

Recognising the depth and breadth of relationships we form at work, City Bible Forum bridges the gap between the workplace and church by bringing the Word of God into our business networks. We hope you enjoy reading just some of the stories of how we are equipping Christian workers and engaging enquirers on their turf and terms.

The needs and opportunities are enormous, yet by partnering with churches and Christian workers we are making a difference in the lives of many. Almost 30 years on, we are as focussed and hungry to address the beliefs of a post-Christian culture as when we first began.

We are thankful to God for each of the people profiled in this newsletter. Please join us in praying for them and for God's mercy to reach our goal of seeing 1,000 people investigate Jesus each year.

3. We have met a number of times to discuss some of the bigger questions of life and to look at the Bible. Given your relative success and busy schedule, why make time for that? Has your sister's work been a motivating factor?

My sister is a Christian and is often prompting me to think about some of life's bigger questions. I believe there's lots of interesting information out there, so I like to talk to lots of different people about their thoughts and beliefs. My view is that you've got nothing to lose and at the very least, you're going to learn new things.

4. What may be some of the things you have learnt about faith and the Bible over the past few years?

Overall, I think the biggest takeaway for me is that despite being written thousands of years ago, the lessons conveyed in the Bible are still relevant in modern life. That's quite profound for me and I plan on expanding my knowledge further over time.

5. What are the next challenges ahead for you?

It always seems that there's a ton of challenges ahead! Right now with our team more than doubling over the prior year, my major focus is on improving the way we work together - whether it's sharing our mission and context, increasing the rigour with which we communicate or ensuring we have the right people working in the right spots.

At home, there's lots of work to be done in balancing work and family life and making sure that our labradoodle Harvey is always being looked after :)

Tim **CEO, Airtasker**
FROM SYDNEY

Tim Fung is the co-founder of Airtasker, one of Australia's fastest growing on-line and mobile businesses. He recently returned home from their launch in the UK and spared a moment to answer some questions.

1. How would you describe your family upbringing?

I think we had a really typical Australian upbringing. We studied pretty hard, went to public school and got to play lots of sport - albeit I always chose somewhat alternate things to do like playing ice hockey rather than cricket, soccer or rugby. We always got a lot of support from our parents as well as lots of freedom. Having two sisters also kept things interesting - it was always easy to find a feminine perspective on things!

2. You are known now as the co-founder of Airtasker. But what inspired you on that journey?

Back in 2011, I was moving apartments and asked my mate Ivan (who runs a chicken chippie factory and owns a small truck used to make deliveries) to help me with moving and all of those everyday jobs that needed to be done - like cleaning, packing boxes, assembling IKEA furniture and setting up the wifi router.

After helping me out, Ivan mentioned to me that this was the fourth time he'd been asked to help someone move apartments (heaps of people had asked him to help because of his truck).

That got us thinking: Why do we bother our busy friends and family to help with all of these tasks when there are so many people across Australia who would love an opportunity to earn some extra money by helping out?

We believed the answer was that there wasn't enough trust being built in the local community so we made a decision to start a company to solve this problem.



Craig

**Associate Pastor at Westminster
Presbyterian Church, Belconnen**

FROM CANBERRA

Craig has been partnering with City Bible Forum, bringing non-Christian contacts to our outreach events. To a recent Sam Chan talk, "How to survive the daily grind", four responded to Craig's invitation.

Looking back over the past year, Craig writes, "We had contact with a dentist who migrated to Australia from South America. Last year she had been coming to English conversation practice and an English Bible study, but we hadn't heard from her for a while. In a general mail out to invite people to the upcoming Sam Chan event, she asked to join the

event. We also had a pharmacist from China, currently studying in Canberra, who recently visited our church at Easter. After a personal invitation, she also wanted to attend the upcoming event. These are just two out of twelve similar stories we could tell, of how City Bible Forum has helpfully complemented our evangelistic ministry over the last year. The outreach initiatives of City Bible Forum, such as the Sam Chan talks and the Reel Dialogue movies, have been a great opportunity for inviting others to have a broader exposure to Jesus. Thanks City Bible Forum!"



Ellie

Tax consultant

FROM SYDNEY

Growing up I always believed there was a God. I would even pray sometimes. Occasionally I would go to church, but I really didn't know what that meant - I didn't know who God was and did not see God having any relevance in my life.

When I started at my new job, I decided that it would be my year of saying yes. A girl at work invited me to a talk put on by City Bible Forum titled "The Bucket List" and I decided to go along. It was held after work at a pub in the city. The talk was about how everyone in life has a bucket list and everyone tried to fill their bucket with as many things as possible but no one felt satisfied because the

bucket had holes in it. It always leaked. This hit me because it was me - I had so many boxes yet to tick on my list and it would never end.

At the end of the talk, I heard that Jesus was the only one that could fix the leak and fill the bucket. This again struck a chord with me and this was something I needed to look further into. So I decided to take up the offer to read the Bible and investigate who this Jesus was. Over the next two years, I searched, questioned, heard and found out more and today I am gladly a follower of Jesus, part of a local church and praying that my story would be repeated for another worker.

Paul

Engineer, Taswater

FROM HOBART

Paul works in a public utility in Hobart and his role is to improve the operation of water treatment assets. This role requires frequent trips from the office to various sites around the state, and often the trips are made together with several of his team.

Paul has been meeting with an Evangelistic Prayer Team for nearly a year now to pray for those team members.

Over Easter he had the opportunity to have several conversations with his team mates about Easter.

This culminated with his colleague turning around and asking out of the blue "are you religious?".

Paul says, "I considered my response. "I am a believer" I replied, "And what about you?"

"Oh, that's private. Like talking about politics. You don't do it".

The team mate seemed to want the conversation to stop there, but after seeing how open Paul was, he has agreed to further conversations - including the next opportunity for a work road-trip.

Paul says, "Please pray that God creates the opportunity for the road trip to happen with my team mate so that the conversation can keep rolling".



Madeleine

Advisor, Department of Housing and Public Works

FROM BRISBANE

I'm a recent graduate working with the Department of Housing and Public Works. Being a part of an Evangelistic Prayer Team (EPT) has really helped to shift my attitude to my prayer and trust in God's provision. In Brisbane we have 145 Christians meeting in similar EPTs across the city and have the goal of seeing 100 enquirers meeting Jesus in the pages of the Bible. These numbers really impressed upon me the need to take seriously the gift and challenge of praying earnestly for opportunities to read the Bible with a colleague. And God has worked incredibly quickly to provide opportunities.

I had drinks for my birthday recently and invited my colleague, Lydia (not her real name), and her boyfriend to come. A few



days later I saw Lydia in a lift as we left work. We talked about her boyfriend and how relationships will ultimately disappoint us if we think they will give us our main source of stability in life. I was praying hard, asking for the right words and said that I believe the only person we can truly rely upon is God. I asked her if she would be willing to read the Bible with me. She said she's read some of the Bible before, mostly the Old Testament. I said there was some good stuff in the New Testament too. She was hesitant, so I offered for it to be a one-off, and see how it goes. She said yes!

Please pray that God would be working in Lydia and that she would come to trust in God as her Lord and Saviour.

Nick

Recently transitioned from engineering to vocational ministry

FROM ADELAIDE

Nick van Ruth has stepped out in faith to become the Young Workers' Mobiliser in Adelaide. The role exists to encourage the smooth transition from university to the workplace for young graduates and to help them be on mission in their work context.

"I've been working as an engineer for a large manufacturing company in South Australia and experienced first-hand the benefits of being well equipped to share the gospel with co-workers. I met with other workers as part of an Evangelistic Prayer Team (EPT), to talk about work and to pray. That helped me to focus on the bigger picture and mobilised me to mission in my work place. It put me in the right mind-set to go to work to be a positive influence and to take steps to share the gospel."

"Working for a manufacturing company I got to work a lot with the operators in production. I loved working with them to solve the production issues that come

up - I found their experience and insights incredibly valuable! My colleagues are the people I see the most of out of anyone. The people I've worked with have become some of my closest friends, and there is nothing I want more than to see them come to know Jesus. I believe that God has put me in my job for the people around me."

After a few years wrestling over the decision to leave his engineering role to begin with City Bible Forum, Nick says "I'm passionate about helping Christians live out their faith in the workplace. It is hard not to be overwhelmed with the stress and workload of working. As Christians we are called to be different in how we conduct ourselves and interact with our colleagues and managers. Maintaining the bigger picture (and a positive attitude!) is tough when there is so much going on. That's why I've loved being a part of an EPT at my work. It has helped me focus on what is really

important - standing out and standing up for Jesus. Now, I can help other young workers bring Jesus into their workplace."

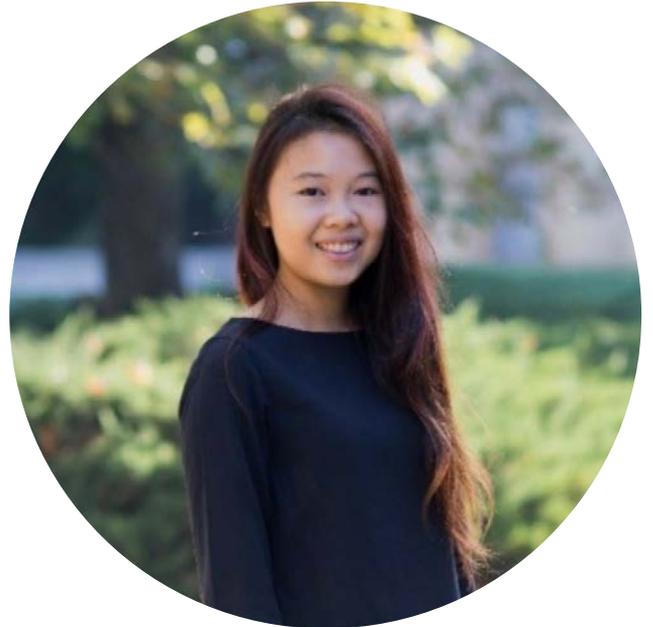


Crystal

**Graduate Urban Planner,
Victorian Government**

FROM MELBOURNE

Recently I've had the privilege of reading the book of John with a non-Christian colleague. We've managed to read a few pages of *The Word One to One* during a couple of lunch breaks and it's been an absolutely fulfilling and challenging experience. This resource is inconspicuously designed, which makes it easy to comfortably read in a public setting, particularly with someone I don't know too well. One thing I appreciate about it is that it encourages you to read through the gospel of John slowly, and take time to ask questions and chew on what you read (we've only read up to verse 14 over two lunch breaks). God has encouraged me greatly through his Word and this experience is challenging many preconceptions I have about the subtleties of the gospel as my colleague has close to no background knowledge about Christianity. I'm praying that many more workers will get to share God's Word with their colleagues, and that God would draw many more people to himself!



Jan

Accountant, Ernst & Young

FROM PERTH

I became a Christian through reading the gospels and it's been great to see Jesus speak for himself to my colleague.

After being introduced to *The Word One to One*, I was praying about asking two colleagues to read John. At the same time, a different colleague was asking what I wanted for my birthday. I initially told him I wanted nothing but he kept persisting. It finally clicked, and I eventually asked him to read John with me. Because he had promised "I'll get you whatever you want", he had to say yes!

I think the biggest impact on my colleague has been Jesus' attitude to the self-righteous religious groups. Through this, my colleague has realised that God saves through grace alone and not based on our works.

My colleague always asks many great questions as we read. However, we often spend more time on these than examining the text.



Contact us to join, pray or support our work

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