

Spaces For Church Planting. #4 Social Enterprise Plant

B:log 75

Setting up a new church that also meets a community need, provides a blessing in two ways. It shows that you care about the practical needs of the local people in addition to offering them the gospel. This is a step beyond simply sharing someone else's space, such as using a school. The church is providing facilities that is an investment in the community.

The property required will depend upon what the community needs and what skills the planting team can provide;

- **Cafe** - obviously avoid an area that's already over-provided. Depending on the socio-demographics, it should probably be providing drinks and food to a high standard. The space therefore needs to be attractive and interesting. A small old heritage building or an attractive space in a shopping strip with intimacy and character.
- **Childcare centre** - this can be run by an outside specialist and may be meeting local family and business needs. It can be a great Monday to Friday use of spaces that the church is not occupying during daytime. It will be inaccessible to the church during this time but it may be possible to negotiate shared use during worship time. Car parking that is costly to provide for worshipers is then fully utilised.
- **Serviced hot-desking offices** - enables local small businesses to become established and to network with others. Management, with the help of people with pastoral skills, can establish a positive culture. This requires a discreet and attractive space with high-quality seating, desking and screens with a reception and entry control point.
- **Performing Arts Centre** - Gateway Church in Seaford has become an established local community for drama productions, as well as a lively church community. The same space can be used for contemporary worship as for drama, with the options of rearranging seating. Armadale Baptist Church now has an enlarged platform and improved lighting so that the Heritage Church interior can operate as a community arts hub when not needed for worship.
- **Gym or full sports centre** - Door of Hope Church in Launceston, Tas, leases space to a gym club that provides all the equipment and runs the facility within the church's complex. Good Life Church in Buderim, Qld, intentionally constructed a sports centre to serve the community. They accepted that using the sports hall for worship would be less than ideal, but it was a priority to serve the community's sports needs.

A church plant may have more traction and be more connected if it's also meeting a practical need. Think of the many Christian hospitals and hospices set up around the world to serve each community. There are many other enterprises that could be considered. The key is understanding the community need. We can determine space that is needed to by observing best practice in society at large.

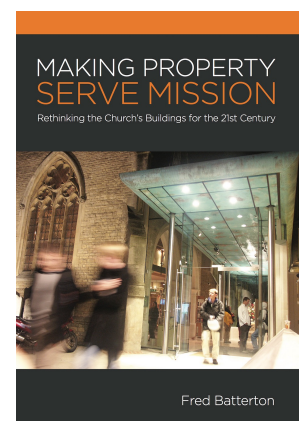
It is also environmentally responsible to enable property to be in multiple use rather than empty for most of the week. The additional costs and income must be budgeted.

Next time - Share an active church

All previous blogs on Property and Mission can be found [at this link](#)



Postcard rack in the entrance of Goodlife Church, Budrim, Qld



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