

GOSPEL GIVING

ev / church

A large group of people, mostly young adults, are sitting on blankets on a grassy lawn at dusk. They are gathered for an outdoor event, likely a church service or community gathering. In the background, there is a modern, single-story building with large windows and a covered outdoor area. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, indicating sunset. The overall atmosphere is relaxed and communal.

But who am I [asked King David], and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

1 Chronicles 29:14



A MESSAGE FROM ANDREW

From small beginnings 30 years ago, EV Church has grown out of a desire to see God's name glorified as many more people on the Central Coast and beyond come to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

The vision is a bold one: to win 10% of Australia – and therefore 10% of the Central Coast – to Christ. It's been amazing to see how the Lord has answered our prayers. Hundreds have come to know Jesus, thousands have had their faith nurtured and deepened, and many others have been sent out to plant churches and serve Jesus in other places.

Yet it's easy to forget that it takes finances to make disciples.

Few people get excited about covering the cost of facilities, electricity bills, staff wages, or office supplies. These things can feel uninspiring and disconnected from gospel ministry. But we must remember they are a means to an end – the urgent work of making and maturing disciples.

God has already used the generous and sacrificial giving of our church family to grow his kingdom. It's our bold prayer and confident expectation that he will continue to use us to call thousands more men, women, and children to himself – and grow thousands more in their love and knowledge of him.

We invite everyone in our church family to consider how you can glorify God, be spiritually enriched, and partner with us in growing his church by being generous with the money he has graciously given you.

We can't wait to see what God will do as we partner together in the work of his kingdom.



Yours in Christ,
Andrew Heard

PART 1: THEOLOGY OF GIVING

Why Do We Give?



1. BECAUSE GOD GAVE FIRST

We follow a generous God. He made us, he sustains us, and everything we have is ultimately a gift from his hand. Most of all, *"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son"* (John 3:16), so that we might be forgiven and receive eternal life.

Paul reminds believers of *"the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich"* (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Our giving always responds to God's giving. We give because we have first received.

2. BECAUSE GOD IS CHANGING OUR HEARTS

When God's Spirit is at work in us, it reshapes what we love and what we value, including how we use our money.

Jesus warned that we cannot serve both God and money (Matthew 6:24). One of the ways we show that God, not money, is our true treasure is by gladly using our resources for what matters to him.

3. BECAUSE WE LIVE FOR ETERNITY

The Bible reminds us that this life is short and eternity is long. Jesus tells us not to store up treasures on earth, where everything fades and fails, but to store up treasure in heaven, which will last forever (Matthew 6:19-21).

As part of a church family focused on God's purposes, we have the amazing opportunity to invest in people and in gospel work that will echo into eternity. What a privilege!

4. BECAUSE IT BRINGS GLORY TO GOD AND JOY TO US

Paul describes the Philippians' financial support as *"a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God"* (Philippians 4:18). Giving is not just practical, it's spiritual. It is an act of worship.

And it's also for our good. Paul reminds the Ephesian leaders of Jesus' words: *"It is more blessed to give than to receive"* (Acts 20:35). Will we believe that?! There's a deep joy in being generous that will not be found in holding on tightly.

5. BECAUSE GIVING HELPS MAKE DISCIPLES

We live in the age of Jesus' Great Commission. His call is to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20). He continues this work today through his church by his Spirit.

In the New Testament, financial partnership is closely tied to gospel ministry. Paul received support from other churches (Philippians 4:15-16), which freed him to focus on preaching Christ and strengthening believers. He also taught that those who labour in preaching and teaching are worthy of material support (1 Timothy 5:17).

When we give, we are helping to free people to lead, teach and organise so that together we can see more people come to know and follow Jesus.

PART 1: THEOLOGY OF GIVING

How Much Should We Give?



¹ Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. ² On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

The New Testament does not set a fixed amount for Christian giving. Instead, we are encouraged to give generously and in proportion to what we have (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). This means a small gift can be deeply generous, as Jesus showed with the widow's offering (Luke 21:1-4).

God delights in giving that is cheerful, sacrificial, and generous.

WHAT DOES GENEROSITY LOOK LIKE?

In the Old Testament, God's people were commanded to give a tithe - 10% of their income (Leviticus 27:30). There were also additional provisions for the poor and voluntary offerings given in gratitude.

In the New Testament, the focus shifts from a fixed percentage. We are not simply following a rule; we are responding to the grace we have received in Christ.

Even though Christians are not commanded to give 10%, it would seem strange to give less under grace than under law. God's mission now stretches to all nations, and the grace we know in Jesus should raise our vision for generosity, not lower it.

For many, the tithe can be a helpful starting point – a springboard into deeper, prayerful generosity.

DO I HAVE TO GIVE 10%?

No! The tithe is not a law that binds Christians. Many will be able to give more; at times others may only be able to give less. As 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 reminds us:

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

PART 1: THEOLOGY OF GIVING

WHO SHOULD WE GIVE TO?

All our giving is ultimately an offering to God, but Scripture highlights several key areas where our generosity can be directed.

1. The local church — making disciples here

Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor.

Galatians 6:6

¹⁷ The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. ¹⁸ For Scripture says, "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages."

1 Timothy 5:17-18

The local church sits at the heart of God's purposes. It's where we are taught, cared for, and encouraged. It is also the base from which we reach our community with the gospel.



Just as God set apart the Levites in Israel, today some are set apart to lead, teach, and organise the life and mission of the church. Paul explains that those who sow spiritual seed should share in material support.

⁷ Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink the milk? ⁸ Do I say this merely on human authority? Doesn't the Law say the same thing? ⁹ For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." Is it about oxen that God is concerned? ¹⁰ Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because whoever plows and threshes should be able to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest. ¹¹ If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you?

1 Corinthians 9:7-11

Giving to your local church is not selfish. It is part of our shared responsibility to make disciples together.

2. Missionaries and church planters — making disciples beyond

...for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need.

Philippians 4:16

I robbed other churches by receiving support from them so as to serve you.

2 Corinthians 11:8

The New Testament shows the partnership between churches and those sent out to preach Christ in new places. As a church, we are thankful to support many brothers and sisters serving cross-culturally and to be involved in planting new churches across Australia.

3. Christians in need and others who are struggling

¹ Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. ² On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

James 2:14-17

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Galatians 6:10

Christians are called to care for believers in need and, more broadly, to do good to all as we have opportunity. At EV, one expression of this is our support of Compassion, with over 400 children sponsored through our church family.



Planning Your Giving



Working out how much to give is both practical and prayerful.

A simple place to begin is to look at your income (wages, bonuses, gifts and other sources), calculate a proportion such as 10%, and then prayerfully ask God to help you use that as a starting point for generosity.

At EV Church, we encourage giving across four main areas;

1. GIVE TO MAKE DISCIPLES

Supports the staffing of our day-to-day ministry to reach and grow people in Christ.

2. GIVE TO TRAINING FUTURE LEADERS / MTS

Helps raise up the next generation of pastors, missionaries, and church leaders.

3. PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT (some tax deductible)

Provides facilities that enable us to reach and grow more people.

4. MISSION PARTNERS

Supports mission and church planting beyond the Central Coast.

Other Opportunities to Give

Compassion: Supporting children connected with partner churches in Indonesia and Thailand

EV Welfare Fund: Assisting people in need

Religious Instruction in Government Schools (RIGS):
Supporting scripture in schools (tax deductible)

EV Investments: Deposits that generate income for ministry

EV Bequests: Including EV Church in your will

GIVING AND MEMBERSHIP

As Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 9:7, no one should feel pressured or compelled to give. We encourage generosity, but every member can participate fully in church life regardless of financial contribution.

Our paid staff seek to model Christlike generosity in their own lives.

Confidentiality: All giving is kept confidential. Individual giving is not tracked except where required for tax receipts.



How Ministry Giving Is Used



Ministry giving supports the many people and practical needs involved in church life.

It helps provide staff who are responsible for children's and youth ministries, organise Sunday gatherings, train Growth Group leaders, and care for our growing church family. It also covers the everyday costs of running facilities and supporting gospel work.

Our property has been a significant and strategic investment in gospel ministry. EV's facilities have cost around \$12 million, with an outstanding loan of approximately \$5 million. Giving to the School Building Fund can be tax deductible, with receipts issued after the end of the financial year.

RIGS Donations

Account Name: EV Church

BSB: 704-922

Account Number: 100006491

(Please include your name and "RIGS" in the reference if you would like a tax-deductible receipt.)

EV Bequests and Investments

Another meaningful way to support gospel ministry is by including EV Church as a beneficiary in your will.

EV Investments also provides an opportunity to invest funds in a way that earns interest while supporting the ministry of the church. For current rates and details, please contact the church office.



How Do I Give?



1

DIRECT DEPOSIT & ONLINE GIVING

Most people give by arranging direct deposits from their bank account.

Direct Deposit Details:

1. Give to Make Disciples (General Ministry)

Tag giving with your service e.g. giving "8:30".

2. Give to Property Development

Our School Building Fund is tax deductible. To receive a tax deductible receipt please Tag giving with your name, otherwise put "anon" if no tax receipt required.

2. Give to Train Future Leaders (MTS)

Tag giving with with MTS "General" or MTS + name, e.g. "MTS Neo".

4. Give to Mission Partners

Tag giving with your service and mission partner e.g "10.30 Bakon".

General Ministry Giving:

Acc. Name: **EV Church**

BSB: **704-922**

Acc. No: **100006281**

School Building Fund (Property):

Acc. Name: **EV Church**

BSB: **704-922**

Acc. No: **100007523**

Credit Card Payments Online

You can make one-off or recurring credit card donations online via evchurch.info/give

Other opportunities to give are also detailed at evchurch.info/give

2

GIVE VIA THE BOX - AT THE DOORS IN THE ROUND

Cash or Cheques

Giving can be made during services via THE BOX at each entry way in the The Round.

Cheques should be made out to **EV Church Limited**.



3

AT THE OFFICE

Visit the EV Office at 331 Terrigal Drive, to speak to our team and make a donation in person.

Or call the EV Office if you have any questions phone **4367 2100**



GIVING AT EV CHURCH
EVCHURCH.INFO