

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24

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**CITY**  
**ONAHILL**

The LORD speaks a powerful promise through the prophet Isaiah:

*"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*

The desert is often a picture of isolation and spiritual dryness—a place of testing and challenge. Yet, it is in these barren realities that God speaks His promise of life and renewal. He assures us that He is at work, restoring our hearts and reigniting our joy and passion for Him.

As men and women of the gospel, we see the glory of His promise fulfilled in Christ. Jesus, the Saviour of the world, met the woman at the well and offered her living water (John 4). He stood at the Feast of Booths and declared, "Let anyone thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." (John 7:37-38). Through His life, death, resurrection and ascension, Jesus has accomplished the rivers of renewal that transform lives and bring hope to the dry places of our hearts and cities.

At City on a Hill, we exist to know Jesus and make Jesus known. By God's grace, we've witnessed these rivers flowing in 2024. This year, the churches in our movement have seen extraordinary growth, with Sunday attendance increasing by 18% yearly. We've celebrated 71 baptisms and over 142 significant faith commitments. Our ministry to children and youth has flourished, with a 21% increase in City Kids involvement and nearly a doubling of the number of teens attending City Youth.

Our commitment to serving the marginalised has been deeply inspiring. Through the Living Room program, 81 vulnerable Australians were cared for, and over 8,000 meals were delivered through the Kitchen in Melbourne. Furthermore, over 800 children are now supported through our partnership with Compassion, reflecting the heart of Christ's mission to care for the least of these.

The health of our church is also evident from our recent survey, which shows that 26% of Sunday attendees come from non or de-churched backgrounds, and 74% of respondents indicate that they are growing in their faith. These stories of life and transformation are a testament to God's goodness and His people's faithfulness.

Yet, as we celebrate these blessings, we are mindful of the work to be done. Gospel Community engagement currently sits at 45% of our Sunday attendance, and we're eager to see this grow significantly over the next 12-24 months. Discipleship remains a vital focus, and we are excited to expand the Greenhouse program across our movement of churches. We also can and must prioritise our mission among the lost and unsaved. None of these can be accomplished by human effort. We must labour in the Spirit and strength that the Lord provides.

Our 10 Cities Vision for planting 50 churches is a bold step of faith. We've announced three new church plants that will require our prayers, generosity, and service. Let's lift up Pat Donohoe, Jimmy Young, and Brendan Wright as they prepare to plant.

Australia is a beautiful nation, but it desperately needs renewal. The majority of our nation does not yet know the eternal life found in Christ. The decline and closure of many churches is a painful reality. The worldly influences and spiritual realm continue to wage war against the church. Yet, in the face of this, we stand in Christ's victory and hold fast to God's promise to bring rivers to the desert.

This is our time to fix our eyes on Jesus, step out in faith, and trust in His power to bring renewal—starting with our hearts and extending to our churches, ministries, cities, and streets.

I am profoundly thankful to God for the many leaders, volunteers, and partners who serve so faithfully in our mission. Your love for Christ and His church is a testimony of God's amazing grace. Above all, we thank our God, who works mightily in and through us, blessing us beyond measure. As we look back on 2024 and ahead to 2025, let us celebrate all He has done and recommit ourselves to the vision of knowing Jesus and making Jesus known.

Blessings,



**GUY MASON**  
Senior Pastor

# KNOW JESUS AND MAKE JESUS KNOWN



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### ONE MOVEMENT

City on a Hill is a movement of men, women, and children, united by our shared mission to know Jesus and make Jesus known, with a vision to reach ten cities with the beauty, truth and relevance of Jesus, by planting 50 churches.

As a movement of ten churches, we invest in growing deep disciples, gathering in worship, reaching the lost with the hope of Jesus, equipping the next generation, planting new churches and shining the light of justice, hope and love.

## Teaching

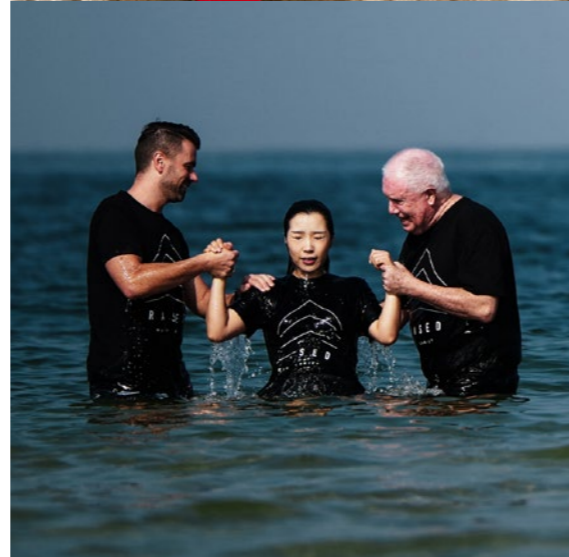
The Bible is God's word to us, giving us wisdom for life, and revealing to us the truth and love of Jesus.

This year we explored a number of books of the Bible including [Esther](#), the [10 Commandments](#) in Exodus, and [Hebrews](#). A range of teaching resources supported these series including Gospel Community studies, weekly devotionals and evangelistic vox-pop videos.

Easter this year was centred on the theme "[The Sword and the Stone](#)", as we focused on John 19-20 and the signs and evidence to believe in Jesus as the Son of God and our Saviour. Praise God for the many people who visited services across the Easter weekend and heard the gospel, and for those who responded and committed their lives to Jesus for the first time! We also celebrated with many men, women, and children across our churches as they entered the waters of baptism.

"[The Holy Spirit - Breath of God](#)" was a teaching series exploring the person and work of the Holy Spirit. A new initiative in this series was "Conversations on the Spirit" — interviews with thought leaders on the work of the Spirit in the church, hosted by Senior Pastor Guy Mason. Additionally we published "The Holy Spirit" practical guide written by Joel Deacon, with 400 physical copies sold and almost 500 digital downloads.

Our digital presence continues to grow as we reach a global audience online — United States, Philippines, India, and beyond — through our website, YouTube and social media channels. Weekly sermon podcasts and digital live-streams are a continued area of investment as we seek to make Jesus known beyond our physical locations.





## Conference

This year we hosted our third movement wide conference in Melbourne, centred on the theme of “revival” with guest speaker Jon Tyson.

By God’s grace, over 1,000 men, women, and children joined us for three days of teaching, worship, prayer, unity amongst our churches, and being reminded of the call we have as followers of Jesus to know Him and make Him known.

*“The reality of my unworthiness and God’s immeasurable love for me really sunk in, and that was significant. I felt the Spirit move in me as I prayed for others more powerfully than I have before. I experienced a vulnerability that I hadn’t felt in a church setting before, which released me in worship. It was a transforming time — praise God!” - Josh*

Alongside the main sessions, the City Kids Conference program helped our children explore the person of the Holy Spirit, worshipping God and learning more about what it means to be Spirit-filled and to follow Jesus.

The City on a Hill Conference will be back in 2026, with regional gatherings in 2025 as an opportunity to connect across the churches in each city.

## Growing Deep Disciples

*"If anyone would come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Mark 8:34)*

We want to see each member of City on a Hill committed to deep discipleship, being transformed into Jesus' likeness, bearing the fruit of the Spirit and persevering in faithfulness in all seasons.

Our desire is to see people transformed by the Holy Spirit to grow deeper in their faith, communing with Jesus in prayer, reading God's word, serving the church and giving sacrificially to Jesus' mission.

Another key way we see people growing in their faith, is gathering together mid-week in Gospel Communities to read the Bible, pray and encourage one another. This year we saw over 1,000 people attending Gospel Communities across 124 groups. This was a 12% increase from the previous year and highlights a deep hunger for Christian community amongst our churches.

The Greenhouse program at City on a Hill Melbourne has been another example of investing in spiritual growth within the church through discipleship opportunities. Greenhouse is a year of discipleship in Jesus, across four terms on spiritual formation, how to read the Bible better, understanding how doctrine fits with faith, and Jesus' mission.

A pilot Greenhouse program was also run at City on a Hill Geelong this year and it is our prayer and hope to expand this to other churches in the movement, and to continue to create more opportunities for intentional discipleship and growth in Jesus.

*"Greenhouse was a space where others poured into my life. The ministry exposure to Ballarat stands out... learning about the prayerfulness and thoughtfulness of church planting was amazing." - Reggie*



## Planting New Churches

*"And you will be my witnesses...  
to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8)*

Core to our vision of reaching 10 cities with the beauty, truth and relevance of Jesus is the planting of new churches. New churches reach new people in new places, and so we are committed to advancing our mission of making Jesus known through church planting.

This year we launched the Accelerator Program, to provide a year of exploration into church planting for possible future church planters. This program also acts as a bridge to our Church Planting Residency program, a year of training, equipping and preparing to plant a new church.

We have exciting news out of the Church Planting Residency! In 2025 we are planning to plant two new churches. Brendan Wright is working towards planting in Armstrong Creek in early 2025 and Pat Donohoe is preparing to plant in Melbourne's outer East in late 2025. In addition, Jimmy Young has joined our Church Planting Residency with hopes to plant in 2026 in greater Melbourne.

Please be praying for future church planting opportunities and leaders as we work towards our vision of planting 50 churches in ten cities.

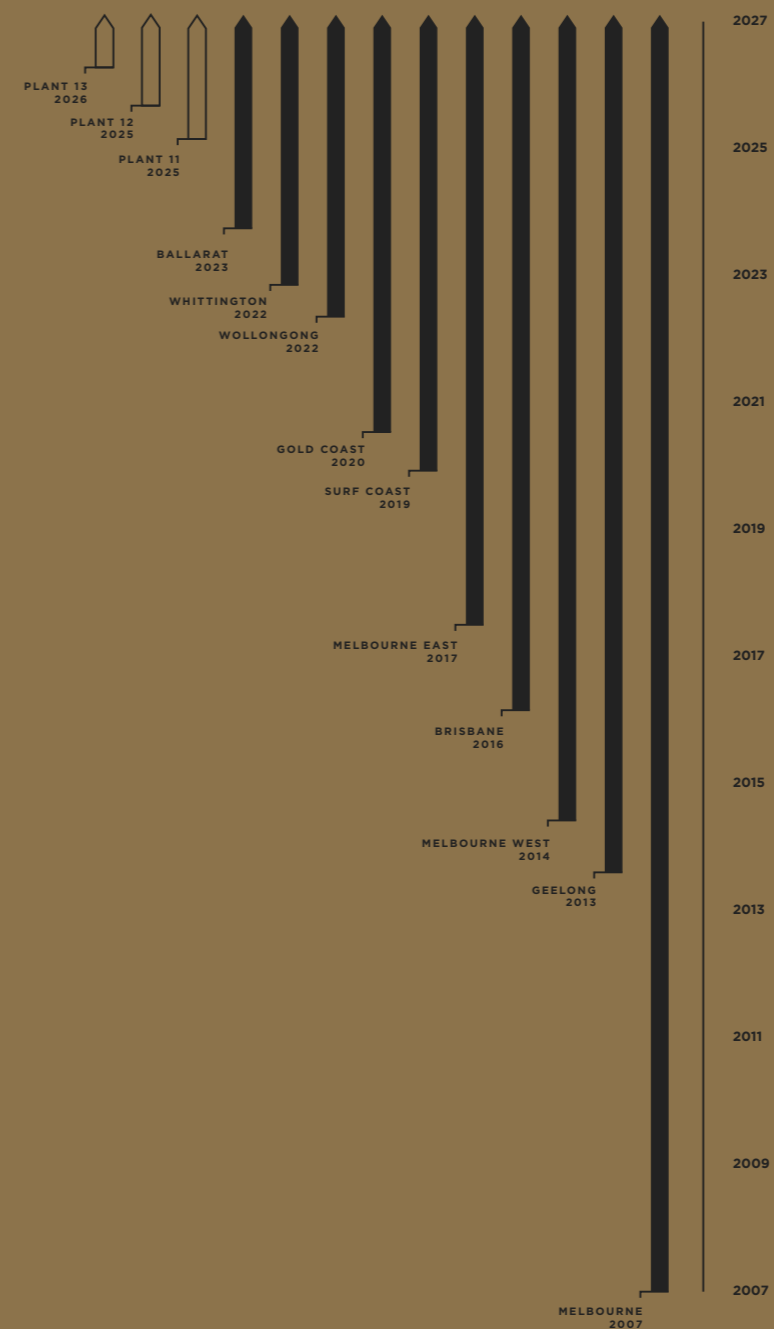
The Wright's



The Donohoe's



The Young's



A timeline of the City on a Hill church plants

## Reaching the Lost

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Matt 28:19-20)*

City on a Hill exists to know Jesus and make Jesus known. We desire to see more people come to saving faith through Jesus, with redemption and eternal hope available to all who trust in Him. It is our prayer to see Jesus draw many new people to Himself - and we're committed to being actively available for God to work through us!

Across our churches, we run evangelistic courses including Introducing Jesus, Alpha, and Explaining Christianity with the aim to create welcoming spaces for people to explore Jesus and the Christian faith.

This year we saw an incredible 142 new faith commitments and 71 people baptised across all ten of our churches. Praise God for His work in saving the lost!

Helen was one of those people. She has a radical story of being heavily into new age spirituality, meditation and yoga movements, until one day she felt this immense emptiness. Helen wandered into church, having never been before, and met and fell in love with Jesus. Helen took part in an Alpha course, gave her life to Jesus and was baptised as a sign and celebration of her new life in Christ!

*“At 56 years old, I had finally found my way home.” - Helen*

Knowing Jesus and making Jesus known continues to be the heartbeat of all we do and we are committed to reaching the lost with the hope of the gospel in the years ahead. We look forward to celebrating more incredible stories of new life in Jesus this time next year!







## Gathering in Worship

*"I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*  
(Matt 16:18)

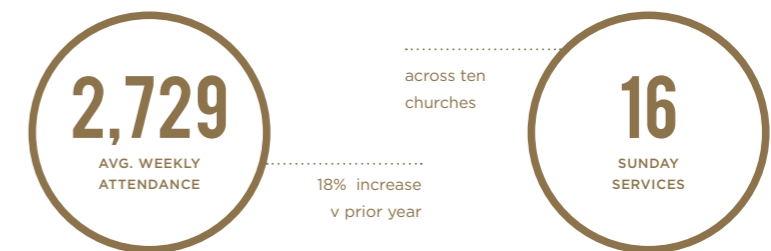
Our goal is to grow each of our existing churches, ministering to more people in the cities God has called us. Believing Jesus' promise that He will build His church, we will not be disheartened by western trends of declining church attendance, but will press on to prayerfully work to see more people regularly gather in worship.

This year, an average of 2,729 people joined us each Sunday across ten churches and 16 services. This is an 18% increase from the previous year, and we have seen incredible provision from God in the area of venues for our Sunday gatherings.

City on a Hill Melbourne West became the custodian to an Anglican church building in Footscray and have made it their new home, City on a Hill Whittington expanded their kid's ministry with new spaces on their church site, City on a Hill Brisbane found a new office in the city as well as a new venue for Sunday gatherings at Brisbane State High, City on a Hill Ballarat moved to a new venue with access to offices, midweek ministry spaces and a more suitable space for Sunday gatherings, and City on a Hill Gold Coast secured a venue to run local midweek ministry and mission.

*"The new venue was a miraculous provision from God. As we continue to grow as a church it has opened up opportunities for more midweek ministry, with the plan to start a youth ministry next year and host other events for the community." - Ben Hewitt, Lead Pastor of City on a Hill Ballarat*

As we pray for Jesus to call more people to faith in Him, we continue to gather as God's people, seeking opportunities to grow our churches for Christ's glory.



## Equipping the Next Generation

*"Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God." (Mark 10:14)*

At City on a Hill, we are committed to reaching and equipping the next generation with the gospel of Jesus. Historically in Australia, the majority of Christians made their commitment to Jesus before the age of 18. Our priority is to expand our efforts to reach the next generation, and hand on the gospel baton for the church of the future. It is our hope and prayer to see many children and youth come to saving faith in Jesus, be grown as disciples, and prepared for a life of mission.

City Kids is a program for primary school aged children across our churches during our Sunday gatherings. This year they have explored series on Esther, The 10 Commandments, The Holy Spirit, Hebrews, and the Armour of God.

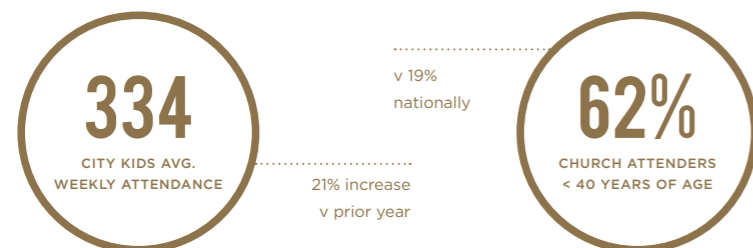
This year, we thank God for the ways he's worked in the children and youth in bringing them closer to Him and growing them in faith. We praise God for an incredible 21% growth in participation in our children's programs across our churches.

City Youth is our program for high-school aged teenagers. It was run across our churches in various ways this year, including Friday night youth groups, Sunday Bible studies, youth camps and Youth Alpha. This year we also ran youth breakout sessions at our conference, exploring the Holy Spirit and how to share your faith at school. We praise God for a doubling of youth involved in youth programs across our churches over the past year!

We've seen new missional initiatives to children, youth and young adults including...

- Space Camp at Surf Coast. A one-day summer holiday program for children in the community, aiming to reach more families with the message of Jesus.
- Jesus Says. Social media video campaign tackling the tough topics of Generation Z and providing life-giving answers in Jesus.

*"As we look to 2025 we are excited to announce that we are doubling our kids and youth team in order to cater for this growth and to continue to support our growing number of churches. Please pray for the children, youth, leaders, staff and parents involved in this important ministry!" - Matt Keller, Director of Next Generation*





## Shining the Light of Justice, Hope and Love

*"Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause." (Is 1:17)*

Inspired by the love of God, we want to be a church that is compassionate to people in need, caring for those experiencing affliction, and loving those in poverty. We are committed to mercy ministry in each of our local churches, demonstrating the hope of the gospel in word and deed.

One way we shine the light of Jesus to the community as a movement of churches is through the work of Many Rooms – our formal mercy ministry, running programs including 'The Living Room' (a visitation program for the elderly), 'The Pantry' (drop-in pantry for the local community in Whittington) and 'The Kitchen' (providing meals to those experiencing homelessness).

As a movement of churches, we also partner with Compassion in their global work in releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name. This year, we saw more children sponsored by people in our churches and we also announced an exciting opportunity to see their ministry in action in the Philippines next year.

Melbourne's Many Rooms Kitchen launched a new mercy initiative this year at St Paul's Cathedral. Two nights a week, a team is stationed outside of St Paul's Cathedral in the city, serving meals and food supplies to those experiencing homelessness. Praise God for an incredible 8,390 meals served this year across the Melbourne Kitchen ministries.

*"Every time I leave the visits, my heart is filled with thanksgiving, and I am so encouraged in seeing what the Lord is doing in this and what He will continue to do."*

*- Kaye, Living Room Volunteer*

As we continue to plant new churches in new cities, it is our hope to expand our mercy impact through both local church expressions of mercy ministry, and the establishment of new formal Many Rooms ministries across the movement, shining the light of justice, hope and love in our world, in Jesus' name.

### THE LIVING ROOM



### GEELONG SHED



### CARE PACKS



### COMPASSION



### MELBOURNE KITCHEN



### MELBOURNE EAST "LOVE THE CITY"



### WHITTINGTON PANTRY

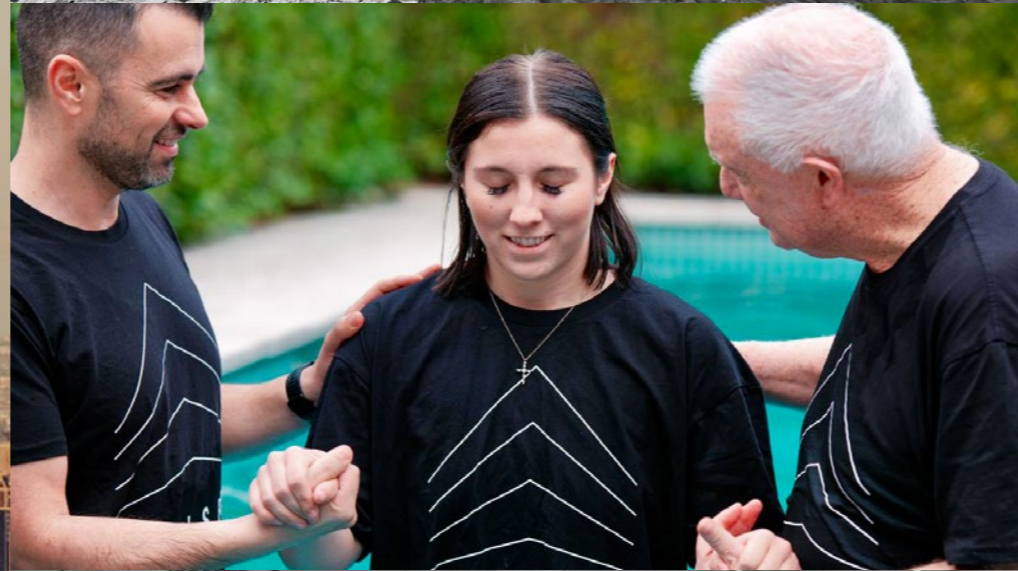
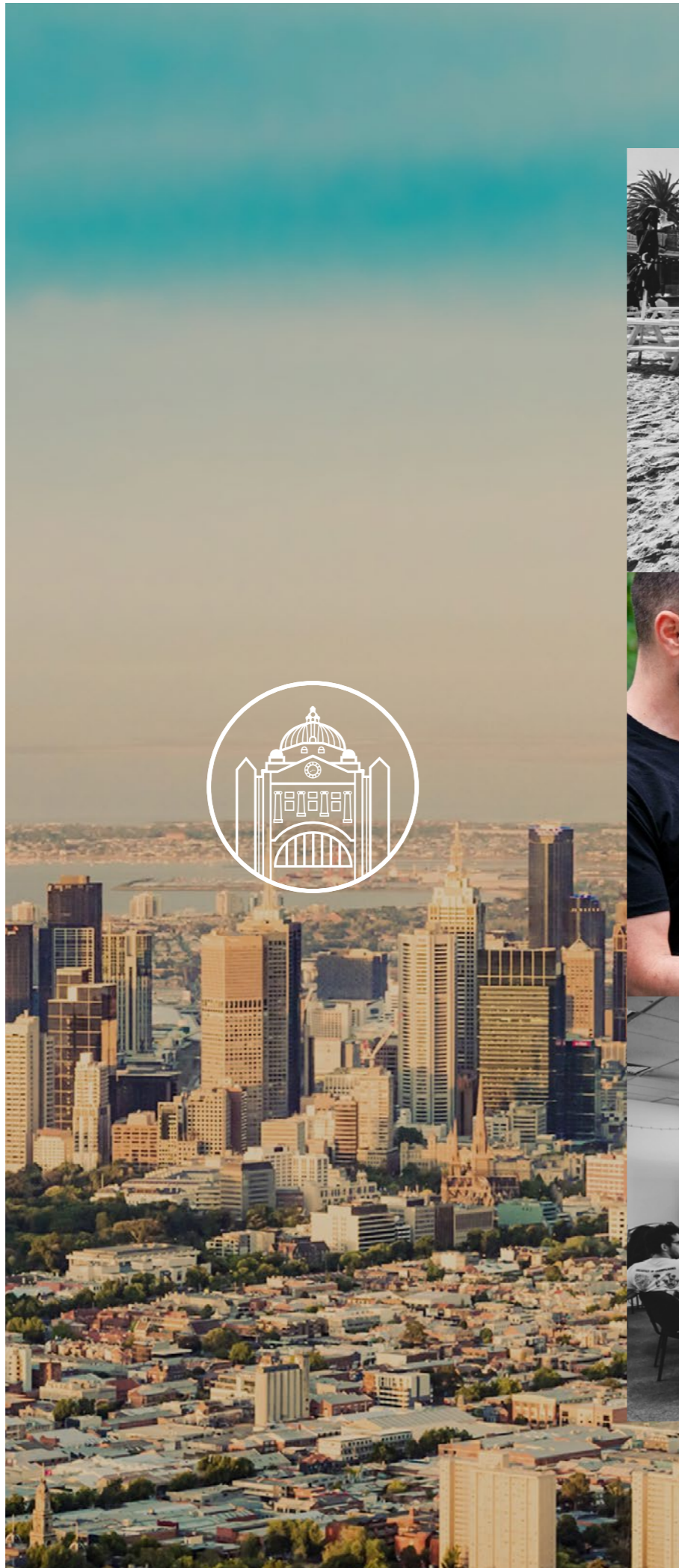




# MANY CHURCHES PROCLAIM THE BEAUTY OF JESUS

## MANY CHURCHES

City on a Hill exists across ten local churches, in six cities around Australia, proclaiming the beauty, truth and relevance of Jesus. Here's a snapshot of the work God has been doing this year in our churches.



## Melbourne

This year at City on a Hill Melbourne, we ran three Alpha courses in our offices in Carlton, as well as Youth Alpha, Alpha 'under the stars' at the Many Rooms Kitchen and Online Mandarin Alpha – all to reach the lost with the hope and truth of Jesus by inviting people to explore the Christian faith in an open, conversational environment.

Throughout our in-person courses this year, we had an emphasis on hospitality and creating a space that is as inviting as possible with good food, conversation and a warm environment. Each week of the course, our church would invite people into the community to hear about Jesus.

A recent newcomer to our church met a girl at a gym and started a conversation about Christianity. She seemed interested in faith so he invited her to join him at Alpha. She had a radical encounter with the Holy Spirit during the course and gave her life to Jesus! They both then ended up joining the Foundations course - which is a short course for new believers to support their discipleship journey.

Our Alpha leadership team recognised a need for dependence upon the Holy Spirit in prayer for the people joining Alpha. During term three, a group of people would pray on the first level of the office building whilst the course was happening on the third level. They would pray, draw, and use colour to write words, scriptures and phrases that came to them during prayer. Every name would be prayed for on a single sheet of paper over the course.

During one of the sessions on the Holy Spirit and prayer, everybody received their personal prayer sheet and people felt deeply loved and cared for. Four people gave their life to Jesus that day!

*“I can’t imagine us doing another Alpha without a prayer team like that.” - Brenton Jayatilaka, Mission & Care Minister*

Since October 2023, 130 people have participated in Alpha at our church and 13 submitted their lives to Christ. Praise God!

*“Alpha helped give me a new life in Jesus!” - Jennifer*

## Melbourne East

At City on a Hill Melbourne East, we have seen incredible gospel fruit through running Explaining Christianity this year.

A few years ago, our leadership team felt convicted that the number of people coming to faith was low for a church our size. From that, began a clear intention and prayer to be a church on mission and to minister to our neighbours, colleagues, friends, and family.

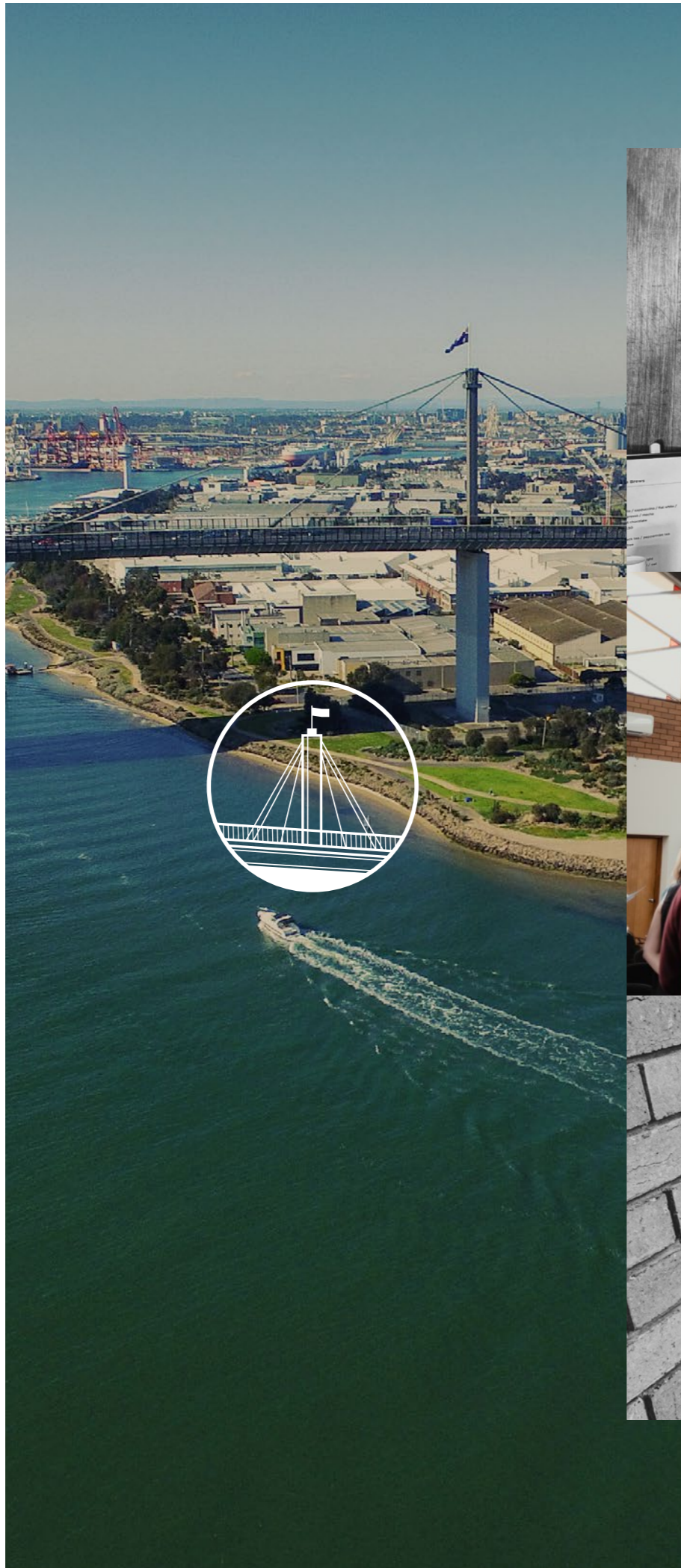
Part of this strategy was to run a regular course for people to explore who Jesus is. So far in 2024, Explaining Christianity has been run in term 1 and 3 with a regular reminder for our church to “bring a friend along”. One example of this is Robert!

Robert is a member of the church, but up until a few years ago he had zero experience in church. Robert was experiencing deep feelings of dread and emptiness after living what would seem a “successful” life. He started exploring the evidence of Jesus and reached out to his high school teacher, Bryn, who he remembered was a Christian. Bryn invited him along to church and Robert ended up coming along, hearing the gospel and giving his life to Jesus.

This year, Robert brought three of his work colleagues along to Explaining Christianity, which is such an evidence of the way God multiplies our simple acts of faithfulness. By God’s grace alone, our goal is to see many more people coming from death to life in Jesus each year and create a new pathway for new believers to grow in Jesus.

*“Being part of Explaining Christianity reminds me of my first love and is the highlight of my week. I get to see amazing fruit, people asking deep questions and I am genuinely convinced every week that He is the BEST WAY. I’m reminded of the life changing hope found in Jesus.” - Pat Donohoe*





## Melbourne West

The church building we had been meeting in was officially assigned by the Anglican Diocese to City on a Hill Melbourne West in Footscray in 2024 and has been a blessing to our church community. The building was a little run-down and in need of some renovations and refreshment, so we put the needs out to the church and it was incredible to see the support and response!

Through the generosity of time from God's people, six working bees were held over the last year. Many people helped out in a variety of ways from digging, to cementing, to building sheds and fences, to cleaning and painting.

Part of the church renovations included transforming one of the storerooms into a new coffee/cafe hub, where people are able to purchase a coffee before or after church with proceeds going towards various ministries.

It is beautiful to see our church creating a space where people can feel welcomed, loved and encounter the beauty and hope of Jesus. The hope and prayer is that God would use this church building as a space for the community to come and hear the gospel, be cared for and find ultimate rest in Jesus.

## Geelong

Kelleigh walked through the doors of church for the first time this year.

Her interest sparked when she found a Bible someone had given her five years ago. She moved from England to Australia and found the Bible again and couldn't ignore this feeling that she needed to come to church.

She lived near our church and used to walk past with her friend a lot – they always wondered what it looked like inside. One day, Kelleigh decided to check it out and came to the 6pm service. She enjoyed our pre-service dinner with other young people who welcomed her and embraced her into the community. Kelleigh fell in love with Jesus and gave her life to Him!

*“My life before Jesus was hard. I struggled a lot with anxiety, anger, loneliness and understanding. Now that I’m following Jesus, my heart is softer, I have more patience and I genuinely care. I’m doing things for others instead of myself. I’m no longer isolating myself in my own thoughts. Now I have a community of people that love Jesus and who are willing to teach and guide me. Life is no longer about me. It’s about Jesus.” - Kelleigh*

Kelleigh was recently baptised and is now reading God's word wherever she goes. Forgiveness has been flooding her heart and she prays for her enemies. She went along to Introducing Jesus, and was able to unpack faith and learn about the Bible.

*“God’s been moving in her life for so long before us, and it is such a gift that we are able to harvest... welcoming, loving and teaching her.”  
- April, MTS Apprentice for Mission*

Our goal is to see mission heat lift as they see more and more people like Kelleigh walking into church. Our prayer is that everyone would take hold of mission and evangelism in their own lives but also as a church community, and that we would be celebrating more stories of new life this time next year!







## Whittington

The light of Jesus has shone this year through many opportunities to love the community, create connection and conversation, and make Jesus known in Whittington.

Praise God that at Easter time this year, we had the privilege of baptising 8 people!

Much of the ministry at Whittington is inviting people into a community where they are heard, cared for and experience the love of Jesus. One of these opportunities is the fortnightly "Bread Night" in the church building to pick up free bakery goods and also take what they need from the drop-in pantry which has non-perishable foods and a freezer full of frozen meals. Over the last couple of years we have seen the same people come through these nights, hearing their stories and walking with them through difficult seasons.

Every Tuesday night a family friendly Gospel Community is run that starts with a meal where anyone from the community is invited along, followed by a Bible study and prayer time in smaller groups. The kids that come along are led by Kids and Youth Coordinator, Jed, and other leaders with story-time from the Bible. They have a jar full of questions that they pull from and answer every week to help understand who Jesus is and the hope He offers for each of our lives.

The Friday ladies' group is another opportunity for connection with women from the community to have lunch together, study the Bible and enjoy conversation. This year they ran a Pop-up Op Shop to bless the community. The ladies made slices and cakes and set up tables for people to not only come to shop but also to have a cup of tea and chat. One lady started getting visibly upset whilst she was shopping and two of the leaders were able to comfort her and offer support and she now comes along to the ladies group each week and hears about Jesus.

We thank Jesus that He first loved us, so that we can love others, whatever their story is.

## Surf Coast

This year, our church has been making Jesus known this year through running Explaining Christianity - a short, in-person course that includes a 20 minute talk and time for Q&A and discussion.

Praise God that people who had never been to church before came along each week. Many people were grappling with eternity and their soul, coming along with real questions, a desire to listen, and a fired-up curiosity.

*“Seeing people experience the beauty, truth and relevance of Jesus has been such a highlight.” - Louis Glazebrook*

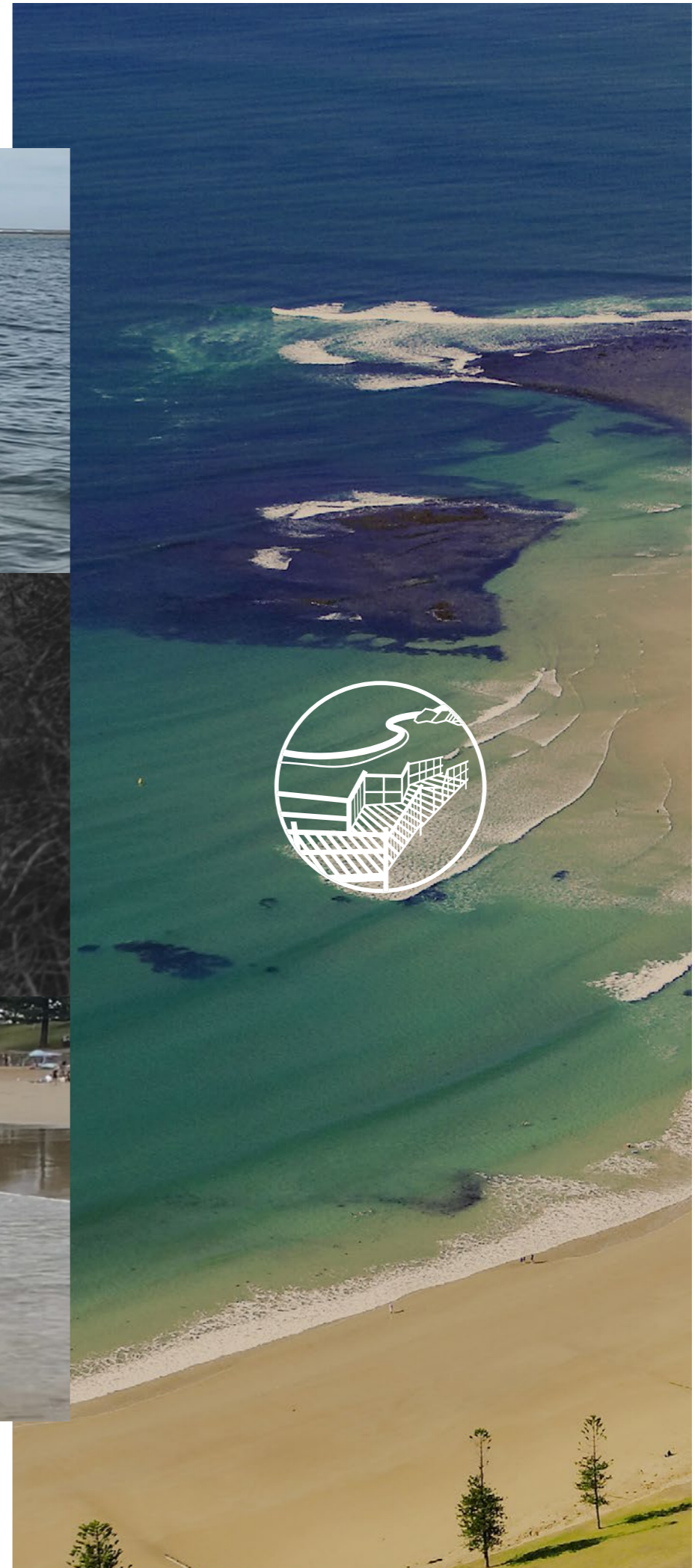
One man who attended the course was raised in a Baptist context and had wandered away but felt the pull to explore Jesus. Another woman had recently become a Christian and wanted to know more about Jesus. A few boys from Youth who had started reading the Bible, brought along their mates who had no experience of church. Another lady had never gone “all in” with Jesus and came along to go deeper in life and faith.

Praise Jesus for five people who were baptised out of the course! They are now changed people by the Holy Spirit and welcomed into the body of Christ.

*“God sent His Son down for my sins, that I’m still going to do. And He still loves me.” - Jem*

Our hope and prayer is to run Explaining Christianity 2-3 times a year to create a reliable, consistent place to invite people to explore Jesus.

As a church, our desire is to continue to be on mission, making Jesus known in our community and being part of what God is doing in the world at the moment, in drawing people closer to Himself.





## Brisbane

Discipling the next generation has been a focus and prayer for City on a Hill Brisbane in 2024. Part of this greater investment was the appointment of Jimmy Jensen, who came on board at the end of 2023 to oversee youth and the next generation - equipping leaders and driving the ministry. Jimmy mentors and trains Joey, an MTS Apprentice, to serve in and lead youth ministry, as well as five passionate youth leaders.

We wanted to take a fresh approach to youth ministry at the start of 2023 and so the youth leadership went to the Sunshine Coast together to plan the year ahead and really focus on building their relationships.

*"You have to build a team you love being with. Teenagers will see that and will want to buy in and be part of it."* - Jimmy on the importance of building a youth leadership team.

Youth ministry this year has been about rebuilding community and then driving mission. By God's grace our youth group has doubled in size over the course of the year. Even greater than the growth in number, is seeing teenagers with excitement and genuine desire to go to youth group, to read God's word and pray for their friends. We've seen a big up-take of teenagers serving this year — from organising communion, to helping out at City Kids— which is an encouraging sign of teenagers being integrated into the church body.

*"God's been growing youth and helping us to learn new things this year. It's been such an encouragement to me to have time to meet together and pray for our loved ones. I'm thankful for His perfect love and how it shines through in our good times and hard times."* - Luke

City Youth Plus+ has been another new initiative where teenagers invite a plus one to a social event, and intentionally pray for them in the lead up. We would love to see that build into a City Youth Alpha in the coming year as more teenagers become mission-minded and by the power of Jesus, we see more young people outside the church find new life in Him.

## Gold Coast

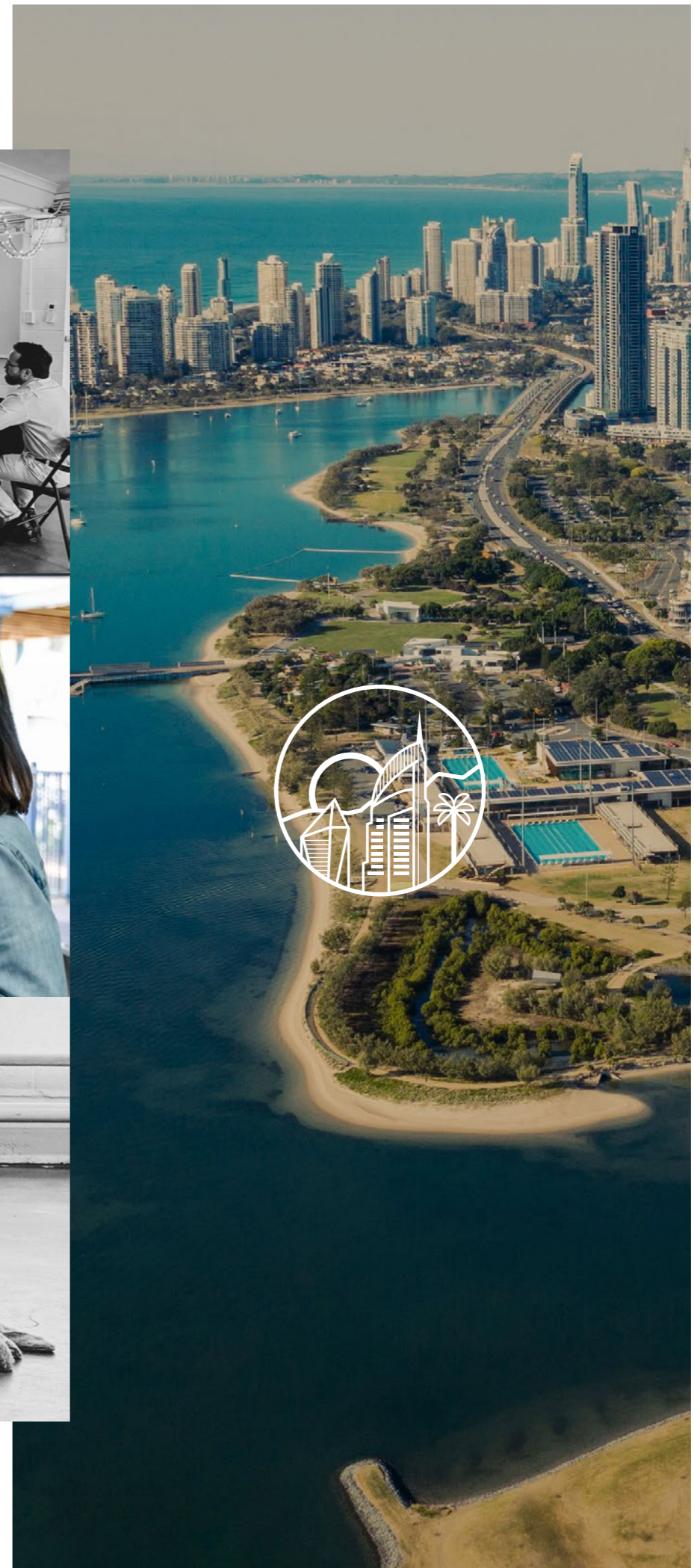
God answered our prayers early in 2024 and provided a ministry space, "The Hub", for our church at City on a Hill Gold Coast to host midweek ministry and missional activities. The open-plan loft in the middle of Nerang provides a space for prayer nights, ministry and mission. Prayer has become a central part of our mission to know Jesus and make Jesus known, with "The Hub" providing a physical space to worship and pray in person as a church.

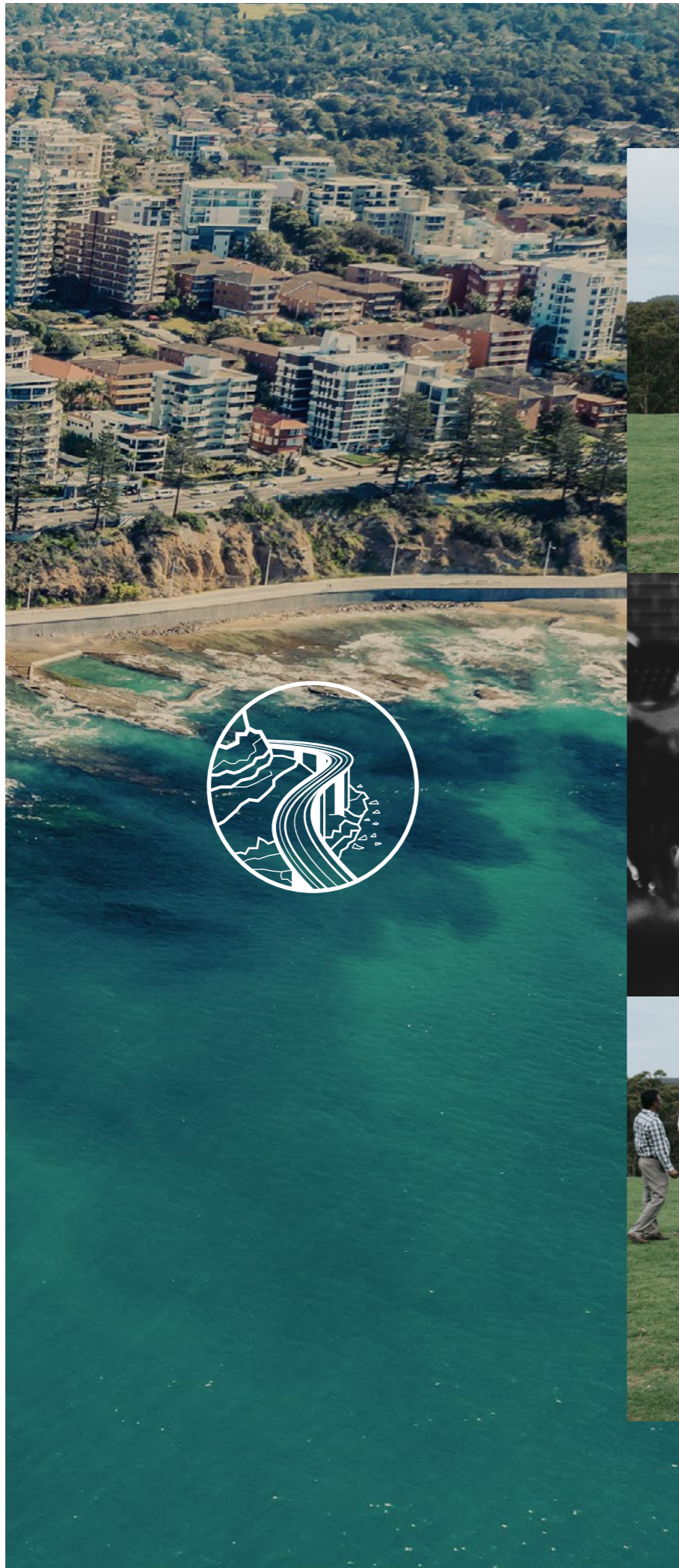
Every term, we meet at "The Hub" to kick off Gospel Communities with prayer, community and worship. We also kicked off our second Alpha course this year in "The Hub" with a range of people exploring faith in Jesus. Every Wednesday night people are welcomed in to enjoy connection, watch a video on a topic of the Christian faith together and ask any questions. It has been such a gift from God to see people from many different backgrounds come and make friends and encounter the message of Jesus.

*"It's so wholesome to spend time with like minded people at Alpha and just to be able to ask questions without any judgement feels very refreshing. Making some new friends is a big plus!" - Olivia*

Over the next year, we would love to see "The Hub" become a place for the local community to hear about Jesus, with a desire to launch missional prayer nights for the public to come and receive prayer. The plan is also to run more Alpha courses throughout the year to continue to invite people to explore Jesus and find true life in Him.

*"Our prayer is that God would continue to give us opportunities to love the community through "The Hub", serving the poor and praying for people who don't know Jesus." - Sam Low*





## Wollongong

City on a Hill Wollongong had our first ever camp in November this year! It was a weekend of fellowship, worship and fun. We studied the story of Joseph and focused on the theme of courage. When our first Saturday afternoon time of activities at camp was rained out, led by the Spirit, we held a spontaneous worship, prayer and encouragement session which was a highlight for many people.

Prayer and worship has been a key pillar of our church life this year at Wollongong with the commitment to communing with Jesus together. We've been able to run regular worship nights and prayer gatherings in people's homes, and this showed in the way our church was eager to worship Jesus even when plans failed at camp.

*"I was encouraged by how eager our people were to spend time with each other, pray and worship! Seeing the kids have a lot of fun and make new friends is always a gift." - Joel Deacon*

*"Camp was such a wonderful opportunity to get to know our brothers and sisters in our church and build relationships and community. I loved getting to know the people I attend church with every Sunday." - Sonia*

## Ballarat

City on a Hill Ballarat turned one in July this year! God has been incredibly kind in the journey from pre-planting phase to now becoming an established church in Ballarat.

We thank God for His fruitful work through us this year, including the miraculous provision of a new venue, after our original venue was closing down. This new building has opened up opportunities for more midweek ministry, with the plan to start youth ministry next year. Our Sunday gathering size has grown from 40 people in a living room during pre-launch days, to now averaging 100 people each week – with new people coming along each Sunday.

Our church has become home for many, with people stepping up in various areas of leadership and serving. There are countless stories of people coming back to church after a long time away, and committing to making City on a Hill Ballarat a place to invest in their walk with Jesus and His mission. Three young adults raised in the church have recently been baptised as they came along to church, found a personal relationship with Jesus and decided to make their first time commitments to Him!

*“The first time we walked into City on a Hill Ballarat earlier this year, we instantly felt at home. Although we didn’t know anyone, we felt seen, cared for, and welcomed into God’s family as if we’d been part of the congregation for years. We’re a mixed bag of people with different experiences and walks of life, all united by our love of Jesus and our mission to make Him known in Ballarat and beyond.” - Chelsea*

Another highlight this year is the hiring of a new minister made possible by the regular, sacrificial giving of the church. This generosity meant we now had the funding to employ an Associate Minister to support the ministry with Gerald Liew joining our team in November this year.

As we enter our second year, our prayer and plan is to establish a youth ministry to disciple teenagers, create more opportunities for prayer gatherings, and begin an evangelism course to reach new people with the gospel of Jesus in Ballarat.



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