

Welcome to the 2015 Autumn National Newsletter!

City Bible Forum is a mission organisation reaching city workers with the good news of Jesus. In this edition of our newsletter, we focus on training.

We are very mindful that being a believer at work can be lonely and challenging. Nearly all of our staff team have had first-hand experience in the corporate world. We are aware of the pressures and temptations facing Christian workers. Yet we are also conscious of the wonderful opportunity we have to model godliness at work, build relationships with colleagues and sensitively share the good news. It is to these goals that we seek to mobilise and equip Christians in the workforce.



“Train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”

1 Timothy 4:7b-8

Adelaide

In February 2015, the Adelaide team kicked off their *Evangelistic Prayer Teams* for the year. Prayer for non-Christian colleagues is essential before reaching them with the gospel.

Adelaide has the most Evangelistic Prayer Teams of all the cities and has mobilised many Christian workers in city and suburban areas for this important task. These teams are a great place to equip and train Christian workers to reach their colleagues.

“Being a part of an Evangelistic Prayer Team reminds me of what’s really important in my life. I get caught up in day-to-day work forgetting God is the Lord of my workplace and He wants me to serve him there. When I meet my Evangelistic Prayer Team, I see God’s power working in our different workplaces. It encourages me to pray more and trust that God is working even if I can’t always see the results immediately.”

Peter, Adelaide

“I wouldn’t be without my Evangelistic Prayer Team - it helpfully holds me accountable to keep workplace evangelism and my workmates in my prayers. Our time together focussing on workplace relationships helps us love and care for our colleagues more. Despite being the earliest weekday start in my fortnight, I usually find I have an extra spring in my step from the encouragement of meeting together to pray.”

Michelle, Adelaide

“My Evangelistic Prayer Team has been great in encouraging us to share the gospel with our work colleagues.”

Nick, Adelaide





Brisbane

In March 2015, the Brisbane team started running equipping sessions called *Reaching Australia* in conjunction with Ann St Presbyterian Church in the CBD.

These sessions will continue during 2015 and are open to any church in Brisbane. It is hard work thinking about evangelising Australian adults. These sessions help Aussies think about how to reach their colleagues, friends and neighbours. The first training session was called *'I want to talk about Jesus but I just can't seem to get him or Christianity into the conversation. Help!'*

"I really enjoyed Reaching Australia. I felt encouraged to develop lasting and genuine relationships with my non-Christian friends and family. It can be easy to feel that as a Christian I have to preach the entire bible in every conversation with a non-Christian but this workshop gave me the confidence to slow things down and to really listen to what my friends were saying."

Jo, Brisbane

"As a bible college student, Reaching Australia made me realise just how practical theology was and just how to work it into my everyday conversations easily. The next day when I dropped my kids at school, I actually found myself talking to people using these techniques without the conversations feeling forced or unnatural. "

Tom, Brisbane

Melbourne

In January 2015, the Melbourne team organised a week-long equipping event for Christian workers.

The *Lyceum* summer school mobilised Christian workers and equipped them with ways to engage apathetic, hostile and disinterested non-Christian colleagues. Training topics included:

- Sharing the Christian message with uninterested people
- Islam, ISIS & Terror
- A game plan for discussing your Christian convictions
- Should religion be excluded from the workplace?

"The Lyceum equipped me because it helped me think critically and Christianly about questions and common objections to the Christian faith."

Ray, Melbourne

"The Lyceum equips me in two ways: 1. To be aware of topics many are concerned about 2. To treat each of them in an honest and responsible way. Overall, the Lyceum has helped me order my belief in a structured way that is more readily communicated to others."

Melly, Melbourne

"Great discussion for arming Christians. Great presenter, entertaining, very fruitful."

Kevin, Melbourne





Perth

In February - March 2015, the Perth team facilitated an equipping event called *Fruitfulness on the Frontline* over 8 lunchtime sessions.

This training course emphasised that being a follower of Christ is all about whole-life discipleship instead of a compartmented life. Each session was biblically-based and gave practical examples of how to be fruitful at work with the gospel. Training topics included: modelling godly character; ministering grace and love; moulding culture; and messenger of the gospel.

"I found Fruitfulness on the Frontline to be very accessible but not simplistic. The practical examples engaged both heart and mind in the midst of a busy day."

Mark, Perth

"My perspective on the workplace being a mission field for the Lord's gospel is brought back into my mind and heart. It is also so encouraging to know that there are other born-again believers working in the CBD of Perth."

Claire, Perth

Fruitfulness on the Frontline helped me to see my work environment with new eyes and offered some practical guidance on what being 'salt and light' in my workplace might look like."

Greg, Perth

Sydney

In February - March 2015, the Sydney team hosted mobilising and equipping events for graduates and young workers.

Welcome to the Jungle mobilised graduates new to the workforce and equipped them with three tips to survive work this year: take care of yourself physically; glorify God in sharing and living out the gospel at work; and find a peer-to-peer network of Christians nearby.

Thriving in the Jungle mobilised those having worked for 3-5 years and equipped them with wisdom from the Bible. A panel of senior workers showed how their view of promotions, secondments and career changes was shaped by loving junior colleagues.

Headstart provides weekly teaching to young workers to prepare them for the everyday challenges (eg. how to deal with fatigue) and mission opportunities (eg. how to get to know "neighbours" in the office).

"When you start working in and travelling to the city, it's easy to wonder what you've got yourself into and whether it's worth it. Welcome to the Jungle was a great reminder that working in cities is not futile. God has placed his workers to win the city for Christ."

Naomi, Sydney

"I found the panel at Thriving in the Jungle really helpful in shaping my understanding of what the next rung on this corporate ladder looks like for me. God desires me to be content at work serving Him and others, so that He might be known, no matter what the work itself might look like."

Lindy, Sydney

"One of the hardest aspects of my life after graduation was losing my Christian community at university. Headstart provides not only great Gospel based teachings, but real Christian community for young workers to support and encourage each other as we enter the workforce."

Benjamin, Sydney



Please pray

- Praise God for the wonderful news of forgiveness and eternal life we can share with workers across Australia
- Praise God for the thousands of Christian brothers and sisters who are seeking to be faithful on the frontline
- Praise God for the hundreds of men and women who attended our training events across the country
- Pray that more Christian workers would join our Evangelistic Prayer Teams to pray for their non-Christian colleagues
- Pray that Christian workers would be godly and diligent in their workplaces
- Pray that Christian workers would be wise and sensitive in their conversations with non-Christian colleagues
- Pray that Christian workers would be bold in inviting their non-Christian colleagues along to our evangelistic events

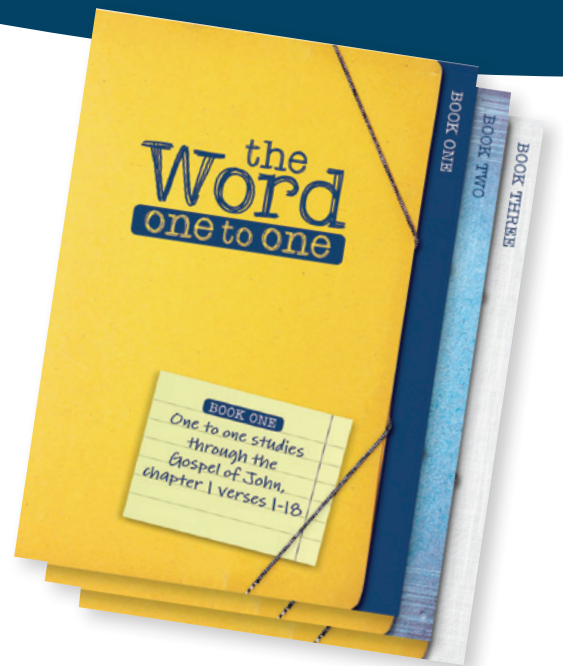
The Word one to one



Have you sometimes felt it is hard to move beyond having a “gospel” conversation with your non-Christian friend? Do you want them to encounter Jesus for themselves, but are not sure how this can be done?

The good news is that you are not alone. Richard Borgonon, a London insurance executive, told a captivating story how this frustration led to the production of a new resource: The Word one to one. This is a series of studies in John’s gospel which are designed for the first-time reader. Richard recently shared his story in Sydney and Melbourne. The

City Bible Forum team are now piloting his studies across the country. We are thrilled to do this because it fits squarely with our goal to raise up hundreds of men and women who are willing to invite their non-Christian colleagues to read the bible with them. Contact your local city team if you would like to be part of the pilot program.



Contact us to join, pray or support our work:

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