

House Analogies – The Study and the Shed

Many houses have a place where the business of managing life's administration tasks takes place. It may be a study or just a desk where a laptop can be opened and records kept. For those who work from home, it may need a good soundproofed door to provide separation from the rest of the house.

Likewise the church office will have such needs. Separation and privacy at times, but accessibility at other times.

On the other hand, if the church is to be open for use during the week, there needs to be security provided by clear surveillance across the entry. The reception desk can provide this function but it probably also needs to be a comfortable, ergonomically planned office as well so that if the church employs someone, they can carry out normal administrative tasks in addition to greeting people.

Is a garden shed at home the place to get away for some splendid isolation? Or perhaps it is the place of industry where creativity takes place? The Men's Shed movement has been a great success over recent years in providing a place where men can bond with each other with a common purpose. The Australian Men's Shed Association has more than 930 affiliated "Sheds".

This can occur in church too. Either as a specific Men's Shed facility or similar providing something beneficial to the wider community, or just by "fixing up" the building. Of course there should not include working at heights, but can involve fixing up shelves and cupboards, repairing furniture, painting the fence or carrying out landscaping. Skilled people can work on the AV installation or even fine tune the control of the heating or cooling system. Insurance needs to be checked of course, and health and safety rules complied with. Others might choose to edit a video blog, perhaps from an overseas missionary.

There should be places within the church complex for privacy, for accessibility, for bonding and for industry.

Next time: House Analogies - Resting and Nurturing

A new website has been launched this week for the book, "Making Property Serve Mission – Rethinking the Church's Property For the 21st Century". It can be found [here](#) or you can click the image:

