

HE WILL AGAIN

CROSSWAY ANNUAL REPORT 2021

 CROSSWAY

NOW REPENT OF YOUR SINS
AND TURN TO GOD, SO THAT
YOUR SINS MAY BE WIPED
AWAY. THEN TIMES OF
REFRESHMENT WILL COME
FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE
LORD, AND HE WILL AGAIN
SEND YOU JESUS, YOUR
APPOINTED MESSIAH.

ACTS 3:19-20 (NLT)

Our Vision

To see our city, nation and the nations
become disciples of Jesus.

Our Mission

Loving God, loving people, disciples that multiply.

Our Values

NOTHING MATTERS MORE

Jesus is always front and centre

THERE'S ROOM FOR YOU

Anyone can experience authentic community

EVERYONE GETS TO PLAY

The mission of God in the hands of
ordinary people

DARE TO DREAM

Bold faith leads to innovation, influence
and impact

WE TAKE NOTHING FOR GRANTED

We respond to God's goodness with gratitude
and generosity

He Will Again

I am so grateful to God for the people who call Crossway their spiritual home. Despite 2021 being a really challenging year, the entire church brought their very best to the table. For many departments the work load increased with the combination of online and real time delivery of ministry. Our staffing team has been diligent and flexible with the constantly changing environment during the pandemic. Members of Team Crossway similarly stepped up and as each environment reopened and fresh opportunities were created, people stepped forward to make it all happen for the glory of God. I am so grateful to everyone who has encouraged and inspired through their generosity and sacrifice.

I always look towards impact when it comes to measuring the effectiveness of ministry. At Crossway our Annual Report has effectively been an Impact Report for many years. Rather than moving from ministry to ministry with the report of activity, we have chosen to report on impact. The measures that you see in this report are very carefully chosen. They relate to the most catalytic steps that a person takes in their discipleship journey. This past year 149 people put their trust in Jesus for the first time and 95 people were baptised. These two indicators alone say a lot about the stewardship of the gospel within our family.

Throughout the pandemic people have repeatedly demonstrated that their hearts continue to be invested in the mission of God. At the end of the financial year we presented a target of \$500,000 to be invested into the Kingdom Fund to assist people

who are in need. Even though we were in lockdown at the time, once again the congregation more than doubled the target by giving over \$1.1 million. I am repeatedly amazed at the generosity and I give thanks to God for the trust of such a stewardship.

One unique feature of the church is its commitment well beyond ourselves. We are currently working with roughly 300 churches from 13 different denominations through initiatives like Building a Discipling Culture, Empowered Faith Communities and COACH. We have 73 workers that have been sent from Crossway and who are serving in 25 countries. LifeCare reaches out to those in need in our local community and this ministry has been strengthened through the pandemic because the needs have grown.

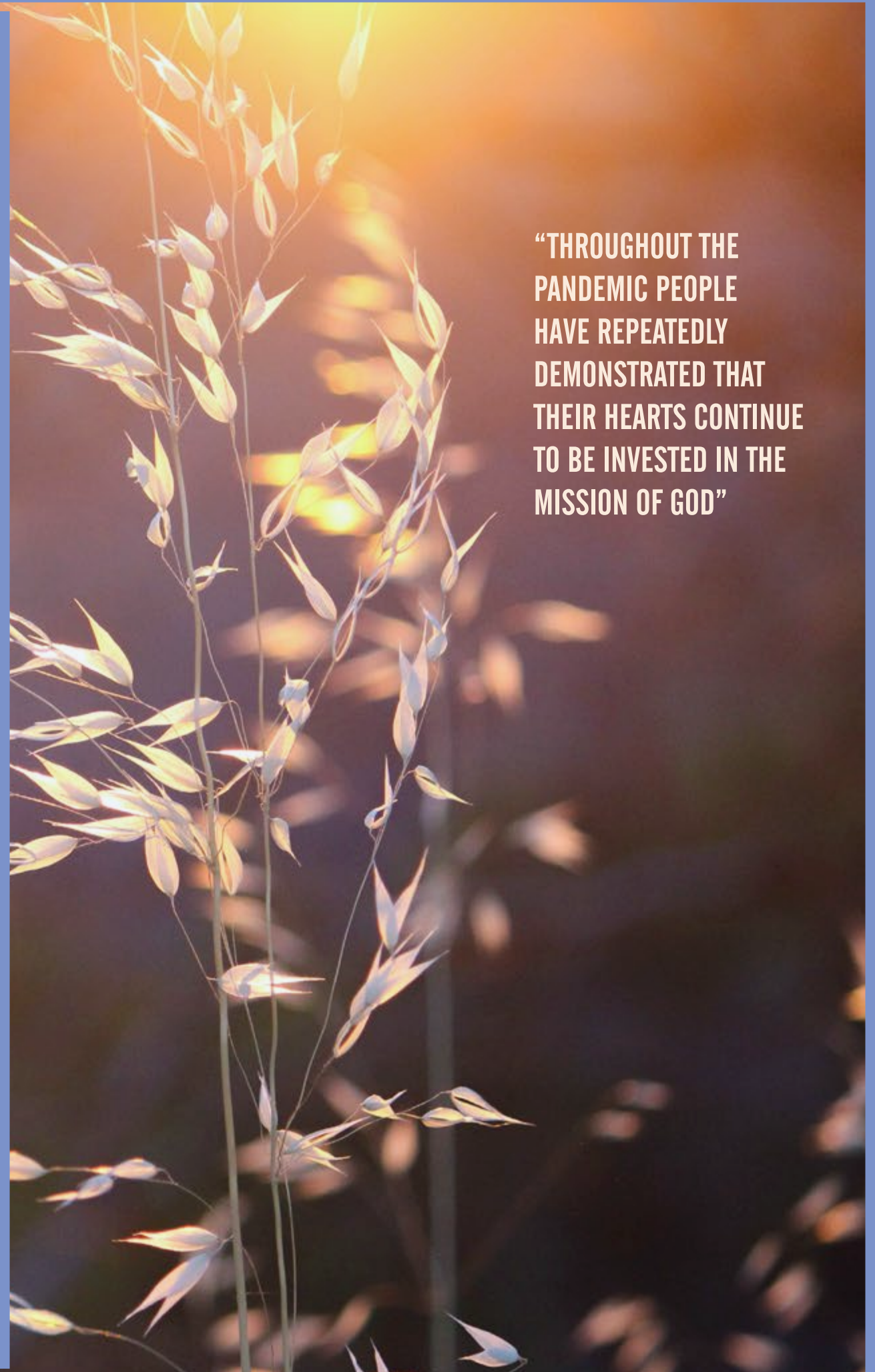
It was a joy to embrace Brighton Baptist (the second oldest Baptist Church in Victoria) into the family as the newest campus of Crossway. The renovation and restorative works are almost complete and through 2021 the congregation roughly doubled in size. Great days lie ahead under the leadership of Pastor Brendan Smith for the Brighton Campus.

We continue to look towards the future with confidence. We believe that God will again pour out His blessing and that our greatest days lie ahead of us for the glory and honour of the name of Jesus. We collectively seek to press forward to all that God is calling us towards.



DALE STEPHENSON
Senior Pastor

**“THROUGHOUT THE
PANDEMIC PEOPLE
HAVE REPEATEDLY
DEMONSTRATED THAT
THEIR HEARTS CONTINUE
TO BE INVESTED IN THE
MISSION OF GOD”**



First Time Commitments

FENG

Before I met Jesus, I was a Falun Gong (法轮功 - a Chinese occult group) practitioner for more than twenty years.

A Life Group invited me on a trip to the seaside and shared the Gospel. I didn't understand much about Christianity and was rather averse to it. Nevertheless, Brother Wang was very patient.

He invited me to pray along with other members of the Life Group. My soul was deeply touched as I prayed alongside them, and again when I witnessed the baptism of my son and his wife and heard their testimonies.

Subsequently, during a fellowship gathering, several brothers in Christ again shared the Gospel. The Holy Spirit was working in me. I was deeply moved and invited Jesus to be my Saviour and the Lord of my life. Brother Liu then read 1 Corinthians 12:3 "Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit." I burst into tears as God's Word penetrated my heart.

God has worked many wonders in my life. Under the guidance of His Word and the Holy Spirit, I found peace and joy in His boundless love and mercy. I used to be very impatient and I tended to hurt people with my words. Since I accepted Christ as my Saviour, I have become more forgiving, more tolerant, more positive and more joyful towards everybody and everything around me. This is something I could not achieve in two decades when I practiced Falun Gong. Now my family is filled with harmony. We come together to confess and pray to God daily. We also pray for our friends and relatives in China who are yet to receive the Gospel. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us to fulfil God's work.

“GOD’S LOVE HAS
REMOULDED ME INTO
A NEW PERSON”

149 FIRST TIME COMMITMENTS



Baptisms

TIM

I was born in Saudi Arabia in 2007 to Christian parents. Our family has always been part of a small group or church, and so I have grown up with God being a central part of my life. When I was five years old we moved back to Melbourne and that's when I started going to kid's church at Crossway. Through my time at kid's church and then Crossway Youth, I have grown closer in my relationship with God. Attending camps at Mill Valley Ranch also helped me develop in my faith through worship and devotions. In 2022 we will be living in Queensland. I will be going to a Christian School there, and hope to make friends with other Christians and continue to grow in my faith and relationship with God.

I know that wherever I am, God is with me and has laid out my future for me. As long as I can remember I have known that God is real and loves me. I have always trusted in him and asked for help from him in times of need. I know God created me with a purpose and has a plan for me, so that's why I am going to give my life to God.

“I KNOW THAT WHEREVER I
AM, GOD IS WITH ME AND
HAS LAID OUT MY FUTURE
FOR ME.”

95 BAPTISMS



Team Crossway

ANNI

Extended lockdowns created an unprecedented change of pace, sparking many to reflect and consider the purpose of life. Crossway's Cantonese ministry recognised the uniqueness of this challenging season, running four rounds of the Alpha course throughout the lockdown period. God gave us the combination of Alpha as a platform and Zoom as a technology, such that we could continue with our great Gospel commission.

From small beginnings, each round of our Alpha course saw 50-80 people joining together to explore life's deeper questions over a series of six online sessions.

I thank God for giving each of us the gifts we needed to work as a team, picked by Him, "to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Ephesians 4:12). In each meeting we started with joy and finished with amazement and thanks as the Spirit called upon unbelievers to know and accept Jesus.

1662 TEAM MEMBERS IN SERVICE*
299 NEW PLACEMENTS

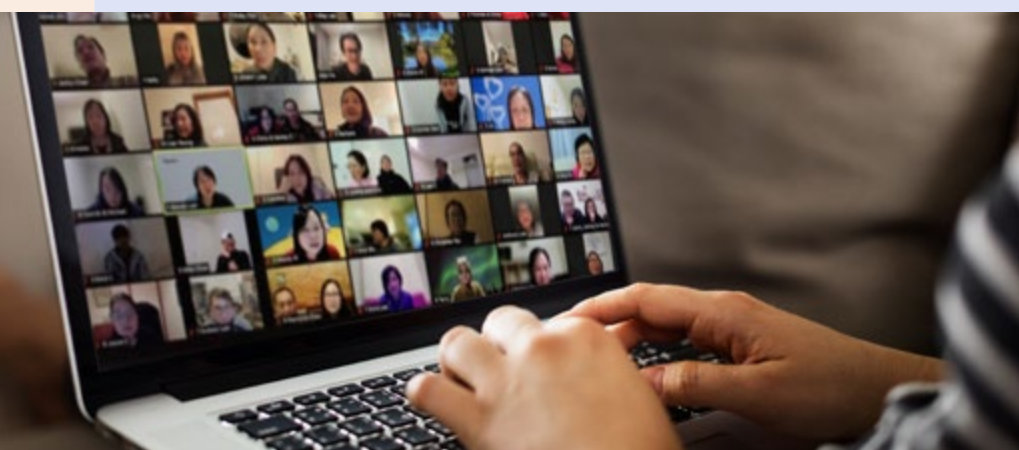
*During much of 2021, serving was disrupted by lockdowns.

So far, over 40 participants have put their faith in Jesus. Most recently, we celebrated one newcomer accepting Jesus in the first session, and a total of ten by the fourth session! We also welcomed five baptism candidates from Hong Kong and England. Praise the Lord!

Isaiah 55:1 tells us, "as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

The internet has helped us a lot in fulfilling God's great commission. We've welcome participants from worldwide locations, including UK, Hong Kong, Switzerland and even African Uganda, and celebrated first time commitments to Jesus, online baptisms and new fellowship. God will flourish us amid our suffering. I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. Hallelujah!

"I THANK GOD FOR GIVING EACH OF US THE GIFTS WE NEEDED TO WORK AS A TEAM, PICKED BY HIM."



Membership

2,250 TOTAL MEMBERS
82 NEW MEMBERS

CROSSWAY GROUPS

Life Groups

KARZON AND SHARON

In 2019 we arrived in Melbourne from Hong Kong to begin a new life in Australia. We soon had work, a home and two cars, and started attending Crossway. What could go wrong?

In 2020, with our first baby on the way, Victoria was experiencing lockdowns. Fortunately, Karzon was able to continue working, but the isolation took its toll, especially for Sharon as she prepared for the birth.

We had been introduced to a virtual Life Group with other young families. We were able to share and learn from the couples who had been there already, and it was good to know we had people close by who could pray with us and support us emotionally.

Hanzel arrived and he was a huge joy to us both. Whilst we could only share our new family online, it was nice to know that our extended family now included our Life Group friends who seemed almost excited as we were. However, the next twelve months threw us some curve balls.

Having one of our cars written off in an accident severely reduced our options.

254 LIFE GROUPS
16 NEW LIFE GROUPS



Then Hanzel was diagnosed with a skin condition that required us to bathe him in a milk-like treatment twice each day. A month later, Karzon was undergoing tests for a non-covid related matter that western doctors were unable to diagnose. It depleted his energy levels for several weeks, making it very difficult to help Sharon with the baby and impossible to stay ahead of the summer growth in the garden. Then in March 2021, our second car was also written off. It was just one thing after another.

Through it all, our Life Group prayed with us, encouraged, supported, and helped us in very practical ways. Our lawn was mowed, meals were provided, hope was shared, and we were collected from the scene of the accident when the second car was damaged. We had support arranged from the church for families of newborn babies and a connection was provided with lovely people who loaned us a car for twenty days.

Today we are all healthy. Hanzel's condition has improved and our family of three is in a good place and very appreciative of the extended family of God through our Life Group.

**“THROUGH IT ALL, OUR LIFE GROUP
PRAYED WITH US, ENCOURAGED,
SUPPORTED, AND HELPED US IN VERY
PRACTICAL WAYS.”**

Missional Communities

27 MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES
15 NEW MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES

Prayer Groups

There are many ways God carried us throughout the pandemic. One of those ways was that our Prayer Groups met on Zoom, and for many, this became a lifeline of prayer and support.

Two new “7:14” Prayer Groups began meeting on Tuesday mornings and evenings (named after 2 Chronicles 7:14). As we connected and prayed together, we heard story after story saying that these prayer times have been enriching, life-giving and a blessing. The connections have helped not just with people's mental health, but have also provided an opportunity to connect with God and others in a unique online platform. As a result, we are continuing to connect online, with these new prayer meetings becoming crucial to our prayer ministry at Crossway.

**“IF MY PEOPLE, WHO ARE CALLED BY MY
NAME, WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND
PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE AND TURN FROM
THEIR WICKED WAYS, THEN I WILL HEAR
FROM HEAVEN, AND I WILL FORGIVE THEIR
SIN AND WILL HEAL THEIR LAND.”**

2 CHRONICLES 7:14



He Will Again

149	First Time Commitments
95	Baptisms
1662	Team Members in Service
299	New Team Placements
2250	Members
82	New Members
254	Life Groups
16	New Life Groups
27	Missional Communities
15	New Missional Communities
69	Read the Bible with a pre-Christian friend
39	Clusters
16	New Clusters
73	International Workers Supported

Building a Discipling Culture

124	Churches
11	Denominations
117	Clusters
46	Second Generation Clusters
22	Active Sessional Coaches

COACH Network*

493	Participants
135	Partners (including 12 in the UK)
734	Mentors
8	First time commitments
95%	Participants reached a significant life goal
22%	Increase in participants' resilience (where recorded)
35%	Participants engage with their local church

*National COACH figures, including Crossway

Praxeis

PLANTING DISCOVERY GROUPS

65	Discovery groups in Aus & NZ
223	Discovery groups in other nations
282	Total groups (Churches and Discovery Groups)
540	People involved in teams making disciples

MAKING DISCIPLES IN THE HARVEST

1557	People on a discovery journey towards Jesus
119	New followers of Jesus

LifeCare

1277	People struggling in our community were transformed through hope, healing, and care
323	Unique households received food hampers
732	Individuals were provided counselling
90	People participated in LifeCare community events
55	Families and individuals were mentored through the COACH program to set and achieve individual life goals
39	Women and children recovering from domestic violence were supported on their journey of healing, recovery and growth at LifeCare Women's Centre
38	People received financial mentoring through the Financial COACH program
875	Big Boxes of Kindness distributed to households doing it tough financially at Christmas

CAMPUSES

Burwood East

The year 2021 reminded us that God is not hindered by restrictions, nor is He confined to a building or a geographical space. Covid continued to serve up challenges, but as a campus we were determined to be the Church in new and innovative ways. Online worship services, Life Groups, Alpha, prayer meetings and Zoom gatherings provided strong community touch points and transformative experiences for many.

Stories of people coming to faith and being baptised were prevalent in 2021. People continued to pastor their streets, sharing life and faith with neighbours and work colleagues. A commitment to seeing people become disciples of Jesus was highlighted through faith in action as well as generous giving. The financial contribution so many made towards our LifeCare and missions appeals indicated a heart for those in need. As we reopened our campus facility at the end of the year, we celebrated our growing relational connection and we look ahead with great anticipation.

MARK PURSER

Burwood East Campus Pastor



**“THE LORD
RENEWS US
AS HIS NEW
VESSELS”**

South East

The pandemic that continued into 2021 presented a challenge that had the potential to breakdown churches and communities. We're so grateful to God that by His grace, that wasn't our story. Instead, we were able to be resilient in the challenge, adaptable in our approaches to ministry, and innovative in the way we reached people!

Starting up CSE Live, an online midweek service with face-to-face capabilities for attendees, helped keep us connected as a community for a period of time. Running Church-in-the-Park, using a 70" TV and a generator, saw many visitors and people in the community get a taste of church that they otherwise might not have had. We also pivoted between online and in-person for our youth and kids gatherings, as government restrictions allowed. These experiences will continue to shape us as a campus into the future. As we continue to face the challenges that the pandemic throws at us, we face them with God's grace, and the resilience, adaptability and innovation that He has steeled within us this last year.

SAM TAYLOR

South East Campus Pastor



Brighton

2021 was all about transition and preparation as, by God's grace and direction, Brighton Baptist Church prepared to become a campus of Crossway.

And what an exciting season we have had as we've welcomed our Brighton Campus into the Crossway family.

There has been unity and conviction from key members who have made the transition possible. We have seen God's faithfulness in His provision of an incredible director for our Crossway Preschool that is connected to our Brighton Campus. Worshiping together in Burgess House, the ongoing building works, the induction of Pastor Brendan Smith and the beginning of Crossway Kids at Brighton are all highlights and signs of an incredible season of ministry and harvest to come in the Brighton community.

Asian Languages

God led us into a new chapter in the past year, especially myself as I took up a new role as Chinese COACH Training Manager, promoting the program to other Chinese churches in Melbourne and beyond.

As an Asian church community, we had held several rounds of Alpha via Zoom and online baptisms at our various language congregations and the Gospel was spread to more than one hundred pre-Christians from places over the world, in addition to some personal evangelism. During 2021, 65 people accepted Jesus as their Saviour. This is the 'end times' era and we are experiencing God in awe, in wonder, and in astonishment over and over!

May our Asian Languages Campus be a brewing ground and the new leather bag for God's new wine. The Lord renews us as His new vessels, doing all kinds of good deeds for Him!

ALEX HO

Asian Languages Campus Pastor



“THE IMPACT THAT SHE LEFT IN THE TWO YEARS OF HER CHRISTIAN LIFE WILL BE HER LONG LASTING LEGACY INTO THE FUTURE.”

Missions

LILLIAN

God's work is done at His own pace and time, and in the ways that He ordains, so that even one new believer could be a pivotal instrument in the hands of God any time.

One such example was our sister who went to be with the Lord in October 2021. She was baptised at the age of 57, two years before her cancer diagnosis was fatal. The impact that she left in the two years of her Christian life will be her long lasting legacy into the future.

During these two years, she lovingly opened herself to the Holy Spirit's ministry and she gave and received lots of love in return. She ran a ministry initiative that raised funds for the poor, the refugees, and the marginalised. Her constant giving of clothes, food and Christian witness had no boundaries. Every week she opened her home to locals and refugees and shared many Bibles and words of encouragement. Our sister was delighted to witness her new love for her family; "it came from God himself."

As I witnessed her transformation, I could not forget her long pause in the baptismal waters, sobbing as she realised God waited far too long for her.

"These were the best two years in my life" she stated in the last days.

"If anyone would like to meet me in the future, they can only come through Christ. I'll be there." These were her very last words as she departed peacefully.

**73 INTERNATIONAL WORKERS SUPPORTED
0 COMMISSIONED AND SENT OUT**

Praxeis

2021 was a very challenging year with heartfelt pain. It was also a very exciting year with real growth opportunities. We faced deep pain with some leaders and their family members in India, Indonesia and Myanmar dying from COVID. This was a deep shock to many of us. Another point of pain for us as a movement was an increase of persecution in India and the military coup in Myanmar. The COVID challenge also meant that we could no longer operate as normal. Meetings were disrupted.

And yet opportunities came with connections online - suddenly we were 'super-connected'! Online meetings encompassed a wide range of people. Training on Zoom increased and Discovery groups and church made sense in smaller family groupings.

In the midst of challenges we grew. We value and measure prayer, and this grew significantly.

We averaged over 1000 hours of prayer a week! It was encouraging to see, on average, over 1500 non-Christians currently engaged in discovering Jesus through the Scriptures. By the end of the year, there were nearly 300 Discovery groups and churches running.

Internationally we also grew, with new nations engaged. Space in this report limits us from hearing great stories from works in Singapore, Hong Kong, Laos, Uganda, Papua New Guinea, England and others. Praxeis now works in over 20 countries.

To understand Praxeis, one needs not to think of an institution but a movement. It is a movement of ordinary people becoming disciples of Jesus - people who form groups in their relational worlds that become churches and multiply. It is growth in the small and ordinary that we celebrate. We look forward to 2022.

PLANTING DISCOVERY GROUPS

- 65 Discovery groups in Aus & NZ
- 223 Discovery groups in other nations
- 282 Total groups (Churches and Discovery Groups)
- 540 People involved in teams making disciples

MAKING DISCIPLES IN THE HARVEST

- 1557 People on a discovery journey towards Jesus
- 119 New followers of Jesus

“IN THE MIDST OF CHALLENGES WE GREW”

Building a Discipling Culture

JIMMY, PASTOR, GOLD COAST

“OUR PEOPLE ARE ON THEIR FRONTLINES, IN THEIR MARKETPLACE, POINTING OTHERS TO CHRIST”

We've been walking the BDC journey for about two years. This year, I started reading the Bible with a friend. I think in the past, that's where I would have stayed, but I've been challenged to see the gospel go forth at an exponential rate - so I also started a cluster.

Within that cluster there was a guy who felt that his boss was a Person of Peace, so he asked him if he would read the Bible with him. The boss said he would love to, and subsequently, the boss is often hunting my friend down as to when they can read the Bible next.

My friend was so excited that he also asked two other work colleagues if they would read the Bible with him. So now my friend is reading the Bible with three people within his workplace, which is a secular university. I guess my hope is that one of these guys might meet Jesus and in turn would start reading the Bible with two or three of their friends as well. I think a key word for us, in terms of a disciple making culture in action, is multiplication - that we see disciples multiplied. That our people are on their frontlines, in their marketplace, pointing others to Christ, and in turn those people also pointing others to Christ and so on, and so on.

- 124 CHURCHES
- 11 DENOMINATIONS
- 117 CLUSTERS
- 46 SECOND GENERATION CLUSTERS
- 22 ACTIVE SESSIONAL COACHES

Disciples that Multiply

- 69 READ THE BIBLE WITH A PRE-CHRISTIAN FRIEND
- 22 ACCEPTED JESUS AS THEIR LORD AND SAVIOUR
- 39 CLUSTERS
- 16 NEW CLUSTERS

LifeCare

ANITA

Anita came to Australia from overseas to further her education and pursue a career. When the pandemic led to prolonged lockdowns, she found herself struggling and contacted LifeCare’s Community Pantry to request a grocery hamper. Along with much-needed food items came a brochure describing LifeCare’s services.

Anita signed up for a Financial COACH Mentor who helped her with budgeting and linked her in with more support. She also discovered Alpha at Crossway, which she shared helped to further her spiritual journey.

Anita shared that going through the pandemic alone wasn’t easy. She missed her family, didn’t have a job, and struggled to meet bare necessities. LifeCare was an essential support during this season.

After a short while, Anita volunteered at the Community Pantry as a way of giving back. She says this changed her life by providing a reason to get out of the isolating lockdowns, giving purpose and friendship with other team members.

Around this time, Anita was also experiencing family violence, perpetrated by her live-in partner. The pantry unknowingly became her safe haven. “Once a week for two hours, I felt safe,” she said. Anita confided to a fellow pantry team member, and was linked in with LifeCare’s Family Violence Programs.

During this time, Anita received wrap-around support from LifeCare. The Community Engagement team assisted with retrieving and storing her belongings so she could escape the family violence situation. A Community

Pantry connection offered her safe, short-term accommodation. She was connected with a LifeCare Counselor and the Family Violence team continued to check in around her practical needs.

Later, LifeCare linked her in with an external employment program and in the ensuing months she was able to secure full-time employment and move into safe, long-term housing. Anita also joined Courage to Heal, a LifeCare program for victim-survivors of family violence. Through this, she connected with other women survivors.

Anita recently shared some reflections on her time at LifeCare:

“I thought I was alone in a foreign land, and for the most part, I was. But my life changed the moment I got acquainted with Crossway LifeCare. It helped me feel safe again. I have a community of people who are there to support and encourage. I don’t feel as alone. The support I have received from LifeCare has made me feel better. Even my family, who is overseas, also is at peace knowing that I have such beautiful people in my life.

I am very hopeful about the future, but I am not putting too much pressure on myself. I am taking life one day at a time, and I really feel happy about it. All in all, my experience at Crossway LifeCare was one I will cherish all my life.”

“I HAVE A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE WHO ARE THERE TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE.”



- 1277 People struggling in our community were transformed through hope, healing, and care
- 323 Unique households received food hampers
- 732 Individuals were provided counselling
- 90 People participated in LifeCare community events
- 55 Families and individuals were mentored through the COACH program to set and achieve individual life goals
- 39 Women and children recovering from domestic violence were supported on their journey of healing, recovery and growth at LifeCare Women’s Centre
- 38 People received financial mentoring through the Financial COACH program
- 875 Big Boxes of Kindness distributed to households doing it tough financially at Christmas

COACH Network*

- 493 Participants
- 135 Partners (including 12 in the UK)
- 734 Mentors
- 8 First Time Commitments
- 95% Participants reached a significant life goal
- 22% Increase in participants’ resilience (where recorded)
- 35% Participants engage with their local church

*National COACH figures, including Crossway

Weekly Attendance

	Average Weekly Attendance	Average Weekly Online Views
Crossway	1,984	5,252
Kids	521	274
Youth	258	63
Burwood East Campus	1,053	3,501
South East Campus	237	N/A
Asian Language Campus	235	1,456
Brighton Campus	21	N/A

Finances

Average Weekly Tithes	\$115,063
Missions Appeal (Christmas)	\$331,715
Total Revenue	\$11,821,236
City	75%
Nation	16%
Nations	9%



**THEN TIMES OF
REFRESHMENT WILL COME
FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE
LORD, AND HE WILL AGAIN
SEND YOU JESUS, YOUR
APPOINTED MESSIAH.**

ACTS 3:20



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