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Growing by God's Grace

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At St Peters, our desire is to see more and more people come to know and love Jesus Christ.

This is our desire because this is God's desire. His wonderful, eternal plan is "to bring all things in heaven and on earth together...under Christ" (Eph 1:9). So we pray and plan and work and sacrifice towards that end.

In good seasons and bad seasons; when the fruit is evident and when it's not, we can keep going, knowing that this is God's plan for the world. And then we give Him all the glory when he draws people from darkness to light, under the loving lordship of his Son, Jesus.

It is by grace that he saved us. It is by grace that he grows his church. It is by grace that he will equip us and provide for us all we need to keep going.

Please pray that in 2020 God continues to grow us, by His grace.

“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”
 Colossians 1:13-14



YOUR GIVING THIS YEAR MADE GOSPEL MINISTRY POSSIBLE



Week to week and Sunday by Sunday there are so many different gospel ministries that God is using to grow disciples, here at St Peters. These ministries are possible because so many have given, sacrificially, of their time and their money.

- Your giving funds our staff team who are responsible for training up the congregation to do the Word ministries through which God grows his church.
- Your giving helps to fund the various outreach ministries we do, throughout the year.
- Your giving helps us to reach more and more children on Fridays and Sundays.

Gospel generosity fuels gospel ministry!

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE AT ST PETERS ON A SUNDAY



“Over the past couple of years at St Peters I have gained a much better understanding of the Bible and what it means to live as a Christian in today's society. It is great to be challenged on a continuous basis, through the sermons and other groups, to live life more fully as a Christian.”

Craig (St Peters @ 10)

NUMBER OF PEOPLE THROUGH THE LIFE SERIES



TOTAL: **343**

"Before, I saw Jesus as someone who lived long ago. A distant, small figure from the past. I did not have a relationship with Him. Now, Jesus is central to my daily life and I acknowledge Him throughout the day. I understand that everything has been created through Jesus, and that He is the source of our joy in God."

Tess (St Peters @8)

94 NUMBER OF KIDS ON FRIDAY NIGHTS

YOUR GIVING HELPED LAUNCH THE MASI CHURCH PLANT

Over the past 12 months, Bheki and Thembi Dikeni have been able to move to the Deep South to launch a church plant to reach Masiphumelele. By God's grace there is now a core group of about 20 adults, some of these have started following Jesus this past year.

"Proclaiming the gospel in our gatherings and roaming the streets of Masiphumelele has revealed how much the gospel is needed in this community. It is very rare to find township churches that preach the true gospel and are rooted on God's Word...but that is the kind of church we want to start!"

Bheki Dikeni



255 PEOPLE ATTEND ONE OF OUR 21 FELLOWSHIP GROUPS



YOUR GIVING HELPED SUPPORT MISSION BEYOND THE DEEP SOUTH

Every year, giving to St Peters helps to support our missions partners across South Africa and further afield.

Greg & Carol Philips (Mukhanyo Theological College Pretoria)

Rod & Glenda Thomas (Japan)

Cricket Meyer (Malawi)

Jinx & Dawn Reynecke (Mozambique)

Katlego Meslane (Christ Church Heideveld)

Ana A yesu Children's ministry (Malawi)

Financially contributing towards growth of the Explore Correspondence course, through Africa.



"The last two teaching series have been life changing for me. I've grown exponentially in so many areas of my life: in my marriage; my working environment, the way I feel about our country... and that's just the tip of the iceberg. But most importantly, understanding and grasping my relationship with Jesus and who He is to me. What a revelation!"

Jacques (St Peters @ 6)

LOOKING AHEAD

There is so much to be thankful for.

Over many years, God has faithfully provided so much, to enable the ministry of St Peters to keep growing.

And yet, as we look around our valley, our city and our world, its clear that these are dark and difficult times.

The only hope for humanity is in the gospel of God's grace. The Apostle Paul knew the joy of finding salvation through this gospel. Having spent years leading the violent persecution of the early church, he himself was confronted by the risen Jesus and commissioned to spread the gospel so that people could be saved. Jesus said to him:

"I am sending you to [the Gentiles] to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." Acts 26:17-18

Rather than shrinking back from a spiritually dark world, Paul went out with the gospel message of forgiveness, knowing that God has the power to change lives for eternity!

We need to keep on following this example, in God's strength!

So please prayerfully consider how you can continue to support God's work here at St Peters.



OUR MISSION FIELD IS:DIVERSE:
Different ages, cultures and races

OUR MISSION FIELD IS: LARGE:
About 100 000 people and growing

INCREASINGLY UNCHURCHED:
About 5% in Bible-teaching churches



"I started coming to St Peter's about one and a half years ago. Since then, owing to the biblical, yet practical teaching and the fellowship at St Peters, I have been greatly strengthened and encouraged in my spiritual and personal walk with my Lord Jesus Christ."

Pat (St Peters @ 10)



SPECIAL PROJECTS

We've also identified some special projects to which you can assign a one-off gift or end-of-year "thank offering"



uBabalo neThemba Church Plant in Masi
 Because we're looking to reach more people in Masi, we've started a special fund which will help resource the growth of our church plant. In addition to your normal giving, could you prayerfully consider giving a special amount to this fund?
Target Amount: R200 000

iThemba School

We started iThemba School in 2012 and, by God's grace, it's grown into a truly first-rate Early Childhood Development centre. The children receive excellent care and educational input. They also hear the gospel of Jesus every day. Would you consider establishing a "learner partnership" with the school? A gift of R12 000 allows another child to attend iThemba, and receive the best possible foundation for their future.

Annual amount for a single 'Learner Partnership': R12 000



NEXT STEPS

LISTEN

The “Impossible Commands” teaching series this term (in Sunday sermons and Fellowship Groups) will deepen our understanding of the empowering work of God’s Spirit, as we seek to obey him in every area of life.

PRAY

- Give thanks and praise to our God and Father for his plan to save a people for himself - a plan that cost him his dear Son.
- Pray that St Peters would

be a church where everyone deeply loves God, genuinely loves each other and radically loves the lost.

- Pray that we would continue to see lives changed for eternity through the gospel ministries at St Peters and uBabalo neThemba Church in Masi.
- As Jesus asked us to pray (Matthew 9:38): Heavenly Father please raise up workers for the gospel because the harvest in Cape Town and beyond is massive but the workers are so few.

ACT

Plan what you can do so that more and more people can come to know and love Jesus. Please give financially so that the resources are there to keep on reaching more. If you aren’t already, please get involved and find a way of serving at St Peters.



Standard Bank

(Fish Hoek)

Account name:

St Peters Church

Fish Hoek

Account No: **270372806**

Branch Code: **036009**

“ Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ” Colossians 4:2-4

PLEDGING

A pledge is simply a recognised commitment to give a regular amount each week or month. We want this whole process each year to be a means of expressing thanksgiving to our Lord for what he has blessed us with.

“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 by his poverty might become rich.”
2 Corinthians 8:9

So this not additional to your existing regular giving. It’s just your regular giving (or “tithing”) being communicated to the church in advance, to assist us in setting realistic budgets that will be appropriate for the coming year.

Everyone who is part of St Peters receives a “Commitment Card” which has all the detail you need to record your pledge. We ask everyone to return that card, to our Church Treasurer, during the fourth term.

SOME FAQs ABOUT PLEDGING

Is this biblical?

God’s Word encourages Christians to decide, as individuals, what they are going to give: *“Everyone should give what they have decided in their heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”* (2 Corinthians 9:7). Considering your pledging in advance will certainly help with this. This verse also reminds us that no one should ever be forced to give but that it should emerge as a joyful obedience to God’s commands and a cheerful response to all that He has given us in Christ.

What happens if my circumstances change and this affects my finances?

We understand that people’s situations can change in these uncertain times. If that happens, it is appropriate that you reconsider your original commitment and if it cannot be met, then you must feel free to change it.

Will my pledge remain confidential?

No pastoral staff member will have access to your pledge information. The pledges are strictly confidential and will be collated only by our Church Treasurer.

What if I can only pledge a small amount? Is it worth it?

Every person who is a follower of Jesus is called in the Bible to give what they can. The issue of giving for every Christian is not ‘amount’ but ‘proportion’. We know of the widow (in Luke 21:1-4) who gave much less in actual amounts than others but much more, proportionally to what she had. That is, she gave out of her poverty.

God doesn’t ask us to give what we don’t have but to each give what we can, and then to examine whether that amount is both willing and sacrificial.

What if I am self-employed and my monthly income is not easy to predict?

You’ll notice on the pledge card that you can identify a quarterly or annual pledge amount. It might be easier to estimate your pledge amount based on those time frames.

How long will my pledge last?

Twelve months. As a church, we will be making our pledges each year in November for the following year. This gives us the chance each year to consider our ability to give and to make the appropriate changes.