

# Living into the MORE God has for us

Gisborne Church of Christ MORE Giving

## Our Story so far:

*In the mid 1970's a visionary group of Church of Christ Pastors and Church Leaders came together and agreed that it would be good idea to purchase 10 acres of land in Saunders Rd, New Gisborne for a possible future Gisborne Church of Christ. Not long after a small group of evangelical Christians started meeting together in a local home with the view to starting a new Church of Christ in Gisborne. In time these two groups came together and the dream of a church facility that could serve the local community of Gisborne was born.*

*By the late 1980's the church had grown to a point where this dream of a church building could become a reality. Built largely by volunteer labour, the new church facility was completed in 1990. This new building allowed the church to grow and have a presence in its community but by 2005 the building had become tired and was in need of updating.*



*And so we began to dream again - of a new and larger church facility that could better meet the current and evolving needs of both the Church body and our local community. The type of building we would build was inspired by the question - what can we build that will serve our own needs and, just as importantly, needs in our community that are currently unmet? The answer was in a large room suitable for productions and concerts with various breakout out rooms all linked by a large, easy flow foyer.*

*A project of this size was a significant undertaking and required additional sacrificial giving above and beyond what was raised from the sale of land and borrowings of \$360000. The generosity of church members at this time allowed us to proceed with our building as planned. It's been so pleasing to see the great community connections we have made as a result. Our building is now used every day of the week mostly by outside user groups from our local community.*

*But we believe our story is just beginning...*

*Over the next three years we have an opportunity to further enhance our facilities for ministry and mission in and for our community. These important enhancements include:*

- \* the completion of our children's playground;*
- \* the installation of air-conditioning to make our space more useable in summer months;*
- \* an update and upgrade of rooms MP1, MP2 & MP3;*
- \* completion of outdoor works including a covered outdoor eating space;*
- \* a grassed sitting area for outdoor events;*
- \* lockable storage for Scouts and Community Garden use.*



*(mp 2/3 in need of updating)*



*(the area of our new kids playground)*

### **The MORE goal:**

*To meet these needs we have set a faith goal to raise \$500000 over the next three years (2018-2020). This will allow us to make the necessary improvements to our church facility and grounds, as well as eliminate our remaining debt of \$360000.*

### **Why call it MORE?:**

Because we are asking you to commit in faith to giving out of the MORE. That is, to make a faith pledge before God, to give generously out of whatever the additional funds He blesses you with over the next three years. In the past we've asked church members to give sacrificially. This time the request is different - instead of looking for savings to be able to give we are asking you to make a faith pledge commitment to give out of any increase in funds that God may choose to bless you with in the next three years.

### **Why faith pledge giving?:**

In choosing to undertake this faith-giving opportunity we believe our level of faith and reliance on God will grow, as we see Him provide for us in a miraculous ways. This is an opportunity to connect our hearts with the heart of God. As Jesus says in Matthew 6:21, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Over the course of the three years we will also be spending some of our time (via preaching, Connect groups and other means) exploring what sound biblical financial stewardship looks like. Kicking off in February of this year will be a sermon series exploring a number of biblically-based financial principles that will both bring greater freedom to your life and allow you to sow generously into the lives of others. This MORE giving opportunity will have both an individual benefit and a church wide one.

The individual benefit:

<b>MORE - For us as individuals:</b>		
<b>M</b>	<b>Maximising your income</b>	Explore what the bible says about lifting our level of income.
<b>O</b>	<b>Overcoming debt</b>	Explore what the bible says about reducing and eliminating debt.
<b>R</b>	<b>Rainy day reserves and retirement planning</b>	Explore what the bible says about savings and planning for the future.
<b>E</b>	<b>Enabling generosity</b>	Explore what the bible says about the blessing of generously sowing into God's Kingdom.



The church benefit:

<b>MORE - For us as a church:</b>		
<b>M</b>	<b>Ministry to children</b>	Build the kids playground, outdoor eating and other play areas, and storage for Scouts use.
<b>O</b>	<b>Overcoming debt</b>	Eliminate our debt of \$360000 multiplying future ministry possibilities.
<b>R</b>	<b>Raise the standard of our facility</b>	Install air-conditioning in foyer and auditorium, upgrade MP 1, 2 & 3 and finish outside landscaping works.
<b>E</b>	<b>Equipping for mission</b>	With enhanced facilities we can MORE effectively promote the gospel by better serving the needs of our community.



(likely location of a covered outdoor eating space)



(an area for an outdoor lawn and amphitheatre for outdoor events)



(the main auditorium which can become unusable for outside user groups in summer)

### **Defining the *MORE*:**

The MORE gift is to be above and beyond your weekly giving to the church.

Some examples of giving out of the MORE could be:

1. I'm debt free, own my home, have enough for my future and so I am in a position to give out of the MORE that God has blessed me with right now.
2. I commit to giving away any increase in my income that occurs over the next three years. Such increases could be a result of:
  - CPI related wage increases.
  - New enterprise bargaining agreements or similar.
  - A promotion, an increase in work hours or other career advancement.
  - An increase in the earnings of my business.
  - Additional earnings from shareholdings or similar.
3. I commit to giving my annual tax return for each of the next three years.
4. I commit to tithing (10%) any large once-off windfalls I receive such as an inheritance or similar.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

1/ What if God chooses to bless me in other ways than with an increase in my finances?

*It's great that God is blessing you in ways other than financially and there would be no expectation that you should to give anything to the MORE building fund.*

2/ Do I need to choose more than one option for how I'll give the MORE?

*This is entirely up to you. Some may choose only one option and others may choose more than one. Option 5 (see below) even allows you to create your own MORE faith pledge specific to your own circumstances. All we ask is that you prayerfully make a faith pledge to give out of the MORE that God may bless with you over the next three years.*

3/ Why doesn't the church just sell the HouND (the house next door) to eliminate the debt

*While we may eliminate debt by selling property we still won't have enough to do the necessary improvements to our facility. Also, there would be a significant opportunity cost to selling property. This includes the loss of future capital appreciation and rental income as well as limiting future ministry and further acquisition possibilities.*



*(The house the church owns at 27 Saunders Rd, New Gisborne)*

4/ Will the church hassle me if I'm not able to give anything?

*No! But if you make a pledge to give over the next three years then we will make contact on a semi-regular basis throughout the three-year campaign. This is so we can have a broader sense of how God is blessing us as a whole church body in regard to the MORE. Be assured, there will be no pressure applied.*

5/ How will the church spend the money as it comes in?

*Our priority is to complete the necessary improvements to our facility first and then pay down debt.*

For any other questions please email [paulc.gocfc@outlook.com](mailto:paulc.gocfc@outlook.com) or call 0438043834.



**Option 5 (Choose your own faith giving adventure) - I will give...**\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name/s:\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / 2018

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_