

Relocation Committee – Progress & Accomplishments to 17th May 2005

(If you have not become familiar with the Relocation Committee activities which have been underway since spring 2004, please visit our church website at www.fbc-brenham.org where all previous progress reports may be easily viewed by clicking on “Publications & Forms”, or call the church office for reprints of those reports which have also been included in the church newsletters.)

Our work accomplishments since the end of January have been based on three points agreed and approved by vote of the church family on January 26th, 2005 and as tabulated below:

- 1.) *Alter our “Original Master Plan Concept”,*
- 2.) *Entering into contractual agreements with GL Barron (GLB) Companies and*
- 3.) *Funding of up to \$100,000 for the initial design phase*

The relocation work continues based on our established committee guiding principles and agreed guidelines as published in our previous reports and discussed in detail in church business and Town Hall meetings.

Our Jan. 26th church membership vote to alter our Master Plan Concept was an essential step permitting design of facilities within a budget our capital campaign, ‘A Story to Build On’ affords us. Since then, redesign of the overall Master Plan Concept and specific Phase-1 design steps have been ongoing in concert with GL Barron Company. In just over three months, including periodic input from church and school staff, and in numerous and lengthy design work sessions with GLB, God has been actively advancing this work. Please have no doubt, this is a ‘God Sized Undertaking’, and we are grateful that He is leading, driving and providing in this process!

As of mid-May a new Master Plan Concept has been established, and for Phase-1, detailed design continues to advance. Initial floor plans and elevation-view drawings have been prepared for the multi-level Phase-1 facility, and we are progressing through a step-by-step design refinement process. The Phase-1 design does accomplish the goals of providing for all Sunday morning worship and support activities and all Sunday school classes, based on Oct. 2004 class populations, all within the new facilities. As previously shared and discussed in business and Town Hall meetings, Phase-1 keeps the church offices and the church school in current facilities. These design accomplishments comply with the promises made during our January 2005 Relocation meetings.

Regarding Phase-1 estimated costs, the design is being accomplished while being contained within a budget not to exceed \$4.5 million. Our Phase-1 budget figures address all costs that our church is expected to experience, including ‘soft costs’ and some contingency funding. Said another way, we are working with “all inclusive cost” figures. Our BFBC building fund figures through May 15th, as shared by the Capital Campaign follow-up committee during services that Sunday, show that \$2,118,843 have thus far been pledged and gifts received amount to \$510,414. Our church continues to be blessed by gifts being given at a faster pace than promised!

Since our August 2004 Relocation Town Hall meeting, when the ‘Original Master Plan’ Phase-1 development had been estimated to cost approximately \$7.5million, God has led us to provide for the land use, space, services and ministries included then while working within a \$4.5 Phase-1 budget; clearly a God accomplishment!

Looking ahead, your Relocation Committee is planning for information sharing meetings with our church family during the late-June to mid-July target timeframe. It has been our aim to bring the new design information to our fellow church members once it was sufficient and suitably refined. We will provide graphical diagrams to our church family prior to a Town Hall meeting in which a detailed design progress review will be shared and questions and design support will be sought. Additionally, we are working to recommend to the church membership for a vote, prior to September, the design basis on which GL Barron Company will have presented a “Guaranteed Maximum Price” for Phase-1 development. This means for the agreed scope of work, GL Barron will complete the detailed Phase-1 design and assume the risk to construct Phase-1 for the proposed price. This will be the “Next Step” vote on Relocation where church members will decide how to proceed ahead.

A sizeable amount of work has been accomplished in the short time span of the last few months. We remain grateful to God for keeping His hand in this process, and for advancing this work in the direction, and at the pace of His choosing. As Henry Blackaby references in his “*Experiencing God*” bible study, “Anytime God leads you to do something that has God-sized dimensions, you will face a crisis of belief”. God brings us to realize that we cannot do it on our own. He affects us individually and as a congregation as He grows us and works through us. As Blackaby also reminds, our encounter with God requires faith, and true faith requires action. Please continue praying for our entire church family as God calls us to obey and serve Him.

Owen Batt – Relocation Committee Chairman
May 17th 2005

(Please address Relocation related questions via e-mail to BFBCRELO@yahoo.com)