

**EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA  
2009-10 GENERAL FUND BUDGET**

The Board of Deacons has approved the General Fund Budget (**Budget**) for the 2009-10 financial year on 21 June 2009.

**Weekly Offertory Target**

The weekly offertory target will remain at **\$16,450** until the end of December 2009. The weekly offertory target may be revised upward from 1 January 2010 depending on the expected spending of the church for the second half of the financial year (see below for more details).

To fully fund the expense in the Budget, the weekly offertory target needs to be \$17,300 (an increase of 5.2% when compared to the weekly offertory target of \$16,450 in 2008-09).

However, as some of the expense relates to staff that are yet to be employed by the church, the Board of Deacons has decided to keep the weekly offertory target at the current level (i.e. \$16,450) for the first half of the financial year. The financial position will be reviewed around December, and the weekly offertory target will then be adjusted as required.

**Summary of the Budget**

<b>Income</b>	\$
Offertory	899,600
Interest	<u>20,300</u>
Total Income	919,900
<b>Expense</b>	
Staff Expense	555,439
Operating Expense	
Rent	113,820
Other Items (eg. telephone, electricity, insurance, photocopy, repair & maintenance)	102,675
Ministry Activities	119,444
Non-Operating Expense (i.e. contribution to FEFCA)	26,988
Total Expense	<u>918,366</u>
<b>Surplus</b>	1,534

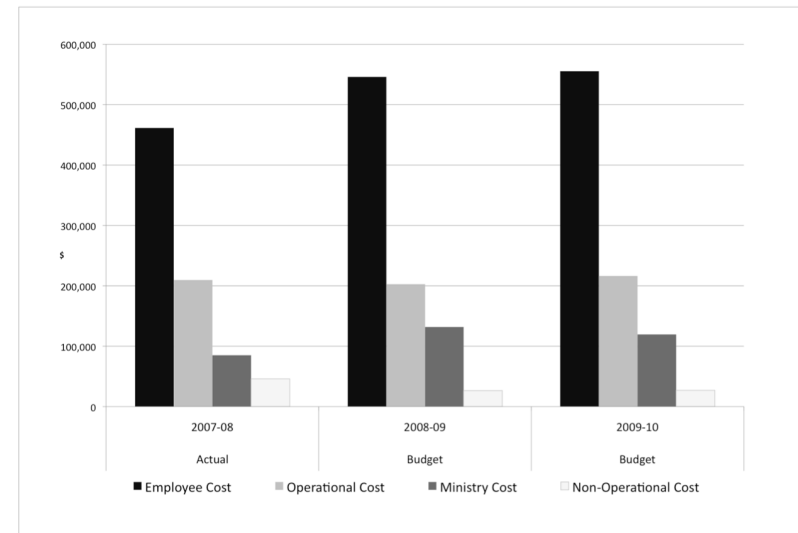
**Income**

Our church has two sources of income: offertory and interest. Offertory is the primary source of income for our church. The total offertory target of \$899,600 represents approximately 98% of the annual income under the Budget.

Interest income comes from the cash deposited at the bank (currently approximately \$800,000). The amount of interest income is contingent on the principal and the prevailing market interest rate. Although we have been maximising the interest income through the use of high-interest yielding account, the recent collapse in market interest rate will significantly reduce our interest income in 2009-10.

**Expense**

The expense under the Budget is determined on the basis of spending estimates provided by the four Ministries (i.e. Cantonese, English, Mandarin and SWITCH Ministries) and estimates of church-wide expenditures (e.g. staff expenses, rent, electricity, photocopying, etc). There is only minimal increase in expense compared to last year:



## Strategic Direction and Budget Expense

Our vision is a healthy growing church.

**Pastoral Staff.** A healthy growing church requires pastoral staff trained to teach the Word of God, and ideally there should be one pastor for about every 100 congregation members for effective training and nurturing.

Servants of God ought to be remunerated fairly – the staff expense under the Budget includes a modest adjustment for inflation.

Praise the Lord that we currently have the following team of dedicated pastors: Rev Sam Lui (Senior Pastor), Rev James Jim (Cantonese Ministry), Rev Dennis To (Cantonese Ministry), Pastor Florence Fung (Cantonese Ministry), Pastor David Chen (SWITCH).

Due to the departure of some pastors and the continuing growth of our church, we are currently seeking to fill the following vacancies:

- a pastor for the Mandarin Ministry;
- a pastor for the English Ministry;
- two pastors for the Cantonese Ministry.

The Board of Deacons, in consultation with Ministry and Pastoral teams, will regularly review the ministry requirements of each congregation and modify the pastoral requirement as appropriate.

The staff expense budget of \$555,439 contains some provisions for these vacancies. Depending on when these vacancies can be filled, the actual staff expense for 2009-10 may not be \$555,439. This is the main reason for keeping the current weekly offertory target unchanged until the end of 2009, at which time we should have a better understanding of our staff level. The weekly offertory target can then be revised as required. It is currently expected that the revised weekly offertory target for the second half of the financial year should not exceed \$18,150.

**Ministry Activities.** To achieve a healthy growing church (in terms of more people committing themselves to God and growing spiritual maturity of existing brothers and sisters) resources must be provided to support relevant ministry activities.

Some of the ministry activities funded by the Budget are:

- Evangelism. It is the duty of every Christian to spread the Gospel. We encourage all congregation members to be more actively involved in evangelism.

- Training & Equipping. We encourage our congregation members to become more mature in Christ. Our pastors and members of our congregations need training so that they are better equipped to teach and lead our church.
- Children/ Youth Education. The future of our church is in our children and youths. It is important that we support the Youth/ SWITCH ministry.

**Church Development.** To facilitate the continual growth of our church we need a new church premise. To acquire and construct a suitable church premise in the Chatswood area requires significant financial resources – it is estimated that the land alone will cost around \$5 million. Our church currently has around \$135,000 in the Church Building Fund that can be used for such purpose.

The current Budget contains no provision in relation to the church development.

## Challenges Ahead and Your Prayers

This year our church will rely more on offertory income than the last few years (due to the fall in interest income). At the same time, the need to employ more staff will also add to the expenditure of the church in the coming years. Looking further ahead, the financing of the church development will likely require greater financial commitments by members of our church.

Despite the challenges and uncertainties ahead, we must still learn to utterly depend on God's provision and obey Him in our offering.

Please pray for God's provision, pray that the church leaders have the wisdom to discern God's will and to spend the money wisely, and pray that more people will commit to Christ and join our church in the coming years and commit to the growth of His church.

## Enquiry

Please contact the Financial Secretary (Deacon Raymond Yu) or Treasurer (Deacon Peggy Ngai) should there be any questions concerning the church budget.

Please prayerfully and financially support the 2009-10 Church Budget

EFCA Board of Deacons 5 July 2009