

EQUIP SJ

Pledge Day May 9th 2010

Thank you so much for engaging with EQUIP SJ. I hope you might take the opportunity to re-read the EQUIP SJ brochure or to view the website which has comprehensive Q&A's as well as all the special videos for each of the three EQUIP SJ Mission Contexts.

There is no doubt that God is calling us to step out in faith as we seek to live out His great commission to make Christ known in our local community and the wider world. EQUIP SJ is right at the heart of that call on us in the years ahead. It has three key contexts of mission:

Mission Context I: Re-ordering St James Gerrards Cross

The Vision is to renovate and re-order the church building at St James Gerrards Cross to make it fit for a range of worship services and events (traditional and contemporary) on Sundays and during the week. We plan to honour its original architectural features and its special character as a building where people can come and meet with God in prayer and worship. Some have asked if it is right to spend resources 'on ourselves'. At the two St James we believe that our mission to those who do not know Christ starts with our own community. In keeping with the vision of the Reid sisters who built St James Gerrards Cross, we see this re-ordering as a further development to keep us focussed on our mission to call people to Christ and make His love known in our community. We continue to exist 'for the benefit of our non-members!' (William Temple)

We expect the re-ordering to cost in the region of £700,000. Nearly £200,000 has already been raised as part of the funding of the St James Centre (Project 2000). As part of EQUIP SJ we are aiming to raise the balance of £500,000 (net of tax recoverable*).

Mission Context II

Over the past three years we have seen that the lives of thousands of people living with HIV/AIDS have been transformed through our Love Africa initiative. The goal is that we might see whole communities move from dependency to sustainability - to a place where they can seek to help others because of the impact of Love Africa. Our Love Africa programme works with five organisations in Uganda that mobilise and equip local churches to bring transformation in the name of Christ. EQUIP SJ aims to raise a further £250,000 (net) to ensure that the work that God has begun in us can continue over the next five years.

Mission Context III

When we built the Saint James Centre we gave over £250,000 to outside mission. We found that God transformed our hearts and built our faith as we saw the funds go to programmes in Guatemala, India, East Asia, Eurasia, Slough, and London. You can see two videos about the impact of some of those projects on the EQUIP SJ web

site. They are truly inspiring. As part of EQUIP SJ we are asking God to lead us in prayer to transformational mission partners for whom we can be God's "yes" for the next steps in their adventure of serving Him. We already sense that God may be calling us to think and pray especially about how we may be able to help struggling churches in the UK as well as overseas. We will also set aside funds to start a fund for a new planting or other growth initiative from the two St James. We are aiming to raise a further £250,000 (net) for this third mission context.

On May 9th we will bring our pledge envelopes to church at all our services and offer them to God together. This promises to be a moving and exciting day as we step out together in God's purposes for us. We have been blessed with so much and it is truly a privilege to be able to invest in the Kingdom purposes of God; giving back to Him just a fraction of what He has given us.

Please pray about how God may be moving you to give and make your pledge accordingly. Whether we give a large or a small amount every pledge is a wonderful gift of God. Enclosed with this letter is the pledge form and some information about the pattern of donations that were made for The Saint James Centre and how they may need to be made for EQUIP SJ. There is also a prayer leaflet that I hope will guide your prayers in the coming weeks. It is going to be so exciting to see how God works among us in the months ahead.

In Christ and in His love

Martin Williams
Rector

“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”
Luke 12:48

* Please see www.EQUIPSJ.org.uk for information about tax recoverable as well as a comprehensive Q&A page that relates to all three mission contexts.

Pledge Patterns

The Saint James Centre & EQUIP SJ



These pages show two things: The actual patterns of our giving over the period of raising the funds for The Saint James Centre; and a possible giving pattern for EQUIP SJ. Of course the permutations are endless but this gives us a useful insight into how important it is that we all participate. Whether we feel challenged by God to give at the levels shown in the top of the triangles or nearer the bottom; every gift is so important.

To meet our target of £1 million there is no doubt that we will each need to give sacrificially, possibly from savings, shares, and other capital assets and not just income. Please pray about what God may be calling you to give and may God's peace fill you as you make your decision. Thank you.

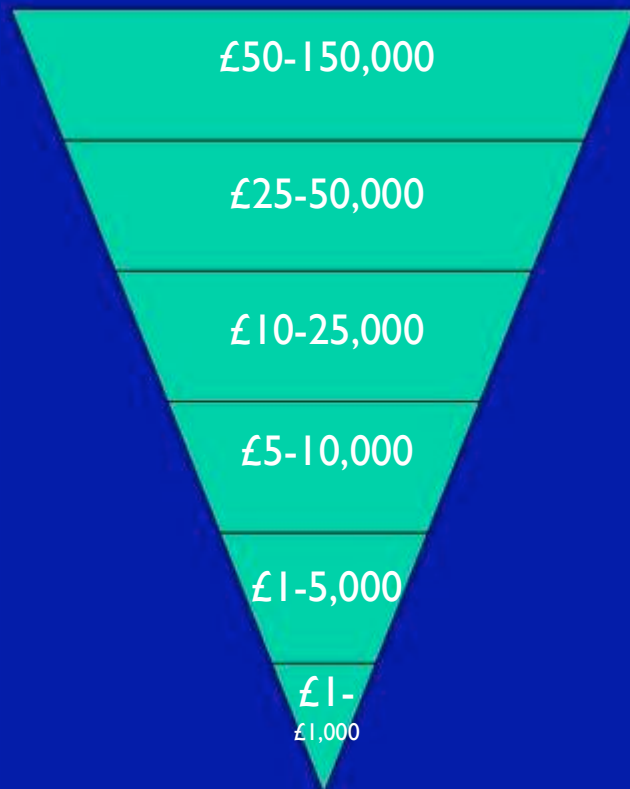


Project 2000

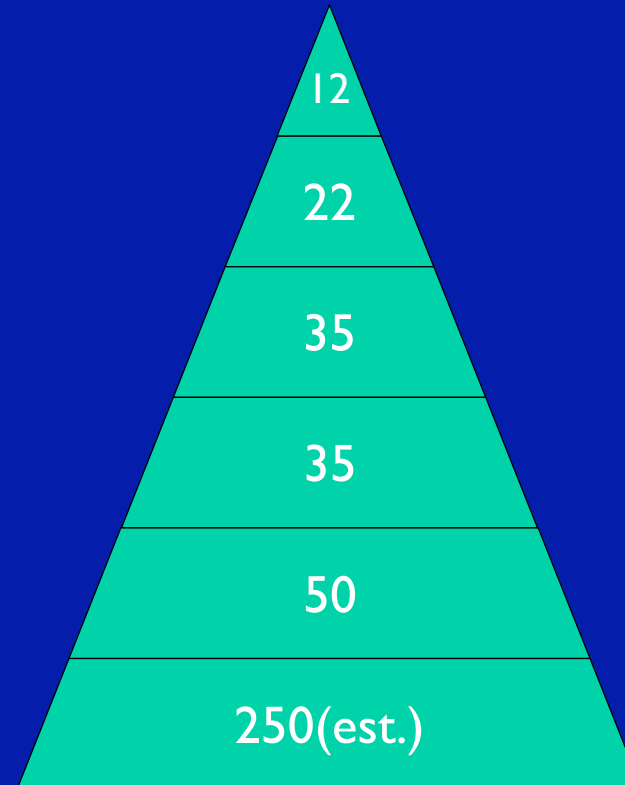
Funding Pattern Achieved

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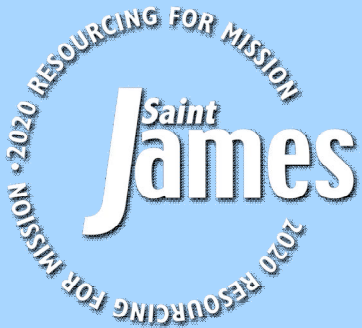
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Profile



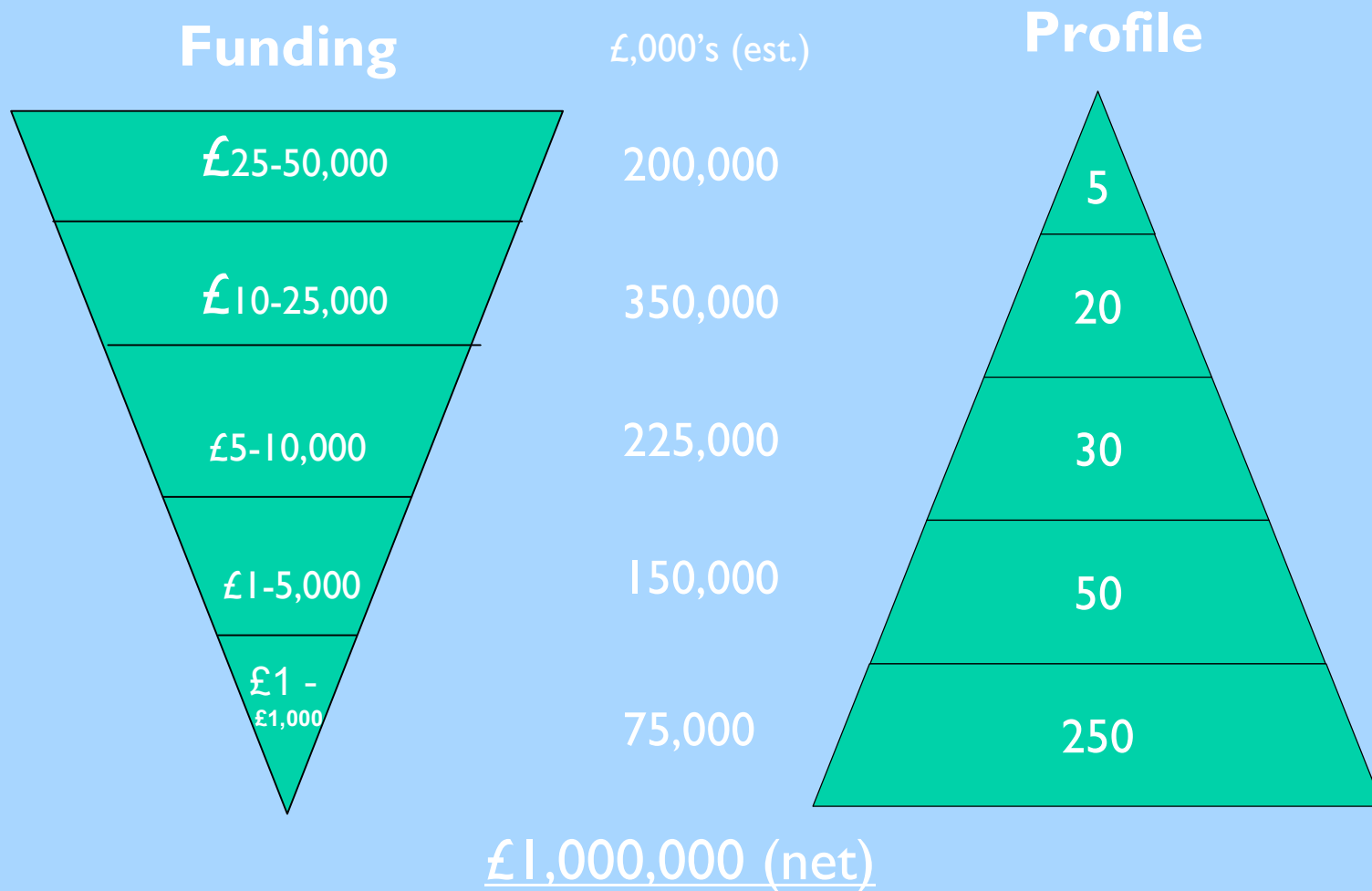
£3,000,000 (net)



Equip SJ

Possible Funding Pattern

Equip SJ



A MISSION SHAPED DREAM FOR A MISSION-SHAPED CHURCH
to
raise £1 million to equip the church for mission

Please continue to commit EQUIP SJ to God in prayer.
We want to seek His will, to prepare ourselves in His service,
and to take this step of faith together as the family of the two St James.

RE-ORDERING OF ST JAMES GX

Let us pray that . . .

- as the body of Christ in GX and Fulmer, we are united in spirit
- the fears and reservations of all will be prayerfully and lovingly considered
- the new plans will enhance our worship and give us new opportunities to share Christ's love
- for suitable alternative venues during the building works

LOVE AFRICA

Let us pray that . . .

- the work of Love Africa will continue and expand to meet the needs of widows, orphans and vulnerable children living with HIV/Aids
- the five church partner programmes will equip local churches in this ministry
- the necessary funding will be available for the next set of three year proposals

MISSION-SHAPED PARTNERS

Let us pray that . . .

- the working group investigating new initiatives will truly be led and inspired by God towards His choices
- for ourselves – that we will grasp the vision of moving outwards into a new phase of kingdom work in the UK
- that this aspect of EQUIP SJ will be transformational for us as well as the partners we work with

PRAYERS

*Teach us, Good Lord,
To Serve Thee as Thou deservest;
To give and not to count the cost;
To fight and not to heed the wounds;
To labour and not to ask for any reward,
save that of knowing that we do Thy will.
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord,
Amen.
(Prayer of St Ignatius)*

*I am no longer my own, but yours
Put me to what you will, rank me
with whom you will
Put me to doing: put me to suffering:
Let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you:
Exalted for you, or brought low for you:
Let me be full, let me be empty:
Let me have all things: let me have nothing:
I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure
and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son
and Holy Spirit,
You art mine and I am yours. So be it.
Amen*

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and
praise his name.
For the Lord is good
and his love endures for ever;
his faithfulness continues
through all generations.
(Psalm 100: 4-5)*

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES FOR EQUIP SJ

PRAYER VIGIL

Thursday 27th May
St James Gerrards Cross

7.30pm – 12 midnight

- with led prayers at intervals throughout the evening
- times of quiet for personal, private prayer

PRAYER GATHERINGS

Tuesday 4th May
Saint James Centre 8.00 pm

Wednesday 5th May
Fulmer Gardens House
10 – 11.00am



PRAYER SJ