

CITY BIBLE FORUM

WINNING THE CITIES

The disciples were even more amazed and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." Mark 10:26-27

The City Bible Forum is on a mission to win the hearts and minds of city workers across this country. We pray for God to do his 'thing' in the professional people we are reaching with the good news of Jesus. Please pray for our staff team and board as we develop plans for the next five years. We have ambitious ideas but, as Jesus taught his disciples, it is hard to enter the Kingdom of God when you are surrounded by riches.

We hope you are encouraged by the stories in this newsletter. We welcome your feedback and ideas to improve our efforts. Above all, we desire your prayers and willingness to join us in our mission. It may well be through you that God brings his next child into his kingdom!

Peter Kaldor

Under God, we long to present the good news of Jesus Christ to every worker in every major business district of Australia so that they may respond in repentance and faith and be established in the fellowship of believers.

Greetings from Adelaide


5,000 FRIENDS AND COUNTING

How can you make your relationships more meaningful?

Over 80 people attended the 5,000 Friends and Counting evening event to hear panelists Dr Darryl Cross (life coach), Dr Patricia Weerakoon (sexologist) and Rev Chris Joliffe (minister) discuss how to achieve better relationships.


Our experts shared from their professional experience and conviction that good relationships begin with Jesus. There was a significant number of not yet Christians in the crowd. One of the bar staff happily volunteered that although he's not a Christian he had been challenged to think differently about relationships.

Visit the website to listen to our podcast:
citybibleforum.org/city/adelaide/episode/5000-friends-and-counting.

 **Please pray for the bar staff and guests who were challenged to think differently about relationship with God and others.**

WINDOWS TO EASTER PUBLIC ART PROJECT

City Bible Forum commissioned seven Adelaide artists to give people in the CBD a window into the Easter story over the long weekend. Artworks were exhibited in vacant shop windows around the Adelaide CBD. Each artwork was linked with a QR Code providing information about the artist, their work and a map connecting all exhibit locations. Visitors could plan their own route and follow audio material on their smart phones, enabling people to explore the original Easter story with their friends and family at their own pace and in a unique way!


 **Please pray that exhibition visitors will investigate Jesus, his life, death and resurrection.**



Greetings from Brisbane

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS: TALKS FROM MARK


Over recent years there have been small groups organised by various Christian groups in the CBD but no evangelistic Bible teaching or clear public preaching on a regular basis. So we are really excited about our lunch-time Friday Forums that present evangelistic Bible teaching in the heart of the city each week. It is a new, daunting and exciting phase in reaching Brisbane by evangelising the city workers. Our first series *It's all about Jesus* is a series of nine talks from Mark's gospel running from April to mid June. Our numbers are small but growing.

 Please pray that people will invite their colleagues to attend, and that they will understand life is all about relationship with Jesus.

ABUSE IN THE CHURCH – HOW DID IT GO SO WRONG?

One of the blockers for people considering Christianity is the damage the church has done in the area of sexual abuse. To start the year we set to tackle this issue head-on with three talks on mistakes the church has made: *Abuse in the Church – how did it go so wrong?* We tackled the topics of temptation, power and the law. Despite this being a hot topic with every man, woman, dog and office cat having an opinion, it wasn't always an easy invitation. But it was an important series in seeking to address a huge issue.




 Please pray that those affected by this issue will put their trust and hope in Jesus, and be healed.

TRANSFORM THE CITY DINNER

The City Bible Forum wants to see the city of Brisbane transformed by the saving knowledge of Jesus.

The *Transform the City* dinner set the vision for 2013 and beyond for more than 80 guests at The Brisbane Club. We were encouraged as we heard from city workers about their own workplace evangelism and we mobilised Christians who hadn't yet heard of us into new areas of evangelism. Guests were inspired and challenged by talks by Glenn Hohnberg and Al Stewart on Luke 16, *The Shrewd Manager*.


 Please pray that Christians in Brisbane will be bold in sharing the gospel with their colleagues and join us in gospel partnership.

Greetings from Melbourne

GRADS: LIFE IN THE JUNGLE


We ran a series of three *Life in the Jungle* dinners in February-March to help young workers navigate life in the jungle of full-time work.

Our excellent speakers engaged the audience on issues of faith and work: Allan Bulman (Director, Takeovers Panel), Kathy Cranney (HR Manager, NAB) spoke on *Bosses, bullies and building relationships: relationships at work*, and Anne Winckel (Managing Director, Delta Partners) spoke on *Time Poor/Soul Rich – maintaining a rich soul in the context of a busy life*. There were many newcomers and a number keen to sign up for prayer teams and other groups.

 Please pray that graduates will be strengthened as Christians in their new work environment.

BREAKFAST DISCOVERY GROUP


Our breakfast Bible Discovery Group now meets weekly and has consistently attracted good numbers. There are a couple of young Christians in the group who ask questions and are learning and growing in their faith. It has been a joy to read through Mark together, to learn, explore and discover the message of the Bible for our lives today.

 Please pray that Bible Discovery Group members will grow in their faith.



LIFE@WORK BREAKFAST

Life@Work is a City Bible Forum initiative in Melbourne that helps workers better connect their faith with their work. We had our largest ever attendance at our April breakfast. Matt Williams' (ex-Macquarie Bank, now a minister) presentation on being *Sanctified but not sanctimonious* struck a real chord with listeners; one commented "[I] gained useful teaching *what it means to be a Christ-centred employee*". Another: *"great environment and great talk and it is great to see other Christians in the city with some questions and eagerness for Jesus"*. We're looking forward to our inaugural Life@Work conference in October – find out more at lifeatwork.org.au


 Please pray that Christians working in Melbourne will be faithful Christ-centred employees.

Greetings from Perth

1 TO 1 BIBLE READING TRAINING FOR EASTER MISSION

Approaching the Easter mission week we encouraged city workers to pray for their colleagues, invite them to mission events and to read through *The Week that Changed the World* reading guides with them. We provided specific one-to-one training sessions and used the reading guides in Evangelistic Prayer Teams to build confidence, familiarity and to demonstrate how to guide a discussion with an enquirer. The result? City workers who are confident and excited about reading God's word with their friends.

The Week that Changed the World reading guide is a 28-page Bible reading resource, in which 11 city workers reflect on 11 published episodes from Luke's gospel, culminating in Jesus' death and resurrection. For reading guide samples, podcasts and video interview on Luke, check out citybibleforum.org/theweek

 Please pray for Christian workers as they read the Bible with their colleagues.


EASTER MISSION: THE WEEK THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

The lead up to Easter saw Perth host its first public meeting of the year, a number of prayer teams host small Easter events and Christian workers reading the Bible individually with interested colleagues.

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Publicity for *The Week that Changed the World* mission included a giant billboard painted live in the CBD, thousands of fliers distributed to commuters and dozens of conversations with people on their lunch breaks. A number of new contacts were made at the Thursday lunchtime event at which Al Stewart spoke clearly on *The Cross - Why most people just don't get it*.

 Please pray that those who attended will understand Jesus' saving work on the cross.

LIFE OF JESUS DISCUSSION GROUP

In the wake of *The Week that Changed the World* mission, the *Life of Jesus* discussion group has been examining Luke's gospel together. The group encourages enquirers to read a gospel for themselves, bringing them face to face with the real Jesus. It's been a great joy and encouragement to see one group member acknowledge Jesus as their Lord.


 Please pray that more members will do so.

Greetings from Sydney

'THE SWEET LIFE' WITH KATE BRACKS

Sydney Citywoman presented The Sweet Life event with Kate Bracks in April, with over 140 guests and a faithful team of 50 volunteers. One of our guests shared some feedback:

"I enjoyed this event on many levels! Firstly, it was really easy to invite a bunch of my non-Christian friends along and they all said yes. Secondly, we were completely spoilt with a trio of Kate's desserts. Finally, it was refreshing hearing Kate speak about her time on Masterchef - the impact on her family life, experiencing success and the central role of her faith. It was wonderful that Kate shared so openly and with such humility. This has been really helpful in putting Jesus back on the agenda in conversations with my friends. One of the women I asked is now willing to come along to a course CBF is running that explores Christianity." - Jess


 Please pray that the women who attended would revisit their views on success and life's purpose.

PARRAMATTA MATTERS

After a few inactive years, City Bible Forum has recommenced work place mission in the Parramatta business district in partnership with St John's Cathedral. Having worked with NSW Government in Parramatta and lead a Christian group, Kim Riley has been appointed as honorary City Bible Forum staff worker to drive the ministry and meet up with people. So far in Parramatta we have run evangelism training *Tips for Getting onto the Gospel at Work* (13 trainees), run an Easter evangelistic talk *Do you see Jesus clearly?* (73 attendees), a Christianity Explored course, and set up an Evangelistic Prayer Team.

SYDNEY
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 Please pray that God will continue to bless our labours in the Parramatta Business District.

SYDNEY CBD AT LUNCH

We are excited by our program of lunch time talks and forums which are centred on Mark's gospel. Our main focus is to introduce the counter-intuitive teaching of Jesus to an intelligent but biblically illiterate audience.

The year is punctuated by four clusters of special events, including forums on technology, leadership, happiness and philanthropy; Q&A sessions on the resurrection, suffering and church abuse; testimonies from business leaders and visiting expert speakers on the historicity of the Bible and medical ethics.

Our in-house evangelists Ian Powell and Al Stewart connect the teaching of Jesus from Mark's gospel to these diverse topics in their regular lunch time talks. It's encouraging to see enquirers every week. Some have recently joined our latest crash course in Christianity.

 Please pray that lunch forum attendees would hear and respond to the gospel of God's grace.

THE ROLL CALL: INTRODUCING NEW TEAM MEMBERS



Name: Karen Eastment

Role: EPT Coordinator, Adelaide

Call me if you want to: create gospel optimism about what God can do in your workplace.

What do you love about Adelaide? Having spent the last seven years in the NSW country town of Armidale, I love the fact that Adelaide still feels like a big country town, including a short commute to work and bumping into familiar faces in the mall.

A verse that motivates you: Philippians 1:9



Name: Fergus McPharlin

Role: Young Workers' Facilitator, Adelaide

Call me if you want to: learn how to make an impact in your workplace for Jesus, if you are new to working life!

What do you love about Adelaide? I love Adelaide's warm weather and friendly people.

A verse that motivates you: Ecclesiastes 12:13



Name: Grace Huang

Role: Ministry Apprentice, Sydney

Call me if you want to: exchange ideas about young workers' ministry; chat about women's ministry; know what it is like to do a ministry apprenticeship with City Bible Forum.

What do you love about Sydney? Blue skies, diversity of cultures, good food.

A verse that motivates you: 1 Peter 3:15-16



Name: Emma Warneford

Role: National Marketing and Communications Manager, Sydney

Call me if you want to: talk about strategies to better engage audiences with our ministries and messages.

What do you love about Sydney? Proximity to beach and bush, the abundance of good food and culture.

A verse that motivates you: Colossians 3:17

Thank you **FOR HELPING US 'WIN THE CITIES'**

SYDNEY



Peter



Craig



Caroline



Ken



Russ



Tho



Ian

BRISBANE



Glenn



Rachael



Kim



David



Al



Cathrein



Rudi



Geoffrey



Grace



Emma

PERTH



Paul



Leni

ADELAIDE



Craig



Fergus



Karen



Belinda



Sally

MELBOURNE



Robert

from the **CITY BIBLE FORUM TEAM**

CONTACT US:

For more information about what is coming up in your city, please visit our website at www.citybibleforum.org, or email us at info@citybibleforum.org



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