



Expect GREAT THINGS FROM
Attempt GOD
GREAT THINGS FOR GOD

William Carey, Missionary to India, 1792



The Day Has Arrived

In 2011 when Exchange Church was born by God's grace, we weren't thinking too much about a church building. We were concerned to see lost souls saved and growing disciples of Jesus Christ. A team of people gladly worked together generously giving their time, talents, and treasures to establish a church where the gospel could be preached and lived out for God's glory.

EC has always been about making disciples of Jesus Christ. Our mission has never changed. It has always been *connecting people to Jesus and growing people in Jesus*. We've continually poured our resources into growing disciples. Our heart is to see Jesus' name lifted up and have people come into a living and vibrant relationship with Him.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, solid Bible preaching, and faithful gospel witness we have seen EC grow with new conversions and the de-churched come home. God has been exceptionally good to us. From humble beginnings in 2011 to 2021 we have seen the church more than triple in size.

I now believe that the day has arrived for Exchange Church to take another step of faith and establish a place we can call home, a Gospel Ministry Centre for making disciples.

The leadership team are all in one accord and on board with this direction.



Ephesians 3:20–21

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.





A building is a stake in the ground reminding the Goulburn Valley about the gospel message of Jesus

A building becomes a landmark that the locals can identify us with. It's a building where people drive by and wonder what's happening in that place.

It's a fixed 24/7 location that's easy to find.

There's something about a building that represents what we stand for; it tells people there are Christians in town. It sends a message of permanence, "we are here to stay".

A building is a vehicle that helps us to grow disciples effectively and efficiently

Have you ever been on a camping trip where you're all trying to squeeze into a small area? It's pretty cramped, isn't it? Everything is difficult. You're just trying to find some space to get something done, but there's none there. The tent is full and we're out of space. Renting temporary halls and living out of a trailer and storage shed is just like being on a camping trip. It's cramped. Nothing is easy to find.



Note: Image is illustrative only - not proposed design.

Imagine a church building that is fully furnished and purpose-built for doing gospel ministry.

Imagine a spacious kids ministry area. Imagine an inviting lounge for post-service fellowship. Imagine good acoustic sound and the right temperature environment that makes hearing the gospel pleasant. We're aiming for a building that will contribute to growing strong flourishing disciples that we'll all want to invite our friends to.

Closing Thoughts

Please note that what you give in this GMC fund is separate from your normal or regular giving to EC. We're not asking you to substitute this one-off giving with your weekly giving to EC.

The amount of what we give isn't the main thing here. We all want to see a heart of gratitude and joy in our giving, because it's through this type of heartfelt joyful generosity that Jesus is honoured and glorified.

In this once in a lifetime opportunity, we want to see generosity measured by the heart and not the hip pocket.

We are planning a giving series through the month of June. Then on Sunday, June 20th we will be asking for donations and pledges for the Exchange Church Gospel Ministry Centre. For our planning, it's incredibly helpful if we can have these "giving amounts" known to us then, so we can put the next steps in place to plan accordingly.

Pledges will be welcomed. In other words, you're letting us know that when the money is required, you'll give it to EC then. That's also a great way to give. We'll just need to take your details so that we can contact you when that time comes about. Some of you may want to pledge anonymously, we honour that and appreciate it as well. We are trusting that when we call for the pledges to be made good that you'll be able to do that as quickly as possible. We'll endeavour to give as much notice as possible.

If you have any questions about the Gospel Ministry Centre, please don't hesitate to contact us. We would love to talk to you about this exciting and God honouring project.





How Can I Give?

Start by praying and asking the Lord to grow your heart in seeing the wonder of Jesus Christ. Ask the Lord to expand your faith in His goodness. Then ask the Lord to enlarge your generosity.

You may consider asking yourself what you can go without, so that you'll have more to be generous with. Maybe you don't need to go next level with your next car purchase. Maybe you can downsize your holiday plans to have some extra money to give away. Maybe you could sell some things that are no longer needed or are just an overflow of life no longer required.

Talk to your spouse about these things. Talk to your children about these things. Talk to your parents about these things. Pray together about generosity.

The Spirit may help you to lower your expenses, or your income may rise through job promotion. These are all ways we can be more generous.

Gospel Ministry Centre Bank Details: BSB: 033 254 (GMCU)
Account Number: 710679



A building isn't just for now, it's for the future as well

Shepparton is a growing regional city predicted to grow to more than 50,000 people in the next 15 years. The surrounding towns near Shepparton are also growing rapidly. A building becomes a home not just for now, but for the generations to come. A building becomes a gospel beacon of light for our children's children, and the future people God will bring to Shepparton and its surrounds for many years to come.



A building takes in the long-term view of gospel ministry. We're thinking of 50 to 100 years down the track when we aren't here, and it's still being used for God's glory.





The culture we live in isn't growing warmer towards Jesus and His gospel

Schools, community rooms, and Council controlled venues, I believe will become increasingly difficult to hire and use. In many parts of Australia, there's a push against allowing Christian groups to hire school buildings for gospel services.

Even now some churches are being asked to leave venues there've been in for many years because of the anti-Christian stance. Despite us loving the community we live in; the Bible tells us this attitude won't go away. Already we've had to vacate our building on some Sundays so other groups could come in and use it ahead of us.

A building can facilitate more gospel ministry

Having our own building creates more opportunities for starting and supporting new gospel ministries. For instance, a Mainly Music group could be more easily accomplished in our own building without the need to work in with hiring other facilities and their booking schedules. EC team meetings and mid-week meetings for gospel ministry become easier to plan and run in our own building. These are just a couple of examples, many more opportunities open up and become more doable with our own building.

I fully believe that God has big things planned for the Goulburn Valley with many people coming to Christ. We are praying for EC to double in size over the next 5 years. And who knows, we could be a church of many hundreds in the next decade by God's grace.

With that in mind, I'm convinced that the next step at Exchange Church is a place we can call home. So, I'm calling you to catch this vision with a bigger picture of Jesus. To seize this opportunity with sacrificial generosity and take hold of this privilege to be the pioneers to put a stake in the ground, and to pray that God would take our efforts to make Jesus name glorified through a building used for His glory.

Ps Todd Hall

Gratitude helps me see that God entrusts me with His things to be used to make His name look great. Gratitude also helps me to see that I can trust God in all things. As I use things for His glory, I can trust that He will meet all my needs without fail.

Gratitude leads to generosity.

With thankfulness for what God has given me, I am now empowered to be generous.

A thankful heart wants to see more people know the joy of relationship with Jesus Christ. A thankful heart wants to see more people know the beauty of the gospel. A thankful heart wants more people to know and experience God's love and redemption. A thankful heart transformed by the gospel then becomes the fertile soil for a generous spirit that gladly sows the seed of the gospel through generosity.

Laurel and I are constantly challenged by generosity. But as we see the unbelievable sacrificial generosity shown towards us in Jesus Christ. It causes us to stop and reflect, become thankful, and then stretch our generosity for the glory of God and the good of others.



Gospel-Driven Generosity

I don't know about you, but I find being generous a challenge in my life. We live in a world that tells us we just need one more thing in our lives to make life comfortable, happy and fulfilling for us. I seem to be good at spending money on those things, but not so good at giving my money away. Generosity is an area for growth with me. Here's a couple of thoughts that are helping me to be more generous.

Gratitude. An attitude of thankfulness for what I've been given already helps me to see how blessed I am. I have an abundance of food, plenty of clothes, cars to drive around in, books to read, a comfortable home to relax and rest in, and many more things in life as well. All this comes from the generous hand of God. He provides all these things for me and lavishes them upon me. God is the owner and giver of all things. When I see that He's also given me His Son to save and rescue me through His death on the cross, I think that's amazing sacrificial generosity shown lovingly towards me.

Gratitude and thankfulness are what the gospel produces within me when I see that I don't deserve any of that generosity that God has shown me.



Gratitude helps me to see that all that I have isn't mine in the first place. "The earth is the Lord's and all that is within it", Psalm 24. It all belongs to God.

I don't have anything that God hasn't already given me. But God allows me to have some of His possessions to be used for His glory.

Questions! Questions! Questions!

No doubt everybody has questions about a decision of this size.



Will a building really help make disciples?

Don't we just preach Jesus and live out the gospel, and then God does the rest? Why do we need a building?

Yes, you're right. A building itself doesn't make disciples as such. But a building "helps us" to make disciples. A building helps us to comfortably and conveniently carry out gospel ministry. We could meet in the bush, but what about when it's too hot or raining? People wouldn't come because it's uncomfortable and inconvenient. A facility with purpose-built rooms surely "helps" ministries to flourish and thrive by gospel teaching and training and growing relationships with Jesus in a comfortable and convenient way. The experience of other churches who've built is that they've seen a remarkable increase in people coming to their new church.

Isn't the cost of a building way beyond us?

No one is running away from this question. Our early estimates are that EC will need to raise more than \$2M for land and building. But if you think about it, this is the cost of about 4-5 good-sized homes in the Shepparton area. I believe that's doable. Is it beyond us? When God is involved it's not beyond us. But can we really allow this opportunity to pass us by without trying? No! Jesus is too precious, and there are souls that we want to save.

What if we fall short of what we need?

That's ok. We are working on a staged process, which may just mean things are pushed out another year or two. Whatever money is given towards the EC Gospel Ministry Centre will always remain dedicated for that purpose.

Aren't there more important things we should use our money for?

This will always be a matter of opinion with many people.



All of our resources have always been targeted towards making disciples and we've done this as a generous church. We have no intention of cutting back any resources for growing disciples.



The Elders and collective leadership team are in unison that the time is right to begin this Gospel Ministry Centre project as a green light priority.

Do we have anything to show at this stage?

No. We are at the beginning stages. There are no plans drawn up or concepts laid out. The pictures in this document are to inspire us. As more things come to light, we'll be totally transparent keeping the whole church involved.

More questions?

Please contact the Building and Lands Team and they'll keep you informed.

You can contact them at info@exchangechurch.org.au.



The Proposal For A Place Called Home

Wouldn't we all love one of those "renovation rescues"? You know when you go away for a weekend; come back, and your home is totally worked over for a whole new look.

That's just not the way God normally does things. I'm convinced that God will teach us much about Himself through sacrificial generosity and sacrificial service as we go through this process, that we would miss out on in a pop-up church. Here is our initial, big picture plan.

Stage 1. Raising a Deposit

At first base, we need to raise a deposit. A deposit helps to put us into a position to negotiate with any potential sellers of a suitable property. We are already talking to lenders about what's required of us. Most lenders are asking for a 30% deposit. A \$2M project will need a \$700K deposit. Also, we'll be making careful finance plans to make sure we can meet our loan commitments beyond the purchase.

Stage 2. Buying ... the right place

We have a Building and Land Team (BLT) that are already looking at possible properties around Shepparton. We are looking for a place that has suitable parking, preferably exposure to the public and has the right space for what we'd like to develop. Please be praying for our team that God would guide them as they do the searching.

Stage 3. Building or Renovating.

Depending on what we buy we could either be building from scratch or renovating an existing building. We may have to wait for existing tenants to move out or land to be cleared. We will then carefully undertake a project that'll give us a comfortable and convenient place for gospel ministry. When completed we'll have a "Homecoming Sunday" to celebrate God's goodness and generosity, and your sacrificial giving towards this.