



15th March 2020

THE BOTSIS RETIREMENT PROJECT

Rod and Mandy Botsis will be retiring from Bellville Presbyterian Church (BPC) in 2021 after over 40 years of faithful and devoted service to our Lord and the folk of BPC. They did this with the kind of dedication and love which is almost impossible to express in words. There can be little doubt that there are many, many people – both within BPC and beyond - whose lives have been deeply touched in different ways by the ministries of this wonderful couple.

How do we meaningfully and adequately express our appreciation and love to “Team Botsis” for everything they have done for us and have meant to us over these many years?

Some of us have been pondering this question and have come up with the following proposal: instead of each person/family or organisation coming up with individual gifts, it was felt that we should rather combine our efforts into a single fundraising exercise. In this way, the monies raised could be used to provide

Rod and Mandy with a more meaningful and substantial gift of their choice.

This idea proved to fit perfectly into the thinking and planning that was already happening in the Botsis home: Mandy has been trying to find a way to provide Rod with his own private study once he had retired. Unable to find a way of suitably adapting their home, the idea emerged to convert one half of their double garage into a comfortable and private study with its own access. Rod and Mandy had already begun exploring ways to fund this themselves – even by potentially dipping into their precious retirement funds.

When those of the congregation who had been thinking about an appropriate gift subsequently chatted to “Team Botsis”, the idea emerged of raising sufficient funds to cover both the cost of the garage conversion into Rod’s study – as well as a suitable gift for Mandy (not determined as yet).

The study, which together with whatever is finally agreed as Mandy’s gift, would be of immediate and long-term benefit to both of them and a tangible remembrance of their ministries; would increase the value of their home; and would get Rod out from underneath Mandy’s feet!

These ideas have merged into a project proposal which was discussed with Rod and Mandy and a number of congregation members and finally with the Elders of BPC. Everyone was in full

agreement on condition that:

- The project would be a congregational initiative and not the responsibility of Session.
- The fundraising should not impact on the financial commitments to BPC by the congregation.
- Rod and Mandy would have no part in the fundraising.

A small team of volunteers have begun work on what has been affectionately named the “Botsis Retirement Project”. The key steps in the project are:

1. Initial planning:

The intention has been to complete a feasibility exercise by early March so that the project could be launched on 15 March 2020 with an announcement on a wide front and then followed shortly thereafter by a further communication detailing how donations may be made ... and how these will be reported as time goes by.

Whatever is finally raised by April 2021 (when Rod retires) will determine the final budget that will be available for the gift to Rod and Mandy. The funds raised will determine the extent of garage conversion and a gift for Mandy.

2. Fundraising - from April 2020 until April 2021

This would give persons a year to plan and provide for whatever contributions they would like to make to the project, should they not be able to do so on launch date. The plan is to present the fundraiser to both present and past members as well as organisations and churches that Rod and Mandy have worked with over the years.

All contributions will be formally acknowledged and all funds received and disbursed will be subject to strict controls and open to inspection at any point.

Again, the contributions will determine the nature of the gift to Rod and Mandy. No one will be pushed to help reach a predetermined target.

3. Detailed planning and implementation:

These aspects will be addressed between April 2020 and April 2021. All the work necessary to finalise the plans and design of the layout of the study, the appointment of contractors and a host of other related activities will be undertaken in this time.

4. Regular updates of the project will be provided at services, in the BellPress magazine and on the BPC website.

**We hope that you will all join in the spirit of this unusual way
of saying a BIG
THANK YOU
to our beloved Rod and Mandy.**

We will shortly send out our next communication detailing how to make your donations.

Please feel free to contact one of the following if you have any questions or thoughts:

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