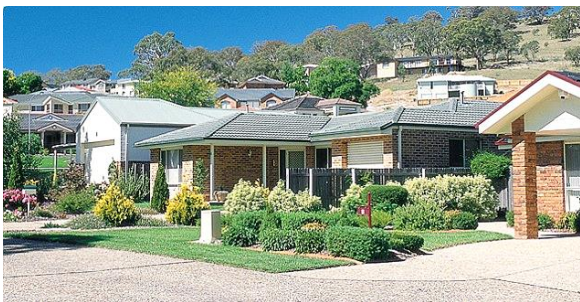


Every Home

Every home of every member is an Eltham Presbyterian Church Ministry Centre. The property at 23 Batman Road is the headquarters of our operations as we all seek to live for and serve Jesus, who is Lord and King of all creation.



What Our Culture Says

The trend in our culture is for people to retreat into their homes as a place where they withdraw from the community. Life seems increasingly busy and we need our private down time. It is not uncommon for people to say that they know less people in their street even though there might be more homes or units in the street than before.

There are no local Milk Bars to walk to so we now drive to do all our shopping. The more communication devices we have at home the less time we seem to spend out in our gardens. This means there are less opportunities to interact with our neighbours.

At the same time there is a recognition that we all need community. In many places sporting clubs are becoming the primary provider for this

need. Here at EPC we can tap into the desire for greater community connection by actively seeking to challenge the trend that our homes are primarily private places we retreat into.

What the Bible Says

All that we have belongs to God. “The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it” (Ps 24:1). This means that our homes, our families, our money, our time and whatever, really belong to Him. We are stewards of these things on His behalf.

In Acts 16, after the Lord “opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message,” Lydia opened her home to Paul and his team. This is a consistent theme throughout the New Testament. Converts opened their homes for prayer meetings, congregational gatherings and the support of missionaries and teachers. Their homes became ministry centres which were the foundation for spreading the Gospel in their local area and beyond.

Once the Temple in Jerusalem was the only official ministry centre but with the coming of the Gospel the church had to break away from that for the message of Jesus to spread around the world into every nation, tribe and community.

How can a home be a ministry centre?

The first step is to be thankful for what the Lord has given you, spiritually and materially. The next step is to be thankful for all the people you have connections with. It is no accident that you know who you know or live next to.

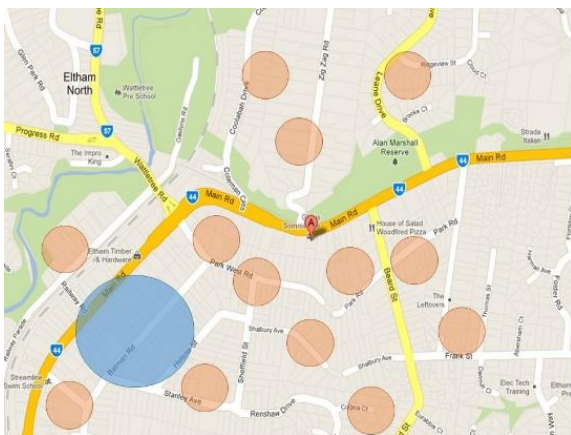
- If you have a family, your first most obvious ministry is to your family. That can flow on to grandchildren and great grandchildren. May your home be known as a place where Jesus is honoured.
- If you can, open your home for church Bible studies, church team planning meetings, reading the Bible one-on-one with someone else and so on.
- Make time to get to know other people who live near you.
- Be hospitable and invite your neighbours, work colleagues, sporting club connections and other people you meet regularly to meals in your home. Use these times to show that you are genuine and interested in them and their lives.
- Use special events at EPC to invite people to once you have good connections with them.



The bottom line is that Jesus put you where He did for a reason. When you and I look for that reason every home will become a ministry centre “Spreading Hope through Jesus to Eltham and Beyond.”

What does *Every Home* as EPC ministry centres look like?

Let's imagine EPC Headquarters at 23 Batman Road has an influence of 30 homes. Then let's say that each home has an influence radiance of 10 homes. If we were to map where EPC members live it is easy to see that our influence is multiplied significantly! So, wherever we are, we take with us our Christian witness and the influence of Eltham Presbyterian Church.



Our Headquarters in Batman Road is where we come together to learn and grow, to be encouraged and equipped to live for Jesus where ever He has placed us. It is the place where we can use our collective strength to run special events to bring the message of Jesus to others.

While most of our contacts tend to be made through the groups and organisations we are involved in, if God grants us a positive influence in our neighbourhoods we will develop clusters of EPC ministry centres around us where we live.

These clusters will help to provide higher levels of ministry and care to each other. They will also be a great way to demonstrate Christian community in action to the rest of the neighbourhood. Jesus said, "love one another ... by this all men will know you are my disciples" (John 13:34-35). There is Gospel power in every home being a ministry centre.



NEIGHBOUR TO NEIGHBOUR



Every Home a Ministry Centre

*Living for Jesus
where God puts you*