



CITY to CITY
AUSTRALIA

Annual Report 2023

From the CEO

I have heard it time and time again over the course of this year: people are crying out for hope.

In part, that's church leaders. Research indicates that somewhere between $\frac{2}{3}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ of churches are plateaued or declining. Often ministers and pastors are at something of a loss to know what to do to break free of that pattern. And for denominational leaders, changing the pastor seems to be the go-to response. And so it is an enormous joy to offer an alternative, in the form of CTCA's Revitalise Australia program, which both looks squarely at the brutal facts and at the same time, gives hope under God, that gospel growth and fruitfulness is possible.

Similarly, church planters, those upon whose hearts God has laid a vision to see a new gospel-centred community start and thrive, benefit from the clear, contextualised pathway from vision to reality that our church planting cohort provides. And perhaps the most remarkable development of 2023 is the explosive growth of unity movements across the Eastern states, as Christian leaders join together in the hope that unity can be not just a theoretical aspiration, but a lived reality with missional outcomes.

But of course, it's not just church leaders. Hopelessness seems pervasive, in what many now call a culture of fear. And so to be able to equip both 'ordinary' Christians, as well as those who are natural evangelists, to bring the gospel with great confidence and clarity to their families, neighbours, colleagues and friends, is a crucial task for the church, and to see the way that the Ripple Effect has contributed to this in dozens of churches is a joy.

I hope you are blessed by this report of how the Lord has worked through City to City Australia in 2023.



Andrew Katay
CEO, City to City Australia





About City to City Australia

City to City Australia works across Australia and New Zealand to equip, resource, and journey with leaders to plant and revitalise churches, grow networks, catalyse and support local unity movements to come together and serve their cities with the gospel. We believe that the gospel of Jesus Christ can powerfully renew even the most broken people and communities.

Our city-focused strategy at City to City Australia connects, develops and resources local leaders and movements of the gospel in cities and regions around Australia.

We do this by training and equipping leaders, and helping to develop and support unity movements.



Our Work



CHURCH PLANTING

We train and equip people to start new churches in their cities and sub-cities. With significant church planter training at the pre-plant and post-plant stage, now certified by Fuller Seminary, as well as coaching, tools, resources and the opportunity to access private donorship from a range of organisations, there has never been a better time to plant with City to City.



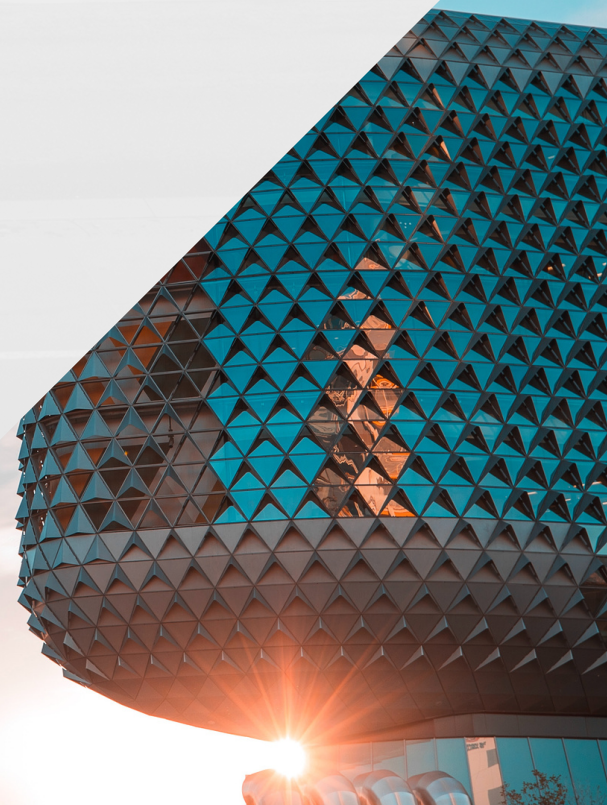
REVITALISE AUSTRALIA

Our Revitalise Australia program brings together the proven training, coaching, and funding tools that have been developed over many years in Australia and overseas, and puts these tools in the hands of seasoned and fruitful church leaders who serve as Lead Consultants, who then work with multiple churches and leaders over a year-long revitalisation consultation to bring new health, life and growth to churches.



MOVEMENT

We catalyse and contribute to city-renewing movements of the gospel by growing networks that are gospel centred, relationally connected, and oriented towards multiplication: of disciples, church plants, and tribe-transcending partnerships.



Our Mission (2021 - 2025)

- 100 churches planted
- All CTCA-affiliated churches are healthy, growing, connected and multiplying, bound together with strong bonds of mutual care, support.
- 40 of the 200 identified local areas across Australia walking together in unity and working together to serve their city to see cultural, spiritual, social and church transformation.

We hope to do this through providing the input needed, and supporting the output, to spur 200+ movements of the gospel by 2030.



Church Planting in 2023

Church Planting Cohorts

The central engine of our work with planters is our year-long cohort. In these small groups, men and women undertake group coaching with our church planting team; explore the difference the grace of God makes in planting and life following Jesus Christ; strategise, plan and pray together; and do the Fuller Seminary Church Planting Certificate. We journeyed with **37 men and women in cohorts in 2023** and they will move into dedicated coaching in 2024. Learn more [here](#).

“The cohort was a great place to hear about the challenges we share, and to get some input from those outside of the systems I worked in day to day. The outside voices were what helped me best pay attention to what I could do next.”

Joshua Millard

Webinars

We love gathering church planters and leaders across Australia to explore practical topics in planting; hear stories and interviews from men and women involved in planting; and offer guidance and input for those who are considering starting a church or in the thick of it already. Over the year our church planting team ran **nine free webinars on a range of topics for 400 people**. The stand out was the webinar considering the future of the Australian Asian church, and we can't wait to see what God continues to do in church planting in Australia in 2024.



Church Planting in 2023

Church Planting Intensives

A vital part of the cohort year is gathering for **two in-person intensives** with exceptional content on topics such as grace renewal, evangelism, discipleship, planting strategy, time and guidance for planning, and a focus on prayer together. Pedram Shirmast, who is pioneering a ministry reaching Farsi speakers in eastern Melbourne, Victoria with his wife Leili, says this, "The conference was not just an educational event but a transformative experience that empowered me to grow personally, spiritually, and professionally."

A key factor Pedram credits for this impact is the amount of time the planters spent in prayer during the second intensive. In the context of the relationships that were formed and strengthened, prayer was critical.



"Engaging with fellow attendees allowed me to establish meaningful connections. Sharing ideas and experiences with others enriched my perspective and helped me to have a better vision of the journey and the future. The prayers and support we offered one another in the small groups created a sense of unity and solidarity that was truly supportive and uplifting."

Pedram Shirmast

Training

We had **87 participants** for the Incubator CORE modules, held in 2023 across different cities and towns in Australia, enabling us to reach pastors in regional areas.

Nine participants attended the new Incubator PLUS module for second generation Asians in ministry.

Denominations: Anglicans, Baptists, Presbyterians, Reformed, Pentecostals, Lutherans, Uniting Church, Independent, Salvation Army, Wesleyan Methodists

Locations:



"Ministry is complicated and costly and isolating. I am really thankful for the encouragement that CORE provided, both in the content and peer engagement, to continue in the Gospel ministry God has given me."

Samuel Crane

"The Incubator was brilliantly delivered and has improved my faith and leadership skills as well as significantly influencing our church vision and strategy."

Caleb Nicholes
Senior Minister, Discover Church

Asian Ministries

City to City Australia has a rapidly expanding ministry - including in Sydney, and Melbourne, as well as the Chinese diaspora community in Europe. With 300,000 new Sydneysiders from Hong Kong arriving in 2022 alone, there is a significant need to equip the Chinese-speaking church in Australia.

With City to City active and present in many Chinese cities, both in China and outside of China, we are able to effectively train and coach Chinese pastors in Australia with the gospel of grace. Further expansion is planned for 2nd Generation Asian-background pastors, as well as Indonesian and Korean pastors.



3 Mandarin Incubators
Melbourne & online
34 people

Gospel Renewal Camp
November 2023, Sydney
76 people
90% reported experiencing gospel renewal

Gospel DNA Forum
March 2023, Sydney
121 people

Chinese Church Planter's Fellowship
Started in August 2023
3 church plants in Sydney & the Gold Coast

Contextualised Mission Camp
June 2023, Melbourne
46 people

12 church planters in Melbourne
18 church planters in Sydney

Revitalise Australia

Locally the Revitalise Australia work is again increasing with a steady flow of project and pilot denominational work happening with some denominations.

The Revitalise Australia structure is also having an overhaul with significant work being done to build good budgeting, project management and consistency systems to assist the sustainability of this work long term. Revitalise Australia will be a break even part of the organisation with an **85% cost to charge ratio**. The incredible growth in this work needs good systems and administration underpinning it and we are working hard to get this in place.



Ripple Effect: Helping Churches with Evangelism

75
Gifted
Evangelists

3
Missional
Engagement
Incubators with
32 people

2000
people doing the
Ripple Effect
course

Revitalise New Zealand

In July 2023, City to City Australia first started work in New Zealand in partnership with the Diocese of Nelson. Together, we launched the **Revitalise Nelson** program to come alongside churches in the Diocese of Nelson with our Revitalisation program. Through this work we have engaged in significant work with **23 churches** and worked to restructure the diocese support systems.

New Zealand work has significantly opened up since then with City to City Australia **partnering with the Northern Presbytery and Kaimai Presbytery** to journey with and provide support to churches under the denomination to grow healthy flourishing church communities. Under this agreement we will work with a total of **36 churches over three years** which also includes training key Presbyterian and Anglican staff in New Zealand.

This partnership will be a joint venture between City to City Australia and the Presbyteries under our Revitalise New Zealand program, with City to City Australia leading the first cohort, and then co-leading, and finally supporting the Presbyteries as they lead the program to catalyse new church plants and strengthen existing churches through revitalisation.

In addition, City to City Australia is excited to be engaging with key stakeholders of the Northern Presbytery and Kaimai Presbytery to take a whole denominational approach to revitalisation and church planting, and hopes to expand this work to other denominations in 2024.

City to City Australia has also partnered with the **AFFIRM network in New Zealand** in a unique project. **Eight churches** will journey with City to City across Revitalisation, Training and Church Planting over five years. The churches will multiply their ministry by planting, God willing, **eight new churches** in the city of Auckland.



Movement

City to City Australia is looking to:

- invest in identifying, supporting and resourcing local church unity movements to see the gospel advance in their local cities and towns.
- building the communication conduit for these local movements to support one another through shared learning, shared resourcing and encouragement.
- investing in supporting strategic planning to ensure unity moves from gatherings that build relational trust capital among the leaders to the release of the whole church to serve the city with the whole gospel.

Gospel Centred

We teach and embody grace renewal, contextual mission, integrative ministry, and a generosity (or catholicity) of spirit in building partnerships.

Relationally Connected

We link leaders with the relationships and resources they need to flourish in their city and subcity contexts, with our global affiliates, and with the specialist expertise of partner organisations.

Oriented Towards Multiplication

We aim to multiply mature Christians who bear fruit, leaders who empower, churches that start and strengthen further churches, and subcity movements that transcend tribes.

Catalysing Movement

We do all this in order to see God's grace break out in fresh ways bringing supernatural unity, joy, gospel saturation, impact, and city-renewing transformation.

We support Unity Movements through **training, resources, networks and funding**. To know more, connect with greig.whittaker@citytocityaustralia.org.au and aaron.terry@citytocityaustralia.org.au



Financials

INCOME

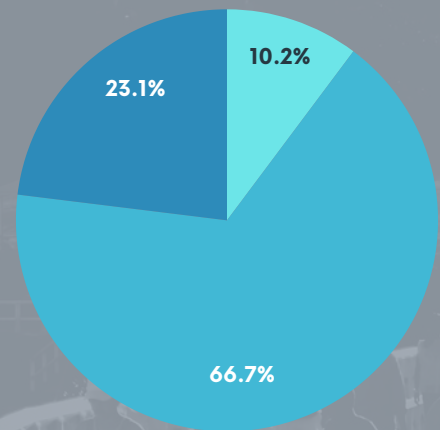
Board donations: \$235,000

Other donations: \$1,534,480

Ministry consulting, training and coaching:
\$530,074

Total Income: \$2,299,554

- Board Donations
- Other Donations
- Ministry consulting, training and coaching



EXPENDITURE

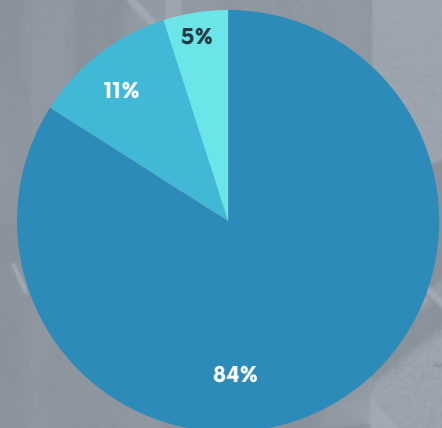
Staff team remuneration: \$1,968,458

Ministry and staff team direct costs: \$258,386

Administration costs: \$115,995

Total Expenditure: \$2,342,839

- Staff team remuneration
- Ministry and staff team direct costs
- Administration costs



Board of Directors



Justin Moffatt

Board Chair

Senior Minister, St Philip's Anglican Church, Sydney



Andrew Katay

CEO, City to City Australia

Senior Minister, Christ Church Inner West, Sydney



Daren Armstrong

Partner, Banki Haddock Fiora



Greg Fendler

Director of Marketing and Client Relations, ICG



Cynthia Dearin

Founder, Dearin and Associates



Paul Symons

Senior Director, PC Locs

**Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and
do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge Him, and
He will make straight your paths.**

Proverbs 3:5–6

We praise God for His grace and mercy extended to us in abundance in 2023. Please pray with us in 2024, that we trust in our Lord and Saviour and lean on His understanding and steadfast love, as we work to build His kingdom here on earth.



CLICK ON THE ICONS TO CONNECT WITH US

