

YOU PROMISED

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

You have done what
you promised, for
you are always true
to your word.

NEHEMIAH 9:8 (NLT)

You Promised



2022 was another amazing year as we journeyed our way through the pandemic years. Thankfully, Melbourne entered the post-lockdown phase of dealing with covid and for the first time since 2019 the broader ministries of Crossway were able to operate without the hinderance of government restrictions. Subsequently, the impact of the mission increased.

In 2020 we saw 95 people put their trust in Jesus Christ for the first time. In 2021 that jumped to 165. In 2022 we saw 313 people put their trust in Jesus for the first time. For this impact I praise God and thank all of the people of Crossway who give their lives as disciples of Jesus in helping others come to know Him. Similarly, in 2020 65 people were baptised, in 2021 that jumped to 95, and in 2022 it jumped again to 127 people.

For all of the different things we measure, these two metrics tell me whether we are actually making disciples of Jesus. For all of the good that is done through the broader ministry, without new people coming to know Jesus it would be less than what it could be for the glory of God. So, thank you to all involved.

There has been an incredible resilience demonstrated throughout the pandemic. With the various challenges that have been thrown our way, by the grace of God the family of Crossway stepped up to the challenge. This has been real

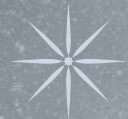
in prayer, in finance, in initiative amongst those in need, in fact in all things people have pressed through this historically challenging period for the glory of God. As I prepare this report this has only amplified further into 2023. So, to every one of you who has prayed, served, stewarded the gospel and given your lives to those in need, thank you.

We continue to look beyond ourselves. Two new campuses will be opened in 2023. More international workers are being commissioned and an increasing number of churches are involved with initiatives like Building a Discipling Culture, Empowered Faith Communities and COACH. Through these initiatives we have worked and are working with roughly 3.5% of all of the churches in the nation and across 15 denominations.

It is important for us to collectively thank our Board who operate for the better part unseen and who are a hidden jewel of Crossway and its effective operations. In addition, I thank the over 1500 Team Crossway members who serve through the most disparate spheres. Your efforts, empowered by the Holy Spirit, are the driving engine of the broader ministry, and your efforts are not in vain.

We collectively note that great days are ahead of us for the glory of God. Let's give ourselves fully to Him and His purposes as we continue our journey.

“Let’s give ourselves fully to
Him and His purposes”



DALE STEPHENSON
Senior Pastor



First Time Commitments

✧✧
“Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your household.” ✧

ACTS 16:31

313 First Time Commitments

Connecting into Crossway from Hong Kong, Wo Ping & Lo Shang put their trust in Jesus and were baptised via Zoom, together with their son Daniel. Here are their stories.

Before I accepted Jesus I had an unsettled mindset and worshipped idols. After I turned sixty I was just hanging on to life on a day-to-day basis, and on two occasions I was admitted to hospital. When I was hospitalised, church friends of my daughter and son-in-law in Hong Kong and Australia prayed for me. I was very touched by their love and care. I thank the Lord for His calling and I have accepted Jesus as my saviour. Since then, my mindset has changed and I am at peace knowing that Jesus will take good care of everything.

WO PING

Before I accepted Jesus, I was worshipping idols day in and day out. For years my daughter had been urging me to accept Jesus but I was determined not to. One day, as I was visiting my husband in hospital (incidentally, without having gone through my usual daily idol rituals), I found peace as Christian visitors prayed for him. I decided to do away with those idols and felt happy to go with Jesus. I cannot explain why all of a sudden my heart softened to say yes when I witnessed the power of prayer in the hospital that day. Our son, Daniel, once was equally reluctant and even banned Christians from coming into our home, but he too turned around to believe and say yes to baptism. It was God’s miracle!

LO SHANG

Before I accepted Jesus my mind was very confused. Along with my parents, I worshipped idols. Now I feel more at ease. I am so thankful and excited to see them undergoing remarkable life transformation, and to see their positive outlook and peaceful mindset. I will put my faith in Jesus from here.

DANIEL



Baptisms

PATRICK

I am a believer in Jesus Christ after experiencing many moments in life which proved and changed my perspective on how I view religion.

In the past I’ve experienced brokenness, depression, sleeplessness and heartache. Work was all consuming and it seemed that life had no meaning, friends nor the ability to break out of that cycle.

A friend gave me this verse: “I tell you, keep asking, and it will be given you. Keep seeking, and you will find. Keep knocking, and it will be opened to you.” (Luke 11:9)

This was the start of a journey which led me to Crossway. The love of my life invited me to an Alpha course which opened my eyes to community, freedom and hope. Throughout the Alpha journey, I was welcomed into a family which I now cherish and will cherish for the rest of my life. I feel reborn with the hope that Jesus brings.

As part of my new relationship with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I want to be obedient to Jesus and decided to be baptised.

✧✧
“I feel reborn with the hope that Jesus brings” ✧

127 baptisms



✧
“We want to welcome
people to church as
much as we were
made to feel welcome”
✧

Team Crossway

YAN & JASON

The first time I heard about Jesus was six years ago when I was invited to a Bible study by a Christian friend. At that time, I was not confident and had self-doubt. My head was full of negative thoughts and life did not have a lot of meaning. My friend noticed my struggles and offered to pray for me. She also gave me a lot of support and encouragement, which helped me through the hard times. I felt at peace whenever she prayed for me, which made me curious about who Jesus was. I wanted to know more about him.

I started reading the Bible and attended the Alpha course which made me realise



that I was made in the image of God and He loves me unconditionally. It started to change everything. I became more confident and started to accept the person I am. I was baptised in December 2022 and later married my husband Jason.

We decided to serve together by joining the Welcome Team which we see as an integral part of the weekend church service. We want to welcome people to church as much as we were made to feel welcome, first at Alpha and later when attending church. We've also joined a Life Group and look forward to what God has in store for us in the future.

1505 Team Members in Service
328 New Placements



✧
“Crossway is our
church home and
our spiritual family”
✧

Membership

ANDREW & ADRIANA

We found Crossway in 2019 after moving from South Australia. We immediately felt like Crossway was our new home after attending the Burwood East campus. We moved to the South East campus as it was closer to home. We connected so well with Pastor Sam and Stef from the first day, and both our daughters loved Crossway, so it was an easy transition for our family. We enjoy the Bible teaching and the worship, and feel very welcome. The focus on prayer is the powerhouse of the church.

Crossway has provided our family with many avenues to actively participate in being part of God's family and to reach out and help others around us. We love how the church is supporting our immediate community and the international community, with a focus on extending God's kingdom. Through all of life's ups and downs, Crossway has continued to give generously and reach out to those most in need.

It was an easy decision for us to become members. Membership for us meant putting our roots down - Crossway is our church home and our spiritual family, and we're committed to being a part of the vision, mission and values.

Crossway has shown us that no matter what comes, God is always in control. He remains front and centre to us. Despite challenges, we have never lost our focus on the end goal as a church. This stability in times of turmoil has shown our family that we are part of a church family that keeps their eyes fixed on God. We loved how the church does its outreach and ministry with a loving and generous spirit, paving a way for people to be able to navigate these challenging times. Sunday at Crossway is a time of healing and recharging, a time to worship our amazing God, and we get to do it together with people walking the same path. We feel blessed to be part of Crossway.

2281 Total Members
72 New Members

Crossway Groups

Life Groups

THE SEAWEEDS

Named after the snacks devoured by our children, the Seaweed Life Group consists of around ten young families. We love the fact that we have people from many countries, cultures and walks of life. It reminds us we are people of God, chosen not from the same mould, but selected from all nations to share the finished work of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

It is a privilege to share life with God's people – to get to know each other and share our joys, struggles and achievements. Since our establishment in July 2022, we have celebrated birthdays, dined and prayed together, and we have already supported each other through crises.

We also realise the importance of growing our children in an environment where they are taught Godly values, surrounded by older friends who impart Godly principles. It has been useful to learn parenting tips and tricks from each other, and to be supported by Christian friends in this arena.

We hope and pray that 2023 is a year of continuing growth, not only for deepening relationships but also reaching out with God's love as Jesus has commanded us to do.

204 Life Groups
36 New Life Groups

Prayer Groups

Around mid-year we received a request to meet with a man called Alex who was in a very distressed state. His marriage was in serious crisis and he was seeking prayer support for what was going on in his relationship.

As two members of the Prayer Team met with him, we quickly discovered that his marriage was at a crossroads and may not get through it. Alex confessed that he made some very poor decisions (and mistakes) that he deeply regretted. We spent time listening to him confess and seek God, pouring out his heart. He was in a dark place emotionally and we were very concerned for his wellbeing.

We decided to meet with Alex weekly and committed ourselves to pray that his marriage would be restored. At the end of the year he told us that his marriage was stronger than it had ever been. He and his wife were in a healthy place and he was very grateful to God for restoring his marriage. He admitted to us that it was actually a miracle.

✧
“we are people of God...
selected from all nations
to share the finished
work of Jesus Christ” ✧✧

Missional Communities

JACK & LILY

Starting in 2010 from Crossway Mandarin congregation at Burwood East, “The Rock” missional community grew to become several groups united by a shared intention to connect with seekers. Today the communities are based in Brighton and Clayton South.

Each of the groups had its own characteristics and grew in their unique way. The Clayton South group focused on nurturing and strengthening believers through relationship and character building. A Forest Hill group focused on reaching young professionals and ran Mandarin Alpha, with many coming to faith as a result. A Brighton-based group emphasised care of the sick and friendship evangelism through Mandarin-speaking networks.

In 2021 when Crossway Brighton was announced, members of the Brighton group were filled with joy and praised God. With much prayer, in 2022 they formed the core team which became Crossway Brighton's Mandarin congregation. The first Brighton Mandarin Alpha also began at that time and three seekers came to Christ. Today, the Mandarin service has grown to 40-50 regular worshippers. The community also runs weekly outreaches through Mandarin Alpha and a dance group connecting seekers from the local community.

We give thanks and praise to the Lord for His guidance and using His servants to build His kingdom.

27 Missional Communities
6 New Missional Communities



You Promised

313	First Time Commitments	204	Life Groups
127	Baptisms	36	New Life Groups
1505	Team Members in Service	27	Missional Communities
328	New Placements	6	New Missional Communities
2,281	Members	71	International Workers Supported
72	New Members	4	Recommissioned and Sent Out

Building a Discipling Culture

74	Active Churches
154	Total Churches
8	Active Denominations
11	Total Denominations
70	Active Coaching Clusters
149	Total Coaching Clusters
452	Active People Coached
892	Total People Coached
1081+	Pre-Christians doing Discovery Bible Method

COACH Network & Empowered Faith Communities

136	COACH Partners & Members
36	Active Empowered Faith Communities
725	EFC participants
328	EFC First Time Commitments
47	EFC Baptisms

LifeCare

2410	People supported through LifeCare
494	Households received food hampers
597	Individuals provided counselling
181	Participated in support communities for the isolated and vulnerable
87	Families and individuals mentored through COACH
57	Women and children supported through Family Violence Programs
51	People received financial mentoring through Financial COACH
943	Big Boxes of Kindness distributed at Christmas

Praxeis

52	Discovery groups in Aus and NZ
257	Discovery groups in other nations
301	Total groups (churches and Discovery Groups)
349	People involved in teams making disciples
1838	People on a discovery journey towards Jesus
106	New disciples of Jesus

Campuses



Burwood East

PASTOR MARK PURSER

God moved and we heard stories of life change and transformation. 176 people made first time commitments and 77 were baptised. It was encouraging to see 194 people join Team Crossway and use their gifts to build His Church. Alpha also made an impact with around 80 guests at each of three courses, resulting in many commitments and baptisms. Seeing the level of prayer response in our services and during the week has indicated growing spiritual health and hunger to go deeper with God.

We approach 2023 with great optimism and anticipate a strong move of God in our midst as we keep Jesus front and centre in our lives.



Asian Languages

PASTOR ALEX HO

With the post-pandemic influx of immigrants our campus expanded. Over 80 people accepted Jesus and 41 were baptised. We are thankful for the brothers and sisters of our congregations for their willingness to serve in the name of Jesus. As church-going returned to normal, we had a Creative Team retreat in May and reflected on God's "more glorious temple".

Prayer is the power that fuels all ministries. We must follow the Holy Spirit's flow, unite around the Lord as our centre point and keep prayer ministry as our stronghold. God will give us strength to build His house with our lives, serving and prayer.



South East

PASTOR SAM TAYLOR

It was a joy to see so many who call Crossway South East home excitedly return and many new people join. Crossway Youth developed its local expression, with up to 25 gathering regularly. Quarterly campus prayer meetings were well attended by all generations. Community families attending playgroup and the young adults' community began to boom. We celebrated with 19 people putting their trust in Jesus for the first time, 9 Baptisms and 67 joining Team Crossway.

We look forward with great expectation and faith for what God will do in 2023.



Brighton

PASTOR BRENDAN SMITH

2022 was an exciting year for Crossway Brighton. Our renovation works were completed and people rallied around me as the new Campus Pastor. God moved new people to call Crossway Brighton home. Crossway Kids grew and we welcomed Michelle Cox as Children and Families Pastor. We ran Alpha, with around sixteen attendees each week. The Mandarin congregation also ran Alpha and we saw two people give their life to Jesus. The launch of a Mandarin congregation, led by Jack and Lily Xu, added much to the campus.

As we continue to strengthen teams and grow, we are excited about what God will continue to do.



Online

PASTOR STEVE FOGG

2022 was a transitional year as people returned to in-person church and many new people found out about Crossway and started attending online. On YouTube there was a 90% increase to 286,360 views. It was a similar story on Facebook with an increase of 246% views of Crossway services. Many began serving as online chat hosts. There were 14 first time commitments from June to December and 55 couples attended an online Alpha marriage course in November.

God is using Crossway's online campus as a strategic mission opportunity with a global reach and we expect it to grow even more in 2023!

Missions

What do you do when you find an elderly person struggling with life? Would you create a Facebook post to share their plight? Would you tweet of the injustice faced by many? Would you be indifferent and do nothing at all? When Kiah, Crossway international worker in Chiang Rai, Thailand, heard that the home of a dear old lady was crumbling around her, she took action. This widower had no children to care for her and even her extended family were absent.

Pooling some quickly-raised meagre funds, Kiah took a small group of Thai handymen from the city to the mountainous region to repair things and replace that which could not be fixed. What made it more urgent was the coming monsoons. It can get really wet and uncomfortable if the roof and walls of your shelter have more holes than Swiss cheese.

There are 85 families in that village with plenty of brokenness, unemployment and substance abuse issues. Kiah, through a grant, was able to distribute much needed food resources to alleviate the pressure on families struggling to survive.

Our international workers are being and bringing the Good News to many least-reached people around the world.

*
*
“Our international workers are being and bringing the Good News to many least-reached people around the world”
*

71 International Workers Supported
4 Recommissioned and Sent Out



- 52 Discovery groups in Aus and NZ
- 257 Discovery groups in other nations
- 301 Total groups (churches and Discovery Groups)
- 349 People involved in teams making disciples
- 1838 People on a discovery journey towards Jesus
- 106 New disciples of Jesus

Praxeis

The team in Hungary have been trying for many years to connect to Ukraine; however, they continued to face barriers, including the COVID restrictions over the last couple of years. While the outbreak of war in the country has been devastating, God has brought Ukraine to Hungary.

The mass exodus of thousands of people from Ukraine since earlier this year has included many Hungarian gypsy families who have fled their home villages near the border with Hungary. These families want to go back to Ukraine but are waiting for the war to end.

Since the beginning of the war, the Praxeis team has been intentionally offering practical help to many gypsies fleeing Ukraine. They have organised accommodation, visas, food, medicine, hygiene items and toys for the children.

During the Hungarian summer months, the team have also been serving these displaced families through what they call 'Love Projects'. Over 100 days, the team visited houses and communities of gypsy people in Hungary and Ukraine, feeding over 1000 people. They delivered emergency food parcels and offered to pray and encourage the sick and vulnerable.

As they did this, many people of peace were found, with invitations extended to the Praxeis team to visit again, even back in their hometowns and villages of Ukraine after the war.

Working through the connections of two key leaders, the team are intentionally reaching out spiritually as they identify many families who are open to Jesus. Five Discovery Groups have started with the groups saying they want to take 'this teaching' back to their villages after the war.

As a result, there has been a move of God with over 60 baptisms at one event! Now movement training has commenced with a group of Ukrainian gypsy leaders. Movement has begun.

*
“the team are intentionally reaching out spiritually as they identify many families who are open to Jesus”
*

Building a Discipling Culture

WAYNE, ADELAIDE HILLS

✱
“I’ve been able
to grow through
the BDC process
and it’s given me
confidence to act”
✱✱

I’ve found that with BDC I’ve been able to take the principles around culture building and implement them in the workplace, as well as in the church.

It’s far more than just culture building. Some of the BDC principles are about cultural change and some of them are church principles. I can apply them straight into my workplace and I’m seeing them bear actual fruit. From a personal point of view, I’ve been able to grow through the BDC process and it’s given me confidence to act at certain times.

On a recent occasion I fervently prayed that I wanted people to see God in me. Five days later, I was at a work function at a restaurant and we had someone there who we’d been working with for two years but had only met over zoom. We met him for the first time that day. He came to me during dinner and said he needed to talk to me about something. He told me about one of his best friends who had just committed suicide. I was able to pray with him and speak the love of God into him and to share with him that it’s not an unforgivable sin. It was a very special moment, and it came just five days after praying that prayer. The impact of that and other stories I could share too has been very significant.

- 74 Active Churches
- 154 Total Churches
- 8 Active Denominations
- 11 Total Denominations
- 70 Active Coaching Clusters
- 149 Total Coaching Clusters
- 452 Active People Coached
- 892 Total People Coached
- 1081+ Pre-Christians doing Discovery Bible Method

Disciples that Multiply

✱
“Jesus is very
much in control
and truly
the harvest
is plenteous!”
✱

After attending the seminar, ‘How to Disciple Your Friend Towards Faith in Jesus’, I had doubts about whether “the harvest is plenteous”. My circle of friends is limited to only a few, and I didn’t think I knew a Person of Peace.

Two days after the seminar I went fishing on Mordialloc pier. While waiting for the fish to come, I saw an elderly gent who I had met a week earlier at the same pier. This time, we had a deeper conversation. We chatted about travel and the beauty of nature, and I asked him of his work before he retired: masseur and Chinese medicine. I told him about my constant pain in the left knee. Surprisingly, he squatted down and squeezed my knee in several spots to try to determine where the pain was. The teaching from the seminar was coming true right in front of my eyes - here was a Person of Peace massaging my knee!

In our conversation, he mentioned God and His goodness in creation. Immediately I asked whether he was a Christian, and he said “not yet and not baptised.” He had read Karl Marx, Buddhism, the Bible and many religious books in search of the truth. He concluded that Christianity was the most appealing of them all. He said he wished to have a Chinese-English Bible, which I said I’d try to get for him. I also asked whether he would like to attend a church service and his answer was yes! We went on to read the Bible together using the Discovery Bible Method, and later my new brother was baptised at Crossway. To God be the glory! Jesus is very much in control and truly the harvest is plenteous!

- 268 Read the Bible with a pre-Christian friend
- 40 Accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour
- 41 Clusters
- 12 New Clusters



LifeCare

MATT JONES

Like many of LifeCare's Community Pantry patrons, Michelle is a resourceful single mum who is dedicated to supporting her children. During covid lockdowns she was diagnosed with a brain tumour. She shared her news with the pantry team and we began walking alongside her. Later in the year, Michelle found herself in a crisis. Her car required urgent repairs and she needed it desperately, particularly to attend medical appointments. Being unable to work, she could not afford repairs. We were able to help Michelle access a reliable mechanic who repaired her car.

Michelle shared, "We'd be lost without LifeCare. There's been times when we haven't been able to eat. We don't have a lot of family. You have basically become extended family to us."

Alongside food support, the team creates a friendly culture where relationships are built, people are encouraged, patrons are referred to other LifeCare services and there's opportunities to join the team and get involved. "I'm not alone. I know I'm in good hands with LifeCare", said Michelle.



2410	People doing life tough were supported and nurtured through LifeCare	87	Families and individuals were mentored to achieve life goals in education, employment, parenting and improved physical and emotional wellbeing.
597	Individuals were provided counselling for life challenges, including restoring relationships, depression and anxiety, domestic violence and addictions.	57	Women and children recovering from domestic violence were supported on their journey of healing, recovery and growth at LifeCare's Family Violence Programs.
494	Households received food hampers	51	People received financial mentoring through Financial COACH.
181	People participated in communities of support for the isolated, lonely and vulnerable.	943	Big Boxes of Kindness were distributed to households doing it tough financially at Christmas.

COACH Network & Empowered Faith Communities

“with Spiritual Parents building trusting and safe relationships, honesty and vulnerability can form, leading to transformation.”

- 136 COACH Partners & Members
- 36 Active Empowered Faith Communities
- 725 EFC participants
- 328 EFC First Time Commitments
- 47 EFC Baptisms

Darren* initially became involved with an Empowered Faith Community through the COACH Community Mentoring program. His mentor, Robert, encouraged Darren to use his passion for cooking to benefit others by working in the kitchen, where he prepared meals alongside Jill.

Although Jill and Darren come from very different social spaces, they became great mates, developing a bond that became loving and caring. Jill, a grandmother, had raised her family while operating successful restaurant businesses. Darren, having left school before he turned 15 years old, had learned to cook in prison. While working together in the early stages of their relationship, Darren would often regale Jill with colourful stories of his past and present situations, not necessarily to amuse himself but in part to see how Jill would respond. Jill realised that she needed to listen and be non-judgemental, exercising patience and perseverance.

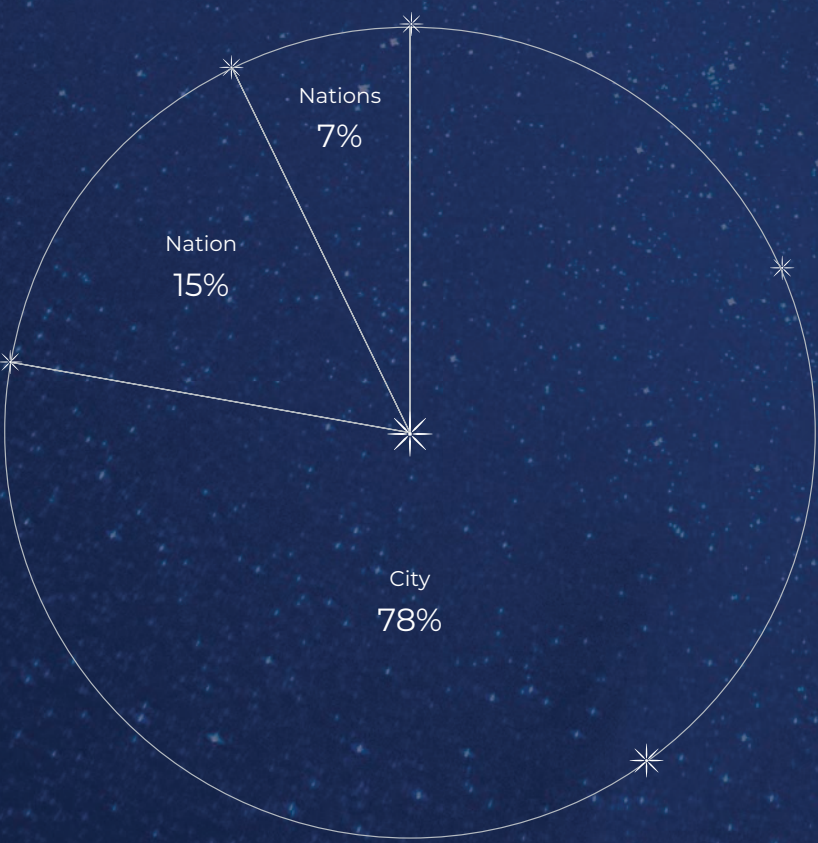
Over time, as their relationship grew and trust was formed and earned, Darren came to rely on Jill for spiritual wisdom and guidance. Jill had earned the right over a significant period of time to ask challenging, reflective questions of Darren. Darren's positive regard and sense of love for Jill was such that he phoned her for Mother's Day to thank her for her contribution to his life. Darren describes Jill as a role model. Jill exemplifies the need to be highly relational and low in challenge in the values gap, recognising that transformation is incremental and a long journey. These are great qualities in a Spiritual Parent in Empowered Faith Communities. Our hope is that with Spiritual Parents building trusting and safe relationships, honesty and vulnerability can form, leading to transformation.



*Names changed to protect privacy.

Finances

Average Weekly Tithes	\$114,240
Missions Appeal (Christmas)	\$186,705
Total Revenue	\$12,077,205
City	78%
Nation	15%
Nations	7%



Weekly Attendance

	Average Weekly Attendance	Average Weekly Online Views
Crossway	2,714	11,435
Kids	610	62
Youth	248	248
Burwood East Campus	1,296	10,063
South East Campus	183	n/a
Asian Language Campus	331	1,244
Brighton Campus	79	n/a

YOU HAVE DONE WHAT
YOU PROMISED, FOR YOU
ARE ALWAYS TRUE
TO YOUR WORD.

NEHEMIAH 9:8 (NLT)

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