

evGrow

21 YEARS & LOOKING AHEAD **2017**



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Message from Andrew Heard



The Lord has done so much. But there is still so much to do!

We have so much to give thanks for. But we still bear the burden to pray for so much more.

Whilst ever there is one person within thirty minutes drive of us, unconverted, we ache to see them come to know the truth about Christ and respond in repentance and faith. This our vision

and it continues to compel and inform all we do.

And so we care about property. It can seem a funny thing to say. But our property has played a part in helping us hold out the news of Christ to people around us. Not all property does that. Sometimes churches are saddled with buildings that are more a burden than a help. We are blessed to have facilities that actually help us do what we do. They help us gather each week and hear from God, praise Him together, love each other, run so many of our mid-week ministries (youth and kids and training etc). And they help us hold out a hand to others. They help us draw new people to church. The gathering of God's people is always an attractive thing. But when it fits in a space that enhances our community life, it is a huge help.

But of course, having this 'tool' costs. Many people have seen the great benefits and have given to carry the costs. We are thankful for the generosity of so many, for so many years.



This year, we come again to consider how we might as a group of people continue to carry the costs; but we also want to consider how we might significantly eat into our debt as well.

This is a big one.

If we can take a large chunk out of the debt, we will be able to liberate interest repayments so that we can increasingly direct money towards further growth initiatives.

It is always tricky to balance maintaining things and yet still being able to move forward.

But we need to do both.

I'd urge you to dig deep and think about giving sacrificially to EV Grow so that we might not only continue to carry the cost of our current facilities, but actually take a big bite out of our debt! And so provide ways in which we can keep pushing forward with the vision of reaching more and more people for Christ.

What a great way to spend our lives! Imagine what might be if we were able to on-goingly sacrifice for the work! What better thing to sacrifice our lives, our time, our money for! In eternity, it won't even feel like it was a sacrifice.



What is EV Grow about?

Over the next three weeks we want to:

- Be reminded of the mission Jesus gave us.
- Give great thanks to God for all He has done in us and through us over the last 21 Years and look forward and pray for more of the same, for the next 21 Years.
- Review why we have invested as we have in our property and facilities and be informed about the current state of this investment.

As we do this, it is helpful to remember the four broad areas we use to think about giving to gospel work.

1. The **Ministry budget** which funds all we do to reach people with the gospel and mature us as God's people.
2. The **Property Development budget** which enables the purchase and development of our property and facilities.
3. The **Missions budget** through which we can support our mission partners
4. The **Ministry Training budget** which supports our MTS apprentices who are training to be church leaders of the future.

EV Grow - 21 Years & Looking Ahead focuses on the Property Development Budget.

The Lord has blessed us with sustained growth over the last 21 years and with property and facilities that can support this growth into the future.

In 2014 church families pledged contributions to cover our loan repayments until the end of 2017. So we now need to secure our loan repayments, for the next three years.

We'll also consider the importance of 'one off' payments, which could be applied to the loan principal, decreasing interest payments. Doing this would free funds in the future, for gospel work.



You can find the details of our current loan at the back of this booklet but first it's important to clarify why we have made the decision to invest in the property and facilities.

Why have we invested in Property and Facilities?

The facilities that God has provided have been very significant for our mission, ministry and life together, providing a secure base for all we do.

Experience shows that, under God, where churches are growing and anticipate continued growth by providing more space for church gathering, the growth momentum continues. We have experienced this ourselves over the last 21 years.

When our original morning service was filling up in 1998, growth slowed. We began another morning service and wonderfully, growth picked up again. We sent 50 people off to plant Lakes Evangelical Church and that 50 were quickly replaced. When we moved onto the property, church grew. And since we have moved into "The Round", we have seen growth that would have been impossible without it. We have had many gatherings that have filled the building and on a normal Sunday recently there were over 380 at Nite EV... significant growth!

The property and facilities also provide a wonderful context for church family life. It is so heart-warming to see groups of young people meeting around God's word in the foyer on Friday afternoons and to see Churn kids and then EV Youth swarming across the site. Absolutely brilliant!

EV is also now able to host conferences that support and train for ministry across Australia and around the world: Geneva's Multiply Conference which encourages and equips for church planting; CMS Coastal Mission Day; Team Pastoring conference – this year hosting 300 church leaders from 68 churches, to list a few. The facilities are a major and critical resource for our mission. They will continue to provide a secure and purpose-built base for the ministry of the Gospel on the Central Coast and beyond, for many years to come .



WEEK 1: MATTHEW 28:16-20

The Greatest Leader and the Greatest Cause

The Lord Jesus has said He will build His church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. There is nothing more important going on in our world nor in all history.

We have the extraordinary privilege of being directly involved in mission as His plan is to work in us and through us. We are His disciples and He calls us to follow Him.



Changing Lives on the Coast

Sarah was invited to church by a friend. She came along at the beginning of the year, thinking it was a good way to meet new people. But it didn't take long for her to be intrigued by what she was hearing in church. So she bought herself a Bible and began reading it. She found that a challenging exercise! She asked her friends what she should do to make sense of what she was reading. They wisely suggested that she pray, asking for God's for help as she read.

Sarah remembers the first time she did this – she just wasn't able to put the Bible down! She was struck by the truth of what she read and five months after first coming to church, (whilst brushing her teeth!), she prayed and became a Christian!!

Sarah loves church and is one of the last to leave. She's soaking up the things of the word, studying it with her friends, reading Christian books and serving in EV Kids. Praise God for His work in Sarah's life, and ask Him to do this, over and over, in young men and women on the Coast.



WEEK 1: MATTHEW 28:16-20

The Greatest Leader and the Greatest Cause

DAY 1

Read Matthew 28:5-15

1. What instructions do the women receive from both the angel and Jesus Himself?
2. Jesus had often foretold His death and resurrection, yet it seems that none of His disciples expected it! What might they have been thinking and feeling on the way to Galilee?
3. Galilee was where it all began for these disciples (3:13, 4:18) and now it's the location for this new beginning. What might be the significance of this?

Prayer: Ask that, like the disciples, you would be captured afresh by the wonder and joy of knowing Jesus, raised from the dead.

DAY 2

Read Matthew 28:16-20; Daniel 7:13-14

There are four “alls” that tie together Matthew 28:18-20.

all authority

1. In His earthly ministry, Jesus had already demonstrated great authority in various domains - over nature, evil spirits, sickness and even death. So what does He now mean when He says that He has received all authority in heaven and earth? (see Philippians 2:5-11)
2. In Daniel 7:13, the Son of Man is described as coming “to” the Ancient of Days. What does He receive and when in Jesus’ life do you think this takes place? (consider the context of Matthew 28)
3. What are the implications of this authority for the command in verse 19? How might this authority be exercised in our evangelism?

Prayer: Praise God for exalting Jesus to the highest place and giving him the name above every name.

WEEK 1: MATTHEW 28:16-20

The Greatest Leader and the Greatest Cause

DAY 3

Read Matthew 28:16-20

all nations

1. In verse 19 Jesus has universal authority and has commissioned a universal mission, to make disciples of all nations. What is involved in making disciples?
2. Jesus never left Israel. What impact would the addition of the expression "all nations" have had on these first disciples?
3. How are you engaged in this disciple making mission? In what ways could you be?

Prayer: Pray now for some aspect of Jesus' disciple making mission.

DAY 4

Read Matthew 28:16-20

all things ('everything' NIV).

1. In verse 19, disciples are to be baptized into the "name" of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, not the "names" of these persons. What is the significance of this?
2. In verse 20, disciples are to be taught "everything I have commanded you..." What are three implications of such a command for you? (Note the parallel in Deuteronomy 7:11).
3. How are you participating in this most important of all teaching programs? How could you be?

Prayer: Pray that EV Church would be committed to teaching this generation to obey all the things that Jesus commanded His disciples.

WEEK 1: MATTHEW 28:16-20

The Greatest Leader and the Greatest Cause

DAY 5

Read Matthew 28:16-20

all the days ('always' NIV).

1. According to Jesus He is with us "always to the very end of the age". (verse 20) What is the great comfort of this promise to those engaged in His mission?
2. How do these words connect with Chapter 1:23? What gift has Jesus given us to make this promise a reality?
3. What evidence have you seen that Jesus is with us, and with you, as we seek together to pursue His mission?

Prayer: Give thanks for this promise of Jesus being with us and pray that He would work mightily in us, for His glory.

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 1: MATTHEW 28:16-20

The Greatest Leader and the Greatest Cause



WEEK 2: LUKE 24 AND ACTS 1

The Great Message of Reconciliation

Humans are good at conflict and not so good at reconciliation. Yet when reconciliation does happen, it is a cause for great joy!

At its heart the Gospel is the news that reconciliation with our creator is possible. Jesus died so we might be forgiven. He gives His Spirit that we might repent and embrace His loving rule over us.



Mission: EV and Beyond

Paul and Sandra King - Mission Partners for 21 Years and Looking Ahead.

Paul and Sandra King have been ministering in France as CMS missionaries for 25 years. EV Church has partnered with them over our 21 years - with Andrew and Cathie Heard establishing a partnership with them before EV even started!

Throughout this partnership the Kings have seen fruit in their gospel work in France. Working in both Paris and Strasbourg, over 50 French Christian leaders have been trained under Paul and Sandra. One young woman, Emily, became a Christian four years ago and today she is leading a Bible group. Paul and Sandra completed their final mission term in July this year. It has been a great privilege to partner with them for 21 years.

We pray God will bring similar fruit from the ministries of our current mission partners: the Brothersons, McKorkingdales, Bakons, Seth and Katie, Geneva, FIEC and others.



WEEK 2: LUKE 24 AND ACTS 1

The Great Message of Reconciliation

DAY 1

Read Luke 24:36-43

1. On seeing Jesus, what are the various emotions of the disciples; what are the disciples struggling to understand?
2. The disciples had heard Jesus teach many times about His resurrection and they all “believed” in Him, yet when it actually happens they are shocked! What does this suggest about people like us?
3. In order to convince them that He’s truly resurrected Jesus allows His disciples to examine Him, touch Him and watch Him eat. What can you infer about His character from this? How does it encourage you?

Prayer: Ask the Lord to help you believe and live in the light of Jesus’ resurrection today.

DAY 2

Read Luke 24:44-49

1. Left to our own devices we are all very slow to perceive spiritual truth. How is this shown in these verses?
2. In verses 45-47 the minds of the disciples are opened to understand God's plan. What are the three main elements of this plan?
3. "Repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in Jesus' name to the nations." What elements of the gospel message does a person need to hear in order to come to Christ?

Prayer: Thank God for the wonderful gift of His Spirit, who empowers us for our gospel witness!

WEEK 2: LUKE 24 AND ACTS 1

The Great Message of Reconciliation

DAY 3

Read Luke 24:50-53

1. The ascension marks the end of Jesus' earthly ministry but the beginning of His heavenly reign.
2. What two words are used to show the response of the disciples to Jesus in verse 52? In what ways have they changed since verse 37?
3. What does the word "worship" imply about their understanding of Jesus?
4. What are the causes of, and obstacles to, Christian "joy"? If your joy is not great, ask God to help change you!

Prayer: Pray that the EV Church family would be filled with joy, as we serve and worship Jesus.

DAY 4

Read Acts 1:1-5

Acts is the second volume of Luke's two volume work. The first book tells what Jesus began to do and teach, the second book tells what Jesus continues to do, by His Spirit from Heaven.

1. After His resurrection Jesus spent forty days teaching His disciples. What do you learn about the major subject of His teaching during this time?
2. The gospel writers often use the term the "kingdom of God" to describe the key theme of Jesus ministry (Mark 1:15). A friend asks you to define the "kingdom of God". What would you say?
3. How is the importance of the Holy Spirit indicated, in verses 4-5? What can you find out about His role from the following?
 - John 14:15, 16
 - John 14:25, 26
 - John 15:26, 27
 - John 16:12-14

Prayer: Ask God to give you clarity, through His Spirit, by His word, about life in His kingdom, so you enjoy Him and testify clearly to others.

WEEK 2: LUKE 24 AND ACTS 1

The Great Message of Reconciliation

DAY 5

Read Acts 1:4-11

The disciples were right in verse 6. The coming of the gift of the Spirit, which Jesus had mentioned in verses 4 and 5, was the sign that God's kingdom was about to come in a whole new way. But there was something important that they hadn't yet understood!

1. The disciples want to know about "when" the kingdom will come. Instead Jesus teaches them about "how". What does He say about this in verses 7 and 8?
2. According to verse 8, what will the gift of the Holy Spirit grant to them? What do you imagine this will "look" like in practice? (see Acts 4:31)
3. God has no plan B for the growing of His kingdom. He's chosen to work through us! What are three things you might conclude from this?

Prayer: Ask the Lord to embolden His people and keep our church focused on Jesus' mission.

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 2: LUKE 24 AND ACTS 1

The Great Message of Reconciliation

What things make it hard to mend a broken relationship? What are the ingredients to restoring a relationship? (Check out Luke 17:3)

Read Luke 24:36-43

1. What words does Luke use to describe the disciple's response to Jesus appearance and how does He help them with their doubts?

Read Luke 24:44-53

2. What steps in God's plan for reconciliation do we see in these verses?
3. From the passage, what gives you confidence that God is in total control of His plan, and that it will be fulfilled?
4. What is the part we are to play in Gods plan for reconciliation?

5. What would help you participate in this plan more fully and confidently?

6. What can we expect people's response to be as "repentance for the forgiveness of sins in Jesus name" is preached to the nations. (See Acts 28:28.) To what action does this promise encourage you?

Watch EV Grow Video 2

Share in Prayer

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

WEEK 2: LUKE 24 AND ACTS 1

The Great Message of Reconciliation



WEEK 3: JOHN 20

The Mission of the Risen Lord

Paul wrote "if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins." 1 Corinthians 15:17

The physical resurrection of Jesus tells us of redemption, both ours and the earth's; without it there is no Christianity.

A key responsibility Jesus gave His disciples, was to be witnesses of His resurrection. And through them he preserved for us strong historical evidence that supports the fact that He is risen and reigns today at God's right hand.



Coast Youth Revolution



Each year EV Youth host a massive mission event which reaches young people across the coast.

In 2017, we again had over 300 youth join us for this night, with over 90 of them from other youth groups on the coast and in the Hunter.

It was a great night of fun and fellowship; best of all eight found new life in Jesus! Be praying that God continues to transform lives amongst youth on the coast and that our partnership with other youth groups remains strong.

WEEK 3: JOHN 20

The Mission of the Risen Lord

DAY 1

For John and the early Christians, their faith rested on the reality of the resurrection of Jesus, which they were confident in because of the testimony and the changed behaviour of those who had seen Him. The resurrection proved that Jesus was God's king, who now sits and rules at God's right hand in heaven.

Read John 20:1-10

1. What elements of this episode suggest that this is an authentic eyewitness account?
2. What clues are there in these verses, as to why Mary and the disciples were so slow to understand what had happened?
3. 1 Corinthians 15:4 says that Jesus was "raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." Consider the context of some of these Scriptures and try to explain why the disciples might not have seen it. (2 Samuel 7:11-13; Psalm 16:8-11; Hosea 6:1-2; Isaiah 53:11)

Prayer: Give thanks for the scriptures that present the frailties and faith struggles of disciples, in such a true and helpful way.

DAY 2

Read John 20:11-18

1. What suggests that Mary did not expect to see Jesus alive again?
2. It seems that Jesus, with His resurrection body, was not recognised immediately on a number of occasions: (the Emmaus road Luke 24:16, the shore of the Lake of Tiberius John 21:4). What do you think caused Mary to recognise Jesus and how did she respond?
3. What do you find significant in the wording of the message that Mary is to relate to the disciples? (See verse 17)

Prayer: Give thanks for the extraordinary reality of the resurrection that secures both our faith and our adoption into the family of God.

WEEK 3: JOHN 20

The Mission of the Risen Lord

DAY 3

Read John 20:19-23

In their slowness to believe, Jesus shows the disciples His wounded hands and side. Note that the wound to His side was not typical for a person who had been crucified.

1. In what ways is Jesus' resurrection body both different and the same as His earthly body?
2. In what sense is Jesus' sending of the disciples like the Father's sending of Him? (Verse 21)
3. What is to be the focus of the disciple's mission as sent ones? (Verse 23)

Prayer: Pray that we would find great joy in announcing the news of the forgiveness of sins in the name of Jesus.

DAY 4

Read John 20:24-29

1. In what ways is it helpful for us that Thomas was not easily convinced about Jesus' resurrection from the dead?
2. Thomas, of course, was a Jew. With this in mind, what is the significance of him addressing Jesus as "Lord" and "God"?
3. In what ways are the words in verses 29-31 an encouragement to our witness to Jesus today? What insights do they give about how we can help others come to belief?

Prayer: Ask God, by His Spirit, to help us to treasure and believe the eyewitness accounts He has caused to be recorded and preserved for us.

WEEK 3: JOHN 20

The Mission of the Risen Lord

DAY 5

This episode recalls a similar event in Luke 5:1-11, back at the beginning of the disciples relationship with Jesus.

Read John 21:1-6 and Luke 5:1-11

1. What do the two events have in common?
2. What is revealed about Jesus in each?
3. In what ways is this knowledge designed to encourage our own witness and response to the commission given to us by Jesus?

Prayer: Give thanks to God that Jesus is sufficient for the work for which He Himself has commissioned us.

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 3: JOHN 20

The Mission of the Risen Lord

Discuss and share in the reasons the physical resurrection of Jesus is so important to our faith.

Read John 20:1-18

1. What are the details in these verses that make it ring true as an eyewitness account?

Read John 20:19-23

2. What is so striking about the commission Jesus gives His disciples here?

3. What are the connections with the other gospels and Acts?

Read John 20:24-31 in parts, with “narrator”, “disciples”, “Jesus” and “Thomas”.

4. In what ways is this account of Thomas helpful to us who read it today?

WEEK 3: JOHN 20

The Mission of the Risen Lord

EV Church Loans – History and Update

There have been a series of giving campaigns over the life of EV, where our church family have provided the funds to buy and develop land and facilities. Initially we bought a church office, then land, then we built the main hall complex and then “The Round”.

The value of EV’s property and facilities is now around \$11.6 million.

Wonderfully, through the generosity of God’s people, we were able to keep our borrowing to \$7 million and we have now reduced our loan to \$5.8 Million.

A key theme of EV Grow has always been, ‘equal sacrifice, not equal gifts’.

The purchase and development of the EV Facilities has only been possible through the sacrificial giving of God’s people. Some will give thousands annually, others will give hundreds. It will be right for some, in their current circumstances, not to contribute at all.

In order to repay our loans in 22 years we require \$450,000 per year.

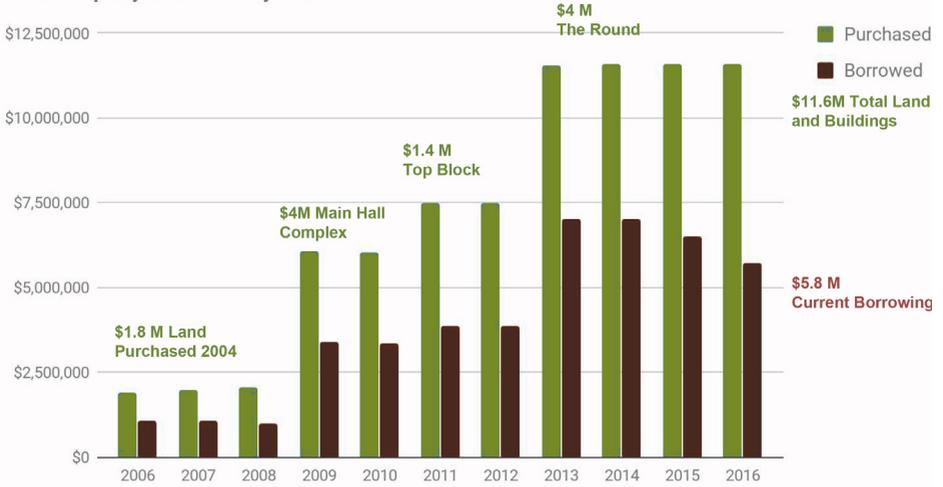
This sounds like a large sum but with around 1400 adults attending EV on a weekend, it is manageable. We hope that everyone will consider contributing to our loan repayments. Many will continue or extend current payments, pledged previously and we hope that those who have joined EV in the last three years, will now share in this gospel project.

Therefore, please consider prayerfully both

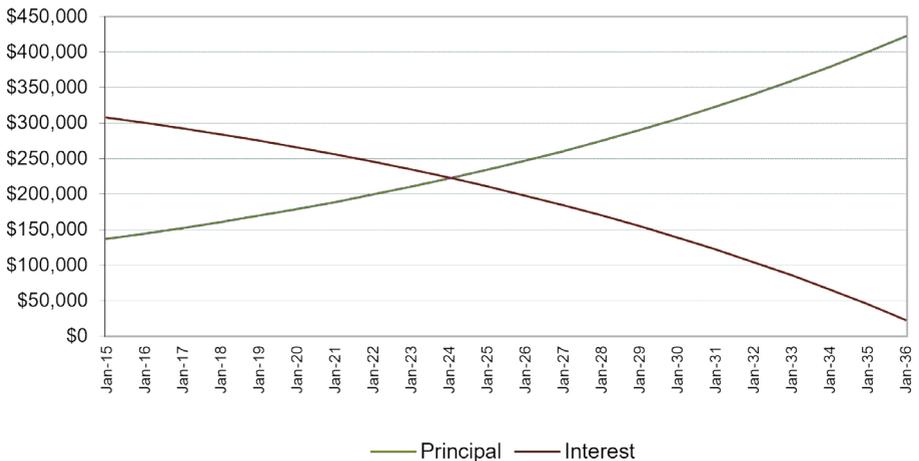
- **A three year pledge** - to help meet the repayments.
- **A one off gift now** - to reduce our loan principal and free up funds for ministry.

Principal and Interest over 25 years

Total Property and Loans by Year



This graph shows how the amount of Principal and Interest we are paying will change as we make our repayment.



EV GROW GIVING

We would like everyone to consider making two contributions.

1. MAKE A 3 YEAR PLEDGE.

Help secure our repayments.

2. ONE-OFF GIFTS NOW.

Consider helping to free up future interest repayments for ministry purposes. One thousand dollars paid of the principal today, will save much more than that in interest repayments over the life of the loan.

One-off gifts can be made by credit card online at www.evchurch.info/GIVE.

To assist in planning and budgeting, it is important that we know what you are planning to give by the end of October.

There are two ways to submit your pledge:

1. SUBMIT PLEDGE ONLINE

Your pledge can be submitted online at www.evchurch.info/GIVE.

2. SUBMIT PLEDGE FORM

Complete the pledge form and return in the envelope provided on Saturday the 28th or Sunday 29th October or drop the form into the office in the weeks following.

Note: 3 year pledges made by credit card will need to be submitted using the pledge form opposite.



1. 3 YEAR PLEDGE FROM 1 JANUARY 2018.

\$	Per Week x 156 Payments	= \$
\$	Per Fortnight x 78 Payments	= \$
\$	Per Month x 36 Payments	= \$
\$	Per Quarter x 16 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 to EV Church**)
- Credit Card (complete card details over page).

My first pledge to commence (week commencing)/...../.....

2. ONE-OFF GIFT

\$.....

- Envelopes
- Direct Deposit (preferred and lowest cost to EV Church)
- Credit Card (complete card details over page).
(credit card week commencing)/...../.....



TAX DEDUCTIBILITY

Donations of \$2 and over may be tax deductible. Please tick here and provide contact details below if you wish your Gift/Pledge to be tax deductible.

Yes No

Name:

Email:

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.

NOTE:

- Please make cheques out to **"EV Church Building Fund"**.
- Tax receipts are issued in July each year.



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**

Direct Deposit Details

Account Name: EV Church

BSB: 704-922

Account: 100007523

1. For Tax Deductible donations please put your name and "Looking Ahead" in the reference field of your donation. EG: "Bob Smith Looking Ahead"
2. For Non Tax Deductible donations that you would like us to track for you, please put your name and "Anon LA" in the reference field. EG: "Bob Smith Anon LA"
3. If you don't need a tax receipt and you don't want us to track your pledge please put "Anon LA" 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 Haggengfields".

RECORD OF MY PLEDGE

Payment Method:
3 Year Pledge:	\$ per year
	Commencing on: / /
	Total payments over 3 years = \$
One-Off Payment:	\$
	Commencing on: / /
Tax receipt requested.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No





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