



# VILLAGE CHURCH

## Quarter 1 2014 UPDATE

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**Each quarter we're going to update you on what the team has been doing, what's been going on around Village, where we're at with finances, and what's coming up next.**

We're three months into 2014, and it's been a big start to the year.

Probably the biggest change is having two more people join us on the Village team. Nat has come on full-time as a trainee, and Mitch has started as the full-time assistant pastor. You can hear more of what they're doing on the next page, but I want to say thanks to you for your generosity in taking them on. While Mitch's wage is funded 60% by the Presbyterian Church, it's still a big step up for Village to fund the other 40% as well as Nat full-time. **Thanks for partnering with us in the work of the Gospel.**

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Over the past couple of years as we've grown, I've been struggling over this question: If my hope is that people at Village come to know Jesus and then become mature in him...what exactly does that look like? The 'Grace

Changes Everything' series is my response to that question. What is the Gospel, and what does it drive us to be and do? If we're clear about that as a community, then it'll help us decide what's important to us, where we put our energy into, and what we do with the resources we have. *And my argument has always been - that when we come to grips with the sacrificial, unmerited, unconditional and overwhelming love of God shown to us in Jesus, then that's going to shape not just us as individuals, but our whole community as well.*

So from this foundation, there's two areas I'm going to be focusing on in the coming months. **The first** is how we share the Gospel. I'm going to be asking you what we can do to help you talk to and introduce those around you to Jesus. **The second** is how we as a church love our neighbours, particularly the poor, marginalised & vulnerable. Many within the

Village community are already heavily invested in both of these areas - so in many ways this is us saying, let's talk about how we can do this better. So look out for an upcoming discussion about sharing the Gospel, and head along to the meeting that Andrew Brown is organising (3 April) to talk about how we love our neighbours.

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Finally, I want to say thanks to those who have worked so hard these last few months, and been so patient as we've been going through changes. To those who do the kids ministries, the music teams, the growth groups welcoming & all the other things that make Village tick. **We're going through lots of changes, some painful, but your willingness to serve & be Godly throughout it is a great witness to the work of God in your lives.**

# TEAM UPDATE

here's what we've been working on...



## Derek

There's three main things I've been working on this year. The first is getting the team up to speed on everything - we've gone from just me to 5 people in a little over a year, so there's a bit of adjusting to do. The second is working on our Grace Changes Everything series for Sundays & Growth Groups. I'm now taking this material and turning it into a 5-week course for those who are new to Village Church. The third area has been working on our training, system and structures. Doesn't sound very sexy, but making sure we're helping first-timers can integrate with our community, those who've been here for a few months know how to get involved, and training up leaders, are key parts of Village. Over the coming months I'm working on a Song of Songs series, working with Deon & Jayesh on welcoming & integration, Mitch on our Sunday meeting, and getting our newcomers course up and running.

It's been a great few months for Steph & I this year starting at Village - leading on Sundays, getting to know the people in my Growth Group, the fantastic Growth Group leaders, and now starting my first series on Mark 11-16. It's been a huge privilege, a huge challenge, but I'm loving it. My role this year as Assistant Pastor covers a number of areas. I oversee Growth Groups, making sure the leaders know what's going on, have everything they need to do the great work they do; I'm working with the team on Welcoming & Integration into Village Church as well, so that those who are new to Village (like me) can feel at home; and I've also got a passion for social justice as well, so when I get a spare moment I'm going to be helping with that. But for the next 5 weeks, heading into Easter, it's all about Mark!

## Mitch

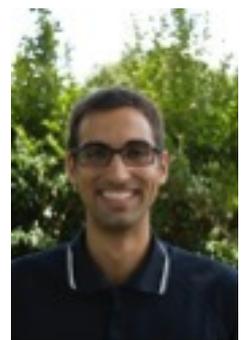


## Deon

I've been loving the second year of my traineeship, in no small part because I get to work with even more wonderful people - Mitch & Nat being here full-time is great. I've been working on ways we can better care for people who are new to Village. It's been good seeing how people really care about being an open, inclusive, welcoming church. I head to Kelvin Grove State College with Jayesh and teach kids about Jesus on Tuesdays. The kids are great, and it's great to see them engaging with the Bible. The biggest challenge at the moment is writing a series of talks on 2 Peter. I've only ever written one-off talks, so it's helping me plan out the structure of the series and thinking about how to clearly communicate what the Bible says to us. I'm grateful for the good year it's been so far.

## Jayesh

So my job is a little different to everyone else's on team - I'm 40% at Village & 60% at the morning congregations back at MPC. So on Sunday mornings, I help out serving coffee to newcomers, Mission Minutes & videos for them, as well as occasionally helping out with Kids Ministry & Youth Church. For Village I lead a Growth Group, I'm working on how we help people integrate into Village with Derek & Mitch, as well as doing whatever Deon orders me to do. At the moment I'm also writing a 3-week series on the letters in Revelation which I'm preaching first at St Paul's Presbyterian starting this Sunday night, and then at Village in May. Probably the biggest thing I'm working on though is Gospel Theatre - an outreach aimed at engaging those who don't know the Gospel. It's experimental, it's talk then Q&A format, and we're hoping it'll be a good opportunity for Christians & non-Christians to meet & talk about things that matter.



## Nat

It's been a hectic start to the year, but so many encouragements for me. I've continued to study at QTC this year spending Wednesdays in at college doing 2 subjects, Youth Ministry & Ethics. As well as this, I spend a bit of my time down at Wacol with juvenile offenders. On Tuesday I've been invited to run a bible study with them, and on Thursdays I'm down there running some Hip-Hop workshops. Some great connections happening. Most people know as well that I run Krosswerdz, the Hip-Hop evangelistic outreach. We're starting a bi-monthly meeting at a Salvo's place in the Valley, as well as one down south at Forest Lake, as well as prepping for Uprock later this year.. I'm doing some of the talks for it this year, so would appreciate your prayers. At the moment I'm writing a talk for the Easter evening service at St Paul's Presbyterian, continuing to think about how I can use my CREW Hip Hop workshop in schools and churches, and organising the next Krosswerdz coming up.

# FINANCES UPDATE

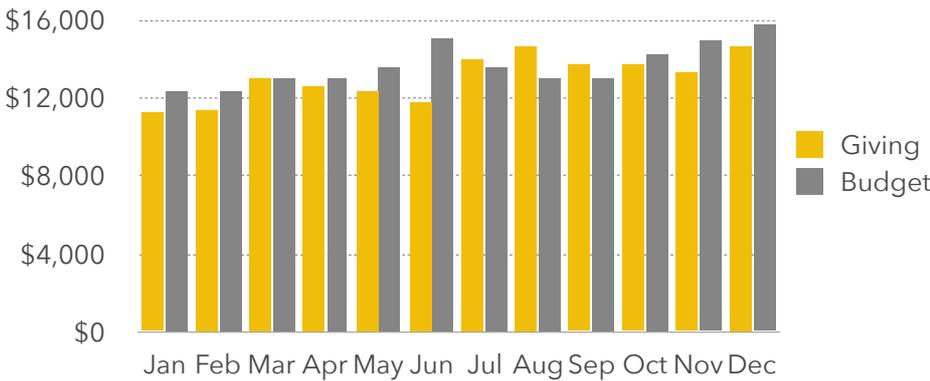
here's where we're at with money, and what we're spending it on.

Village Church is a part of MPC, but we have our own sub-budget that we commit to each year. Last year we applied for a 60% subsidy for Mitch from the Presbyterian Church of QLD in order to employ Mitch. But even with that subsidy, it was a fair step up in our budget.

At our meeting last year we agreed to bring Nat on full-time, to pay the other 40% of Mitch's wage, and to maintain our giving to the work of the Gospel outside of Brisbane. It was a huge ask, but whenever we've faced challenges like this in the past at Village, your generosity has more than matched the need.

So below is some information on how we're going financially, as well as where the money is going. If you've got any questions about this or anything else to do with finances, don't hesitate to contact Derek. We want to be good, transparent, responsible stewards of the money we receive.

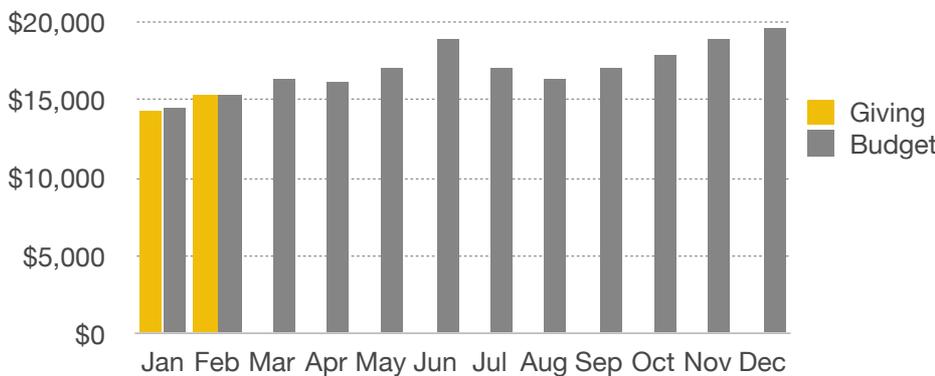
## here's what the budget looked like in 2013



For 2013 Village finished around 5% (\$7.5k) behind the budget. We had some cash in reserve from previous years, and were covered by MPC for the shortfall.

As you'll see in both this graph & 2014, the budgeted giving increases over the year as we anticipate growth.

## here's what the budget looks like in 2014



This is the giving for Jan & Feb, with the budget for the rest of 2014. At the moment we're travelling 1% behind budget. Our total budget is \$205k, which is \$17k / month on average.

This seems daunting, but if we break it down to how many attend Village each week (140 adults), assuming 70% support the work of the Gospel through Village, this equates to \$40 / week per person.

## here's where the money is going (January-February)

The money that you give to Village goes directly to the work of the Gospel - both here in Brisbane, but abroad as well. Part of our budget every year goes to mission work the Presbyterian Church is involved in, mission work that we also think is worthwhile, as well as making things tick in and around Village & MPC.

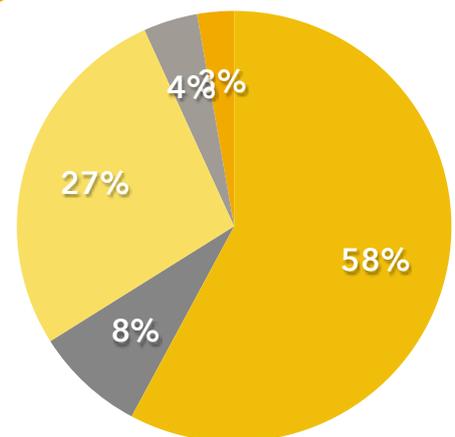
At the moment, we're directly (with MPC) supporting three different ministries outside of Village. **First**, we support John Evans who is working in Japan church planting. **Second**, we support a couple from MPC mornings working with Heal Africa in the Congo - David & Heather Kelly. **Thirdly**, we support Kaiser Julius, a pastor &

lecturer studying in Australia for his PhD so he can go back to Pakistan and teach there.

Some of these we talk about more than others at Village, but we're working at bringing them to your attention more. So here's a breakdown of where your money is going. This doesn't include the special appeals we have other special appeals throughout the year (i.e. For Tacloban we raise \$29k, Uprock etc.

*Thanks to those who give to the work of the Gospel at Village & beyond. It's a clear statement of your understanding of 2 Corinthians 8:9.*

- Staff
- Trainees
- Admin/Other
- Lecture Theatre Hire
- Mission



# WHAT'S NEXT?

here's what's coming up in the next few months

## SUNDAYS

After our Mark series & Easter, Jayesh is going to be doing his 3 week series in the letters of Revelation, followed by Derek doing Song of Songs. Should be saucy.

You might have noticed as well that we've been trying a few different things out on Sunday nights to make it run smoother. Not big things, just changes to make the night flow better, to allow the different parts of the service to tie together, and to get more people from the Village community up the front to talk about what God is doing in your lives. If you've got feedback on it, we'd love to hear it.

## COMMUNITY

Hospitality is hugely important. In a society that seems to be drifting away from each other, we want to push back against that and invite others into our lives. We don't want to be strangers with each other, and a meal is a great place to break down barriers. So sign up for the passover dinner, stick around for the dinners coming up after church, head out to a meal with someone when church finishes, and invite those you don't know at Village for a meal.

As well, if you're looking to meet people from the Kelvin Grove community, the Urban Village Choir is a great option. They've started up again for the year and are always looking for new voices.

## SHARING THE GOSPEL

Sharing the Gospel with those around us is often tough, but always long-term work. At Village, here's 3 things we're aiming to do. First, to equip you to be able to share the Gospel with those around you; Second, encourage each other to love our neighbours and be involved in alleviating the suffering & struggles of others (see Loving our Neighbours below); Third, to integrate your faith with your life / work to engage the culture around us through what we do during the week - paid or not.

So over the next couple of months, we're going to be surveying you to find out what we can do at Village Church to help achieve the above.

## LOVING OUR NEIGHBOURS

As we mentioned during the talk on Grace & Social Justice, there's lots of people at Village loving their neighbours already. Caring for the poor, helping the marginalised, advocating for the vulnerable. So we thought that we could achieve even more by putting our heads together and pooling resources.

So if you're free on 3 April, Andrew Brown is having a night to kick off the discussion as to how Village Church can be more deliberate about loving our neighbours, and in so doing reflect the way God has loved us in Jesus. Email Derek or Mitch for more details.

## SERVING

One of the things that we're working on at Village is putting before people the opportunities there are to serve around Village, MPC & beyond. From kids ministry at Village, the welcoming team on Sundays, Friday night youth group back at MPC, to conversational english down in the Village, there's plant of opportunities to serve.

Our hope is to provide a central place where we can encourage people to go and see how they can serve.