

Life the Universe and Nothing

www.lifeuniversenothing.org

We are grateful for the many wider benefits this campaign brought:

Five cities... three cosmic questions:

In August the City Bible Forum and event partners presented **Life, the Universe and Nothing**, a national engagement campaign across five capital cities. We were delighted to host renowned speakers Dr William Lane Craig, Prof Lawrence Krauss and Rev Rory Shiner.

**Brisbane City Hall: *Has science buried God?*
Sold out: 1644 guests**

"It was exciting to hold, as far as we can tell, the largest explicitly evangelistic event in the centre of Brisbane in decades... we were delighted with the repeated refrain 'this is the first Christian thing that any of my friends at work have said 'yes' to.'"

- Glenn, Brisbane Director.

**Sydney Town Hall: *Why is there something rather than nothing?*
Sold out: 2008 guests**

"Excellent. Good natured debate and although tough it was conducted in an excellent spirit."

- Greg, Sydney audience.

**Melbourne Town Hall: *Is it reasonable to believe there is a God?*
Over 1700 guests**

"I must say, being there as an atheist has really opened my eyes to how reasonable, intelligent people can believe in God... This type of dialogue reaches more people than anyone would realise. Can't tell people how grateful I was to be there... might even open the Bible again!"

- Jay, Melbourne audience.

"As an atheist, I am extremely impressed at the openness and generosity of City Bible Forum for organising this event."

- Dave, Perth audience.

In Perth Prof Krauss debated local minister Rev Rory Shiner to a full house:

**Perth Town Hall:
Is it reasonable to believe there is a God?
Sold out: 340 guests**

**Adelaide, The Astor: *The Showdown: Has science buried God?*
Brisbane screening. Attended: 30 guests**

"One young atheist asked the most profound question I have heard articulated, 'what is the purpose of God?' It was genuine, searching and revealed how much his interactions with Christians had impacted him."

- Craig, Adelaide Director.

- **A rigorous online forum:** on Facebook conversations between passionate posters of all faith persuasions persisted before and after the events. Robert Martin interviewed Twitter personality @MrOzatheist to review the Melbourne event for YouTube, scoring over 1,200 views and one commenter posting "Wow! an actual good discussion on religion and atheism on YT!". <http://tinyurl.com/n52r47k>.
- **Widely-watched event videos:** the Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth event videos have together had over 91,000 views: <http://tinyurl.com/ntot3hr> Were your friends unable to attend? Send them the link and ask them their opinion on the bigger questions!
- **Newly established relationships:** with our international speakers Dr William Lane Craig and Prof Lawrence Krauss, local speaker Rev Rory Shiner and our moderators: ABC journalists Scott Stephens and Dr Rachael Kohn, Network Ten News Anchor Narelda Jacobs and Monash University Professor Graham Oppy. Good connections were also fostered with our event book retailers Dymocks Brisbane, Gleebooks in Sydney and Readings, Melbourne.
- **A fruitful collaboration:** with our generous event partners Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students, Queensland Theological College, Centre for Public Christianity and National Science Week, the Melbourne Reasonable Faith chapter as well as over 25 churches across Australia who promoted Life, the Universe and Nothing and ran follow up activities.
- **Promotion by secular groups:** Australian Skeptics, Sydney Atheists, The Rationalist Society of Australia and other secular groups promoted the campaign widely.
- **Exposure in print, on radio and on screen:** religious and secular journalists picked up on the events in print, on radio and even on local TV in Perth.

Please pray:

- Christians who attended would continue the conversation with their unbelieving guests, and that non-Christian viewers would come to faith.
- Participants in follow-up Reason for God courses run by City Bible Forum and churches in various cities post-event would move closer to Jesus.
- The 15 atheists in Perth who visited the Big Ideas book club would continue to attend and discuss God openly.
- For the Adelaide atheist and agnostic guests who are now reading Luke's gospel with a Christian colleague.
- For our speakers Dr William Lane Craig and Rev Rory Shiner as they continue their gospel ministry, and for Prof Lawrence Krauss that he would come to know and follow Jesus.

The Blueprint: Our Five Year Plan

The City Bible Forum team are working on our goals and plans for the next five years. We have recently refined our **vision**, which is:

Our hope and prayer is that by 2018 we will:

- engage 100,000 people per annum
- personally follow up 1,000 workers per annum

How will we achieve our ministry's vision?

This is where our Ten Strategic Goals will play a part:

To reach the world through the workplace with the good news about Jesus.

① Strategy = Mobilise and Equip:

- ② ◦ To retain, grow and mobilise our Christian membership
- ③ ◦ To equip Christian workers to engage and establish other workers in the gospel

④ Strategy = Engage and Establish:

- ⑤ ◦ To build our relevance and depth of engagement by developing and maintaining our services and resources to meet the needs of all Christian and non-Christian workers
- ⑥ ◦ To intentionally follow up all enquirers
- ⑦ ◦ To continually explore new avenues of connecting with city workers
- ⑧ ◦ To build the public profile of City Bible Forum

⑨ Strategy = Partnership, Support and Team:

- ⑩ ◦ To grow our relationship with churches as missionary partners
- ⑪ ◦ To build a national organisation to support our strategic goals
- ⑫ ◦ To build our staff team and invest in future Kingdom workers
- ⑬ ◦ To build our long-term financial capacity and stability

Why are we sharing this with you?

- We would greatly appreciate your prayer. As Psalm 127 teaches us:
"Unless the Lord builds a house, its builders labour over it in vain; unless the Lord watches over a city, the watchman stays alert in vain."
- A few changes are afoot in line with these goals, and we look forward to sharing them. One change to look out for is a new City Bible Forum brand, which we hope will refresh our position with our Christian and non-Christian audiences.
- Feedback: to ensure we are being good stewards of the resources and people God gives us for this ministry, we seek to regularly evaluate how we are working against our goals. At times we will ask for your feedback, and would greatly appreciate your honest and whole-hearted response.

new logo concept



Read on as each city shares a recent ministry story.

Peter Kaldor

Managing Director, City Bible Forum

● Adelaide: Celebration Dinner 2013

This event was a blueprint for mobilising Christians to partner in the gospel.

Event sketch: Dr William Lane Craig challenged the 247 participants to 'place a pebble in the shoe' of those with whom we discuss God, unsettling their misconceptions one question at a time.

A picture of results: so many reasons to celebrate- an international speaker, a full house at the Adelaide Pavilion, delicious food and great stories of God at work in our city made our Celebration Dinner a night to remember.

Please pray: for Christian workers to have the courage to challenge their fellow workers' world views.



"Where did all these people come from!"

● Perth: The Crisis of Leadership

The plan: to engage and inspire city workers with Jesus' view of leadership.

A sketch of the content: Sue Ash (CEO of UnitingCare West), John Kobelke (former Labor MP) and Leigh Warnick (barrister) each described how leadership emerges from the grassroots level, and challenged the audience to effect change in their offices, homes and sporting clubs.

A picture of results: everyone left the event inspired and challenged to lead in their own sphere of influence. Christians continued discussions with their guests about Jesus' model of servant leadership.

Please pray: that the attending enquirers will choose to follow Jesus, the servant leader who gave his life for them.



"My family used to go to church but I never really thought about it - it was more of a cultural thing. Today helped me realise this makes a difference to me."

● Brisbane: God is for us series

The plan: run weekly evangelistic talks in the city exploring the impact of Christianity on city life.

Content outline: in this second Friday City Forum talk series, Glenn Hohnberg aimed to show how God's transformative work in the world changes our past, gives hope for the future, heals heartache and creates community.

A picture of results: the Friday City Forums are still breaking ground and are small, but we have had numerous non-Christian participants return for most of the series.

Please pray: Brisbane Christian workers would take hold of the opportunity provided by the Friday City Forum series to share and discuss Jesus with their work colleagues.

"I drew from this series that just as human beings can focus intently on a task at hand, so God is active on our behalf, focusing on us with holy intent, to bring His eternal purposes to completion."
- Lyndall



● Melbourne: In the Beginning Symposium

This event was a blueprint for understanding origins.

Our design: ideas are best understood through dialogue with others.

Sketch of content: our speakers represented three different views of origins - young earth creationism, old earth creationism and atheistic naturalism. Each speaker had ample opportunity to express their opinions with the intention of letting the truth speak.

A picture of results: we achieved a fairly unique forum of ideas where issues of biblical interpretation, science and the relationship between modern science and the Bible were discussed in detail.

Please pray: that people will continue to wrestle with these very important issues.

"Very educative and often eye opening"



"Several of the ideas were new to me and prompted plenty of thinking and discussion since the Symposium."

● Sydney: The Big Investment

A blueprint: for mobilising and equipping young workers for vocational workplace ministry.

Our design: to move workers to contemplate serving God in vocational ministry, and more specifically to serve with City Bible Forum in the long term.

Speaker sketch: Col Marshall (CEO, Vinegrowers), Grace Huang, Al Stewart and Peter Kaldor spoke on investing our talents, the benefits of training and the mission field that awaits us in the workplace.

A picture of results: one of our participants Kathy shares her experience -

"I'm constantly aware my life is completely owed to Jesus, every day is a gift. But how should I serve Him? I'm about to graduate from University. Thanks to City Bible Forum for holding this event! I heard about the many training and ministry opportunities provided by CBF, and learned so much from the experiences of Al, Col, Peter and Grace!"

Please pray: the Christians who attended would consider how they can best make the big investment of serving God with their gifts, and that City Bible Forum would prayerfully discover suitable candidates to join its ministry on a vocational basis.



The Blueprint: Architects and Builders

Committee of Management (Board)



Andrew Charleston
(Sydney)
Committee of Management Secretary
Lawyer, Director of Public Prosecutions, NSW



David Barnsdall
(Sydney)
Committee of Management Treasurer and Consultant,
Bentleys NSW



Mark Daly
(Sydney)
Senior Legal Counsel,
AMP Capital



Darryl Cross
(Adelaide)
Principal, Crossways Consulting



Mark Grenning
(Brisbane)
Chief Advisor, Energy Management Team,
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Michael Raiter
(Melbourne)
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Jacky Hodges
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Innovation and Technology, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Executive Team



Peter Kaldor
Managing Director
Sydney Director



Craig Josling
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Al Stewart
National Communicator and Trainer



Glenn Hohnberg
Brisbane Director



Paul Whitfield
Perth Director



Craig Broman
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Robert Martin
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Ken West
Digital Manager and Street Ministry Sydney



Caroline Spencer
Women Program Manager and Trainer



Ian Powell
National Communicator and Trainer



Rachael Djamaludin
Women and Young Workers Coordinator



Léni-Jo McMillan
Women Program Coordinator and Trainer



Karen Eastment
EPT Coordinator



Jeremy Knox
Events and Promotions Coordinator



David Jacobs
Business Manager



Russ Matthews
In House and Public Programs Manager



Tho Luu
Young Workers Program Manager



Sue Cosijn
Administrator and Events Coordinator



Debra Schroeder
Administrator



Fergus McPharlin
Young Workers Coordinator



Mark Dove
EPT Coordinator and Trainer



Rudi Hochstetter
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Grace Huang
Ministry Apprentice



Kim Riley
Parramatta Program Coordinator



Philippa Ling
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Belinda Phillips
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Emma Warnford
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Geoffrey Hilder
Street Ministry



Danielle Whittlesea
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Sally Tidswell
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City Bible Forum

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