

*ev*Grow

THE NEXT STEPS/2014





Andrew Heard

18 years ago God began a work here on the Central Coast that started very small. He put it on the hearts of a few people to establish a new church that might be used by God to see a flood of new disciples made, taught and deepened in their faith. Very few of us imagined what God might do among and through us.

Here we are all these years later with six different services, each reaching different kinds of people, each vibrant and growing. People are being converted week by week. People are being raised up from among us to leave us to go into ministry elsewhere. We have seen some leave us to plant new churches in a number of locations around the country. We are seeing kids reached, and youth and young adults, and the more mature. It is all so wonderful, but there is still so much to do.

I know it can become background noise but it is actually profoundly important to remember and keep central as we go about our lives day by day. Within only thirty minutes' drive of us there are around 140,000 people who still don't know Jesus and who largely don't even know a Christian who can share with them the life-saving news of Jesus! We are only just scratching the surface. Even with all we have seen happening over the last 18 years we are still only scratching the surface. That in itself is astonishing.

Imagine if God might cause only one of each of our friends to become a Christian. We would double in size but still be very far from impacting a noticeable proportion of that 140,000. We have seen a wonderful work of God. But there is still so much He might do.

In all of this the provision of property, and then facilities, has been a huge part of God's unfolding plan. Who could have imagined we would end up out of school halls into such a wonderful set of buildings? This provision is blessing us now, but it will be a blessing to generations to come.

It actually helps us do our work so well. It is positioned brilliantly. It is warm and inviting. It has space for growth. It has been worth the investment of money and effort. It continues to be worth investment.

For the sake of the ongoing growth of the gospel we need to give - to not only keep the facilities on a solid financial footing but also to liberate funds that are at present going into property. Then we can direct those funds into expanding the people work that goes on in and around the facilities.

For all these reasons, and with great thankfulness for all of you who have worked hard and sacrificed much over the last many years, I urge you to think into The Next Steps.

Warmly in Christ, Andrew.



What is **evGrow**?

THE NEXT STEPS/2014

What is EV Grow - The Next Steps all about?

EV Grow is about investing in our mission to the Coast. The Lord has blessed EV Church with sustained growth over the last 18 years and with property and facilities that support this growth now and into the future. Over the next three weeks we want to;

- Acknowledge what the Lord has done and is doing in us and through us.
- Understand why we have invested as we have in our property and facilities and the details of this investment
- Secure our repayments and encourage everyone to consider making a three year pledge to start repaying our church family home loan
- Push forward and free up interest repayments for ministry - and encouraging everyone to consider making a one off gift on the weekend of 25-26 October to invest in our facilities understanding their value as a base for us to bring the gospel to coast.

Please note that at EV Church there are four key focuses for our giving.

1. The Ministry budget which pays for staff and normal ministry activity.
2. The Property Development budget which enabled the purchase and development of our property and facilities.
3. The Missions budget through which some of our support for link missionaries and church plants flows.
4. Many in the church also support our trainee ministers through The Ministry Training Strategy.

EV Grow – The Next Steps is focused on the Property Development Budget.



EV Grow studies for Growth Groups

We are taking time in our Growth Group studies to consider God's great plan for the universe as described in Paul's letter to the Ephesians and how we at EV Church are swept up into it.

We want consider how the Lord has worked amongst us, the mission ahead and how we can play our part.

We want to give particular consideration to how the development of our property and facilities fits in and financial goals around this.

In summary the studies will have the following focuses;

- Week 1 - Celebrating what God has done among us.
- Week 2 - The Next Step - The mission ahead
- Week 3 - Our life together and our shared financial commitment

WEEK 1 DAILY READING NOTES

Celebrating what God has done amongst us.

DAY 1

Ephesians 1:1-10

1. How have we been blessed in Christ?

2. What is God's great purpose set forth in Christ?

Thank God for the blessings we have in Christ.
Pray that God's ultimate purpose would be worked out as he has promised and that he would sweep you up in them.

DAY 2

Ephesians 1:11-14

1. Is there any limit to God's power and control?

2. What is the inheritance spoken of here and how is it guaranteed?

3. Is the reality of this inheritance something you think about often?

Thank God for the inheritance that is ours in Christ and for the seal of the Holy Spirit.

DAY 3

Ephesians 1:15-23

1. What is the knowledge that Paul wants the Ephesians to have?
2. What is God's ultimate plan for Christ and the Church?

Pray as Paul prayed in this passage for yourself and your brothers and sisters.

DAY 4

Ephesians 2:1-10

1. What is the situation and destiny of every person apart from Christ?
2. What has God done for those who have faith in Jesus?

WEEK 1 DAILY READING NOTES

3. What is God's desire for those who are recreated in Christ?
4. How has the experience of God's mercy and love changed your life?

Thank the Lord for the new life he has given you.

DAY 5

Ephesians 2:11-22

1. What was the situation of the Gentiles before Jesus came?
2. What has Jesus sacrifice achieved for Jews and Gentiles?
3. What are the images Paul uses to describe God's people and how are they helpful?
4. How has knowing God's reconciliation plan changed your attitude to other races and cultures?

Consider the plan of God for every race and culture. Pray for the preaching of the Gospel in all the world and on the Central Coast.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

Celebrating what God has done amongst us.

In 25 May 1961 President Kennedy announced a plan to put a man on the moon within 10 years. On 21 July 1969 man set foot on the moon for the first time.

In this study we will be thinking about god's great plan and our involvement in it. But let first consider as a group what some of the elements might have been that brought about success in the plan to put a man on the moon.

Read Ephesians 1:1-14

1. What is God's plan described in verses 9 and 10?

2. How will this be achieved?

3. How are we involved?

WEEK 2 DAILY READING NOTES

The Next Steps: the mission ahead.

DAY 1

Ephesians 3:1-13

1. What is the mystery that was hidden (vs 6)?
2. What is Paul's appointed role with respect to this mystery?
3. Note how the plan of God is described here. It is enormous! Where do you fit in with it?

Ask the Lord to use you in His plan.

DAY 2

Ephesians 3:14-21

1. What do you think it means to be rooted and established in love?
2. What does Paul pray for the Ephesians?

3. Why is it important to grasp the love of Christ?

Pray for the church and yourself as Paul prayed for the Ephesians that we might grasp the love of Christ.

DAY 3

Ephesians 4:1-10

1. What is the basis of Christian unity spoken about here?
2. What should keeping the unity of the Spirit look like for you?

Pray that EV church life and your life might be marked by the things in verse 2.

DAY 4

Ephesians 4:11-16

1. Why is it important that Christ has given apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers to the church?

WEEK 2 DAILY READING NOTES

2. What will be the evidence that a church is mature?

Ask that the Lord would help you to play your part in helping EV grow into a mature church.

DAY 5

Ephesians 4:17-32

1. What behaviour characterises the old self?
2. What behaviour characterises the new self?
3. What is something you could put off and what is something you could put on?

Ask that the Lord by His Spirit would continue to transform you into the likeness of Christ Jesus.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

The Next Steps: the mission ahead.

Sometimes the rescue effort for people comes at enormous cost ie. sailors in distress in the Southern Ocean, pilots lost behind enemy lines, lost bush walkers. Share some other examples in the group. Why are communities willing to bear such expense?

Read 3:1-3:13

1. What was Paul's mission?
2. According to this passage how important is this mission and what is its scope?
3. What are the indications that this is costly for Paul?
4. Where does the church fit in with this mission?
5. How are we at EV caught up in this?

3. Thinking about our future of ministry and mission at EV
 - a) Watch the Week 2 - part 1 video.
Ask members to comment on the vision of the church.

 - b) Watch Week 2 - part 2 video.
Consider the information from the video about the value of our property and facilities and the outstanding loans.

 - c) Discuss the information provided and plan to address the repayments.

Gather any questions that can't be answered in the group.

The group leader can email these to the General Manager, Andrew Mitchell who will seek to answer them and have them available for week three, andrew.mitchell@evchurch.info.

Share in Prayer for;

- the Lord's mission in the world,
- your group's mission partner,
- the church planting movements in Australia especially the Geneva Push and the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Church (FIEC),
- our mission to the Central Coast,
- our generous support of the mission with all the Lord has given us personally,
- other points shared in the group.

WEEK 3 DAILY READING NOTES

Our life together and our shared financial commitment.

DAY 1

Ephesians 5:1-14

1. As children of light we are no longer in darkness.
How will this change;
 - our attitude to sex,
 - the way we talk,
 - the way we think about money?

2. Note the warning in verse 6. Have you had people wanting to persuade you back into the darkness?

Ask that you and your brothers and sisters at EV would live as children of light and be able to discern the deeds of darkness.

DAY 2

Ephesians 5:15-21

1. What do you think Paul means when he says make the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil?

2. What does foolishness look like? What does wisdom look like?

Give thanks to God the Father for rescuing you, and the Spirit who enables you to say no to foolishness and walk wisely.

DAY 3

Ephesians 5:22-33

1. What is the wife called to do here? What is the model of this?
2. What is the husband called to do here? What is the model of this?
3. What does verse 32 tell us about a special purpose God has for marriage?
4. God's ideal for marriage is very different from the communities. How can you support it?

Give thanks for the gift of marriage and pray that the Lord would be working his purposes out in the marriages of brothers and sisters in church.

WEEK 3 DAILY READING NOTES

DAY 4

Ephesians 6:1-9

1. What is the instruction here for
 - Children
 - Fathers
 - Slaves
 - Masters
2. How does relationship with Christ transform these relationships?
3. How is this section linked back to verse 5:21?

Ask the Lord to help you show godly submission and leadership in the various roles and relationships he has given you.

DAY 5

Ephesians 6:10-24

1. How does this passage make it clear that we are in a serious battle?

2. What resources does God give us that will enable us to stand firm?

3. How important is the word of God and prayer in the spiritual armour and to Paul (vs 18-20)?

4. How do you put on the armour of God?

Thank God for loving you in Christ and for all he gives you that will enable you to stand your ground.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

Our life together and our shared financial commitment.

Ask some members of the group to share ways in which the love and care they have experienced in their own families has been important to them.

Read Ephesians 4:1-16

1. What are the ways in which we are united as Christians and in the church? (vs 3,4,5,6,15,16)
2. How does Paul encourage the Ephesians to relate to each other?
3. How is love and unity to be promoted?
4. We know as a church we don't always get it right but ask members to share if they have seen these things expressed in their experience of church life.

5. Are there ways you have noticed the EV facilities help support our church life in ways that are described in the passage?

6. Watch the Week 3 video, part 1 and 2.
Discuss the content of the video the commitment form and Commitment weekend.

7. Share any answers to questions re EV Grow from the week before.

Share in prayer

- Give thanks for the gospel, the Spirit and the unity he brings.
- For our church life and that Paul's hopes for the Ephesians church would be seen in our church life.
- For our ministries together and for a deep love for one another
- That we would share together generously in financial support of mission and ministry.
- For other matters shared in the group



Why have we invested in Property and Facilities?

The facilities the Lord has provided for EV Church over the years have all been very significant for our mission, ministry and life together, whether homes, school halls or our own property. EV Church's investment in property and facilities has had a strategic aim of providing a secure base for our mission to the coast and a place where we can grow in love and faith together.

Experience shows that where churches anticipate continued growth, with bigger facilities the growth momentum continues. We have experienced this ourselves over the last 18 years. Our original morning service was filling in 1998 and growth slowed. We began another morning service and wonderfully growth picked up speed again. We sent 50 off to plant The Lakes evangelical church and that 50 were quickly replaced. When we moved on to the Erina drive property and the new facilities, growth picked up and most recently the move into the Round has seen accelerated growth.

Not only do the facilities enable growth but they also provide a wonderful context for church family life and love. It is so heart-warming to see groups of youth meeting around the word in the foyer early on Friday afternoon, then to see senior youth swarming around 'The Round', and junior youth up in the Main Hall. Absolutely brilliant!

Our current property and facilities provide a purpose built base for the ministry of the Gospel on the Central Coast for many years to come. They are a major and critical resource for our mission and there is no other location on the Coast that would accommodate us now.



EV Church Property and Facilities



Land \$4.1M

10 Acres of land provides for our parking and future development. We are ideally located on Terrigal drive and close to Erina Fair.



Main Hall Complex \$3.3M

The Main Hall complex includes a 400 seat hall, seminar room, youth hall, nine meeting rooms, and a commercial kitchen.



The Round \$4.9M

EV Church facilities have cost the church family \$12.3 million dollars. Most recently we have built 'The Round' which seats up to 1150, with foyer and café.



EV Church's Family Home Loans

The value of our property and facilities at cost is around \$12.3 Million. There have been a series of giving campaigns over the life of the church to initially buy a church office, to then buy land, to build the main hall complex, to raise the deposit finance to build 'The Round'.

Wonderfully through the generosity of God's people we have been able to keep moving forward and now have equity of \$5.3 million in our facilities. This is something to give great thanks for. It represents the sacrificial giving of many people over the last 18 years along with many very significant gifts in kind as people have shared in the building works and allowed construction to happen at very low cost.

On top of this we have borrowed \$7 million to enable us to develop the facilities to this point. The loan sounds large but because of our size when you break it down and consider the number of people in the church it is manageable. If a church of 100 borrowed \$500,000 to develop their property it would seem reasonable. EV Church's loans per person are not as big as this and they are at their greatest extent now, because we have just built The Round. We are also helped because \$1 million dollars of the loans has been lent to us interest free.

In order to repay our loans in 25 years we require \$540,000 per year.

This will initially be around \$420,000 in interest and \$120,000 in Loan capital repayment. If we all share in this together it represents around \$400 per adult per year using the average adult attendance number.



Value of Property and Site \$12.3M		
Land \$4.1M	Main Hall \$3.3M	The Round \$4.9M
Equity \$5.3M		Loans \$7M

This is a smaller amount than many churches carry in repayments and as EV Church continues to grow, making the repayments will only get easier. In the years ahead we will continue to develop the property to support our mission but we will also be asking future members to share the vision and join with us in the investment.

Giving to the “EV Church Building Fund” can be tax deductible.

Just as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness, and in love for us – see that you also excel in this grace of giving... it tests the sincerity of your love.

2 Corinthians 8:7-8

Thinking About Giving

We are wanting everyone to consider two gifts at this time.

1. Secure the repayments - A three year pledge to make repayments on the church family home loan.
2. Push forward and free up interest for ministry - A one off gift on the commitment weekend (25-26 October) investing in our facilities for the sake of the mission. One thousand dollars paid off the principal today will save more than one thousand in interest over the life of the loan that can be spent on ministry.

The key theme we have is 'Equal sacrifice, not equal gifts.' Obviously, God has not given everyone the ability to give the same amount in dollars. However, God does call us to make the same quality of commitment.

Possible steps to making a decision;

1. **Prayer:** Pray for the church's mission and your support of it. In particular pray about God applying to our hearts the next three points.
2. **The Gospel:** Think into what it cost God to save us and then the shortness of life. We need to consider how we spend our money in the light of eternity.
3. **Faith and Wisdom:** We want to trust God and so stretch beyond what seems sensible, but need to remember we have other responsibilities such as providing for our family and the ongoing costs of supporting ministry and the poor.
4. **Consider an amount that you would actually miss significantly if you gave it away?** For everyone this will be different amount but our commitment to the mission financially needs to be a top priority and therefore financial support of it will mean reducing expenditure in other areas.

evGrow

THE NEXT STEPS/2014

PLEDGE CARD

3 Year Pledge from 1 January 2015.

\$	Per Week x 156 Payments	= \$
\$	Per Fortnight x 78 Payments	= \$
\$	Per Month x 36 Payments	= \$
\$	Per Annum x 3 Payments	= \$
\$	Per Other x Payments	= \$

I/We wish to use the following method for giving our pledge:

- Envelopes
- Direct Deposit (preferred and lowest cost)
- Credit Card – Please complete credit card details over page.

My First Pledge to commence (Week beginning)/...../.....

Single Donation

\$.....

- Cash/Cheque Gift (Enclosed)
- Please Debit a one off Payment to my credit card
(Week Commencing)/...../.....

Please make cheques out to “EV Church Building Fund”

Tax Deductibility

Donations of \$2 and over may be tax deductible. Please tick here if you wish your Gift/Pledge to be tax deductible or not.

- Yes No

If you would like tax receipts in more than one name please contact the church office.



Credit Card Details:

Bankcard Mastercard Visa

Signature:

Card Number:

Expiry Date : /

Name on Card:

*Sorry we don't accept American Express Cards.

Please make cheques out to “EV Church Building Fund”

How to Give

1. Make a 3 year pledge

Our principle goal is to have pledges to cover the repayment on our church family home loan. This pledge can be made on the EV Grow Pledge form and returned in EV Grow envelope on the Commitment Weekend 25 and 26 October 2014.

2. Give a one off financial gift on Commitment Weekend 25 and 26 October 2014

We would also like people to consider one off gift on the commitment weekend investing in our facilities for the mission and freeing up interest repayments for ministry purposes.

Your gift may be in cash or by cheque, credit card or direct deposit from your financial institution. Details of the gift can be put on the EV Grow pledge form and returned in the EV Grow envelope on the Commitment Weekend 25 and 26 October 2014.





Direct Deposit Details

BSB: 704-922

Account: 100007523

1. For Tax Deductible donations please put your Name and The Next Steps in the reference field of your donation. EG: "Bob Smith The Next Steps"
2. For Non Tax Deductible donations that you would like us to track for you please put your Name and AnonTNS in the reference field. EG: "Bob Smith AnonTNS"
3. If you don't need a tax receipt and you don't want us to track your pledge please put "Anon TNS" in the reference field.

*The most important thing for those who need a tax receipt or want us to track their pledge is that we can identify the donation is from you. So if you can't fit everything in the reference field the minimum would be your first name initial and your full surname e.g. "M Haggengields".

Record of My Pledge to Keep

Payment Method:

3 Year Pledge:	\$	Commencing on:	/ /
	Per	x
	Total Payments = \$		

Single Donation: \$ Commencing on: / /

evchurch
solid hope - jesus

331 Terrigal Drive,
Erina NSW 2250

T 02 4367 2100

F 02 4367 2258

E evoffice@evchurch.info

www.evchurch.info

