



Cranes swing the huge laminated beams into place.

New hall for church

Work has begun on a 1300-seat auditorium for the Assembly of God church in New Plymouth this week.

The new auditorium was tiered and would include sophisticated sound equipment, Pastor Dan House said.

It would be the biggest auditorium in Taranaki. He said the church had doubled its membership in the last three years, from 250 to about 500. He expected to have enough members to fill the hall in five to six years.

The Assembly of God church is charismatic, and Pastor House said he believed its major appeal was that it offered the reality of Christ's message, not just the tradition.

Pastor House emphasised that although the

church encouraged new members it did not attempt to attract those already attending another church.

"Transfer growth is no growth," he said.

Money for the new auditorium had come from donations and a

loan, he said. He would not say how much it cost.