



# Your Lasting *Gift* to Gospel Work

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Thank you for considering a bequest to The Bridge Church.  
We appreciate your servant-hearted generosity.

## Dear Church,

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“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (2 Cor 9:7-8)

It is such a joy to witness the Lord’s work here at The Bridge Church. Every Sunday we have the privilege of gathering together, to sit under God’s Word, to worship Him in song, to petition Him in prayer, and to enjoy fellowship together as God’s people. Every day of the week there’s opportunities to gather – whether it’s Playtime, Bridge Kids, Ignite Youth, Everyday English, Connect Groups, Aged Care, Explore courses – there really is a

powerful work of the Holy Spirit, as we gather to encourage one another and to reach the lost with the gospel of grace found in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Giving to gospel ministry is one of the deepest joys of belonging to Jesus and belonging to a local church. We get to be involved in what God is doing here at The Bridge Church through our financial generosity.

I love the example of the Macedonian church, who “in the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.” 2 Cor 8:2-5

Those early believers saw giving to the Lord’s work as a privilege and a joy. Their generosity

enabled so much gospel work to happen. And they didn't just talk about giving, they actually gave! They didn't just receive, they gave.

I am deeply thankful for the generosity of the members of The Bridge Church, who through their week to week giving enable so much ministry here. I am also thankful that the vast majority of our ministries are funded directly through the generosity of the saints. Thank you!

Can I commend to you the concept of making a bequest? In this brochure, you will find profoundly helpful information on the 'why' and the 'how' of bequests. Just as we think carefully as to how we want to be remembered, it's wise to consider how we'd like our material wealth to be distributed after we have died (and have the joy of being with our Saviour). A bequest to The Bridge Church could have a huge impact on the future gospel ministry here. As we prayerfully consider additional locations for The Bridge Church, and as we investigate the formation of 'The Bridge Network' to enable

independent churches to be planted across our city, your financial partnership would be a huge blessing!

So much of what we have been able to do over the history of The Bridge Church is due to the financial generosity of our brothers and sisters who went before us. It would be wonderful for future generations to be praising God for our financial generosity that left a legacy for future ministries.

With ongoing gratitude and prayers,

Paul Dale

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Dale', with a horizontal line underneath.

# About *The* Bridge Church

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The Bridge Church is an Evangelical Church in Sydney, with locations in Kirribilli, Neutral Bay and Macquarie Park. We aspire to be a network of diverse communities of disciples living for Jesus and loving like Jesus, existing to make mature disciples who will innovatively take the Gospel to our neighbourhood, our networks and the nations.

We have active and growing ministries in global and local mission, men and women, kids and youth, community and care and we continue to strive to honour God in the way we welcome, connect, teach, and mature people, as we gather under Him.

The generosity of our ten congregations across the three sites generates over 95% of our income, to fund our growing gospel ministry work on the Lower North Shore of Sydney and beyond.



# Why leave a gift to *The Bridge Church*?

Leaving a bequest gift can make an eternal difference. It has tremendous potential and is a wonderful testament to your priorities in life, that goes on working and supporting God's purposes after you are gone.

It is human nature that we tend to put off making end of life plans, but this can lead to unintended consequences. Every one of us should be good stewards of our property both now, and when our time on earth ends. Making a legacy gift to your church is simple, but it requires some intentional actions.

Most legacy gifts are made through Wills and Trusts, or they can be made in memory of a loved one, as a memorial gift.

This is a tangible expression of faith and trust in Christ, investing in Christ's mission through a provision in your Will.

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*"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16*

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Personal Testimonies from members who have already written a bequest to us into their Will:

"The Kingdom of God is something we want to invest in, not only with our lives and resources now, but also for the generations to come. What better legacy can we leave, than in growing the Kingdom of God?"

"The proclamation of the gospel is central to the role of the church. We've seen people's lives transformed through hearing and receiving the good news of Jesus. Like many who have gone before me, I am grateful to be able to provide support for continuing this work."

# Wills & Bequests

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Having a Will in place allows the people you love to be properly provided for and ensures that any assets are distributed according to your wishes. It also protects those you love from having to try to work out what you may have wanted for your estate amidst what can be a very sad time for them.

We would encourage you to receive legal advice from your solicitor when preparing your will to ensure that it is clearly worded and can be validly executed when the time comes. Additionally, it is important to review your Will from time to time to ensure that it still reflects your wishes, particularly if your circumstances change.

Many people also like to consider providing for a community organisation in their Will, knowing that their bequest will be used to benefit others after they are gone.

# Types of Bequests

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There are a number of ways you can make provision in your will when considering a bequest to The Bridge Church. These options include:

General Bequest - usually a specific sum of money or a set percentage of the value of your estate given to the organisation;

Residual Bequest - this directs how you want the remainder of your estate to be dealt with after family and other commitments have been given;

Specific Bequest - involving a gift of particular items of property that you want to see go to the organisation, that may be used to generate funds.

Please discuss these options with your solicitor. Whatever option you choose, there are suggested words that you should use below.

## How to make a Bequest

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A gift in your Will is a very personal decision and a solicitor can help you with the options available to you. We strongly recommend that you involve your family in your decision, letting them know that a gift to The Bridge Church is important to you and that you will provide for your family first. This allows you to express, with certainty, the way in which you would like to give to Church.

Whether large or small, every gift is greatly appreciated because it represents a cherished part of your life's journey and helps to share Jesus and His message with others.

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*"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot"*  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

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## Suggested wording for your Will

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"I give [\$X / X% of my estate/the whole of my estate/the rest of my estate] to The Bridge Church Sydney (ABN 83 529 377 258) [for its general purposes / for (insert specific purpose of your gift)]. A receipt of the Treasurer, for the time being of the Church, will be a sufficient discharge for my executor or trustee."

Note: If you wish your gift to be used for a specific purpose, please provide details based on options discussed with the Wardens of The Bridge Church.

You can make a change to an existing Will without going to the trouble or expense of completely changing it. Your solicitor can provide further advice on how to execute a codicil of this nature.

# How will your bequest be used?

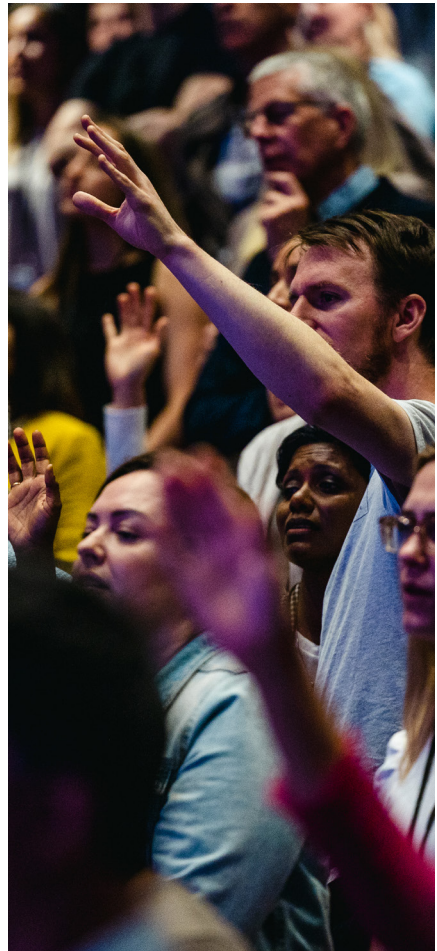
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We will endeavour to honour any wishes legacy donors choose to place on their gifts. This might be funding particular programs that you have been involved with or benefited from, contributing to a capital project or another general purpose.

If there are no specifications, your gifts will be directed to our outreach programs, according to the needs and opportunities at the time your bequest comes to The Bridge Church.

In the past, we have used funds for church planting and growth, developing our leadership and investing in our ministry facilities to expand and enhance the opportunities for gospel work to take place.

“A man has made at least a start on discovering the meaning of human life when he plants shade trees under which he knows full well he will never sit.” D. Elton Trueblood





# Next Steps

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Thank you again for your generous consideration of making a bequest to The Bridge Church and partnering with us in God's work as you prayerfully consider how you intend to distribute your assets.

If you have additional questions, wish to discuss your plans confidentially or would like to direct your bequest to a specific area of ministry, please fill out your details below and return to a staff member, or contact the Church Office to speak with our Senior Pastor, Paul Dale.

Title	
Given Name	
Surname	
Address	
Phone	
Email	

- I would like to receive more information on including a gift for The Bridge Church in my Will
- I have already included a gift for The Bridge Church in my Will (please provide details below)

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“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

1 Chronicles 29:14

If you have already made the decision to leave us a bequest, thank you! Please let us know. This information will be treated in confidence and gives us the opportunity to thank you personally for your generosity and, with your permission, to tell the story of your history and connection with us.

## Disclaimer

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This information is provided as a general guideline only and is not provided as legal advice. All persons are advised to obtain their own legal advice in relation to their own Will and individual circumstances. The Bridge Church and its staff members shall not be responsible for any loss or damage alleged or sustained by any person relying upon the information contained herein.



*The* Bridge Church