

FIRST TIME COMMITMENTS

We were both brought up in Taoist and Buddhist families in Malaysia. There was some exposure to the Christian faith through several friends who kept inviting us to church. Timing was never right as we were always busy with our lives. In hindsight, God was always at work, with events that seemed random at that time.

Some of these random events were spending time studying with Christian friends and saying grace before a meal. There was even an assignment about Jesus which I had to complete in school. It was always strange entering a church at that time with all the singing and praying.

442* FIRST TIME COMMITMENTS

*INCLUDES 53 PRAXEIS AUSTRALIA



“GOD WAS ALWAYS AT WORK, WITH EVENTS THAT SEEMED RANDOM AT THAT TIME”

When we moved to Melbourne, a friend invited us to attend the Alpha course. We were given the address at Crossway and arrived thinking it had something to do with business. Initially it felt a little awkward but we had a few questions. It was during the weekend away that we felt God’s presence and the Holy Spirit. It was then that we gave our lives to Jesus.

We’re both now part of Team Crossway. We’ve been invited into the Alpha Team which we love. Justin is in the carpark team on a Sunday and Etta is part of the Kidspace team. It’s been wonderful engaging and serving our church community.

— Etta and Justin

BAPTISMS

Yiu was experiencing some personal challenges. On a trip to Hong Kong, he came across a Christian and by the end of the conversation he knew something was missing from his life. When he returned to Australia, he was introduced to a couple from Crossway. The couple maintained contact and eventually Yiu came to his first Cantonese church service at Crossway. He attended the Cantonese Family Gospel Fellowship (similar to Alpha) and put his faith in Jesus. This is his testimony:

“It all happened in less than three months, from the first Crossway service I ever attended to the day of my baptism. I attended ‘Discover the Bible’ and ‘Alpha’ classes. Both myself and some of my friends might wonder about the haste - maybe one can find a clue from this photo taken while I was sharing a testimony on stage. I was amazed when I first saw it and its message was clear (for those who can’t see it, the cross goes right through me).



To start with, I am a sinner. That’s a burden I did not wish to carry alone. I knew only Jesus Christ would be able and willing to help me. Reading the Bible, worshipping and accepting Jesus have helped me build a relationship with the Lord. Even so, there is more to becoming Jesus-like, such as loving God, loving people and getting baptised. Baptism is much more than a ritual; it carries a deeper meaning, demonstrating my submission to Him and declaring to Satan my identity as God’s child. Moreover, I could sense God’s clear calling for me to serve Him in church. And here I am, really serving now. Thank God for His plan for me.”

— Yiu

“I COULD SENSE GOD’S CLEAR CALLING FOR ME TO SERVE HIM IN CHURCH”

149* BAPTISMS

*INCLUDES 6 PRAXEIS AUSTRALIA

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TEAM CROSSWAY

We've been coming to Crossway since 2015 and for a lot of that time we were focused on career. Due to work commitments and the fact that we live in the north west, it was difficult committing to anything in church.

At some point, we realised that we were starting to lose connection with Crossway as there was no community. Part of the reason was that we had not stepped outside of our comfort zone.

When the Saturday service started back in early 2018, we went to reception and enquired how we could be involved. We had a sense that joining Team Crossway would connect us into the life of the church, particularly serving alongside fellow teammates. We also wanted to give back to the community, helping others as we've been similarly blessed.

Pastor Tim invited us to join the Newcomers' Team and explained not just the task but the overall vision of what we're trying to achieve. It's been great being involved and we've had a lot of fun meeting up with newcomers and visitors to Crossway. We now have a real sense of being part of the bigger picture.

A great story would be when we met a couple moving to Melbourne from the Central Coast. After chatting at The Lounge, we invited them out for dinner. We've met them a couple of times now and know that they are well on their way to being connected into Crossway.

If you're not part of Team Crossway, jump onboard!

— Sarah and Chris

1801 TEAM MEMBERS IN SERVICE
647 NEW PLACEMENTS

“WE NOW HAVE A REAL SENSE OF BEING PART OF THE BIGGER PICTURE”

MEMBERSHIP

I know that God has a plan for my life and Crossway has been a part of that journey since 2015.

I recall attending a Newcomers' Morning Tea event when Dale shared about a path that some take when arriving at a church. He used the analogy of a travelator, like the ones in the airport. He said that once you get on, if you do not intentionally get off, it's taking you out the back door.

Getting off the travelator and stepping into community at Crossway was the motivation for me to take up membership. I wanted to be onboard with the mission and vision of the church and to support it with my tithes and offerings.

“IT WAS A LINE IN THE SAND THAT I CROSSED SAYING ‘I’M ON THE BUS’”

I didn't think that becoming a member was going to be anything different from just attending church regularly but it was. It was a line in the sand that I crossed saying 'I'm on the bus'.

I can call a number of folk in church my friends and these are some who I trust in working out when God speaks to me.

I believe it's a healthy perspective to have in not just having a relationship with God but expressing that journey with kindred spirits.

— Sophie

2026
TOTAL MEMBERS

106
NEW MEMBERS



PRAXEIS
331 TOTAL GROUPS
1356 NEW BELIEVERS
266 NEW GROUPS
623 BAPTISMS

COACH NATIONAL
582 PARTICIPANTS
1750 MENTORS
65 PARTNERS
229% INCREASE IN PARTICIPANTS' RESILIENCE
86% OF PARTICIPANTS REACHED A SIGNIFICANT LIFE GOAL
57% OF PARTICIPANTS ENGAGE WITH THEIR LOCAL CHURCH

JESUS
IS ALWAYS
FRONT AND CENTRE

3 NEW MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES
250 LIFE GROUPS
442 FIRST TIME COMMITMENTS
2026 TOTAL MEMBERS
106 NEW MEMBERS
1801 TEAM MEMBERS IN SERVICE
947 NEW PLACEMENTS
77 MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED
20 MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES
2 COMMISSIONED AND SENT OUT

254 CHURCHES PLANTED
4 MIRACLES
804 BAPTISMS

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS*
558 LEADERS TRAINED
87 INDIVIDUAL DBM (DISCOVERY BIBLE METHOD) GROUPS
5,650 FIRST TIME COMMITMENTS

*These figures are a snapshot based on newsletters sent in by our international workers. The full picture of how God has been touching lives cannot be quantified!

1177 PEOPLE STRUGGLING IN OUR COMMUNITY WERE TRANSFORMED THROUGH HOPE, HEALING AND CARE
6 FIRST TIME COMMITMENTS
LIFECARE
35 NEW TEAM MEMBERS
35 CHURCHES IN ONGOING COACHING
9 DENOMINATIONS REPRESENTED

149 BAPTISMS
77 NEW DISCIPLES

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MISSIONS

Zoli is a young Hungarian gypsy man now living in London. He used to be a drug dealer and part of a gang. Zoli is the brother of Suzy, who is the niece of Zsuzsi, who is the sister of Judit. We are seeing the gospel spread through discipleship that continues in and through families and goes even beyond borders. This is the story of one of the miracles that God is doing.

I met with Judit in 2014. I discipled and baptized her and knew she was a 'person of peace' in her family and community. She started to disciple her sister Zsuzsi and then baptized her.

Even though Judit had a break from fellowship for various reasons, Zsuzsi grew stronger and stronger. Last year her neice, Suzy, came from London for her Dad's funeral and stayed with Zsuzsi for a week. That's when Suzy met the Lord and she was baptized and began to be discipled by her aunt, Zsuzsi.

Suzy went back to England and spread the news of Jesus amongst her family and friends. Two months ago, her brother Zoli visited her in London and he gave his life to Jesus too. Suzy baptized him and started to disciple him. Now Zoli is doing a DBM with two of his friends!

Suzy also started to disciple her sister, who lives in Hungary as a Buddhist. Zsuzsi disciples three other people, too. They read the Bible together and discover who God is, looking for the personal truth in

77
MISSIONARIES
SUPPORTED

“AS I FOUND MY JESUS I FOUND A SECOND CHANCE TO LIVE A LIFE WHICH COUNTS AND NOT JUST FOR ME BUT FOR OTHERS TOO”

which they will commit to obey. They are accountable to each other and share with others. They support each other and their community in their needs. They love Jesus and their lives are being transformed as they read the Bible and obey His word. Their passion for reaching the lost amongst their community is growing more and more!

Zsuzsi's life is already an example to many gypsy people around her. Her heart is to find people of peace amongst gypsy drug users and prostitutes and disciple them.

Zsuzsi says, "I thought I missed all of my opportunities in life for studying and helping people. I didn't have any sense of a good life. But as I found my Jesus I found a second chance to live a life which counts and not just for me but for others too. I found my purpose in discipling people and that's given me joy. I could not easily read or write and didn't have any qualifications because when I was young I was told that I had dyslexia and so I had no hope. But with my Jesus everything is possible. In one year I will complete the training for my second trade. I have raised my daughter in the faith and we not only fluently read the Bible, but help others to do that too."

— Gabi, Hungary

2
COMMISSIONED
AND SENT OUT



PRAXEIS

We are continually amazed at how Jesus prepares the way for people to meet Him. We have been particularly reminded of this as we see new and ongoing work flourish, both here in Australia and around the world.

Simon and his team work in Central India, which has a population of over 120 million people. While the sheer number of people in the harvest is enormous, it would seem God's vision for this region is just as big.

Together with Simon, we are witnessing the birth of a disciple-making movement in Central India. In 2018, over a thousand people became disciples, hundreds were baptised and Discovery Bible Method groups have grown into churches across the entire region. We know that leadership in such a fast-moving environment is vital and so plans

are underway to form disciples into leaders that together will guide the movement as it grows.

In the middle of such growth, this work has also had its challenges. Leaders and disciples have been abused, beaten, falsely imprisoned and had access to essential resources limited in some Indian states. Simon and his family have also faced personal crisis as their first child, Jessica, was born prematurely and required intensive care. Thanks to God's healing hand and the prayers of an international community, Jessica made it through and is now growing.

We continue to pray for, support and equip Simon, his family and his team. We cannot wait to see what God is going to do to reach the Harvest in Central India in the coming year.

1356 NEW BELIEVERS
623 BAPTISMS

331 TOTAL GROUPS
266 NEW GROUPS

“IN 2018, OVER A THOUSAND PEOPLE BECAME DISCIPLES, HUNDREDS WERE BAPTISED AND DISCOVERY BIBLE METHOD GROUPS HAVE GROWN INTO CHURCHES ACROSS THE ENTIRE REGION”

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nothing matters more

nothing matters more

DISCIPLES THAT MULTIPLY

We first heard about 'reading the Bible with friends' during a Sunday sermon by Pastor Dale.

Even though we have been Christians for some time it seemed radical and yet so simple, but we didn't think any pre- or former believer would want to read the Bible with us. It felt like something that only missionaries or someone who had gone through Bible school would do!

When Dale shared the story of a Muslim reading the Bible with others of his faith it really struck a chord in us. Why can't we, as Christians who have been attending church for some time, do this?

So we took a step of faith and invited our friends separately (pre-believers and Christians who have drifted away), and to our pleasant surprise, they accepted! The challenge was that we did not know how to best go about doing these Bible reading sessions - until we attended the workshops conducted by Dale and Edi at Crossway in 2018. What we learnt was extremely helpful. Now, by applying the simple techniques taught we each have our own regular get-togethers with others, reading and talking about the Bible in a friendly and fun way.

"WHEN WE INVITE SOMEONE TO READ THE BIBLE FOR THE FIRST TIME, IT IS GOD WHO OPENS HIS/HER HEART TO ACCEPT - ALL WE NEED TO DO IS TO BE AVAILABLE AND TO MAKE THE OFFER TO SOMEONE WE KNOW!"

Andrew, who is pursuing tertiary studies, now meets with a group of five university students (from different institutions) weekly to read the Bible and to share life as well. Whilst all of them come from Christian homes, some have drifted away from their faith or have never had personal belief. The sessions are lively with honest questions raised and conversations around the passages discussed. All are keen to know more about the God they had heard about from their earlier days in church.

We now realize that when we invite someone to read the Bible for the first time, it is God who opens his/her heart to accept - all we need to do is to be available and to make the offer to someone we know!

— Kit and Andrew

**77
NEW DISCIPLES**

BUILDING A DISCIPLING CULTURE

"A BIG EMPHASIS ON THE WAY JESUS ACTUALLY MADE DISCIPLES"

After spending seven years in youth ministry and finally leaving it because I was burnt out, I started asking myself: "Was it worth it?" After reflecting on Matthew 28 and the Great Commission that Jesus gave the disciples, I finally came to the conclusion that if I had my time again I would do things very differently. I would focus more on making disciples. But that only left me asking one more question: "How do you make disciples?"

By the grace of God, I was given another opportunity in paid ministry and I was the pastor of a growing church in rural Victoria. But the question still remained: "How do I make disciples?"

I soon found that others were asking the same question. This led me to join a huddle facilitated by Crossway. I have been on my discipling journey for two and a half years and thanks to Dale, Tim and Crossway I am growing in the knowledge of the way Jesus made disciples. I have found looking at the words, works and ways of Jesus' mission and ministry, with a big emphasis on the way Jesus actually made disciples, has been extremely helpful.

In building a discipleship culture in the church where I pastor I have now started two huddles and am thoroughly enjoying growing people in their own discipleship journey.

— **Brendan Smith**
Senior Pastor, Wonthaggi Baptist Church

**35
CHURCHES PARTICIPATING
IN ONGOING COACHING**

**6
DENOMINATIONS
REPRESENTED**



nothing matters more

nothing matters more

ATTENDANCE, FINANCE & NOTICEABLE GROWTH IN MINISTRIES

4,420 OVERALL PHYSICAL ATTENDANCE
↑ 5.9%

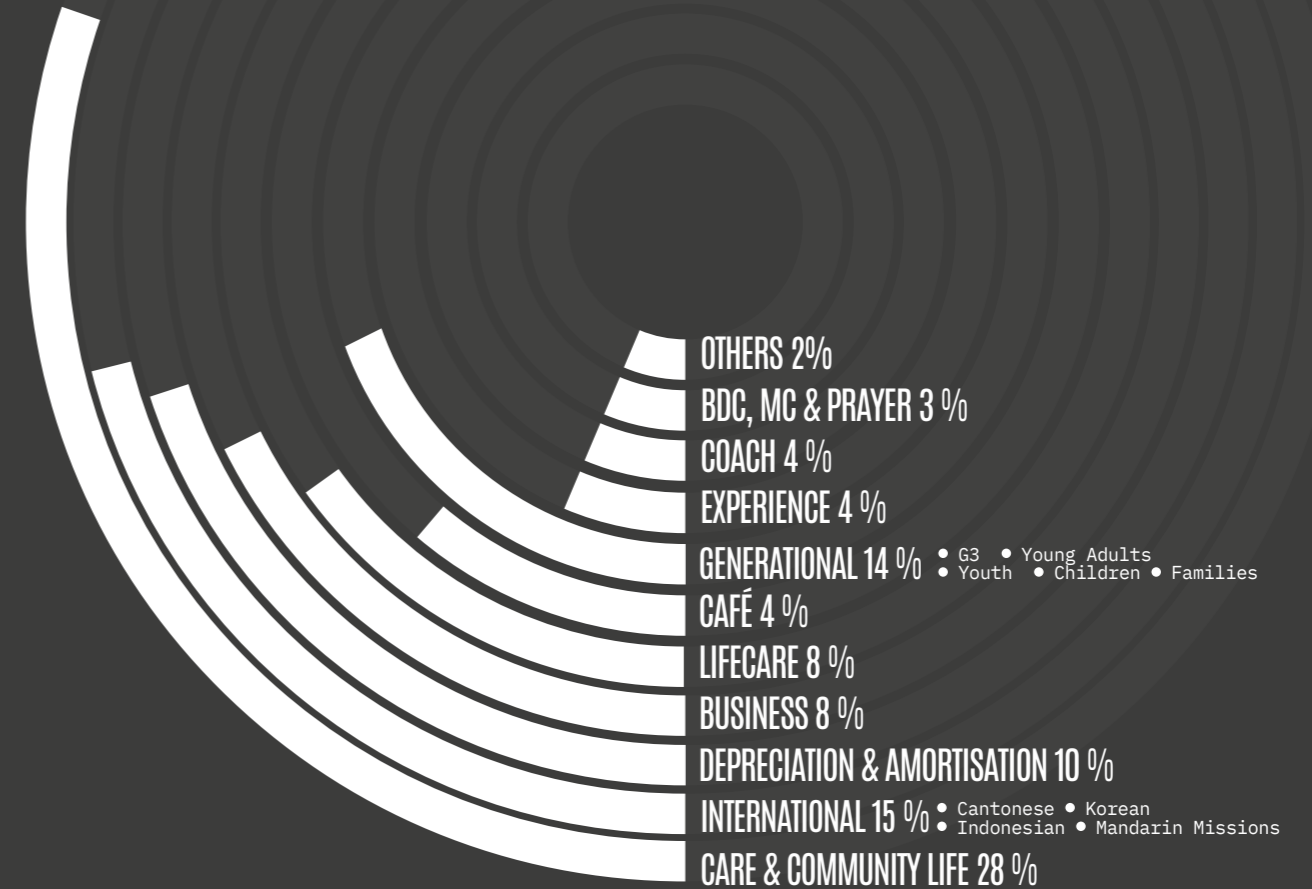
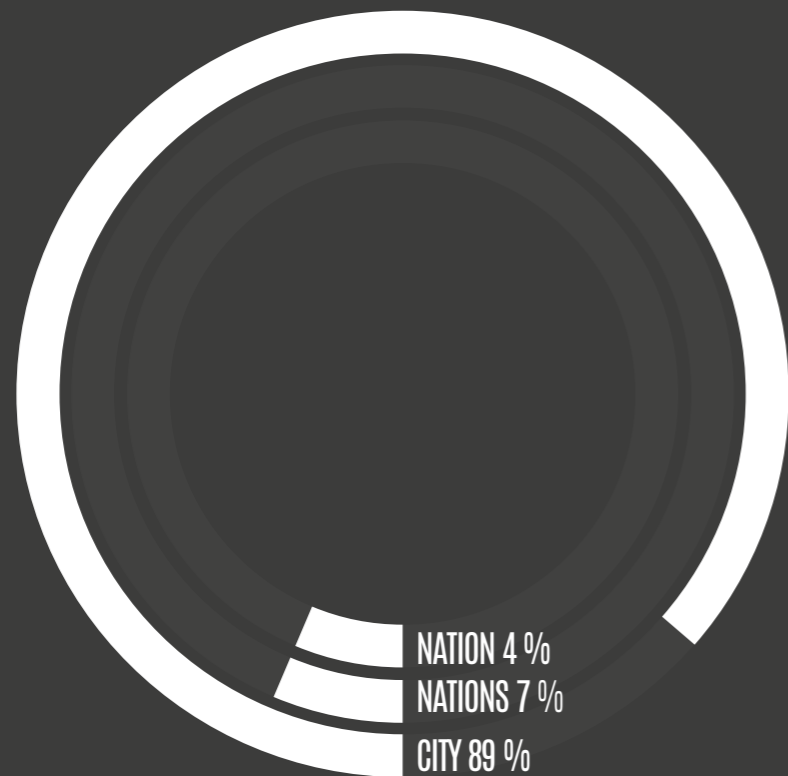
4,205 CHURCH ONLINE
↑ 57%

4,663 CHRISTMAS
↑ 23%

292 MANDARIN
↑ 54%

45 KOREAN
↑ 10%

979 KIDSPACE
↑ 16%



• G3 • Young Adults
• Youth • Children • Families
• Cantonese • Korean
• Indonesian • Mandarin Missions

- Senior Pastor
- Founding Pastor
- COACH National & International
- Strategic Partnerships
- Marketing & Fundraising
- COACH Local
- Lifegroups, Missional Communities, Prayer
- Care, Seniors, Lifekeys Ministry
- Creative & Creative Training
- Creative Easter & Christmas
- Executive Pastor & Connections
- Communications & Online Church
- Infrastructure & Facilities
- South East Campus
- Production & Resources
- LifeCare Services Administration
- Counselling
- B Together
- Financial Care
- LifeCare Women Centre

FINANCES

TOTAL REVENUE \$11,388,919 ↑ 2%

AVERAGE WEEKLY TITHES \$116,086 ↑ 8%

CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2018 \$348,323 ↑ 47%

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LIFECARE

Behind the outward façade of Melbourne’s leafy eastern suburbs there is great need in our community. Thankfully, Jesus is greater. The LifeCare team were able to show his love through thoughtfulness and caring to make a significant difference in the lives of many.

The number of people we supported in 2018 set new records across our services. We supported more people with professional Christian counselling and psychology. The LifeCare Women’s Centre went from strength to strength, effectively delivering the “Courage To Heal: Domestic Violence Support Program” for single mothers, with ten women successfully graduating.

Clients struggling with financial issues were helped back onto their feet by the Financial Care team. More food parcels were distributed than ever before. COACH mentors reached record numbers, walking alongside adults, youth and kids.

“I WAS VERY NERVOUS WHEN I FIRST STARTED AT THE LWC IN 2017. BUT I AM SO GLAD THAT I FOUND THIS PLACE, AS THIS PROGRAM HAS SAVED MY LIFE!”

Through our community meals program, more isolated and lonely people were able to connect into a caring community.

None of this would have been possible without increased dedication and service from the team – both staff and team members, along with the continuous support of all our amazing partners. The time, effort, prayers and generosity from each and every supporter has enabled us to do so much to meet the needs, in turn helping so many people who were in tough places to flourish!

“I AM SENDING MY GRATITUDE, THANKS AND APPRECIATION OF YOUR UNDERSTANDING IN MY TIMES OF NEED AND CRISIS. YOU HAVE BEEN VERY THOUGHTFUL AND CARING. YOU ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOME WAY FOR THE BETTER”

1177
PEOPLE STRUGGLING IN OUR COMMUNITY WERE TRANSFORMED THROUGH HOPE, HEALING AND CARE

35
NEW TEAM MEMBERS

6
FIRST TIME COMMITMENTS

COACH

When Shane was referred to the COACH program, he and his father were facing imminent homelessness as their rental home was being sold. Their stress was exacerbated by Shane’s struggle with depression, anxiety and suicidality. His family were desperate to help him but did not know how.

“I didn’t care about anything, I didn’t care what happened. I had already given up,” says Shane. “I was so consumed by my social anxiety and stammering I just didn’t want to talk to anyone.”

Shane was matched with a COACH Mentor, Pete. Pete learned that Shane had social anxiety exacerbated by a significant stutter. The anxiety had cost him jobs, relationships, academic achievement, and his health, and left him with despair, depression and hopelessness. Shane’s primary coping strategy was to isolate himself, binge eat, sleep during the day and play computer games during the night. In his hopelessness, Shane said he did not care what happened to him, but he was willing to engage with COACH for the sake of his father.

Pete says, “Shane looked and spoke like I imagine he must have felt – defeated, dishevelled and disengaged. I really just wanted to do what I could to help and encourage him.” Pete accompanied Shane and his father to the local housing service provider and his support and advocacy helped them to secure temporary housing, thereby avoiding becoming homeless. Over the course

of many meetings with Pete, Shane became more open to accessing other supports, including counselling and employment services. Shane was able to secure long-term shared accommodation and find short-term employment, and his counsellor was able to offer strategies to manage his anxiety and depression.

“PETE’S SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP GAVE ME SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO. I DIDN’T FEEL JUDGED. I COULD TALK WITH NO PRESSURE TO PERFORM AND JUST BE HEARD”

These days Shane is like a new person. He lives in an apartment with a friend he met at his anxiety support group. He has completed his diploma in Community Services and is employed as a Disability Support Worker. He is fit and healthy, he attends the gym and has lost heaps of weight, gaining confidence. He no longer has a stutter and with the help of his doctors has come off all medication. He has healthy relationships with his friends and family, is attending a local church, and is now mentoring a young person with COACH.

“Shane is one of my favourite people in the world to spend time with,” says Pete. “His passion for life is such an encouragement to me. Journeying with him and seeing the radical transformation in his life has been amazing.”

The names in this story have been changed.

86%
OF PARTICIPANTS REACHED A SIGNIFICANT LIFE GOAL

22%
INCREASE IN PARTICIPANTS’ RESILIENCE

57%
OF PARTICIPANTS ENGAGE WITH THEIR LOCAL CHURCH

582
PARTICIPANTS

65
PARTNERS

750
MENTORS

NATIONAL COACH FIGURES, INCLUDING CROSSWAY



**“NOW ALL GLORY TO GOD, WHO
IS ABLE, THROUGH HIS MIGHTY
POWER AT WORK WITHIN US, TO
ACCOMPLISH INFINITELY MORE
THAN WE MIGHT ASK OR THINK.”**

EPHESIANS 3:20