

# Will we see 1,000 workers investigating the good news about Jesus in 2019?

It is an enormous privilege for the ministry staff of City Bible Forum to be set aside for the task of evangelism. There is no greater joy than reading the Bible with an enquirer and seeing the scales gradually fall from their eyes. How kind is God to include us in his redemptive work! And this privilege is not for employed evangelists alone. All Christians can be 'workers in the harvest field'. In fact, it's physically not possible for the staff of City Bible Forum to read the Bible with 1,000 workers – to achieve this goal, we are seeking 600 'disciple makers' who are willing to read the Bible with at least one unbelieving colleague or associate.

All things are possible with God, who can do more than we ask or imagine. He is the one who opens our eyes to the light of the gospel, who graciously transfers us from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of his Son and who transforms us by his Spirit into his likeness. If he can do it for me and you, why not for the many colleagues we have at work? The goal of the City Bible Forum is to see 1,000 workers actively reading the Bible and discovering the forgiveness and eternal life in Jesus. Do you believe this is possible?

## Two new ministry centres



### Canberra

Leon Hribar commenced on 1 July 2016 as our Canberra Director. He served the previous 20 years as a missionary in Slovenia. Leon grew up in Canberra and has quickly connected with Christians and churches across the capital. He is currently gearing up to a major mission in June.



### Hobart

We are very pleased to announce that Wilbur Longbottom commenced this March as our Hobart Director. Wilbur is also an elder and missions co-ordinator at Crossroads Presbyterian Church. He has recently been a team leader in customer service with

Vodafone. The immediate goal for Tasmania is to network Christians across Hobart and Launceston to build Evangelistic Prayer Teams where they don't already exist and to provide input and training to local churches in how they support workers.

Please pray that much fruit may be borne from these new appointments!

## Tho Luu

Many of you will know Tho, who has been a tireless worker for City Bible Forum, sharing the gospel in the city for many years. Sadly, Tho has been in hospital since early January and his release date is still unclear. Tho had a severe wisdom tooth infection which had somehow entered his bloodstream. As a result, Tho is currently confined to a wheelchair and is unable to walk or care for himself. Tho is in Prince of Wales hospital and a group of friends and family are trying to develop a plan to care for him during what will certainly be a long convalescence. We appreciate your prayers for Tho and also for the City Bible Forum Team as we are missing Tho and his great gift and energy for sharing the gospel with people.



# A summary of our first term activities

In the first few months of 2017 the team across Australia has been busy mobilising and equipping Christian workers for workplace ministries and creating events and regular forums for colleagues to make steps towards Jesus. Here is a quick numerical summary of our activities:

	Number of events	Number attended	Non Christians
Mobilising & Equipping events	27	861	N/A
Engaging events	11	1340	469
Regular forums	8 per week / fortnight	187 average	23 average

## Easter initiative - Adelaide

### Evangelistic Prayer Team feeds a multitude with hot cross buns

On the day before Good Friday we offered free hot cross buns to everyone in our 1800 person building, copying a model used in Rhodes, Sydney. We advertised via posters on lunch room fridges, with management permission. Management made it clear we were not to preach but were welcome to introduce our group and invite anyone interested to speak with us afterwards. We had "Meaning of Easter" booklets discreetly available on a table and our "introduction" included a mention that Easter is a very important time to Christians and something we consider worth celebrating. The point was to get people thinking about the meaning of Easter and counter resistance to our prayer team from an anti-religious minority.

City Bible Forum staff were run off their feet in a support role of toasting a few hundred hot cross buns while team members talked with colleagues. 200-270 staff turned up, 4 booklets were taken and we believe considerable goodwill was generated. We plan to repeat the event next year. Total cost was \$250 which was happily paid by EPT members!



## Growing women's network - Brisbane

There is a real need in the city for Christians to be supported and encouraged. The work place is not only full of pressures but can be a place of great isolation. In God's kindness our breakfasts for Christian women and the growing number of women's prayer teams have been answering this need in the city.



It has been a real partnership with many Christian women working with our new colleague Gemma to grow these ministries. Please pray for women in the city of Brisbane. Pray that the Christians will be salt and light. Pray that God might save many who are lost.

# Partnership with a capital P - Sydney

Christian consortium stages mega Easter event in Barangaroo, Sydney

Recently 11 Christian groups from major companies partnered with City Bible Forum and Scots Church Margaret Street to organise a mega Easter outreach event. The event was held in the heart of the new Barangaroo precinct in the offices of Lend Lease. 160 people attended including at least 40 non-Christian guests. This follows a successful Christmas event.



Easter outreach at Barangaroo



Core Training night on sharing Jesus with the curious

Over a free lunch and harbour views, Sam Chan spoke on *The sweetest thing about Easter* - besides the chocolate

Two guests from Westpac commented: "Made me realise what life is all about – love it" and "Want to know about Easter and general rituals Christians should follow".

Give thanks for the unity of the Spirit expressed in a wonderful gospel partnership involving so many people and groups. Pray for effective follow-up.

“Made me realise what life is all about – love it”

## Gearing up for Mission - Canberra

Sam Chan's evangelism training was appreciated by over 80 Canberrans who participated in at least one of two half day sessions titled: "How to tell your friends about Jesus" & "Getting mission back on the agenda at church".

Many commented on how helpful Sam's approach is for connecting with the important issues of non-believers and sharing the wisdom and salvation of Christ. It was a joy to offer this training in partnership with Canberra Christian Conventions and to see participants from so many churches across Canberra!

This was also an ideal opportunity for key Christians to be introduced to Sam and begin thinking how to encourage others to get behind the week long cross-city mission in June: *alt-Jesus? The Jesus you never knew*.

In the lead up to the mission we are working on extending the evangelistic prayer network and Sam is SMSing weekly tips & encouragements.



“The numerous tips Sam provided on how to share Jesus with others helped conceptualise much of what I had witnessed in winsome and fruitful evangelism. And although Sam's insights have certainly shaped my own evangelism since the training day, more noticeable has been my improved ability to now teach and explain to others what winsome, fruitful evangelism looks like.”



# Bigger Questions - Melbourne

City Bible Forum to reach 44,000 people each week in Melbourne

Our radio show *Logos Live* has been sharpened, renamed and re-branded as *Bigger Questions*. We are really excited with the new show as a tool for evangelism to the post-modern world.

We are particularly excited that the show is now broadcast at 9 p.m. on 89.9 Light FM – Australia's largest community radio station. Light FM reaches over 1 million people monthly and an estimated 44,000 people will be tuning in on Sunday evenings when the show is broadcast. We are really excited about the greater exposure and greater number of people who will listen to the show. We pray that many who aren't believers will be struck by the stories and the Scripture and will follow Jesus.

We are also pleased that the live recordings at lunchtime in the CBD so far in 2017 have had stronger attendances. We have a good venue right in the heart of the city and Christian workers find it a great forum to invite colleagues – about 10% of the audience are not Christian. In fact one worker came to a live show, went back to his office and bumped into a colleague. She asked him what he'd been to and she thought it sounded interesting, and came along with him next time! Pray that more city workers invite their colleagues to explore the bigger questions with us.

You can check out the recording schedule and podcasts at: [biggerquestions.org](http://biggerquestions.org).



Bigger Questions host, Rob Martin with Light FM Content Director, Clayton Bjelan at the Bigger Questions launch.

## REEL Dialogue goes west - Perth



"My whole life has been movies and religion." Martin Scorsese

To kick off the year, City Bible Forum in Perth hosted two movie screenings. The first was an Australian movie *Lion* and the second Martin Scorsese's *Silence*. Both were powerful films that led to meaningful conversations including the 'Take 2' discussion group which met after the screenings. Our hope is that of the 300 people who attended many will return to future events to continue thinking about the topics raised.

"The movie opened the door for me to be able to ask questions of my daughter"

## Contact us to join, pray or support our work:

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