



A life worth  
**Living.**

# “Why do you look for the Living

*“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” – John 7:37-38*

We want to be a church with the love of Jesus flowing out from us as we Reach the City and Reach the World with his life-giving gospel, by the power of his living Spirit.

In the Gospels, we get this picture of an abundant life. A life that is overflowing with God’s goodness, his grace, his mercy, his forgiveness. We see time after time, broken people, those living a shadow of what life should be, come to Jesus



# among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!” – Luke 24:5-6

and receive eternal life, have the very longings of their soul satisfied.

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. – Romans 12:1*

In response to this abundant life Jesus holds out to us, we’re called to offer ourselves as living sacrifices – to hold out

this abundant life to those around us; to reach the city and reach the world with this life giving message.

As a church, we want to be a body of believers who are constantly striving to grow and be changed by the gospel. We don’t want to be a body of believers who consume church; we want to be a community of people who live church.







## **This is Living**

We live in a society like the one Jesus walked in – filled with people striving for the good life, but only ever achieving a shadow of the life Jesus offers. The post-Christian culture in which we live is characterised by a fall in community, a rise in hyper-individualism, a rejection of Christianity as an authority, and a focus on self – all in pursuit of the good life. We're seeing people craving community, but not quite knowing how to satisfy that craving. We're constantly told that the church is dead, Christianity is irrelevant.

But what if we could show them the church isn't dead. What if we could show them a living community, who have a living hope in a living God? What if we could show them our church, and say "*this is living*"?

# Living Church.

## Campuses

**Living Church.**  
Creek Road  
Campus

**Living Church.**  
City South  
Campus

**Living Church.**  
Springfield  
Campus

## Horizontal



## Vertical

**Living**  
Kids.

**Living**  
Youth.

**Living**  
Young Adults.

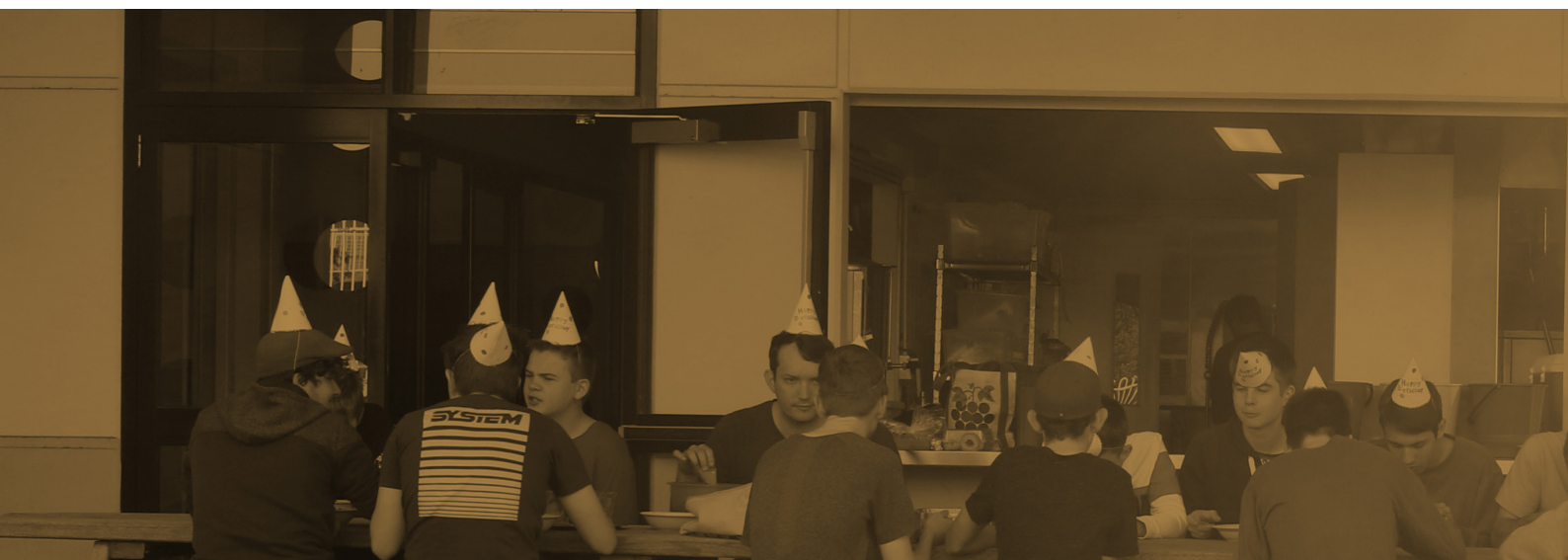
# To be a living church is to start **Living** our resurrected lives now...

The first pages of the Bible tell us that God is the living God who gives life to the world; that he breathes life into Adam so that we humans are 'living beings' (Genesis 2:7); In Acts 17 when Paul speaks about our relationship to God as humans he says 'in him we live and breathe and have our being.'

Death came into the world when we turned our backs on the living God and pursued 'dead' idols in his place; people disconnected from God are dying, the story of the Bible is the story of how to become living again, not just now, in this world, but for eternity as new creations in a new creation.

When after Jesus' resurrection, the women who came to visit his grave were asked 'why are you looking for the living among the dead' (Luke 24) they're not just being asked about the graveyard they're visiting, but about the state of the world — when we put our trust in the resurrected Jesus, and receive his Spirit we become 'the living' in a world that is dying to know Jesus; the living amongst the dead.

Jesus comes to breathe life — God's Spirit — into dying bones. He enters death to destroy it and bring life to the full; real living (John 10). He describes the life he offers to those who trust in him as living water; real satisfaction for our deepest desires, especially the desire for life beyond death.



To be a living church is to start living our resurrected lives now, as the Spirit does its work in us to bring us from death to life, to raise us with Christ (Colossians 3, Romans 8). This 'living water' that satisfies us, is meant to overflow from us so that we bring water to a parched land; or life to dry bones. We are the vessels God uses to pour life out into a dying world. God is not the God of the dead, but the living (Matthew 22:32); he continues to give life to his people .

We are where people come to meet the living body of Jesus growing to be like him as this living Spirit works in us (1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4). We are the new 'temple' where God dwells and makes his home in this world by his Spirit (Acts 2, 2 Corinthians 6:16). This is why Peter calls us 'living stones' (1 Peter 2) — God no longer dwells in a building

in Jerusalem but in his living church, as God gathers us together as a people, a 'living building' built on the foundation of Jesus, we are expressions of a 'living hope' (1 Peter 1:3, Hebrews 4:12). We are shaped by his living word (1 Peter 1:23).

Church is not just an event we attend; a thing we do once a week — by the Spirit we are a living people, a living community, marked out as we live this new life in Jesus.

We are the living church of the living God (1 Timothy 3:15), who is the source of our living hope through our living saviour (1 Timothy 4:10). United by the Spirit we are to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice as our act of worship in response to our life-giving king (Romans 12). We are living church.





# Creek Road Campus

## City South Campus



Our city is one of nearly 2.5 million people, spread across nearly 16,000km<sup>2</sup>. That's a big city to reach.

In 2014, our church decided the best way to reach our city was with more churches – a multisite model. Since then we've seen our 3 campuses grow to be living communities that hold out the gospel to the inner east, the inner south, and the greater Springfield area.

We are looking at possibilities for where we might start another Campus and grow church partnerships. Our immediate focus however is growing our existing campuses.





Our Carina Campus is home to many of the members of Creek Road. As we move from being called the Carina Campus to Creek Road Campus, we embrace the moment to lift our heads and see the people all around us. People who need to meet Jesus. People who long for a life that is characterized by a loving community and a belonging that we know is found only in Jesus.

2019 represents a call for deeper and greater investment in what we do as a church family. Focusing on serving together so that all ministries help people meet Jesus and grow in their relationship with him. So if you are new to Creek Road, the plan for 2019 includes you. If you have been a member at Creek Road for many years, and anywhere in between, the plan for 2019 includes you. As we all commit ourselves in prayer and serve where God has placed us, the loving, Creek Road at Creek Road will do just that – live.

Our South Bank campus has enjoyed settling in at LifePlace, a venue made for living together as a church community and we're continuing to work together to reach our immediate neighbours, while our community gathers from all over the city. Our new campus name reflects the community we have, and the community we hope to reach — City South. We are a campus for the city — not just the CBD, but its surrounding suburbs.

We're faced with opportunities to engage with an increasingly multi-ethnic community, city workers, people at the margins of our society, and people moving into new developments right on our door step — but to meet those opportunities well we need more workers for the harvest. We'd love you to prayerfully consider joining us in this mission — this could be serving in different roles with us on a Sunday, or joining our City South Campus.

## Springfield Campus

Greater Springfield has a growing population of 35 000 residents – a number that's constantly on the rise due to housing developments across the region. More and more people are moving here to find an “alternative” to the Brisbane CBD (that's how the advertisement reads as you drive down Centenary Motorway). People love living in this well-resourced master-planned community. It's a place to settle down, raise a family, and find a home.

Which is why this place so desperately needs the gospel – because there is a greater home we were made for, and a greater life we long for that's found living for Jesus. Greater Springfield needs more churches – living communities with the life-giving message of Jesus. As a small church in a growing city, our focus has been to grow a core team of people who are serious about living as healthy disciples who follow Jesus. That's still our focus. And we're looking for more people to join us, and be part of what God is doing in us to reach our community for Jesus' name.



## Connect: Start Living

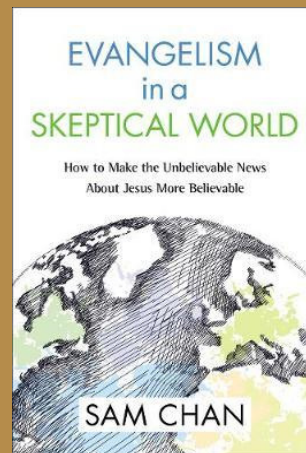
Reaching the city and reaching the world with the life-giving gospel of Jesus means reaching real people – family, friends, neighbours. We've been discussing this recently as seeking to BLESS our neighbours (Begin with prayer, Listen, Eat, Serve, Story). Being a living church, means living and speaking the gospel of Jesus with those we love.

The post-Christian world we live in brings very different challenges to sharing the good news of Jesus with people who don't feel like they need it. There are all sorts of ideas and identities that make belief in the good news of Jesus seem almost impossible for the people we love. It can be hard to figure out where to begin a conversation with your friends, let alone what to say. Enter Sam Chan's new book. Sam spent many years as a lecturer at the Sydney Missionary and Bible College teaching people how to preach the good news of Jesus, and he's now an evangelist with the City Bible Forum (based in Sydney).

This book is something like a 'textbook' for sharing the gospel – both for those who are professional preachers, and the regular Christian, wanting to re-shape their living and speaking about Jesus in this new world.

In 2019, we will be seeking to, as a church, put in place some of the great ministry plans and models that Sam Chan sets out in this book.

Many people at church are already spending time, chatting to, swimming with, and sharing meals with friends and family who are yet to meet Jesus. We are hoping that we can supercharge those faithful efforts with a variety of resources and ideas, distilling the key points into actions that we can all take. Connect - more than you've ever seen it before.







The apostle Paul shows us what it is like to be partners in the gospel – to live side by side with each other, supporting, sharing, and encouraging each other as we share the living word with those that need to hear it. As we seek to reach the city and reach the world, we partner with others who work towards the same goal.

### **Chaplaincy**

Creek Road partners with chaplains in schools as they show Jesus love to their communities. For many years we have supported chaplaincy at 6 local schools around Carina – Camp Hill State School, Carina State School, Mayfield State School, Balmoral State High School, Whites Hill State School, Cavendish Road State High School. A few years ago we had to reduce our donations to those schools, but thanks to God we are now in a position to raise them back up again. Also with expanded numbers of trainees coming on board at Creek Road, we will also be looking to expand our support on the ground for a number of these chaplaincy services.

### **English Conversation Club**

This year English Conversation Club began at the City South campus, and has slowly been growing. Since starting with 2 students in February, we have seen over 30 people come at different times and hear and discuss the gospel and build friendships, most of them are not yet followers of Jesus. At the moment we average 6-10 students in a night.

West End is culturally diverse, but there are many people from different cultures around our other campuses too, and there's real potential to begin ministries reaching out in various ways.



**Living**  
Partnerships.



## Church2Church

Church2Church partners with churches to support ministry all over Australia. The Church2Church network and Creek Road partner together in team preaching, and developing ministry resources to help smaller churches hold out the gospel in their local communities.

Having launched at the beginning of 2018, they now mentor 19 pastors and 8 pastor's wives/female ministry workers; provide out of the box teaching resources to 11 Associate churches using Series in a Box; have brought on 2 more small rural churches Partners in 2019 for a 3 year focused partnership; and are supporting the revitalisation efforts in Adelaide and Darwin Presbyterian Churches.

If you want to see how you can personally support Church2Church, visit [church2church.org.au](http://church2church.org.au)

## Cross Culture Connect

One of the ways Creek Road strives to reach the world with the life giving gospel is by partnering with our Cross Cultural Connect Team serving Jesus in many places and in many ways. We support people working in places like Tanzania, Taiwan, the Philippines, South East Asia, and Japan as well as on university campuses in Brisbane reaching the many foreigners studying here.

## Gospel Students

Peter and Katharine Yock, from our City South Campus, will be going full time as student ministry workers at Griffith Conservatorium of Music, and the QLD College of Art in 2019. Their passion is to see the Gospel proclaimed on these 2 campuses, as people from all around the country and the world come to study here.





Creek Road is a training church. Each week we train our people in how to live as Christians through teaching the bible, in growth groups, and in ministry teams. But further than that, Creek Road is like a training hospital.

Just like a teaching hospital teaches and trains medicos to go out to the world, we aim to teach and train gospel workers to go out to the world.

In 2019, we are excited Emily Andrews is going to further her theological learning. Emily will be leaving the staff team to start her full time Masters of Divinity at Queensland Theological College.

But where we are sending out, we will also be bringing on people to continue their ministry training at Creek Road.

## **GAP Year**

Our 1 year program for school leavers to taste and see what ministry is like. It is part time being invested in at church, and part time in a secular workplace. People doing GAP year will have a three-strand training approach of (i) theological reflection (head); (ii) personal godliness (heart) and (iii) ministry skills (hands), all shaped by a trainer and mentor who will invest in them every week. By the end of GAP year young people will have a clearer sense of their place in God's world and church, and have started to explore possible ministry options for the future.



### **Maria Grace Isles**

I have chosen to do GAP year here at church next year to hopefully grow as a child of God and to develop skills and knowledge within ministry whilst serving the Lord. GAP Year will enable me to see the logistics of working in ministry which is something I possibly want to continue into my career. The next year will also help me grow in my faith with help with mentors here at church. I will also get to spend lots of time serving the Lord in music and kid's ministry, which are both two areas I really love serving in.

## Ministry Trainees

This is a 2 year ministry traineeship for men and women, to experience full time ministry and to identify their best ministry trajectory. It takes a three-strand training approach of (i) theological reflection (head); (ii) personal godliness (heart) and (iii) ministry skills (hands). Each trainee focuses on a couple of key ministry areas but also participates in a wide range of other ministry experiences and reading. They are overseen by an

experienced trainer and meet one-to-one with others to pass on what they're learning.

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. – 2 Timothy 2:2

In 2018, Galen Rangiawha completed his first year of his 2 year traineeship. Seeking to join us in 2019 will be:



**Celina Facey**

There's a bunch of little things that led me to choosing to do MTN. Mostly it's that I love our church and want to give more time to serving it. I've found myself at work just wanting to be doing stuff for church. And so why do two things half-hearted when I could commit to doing one fully...and I choose church. Lately I've had this growing desire for more people to know Jesus as I do. But I'm pretty terrible and I shy away from talking about Jesus most of the time. I'm hoping that MTN will simply be a chance to learn, grow and let God use me however he wants.



**Ellen Wilcox**

It always amazes me the way God uses us in his plan. After completing school, I studied to become a school chaplain and have been working as a chaplain for the past 5 years. Ministry as a chaplain has absolutely been rewarding in seeing kids and youth come to know Jesus however, it is also challenging. I have journeyed with broken kids and families, seen the heart-breaking consequences of sin in humanity. In those journeys, I have felt the weight of that brokenness.

My husband, Hayden and I are both passionate about living out the gospel and sharing the gospel with those around us. God has placed an opportunity for me to do a ministry traineeship. I am excited by this opportunity to grow my heart in ministry, to have people around me to help share in the brokenness and understand the depth of God's grace. I am asking God to grow my heart for people and sharing the gospel over the next two years so that I can continue to serve him for the rest of my life.



**Matthew Ventura**

Before I started university, I began praying about whether vocational ministry might be God's plan for me. For as long as I've followed Jesus, I've been excited about sharing him with others, and I think it is this desire coupled with wanting to foster deep relationships which keeps drawing me towards ministry. Over the last six years, God's answer to my prayer has been "not yet," so I have thrown myself into serving God where he placed me. Through this time God has taught me about evangelism in a post-Christian environment, the place of work in the Christian life, and fostered personal growth in discipline, patience, and humility.

Now two years since graduation, God seems to be calling me away from my music profession and into vocational ministry. While I'll confess I do have mixed feelings about leaving behind a career I adore, I am stoked to see what God has in store for me with full-time ministry. In particular, to see lives changed and people saved - what could possibly be a more rewarding use of my time?

**You will be voting on:**

The appointment of MTN trainees



## Ministry Students

Our goals with our Theological College students are similar to the goals for trainees. With a significant focus on study, however, a student typically works 10 hours per week in church ministry. Our goal is to help students integrate what they're learning at College with life and ministry – that heart and hands are working with the head!



**Emily Andrews**

For over 10 years I've been praying about and working towards a life of full time ministry. During this period, I've spent some time overseas doing short term mission work and more recently have been on the staff team here at church. Over the next 3 years as I study I'm hoping to grow more in my knowledge of God and be equipped to spend my life in ministry. I'm really looking forward to spending time intentionally studying the Bible as well as learning some new ministry skills.



**Nick Woodward**

Nick grew up in Tasmania, and is married to Danae who grew up in South-East Queensland. He is from a non-Christian family, and moved to Sydney to study Engineering at UNSW. He became a Christian in his second year of university when he was challenged by a friend to look into the historicity of the Bible, and found the evidence much more compelling than he thought he would! After finishing his Engineering degree, Nick did a year of Engineering work before starting a ministry traineeship and going on to complete four years of theological study at Moore College. He is passionate about AFL, board games, and seeing people grow in maturity in Christ.



**Sam & Lucy Herd**

We're making the move to Creek Road from Lismore in Northern NSW. We're both from the country - so moving to the city will no doubt come with lots of adjustments!

Northern NSW has been our home for a while now, we both studied at uni in Lismore (Sam studied Contemporary Music and Lucy, Visual Art teaching). We've been a part of Southern Cross Presbyterian church where we've both completed ministry traineeships. The last twelve months have given us the opportunity to consider how we can best serve God, his people and his world and whether that will involve continuing in full-time ministry. We decided to keep moving down that path and the next step is being further trained. We will both be studying at Queensland Theological College in 2019 and will do student ministry at Creek Road.

We're looking forward to joining the team at City South and getting involved in community life there. We will also spend some of our time in partnership with the Yocks, doing some ministry at the Conservatorium of Music and College of Arts.

**You will be voting on:**

The appointment of ministry  
students

# Living Teams.

## Staff Team

### Music Pastor

Peter Yock, who has been our Music Pastor, and an integral part of the preaching team and City South Campus team since 2014 will be leaving the staff team to work full time in student ministry at Griffith Conservatorium of Music and QLD College of Art (both campuses located at South Bank). While he and his family will still be part of our City South Campus, he will no longer be involved as a staff member.

To fill this gap, we are in discussion with an ideal candidate to join our team as Music Pastor – and hope to bring this matter to a future congregational meeting (the conversation is ongoing and won't be resolved in time for the October meeting).

### Series Planning Manager

Emily Andrews, who has been Series Planning Manager, overseeing the smooth planning and implementation of our teaching series, and is currently the acting Business and Planning Manager for Church2Church, will be leaving the team to start her full time Master of Divinity at QTC in 2019. Emily will continue to be a part of the City South Campus community, and will be involved with the team as a Ministry Student.

Petrina Rangiawha is seeking to join the team as Series Planning Manager.

### You will be voting on:

The appointment of Petrina Rangiawha as Series Planning Manager

Hi my name is Petrina Rangiawha. I am a Social Worker and have been working with foster children in out of home care for the past 6 years here in Australia. I have seen my work with the children and my colleagues as my ministry as we are called to look after the fatherless and less fortunate and I can tell my workmates about the good news of Jesus. One of the most important things in my life is to advance God's Kingdom and I want to be where I can be most efficient in that calling. While I know this doesn't necessarily mean working for the church full-time, right now I feel like that's where I could serve best. My husband, 'G', has been doing the MTN program since the start of the year. I've been so happy for him and maybe a little jealous but somehow thought it wasn't an option for me. He admits to praying for this to be a possibility for me and here we are. In my role I want to do my best to serve and help the team with even the most menial tasks and I know I will learn and grow in doing this.



The Board

Our church board is the combined meeting of our church’s Elders and Managers who oversee the life decisions of our church.

Elders

In 2019 the current Elders who will serve on the board are:

- Wes Fittell,
- Mal Griffin (returning from leave),
- and Tim Hewlett.

Des Soares is taking leave from serving on the board (2019 and possibly 2020).

Phil Richardson (City South) is being nominated by the board for election as an Elder to serve on the board. Whilst the board believes Phil Richardson is the right person to fill this new Elder’s seat created on the board, Ministry Partners will have the opportunity at the Ministry Dinner on 10 October to nominate other names for the board to consider. At the congregational meeting on 24 October Phil’s name will be put forward for election as an Elder to serve on the church board.

Managers

The board has added a new Manager’s seat on the board, so we will have 6 Managers. The board is re-nominating the existing 5 Managers: Dylan Byrne, Steve Currie, Kerrie Dahler, Sandra Hinrichsen, and Abel Immaraj. The board is also nominating Henriette Muller is a new Manager to serve on the board. The election of the Managers to the board will occur at the congregational meeting on 24 October (nominations close on 17 October).

You will be voting on:

The appointment of Phil Richardson as Elder to serve on the board

You will be voting on:

The re-appointment of the existing 5 Managers to serve on the board

The appointment of Henriette Muller as a Manager to serve on the board

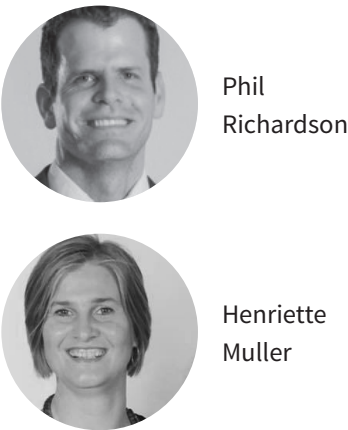
Elders



Managers



Nominees



## Stewardship Ministry Team - our newest ministry team

Everything we have is from God. Our families, our friends, our ability to earn money and the money we earn. We know that our days are numbered by God and so these too are given to use for his glory.

Again and again there are pictures of the early church sharing, giving and living in ways that are distant from our experience.

A Stewardship Ministry Team has been established to help our church to actively face the challenge of living like the early church, radical, generous lives. This Team will be helping all of us to grow in generosity. The Team is made up of people from our church who have skills and experience in giving and finance and so will help us all align our hearts to Jesus in terms of generosity.

Please join in praying for this Team as they, in turn, help us to pray, learn and talk about generosity. Giving our self, time, and money for him.

On the team are: Scott and Liza'l Textor, Jonathan and Courtney Baque, Adrian and Janet Sutton, Don and Narelle Todman, Steve Cree, and Tim Collard.





# A budget for Living.

The 2019 budget supports the vision and is reflected in the following increased investments:

Ministry Trainees	\$97,700
Students	\$63,700
Facilities Hire (City South)	\$50,000
Partnership Contributions	\$45,400
City South/Springfield Campus Growth Campaign	\$20,000
Other (training, new name, tech upgrades)	\$13,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$290,600</b>

What does this look like in terms of giving targets?

2018 approved budget	\$30,769/week	Based on 2017 actual giving
2018 year to date (as at 14th Sep)	\$32,399/week	Strong giving (accompanied by tight expense control)
2019 proposed budget	\$35,905/week	11% increase possible if each giving unit were to increase their giving (as a % of their income) by 1%

The full budget is available at the next steps area and online at <http://db.creekroad.org.au/>

**You will be voting on:**

Approval of the budget as circulated



# Room for Living.

Living communities need room to live. At Creek Road we are blessed to have amazing facilities for all our campuses – Carina Ministry Centre, the Lifeplace Facility, and the USQ Springfield Auditorium. As we grow, we need to keep reviewing the best way to use these facilities to hold out the living word to those in our communities.

## City South Campus

At the beginning of 2018, our City South campus moved into the Lifeplace West End facility, which means we have been able to grow ministries like our Kids Church, and start ministries like Conversation Club.

## Springfield Campus

Springfield campus continues to meet in the main auditorium of USQ Springfield, a facility that currently meets their needs. As the campus continues to grow, we will invest time and money in the best venue for our Springfield community to flourish.

## Creek Road Campus

At Carina, we continue to move the facility upgrade project forward. We are seeking to build a great outdoor area with a new access from the hall by opening out room 1. The outdoor space has 120 square meters of roof structure for all year use, and turf space to run and play. Through a cost estimate process, the team has scoped a great space within reasonable costs. The design and the associated application to Brisbane City Council will allow for future expansion.

A new electronic sign to replace the current sign on the corner of Creek and Fursden Roads, as well as new branding art work for the western wall, and clearer signage for the Fursden Road entrance. Total project estimate is \$505,000.

Funding for this project is \$250,000 from capital savings, at least \$55,000 from a once off building fund campaign, and 2 years 'repayment' to savings of \$100,000 per year. Whatever is raised above \$55,000 will reduce the need to draw on savings.

As part of general maintenance, new carpet and lighting in the hall and adjoining rooms and fresh paint (3 colliders), ceiling beams and foyer stairs, and western and eastern walls. We are seeking to expend this \$45,000 investment within the approved 2018 budget allocation.

## You will be voting on:

12 month renewal of lease at Lifeplace  
Approve the costed plans to enhance the Carina Ministry Centre as explained at the Ministry Dinner on 10th October.

## To pledge or donate

To make a **pledge** for the Carina facility upgrade, see the Next Steps Desk.

To make a **donation** to the Carina facility upgrade, please use Direct Debit into the following account:

Account Name:	Creek Road Central
BSB:	064 000
Account Number:	1367 3178
Reference:	Carina Facility

# Living Membership.

A promise is a lovely thing. When you make a promise you're communicating to other people that you will do what you say you'll do. At Creek Road we seek to live lives that back up what we say we believe. Membership denotes that you promise to serve Jesus in a particular place, with a particular group of people – this is Living membership.

Membership means investment – not from a distance or being silent. Membership means deep, active, living investment. Seeking to live generously. Seeking to make this investment sacrificially so that others might come to truly know Jesus.

Membership at Creek Road is part promise and part partnership. That's why we call members Ministry Partners – because as they are living out their faith in Jesus, they are partnering in really living. Membership isn't a requirement of being involved at Creek Road, it is a statement of belonging. Belonging to our church because we belong to Jesus.

It's hard to give **Money**. It's harder to give **Time**. It's hardest to give **Yourself**.

This is how we give in response to Jesus giving his life. We give our whole selves. That's what it means to be a living sacrifice. This is what it means to have living water overflowing in us. That's what it means to be living church. As people who have been given life by Jesus we now cherish life-giving.





# Journey of generosity.

In our culture, it can be hard to talk about money. Even within churches and among Christian friends, it can be hard to talk about money and giving. We participated in a Journey of Generosity or a "JOG" in Philadelphia just before we were married. JOGs are committed to spreading the Biblical message of generosity through conversations, hosted by the organisation Generous Giving. Through the JOG we explored what the Bible says about generosity and what living a generous life might look like.

Our Journey of Generosity was made up of a small gathering of like minded people (about 10-12 people). We each had some understanding of the Bible, but we had not thought about money or giving in great detail and how it might apply to our own personal lives. During that weekend, we found that our hearts and minds were changed. So, what happened at our JOG?

- We read the Bible
- We prayed, a lot!
- We listened to stories of Christians who were radically generous, in small and in big ways

- We were challenged to think about how God might use our gifts, time, and money in generous ways
- We felt safe to share our different ideas about how this applies to our individual lives and circumstances
- We were not told what to do with our money
- We were not asked to make donations to this organisation

After our JOG, we were encouraged to think about our own living standard - are we content with what we have, or are we trying to keep up with the world around us? Do we trust God with our lives, or do we hope to build up a vast savings account to protect ourselves from anything life throws at us? We are just beginning to understand the joy of living generously because of what Jesus has done for us so generously. For us personally, we continue to ask for God's help to lead us to opportunities, and even take some risks, to practice being generous and experience the joy in giving.



# Living Generously.



## LET'S TALK ABOUT MONEY

Our culture is generally quite open in sharing personal things about our lives. Money, however, is one clear exception. David Bisgrove from Redeemer Church in New York describes this as putting a “do not disturb” sign up over this part of our life. We’re very uncomfortable talking about our personal finances. It’s possible that you’re more guarded or defensive reading these words beneath a heading, ‘let’s talk about money’ than if it read ‘let’s talk about prayer.’

We need to talk about money because of its spiritual power over us. Bisgrove points out that while there are 500 verses on prayer, there are more than 2,000 verses on money and possessions. The Bible won’t allow the ‘do not disturb’ sign to stay up over our money. God knows our hearts and seeks to disturb them when they are settled on the wrong things.

Ecclesiastes 5:13 defines “wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners” as a “grievous evil.” Jesus warns us to “be on guard against all kinds of greed” (Luke 12:15). Money and material comfort deceive you into connecting your identity to your possessions or your bank account rather than Jesus. Bisgrove argues that the antidote to this grievous evil is generosity.

When the first gospel burst into the life of the church in Acts 2, they gave generously not just out of their income but their assets also. Their hearts were now set not on accumulating money but on giving life to others.

*They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need ... And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. – Acts 2:45, 47*

This Vision document is an invitation to be part of exciting plans for our church as we look ahead to 2019 and beyond. Reviewing your giving at least annually is a really good idea. Can you take a bit of time to work through the following pages and studies to review your giving? What might you give out of your income? What might you give out of your assets or accumulated wealth?

Your giving at Creek Road is a crucial way we’ll further our vision to Reach the City, Reach the World’ with the life giving gospel of Jesus. The real key to unlocking our giving isn’t about statistics and budgets. It’s about Jesus and hearts. The truth is, there’s nothing that we give that doesn’t already belong to Jesus.

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:20-21*

# Ten tips for increasing your giving.

**Start with Jesus** - Our giving is a response to Jesus' extraordinary giving of his life to save us. Our giving is the overflow of the grace we've received from Jesus.

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. - 2 Corinthians 8:9*

1

**Think less about budgets** - A budget only reflects some of the planned gospel activity we can give towards, but certainly not the full potential that could be unleashed or the gospel opportunities that abound.

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. - 2 Corinthians 9:6*

3

**Don't worry** - Listen carefully to Jesus. He knows we fear that we'll go without. He doesn't give us a detailed list of reasons not to worry. He gives us himself instead.

*Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. - Luke 12:22-23*

5

**Be sacrificial** - In the story of the first church, their generosity is highlighted as a core part of their response to the gospel. They responded to Jesus' life given for them, by giving theirs. Let's consider how we might imitate their generous and sacrificial giving.

*All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. - Acts 2:44-45*

7

**Pray** - Please pray for our generosity as a church - that we would be life-giving. Pray for yourself and your brothers and sisters that our generous giving might give life to our city and our world.

*And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. - 2 Corinthians 9:14*

9

2

**Start at the heart** - As our hearts are gripped by the grace of God in Jesus, we loosen our grip on our money, giving it cheerfully in service of the gospel. Thanksgiving. Life-giving.

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. – 2 Corinthians 9:7*

4

**Think more about people** - Listen carefully to the stories we share each Sunday in church. People, receiving life from Jesus. Consider the living stories around you in your Growth Group, and Ministry Teams you serve in, or that serve you. And all around us, many, many more people who need Jesus.

*This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. – 2 Corinthians 9:12*

6

**Be generous** - While the Old Testament talked about a tithe – giving 10% of your income – the New Testament talks about generosity beyond that, in the light of the greater grace of the gospel. 10% is still a useful starting point, but many of us are in a position to give beyond that.

*You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. – 2 Corinthians 9:11*

8

**Plan** - Willingness to give is crucial. So is completion. See it through – plan, commit and then complete.

*Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. – 1 Corinthians 8:11*

10

**Act** - If you're not yet giving at all, please start now. If you're giving but not sacrificially, please start now. If you're giving sacrificially, thank you!

# 1

## How can you be life-giving with your SELF?

**Read Romans 12:1**

1. What picture are we given here of life-giving? What will it mean for us to live as a living sacrifice?
2. This life-giving is 'in view of God's mercy' – what Paul has just celebrated in the first 11 chapters of Romans. Read Romans 6:1-14 for a taste of this mercy. How would you describe this mercy?
3. This life-giving leads to worship not just when we gather for church but in all of life. Read the whole chapter of Romans 12. What pictures are we given here of life-giving?

I have given myself to Jesus who gave himself for me. I want to be a living sacrifice. I want to live generously. Here are some ways I will live generously:

# 2

## How can you be life-giving with your TIME?

**Read Hebrews 10:19-25**

1. As the gospel calls us to life-giving – what call does it place on our time?
2. What might this mean for the priority we place on gathering on Sundays?
3. What might this mean for the priority we place on gathering in Growth Groups?
4. What might this mean for the priority we place on gathering to serve in Ministry Teams?

I have given myself to Jesus who gave himself for me. I want to be a living sacrifice. I want to live generously. Here are some ways I will live generously with my time:

Sunday gathering:

Growth Group:

Ministry Team:

Blessing my neighbours:



# 3

## How can you be life-giving with your MONEY?

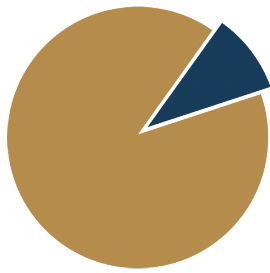
1. Read through the 'let's talk about money' and '10 ways to increase your giving' section on pages 19. Discuss this together as a group. What strikes you? What are you challenged by?
2. Read through the Living Generously Worksheets on pages 27. Discuss this together as a group. What strikes you? What are you challenged by?
3. The 10% 'tithe of the Old Testament is a useful guideline. But there is a danger that we might see it as the limit on our giving – and not think generously about all 100% of what we have. It all belongs to Jesus! How might we see 10% rather as a doorway into a generous life?



I have given myself to Jesus who gave himself for me. I want to be a living sacrifice. I want to live generously. Here are some ways I will live generously with my money:

These studies are designed for you to work through personally and to discuss in your Growth Group – to help you put life-giving into practice. To give your money. To give your time. To give yourself. Live-giving. Living generously.

Living  
Generously.  
Three studies in life-giving



## GUIDE

In the Old Testament God called His people to show their honour to Him by giving 10%



## GIVEN

The New Testament calls us to give generously even beyond this guide – life-giving in response to Jesus' life given for us. There is no limit here!



## GOAL

The New Testament calls us to commit to a goal with our giving – and to complete. These worksheets are a useful way to make this goal real – work through the steps below to work out and activate your giving goal.

## Weekly giving examples

Annual income	\$10,000	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$200,000
Weekly income	\$192	\$962	\$1923	\$2885	\$3846
5%	\$10	\$48	\$96	\$144	\$192
10%	\$19	\$96	\$192	\$288	\$384
15%	\$29	\$144	\$288	\$433	\$577

## Work out your giving goal

Income source 1		Total income	
Income source 2		What's 10%	
Income source 3		Current giving	
Income source 4		Generous goal	
Total income		Giving commitment to 2019 total	
		Weekly giving amount	

## Before you finalise this number – consider these questions:

- How do you feel about this number?
- Is it in proportion with the importance of God in your life?
- Is it in proportion with the importance of our church in your life?
- How is it in proportion with other ways you spend your money?
- Could you try a 'Tithing challenge' – if you're giving less than 10% - why not try giving 10% for a 12 week challenge?

Pray and set your giving goal and take action to start giving accordingly. And as we build toward 2019 please consider activating this new giving goal now. Further, in addition to this giving from your income, please also consider giving an additional one-off giving amount from your assets/wealth (whether for the ‘Carina Facility’ or for general giving).

We recognise and celebrate equal sacrifice not equal giving. Some will give comparatively bigger or smaller amounts but it is the heart that God looks upon and that we want to nurture in you – not simply a pile of cash.

We recognise and celebrate Christian generosity expressed outside the local church as we see needs of the world around us. We suggest making your giving to your local church your first priority and to then grow your generosity toward supporting other ministries and needs. We try to model this through 11% of our budget being directed towards gospel partnerships beyond our church. From time to time we may have a special project that you might like to contribute to over and above your regular giving (such as the present Carina Facility project as mentioned above).

## A PRAYER ABOUT GIVING

Generous Father,

Thank you for your amazing investment in us. Thank you that you sent Jesus to die for us, so that we might live. Thank you that you sent Jesus to pay our debt for you – freely, but at great cost. Thank you that you give us your Spirit to reshape our hearts to make us more like Jesus. Thank you that you give us life, and breath, and everything – that everything we are and everything we have comes as a good gift from you. Help us as we think about what it means to give ourselves to you and to others – from hearts changed and beating for you, hearts brought alive by Jesus’ death for us. Break down the idols we set up in our hearts – especially the idol of money that we confess distracts us too often from your mission. Help us to think about what it means to live generously and to give radically as we live for Jesus together. Challenge us to invest our lives wisely. Challenge us to move from our comfort zones when it comes to how we live, how we spend our time, and how we spend our money. Help us to speak openly to others in our church family – to avoid giving as a result of manipulation or guilt, but rather to give ourselves, together, to see more hearts come alive in our city and in our world. Help our giving and our lives to be shaped by the cross, to be shaped by your generosity to us in Jesus, to be life-giving.

In Jesus name, Amen.

## One Off giving amount for:

Carina Facility project

\$

General giving

\$

## To pledge or donate

To make a **pledge** for the Carina facility upgrade, see the Next Steps Desk.

To make a **donation** to the Carina facility upgrade, please use Direct Debit into the following account:

Account Name:	Creek Road Central
BSB:	064 000
Account Number:	1367 3178
Reference:	Carina Facility



This IS  
Living.