

PLEDGE LETTER

Friends,

If the past 18 months has taught us anything, it is that our world is broken and in need of a Saviour. That we as humans have forgotten our wonderful creator and that we need to turn back to Him in repentance and faith. This is our only hope. And the only place that our world will hear such a message is from Christians and from the Church.

God has been so generous to us, hasn't he? He has given us life and the chance to have eternal life. He has provided us, as individuals with food, clothing, homes, money, time and talents. As well as that, he has provided us as a Church with the Bible, worship, small groups, fellowship as well as our physical resources of land and buildings.

But we would all agree that our Ministry Facilities at Charlestown are currently not adequate. God has been generous in raising the number of people and families that currently go to our Church and that has put these ministry facilities under pressure. But more importantly we want to use these ministry facilities to reach out to our wider community. To do this we need to create more modern and welcoming spaces. Spaces where we can interact more with our community and better facilitate the sharing of GOSPEL TRUTH & GODS LOVE in order to see REAL CHANGE in their relationship with the Lord.

As you would know the Church elected a small Building Working Group with the aim of presenting a proposed MINISTRY PROJECT to the congregation in early 2022. This MINISTRY PROJECT's aim would be to ENHANCE and ENLARGE our current ministry facilities to make them better suited to EVANGELISE, EXALT, ENCOURAGE, EDIFY AND EQUIP.

But it hasn't taken us very long to come across a major stumbling block, money. We currently have around \$500,000 that we can put towards this redevelopment. We are also looking at avenues for Church grants and loans. But I am writing to you today to ask if you would be willing to pledge money toward a Ministry Facilities fund so that we might have more clarity over how much we can spend on this project.

So how would this pledge work? Pledging is where each individual or family prayerfully considers the amount they can generously give to the Church into the future. On top of the amount you currently support the Church, you might be able to support the work of the gospel in this place by making a pledge to give a certain amount to our MINISTRY FACILITIES FUND over the next 6-9 months. We also want to give you the opportunity to pledge that you are willing to be more GENEROUS with your time, talents or resources in the service of the Lord and his people in the coming year.

So our plan is to set aside the month of October and focus on GENEROSITY. Being generous to God in response to his grace with our time and money and energy in the way we show our commitment to his Church. And being generous to each other in terms of love and service in the way we should our commitment to God's people. This would enable us to take the words of the Apostle Paul seriously when he says at the beginning of 2 Corinthians 8

*“And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ² In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in **rich generosity**. ³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people.” (2 Corinthians 8:1-4)*

To help us think about this sort of rich generosity, we are sending out this letter at the beginning of October, along with a pledge form. This will help launch our pledge campaign. Then throughout October in our Family Matters section of worship we will explore the riches of God’s grace that He has lavished upon us & hear about the privilege of sharing in this service (of rich generosity) to the saints.

Today we are asking all our regular attenders, to set aside some time to think & pray about what **rich generosity** would look like in your context. For everyone’s circumstances are different and so each one of us need to make up our own minds before the Lord. Which is why we are making these pledges ANONYMOUS. No one needs to know the details of your decision & we as a Church don’t want to know what individual households are giving at all.

So please consider generously giving to our MINISTRY FACILITIES FUND. You might have some extra savings or you might spend the money that you would have spent on your family holiday or you might redraw on your home loan or you might delay for a year a major purchase in order to put that money towards helping build better ministry facilities so that we might have an active part in growing God’s kingdom in this place. Once again everyone’s circumstances are different but if half of our 123 households were able to pledge different amounts according to their individual circumstances, our Church might be able to raise extra funds for a redevelopment.

For example, the following scenario might be achievable

Amount Gifted	No of Gifts	Total Raised
\$25,000	2	\$50,000
\$15,000	4	\$60,000
\$10,000	6	\$60,000
\$5,000	8	\$40,000
\$2,500	10	\$25,000
\$1,000	9	\$9,000
\$500	8	\$4,000
\$200	7	\$1,400
\$100	4	\$400
\$50	4	<u>\$200</u>
	<u>62</u>	<u>\$250,000</u>

So please can you pray about this and consider our request. And when you have decided before the Lord what your response is, please can you fill in the pledge form and give it back to us ASAP. Your responses will help determine what our future Church ministries and Church ministry centre will look like. If you have any questions, please speak to one of the Building Working Group. It is a joy and delight to partner with you in the work of the Lord.

Ministry Working Group September 2021