

Good Giving Guide

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (ESV)

Our Church and Our Giving

In 1995 God began Orange Evangelical Church (OEC) with wise and godly people who laid a solid biblical foundation in Christ. God has steadily grown OEC's numbers and ministry but we are entirely dependent on the giving of our church family for financing the ministry we undertake. We need all those who see OEC as their home church to make a contribution, as they are able, for the work of the gospel to progress. Money is a necessary commodity and we are taught in the Bible not only to be generous but responsible as well. As with every other part of life Christians are told to trust God with our finances.

By God's grace we're now also developing a building for our current and future activities.

This is an exciting prospect, but the need is urgent and the work is ours to complete. It will give OEC room to grow for many years. God requires us to be good stewards by investing what we have been given into gospel ministry.

Our church is made up of people from many different walks of life with greatly varying financial and personal circumstances. People's church attendance also varies with their circumstances and commitments. However it needs to be remembered that OEC's costs are regular, regardless of each individual's attendance or income patterns.

On the following pages you will find information about why to give, what our attitude to giving should be and how to give. As you personally consider your financial situation, please pray and thank God for his good gifts to you and consider how you can best support his work with the money that he has provided.

Orange Evangelical Church

Why Give?

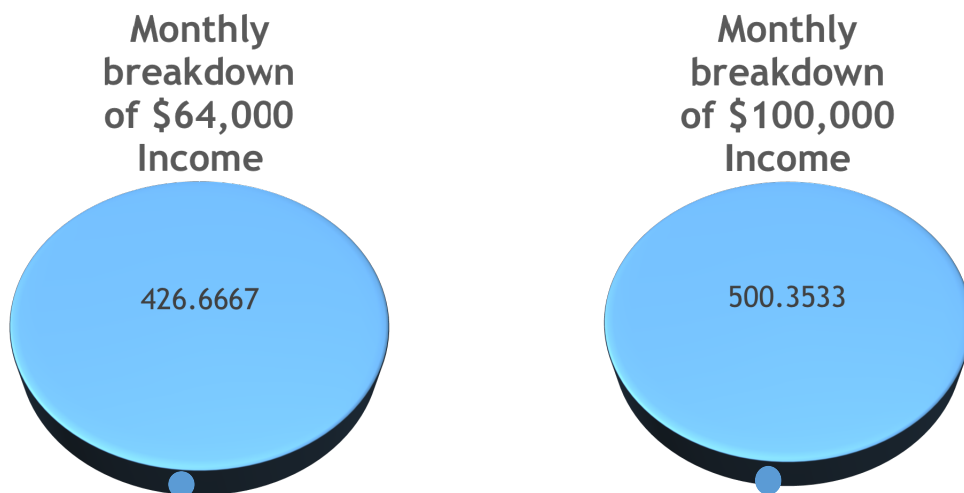
The money that we have is a gift from God. It is entrusted to us to use for the advance of his kingdom. Too often we think of our money as our own, to be used primarily for the pursuit of our own comfort, with perhaps a small tip for God if there's any left over. But God calls us to invest the money he has entrusted to us in things that last - the work of proclaiming the gospel.

How much should I give?

"How much should I give?" is the question we tend to think of first. However the New Testament does not instruct us regarding how much to give, but rather in regard to the attitude with which we give. We are encouraged to give with cheerfulness, generosity and gospel vision as we consider all that God has given to us in the light of eternity. For example the Apostle Paul challenged Christians to partner financially in strategic gospel initiatives (Romans 15:24-29; 2Corinthians 9:1-15; Philippians 4:14-20). The partners of OEC have seen the strategic importance of our ministries and of a ministry centre to accommodate and grow them.

FourFour10

FourFour10 is the funding strategy that supports our gospel initiatives. It challenges us to give 8% of our income to the ministry of OEC. That is, 4% to support OEC ministries and 4% to fund the OEC ministry centre



development. The 10 is ten years. That is, that if we all committed to do this for the next 10 years, at the end of that period we would have fully funded our ministry, completed the ministry centre and be debt free. We know that not all of us can give 8%. However many of us should have the capacity to give more than 8% of our income—the key is equal sacrifice, not equal gifts. The charts below show what giving to OEC may look like for you each month under the FourFour10 funding challenge. \$64,000 is the current average taxable income for an individual in Orange.

A budget priority

Regardless of the amount you decide to give, the Bible teaches that all believers should make it a priority in our weekly/monthly budget. That is, under God and in keeping with your income determine a weekly/monthly amount and set it as the first item in your budget. The Old Testament people of God simply gave 10% of their income. The tithing regulations of the Old Testament should not be translated directly into our situation. However they can be taken as a guideline, as it is what God's people have given to Him in the past.

What about other ministries?

Giving to ministry by no means begins or ends with our church. People also give to other ministries and missions. However the New Testament does teach us that we are responsible for those who minister among us (1 Corinthians 9:7-12; 1 Timothy 5:17-18).

How Can I Give?

1. Sunday giving box

On the service desk at the entry to church there is a wooden giving box where you can put your weekly/monthly giving. It is counted by two OEC regulars at the end of each Sunday meeting and deposited with our bank, the next day.

2. Electronic Transfer/Direct deposit

You can directly deposit your giving into specific OEC accounts (details below) for various ministries. If this is set as a weekly/fortnightly/monthly transfer it will help both you and the church budget, as the set amount is deducted regularly. But don't forget to review it annually.

3. Planned giving

OEC has a facility available whereby the amount you wish to give can be automatically debited either from your bank account or credit card (MasterCard and Visa) at no cost to you. This allows you to give securely and conveniently and assist OEC to effectively plan future finances. You would be able to stop the debit or modify the amount at any time. To make use of this facility see our website to download the required form(s) or contact the OEC office.

Models of giving the Bible does not encourage:

1. **Set and forget** - when we go for years without reviewing and adjusting our giving
2. **Pocket roulette** - from whatever happens to be in our pocket
3. **Spasmodic surplus** - whenever we have some spare cash
4. **Emotionally driven** - whenever we feel guilty or feel moved
5. **God last** - from whatever is left over after everything else

Other ideas to consider:

- **Special Gifts:**

People from time to time have unexpectedly received gifts or inheritances and have made a special gift to the church by giving a portion of these. In the past this church has been greatly helped by these types of generous gifts.

- **Bequests:**

Consider the possibility of leaving a bequest to the church in your will.

Bank Details:

General Giving Account:
BSB: 062-587

ACN: 1007-7975

**Property Giving
(Non Tax-deductible)**
BSB: 062-587
ACN: 1034-0454

**Property Giving
(Tax-deductible)**
BSB: 062-587

ACN: 1046-4211



More information?

Please visit our website or contact the church office.

E-MAIL: office@o church.org.au

ADDRESS: 1/138 Lords Place
PO Box 2406
Orange NSW 2800

PHONE: 02 6362 1025

WEB: www.o church.org.au

