



Financial giving during COVID-19

We appreciate that for churches and ministries financial giving may be impacted during the COVID-19 crisis. This is a very significant medical crisis that we hope and pray will have a relatively short term impact on our capacity to meet together as God's church. The financial consequences of this are being felt by many already and we encourage churches to be prepared if these challenges persist after the medical crisis abates. Therefore it is important that relevant responses are made quickly to adapt to this new situation and to minimise any adverse impacts as far as possible.

Some churches and ministries already receive all or most of their income, offerings and donations electronically whilst for others this is not the case. We encourage your church and ministry to communicate at this time with your congregations, members or supporters to encourage giving by electronic methods and to highlight methods by which they can continue to support your church or ministry at this difficult time. It is in these times we need to support each other and those within our communities and to be the salt and light within them.

We further encourage you in helping and supporting those in your communities who may be more significantly impacted, for example because they are elderly or vulnerable or because they have lost employment or are isolated. We need to maintain and strengthen community and our faith at this time, notwithstanding we will be living, working and operating in more physically isolated environments, as we continue to trust and put our faith in God.

The simplest and most immediate way for your organisation to receive gifts electronically is for you to share your organisations BSB and Account number with your members and ask them to send their gifts to your organisation's account directly. Most banks and financial institutions offer many online methods to do this from internet banking to mobile banking apps.

You may be aware that BFS offers other methods for collecting offertory electronically but these methods understandably involve forms and set-up that take time to process & implement. Given the immediacy of the impact many are experiencing we recommend that you encourage your congregations and supporters to give directly to your account electronically, unless you already have other methods established.

BFS is well positioned to continue to serve our clients through this evolving situation and we continue to pray that this crisis is resolved as soon as possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Slinn", followed by a horizontal line.

David Slinn
CEO
Baptist Financial Services Australia Limited

23 March 2020