

*More Than Money*



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# advancing

## THE KINGDOM

**BANKING IS ALL ABOUT MONEY.** But take banking, add ministry, the sum is Evangelical Christian Credit Union (ECCU). And ECCU is decidedly about more than money. ECCU is about making ministry happen with money as a means.

ECCU's founders chartered ECCU in 1964 with this foundational concept firmly fixed. Serve God's people and help them be better stewards. Simple. Core beliefs coupled with disciplined action is a chemistry that differentiates people and organizations. And, having a ministry mindset in the banking business makes ECCU anything but ordinary.

Today, ECCU expresses its founding purpose in two primary ways. First, we provide a place for safekeeping ministry dollars while helping manage those dollars better. Second, we support member ministries with financing so they can serve the unique demands of their communities.

This edition of *More Than Money* describes how ECCU is partnering with ministries and the ministry-minded nationwide. Our hope is you'll see that banking with ECCU makes resources available where before they were not. Ministry-friendly financial resources from a non-profit cooperative can make a difference for you and your organization.

"One of our biggest concerns was how we would serve our staff in the isolated areas of Papua New Guinea without an aircraft to reach them. We are extremely dependent on aircraft to provide transportation in and out of the villages and to deliver the supplies missionaries need to live. Without air support, they can't continue living there and the translation work would come to an end. By getting this King Air, we're able to serve our missionaries much better. ECCU not only gave us the loan we need to purchase this plane, but they have also stepped forward to make a contribution to help pay for it. This really shows that ECCU is truly a partner with us in ministry."

**DAVID CRAM, VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE**

*Wycliffe Bible Translators International*



### **GOOD NEWS CHURCH Pasadena, CA**

With only 150 members and a pastor that worked full-time outside the church, this inner-city congregation built two homes and remodeled another for homeless women with AIDS and their children. They needed a small loan by commercial banking standards, but \$225,000 made Good News Village a reality. Members of the church rejoiced at the groundbreaking ceremony, looking forward to when the doors open to help their neighbors.

**GLAD TIDINGS CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST** *Hayward, CA*

Pastor J.W. Macklin insists that he is there to stay while many are fleeing his inner-city neighborhood. And Glad Tidings is playing an active role to help its community. A once vacant lot has been transformed into a playground for neighborhood children. A nearby apartment complex, once a crack house, was refurbished and now houses families with a stake in their community. ECCU's partnership with Glad Tidings is building a revitalized community.



**GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH** *Auburn, WA*

Nestled in a small community near the Cascade Mountains, Grace Community Church serves over 2,000 members. When an adjacent property became available, they wanted to purchase it for office and classroom expansion. The church administrator, Everett Culp, had worked with ECCU before and found the credit union to be very helpful. In his own words, "ECCU's background in church lending meant they understood our mindset, knew where we were coming from, and helped us get there."



"We are pleased to bank with an institution that understands ministries and also strives to make a difference for the kingdom. We have our choice of any number of financial institutions, but we chose ECCU because the partnership is not just professional, but because we pursue a common goal. As a business, we need to deal with a bank that we can trust. As a ministry, we need to make the best use of every dollar. The value of banking with ECCU reflects the desire to help ministries prosper – not simply profit from their account."

**JOHN REID, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

*Overlake Christian Church, Redmond, WA*



**CHRISTIAN CENTRAL ACADEMY** *Williamsville, NY*

Christian Central Academy in Williamsville, NY is a 53 year old school of 300, K-12 students. They have a track record most lenders can easily evaluate and thought restructuring their debt would be a simple task. However, until ECCU came in, no other source was on the horizon. ECCU had an understanding of their work and their capability to meet the \$500,000 loan need. Board Chairman Tom Stewart said, "Without ECCU, we could have been out of business."



"During our time of securing financing for this project, we learned that most financial institutions were uncomfortable consummating a business relationship with a religious institution. Subsequently, First Cathedral was left with no alternative but to turn to a Christian credit union several thousand miles away for financing our construction project. Without Evangelical Christian Credit Union, it would be difficult for churches such as First Cathedral to fulfill their goals."

**LEROY BAILEY, SENIOR PASTOR**  
*The First Cathedral, Hartford, CT*

**TEEN CHALLENGE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA** *Riverside, CA*

Traditional funding sources are not always available to organizations like this one. ECCU was able to provide funding for a thrift store, women's crisis center, and a commercial truck used in daily operations. The Teen Challenge Thrift Store underwrites more than \$60,000 annually for drug prevention and rehabilitation, and also provides job training and work experience for former drug users and gang members at no cost to taxpayers.



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**JONI AND FRIENDS** *Agoura Hills, CA*

Founded by Joni Eareckson Tada in 1979, Joni and Friends is dedicated to meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of people affected by disability. Their mission is to communicate the Gospel and equip Christ-honoring churches worldwide to evangelize and disciple the disabled. "For us, the words commitment, resources, and personal touch have been the hallmarks of our banking relationship with ECCU. We now have a home for our International Ministry, thanks to the diligence and determination of our partners at ECCU."

**BILLY BURNETT, VICE PRESIDENT, ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**



"We needed help in our building expansion. Our immediate impression of ECCU was that we were working with people who love God and love the work of God. Our leadership was surprised because here was a financial institution with the heart for ministry and real expertise. ECCU's thoughtful evaluation and diligence in our situation reduced our interest rate and mortgage payment."

**DANIEL MERCALDO, SENIOR PASTOR**  
*Gateway Cathedral, Staten Island, NY*



"In short, the commercial banks either could not or would not put together the financing for the building purchase for our relocation. They informed us only weeks before closing and put the deal at risk. ECCU jumped into action. Being a non-profit organization like ourselves, ECCU has the unique ability to understand the financial statements and requirements of a donation-funded, faith ministry."

**JOHN L. PUDAITE, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

*Bibles for the World, Colorado Springs, CO*

**VALLEY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL** *Chandler, AZ*

Over 20 years ago, a small group of community leaders founded Valley Christian High School. Growing from a modest start, the new 17-acre campus serves over 300 students. This was made possible through ECCU's participation and the generosity of many people. ECCU has helped with both banking and investments, and a \$2.4 million construction loan when they were ready to build. Today, Valley Christian is known not only for high academic standards and biblically based education, but for quality in all its state-honored extracurricular programs.



**CALVARY EVANGELISM CENTER** *Sacramento, CA*

This ten-congregation church includes English, Hmong, Russian, and Hispanic bodies – the definition of diversity at work. To meet growth, Calvary Evangelism Center sought funding for several projects. "Originally we looked at three or four financial institutions," said Troy Fair, business administrator and a pastor for the church. "ECCU had a better understanding of who we are and more experience with church financing – they also offered the best terms." Since 1992, ECCU has twice helped upgrade the church's property and assisted with funds to purchase a small, neighboring shopping center.

**PACIFIC BAPTIST CHURCH** *Long Beach, CA*

Worshipping outdoors in a parking lot covered by tarps and poles, this church desperately needed to transition into a permanent building. Recently with the help of ECCU, it was able to secure financing. It is the nation's largest Cambodian church and hosts the largest Cambodian Christian school.





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*All ECCU accounts are insured to \$100,000 by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), an agency of the federal government. Individual retirement accounts (IRAs) are separately insured to \$100,000.*