

March 2009

Dear Friends

Many greetings from Capernwray. I trust that you are experiencing the grace of God for all that has come your way in the challenges and opportunities this year. Here we rejoice in another term of Bible School and, as a staff, we praise the Lord for all that He is pleased to accomplish in our lives, in the lives of all those who come to Capernwray or in those who, though now scattered around the globe, having been impacted by their stay.

Having entered 2009 it is now almost 62 years since Capernwray Hall opened its doors to guests for the first time. It has been a magnificent servant and, if buildings could speak, would give witness to the many folk who have not only enjoyed its company, but also entered into a timeless relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ who they met within its walls. This witness has its ripples around the world. Significant additions and changes have taken place to enhance the ministry of which it has been a part, the last being the completion of the dining room and kitchen complex that has added so much to the work here.

For 40 years now we have utilised what was once the "new conference hall" adjacent to the main building for our meetings, lectures, accommodation and additional office space. It too has served wonderfully. However, for some time now we have recognised the need for a major overhaul of that facility. Our final assessment, in the light of there being significant problems with the building, is that it should be totally demolished and a new one constructed on the same base. We considered a refurbishment, but the more we examined that proposal the more a new build began to make sense. Over the last year, with advice from structural engineers and the assistance of a local architect we now have plans that have been accepted by the local authority.

It has been our prayer that we would do the right thing having been made aware that the cost of such a venture would be in the region of two million pounds. Knowing that the world economy has taken an extremely gloomy turn, it seemed that such a decision would be unwise and we were initially very hesitant to continue with the project. However, in December the Board of Directors decided that we should step out in another faith venture, having concluded that the Lord was directing us this way.

Our intention is to instruct the architect and consultants to prepare final working drawings and calculations so that we are in a position to invite tenders with the prospect of construction beginning in September this year so that completion can be in June 2010 for the start of the summer programme. Unlike the dining room that was completed over a period of five years, as finances were available, we will need to have funding in place in a much shorter time. A decision will be made in May/June as to whether sufficient funds are available for us to proceed. Should that not be the case the decision will be delayed for 12 months (2010). If it is obvious that funding is not sufficient after that, then we will seek to make an adequate refurbishment of the present building as seems best and possible.

I am giving this explanation because we are seeking your financial support for the project and want to be open about our intentions and the process that is being followed. Should you give towards the project we would also be grateful for your agreement that we use such funds either for the new construction or for the refurbishment if that proves to be a necessary alternative.

Please find enclosed a brochure regarding the building plans and details of how you can be involved. Your part and prayerful commitment is very much appreciated and do trust the Lord with us that we proceed as He alone directs. We would have no greater joy than to see Capernwray Hall, not only have an increased impact upon this generation but also on ones to come. May the Lord Jesus Christ fill those who serve the Hall so that the life of God will be expressed in all that is done, for His glory and for the benefit of His church worldwide.

Thank you for your consideration of this step of faith and your participation in the life of Capernwray.

Yours gratefully in His love



Mark Thomas on behalf of the Directors and staff

