

Trinity Vision becomes reality

By Mary Margaret van Diest
Business/Features Reporter

What began a short two years ago as a vision in the minds of the Rev. Clifton Lewis of Mt. Harmony Baptist Church and Coach Ed Jackson of Louisiana Tech University is swiftly becoming a reality.

On the property next to Mt. Harmony a facility which dwarfs its neighbor is taking place—the headquarters of the Trinity Vision organization.

Trinity Vision CEO Coach Ed Jackson said the building is designed to accommodate many different groups and activities.

"We want to fill many needs of this community," Jackson said. "We have a full size basketball court for church league games but it may also be used for all kinds of other events like banquets, receptions, luncheons and weddings.

"But that is only the beginning. Two of our initial programs are going to be daycare programs for young people from infancy to 12 years old and for the elderly."

Jackson said the facility is built to serve many needs for many years. "Everything about this project is first class and as modern as it can be."

Jackson continued. "We've got the highest technology with sound systems, intercoms and computer hookups which are all state-of-the-art.

"We've got separate heating and cooling systems which can be adjusted for the portions of the building in use at any particular time."

Jackson said those involved in the planning designed the building to be a community center for many different groups and organizations as well as individuals.

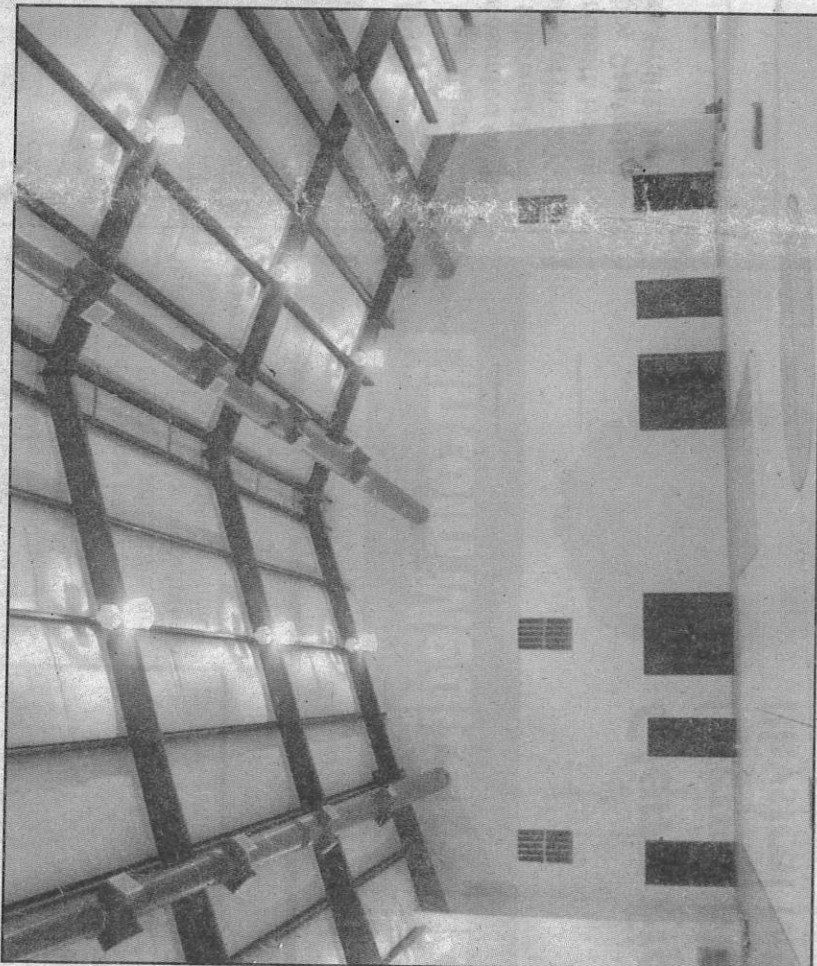
"We have all the facilities needed for just about any athletic or social event," he said. "We have first class locker rooms, a laundry room, a commercial kitchen and a computer lab. We actually have computers in all the rooms and we have conference rooms perfect for meetings."

Jackson said the whole idea of Trinity Vision is based on unity in the community. That is clearly shown in the plans for the high school room.

"Most of the time when you see a facility that is displaying school items for decoration, you see one school with all of its memorabilia on one wall and the other school with all of its things on the other wall," Jackson said.

"We are not going to do it that way."

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Leader photos by MARY MARGARET van DIEST

The majority of the space inside the new Trinity Vision building is devoted to a full size basketball court which will also serve as a multi-purpose room for many other events.

Many contributed to new building

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We are going to take banners and photographs and shirts and all of that sort of thing and just mix them all up on the walls. All of the schools will be represented in the decor but they will be mixed with all of the schools in the area scattered on the walls. We want to show that there is real unity and respect in our community."

Jackson said that many people in the community have made in-kind or cash donations which have

made the timely completion of the building possible.

"It is always risky to start naming names of people who contributed, but this community has so many generous people that I just have to mention a few," he said.

"Karl Malone and his daughter Cheryl Ford have already offered to be involved in the basketball events, the work-out room has been contributed by Willie Roaf, Community Trust Bank is contributing the non-profit office, James

Davison provided all of the dirt work and foundation, Johnny Maxwell has made a generous contribution, Lincoln Buildings is involved — well, the list just goes on and on."

Jackson emphasized that the building cost more than a million dollars and that there is still a sizable debt. The leasing of the building for events is crucial in order to make those payments and to keep this community facility meeting vital needs of the community.