

Ministry Bonds – Our target for ministry bonds for 2011 is to reach \$1 million. Currently a total of \$650,000 has been loaned to us in this way. Ministry Bond monies are placed into an offset account with Baptist Financial Services (BFS) which reduces our interest. Each bond is for \$2,000, is safe with BFS and can be redeemed with a couple of days notice. Please enquire in the office or at the information desk about purchasing Ministry Bonds.

Building Donations – Help us tackle our long term debt of \$1 million. All donations to the Building Fund are tax deductible.

3. Special Offerings

We ask that you will begin the year by planning not only for your weekly offerings and building fund support, but also for these two special offerings in May and November.

May Mission Month – This has been functioning for many years and in 2010 we distributed \$194,000 to five different mission projects. Our target for May 2011 is \$180,000 and donations can be tax deductible.



Thank Offering – This commemorates the anniversary of both the completed new building and the original Church opening. In 2011 this will occur on 27 November. All of the Thank Offering goes to pay off our building loan. Our target for 2011 is \$100,000 and donations can be tax deductible.

Different ways to make your payment

This section explains the different ways that you can make your payments.

Cash or Cheque

This is the "traditional" way to donate to the Church. For us, it involves more work and is less secure but we know it is still a method preferred by some.

Place your cash or cheque into the weekly offering collections. Packs of dated offering envelopes are available at the Information Desk to help you with your regular giving. Use a specially marked envelope for any donations to the Building Fund – we need to know your details if you want a tax receipt.

These days, more than half of all donations come to us electronically, which helps many people to be regular in their giving – so please go electronic if you can.

Direct Credit / EFT

This may well be the best way to make your donations:

- You retain direct control
- You can easily set up, change or cancel your regular payments
- You can remain anonymous if you do not require a tax receipt
- There are generally no fees for you or us

Arrange with your bank (via online banking) or employer (from your pay) to transfer regular or one-off amounts to a Gymea Baptist account:

	Offerings	Building Fund & Programmed Giving
BSB No.	704 922	704 922
Account No.	100 006 024	100 007 907

Make sure to include your name in the information field if you require a tax receipt for Building Fund or Programmed Giving donations.

Credit Card

For us, this is the least preferred method – please use one of the other electronic methods if you can.

The Church incurs bank fees (1.5% to 3%) on credit card receipts, so we ask that you allow us to add 2% to your credit card donations to cover these costs.

Also, do not allow credit card giving to create a burden of ongoing debt for you. Only use this method if you can afford the full monthly card repayments.

Complete the attached Credit Card Authority form. You can change or cancel this authority at any time.

Thank you for your financial support of God's work at Gymea Baptist Church.

If you have any questions please complete the form, contact the Church office on 9521 4611 or speak with the Church Treasurer.



Gymea Baptist Church 2011

"contended at my side in the cause of the gospel"
Philippians 4:3

"like a tree planted by streams of water which yields its fruit in season"
Psalm 1:3



www.gymeabaptist.org.au



www.gymeabaptist.org.au

*Psalm 82:3 Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless;
 maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed.*





Becoming a Movement

In 2010 Gymea Baptist Church committed to shift from being an "organisation" to an "organism". We want to seek to be a "movement" of God rather than a well organised corporation.

Let's articulate what that might look like as an Australian Church. If we were more of a movement of God what would the outcomes be? The following is a picture of what we are seeking to achieve under the work of God's spirit:

- A church of influence
- A church of vitality and passion
- A church inspired by worship, singing its own songs and creating uniquely Australian worship music
- A church that calls for creativity without giving into shallow popularism
- A church with a heart for those who face injustice
- A church that calls people to ministry
- A church that releases new generations of committed, deep, mature, knowledgeable Christian leaders and thinkers
- A church that is a magnet for those who want a serious, active faith rather than a haven for those looking for entertainment and escape
- A church known for its mission
- A church respected for its teaching
- A church loved for its community
- A church after God's own heart.

Psalm 119:154 Defend my cause and redeem me; preserve my life according to your promise.

Theme and Goals for 2011

Building on the idea of "movement" we recognise that movements are created when people find the intersection of their own call, passion, skills and opportunity. One way this is described is to be committed to a "cause".

We want to use this language in helping people live Godly, committed and fulfilled lives by going beyond a self-centred focus and giving themselves to a greater "cause".

This won't come from badgering or "guilt-ing" people but rather from helping them discover the "cause" that God has put on their heart.

We also recognise that "Living for a cause" is not just about our own hard work but tapping into the resources of a mighty God. Psalm 1:3 reminds of this truth, we should all seek to be "...like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season". This concept is represented in our logo for the year. The streams of water are the Word of God (see Psalm 1:2) and we trust that our church's involvement in the "Dive In" program will help each of us sink roots into the Word of God.



This being the case we want the **THEME** for 2011 to be...

Living for a cause - Psalm 140:12, Philippians 4:3, Psalm 1:3.

In Living for a cause, our **GOALS** for 2011 will be to:

1. Look beyond the walls

- Praying for, supporting and getting involved with the H3O church plant
- Praying for, supporting and getting involved with the Grays Point Community Church renewal
- Exploring a new community based ministry of support and care
- Providing more opportunities for deeper connection with our missionaries through an upgraded adopt-a-missionary scheme

2. Practice discipleship

- Encouraging regular Bible reading through the "Dive In" program
- Encouraging generosity driven lifestyles

3. Build a supportive community

- Providing opportunities for people to tell their stories
- Providing support for people to discover their cause, grow and be released to serve
- Increasing the percentage of people in Life Groups
- Empowering Life Groups to support their group members in their individual "causes"
- Resourcing Life Groups with a study series that helps people consider their "call to a cause".

Of course, any worthwhile cause typically comes at a cost. This is no different for Gymea Baptist – it costs money to run the many diverse ministries of the Church and to achieve the goals we have set for ourselves.

The only sources of income the Church has to finance its programs are the regular, sacrificial donations we receive from our own people. You can play a vital part, and we need your support to continue! Please read on for information about financially supporting us, and prayerfully consider your response.

Finances at Gymea Baptist Church

Over the past few years we have seen God provide in wonderful ways that has allowed us to expand our facilities and build our ministry. A key element of this provision has been reflected in the generous financial giving of our people.

We are looking for that to continue in 2011. The need is great – both to support our ongoing ministries and mission projects, and also to reduce our remaining debt from the building program.

We therefore call on all of us who are committed to Gymea Baptist to prayerfully consider our level of giving.

Psalm 37:6 He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun

The Three Key Financial Targets for 2011

1. Weekly giving - how to be involved and consistent

Our offerings target for 2011 is \$751,000 or close to \$14,500 per week. This represents a 4% increase from 2010, and we urge you to please increase your own giving by at least that percentage. See below for ways to give regularly.

We have created a special facility called "Programmed Giving" that may allow you to increase the value of your offerings – without extra cost to you!

Programmed Giving – This is an opportunity that allows you (using tax deductibility) to generate additional money for the building fund using the money that you would normally contribute as your regular offerings. A special Information Flyer explains the program and is available from the Information Desk.

2. Building Fund

The need is twofold – loans ("Ministry Bonds") to offset our interest costs (nearly \$200,000 a year), and donations to reduce our mortgage (currently over \$2 million).

