

Financial Support for SLE Church

Introduction

As Christians we have both a privilege and a responsibility to contribute financially, as our Lord enables us, to the building up of Christ's Kingdom, both in SLE Church and around the world.

Budget This Year & Last

Each year the SLE Church Council prepares a budget of expected expenses for the year, and of the weekly income required to meet those expenses.

The largest expenditure is for our staff (2 pastors, staff workers, student ministers and trainees, missions partner, and administrator). Other large expenditures are for missions support, contribution to the St Lucia District Branch (for building maintenance and improvements), and ministry costs.

Last year our required income was \$5,750 each week; as of January 1, our budget estimate for this year is \$6,280 per week. The main reason for the budget increase this year is for the hiring, and proposed hiring, of additional staff.

Missions Support

In the Old Testament, workers were required to give 10% of their income, as well as other free will offerings, to support the Temple and the ministries of the priests.

While there is no prescription in the New Testament for Christians as to how much we are to give for the support of Christian ministries, we are encouraged to give generously. So, in order to set a good example for attendees, SLE as a whole budgets 15% of our anticipated income to support missions endeavours in Brisbane and overseas. How this income is distributed can be seen on the Church web site.

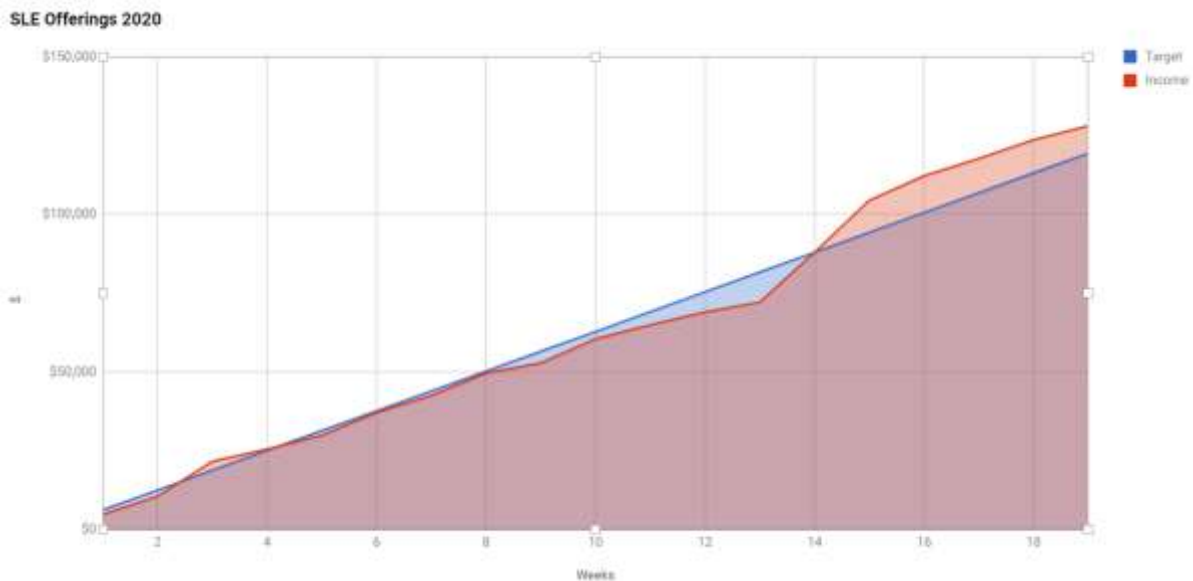
Annual Income

Several times in the last ten years we found that our anticipated income fell below budget, and in some years it appeared that we might end the year several thousand dollars in the red. As we believe that the income targets that we set are well within the means of the combined income of our attendees, it appears that the contributions of many are sometimes less than commensurate with the blessings they receive from the ministries of SLE. However, to make up for the short fall, a few members give very generously above their regular giving in order to maintain the solvency and ministry of our Church. In recent weeks, in particular, we have received a few very generous gifts that have lifted our income well above budget. This enables us to set aside surplus income for

anticipated future needs to facilitate the continued growth of the Church, and for this we are thankful.

The chart below shows how recent income has been tracking in relation to our budget. From the chart you can see that we have been tracking reasonably well in recent months, but again a lot of this is due to some large gifts from a few individuals. For nearly 14 weeks the weekly income fell below the required amount.

Each week income figures are published in the SLE Bulletin, so attendees are able to see to what extent our income is sufficient to meet our budgeted expenses.



Summary

Each year the SLE Church Council prepares a budget of the expenses we believe will be required for our Church to carry out its ministries here in Brisbane and to support the growth of Christ's Kingdom in other parts of the world. We believe that this budget is well within the collective means of the attendees of SLE Church, but sadly our income sometimes falls below what is required. When this happens, a few attendees or visitors give very generously to make up the short fall. Thankfully, we have recently received some very generous gifts which will enable us to set aside a surplus for future needs. However, as we cannot count on such gifts, it would be much preferred if all attendees would prayerfully reassess the level of their giving, and would increase their regular giving where they are able.

While not a rule, we recommend that committed Christians consider allocating 10% of their income to the support of Christian ministries – both within SLE and through other Christian organisations.

Mal 3:6-10, 2 Cor 8:1-15, 9:6-15