

## opportunity in Marseille

From: M Bret Blackford (bret\_blackford@yahoo.com)

To: dave-n-amy-weiler@juno.com

Cc: bstevens@shandselbert.com; donaldfitzgerald@att.net; jkryder@mcknightcrossings.org; bret\_blackford@yahoo.com; mblackford@archrsc.com

Date: Monday, January 15, 2024 at 04:38 PM CST

This is a good response, Dave. Thank you.

We are talking big numbers and want to make sure we have a general understanding and comfort over project management, etc.  
---- Bret

On Monday, January 15, 2024 at 04:16:20 PM CST, dave-n-amy-weiler@juno.com <dave-n-amy-weiler@juno.com> wrote:

Hello Bret:

As Craig raises support for the Marseilles project, he will let contributors know that if they want to send a check, they can send it to MX with a note identifying it as for the project. Virtually all of Craig's personal support that we gather comes as checks mailed to us. Those same supporters are used to that method. So we will allow them to do what they are used to doing. Elizabeth will make sure all checks received are clearly sorted as for Craig or for the project.

Those who want to send funds electronically via ACH/Direct Deposit will send it directly to *Hostetter Ministries*, a 501(c)3 non-profit, (EIN 26-02444982) in Columbia Missouri which specializes in gathering and sending support to overseas missionaries. The Hostetter family has 3 generations of missionaries in it, one of which is part of Craig's team in Marseilles. They set up this service organization to help many foreign missionaries with the challenge of getting their US support to their particular locations and currencies. He trusts this organization to gather and forward these funds with their decades of experience. Craig said that no fees will be charged for this service by Hostetter.

Monthly Elizabeth will forward the project support gathered by MX to Hostetter Ministries. She will continue to accumulate Craig's personal support and distribute that separately to him as usual.

The \$1.5mil purchase price will be given to the seller by 4/1/24. Remaining funds will be spent on remodeling the building as "phase 2". Craig has been blessed to have found an architect in Marseilles who is helping with all the official documentation and construction planning. Craig describes him as a godsend who has embraced this project as an end-of-career highlight. We do not know the specifics of how they will select construction contractors and pay them accordingly. Craig is comfortable that between the experience of the architect and his team members, they will be able to follow French protocols.

I hope that is helpful. I am comfortable with our role and with trusting those Craig is trusting, given the information he has provided about them.

Also, thanks for offering the MX letterhead template. Please send that to me for use on the recommendation letter I am drafting.  
Dave

=====  
From:bret\_blackford@yahoo.com  
To:Dave Weiler,Brad Stevens,Don Fitzgerald  
Cc:Bret Blackford,Jeff Kryder  
Mon, Jan 15 at 12:18 PM  
Admin Elders,

I am thrilled about the incredible opportunity that God has presented to the church in Marseille (<https://www.chapelledefuveau.fr>). It's a wonderful chance to contribute to the expansion of God's kingdom in Europe, and I'm particularly pleased that McKnight is willing to give sacrificially towards this mission.

*Question:* For a project of this size, about \$3mm, do we have an understanding of oversight? That is, do we know how funds will be requested, approved, and accounted for?

As we prepare to generously contribute a large portion of our reserves and recommend this mission to other churches for their support, it would be reassuring to have a comprehensive understanding and comfort in the project's management, especially in terms of cash management.

---- Bret