



## Offerings donations & tithes

### How and why to give

#### How Are We Funded?

Baptist churches are nothing more and nothing less than a group of like-minded Christians who get together to follow and represent Jesus' kingdom in a particular locality. We receive no government funding nor subsidy from a state or national office. Financially, we entirely run off donations freely given.

Our current budget requires over \$2,400 per week, most of which we spend on our local mission here in West Beach (including paying our pastors). But we also support other Christian mission across SA and around the world.

#### Ways to Give

- › Electronic giving: through *GiveWay* (ongoing or one-off anonymous contributions). Link available on our website.
- › Electronic transfer to bank account: West Beach Community Church  
BSB: 704-922  
A/c: 100016000
- › Cash and cheques: these can be placed in one of the offering boxes (in the chapel and in the café area.) If you'd like to use offering envelopes, they are available on the main counter.

#### How Much Should I Give?

Jesus had a lot to say about money.

**We shouldn't serve it:** the rich young ruler in Luke 18 went away sad because his love of wealth kept him from God's kingdom. "You cannot serve both God and money."

**We shouldn't worry about it:** "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Or waste it on things that don't really matter." (Matthew 6)

**We shouldn't waste it:** "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6)

**It's not primarily for us:** In Matthew 24 Jesus tells a parable of a servant whose master was about to go on a long journey. The servant was put in charge of all the supplies and given the job of feeding all the other servants. What would happen if his master returned and found him doing so? Or what if, once his

master was gone, he came to view all those supplies as his own possessions for his own enjoyment...?

## So how much to give?

Many Christians use the old testament principle of tithing (Deuteronomy 14:22 -29), which is to give the first 10% of your income.

The new testament speaks of free will offerings based on a loving relationship with God rather than a legal obligation (2 Corinthians 9:7).

In Mark 12, Jesus commends a widow who gave 100% of what she had to live on and trusted her livelihood to God. And he condemned the Pharisees who strictly kept the tithe rule but neglected justice and the love of God (Luke 11).

## So, how much?

A method many use, is setting up a regular, tithe-like offering to their local church, but additionally budget for occasional, spontaneous generosity according to their means (for the wealthy this should be a lot!) - all as part of noble, wise, just, thankful, godly living.

You might find these principles help you decide:

(1) God doesn't want just your money. He loves you and wants all of you.

(2) God doesn't want your left-over time and money. Put his kingdom first and everything else will take its place.

(3) Thank God for everything you have and put your needs before him.

(4) Guilt and worry aren't Jesus's style. He wants you to know the fulfillment and joy of giving and the privilege it is to give ourselves away.

