



**This is
Living.**

Ministry Dinner
April 2019

Journey of generosity.

“We really enjoyed the Alan Barnhart video and his story of studying the bible in depth to discern God’s view on money and then finding ways to practically live out these convictions in his life.”

“I was encouraged by the example from the Indian church which established generosity (sacrificial giving) as a foundational practice of their ministry and in a simple way which everyone could support. Serving others through giving is practice for all Christians rich or poor. The fact that they have supported this ministry for over 100 years is a great example of faithfulness.”

“The JOG gave me an opportunity for the first time to sit with others and freely discuss the issues and impediments we all face regarding our next steps in becoming more generous. It was great to reflect on Jesus’ promises to us about his care and generosity towards us and also to see examples of others becoming more generous and the impact that had on others.”

“The story of the English business man (toy stores guy) modelled a life and business being reshaped by Jesus. He and his business have found practical ways to be generous to the ministry of his church and the needs of the poor and vulnerable people of his community.”

At the end of Term 1, our Stewardship Committee and Board Members took part in our first “Journey of Generosity” workshop. Below are some reflections from those that attended...

“You actually need to plan your life around what you believe in, we often think about stuff and have a heart for things but have no real plan on how to make it happen. Also not to wait to be able to do things, in your plan make it so you can start now with something achievable, because it’s no good waiting for something to happen before you can act. It will prolong the ability to do anything as we may never get to the start line.”

“What am I doing to train my Children/Grandchildren to be “Generous”? And not just givers but disciples.....”

“If I trust Christ with my salvation, why do I not trust Him in all aspects of my life?”

“I was challenged to consider the “beliefs” I acquired about money from an early age, and how they impact me now. I came away from the day with a broader perspective on the material aspects of our lives, inspired by the faithful and radical lives of others, and reminded that God really is active in the world.”

“The quote ‘If you have something to eat, you have something to give’ struck me, we have no excuses.”

“I summed up the day - Generosity is a heart change that focuses on spreading the gospel, which results in thanksgiving and praising God.”

Done.

Luke 10-14 – The Way Home 3

We have followed Jesus as he set his face for Jerusalem and his death and resurrection there – providing us with the way home. As the Cross looms closer for Jesus, his call to discipleship grows larger for us. Alongside this series we rolled out our 12 Week Challenge, focussing on habits that train us in this discipleship.

Living
Word.

2 Samuel – Still Waiting for the True King

As King David rises to the throne we glimpse a king who will bring the blessing the world is longing for. Tragically, David falls into sin. Yet wonderfully God promises a descendant of David who will bring blessing – King Jesus. Taking further the suggested habits in the 12 Week Challenge in Term 1, the Series Companions will get us setting some goals and reflecting on our habits of the heart together in Growth Group. We are also presently focussed on developing our holiday series as family services – more interactive style services for the whole church family.

Official Launch

We had a very encouraging official launch of our new name on 3rd February. Most of the rebranding is now complete and we are enjoying the fresh statement of who we are as a church – not just attending church but ‘Living Church.’

Living
Church.

Living Generously – Journey of Generosity (JoG)

Members of our Board and Stewardship Team recently participated in an all-day workshop called a ‘Journey of Generosity’ (see quotes below). The JoG workshop involves excellent biblical material, engaging videos, time for group discussion and also personal reflection. We hope in time that Growth Group Leaders and Ministry Leaders – and all of us might have opportunity in coming months to participate in a JoG.

At our Term 1 Ministry Dinner and Training Day we heard a brief introduction to Sam Chan’s book ‘Evangelism in a Skeptical World’ – and our intention to use it as a key resource in building our focus on ‘Connected Living’ – a relational approach to evangelism.

Connected
Living.

Training material for Connected Living based will continue to roll out through our Ministry Dinners and Training Days. There is growing engagement with this approach to evangelism as: Growth Groups begin to plan events; newcomers celebrate our commitment to actively connect people in to Living Church; and individuals chat to friends and family about Jesus as they merge universes.

Admin Review

We constantly review our stewardship of our financial resources as a church – and a significant recent project has involved reviewing all our admin functions, seeking the most effective way to support our frontline ministries (see supporting documents for detail).

Staffing +
Facilities.

Creek Road Campus Facility Upgrade

Hopefully we will soon see work commence on the outdoor area. We only need a further \$800 to green light commencement.

Now.

Soon.

Term 3: Luke 15-19 – The Way Home 4

As the cross draws nearer, God's judgment is imminent, and Jesus' call to urgent action, choosing the right king, grows louder.

Term 4: Living Church – Living a Better Story

The world offers all sorts of stories as a vision for life – however the better story the church is called to live out in the world is the one true story of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Living Mercy – Mercy Ministries

Throughout our series in Luke's Gospel 'The Way Home' we are seeing Jesus' great love for vulnerable people. We too will be learning those same lessons, when as Growth Groups, we will seek to walk alongside ministries that bring love and care to people who need it most. Our ongoing relationship with The Freedom Hub will be a starting point, however other organisations and ministries will form part of this beginning to be a church that shows God's Living Mercy to our communities. More details during the Term.

Strategies for Connected Living shared on Sundays and in Growth Groups during term 2. Deepening everyone's understanding by producing resources for use on Sundays and during the week at Growth Groups.

Staffing Needs

The Creek Road Campus Pastor position has been unfilled for over two years – and the Music Pastor position for a few months. These are priorities we are seeking to address as we look ahead to 2020. More information to follow at the July Ministry Dinner.

Living
Word.

Living
Church.

Connected
Living.

Staffing +
Facilities

Later.

In 2020 and beyond, just as we have taken our time to learn deeply in Luke's Gospel, we will take a similar journey through Luke's 2nd volume – the Book of Acts. Luke's Gospel is about what Jesus 'began to do and to teach' (Acts 1:1) – the Book of Acts is about what Jesus continued to do and to teach through is Spirit at work in his Apostles and his church.

Reaching the City, Reaching the World through living generously in the Gospel of Jesus

Around 2012/2013 we launched our '2020 Vision' – setting out various plans for our church as we journeyed towards the year 2020. With the calendar about to flip over to 2020 – and the recent renaming of our church, we are thinking about a fresh statement of the vision. Two words that are becoming very important to who we are as a church are: 'Living Generously' – and we expect them to feature in this fresh focus.

Sam Chan visit for training nights and Q&A.

Planning is well underway for events in both Brisbane and Springfield where we can meet and hear Sam Chan speak into our particular context as we Reach the City and Reach the World. Save the date 28th August – Brisbane and 30th August – Springfield/Ipswich. More details to follow.



Living
Church.