

## Mission Outside the Box

B:log 70 Architect Innovator Series

What if the church had no buildings?  
What would we build first to serve the mission that Jesus gave us? We would need somewhere to gather but perhaps we would build something to serve and enrich the wider community to show that generous love of Christ to them. In the past we have built schools and hospitals for this very purpose.

### What do people need?

Today, when both parents are working in order to cover typical household costs, we might provide Childcare centres. When people are developing new businesses, then we might provide serviced start-up offices or small industrial units. When people need to stay healthy we might provide sports facilities, gyms or health centres. The church could provide chaplains to engage with people while they use these facilities...

We will also need a place to worship God.

This is much more than a clubhouse for us Christians. There are different understandings of sacredness here to be achieved. A place where we can not only worship God but also love for one another and springboard care to the community. Could some of the above be provided together on church owned land?

### Complimentary and Multi-use

Some facilities are needed at different times of the day. The car park, which is expensive to build, surface and drain, can serve the on-site activities throughout the day. A reception point at the entrance to the building can welcome and point the way to different facilities. Seminar rooms can serve offices during the day and the church in the evenings and weekends. Such facilities show the community that the church cares about enabling and supporting their everyday lives, whilst at the same time covering church costs. Some of these activities can be provided by expert outside organisations leasing facilities on church property. Sharing is environmentally sustainable.

### The Business Plan

Sharing makes economic sense as well. There are pressures on property ownership that are best shared: compliance, insurance, repairs, management, energy costs. Vacant space still incurs many of these costs. We can build to serve others as well as church. Unlocking the value in unused land or space in our buildings is a practical way to raise funds to build for mission.

If we think of a property-rich Christian church that was once the centrepiece of village life, let's now consider how we can use it to serve the community and its needs today,

[Making Property Serve Mission](#) is going to be updated. Any feedback is welcome. Please send to [fred@studiob.net.au](mailto:fred@studiob.net.au)



*At Door Of Hope church in Launceston, part of the building is leased to a fitness gym. It also has childcare, conference, allied health, dance studio, mechanics training, social housing and much more.*

