

# *St Matthias Churches*

## *Guidelines for Giving*

### **Information about supporting the work of the gospel at St Matthias and beyond**

---

We all know the theory: that we should give money to support God's work in our local church, and further afield.

The aim of this leaflet is to help you work out what this means in practice. It will help you to evaluate (or re-evaluate):

1. the amount you would like to give, based on biblical principles and your current income;
2. where you would like this amount to be directed;
3. the mechanics of how you would like this to happen.

#### **Step 1**

#### **How much do I give?**

##### **The Principle**

All that we have comes from the hand of God and we are to use his good gifts in ways that honour Him. As Christians, we are to give back to God in response to his generous blessings to us! Indeed we have received God's ultimate generosity to us in the death of his Son, who though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, so that through his poverty we might become rich (2 Cor 8:9). If we truly understand this gospel, we will cheerfully give as much as we can, and even beyond our ability (2 Cor 8-9)!

The Biblical emphasis on how Christians use their financial gifts from God are:

- a. Faithfully paying what we owe (Romans 13:1-7)
  - i. to Governments (Romans 13:6-7)
  - ii. to our families (1Timothy 5:3-16)
  - iii. to provide for the poor believer
  - iv. to support ourselves (1Thes 4:11-12)
  - v. to our pastors (1Timothy 5:17-18; 1Cor 9:3-14)
- b. Generously giving to the poor (2Cor 8-9; Proverbs 19:17; 22:9)
- c. Willingly engaging in partnership with those in gospel ministry (Philippians 1:3-7; 4:10-20)
- d. Being prudent (Proverbs 6:6-11; 27:23-27)
- e. Fleeing from Greed (Ephesians 5:3-10, 1Timothy 6:3-10)

So how much should we give to faithfully provide for our pastors, in generosity to the poor and in partnership in Gospel ministry?

##### **In Practice**

The first practical steps are to work out how much money you have to start with and weigh up what you owe. This will help you to work out how to be prudent, faithful, generous and express your partnership with others in ministry.

## Step 2

### To whom do I give?

#### The Principle

In the Old Testament, the Israelite tithing was channelled by God to those who needed it—to the priests and Levites who had no other source of income because of their duties, and to the poor of the land. We see a similar pattern in the New Testament, where Christian giving is directed to meeting the needs of those who labour in the Lord, as well as towards the poor. As Paul puts it in Galatians 6: “Let him who is taught the word share all good things with him who teaches”; and then a few verses later: “So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of faith”.

In practical terms, this means directing our money not only towards St Matthias, but to the work of the gospel further afield, and to the poor.

#### St Matthias

The ministry of the St Matthias churches receives almost all of this support from the giving of St Matthias partners, and a large proportion of our gift should go towards supporting this ministry. We'll leave you to work out the details of what a 'large proportion' might mean in practice.

#### And Beyond

St Matthias also works closely with other missionary organisations and encourages its partners to support them: the Church Missionary Society (CMS), The Ministry Training Strategy (MTS) and Campus Bible Study (CBS):

- CMS has a 200-year history of sending and supporting missionaries throughout the world, including a growing number from our own congregations in recent times. It is an excellent society, and all St Matthias partners are encouraged to support it through prayer and giving.
- The MTS program recruits and trains men and women to be future ministers of the gospel. It is like an apprenticeship in ministry before heading into theological education. MTS National supports the training of apprentices across Australia.
- Campus Bible Study (CBS), the ministry to the University of New South Wales, has been associated with St Matthias for over 25 years. It is a marvellous ministry reaching out to over 30,000 students over half are not native English speakers. It is also a wonderful recruiting and training ground for future Gospel workers.

There may be other Christian organisations that you wish to support, including ministries such as the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES), Evangelising Commerce, and so on. You may also wish to support funds that give aid to people in need (such as Anglicare, the Archbishop of Sydney's Overseas Relief and Aid Fund etc.).

You can use the following tables to work out how much you are able to give.

<b>Your Income</b>	<b>Amount</b>
From employment	
From investments	
From Government Payments	
Other Sources	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>

<b>Your Bills</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Housing	
Food and Clothing	
Gas, Water, Power	
Transport	
St. Matthias Churches	
Household Expenses	
Other	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>

Once we have worked out our disposable income, (Income – Bills) we will know how much we are free to be both prudent and generous with.

<b>Prudence</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Superannuation	
Saving	
Other	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>

<b>Partnership/Generosity</b>	<b>Amount</b>
CMS	
CBS	
MTS	
Anglicare	
Archbishops Fund	
Other	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>

## The method of giving

There are two main methods:

### 1. Electronically

#### a. Direct Debit

This is where you authorise the church to debit the amount *from your bank account*. This costs only 10c per transaction, and that amount is paid by the church rather than you. It is easy to alter the payment simply by contacting the church office. Direct Debit has the added advantages of ensuring regularity in giving, and in improving security (by not having to deal with large amounts of cash). It is the method that the church wardens and pastoral staff recommend to our partners.

*What to do:*

Obtain a Direct Debit form from the front desk at church or from the St Matthias Church Office (ph: 9360 7840). Return the form completed to the church office (8 Church Place, Paddington NSW 2021), or place it in the perspex boxes at church.

To make changes to your direct debit request you can complete a new Direct Debit form or email the church office at [accounts@matthias.org.au](mailto:accounts@matthias.org.au).

#### b. Direct Credit

This is where you make payments over the internet from your bank account to St Matthias bank account. You can either set this up as a regular payment *or* use it to increase your giving with one off amounts.

*What to do:*

Simply use internet banking to transfer your gift using the St Matthias bank details below.

BSB	062-188
Acc #	10027178
Acc Name	Church Wardens of St Matthias

Please include in the description of the transfer the St Matthias congregation that you attend (eg "AMP Support" for AM Church or "ESM Support" for Evenings at St Matthias).

You can contact other organisations directly for their direct debit forms (CMS can be contacted on ph: 9267 3711).

### 2. Cash or cheque

You can also give by cash or cheque each week at church. Regular giving envelopes are available at each of our church meetings. These envelopes are dated and work on a weekly basis.

## For more information about...

- How the financial affairs of the St Matthias Churches are administered
- The current budget, and our financial position
- The biblical principles that are briefly outlined in this leaflet
- Any other matters relating to finances at St Matthias

Please don't hesitate to contact the church office.

Mail: 8 Church Place, Paddington NSW 2021  
Phone: (02) 9360 7840  
Email: [accounts@matthias.org.au](mailto:accounts@matthias.org.au)

*We have received God's ultimate generosity to us in the death of his Son. who though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, so that through his poverty we might become rich (2 Cor 8:9).*

*If we truly understand this gospel, we will cheerfully give as much as we can, and even beyond our ability (2 Cor 8-9)!*