

E-mail sent to over 1000 people in December 2003

Dear Friend interested in the Sabbatarian Educational Environment,

The enclosed information was included in an e-mail sent to Servants' News readers with an e-mail address. You have indicated an interest in either working on the SEE board or staff, so we are sending a special copy of this to you. If you have an e-mail address, or can obtain one (your local library can often help), please let us know what it is. We hope to send most of the SEE communications via e-mail. Even if you have a nearby friend with e-mail, it would be easier and faster for us to send e-mail to them than it would to print up copies and send it through the mail.

Whether the Port Austin property works or not, we hope to refine the plans for SEE so that they are much better, produce a fairly firm list of potential staff members and students, and then find the means and a place, and **get started!**

Please let us know your plans.

The following material was included as an e-mail message to other potential board/staff members and to Servants' News readers:

Dear Servants' News Readers,

I apologize for not producing another issue by now. I have been busy teaching half time at Spring Vale Academy, which has been a wonderful experience, both for my family and me. I will write more about that later. I have also tended to many personal concerns, and have made arrangements for us to continue living in our present home. I would also work much more effectively if I would pray more and worry less. I still need to grow in that area.

I would like to inform you of an outstanding opportunity to purchase a "ready to go" campus for the Sabbatarian Educational Environment. The Christian group that bought the old Air Force base near Port Austin has decided to sell it. We had rented the campus for a Feast of Tabernacles site in the year 2000 and know the property quite well.

They had completely outfitted it for a Bible Teaching Center, but never had enough students to keep it going. They were teaching advanced theology. Most of their students were older adults—who have a very difficult time getting away from jobs, children and other responsibilities.

By contrast, there is a great need for a place for Sabbatarian young people to go to learn job skills, fellowship with each other and establish a Godly foundation for the rest of their life.

Over a million dollars were put into the property over the past four years. It has been appraised at \$13 million dollars. They are hoping to sell it for only half of its value. They have had a very low offer, and are asking for more—which their current buyer may well decide to pay. But they would rather sell it to someone like us who will use it for the purpose for which they built it.

They are willing to sell the property for \$250,000 down, and another \$420,000 within a year. They need the \$250,000 very quickly as they have a land contract due.

The above has changed as of late December 2003. The present owners will let us have the property for \$250,000—making the payments on their existing land contracts. There are two contracts. About \$7000 per month is needed for the next two months. One contract has a "balloon" in March of 2004: \$100,000 will be needed to pay it off. The remaining \$150,000 can continue to be paid in installments of \$4400 per month, or all at once. There is a good

chance that a few individuals involved will be able to pay for the campus in one way or another, and SEE can begin as soon as students and faculty can be arranged, hopefully this summer or fall.

Fully functional features of the property include:

- 1) About 40 acres of land.
- 2) Three furnished 2-floor dormitories with 120 beds in them. There is a bathroom on each floor. (We would need to purchase some desks.) Two changes of bedding come with it.
- 3) Building for staff and traveling-teacher housing. The lower half contains an office and a 5-bedroom living area (that could be split into multiple living spaces. The upper half contains 5 2-bedroom units and a common kitchen/laundry/storage area.
- 4) A cafeteria building seating 80 comfortably and 120 maximum. It contains 2 walk-in refrigerators, a walk-in freezer, pantry, commercial stove, oven, grill, 3 sinks, a full set of utensils and an office. It was health-department licensed until they dropped it last year. (It has an industrial dishwasher that needs some repair—student dishwashers can do the job till the tech-classes repair it.)
- 5) An assembly room with a stage that seats 120 easily. The building also has a food serving area, a lounge, 2 offices and a storage room. This could be used for Sabbath Services, daily worship meetings and some classes.
- 6) A multi-purpose building containing another large assembly area, 2 offices, a classroom, a gym with basketball and volleyball courts, a racket-ball room, a weight room and storage. The large room could be easily sub-divided into more classrooms if necessary.
- 7) A motor-pool building with 4 full bays (20' height), an office and a classroom. This would be an ideal place to teach auto mechanics! The industrial heating is operational, but auto hoists and tools would need to be acquired.
- 8) A classroom/office/storage building with at least 600 sq. ft.
- 9) A building with a 2-lane bowling alley.
- 10) Two lighted tennis courts.
- 11) A lighted baseball/football field.
- 12) A children's playground.

Additional features of the property that would require some work include:

- 13) A cinderblock building of at least 2000 sq. ft. with no interior that could be made into classrooms or other areas necessary for technical teaching.
- 14) A fourth dormitory building that could either be used to house another 40 students or be made into classrooms.
- 15) An outdoor swimming pool that needs some work.

Finally, three structures on the property are presently produce about \$10,000 per year:

- 16) The city of Port Austin rents a small building as their town hall (about 4000/yr).
- 17) A cell-phone tower rents for about \$3500 per year.
- 18) The campus water plant provides water to some nearby businesses and houses, about 1500/yr.

As you can see, there is not much that would need to be done to turn this into a functioning, educational environment which would be both beneficial and fun for young people. Virtually everything in this property would be useful. There might be some need for more staff housing, but three bedroom houses near the campus have sold for about \$45,000. I, personally, would be willing to live in a dormitory building to start something that would be so helpful to so many people.

I hope that everyone will pray that if our Father in His great wisdom sees this as the best place to do this, that he will make it possible for us to acquire it. I am still aware of other possibilities, but this one holds out the best hope for starting relatively quickly, and on a completely independent footing.

If you know someone who might be able to help, please ask them.