VILLAGE CHURCH

EPHESIANS 2:4-10

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

VILLAGE CHURCH 2015

WHAT'S NEXT?

Village Church baptisms, August 2014. It's where it's at.

//WHAT'S GOING ON?

Jesus' words to those who follow him are pretty simple & pretty clear—"***Go and make disciples.***"

It's fundamental to who we are as followers of Jesus. We long to see people come to follow Jesus. And we long to see those who follow him, reflect him.

And with all these things, it's not in a mundane, predictable, uniform, cookie-cutter type of way. But in ways that reflect the variety & uniqueness of those God has brought to Village Church, the freedom we have in Jesus, and the certainty that God uses even imperfect people in what He's doing in His world.

This isn't a gee-up paper. I hate those. But what you'll read inside is exciting. And it springs entirely from what God has already been doing in Village.

Consistently over the past five years we've seen people come to know Jesus, people grow in their understanding of God, new ministries emerge, the blessing of kids and gifted leaders emerge, some of whom are heading towards full-time Gospel ministry. And this is just scratching the surface of what God's been doing.

So here we want to present you with what's happening now, where it's led us to for 2015, and how you can be involved.

We're really excited about the prospects for 2015 and beyond. And we think for those are currently part of Village Church, when you hear what the options are, you'll be excited too. It's all about the Gospel, and it's all about the lives the Gospel has and will shape.

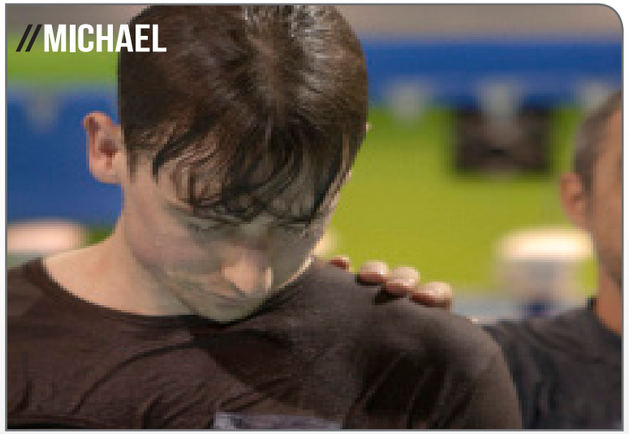
Derek—November 2014

//WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

Village Church has never been about the programs. It's always been about the people. God calls & transforms people, He builds them into, and shapes them in communities, and He sends them out to share Jesus with and love a world that considers Him an oddity at best, irrelevant at worst.

You'll see on the right three examples of this. These are just three of many, many lives that have been reshaped as they've encountered Jesus, and understood the grace of God found in Him. It rarely seems dramatic, it rarely happens overnight, but God is at work.

Village Church has people at every stage – from those who've come to understand grace, those who've had their eyes open to how God speaks through His Word, those who've experienced the love of God's people in their struggles, and those who've been encouraged to step out in faith and use their gifts so others can see & experience the Gospel. It's all been happening, it is all happening, and our hope is that we can keep doing it in even greater ways.



// COMING TO KNOW JESUS

Michael grew up thinkng he was a Christian. He had a plan for his life, and it was going just the way he thought it would. He finished his degree, got a great job, but something was missing. He started coming along to a Village Church Growth Group, and was amazed that people took Jesus so seriously. He realised he didn't. The longer he came, the more he heard the Bible and saw God at work in those around him, the more he was convicted he needed to make a choice. He did. Michael was baptised at Village this year.

// GROWING & CONNECTING

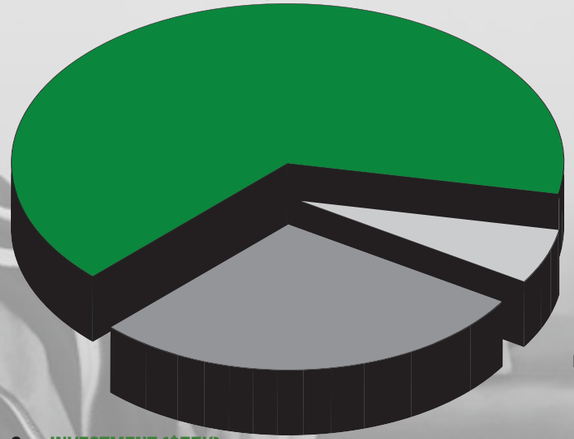
When I decided to move back to Brisbane this year I felt daunted - part of the change would be finding a new church home. It only took me a couple of weeks to decide that Village was where God wanted me to serve. The moment I stepped through the unconventional Church doors I felt so welcome! It's a feeling I hadn't felt in a church for years - embraced and loved for who I was. I'm now part of an awesome Growth Group that I consider family, I've made some beautiful friends and sing some Sundays. It's refreshing to be part of a church that embraces people from all backgrounds and values delivering raw and honest biblical teaching.

// PLANTING, TRAINING, PREPARING

Deon was with the core team that planted Village Church all those years ago. Bit by bit God has grown him, shaped him, and used him in people's lives to push them towards Jesus & help them understand grace. A couple of years ago he decided to see if full-time ministry would be for him. Next year he's heading off to college to train for whatever it is that God has in store for him next. We're thankful to God for Deon, and looking forward to God raising up many more like him over the next few years.

THE BUDGET: WHAT IT WILL COST

One of the ways we get to participate in what God is doing in the world is through what He gives us. And while merely having is not the motivation for giving, having does put an onus on us to use what we have wisely. So below is what it would cost financially if we went down this path.



1—OWNERSHIP ($177K)

As a church community, we need to pay for what we use. MPC have generously in the past covered these costs, but from 2015 we're going to start to own them. It's just part of growing up as a church.

2—PARTNERSHIP ($16K)

We want to use our money not just within Village, but in other places God is working. This might be other places or ministries in Brisbane, but it might also be partnering with others throughout the world.

3—INVESTMENT ($77K)

One of the most strategic things we can do it invest into those who are considering full-time ministry. Full- or part-time traineeships at Village are a great way to do this.

"What would it look like to not be limited by our own fear, but to trust that God will continue to do what He's done in the past at Village Church?"

//WHERE TO IN 2015?

There's some incredible opportunities presenting themselves in 2015. We're in discussions with St Paul's at Spring Hill about a possible partnership, we've got trainees & interns who are keen to be equipped for ministry, we have ministry partners starting overseas, as well as right here in our backyard, and we've got the opportunity to refocus a little on our priorities.

As we've been talking and praying about 2015, we've been driven towards looking past the obvious challenges that present themselves, and asking the question, *"what would it look like to not be limited by our own fear, but to trust that God will continue to do what He's done in the past at Village Church?"*

It's a dangerous question. Because it confronts us with the fear we might have of failing, the question of whether we believe God has really been at work, and whether we're willing to invest in a future shaped around the message that's shaped us.

We're excited about what we're proposing. The opportunity to own where we're currently at, partner with those doing Gospel ministry elsewhere, and continue to invest in those considering full-time minstry in the future.

It won't be easy. But we think that the Gospel is easily worth it.

For more information & details, go to ***vc.org.au/2015vision***

1—STAFF

In 2014 Village Church took on a second full-time staff member—Mitch. A wiser decision was never made. Mitch currently receives a 40% subsidy from PCQ, but we'll soon have to cover the full cost.

2—RENTAL & EVENTS

It costs money to meet in the lecture theatre & run events. But they're necessary costs for us meeting to encourage & grow each other, and us engaging our community with the Gospel.

3—SUPPORT

There's lots of costs to making Village Church tick—office space, photocopying, care packages for the community, logistics, denominational costs, sound A/V etc.—and it all costs money.

//OWNERSHIP

It costs money to run Village Church. From obvious things like staff, events, carols, rental of lecture theatre & maintence of equipment, to the less obvious costs of office space, printing, being part of a denomination, support of those within our community who are struggling, as well as those in the wider community.

In previous years, MPC (our mother church) has generously borne many costs for us. We think it's time we owned our own costs. So some of the costs may not be exciting, but they provide the foundation & context from which we can do the exciting things we do.

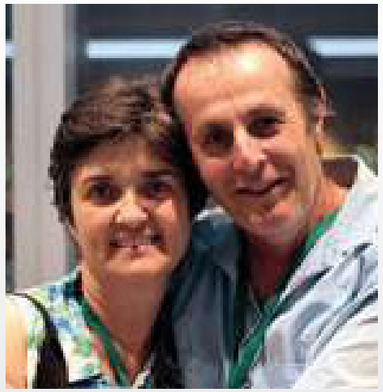
// THE BREAKDOWN

$177,000	**The total cost of operating Village Church.**
$134,000	The cost of Derek & Mitch, inclusive of Mitch's 40% subsidy from PCQ. This drops to a 20% subsidy in 2016 then 0% in 2017.
$25,000	Lecture Theatre rental & Sunday costs.
$18,000	Denominational costs, office space, maintenance, outreach & care allocation.

For more information & details, go to ***vc.org.au/2015vision***

THE EVANS—JAPAN

John & Rose Evans, with their kids, have moved from the Gold Coast to Japan—a country where 98% of people have never heard the Gospel. Their mission is to plant a church in Chiba city.



THE BIRCHLEYS—PNG

Keith has shaped a generation of Christian leaders in his 20+ years in Christian work on universities in SEQ. He's now heading over to Papua New Guinea to work in universities, and we're praying he does the same there.

NICK & JAMES—QUT

We meet in QUT, but we also have two people at Village Church who work on campus to share the Gospel with students and help them to grow as Christians. It's important, strategic and It'd be great to partner with them.

//PARTNERSHIP

The Gospel wasn't born in Australia. We're probably the ends of the earth that Jesus spoke about in Acts 1. But we're in the privileged position of both having the Gospel, and having the resources to see it proclaimed.

So as we consider how we're going to use our money, we want to be generous to the work of the Gospel elsewhere, particularly where resources are scarce but opportunity is great.

So we're factoring into our giving the work of the Gospel in Brisbane, throughout Australia, and also into places where the Gospel & ministry training is desperately needed.

// THE BREAKDOWN

$16,000	**The total cost of our official partnerships outside of Village Church.**
$3,000 (x2)	The amount we'll give to both the Evans family in Japan, and the Birchleys in PNG.
$8,000	The amount we'll give to support Gospel work on QUT.
$2,000	The amount we give to support missionaries sent out of the Presbyterian Church in QLD.

*For more information & details, go to **vc.org.au/gospel-partners***

NAT CARSE (TRAINEE)

Nat's will be in his second year of the traineeship. There are plans to develop Krosswerdz on the Northside, build deeper relationships in the detention centre, and continue to grow evangelistic opportunities.

BRIDGET (TRAINEE)

Bridget will come on board as a first-year trainee. She'll be focusing on helping people connect within Village Church and with our wider community, discipleship, and how we share Jesus with those around us.

EMMA & LAUREN (INTERNS)

Emma & Lauren will each be doing 1.5 days / week. They'll do lots of things... but Emma's focus will be on womens ministry (connecting, discipling), while Lauren's will be on the growing kids ministry at Village Church.

//INVESTMENT

One of the most strategic things we can do for the Gospel is invest in those considering full-time ministry. Some may go on to serve overseas, some here in Australia, and others may return to other work and serve the church in a different—but no less important—capacity. Whatever the outcome, we want to keep raising workers up to send out into the harvest.

It's exciting. But it's costly—both financially & with time. But we need to commit to identifying, training up, and sending out people so that the Gospel is faithfully & creatively proclaimed here and throughout the world.

Will you join us and invest in the future?

// THE BREAKDOWN

$77,000	**The total cost of future ministry initative**
$26,000 (x2)	The cost of each full-time trainee. The will also receive $12,000 each year from the Presbyterian Church, taking their wage to $36,000. This is a two year commitment from the trainee & Village Church.
$12,500 (x2)	The cost of each of the interns for 1.5 days / week. This is a one-year commitment from both the intern & Village Church.

*For more information & details, go to **vc.org.au/future-ministry***

//THE NEXT STEPS?

All this is very exciting...but it doesn't mean anything unless Village Church is on board. When the Bible talks about giving, it always talks about it in the context of **generosity**. And the motivation always starts here:

"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."
(2 Corinthians 8:9)

It starts with God's generosity towards us in Jesus. Everything's a response to that. So if you're not feeling generous, then God would say—"don't give!" But if you're at the point where you're looking at what God has done for you, and wanting to use what you have so that others come to understand that, then God would say—"let that generosity overflow into how you live and how you give."

If you're part of Village, and want to be a part of what God is doing here, we'd love your generosity to flow into support for these plans, which we think align us with what God is already doing in Village and the world.

For more information, go to vc.org.au/2015vision.

// PRAY...PLEASE

There's no doubt these plans are exciting. But they're not going to come about, and they're not going to thrive, unless God is behind them. So we're asking you to pray for Village, pray for the leaders at Village, pray for the people thinking about full-time ministry, pray for those who are at Village who don't know Jesus, as well as those who do. But most of all, pray that what we plan would be in line with what God wants—and that if we're convinced about that, that we'd be willing to get behind it.

// CONSIDER HOW YOU REGULARLY GIVE

The ongoing expenses for running Village Church (**Ownership** & **Partnership** costs) totals $193k. **This does NOT cover the trainees & interns - they're in the next box.** If there's 100 people who can give at Village, this works out to be around $1,930/year, or $37/week. Some will be able to easily do that and more. Some will find that too much of a stretch. Whatever your situation, we're asking those who call Village their home, to consider what they can do to support the ongoing work at Village Church.

// INVEST IN FUTURE GOSPEL MINISTRY

This is probably the most exciting part of 2015—those considering future Gospel ministry. And while it's part of the overall budget, we're asking people to think about it differently, and to consider donating to this fund up front. We'd love to knock the $77k that it costs to support the trainees and interns off before the year starts, so we can get on with the business of doing ministry not talking about money. So as you head into 2015, consider whether you could make a one-off donation to invest in future ministry.