds will be applied to mortgage, insurance and reserves built up over time to allow around \$8million to be invested in the project. The enclosed brochure explains a little more about what we will create in our 'once in a lifetime opportunity'. Our purpose is to ask for help. We believe we are on the right track with our plans, and we are sharing them with you now. You may be stirred by what you read, and consider giving towards it.

## **REALISING OUR HOPES AND DREAMS**

One of the blessings of participation at Oxford Terrace is the richness of its history. We have so many amazing stories to tell, spanning over 150 years. God has moved repeatedly in social action, in church planting, in global mission projects, in music, and in sharing the good news of Jesus in each generation. It is happening again. Our latest project, commenced since the enclosed brochure was produced, has been to appoint an International Assistant Minister, charged with developing another congregation, made up of new arrivals to New Zealand. Many churches struggle in 21<sup>st</sup> century New Zealand, but at this post quake recovery point, OTBC is full of life and energy! 'Being Church' is not easy, but we do sense an inspirational way of being the people of God in the recovering central city of Christchurch.

## **KEEPING IN TOUCH**

Thank you for reading this letter. If you were not expecting it, and it is not 'your cup of tea', please disregard! If you are stirred, or want to know more, and we can answer further questions, don't hesitate to make contact! Email us, check out our website, come and visit, we even have a facebook presence! No matter how far you've travelled since OTBC, God bless and keep you,

Chris Chamberlain  
Senior Minister

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