

Giving to REACH

Thank you to everyone who has given to REACH.

"Giving financially is not the only way to get involved..."

Pray for God's guidance & for wisdom in planning.

Tell us who might like to know about REACH - friends, churches, organisations & companies...

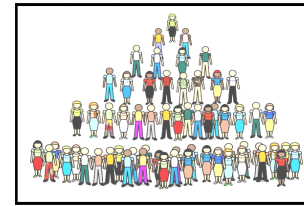
Any donation will be gratefully received
REACH will cost an estimated 1.2 million euros.

St Mark's members have already given over 650 000 euros.



Visit <http://www.stmarksversailles.org/6BuildingGive1.html>
for details of how to donate

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REACH OUT



The Reach Project – Latest News

COUNTDOWN TO THE START

After months (even years!) of waiting, planning and gathering funds we are about to start the actual building of the “church upstairs” (Phase 3A). Some of our church members have waited and prayed a long time to see this moment – the final fulfilment of the original plan. But praise God, funds of 600,000 euros have come in! Virtually all of this has come from present or past members of the church, with some large and incredibly generous gifts from certain individuals. Indeed it was a real answer to prayer that the 200,000 € that we needed did in fact come in very suddenly and wonderfully just as 2010 ended.

So, things have moved on, and we are now holding regular on-site meetings with the architect and contractors, with a view to the building site (*chantier*) being set up in mid-February and the start of works at the beginning of March. The architect's plan requires the builders to have finished by the end of July - and at that point we should have a new church. We are told it will be usable, though not fully furnished and decorated at that point. So there is still some way to go.

We also **hope to raise a further half million euros** in order to complete the second half of this final phase (Phase 3B), which is an extended entrance foyer with better access, toilet facilities, kitchen etc. So much to look forward to! So much to stretch our faith! But God has been gracious so far, and we believe it is all possible.

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

People might ask: **Why did we launch such a challenging project?** The answer is partly because we intend to outgrow our current facilities! We currently have seating for 150 people when all are packed in – and we are usually over 80% full. We are praying for an Electoral Roll of 200, with a fluid membership greater than that, so the proposed 250-seat building will suit us well. We also believe we have an important role to play in serving the community, and trust that the new facility will be used by a variety of community groups - there is (as far as we know) no other spiritual conference centre with a large auditorium, numerous small meeting rooms and dedicated parking for 60 cars within many miles of this place.

Latest News (continued)

Why on earth start REACH in the middle of an economic crisis? We would answer: What better time to demonstrate the faithfulness of God towards those who take him at his word! Malachi 3:10 says "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it". In keeping with this principle, we have challenged people to honour God in their giving, despite difficult circumstances, and God has kept his promise.

What effect will it have? Greater impact on the community through the connections that will be made, and greater visibility too, as the tower rises up and becomes visible from the road and even the nearby motorway. St Mark's Church has been active in Versailles for nearly 200 years (bi-centenary in 2014), but there are still many people who have no idea we are here. When the building nears completion we will do all we can to maximize the publicity potential.

Who will benefit? As well as the local community and church, we also trust that the blessings will spread even further. In a sense, we have made our task even harder for ourselves (but a greater God-opportunity!) by committing to give away a tithe (tenth) of all money raised, to help other building projects. That has increased our costs by over 100,000 euros – but already we have been able to help:

- St. George's Baghdad rebuilding a medical clinic after a bomb blast
- Pastor Bujie's wayside church in Andhra Pradesh, India
- St. Peter's Chantilly with their church refurbishment
- River of Life Uganda and Love Uganda projects
- Cry In The Dark Orphanages in Romania
- St. John's Theological College Nottingham refurbishment
- St. Peter's Zermatt Building Appeal

Thank you for your prayers and your support. Please continue to ask God to fulfil all his promises abundantly, so that St Mark's Versailles can continue to be a blessing to many.