

GIVING GUIDE



A Teaching Paper from the Anglican Parish of Bondi and Waverley.

Money is a big part of everyday life. We all use it. The Bible has a lot to say on the best attitude to have on money, and how we spend, save, or give it away. This Teaching paper will help us reflect God's values and priorities in the way we use the financial resources he has given us. We hope that it will help you take further action to grow a gospel driven generosity in your giving as part of Bondi and Waverley Anglican.

Introduction: Jesus Changes everything.

Before we start thinking about money, we should note that this paper is written to people who are followers of Christ. There are implications on all areas of our lives in following Jesus. All our relationships, priorities, parenting, and character are shaped by Jesus. That has to include how we invest our money. He came to generously give his all to forgive us and allow us to connect with God forever. Those of us who follow Christ now see everything we have has been given to us to use in serving him, including our money. We give because God gave first.

How much should we give?

The Tithe.

In the period before Jesus came, God's people, Israel were called to give at least a tenth of all their produce for God's use, as he actually owns everything:

"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it." (Psalm 24:1)

In response to his generous provisions for them, they gave ten percent back. It was handing back what was his to begin with. That was called 'the tithe'. This tithe was to be given generously with rejoicing. It was not meant to be given begrudgingly, as it is a reminder that all that we have or hope to have, comes from God.

Offerings.

Then, on top of this 10%, God's people were encouraged to give extra "free will offerings". (See Numbers 18, Leviticus 27:30, 1 Chronicles 29:9, Deuteronomy 12, 14, 26, Malachi 3:10). This money was used to support ministry, as well as supporting those in need in the community, such as widows and orphans.

This principle of generous giving continues into the New Testament. God is very generous with us, so we should be very generous in giving to his work. Jesus endorsed the practice of the tithe. (Matthew 23:23) Followers of Christ in churches are told the following:

- **Giving is a grateful response** to the generosity of God, shown in the death of his Son. We give as a way of showing we have received Grace. (2 Corinthians 8-9). *"But just as you excel in everything - in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us, see that you also excel in this grace of giving."* (2 Corinthians 8:7, see also 1 Timothy 6:18)
- **We are partners** in the task of sharing God's gospel. Our partnership is expressed most fundamentally in active involvement, prayer and financial support with others in the church. (Philippians 1:3-7).
- **We have an obligation to provide for those who serve amongst us in the Lord** and teach us God's word, or ministry workers. (1 Corinthians 9, 1 Timothy 5:17-18).
- **We also have an obligation to provide for the needy** (Matthew 22:39, Galatians 6:10, James 2).
- If we truly comprehend the gospel—the news that Jesus was even willing to give his life for us—then we realise that all we have is in fact a gift from God! This understanding should drive us to give **self-sacrificially, cheerfully** and **generously** to the work of God. The bible says this: *"Each person should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver"*. (2 Corinthians 9:7).

So how much should we give? A tenth is not a law we follow, but it is a good starting point in working out just how generous we can be. The tithe is not a legalistic figure we must stick to, but it can guide our definition of "generous". The more fundamental question to ponder is: how much have we received from God? If we find ourselves complaining about

giving more than a few dollars, we may need to check how cheerful and generous we really are. In the New Testament, believers are told this about their giving: *"On the first day of every week, each of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income."* (1 Corinthians 16:2).

We certainly don't expect visitors to give much. Some people have very little left after paying for essentials. What percentage of your after tax income do you give currently? Is it planned and regular? Can you give more?

Plan to Give.

The first practical step is to work out how much money you actually have to start with (your annual earnings after paying tax along with any other benefits you may receive). Then, consider what proportion of this amount you would like to give. A good idea is to do this afresh every year. This should include making a specific decision on the percentage you set aside.

As an example, let's use the average net weekly income for individuals in Australia in 2016. It was \$1,659 according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. You may earn far more or far less than that average amount. If you use tithing as a starting point from that amount it would be \$165 a week you give to gospel ministry, not including free will offerings. What would it be for your income?

Even if your income seems very small, remember that regular giving is a godly habit, that displays a healthy heart towards God. Jesus actively commends a poor woman who gives sacrificially to the ministry of the temple even though she is poor. *'He saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins, "I tell you the truth" he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty gave all she had to live on'.*" (Luke 21:1-2) The regular giving of many people is what our church relies on to support staff and pay for resources to carry out Jesus' mission.

Christian giving is first directed to meeting the needs of those who work amongst us as paid ministry workers, then to those who need support within the church: *"Let the person who is taught the word share all good things with the person who teaches, so then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who are of the household of faith."* (Galatians 6:6-10)

If you want to be a part of a congregation at Bondi and Waverley Anglican it means giving to this Church. It is good to give to the work of the gospel further afield and to the poor. For example, You can sponsor a child through Compassion or support Anglican Aid projects or give directly to a Missionary family or donate to a local charity. It's up to you, but; *"Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously"*. (2 Corinthians 9:6). That is not saying God promises to make you wealthier as you give more, but that the results borne out of your giving are greater the more you give.

Partnership.

The ministry of Bondi Anglican Church relies on the gifts of people who are part of our congregations. People who want to be a part of the church commit to regular attendance, praying for this church, using gifts skills and abilities and financial support through regular giving. If you are committed to Bondi Anglican, we'd love you to become a Partner in giving

if you haven't yet. This church is only able to continue its work due to the generosity of the church family. We do not receive any funding from the government, nor do we receive any funding from the Anglican Diocese of Sydney. We have a Strategic Growth Plan that lays out what we want to achieve in the next few years. Feel free to pick one up from the church website or at the church office. We need you to give to achieve this plan.

Some of the church income is gained by renting our buildings to other users (The Pre-school at the Ocean Street site, the Child care centre at St Mary's Hall, and the spaces at St Andrews Wairoa Avenue) but we are also responsible for the significant costs in adequately repairing and ongoing maintenance of all our properties.

We also want to support Mission in other parts of the world. In particular we have a history of support the work of:

- **Church Missionary Society - CMS.**
- **Bush Church Aid - BCA.**
- **Compassion.**
- **Christian Witness to Israel.**

We encourage you to continue to support the groups above among others. If our church giving increases to allow a larger mission budget, that would be welcomed.

Arranging to give regularly.

We recommend electronic giving as it helps you to give regularly, and allows the church to budget accordingly. Electronic Funds Transfer is more secure because no one needs to carry, count and bank larger amounts of cash from our church sites. However, at each of our Sunday services, giving via cash or cheque can be placed in the collection bags passed around during the Sunday services.

1. Electronic Funds Transfer Periodical Payment.

This is where you authorise your bank to make a payment to Bondi Anglican from your bank account. You can do a regular series of one off deposits, or just set up a regular payment in a monthly, fortnightly or weekly cycle.

Action: Plan to make EFT regularly. You can do this by getting a periodic payment form from your bank or create a recurring payment via your bank's internet banking facility or phone-app. Use the church's Westpac bank account details as below.

Account Name:	Anglican Parish of Bondi and Waverley.
BSB:	032-050
Account:	348343
In the Reference field please make one of following three notes:	
- "Offering 8am" - "Offering 10am" - "Offering BBeach"	

2. Payroll deduction.

Many employers allow their staff to make regular payments direct from their pay to nominated bank accounts. This is normally free of bank fees.

- a. Talk to your employer's personnel or payroll coordinator.
- b. Provide the following details regarding Bondi Anglican Church's bank account;
BSB: 032-050 Account: 348343
- c. Notify the church office of the details of the payment. This is so that we can contact you should any issues arise: email: admin@bondichurch.org

3. One-off donations.

Sometimes God blesses us with one-off windfalls. At such times it is appropriate to determine what proportion should be given to God's work, over and above your regular giving. If you would like to give in this way you can transfer monies to the Bondi Anglican Church account as listed above.

4. A Bequest in your Will.

It is common for Christians to give to fund ministry into the future by leaving a portion of their estate to their church. You may choose to leave a bequest in your will to Bondi Anglican Church in the form of money or property. If you would like to pursue this option you should speak to a solicitor who can prepare your will or adjust it accordingly. A bequest to Bondi Anglican is a gift beyond your lifetime to help others come to know Jesus and grow in him.

Know that your Giving makes a difference and is appreciated.

When you give, you help us achieve our vision to see Bondi For Christ. It advances the growth and effectiveness of the Christian Church. It also helps you worship God with your whole life, making it clear that you have a heart for Jesus. Thank you.

Feel free to talk to Martin martin@bondichurch.org if you have some questions or comments about this paper.