High Access Solutions

Case Study

Mount Hebron Baptist Church

Garland Texas

Customer Profile:

Mount Hebron is a large church that we completed projects over the last 7 years. Ceilings are over 50 at the peak and the configuration has 4 aisles going from the back of the church to the front with a large open area before the stage. The stage is very large and can be accessed from the rear.

Customer Need:

After a wind storm it was discovered that the ceiling of the main sanctuary needed to be strengthened.

Challenges:

 As with many churches, the challenges lie in:

* moving the minimum number of pews
* gaining access through narrow doorways
* protecting thresholds, carpet and floor covering transitions
* weight restrictions on stages
* combining reach and height concerns
* Getting work done in a way that allowed regular services to take place with minimal interruption

Assessment:

After several meetings structural engineers determined that two 50-foot-long steel beams needed to added be placed up on the ceiling connected to the main wood beams that ran from the front of the church to the rear. It was determined two Bluelift 85s, with their unique 85’ height and 45’horizontal reach, would be needed for the job to provide adequate height and reach capabilities.

Solution:

Phase 1: Week 1,

What needed to be done was first to clear the work area above and below. We decided to use 2 lifts for a week to clear all speakers and light bars that were suspended from the ceiling. We designed a plan where we would put a lift at each end of the 40-foot-long light bars, disconnect all wires and then lower them to the floor. Then we disconnected the large speaker arrays and lowered them to the floor.

Before all this could be done, we needed to clear the floor area so we could move the lifts freely. This entailed moving over 50 pews. HAS developed a pew moving system that works hydraulically. We moved all the pews because of our experience and knowledge of pews. Pews are top heavy and like to break at the middle seam. Our system eliminates that. We covered the floors with plywood, blankets and plastic.

Each week during the operation the HAS team worked on Saturday and removed the lifts and replaced all pews and ensured the Sunday services were held without interruption.

Phase 2: Week 2, 3

With the ceiling clear we were able to bring in our 2 lifts and a mini crane to do the lifting. With the area on the floor that we cleared out we positioned the crane in the middle of where the beam was to be raised and one of our lifts on each side of the beam so it could be attached to the existing wood beam. We set aside 1 week for each beam. This was tedious because we had to devise systems as we went. We worked closely with the steel workers to move the project forward.

Phase 3: Week 4

The final phase was to put light bars and the speaker arrays back in place. We also replaced all pews and cleared all debris

Summary:

Without access to the lifts we provide, this job would normally have required the use of scaffolding and riggers. This would involve considerable expense and loss of the use of the sanctuary for at least a month. We just don’t deal with the lifts we get involved with the whole project. Our expertise is invaluable in situations like this.