

Building begins for Milton Bible Church downtown

By JASON MISNER
The Champion

After three years of planning and raising money, Milton Bible Church has finally started constructing the foundation of its new \$1.3 million building at 200 Main Street E. It's expected to be up and running early in the new year.

Right now it's a large empty space blocked by a fence and tall particle boards draped by orange tarps, with construction workers toiling away on the other side. But design plans call for a 12,000-square-foot building complete with three floors. The basement will be used for youth services, the main floor will house a 300-seat auditorium "with state-of-the-art lighting" and classes and offices will be on the third floor.

The church has been operating out of Milton District High School on Sundays the past two years.



A sketch shows what the church will look like.

"We're hoping the facility is a real blessing to the downtown community and all of Milton," said an excited Rev. Jim DeMarsh, senior pastor of the 130-member Milton Bible Church. "It's not an exclusive club, that's for sure."

More than \$500,000 has been raised by the congregation to pay for the building's costs and the remainder is being financed by a bank, he said. The church is Baptist faith-based.

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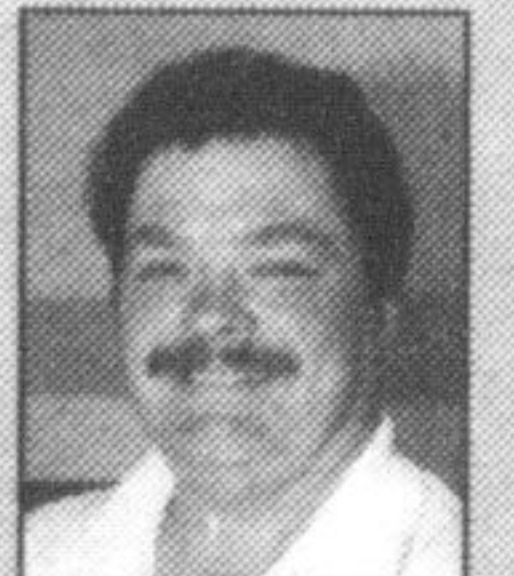


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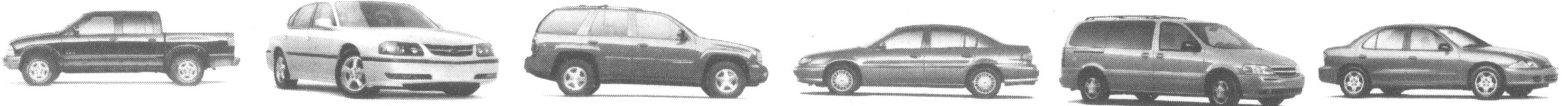
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