

1 June 2025

Dear CCS Partner,

As we've shared in this season of energetic evangelistic activity in recent weeks, many of us have felt a deep sense of privilege in being able to contend together for the faith in this way. We've been able to **encourage** and **motivate** each other, **pray for** each other, **prompt** and **remind** each other, and **engage** with each other's friends – as well as **serve** together and **get behind** events and activities in different ways. It's been a beautiful manifestation of our shared identity as 'a chosen people... that you may declare the praises of him who brought you out of darkness into his wonderful light' (1 Peter 2:9).

We continue to see the fruit of this work in new professions of faith, renewed commitments of discipleship, fresh ownership of parents' faith, stepping up to serve in new ways, and the like. And there is additionally the less visible reality of God's work gradually taking a deeper hold on the lives of individuals and shaping their thoughts, lives and ambitions so that they grow in maturity and in turn become real 'fishers of people', ready to play their part in reaching a new generation of the lost.

But we long to see this work of Kingdom-advancement reach further. For this we need to pray earnestly and work hard. We also need to own the financial realities of the ministry.

Some of the ways we are looking to take things further this year include:

1. We want to partner with CCS people – past and present – in **bringing the gospel to new people and places**. These include **Sarah Ebenezar** who is pioneering a new youth ministry in Tower Hamlets (currently the least 'Christian' borough in England) in the coming months; **Lydia Bown** who is taking a more senior role in Friends International (reaching international students) from this autumn; and **Daniel Lim** as he goes to work on Mercy Ships.
2. As well as continuing to invest time and energy into our Ministry Trainees, we want to contribute to the **training costs** of those who are taking further steps in preparing for a vocational ministry role or undertaking theological training. Specifically we are hoping to continue to support **Jonny & Megan Joensen** (undergoing missionary training). And as **David & Hollie Widdowson** move to Oak Hill College in a few weeks for residential theological training, we want to contribute to their costs too, as well as to continue supporting **Alli Moseley** in her part-time seminary studies.
3. We are actively looking to establish a **secure physical presence in our locality**, in order to provide a 'mission base' in the form of a church building. The overall costs will undoubtedly be several million pounds, but the current goal is to increase the CCS 'Building for the Future' fund from around £120,000 to £250,000 in order to be able to address fees and deposit and thus take the opportunity as and when the door is opened to us. We are praying this will be soon and want to be ready!



CHRIST CHURCH SOUTHAMPTON

These opportunities are, of course, in addition to the ongoing provision of the ministry of the word locally which, under God, we give ourselves to and which continues to show such encouraging fruit. Each year (and especially recently given the realities of inflation) our staff costs increase. And this coming year Alecia's change of circumstances will leave a gap in both our administration and women's ministry which will likely need to be addressed in future staff appointments.

In all, we are looking for an increase in monthly church giving of at least **£3,750 per month**. We also rely on one-off gifts to meet short-term opportunities and one-off or occasional needs (for example when the church car fails, or the library premises need major work, or subsidies are needed for individuals to attend MYC or the church weekend away). This year we have set a target of **one-off gifts totalling £30,000**.

We are also looking for a further **£130,000 to meet the current target for our *Building for the Future* project fund**.

These are big targets and will likely require significant sacrifices from many of us to achieve it. But we trust the Lord for his provision and invite you to contribute as you are able.

At this stage, we are asking 3 things.

1. That you join us in prayer that the **Lord will provide** for these needs and that the elders would continue to demonstrate godly wisdom in overseeing the developments in the church's ministry.
2. That you **prayerfully review** your financial situation with a view to working out the extent to which you can contribute. Each of us finds that our financial circumstances change from time to time – sometimes for the worse, sometimes for the better (eg with new jobs, promotions, extra hours, wage increases, pension increases, one-off windfalls, household cost savings, ISA savings, legacies etc.) What part can you play in the significant needs of the church?

If you would value biblical wisdom in thinking through your giving, please find the attached brief document, 'Rich Generosity' which seeks to summarise the teaching of 2 Corinthians 8-9.

3. That, *regardless of your ability to help*, you fill the **online pledge form** to confirm you have given the matter your prayerful consideration and to indicate what part you envisage being able to play from September, as we all work together to meet these targets. *Please do this by Monday 14 July.*
You can reach the form via connectcorner.net or the QR code below.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about giving, or would prefer to use a paper form, please don't hesitate to contact Dan Jeffery (treasurer@christchurchsouthampton.org.uk) who will ensure your question is answered promptly!

We are confident that – as we pray and act together – we will find, as we have always found, the Lord opening the floodgates and giving us all we need.

Finally, can we take this opportunity of saying what a privilege it is to serve the church in this way. We so appreciate your ongoing prayers for us and thank God for each one of you.

May you know God's grace and peace in the days ahead,

Dan, James, Jonti, Tom, Matt, Nigel, Orlando and Simon

CCS Elders

'RICH GENEROSITY'

Eight Principles of Godly Giving from 2 Corinthians 8-9



When Christians make decisions about giving, they do so not according to a rule, but enjoying the freedom of a child of God. They are, however, not left entirely without guidance. Over 2 successive chapters written to the church at Corinth, the apostle Paul appears to outline a number of principles which have proved a useful resource to believers down the ages.

- 1. Giving is more about generosity and sacrifice than percentages**
'They gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability' (8v3)
- 2. Giving comes from voluntary decision, not external compulsion**
'Entirely on their own... I am not commanding you' (8v3-8)
- 3. Giving is an honour more than a duty**
'They urgently pleaded for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people' (8v4)
- 4. Giving is proof of a love like Jesus**
'I want to test the sincerity of your love... 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' (8v8-9)
- 5. Giving involves decisive actions, not just good intentions**
...'that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it' (8v11)
- 6. Giving is proportionate to personal means, not set figures**
'The gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have' (8v12)
- 7. Giving means sharing as opposed to hoarding**
'Your plenty will supply what they need' (8v14)
- 8. Giving is approached cheerfully not reluctantly**
'God loves a cheerful giver' (9v7)