

Kalamunda Church of Christ
Community on the Rise Consultation
Within the Church
Report to AGM
20 September 2009

Ian Sigsworth and Peter Goodall met with eleven Home Groups and conducted a general meeting at the church to seek input from the church about proposals arising from the Community on the Rise concept. The purpose of the meetings was to assess the position of the church regarding outreach to the community, where their passions are and whether they can see opportunities for ministry and where they feel a new facility might fit into the Church's role in the community. This was conducted in parallel with the Needs Analysis which was conducted by Tania Belletty. This report presents our findings resulting from that consultation.

Our key findings are:

1. most of the people we discussed this matter with assured us that they are committed to a vision of God transforming the Kalamunda community through His people at Kalamunda Church of Christ and that most people are actively involved in networking within the wider community and looking for opportunities to share the gospel.
2. The general feeling is that the Church's role in the community is to equip the saints to minister in the community, to be set apart for God, to build bridges into the community, to be reflections of Jesus, and to be His hands and feet.

It was felt that Kalamunda Church of Christ should work with the other Christian churches in the community, but only in a leadership role in our own initiatives and in a follower role where the other churches are developing their own initiatives. (ie when we have a project or activity we feel God has for us to do, we should take the initiative and leadership role, advise the other churches that we are doing it and invite them to join us – any effort to jointly manage such initiatives has historically been totally dysfunctional. Where other churches initiate projects or activities, rather than trying to duplicate or compete, our church should support and assist in those activities).

3. The people of Kalamunda Church of Christ are keen to be actively involved in the wider community in ministry, and always seeking opportunities to bless and serve of fellow community members, all the time being aware that we are Christ's ambassadors and that it is our duty to share the gospel at every opportunity.
4. Most of the people we talked to would appreciate and use opportunities and facilities provided by the church, but there is a very vocal group that considers a new facility to be unnecessary. This group feels that the existing facilities at the church coupled with various facilities across the Shire are adequate for our outreach presence and activities.

By contrast, a second group, of similar size, is very keen to see a new facility built

that will enhance their efforts to reach out to the community. They suggest they are embarrassed by our existing facilities (the Function Centre and the Manse, as well as the lack of quality facilities on our property) and would appreciate a new quality facility that will provide a bridge into the community and thus become an effective tool assisting their ministry to the wider community. This group is totally committed to the concept of a new building providing ministry and services to the wider community.

The majority of church members are already actively involved in outreach and would be happy to use such a facility if it was available and see that it would be a very useful tool for them to use for outreach. However, they do not see it necessarily as an essential component of our vision of transforming our community.

5. Many ideas were raised for outreach opportunities that could be enhanced or facilitated by a new building. These are, in no particular order:

- *In Kalamunda, we find there are many people who have no friends – this is a serious need that we have to address;*
- *After school tutoring for students;*
- *child care*
- *we need a good kitchen (designed by ladies).*
- *a separate area for meetings and offices.*
- *housing for disadvantaged people – be there for people*
- *be approachable, provide food for the hungry*
- *provide low cost loans to help people who need some money*
- *coffee shop/book shop/sale of third world produced items*
- *kids play area coupled with a meals area*
- *a room dedicated to 24/7 prayer*
- *a Christian bookshop;*
- *play group,*
- *free professional Christian counselling,*
- *children's group music tuition/jam sessions;*
- *children's and adult group activities/clubs*
- *mentoring*
- *a place to help the homeless and drug addicts and the lonely*
- *A youth drop-in centre, an open door (ideally 24/7) where people can come in to a welcoming friendly safe place.*
- *A confidential information centre*
- *A centre promoting "social justice" issues and opportunities*
- *teach old people how to use computers*
- *a men's hangout*
- *a "tool library"*
- *Counselling,*
- *Hospital visits,*
- *youth groups,*
- *kids groups,*
- *teaching programmes,*
- *coffee shop,*
- *youth drop-in centre,*
- *create jobs,*
- *help the unemployed.*
- *A gym*
- *cyber café*
- *movie theatre*
- *After school care*
- *Op shop*
- *Playgroups*
- *a combined coffee shop/Op shop/book shop*
- *a craft day*
- *counselling on eating disorders*
- *meet the needs of the homeless*
- *counselling on pre- and post-natal depression*

(please note that this is not an exhaustive list)

In conclusion, we found that the people of Kalamunda Church of Christ are committed to the vision and to reaching out to the community ("a church without walls"). We found that they are keen for the church to be involved in community activities and, while there are significantly differing opinions across the church, most are supportive of a new, quality facility designed to provide a bridge to be used to minister to the community and to create opportunities to share the gospel.

In short, we are committed to the vision that Kalamunda Church of Christ is an "irresistible" Christian Community where people become fully devoted Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.