

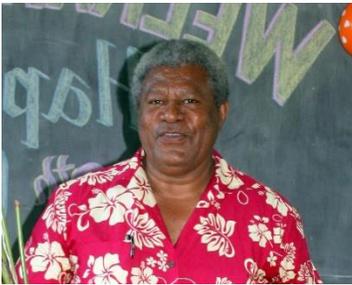
Papua New Guinea:

New Developments at

Melanesian Bible College

Melanesian Bible College (M.B.C.) has been teaching men and women from across Papua New Guinea since 1975. Missionary teams working with Joe Cannon (who brought the first Church of Christ ministry to PNG in 1971) started the *Lae Bible School*, also known as the *School of Life*, mainly taking in young men from the highlands. As the school developed and curriculum expanded under the direction of Woody Square, the school became known as the *Melanesian Bible College* in 1988.

Over the years students have come to Lae from all regions of the country, and from the South Pacific nation of Vanuatu, a country which has also benefited from former M.B.C. students serving as missionaries. Since 1975, the school has sent out more than eight hundred graduates. Preachers who have been trained here make up the majority of those serving today in P.N.G. Many have been faithful for decades. M.B.C. has trained men and women to be faithful and productive servants of Christ.



Jab Mesa

For most of the school's history it has operated under the watchful eye of Jab Mesa, himself a Papua New Guinean, who further developed the program with the use of National teachers. Currently ten teachers provide education for the families who attend. Levels of instruction include: combined classes for first and second year students, a third year curriculum, classes for the wives who are less educated and unable to keep up in the basic year classes, literacy classes for those who arrive without any formal education, or who come with low reading and/or writing skills, and the Headstart program for the young children who come with their parents.

Throughout the 1970s missionary teams formed in Lae, Madang, Goroka, Mount Hagen, the Eastern Highlands, the Waria Valley, and Port Moresby. In 1979 funds were raised by those in Lae to build facilities for the young school and other missionary efforts. Mel Bowman came from Texas to lead the building efforts, which included the buildings for M.B.C.

Now, nearly forty years later, we need to replace these buildings due to a combination of tropical weather, insects, and dry rot, that have taken a severe toll on them.

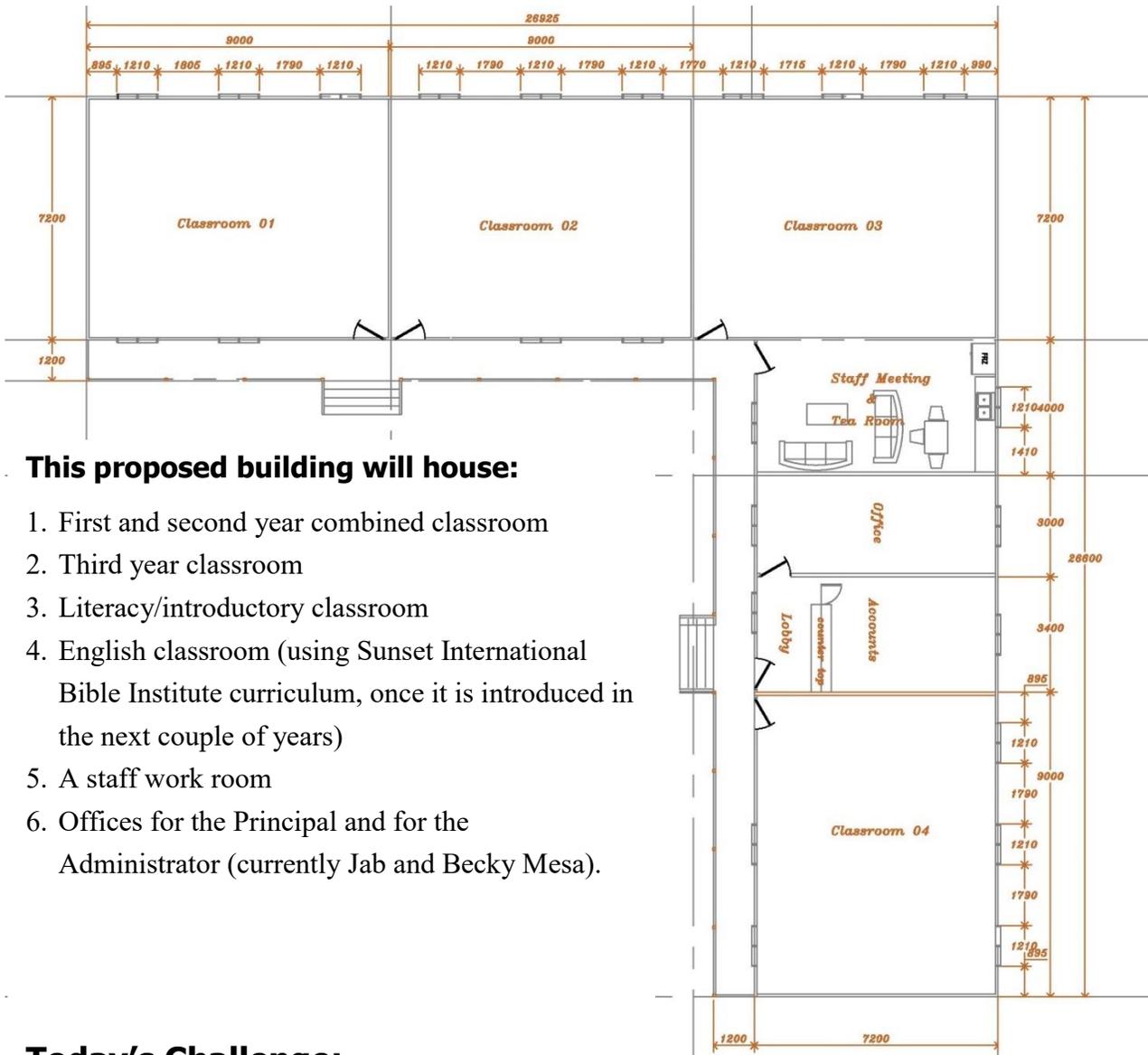
The Proposal:

We plan to build a one-story facility that will replace all current classrooms and offices. The building is being designed and built under the supervision of Gilmore Gabori, a Papua New Guinean brother who is a trained architect and contractor. Michael Tatara, part-time teacher and maintenance supervisor at M.B.C., will also help supervise the local Christians who will be working to help save on labour costs.



Termite damage

The plans have been developed and are being approved by local building authorities. The site work has begun and some materials have been purchased and are being made ready for use. In September the old termite ridden classroom was demolished and work started on the new one.



This proposed building will house:

1. First and second year combined classroom
2. Third year classroom
3. Literacy/introductory classroom
4. English classroom (using Sunset International Bible Institute curriculum, once it is introduced in the next couple of years)
5. A staff work room
6. Offices for the Principal and for the Administrator (currently Jab and Becky Mesa).

Today's Challenge:

The overall goal is to raise another CD\$78,000 (US\$60,000) to complete the new classroom building, and if possible have funds left to do maintenance work on the building which currently hosts the school's library and/or replace the existing inadequate security fences around the school and dormitories.

Papua New Guinean Christians have been working over the past three years to raise funds for this project. As of this summer, their ongoing efforts **have raised nearly CD\$29,000** toward the project. *Their efforts have motivated former missionaries to both give to this project and encourage you to do the same.* There was a time when this level of financial commitment would have been unheard of, and it is a very encouraging sign of the maturity of the church in Papua New Guinea

Ruth Zimmerman has been influential in raising CD\$52,500 from among her supporters and others

\$29,000	given/raised within PNG
\$22,800	raised in Canada
\$700	other areas

Challenge Gift:

The Highland Church of Christ in Memphis, TN has sponsored and been the most consistent supporter of M.B.C. since its inception. As of July 2018, this congregation has agreed to match 2:1 each gift to a maximum of US\$40,000. This means that gifts totaling \$20,000 will trigger a \$40,000 gift from Highland. This will give us the US\$60,000 needed to complete the project! Appeals to reach this target are running simultaneously in the U.S., Australia, Singapore and Canada.

This generous offer from Highland means that if you can give \$1, it will have the effect as \$3 being given. If you have already given, we hope this might encourage you to give some more to this cause.

Will you say "Yes" and help train Papua New Guineans to teach the Gospel?

The Fenwick Church of Christ will continue to gather donations from Canadian churches and individuals and pass them on to M.B.C. They are working with Highland to make sure every donation counts towards the matching program. Please indicate clearly that your gift is for the **MBC Building Project** when you send it to:

Fenwick Church of Christ
P.O. Box 416
Fenwick, ON L0S 1C0

With Many Thanks,

Art Ford
613-876-4605
jarthurford@gmail.com

Ruth Zimmerman
905-562-7095 (until Oct. 31, 2018)
ruthzimm@gmail.com



Materials Arriving



Ground Turning Ceremony: Jab Mesa (left) and Woody Square