



CITYWIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

YEARBOOK 2024

Incorporating the Citywide Baptist Church Annual Report 2024



CITYWIDE

BAPTIST CHURCH

400 CAMBRIDGE RD MORNINGTON

2 POTTERY RD LENA VALLEY

HOBART NEPALI CHURCH

LEVENDALE

ONLINE

church@citywidehobart.org.au

www.citywidehobart.org.au



COVER IMAGE



Detail of the amazing Christmas tree put together by our fantastic volunteers, led by Kevin Chalk and Renata Carmichael.

Elders

Renata Carmichael

Peter Collins

Ann Herbert

Dale Herbert

Anne Knibbe

Graeme Pickett

Agnes Webb

Trustees

Tim Astley

Maddi Garvin

Mark Harris

Dilip Jirel

Linda McDavitt

Gus Swindon

Dilip Tamang

Pastors

Matt Garvin

Paul Rai

Dan Evenhuis

Ministry Leaders

Administration Jan Norton

Art Group &

Bob Curé Exhibition Space Maggie Perkins

Children's Ministry Chelsey Marshall

Communications Stuart Semmens

Finance Tim Astley

Hospitality & Catering Janine Collins

Levendale Outreach Paul Dare

Life Groups Matt Garvin

Men's Shed Graeme Pickett

Mission Partnerships Team Dan Evenhuis

Merge Youth Chelsey Marshall

New2U Ruth Cables

Operation Christmas Child Anne Harrison

Outreach Dan Evenhuis

Pastoral Care Matt Garvin

Property Dale Herbert

Prayer Jan Norton

Sanctuary Care Ann Herbert

Safe Church Linda McDavitt

Sponsor Children Kate Astley

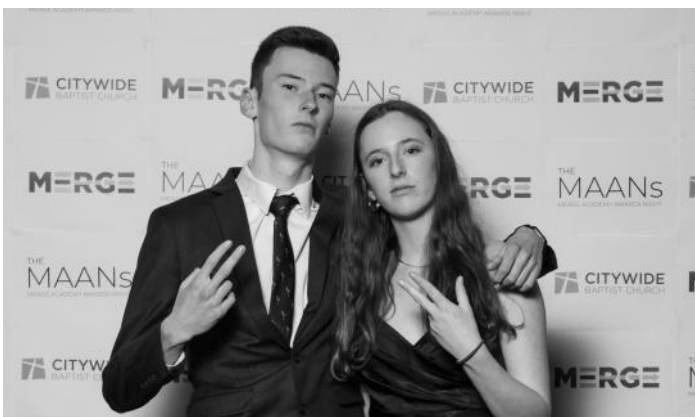
Technical & Streaming Stephen McEldowney

Time Out Craft Program Margie Moss

Venue Hire Jess McEldowney

Worship Team Anne Knibbe
Stuart Semmens

Young Adults Kate Astley



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SENIOR PASTOR

I love being the Senior Pastor of Citywide. I love our people and I love our heart. I love the way we have been willing to try new things and repeatedly step into uncharted territory.

One of the things I want to strengthen in our corporate life is our level of accountability to one another so that we can continue to move forward. I love vision (as you can probably tell), but I also know the importance of honestly facing where we are and where we are going.

At our budget meeting in 2023, I presented the following goals for 2024 and said we would report against them. Below is my assessment of the outcomes.

As I reflect, I don't love the idea of "growth targets" because they sound very corporate and indicate that we are primarily interested in ourselves. That doesn't represent our heart at all. We do want to grow, but we want to grow because we believe that our task is to introduce people to Jesus, who is in himself the best way of living now, the truth they are looking for and the key to the life they are longing for.

We need to face the truth that we are not seeing as many people getting to know Jesus as we would like.

Growth Target	Outcome
10 Baptisms	2
20 New Believers	None that we know of
Youth Group 12 regulars	4 regulars
10 in NRG kids regularly	7 regulars
Mornington 100 attendance (currently avg 80)	Average 80
Lenah Valley 32 attendance (currently avg 20)	Average 23
Nepalese 80 attendance (currently avg 70)	Average 78
1000 YouTube subscribers (currently 648)	968 on 31 December 1000 on 7 February

Area	2024 Goal	Outcome	Comments
Worship	Grow numbers at church through promotion	Nepalese congregation grew 9%, Mornington remained the same and Lenah Valley dropped by 9%. Our total live Sunday Service Average Attendance was 188.	The Nepalese congregation will outgrow LV campus capacity in the next couple of years. The growth at Mornington and Lenah Valley needs to increase
	Publish book about John 17 and our purpose	Book not yet available	Hoping to move forward on publishing this year
Community	Strengthen our outreach to, and support for Youth and Children through Youth and Children's worker	We started this and the number of children grew, but we still have work to do.	Aiming for Kids Club in Jan 2026
	Expand Nepalese Pastor hours	Done	Will need to review when Nepalese congregation hits 100 regulars
Calling	Foundations course one week and 12 week	Done	Theodynamics podcast available and focus on Alpha this year.
	Certificate course launched	Not yet operational	Mentoring strategy a key focus this year... Certificate course still a viable option
Beyond	Expand Social media effectiveness	More than doubled the number of views and added 277 subscribers to YouTube. Added 133 followers to Facebook and 49 to Instagram	This is a key strategy for growth and impact in Hobart
	Solidify support for Nepal Mission	Established partnership with BMA and sponsoring two new pastors	Climb for Nepal this year and now supporting four rural pastors.
Structure	Trustees workgroup exploring options for backyard	Possible model being discussed	Aim to strengthen both Elders and Trustees this year and move towards firm strategy for land.



Jesus made it clear that we shouldn't expect everyone to follow "the narrow way", but I believe it is our task to live with the central goal of people becoming disciples of Jesus and keep honestly facing how we are doing in progress towards that goal.

We will always welcome people who are already followers of Jesus, but we will particularly celebrate the

moments where people commit themselves to live for Jesus for the first time and then through Baptism. These are the most exciting moments in the life of our church. In 2024 we did not see as many of these moments as we would hope, and we are praying that we might see this change in 2025. Part of our strategy to change this is through Alpha.

These were our Volunteer Growth Goals

One of the beautiful things about our church is the percentage of our people who serve in some way. I estimate it to be around 80%. As we grow, we need more people doing more things, so we set some goals for specific needs. It was great to have some people stepping up, but we didn't achieve our ambitious goals.

We would love to see more people in 2025 stepping into roles that reflect their gifts and calling. We would also love to see the Sunday morning service teams continue to grow. Church has always been and will always be something we do together.

Matt Garvin

Goal	Outcome
Time Out leadership transition	Happened. Marg and the team now moving forward
Youth team leadership transition	Happened. Chelsey overseeing new team of Daniella, Anya and Ashlinn
4 new members on worship team	Three new members (Isaac, Louise & Lizzie)
3 Children's outreach team members	Not yet started
6 NRG kids leaders	We have 6 leaders
2 Sunday video producers	Matt, Jo, Daniella
2 sound engineers	Anya, Richard
2 Mornington morning tea hosts	Need more
5 camera operators	2, Isaac and Jo
1 Social media team member	Not yet
20 Administrative hours/week	Mark Johns has done 2-3 hours/week
10 Maintenance hours/week	We did 6 Friday working bees with an average of 8 people that made a difference, however Pete, Janine, Dale and Dan did the bulk of maintenance work through the year.



ADMINISTRATION

What a joy it is for me to serve as Administrator at Citywide. We are such a blessed people with the love of Jesus in us and the favour of Jesus upon us. The power of the unity and love between us, expressed in so many and varying ways, is something that is a hallmark of Jesus’ walking amongst us. I witness evidence of the fruit of his Spirit maturing and being generously lived between us. Thank you for being my fellow servants and workers in the life of his church.

How blessed we are to have Matt and Dan and Paul as our pastors. Their shared hearts and goals and humble submission to each other in leading our church is an amazing blessing. Their individual gifting and unity in Jesus is something he anoints and lets flow over us all. Please keep these people in your prayers, pray for their daily refreshment in the Spirit, pray for their families, pray for Holy Spirit to flow through them in all they do. They set the stage for all our life and mission and relationships together.

I want to acknowledge our Elders and Trustees who carry big responsibilities on our behalf. Some of the issues and questions they wrestle with are significant and demanding of energy and time.

I also acknowledge the Finance Team who faithfully meet to ensure our transparency in all matters of financial stewardship. A special thank you to Maurice French who has just retired from the Finance Team after a lifetime of commitment in this area. Again, I praise God for his faithful provisions to us (through you) during the year. Significant monies have been raised beyond the budget for added projects, particularly the recovering of the Lenah Valley chairs, and the fares for Annie Sheeba to visit us from Zambia. And a special acknowledgement to Tim Astley as our Finance Officer – his diligence and hard work in preparing our balanced budget for 2025 was extraordinary considering the previous few years had deficit budgets up to -\$50,000. GOD IS GOOD AND FAITHFUL TO US.



If you are a practical person mowing lawns or cleaning toilets or painting walls or making the coffee you are valued for your servant heart. If you are a willing learner and find yourself on a technical team or contributing to a ministry area or taking on a role of responsibility you are valued for your heart of ministry. If you have been courageous to take on a leadership position and find yourself wrestling with spiritual discernment and guidance on our behalf you are valued for your heart of faith to step up and help carry the load. If you have committed yourself to prayer through the many tangents of our life together we value and depend upon your faithfulness. If your heart is for people and your love reaches out to support and care for others we value your compassion and mercy. If you are blessed with gifting and resources you willingly give we value your generosity, extravagance and sacrifice. To everyone who contributes in whatever way, we say thank you and I know God will bless your heart of worship.

Thanks to the team in the office for making it a happy place to work. Particularly on Mondays and Thursdays when most of us are there we enjoy good interactions and collaboration. Pop in to visit – we love to welcome people into the buzz of all that happens. And we love to welcome anyone who comes to offer their time (no matter how little) to help in any way.

We had two baptisms in 2024 and we received five new members this year. Total active membership now stands at 171, with 7 absentees in addition.

Average Sunday Service Attendance in 2024

Mornington	74
Lenah Valley	25
Nepalese	69
Levendale	4
Total Physical attendance	170
YouTube (Live)	17
YouTube (7 days since Live)	76
Total Live (including YouTube Live)	188
Total Sunday Service including online weekly	246

Jan Norton

EXECUTIVE PASTOR

I hope you are enjoying reading this Citywide Yearbook. It is so good to step back from the business of programs, maintenance, finances, and emails and take a look at what God and our church family are achieving. It is so encouraging to see all that has happened over the past year. Thanks everyone for all you are doing.

I appreciate the strong sense of family we share through things like the Citywide Quiz night, Big Day Out, Men's Shed, MAANS, Dinner Together and so many other times together. This year I've also enjoyed being a part of the Young Adults Bible Study Group as we seek to live as Christ would want.

As usual, I think each of the teams 'kicked it out of the park' through all the Christmas and end-of-year programs. I think that in future years, when referring back to 2024, it'll be described as the year Kevin and Renata recycled Christmas with the can-tree and paper-chain display. Well done everyone.

Over this past year, I feel God has been saying, keep faithfully loving each other and reaching out to those beyond the church. Spend time with people. As part of the networking with local groups, I've become a trustee of the Warrane and Mornington Neighbourhood Centre who are a lovely bunch of people supporting many of the lonely and needy



around our Mornington campus. Our relationships with the Eastern Shore pastors and churches is strengthening which you could feel at the Bellerive Carols and our partnership with Mission Australia doing the Christmas Shop. This brought joy to a heap of local households (and our volunteers). We've also been a little more involved with the Lenah Valley Neighbourhood Group and Emmanuel Christian School by leading a school devotion and attending the opening of their new classrooms.

A special thanks goes to the team that make the running of this church look so smooth. Jan in the administrator's seat, Kylie and Agnes looking after our finances, Tim on budgets, Jess on facilities, Anu and Bharat keeping our buildings clean, David, Peter, Janine and Dale doing all sorts of things, Stu on graphics and comms, the worship team, the production team, the gallery team and so on. This is an amazing church to be a part of and I'm looking forward to what God has next for us.

Dan Evenhuis



TRUSTEES

Having launched the Trustees group in 2023, this year saw the role and function of the Trustees get traction as we step into the accountability for a wide range of church activity. It has been really pleasing to me to see all the Trustees roll up their sleeves and engage with sub-groups including staff, ministry leaders and church members in sub-committees to drive and lead in specific areas; this is a good example of a "working/ leadership and governance model" where its not just about checking on what others have done but getting under the bonnet to help whilst maintaining an important governance perspective.

As a community we have some significant decisions to navigate over the coming years, not least of which concerns the best use of the land we have at Mornington, euphemistically referred to as *the back yard*. It has been an interesting journey for the Pastors, Trustees and Elders as we see this as much more than an opportunity to realise the value of a currently non-productive asset. This represents an opportunity to really give effect to the type of church we want to be, the impact we can have on our community outside those who call themselves church-goers, and ultimately the pathway God is calling us to. I can't help thinking of Philippians 2:13 – "...it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose". "To will" is to want to do what God wants, and I believe He has formed a body of "willing-wanters". "To act" is where we need to go, and the "what" is really the question we have shared with the church and we need to pursue together. If we feel God's will is for us to establish an intentional community for vulnerable people, then this will need to permeate so many aspects of our work and focus and could be transformational for Citywide. Please keep praying and sharing your thoughts on what God is saying to us in this decision.

Of course all of this is in the context of what Matt has often referred to as "ensuring our resources are

aligned to *facilitate* the mission and purpose He has for us". Besides the back-yard, the other critical resources are our existing facilities, time (both paid and voluntary) and money (which has a direct connection to the facilities and staff resources). To this end and in support of Tassies Baptist churches more broadly, with the support of elders, Trustees and the congregation Matt put his hand up for a part-time state-wide role; unfortunately the state-wide wheels are turning somewhat slowly so we await an outcome on this and will need to manage the uncertainty arising in the interim. At the same time, Dan has taken a part-time teaching role at Calvin Christian School which will be a great outlet and outreach for him. We have appreciated the work Chelsea has put into the Children's and youth work, but are still very keen to resource the leadership of this work more overtly as this remains an area of unmet need.

Not wanting to re-present Matts strategic vision, in terms of the Trustees group, we have established a pretty workable rhythm of meetings including collaboration with elders. We appreciate hearing from and meeting with a range of people involved in the breadth of leadership activities in motion. We're of course always open to feedback from the church and looking for suggestions to improve performance engagement with the church. Lastly I'd encourage you all to consider if there's an area God is calling you to serve, and if that is perhaps as a Trustee we'd love to have a chat to you.

Gus Swindon,
on behalf of the Trustees



ELDERS

Reflecting on the past twelve months for the Eldership team allows us to again thank God for all that He has done and is doing in our Citywide Community.

We commenced the year thanking Rechal Budhathoki and Rebika Adhikari for their valuable contributions and support during their past three years on eldership and wishing them the best as they stepped down from their roles. Following the AGM on the 17th of March, we were excited to welcome Agnes Webb onto the eldership team. This brought our eldership team to seven members.

As the year progressed, the Eldership team has been grateful for our new organisational structure, brought in during 2023, which provides a greater separation of roles and clarity of responsibilities, as we work together with the new Trustees team. Our priority as an eldership continues to be the spiritual oversight and pastoral care of all our congregations and our Ministry Teams and leaders, working in conjunction with our Pastors, Matt Garvin, Dan Evenhuis and Paul Rai.

As we have worked together with the Trustees, the matter of how we best use our resources, with particular focus on our 'Back yard' has been a big part of our discussions during the past year. This has always been viewed through the lense of our Strategic Plan, as we strive to align our planning with our mission of outreach into our community, and the best way we may serve to meet these ongoing needs.

Very early in 2024 Matt Garvin raised the possibility of a position with the Tasmanian Baptist Union becoming

available for him in future months, in conjunction with his continued role as Senior Pastor at Citywide. This matter was discussed at length and presented to our Citywide community at the November 2024 church meeting, where he received support to continue to pursue this possible new role. As of writing this report, this role is yet to be confirmed.

As a team, we continue to reflect on the way we can lead and serve our community, through feedback given in conversations, small group feedback, and the more structured feedback provided by our church surveys. These all serve to better inform us of ways we may need to alter the way we serve and lead, and how we can meet the changing needs of our various congregations, comprising of Mornington, Lenah Valley, Levendale, our Nepalese congregation and our Online community.

Finally, I want to again thank each member of our Citywide family for your continued support and contribution to the life of our church, as we journey together to follow Jesus into 2025.

Anne Knibbe

Chair of Elders

** Special thanks to Anne for her five years on the eldership, with the past three and a half years serving as Chair. Also thanks to Dale for his service as an Elder for three years, he will continue as a Trustee.*



CHRISTMAS

The Christmas season is always a big one for us at Citywide, with Carols services, Christmas in the Paddock, the Christmas Shop, along with all the usual end of year celebrations. It is also a wonderful time to all be working together towards creating something that also impacts the community around us.



DINNER TOGETHER

Our monthly Dinners Together, saw groups of people each bringing along some food to share; a recipe for plenty of laughs, cool conversations and fun times together.



Hobart Nepali Church has always seen God working in and through it with every passing year. Likewise, 2024 has been a blessed year in every aspect. We thank God for His presence and guidance throughout the year. We acknowledge all the HNC teams working together to love the Lord our God and to love others.

Hobart Nepali church's weekly Sunday service is continuously blessing the whole congregation and new people coming from interstate and Nepal. The live streaming on Facebook and YouTube every Sunday which over a thousand people join is another ministry for Hobart Nepali Church since Covid that has continued in 2024. We received messages and feedback from online viewers expressing how blessed the services have been to them. We are grateful to our technical team for doing their best every year to make our online services more structured.

Dilip Tamang from Nepali congregation became a member of Citywide's Trustee team in 2024. All the other team leaders in Hobart Nepali church are leading their teams to serve the Lord and community to their best. Our Sunday school ministry is growing every year. Additional teachers were needed as the number of children has grown to around 30. Namrata Thapa is the team leader and teachers are working diligently to help children grow in the love of Christ. A Sunday School Seminar was also held for children and parents.

2024 community support programs were very fruitful. We were able to support many people in their needs through free van services and the free learner driver mentor program. 25 learners including some church members received their driving lessons. It has been a blessing to be able to share God's love through serving our community. We appreciate our community program coordinator Jivan Thapa and learner mentors for their time and dedication towards this ministry.

We've had four new members join our congregation. We had our yearly prayer retreat and Mother's Fellowship retreat. Sunday school teachers organised a retreat for children and our yearly church camping trip was another highlight of the year. The HNC youth organized a youth seminar to help their youth to grow in relationship with the Lord. Besides that, 2024 outdoor and indoor programs were great ways to bond with other church members. Our HNC sports team got an invitation to play football in Sydney where they had a blessed time playing with teams from many Nepali churches around Australia. HNC sports leader Dinesh Magar led our team to Sydney. Many other indoor sports were held.

Hobart Nepali Church and Citywide Baptist Church were able to provide ongoing support for two rural pastors in Nepal in 2024. Our Mission Pastors ministry is growing as we are blessed to be able to support two more pastors in Nepal in 2025. Praise be to the

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in our needs so that we are able to help one-another.

Arjun Aryal continued to train several of our youth and worship team members providing guitar lessons. Pastor Paul Rai planned a few retreats for parents visiting from Nepal in our community support van. Parents expressed their joy to get to explore Tasmania. Pastor Paul shared good news to them and two of the parents accepted Christ after going back to Nepal. It is amazing how God works in us and through us. All glory to God. We attended and helped out at the Anzac Day program at Lenah Valley, and it had a profound effect on us like every year.

11th October 2024 Citywide's Big Day Out was a wonderful time to fellowship where all four congregation; Nepali, Mornington, Lenah valley and Levendale gathered. The football match between Nepali team and the World was as much fun as previous years. It was quite thrilling to watch the action, and our Nepali team took the win and received a football shield trophy as recognition. It was a memorable time together with the whole congregation.

As every year, 2024 Hobart Nepali church Christmas program was successfully hosted on December 25th. We extended our invitation to our community outside the church on Facebook and other social media. There were around 250 people from six different nationalities for the celebrations. We were able to reach out with the gospel and the love of Jesus Christ through this event. As 2024 came to an end, we hosted a New Year's Eve program at Lenah Valley Church on 31st December. Together, we played indoor games, prayed and expressed our gratitude to our God, exchanged gifts and welcomed New Year 2025.

Looking back at all the things God has done in and through us in 2024, Hobart Nepali church could only be thankful to God's faithfulness. All the honour to God almighty.

Blessings ,

Pastor Paul Rai



NEPALI COMMUNITY OUTREACH

2024 has been a blessed year for the Hobart Nepali church's Community Support Program.

As usual we had mission outreach activities with our three seasons of Driver mentoring lessons and other community support-based services like transport and lifestyle support.

This year we taught 25 Learner drivers, of which 10 got their P-plates (the highest number in a few years). All our learners got the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus and the life changing testimony from our Mentors. A few of our Learners attended our Christmas Celebration. The car has driven 10k kilometres this year and is in top-notch condition.

The biggest challenge for our driver mentoring program this year has been to provide enough mentors and to continue long-term relationships with our previous learners.

Through our 12-seat bus, this year we introduced community visits for our elderly who are living permanently in Hobart and, for those who are visiting their children in Tasmania. Because of this new ministry one of the elderly couples accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour after returning to Nepal.

Other support like, moving house, pickup, drop-off, and lifestyle support was offered throughout the year. The bus has also been busy supporting church ministry in both congregations, driving 12k kilometres this year.

I would like to thank our Driving mentor team volunteers, registered bus drivers and all the supporter for their prayer and concern for these two beautiful ministries.

Jivan Thapa



THE MAANs The Merge Academy Awards Night in June was a fun night of awesome movies made by our members, and a great chance to dress up, have a lot of laughs and even see Pastor Matt take home the big prize.



ART GROUP & BOB CURE EXHIBITION SPACE

The Wednesday morning art group continues. The most recent art exhibition in the Bob Cure Gallery space represented several artists from the Wednesday Group and was well received by those who saw it.

We have added another new participant in the last year and he has been a very nice addition to the group.

We all enjoy the encouragement and friendship which happens as we get together and share our love of artwork in all its many forms.

We really appreciate being able to have access to the lovely light spacious room at Citywide and would welcome other artists who might want to join us.

One of our newer participants had a very successful exhibition of her Tasmanian Fungi photographs, and is planning to delight us with more of her work soon.

In our Exhibition Space we also enjoyed exhibitions by Simeon Evenhuis, Michael Henderson, Jo Raymond, Renata Carmichael, and Trish Verdouw.

Michael Henderson shared his very powerful charcoal drawings with us during the Easter period focussing on the crucifixion of Jesus.

Maggie Perkins



THE BIG DAY OUT

We took a break from our normal Church Camp this year and held a local 'Big Day Out' on 12 October. We wanted to include those that find camp too tiring, too far away, or who have to work weekends.

Nepal annihilated 'The World' in the annual football match 10 to 1. We all loved the annual concert – even Tim's Dad Jokes got a laugh but it was Lizzie who yet again stole the show.

We had a Wheelbarrow dressing competition and appreciated hearing from Matt Sharples (Head of Tas Christian Churches and Pastor of Abundant Church in Lauderdale). We'll be back to our Church Weekend Away in 2025, but may have another Big Day Out again in a few years' time.

Dan Evenhuis



CATERING & HOSPITALITY

In 2024 the church had a continuation of outreach catering on ANZAC Day and the Christmas in the Paddock Celebration. We see this as an important role for our church, along with the Christmas Day lunch and cultural festival put on by our Nepalese congregation.

Activities where the Hospitality and Catering Team were involved either in planning, practical provision for the event or setting up and cleaning for the event included:

- Foundations Course,
- Pastoral Care Meals,
- Morning or afternoon teas for small hiring events,
- Sunday lunches,
- Church camp,
- Church Celebration Dinner
- Outdoor events such as ANZAC Day, Big Day Out and Christmas in the Paddock,
- Large scale hirings
- National Senior Pastors Gathering

We also ensured that the kitchen was stocked for Sunday mornings and regular events.

So many of our church families have been involved in catering and hospitality to some degree, and the numbers of volunteers are so large that I will not mention names here. The whole church should feel very privileged in what God has done through them.

Some new challenges arose during 2024. The National Baptist Pastors' Gathering was a new event for the team and the church camp was run in a different manner. Otherwise, it was a year largely like the preceding year.

National Baptist Senior Pastors' Gathering

The gathering was a first for a Baptist church in Tasmania. We provided morning and afternoon teas (as well as casual tea and coffee), and a dinner at Mornington. The Mornington and Lenah Valley women arranged and prepared the desserts for the Dinner and the Nepalese 'chefs' provided the main course which was greatly appreciated by the guests. Many people (from all 3 congregations) helped in different ways and the whole event (including the non-

hospitality requirements) showed what a great job Citywide can do. The mainlanders were pleasantly surprised by what a (relatively) small church can do.

Church Camp

Unlike 2023, this was a 1 day activity, held at Emmanuel Christian School in October. It was a BYO lunch with morning, afternoon teas and dinner catered for. For the main course there was a western choice and a Nepalese choice, and the Mornington and LV women (and Harm Knibbe who makes an excellent Cheesecake) provided desserts.

Upgrade of equipment

In 2024 we were able to replace the coffee cups and add to our stock of glasses at Mornington. We also setup a self catering counter in the lounge. We still have a way to go regarding improvements to the kitchen at our Mornington site. Many of the tablecloths need replacing as does the crockery and cutlery. We thank Dale Herbert for maintaining the thirty year old dishwasher.

While preparing this report I was reminded that being hospitable and catering for the needs of others (not only food and meals) is about creating and strengthening community. It is about showing others that they are recognised, considered and welcomed with love. Thank you so much to all those who contribute in so many ways to this ministry.

Janine Collins



CHILDREN & YOUTH

This past year has been a lot of fun in NRG Kids. We have had three families consistently attend our Sunday kids program, as well as many visitors. We have enjoyed getting to know each of the kids and creating programs that help them learn about Jesus in fun and creative ways.

Our weekly Sunday program includes singing songs, doing crafts, playing games and teaching a weekly Sunday School lesson. Danni Evenhuis, Sophie Semmens and myself rotate teaching every three weeks, and we also have a helper each week. We value all our helpers and are always looking for more, so if you are not currently serving and can offer half an hour of your time on every third Sunday, please let one of us teachers know!

At the end of the year the kids put on a play for the church as a part of our Children and Youth Service. The play was the story of David and Goliath, and each of the kids got really involved and enjoyed participating. We also gave out book prizes to each of the kids for being part of the NRG Kids program this year. It felt special to be able to give out gifts, and we hope that the kids will look back at these books in years to come and treasure them.

We are looking forward to this coming year and are excited to see what God will do in this space. Please continue to pray for our kid's program, and that God would bring many more families to Citywide so we can share the good news about Jesus to these children.



This year the MERGE program was run by myself, Mitchell Semmens, Kate Astley and Anya Evenhuis. It was a wonderful team to work with. While the number of youth attending MERGE this year dropped, the joy that the youth brought did not, with each young person bringing life, joy and fun to each evening.

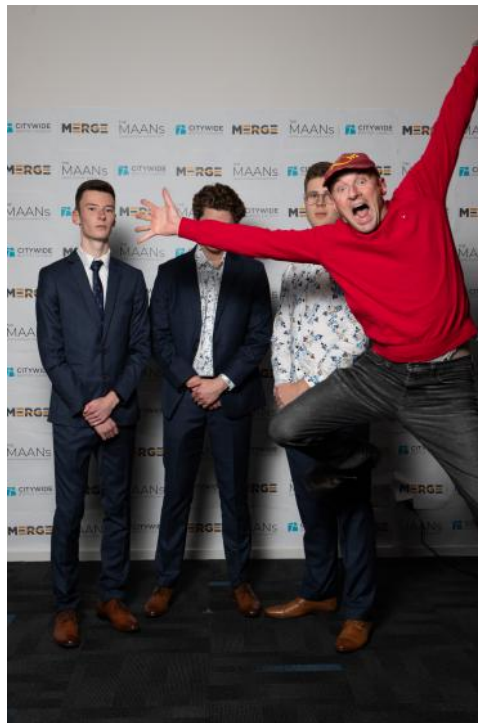
Because we had less youth this year, we decided to change MERGE from every Wednesday evening to every second Friday evening. Some of the themes we had throughout the year included glow-in-the-dark, youth Olympics, Masterchef, green night (yes – everyone dressed in green, it was AMAZING), and youth Christmas. We were also invited to join St Mark's youth group a couple of times this year: first at laser tag, then at mini golf. It was great to meet youth from other churches, and for us leaders to meet others with a passion for youth ministry.

Our devotion theme across terms two and three was "Do not conform to the patterns of this world". We decided as a team that this theme was pretty relevant for young people, and we enjoyed approaching it from different angles. Towards the end of the year we began answering questions from "The Question Box". The Question Box was something we put in place to give youth the space to ask questions about faith anonymously. We found that this worked quite well and hope to continue this next year.

Once again, we held the annual MAAN's award night, where different groups within the church created short films and showcased them. We had a lot of fun making our youth movie, and it was great to see other people getting involved in movie making. The turn out this year for MAAN's was excellent, and we hope people continue to support the evening in future years. We also held a Children and Youth service, where our youth had the opportunity to be involved. We enjoyed giving the youth an opportunity to participate, and look forward to future youth services.

This coming year we are seeing some changes in leadership, with Kate Astley and Mitchell Semmens both stepping back after many years of involvement. I have learnt a lot from them, and we will miss them, but we are also excited for them as they embark on new adventures outside this ministry. As we see a new youth team emerge in the coming year, we are excited to see MERGE continue and to nurture the youth that attend.

Chelsey Marshall





TWENTY TWENTY FOUR IN PICTURES



COMMUNICATIONS

2024 has provided a number of new and exciting challenges for the Communications role. We had a number of projects large and small to keep us busy. The smallest, stickers with QR codes for our chairs, the biggest, replacing the sign on Cambridge Road.

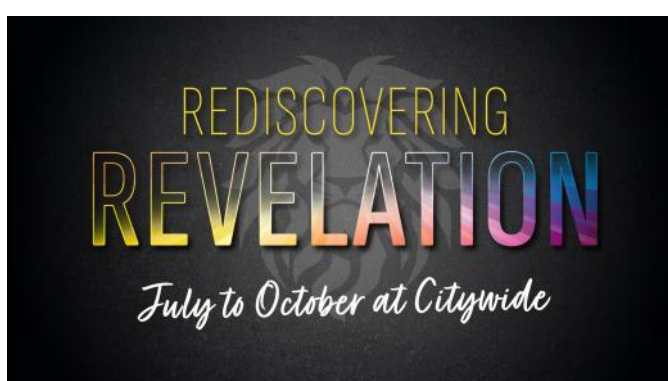
Citywide hosted pastors from all over the country for the National Pastors Conference in May. This meant spending some time working with Matt and Dan on creating a number of documents and changes to our website to help ensure the attendees had all the information they needed to help them through the gathering.

I have also enjoyed working with the different ministry leaders and helping them with their graphic needs throughout the year, and ensuring that we have all the required graphics for our social media advertising and pre service slides.

One of the largest, and most satisfying, projects of the year involved the replacement of the signage on the Cambridge Road side of our Mornington site. The small signs at the driveway entrance and the large sign on Cambridge Road had been up there for over fifteen years and had been looking tired and wrecked. It was a great team effort with Dale, Peter, Dan and myself all painting, working on the electrics and spending time up on a lift getting it ready for installation. It was a wonderful moment to see the sign finally lit up and looking so good.

I'm hoping and praying that 2025 can be an exciting year of more new projects and events to challenge us and help us get God's message out there.

Stuart Semmens



LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups are at the heart of Citywide Baptist Church. They provide a space where people can grow in their faith, build relationships, and engage with the core values of following Jesus, blessing others, and sharing life together.

Currently, we have several groups meeting regularly in different locations. Participation levels vary from small, intimate gatherings to larger groups with over 30 attendees. These groups serve as a primary means for members to explore their faith and apply biblical teachings in daily life.

While participation remains steady, there is an opportunity to expand the reach of Life Groups and encourage deeper connections among members. Some groups are thriving, while others face challenges. We are seeing the need for stronger support and are exploring how this might happen.

We are particularly grateful for the growth of the Young Adults group, the Semmens home group, and the Wednesday afternoons group in 2024. This growth is forcing discussions about how to do things differently, with the Semmens group now growing to two and discussions underway about what is best for the other two groups.

The Wednesday afternoon group is so big that people are finding it hard to hear, and the Young Adults group has such a range of people at different points of their spiritual journeys that one group is unable to cater for everyone's needs.

We are hoping the Alpha course this year might be a key moment of growth for our life groups.

Matt Garvin



MISSION PARTNERSHIP TEAM

This is our second year having a Mission Partnership Team at Citywide. Citywide aims to give 10% of the church's income to invest beyond ourselves into God's Kingdom locally, nationally and internationally with a goal to create supportive relationships which includes prayer, encouragement and financial support.

We were especially encouraged by the visit from Annie Sheba from REHOC in Zambia. It was so amazing to see the impact she and her team are making in housing, educating and supporting so many in her city.

Through the year we have given more than \$18,894 to our Mission Partners including:

- Rural Pastors in Nepal \$1972
- Outreach & humanitarian aid Nepal \$3561
- REHOC (child sponsorship) \$1000
- Compassion \$624
- Baptist World Aid \$4624
- Baptist World Aid (Jit and Jan) \$570
- Baptist Mission Australia \$633
- Salvation Army (Eastern Shore) \$397
- Fusion Jamaica \$800
- Samaritan's purse \$2875
- Crossover Australia \$459
- Scripture Union \$1000
- Vadym (Ukraine Support) \$379

We've also provided funds to the Tasmanian Baptist Union in order to support the 27 Baptist Churches around Tasmania and the above amounts don't include more than \$10,000 that has been given directly to REHOC.

Thanks to God's blessing and the generosity of this church we have been able to encourage many as they share their faith and love while serving those around them.

Dan Evenhuis



MEN'S SHED

Men's Shed meets about monthly and is an important opportunity for men to catch up and grow together and support one another. We average around 12 guys each time we meet. We watch the footy or cricket, whichever is in season. We eat, we laugh a lot, and we listen to each other.

I want to start this report with thanks to Rick and Robyn for allowing us to use their place down at Copping.

Thanks also to Kevin and Sonya too for making their back yard in Lauderdale available when Rick and Robyn were away. We now have 2 options for shed meetings.

And thanks to Bruce for his cooking, and Louise for your pavlovas.

2024 has been a good year and we look forward to whatever God brings in 2025.

Graeme Picket



NEW 2 U

New-2U has continued its ministry throughout the year. Karen Dean has faithfully managed it for several years, but sadly had to retire due to ill health. On behalf of us all, I want to acknowledge and thank Karen for her labour of love – we miss your happy smiles and wise advice.

I felt led to take it on the Op Shop from Karen and am thoroughly enjoying my time there, with the solid support of Toni Isbister providing the balance of younger energy. Thank you Toni, I have valued your help.

Although Karen had been opening the shop a couple of afternoons each week to service the gymnastics clientele in addition to Thursday mornings for the Time Out ladies, I am only able to work and open the shop on Thursday mornings for Time Out people. So there is plenty of opportunity for others to step in and open the shop on any or all afternoons, particularly between 3.00-6.00pm when there is an endless stream of mums waiting around for their kids.

It's a busy and joyous time in the shop with lots of laughter. In addition to trying to find some lovely clothing items for the ladies at a reasonable price, it is also an opportunity to get to know people and to listen to and come alongside them in their daily lives.

In November, we operated in support of Baptist World Aid and their project to make people aware of unethical workshops around the world where workers are exploited. Making people aware of which local shops receive stock from exploited workers. Being armed with information about how and where to shop ethically meets an important moral and social issue in our world. All takings that month were given to BWA in their fight in this area.

Thanks to all who have donated clothes for our stock. Sorting and pricing and displaying clothes is a never-ending job and I am very happy to be able to give my time and energy to this work. With God's help I hope to continue managing the shop throughout 2025.

If you would like to help me on Thursdays, or open and manage the shop on any afternoon, please talk to me or Jan in the office.

Ruth Cables

PASTORAL CARE

Since the introduction of the Trustees in 2023, the elders have taken primary responsibility for pastoral and spiritual oversight. Each elder is responsible for connecting with specific groups in the church, with the goal that at every elders meeting we would have a clear view of how most of the congregation is doing.

Monthly pastoral care meetings comprise a dedicated group that monitors the congregation's wellbeing. I am incredibly grateful to Raie Semmens, Emily McCormack, Agnes Webb, Jan Norton, Dan Evenhuis, Henny Straatsma, Peter Collins, and Chris French (who has completed her service on the group this year) for the way they have cared for people and helped me see and understand more of what has been happening within the church community.

The primary strategy for pastoral care is through small groups, with about 60% of the church involved in life groups. Our life group leaders and the groups themselves play a vital role in caring for people in the church.

Our prayer chain email list has grown this year to 50 people, alerting members to immediate needs, and pastoral visits by pastors and elders provide direct care.

Our Nepali congregation's pastoral care is guided by Pastor Paul, with the support of Bikash Rai, nominee as an elder. The Nepali congregation also has home fellowship groups, and their strong family relationships and regular connections often result in robust pastoral care.

We are also conscious of many individuals connected to our online congregation. Efforts are ongoing to connect with them through a Facebook group. Special thanks to Cheryl Bingham and Diane Allen for their role in the pastoral response to prayer needs during our week of prayer and fasting.

Dan and I are hoping to do more visits with people in the coming year, and we are discussing whether we might be able to find someone to schedule these connections for us, as both of us agree that would make a big difference. We are conscious this is an area we can improve in.

Matt Garvin



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

During 2024, Shari Scott took over the leadership of the southern team of Operation Christmas Child. (Shari lives in Sorrel and attends the Copping Christian Fellowship.) Irene Churchill and I are members of this team. We met a number of times during the year - sometimes with Amanda Towns who continues to head OCC in Tasmania. We are grateful for their input and support.

In 2024, we ended up filling 240 shoeboxes on Shoebox Sunday (an extra 13 from the year before). On that day it was great to have input from Amanda Towns and Terry Hampson, but I was so grateful for all the members of Citywide who so readily took part, and especially for those who set up and supervised the tables, helped with the transport and packed the boxes onto cartons afterwards. Thank you for all those at Lenah Valley too, especially to Agnes Webb. A very big thank you to all who sewed, knitted, helped cover boxes and made items through the year and for those who donated money and shopped for fillers!! I am particularly grateful for the help and support of the members of my Home Group.

Again last year, Citywide was not only a Drop-off Point, but also the central hub for all shoeboxes for southern Tasmania. Terry Hampson (also a member of the southern team) was the coordinator for this project

and manned the room for a fortnight. Again De Bruyan's transported the cartons (free of charge) to Launceston every day. They were loaded into containers there, then shipped to Sydney for processing.

We have recently received information that our shoeboxes have arrived in Cambodia. Please continue to pray that the children who receive these shoeboxes will receive Jesus as their Saviour.

I am so grateful for your ongoing support and for our God who not only knows our needs, but the needs of the children who receive our shoeboxes.

Anne Harrison



PRAYER MINISTRIES

Prayer is the anchor of our life together at Citywide. In all things we are dependent upon our Father God, his grace and mercy, his love and faithfulness, his peace and joy, his leading and vision, his provision and protection, his strength and victory, his very life within us. How blessed we are to know him and how favoured we are to have been called by him. And our response is always one of worship and praise, of submission and obedience and of sharing our lives with him.

There are many and varied channels of prayer that emanate from our fellowship. Thank you to all who participate in whatever way, for your heart of prayer that flows and opens to God, for one another, and for our corporate life at Citywide. We place great value on our prayer ministries.

Prayer Chain

Well, it's not really a Prayer Chain in these days of higher technology, but the essence is the same. There are over 50 people committed to receiving prayer requests at any time on any day, using WhatsApp as our medium. What a power house we are together! What a storming of heaven's throne room when we faithfully respond to a need. And how we rejoice together when we receive feedback of answers from the heart of Jesus himself.

Sunday Morning Prayer Ministry

There are a team of faithful people scheduled each week after our services to be available to pray with people. It's a little disappointing that not many people avail themselves of this ministry, but nevertheless we're there and available to support you in prayer for whatever season of life you may be in. Don't hold back. The faith you express in just asking for prayer is something that delights our Lord.

Sunday Service Prayer

How blessed we've been as different people have prepared and delivered a prayer in our services on behalf of us all. What a window into the souls of our fellow family members, what an encouragement to hear others praying, what a blessing to be led by faith-filled people and feel united in approaching God with our prayers and supplications.

Prayer and Fasting Weeks

Each year we set apart two weeks to dedicate to prayer and fasting as a church together, focusing on growing closer to Jesus. Our winter solstice here in Hobart offers a great opportunity to join with other churches in praying light into the darkness of our city, in praying into some specific areas of need around us, in seeking the love and truth of Jesus to overpower and counter the lies of the enemy.

Engine Room

Every Thursday night there's an open prayer time for anyone to join in. We do it on Zoom these days and although only a few people attend, it's amazing how united we are as we wait upon the Holy Spirit to lead us, how close we feel to each other as we wait in the presence of Jesus, and how our prayers are fuelled and empowered by praying together. You'll easily find the link on our webpage, 8pm Thursdays.

Monday Mornings in the Office

Again, an open opportunity for anyone to join us in the office at 9.30am as we begin our working week together in prayer. It's great to be able to lay the week before Jesus and seek his guidance and help in all that crosses our paths.

Life Groups

There are several groups who meet weekly and these are another avenue for joint prayer, especially in ministering to each other, or in praying into a mission area or in just journeying together in prayer.

Inviting Prayer

Twice now we have put out an invitation through Facebook to anyone who would like us to pray for them. What an overwhelming response we've had! How it has opened our eyes to the pain and anguish experienced by so many people around us in our community. How it has touched our hearts with the depth of need that people have. And how humbled we've been in bringing these people and their needs before our merciful God. Our huge thanks to both Cheryl Bingham and Dianne Allen who have fielded and maintained contact and encouragement with many of those in need. Their sensitivity and discernment and patience flows from their compassion and love given them by Holy Spirit. Thanks too to the prayer chain participants who have faithfully maintained this extra burden of prayer.

Jan Norton



SANCTUARY CARE

A Sanctuary is a sacred place, a place of safety and refuge. Psalm 46 tells us that *'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble.'* Churches can be places of sanctuary where all people can find rest.

Sadly, domestic violence knows no boundaries. It occurs across all ethnic groups, all socio-economic groupings, and across all faith groups. The sad reality is that people within our Christian community experience family abuse and live with the trauma of it.

The Sanctuary Care team is actively looking at ways we can raise awareness of this serious issue, provide information about where people can get help and practical support, and help make Citywide a place where people who have experienced or are experiencing family abuse can receive sanctuary, and feel accepted, believed and valued.

It has been a fairly quiet year for the team; however, we continue to develop and strengthen links to support the work of our broader church community.

We invited Beth Petrusma to share her interest in developing a volunteer-based local mental health Christian ministry in Hobart, along similar lines to Sanctuary Mental Health Ministries, which is being run in Canada (<https://sanctuarymentalhealth.org/>) and the UK (<https://sanctuarymentalhealth.org/uk/>). To help lay the groundwork for this, Hobart Church of Christ ran the Mental Health First Aid Course, which people from our church attended.

We also supported and promoted another *"Tools for Preventing Domestic Violence (Circuit Breaker Training)"* course organised by the Southern Christian Family Violence Group. Following on from that, Citywide has partnered with this group and Olive Road to host Tasmania's first Circuit Breaker program.

Circuit Breaker is a group-based course where thousands of people have found powerful tools and strategies to deal with their temper, and to start building stronger relationships. It will be launched at Citywide's Mornington campus on 5 May this year. In the lead-up to the launch, we will also host a free *Keeping Your Cool* community seminar on April 14.

The seminar is a no-strings-attached event designed to equip people in the community with better tools and strategies for controlling their temper, but it also serves as an excellent taster event for upcoming Circuit Breaker courses.

If you have a heart to serve and support people who have experienced abuse and live with the trauma of it, you are very welcome to join our ministry team.

To speak to someone about Domestic and Family Abuse, the national hotline 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732) is available 24/7 for counselling and information referral. You can also speak with Pastor Matt or Pastor Dan.

Ann Herbert

SAFE CHURCH

Since the introduction of the new Child and Youth Safe Standards in 2024, Citywide Child Safe Sub-committee have been working to ensure Citywide's compliance across all 10 Standards. This has been a lot of work and a vast number of actions have already been developed and implemented to meet these Standards.

One major action which is still to be undertaken, is the provision of Child Safety training (which will also include vulnerable and elderly persons), to all employees, Ministry Leaders, volunteers and the congregational community in general. Once this training has been undertaken, it will be extended to our Nepalese congregation as well. This is an important undertaking, as it is imperative that all persons working/volunteering and attending Citywide, are aware of the new regulations and particularly as to what actions are required if an incident of abuse is either witnessed by, or revealed to you.

Linda McDavitt



SPONSOR CHILDREN

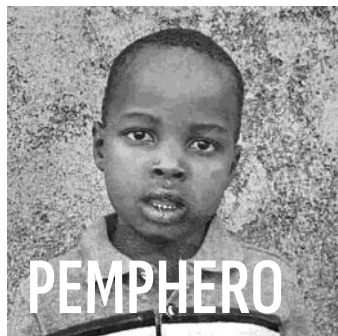
This year at Citywide, we have continued supporting many Sponsor Children, and I have had the privilege to write letters to many of them. We sponsor through three organisations, Compassion Australia, Baptist World Aid and REHOC. Six children with Baptist World Aid, one with Compassion Australia and five with REHOC. I want to share our children's names and some information about them. All the money you place in the pink cups during the services supports these children, so thank you for supporting this mission of the churches.

Kate Astley



AMOITI

Amoiti lives in Kenya and is currently 11 years old. She loves to draw, play hide and seek with her friends. She loves attending school. Maths is her favourite subject. We sponsor her through



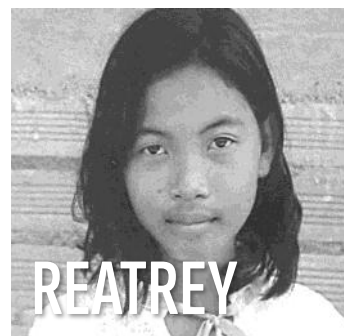
PEMPHERO

Pemphero lives in Malawi; he is currently 8 years old. He lives with his grandparents, brother and sister. When he grows up, he wants to be a teacher and is very happy when he plays with his toys.



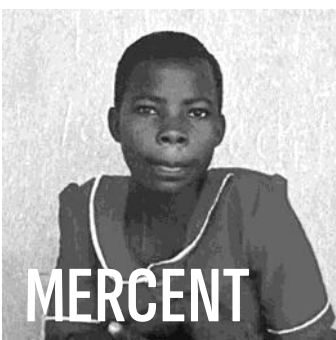
SUME

Sume lives in Bangladesh, she is 16 years old. She attends club and school regularly. She enjoys playing games with her friends. We sponsor her through Baptist World



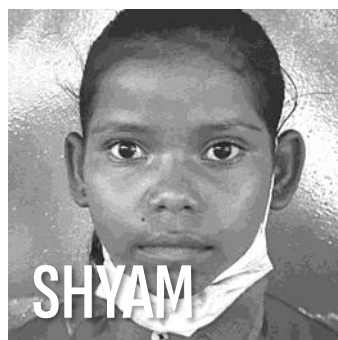
REATREY

Reatrey lives in Cambodia, and she is 13 years old. Both her parents are farmers, and her favourite subject is maths. Her favourite colours are red and blue. We sponsor her through Baptist World Aid.



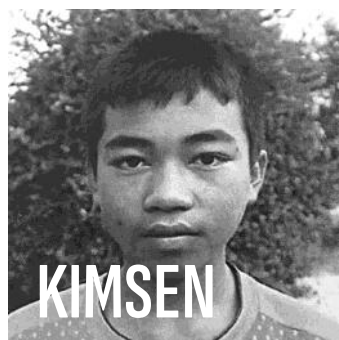
MERCENT

Mercent lives in Malawi; she is currently 15 years old. She loves to learn about child rights. We sponsor her through Baptist World Aid.



SHYAM

Shyam lives in Nepal; she is currently 12 years old. She loves singing and playing cricket and enjoys attending the Festival of lights. We sponsor her through Baptist World Aid.



KIMSEN

Kimsen lives in Cambodia; he is currently 14 years old. Lives with his parents, grandparents and brother and he wants to be a teacher when he grew up and loves to play

REHOC CHILDREN - ZAMBIA



CECILIA



ERICK



STEVEN



HELLEN



GLADYS

TABLETOP SALES

Our first full year of Tabletop Sales is done! This year we had 4 sales, one in each season. It has been nice getting to know our "regulars" and even more wonderful seeing them interact with each other. We trialled having some tables out in the foyer area, with the feedback saying that they preferred all being in the Auditorium, so after a few reshuffles we managed to squeeze 40 stalls in for the next sale.

A big thank you to Bikalpa and Rechal for opening the Namaste Café for these events, and to Peter and Janine Collins for filling in when they can't. I also want to thank our church community for popping in on the day. It is so lovely seeing our church community getting to know the local community. Some people must have felt very welcomed by this as they have then joined us on a Sunday afterwards.

I feel we have such a great opportunity to be a welcoming space to the community, and I pray that the future sales will bring a few more people in through the doors.

Jess McEldowney



TECHNICAL AND STREAMING

While not without challenges, it has been really nice this year for us to have been able to assist Levendale in joining and contributing to our Sunday services in a more notable way. The sound desk at Mornington was significantly adjusted to make our system better able to handle more remote sites.

It has been good having Kevin giving a hand with the lighting at Mornington this year. I feel this is an area that has been neglected for a while with most of us distracted by other pressing jobs. There are also the bigger events such as weddings and Christmas where Kevin's efforts are most impressive.

We had to say goodbye to Kyran this year who has been very reliable and done a lot over the last few years to help out, particularly with the video at Mornington. I personally would not have been able to keep running things over the last few years without Kyran.



I am also personally thankful for everyone who stepped in for me while I was away for a while this year. While that time away was well covered, it was still very obvious around and after Christmas that we do not have enough people to do what we do, so I ask people to get involved, we're happy to teach new people.

Stephen McEldowney

TIME OUT CRAFTS & ELECTIVES

The Time Out Program operated throughout 2024, from 9:30 until 12 noon each Thursday during the school terms, with the last term being extended by 2 weeks (as requested by some of the ladies). It was also decided to trial a Summer Edition of Time Out for 4 weeks in January 2025 as the normal break is quite long.

There were 13 different classes offered to the community which were taken up by mainly senior ladies. We still have 2 different groups of people, who have intellectual disabilities, coming along, with their carers, absolutely enjoying themselves.

Rosny Library was used again to promote Time Out in February and hopefully attract some more people. We still average around 80 people including the amazing Time Out team, always putting in 100% to make the program happen.

The passing of Ed Straatsma (86) on the 14th March 2024 saddened us greatly and also Rex Hickman, in June 2024, a past tutor, who was 93.

Our 30th Anniversary

We celebrated our 30th Anniversary at the end of Term 2 where Raie Semmens, the co-ordinator of Time Out, decided after 16 years that it was time to have a rest and retire. A beautiful painted card done by Betty Harrison, signed by everyone, and a reversible Table Runner, made by Marg Moss, also signed by all groups, was presented to Raie to thank her for all she'd done over the years. An embossed pen with anniversary details was also given.

A beautiful quilt, that was the brainchild of Margaret Dilger and made by different ladies from Time Out to commemorate past and present Tutors and team members, was presented at the Anniversary as well. It was decided that instead of having a separate function to honour the Tutors later in the year, that we would incorporate it at this function presenting them with a beautiful Thank You Mug Rug made by Marg Moss.

Raie then presented Marg Moss with her Co-ordinator's name tag. The Anniversary cake was cut

and distributed. It was lovely to have past Tutors and friends present. There were between 80-100 people attending. Unfortunately, both Matt Garvin and Dan Evenhuis were unable to attend but had pre-recorded a video for the occasion. We are grateful for their continued support throughout the year.

The Time Out team: Hosts: Vivienne Bignall, Sofia Higgs and Louise Pickett morning tea, Trade Table: Jeanette Garlick, Jane Edwards, Henny Straatsma and Toni Isbister. Suzanne Fisher took on the treasurer's role but due to ill health was unable to continue so Jennii Lassman stepped in, who also helps with setting up sound when John Bignall was unable to do it, then Marg Moss as Co Ordinator. I am truly thankful for the commitment of this amazing team of caring, thoughtful and gifted people. We're looking forward to 2025 and beyond.

Sharing with Others:

- Australia's Biggest Morning Tea raised \$440 for Cancer Council
- 3 quilts donated by Time Out Patchworkers to Corumbene nursing home and 3 from Care Quilts to Ronald McDonald House and 2 cot quilts to Jirah House.
- 5 ladies handbags filled with ladies Toiletries, given to Louise for Louie's Van.
- Bags donated for Operation Christmas Child.
- We are very fortunate to have 2 published authors amongst our ladies. Margaret Harris and Suzie Peace Pybus both launched books and shared about them with us.
- Annie from REHOC shared about the women she works with and the orphanage in Zambia.

Margie Moss



VENUE HIRE

2024 started off with a bang in terms of Casual Hire, with a wonderful wedding to get us started. Mitch and Sophie Semmens turned the Auditorium into a beautiful fairy light wonder, complete with room to dance. I am always impressed with what people can do with the space.

We had a new permanent hire start in April; a Disability Support company running cooking classes on a Wednesday morning. It has been fun having delicious smells waft into the office, and occasionally we are lucky enough to get some of the leftovers!

May was the big National Baptist Senior Pastors Gathering where over 70 Baptist pastors from large churches in Australia came to Tasmania for a 4 day conference. It was a busy week, but it made me feel so grateful for the amazing church community we have, with many pulling together to make this a successful event.

June and July were big for cultural events. I had the opportunity to be present for a Pakastani food festival where there were lots of colours, dancing everywhere, and very spicy food.

August brought around another wedding, with Nic and Ben tying the knot. Kevin worked wonders bringing Nic's vision to life, with Nic hand making many of her decorations. The room looked amazing, and it showed yet another way to transform the Auditorium.

September was another busy month, with two hires in

a week. We were treated to a full dress rehearsal of a local schools' production of 'The Lion King', complete with hand made Pride Rock. This was followed three days later by an awards night for a local junior football club, who managed to squeeze 280 people in around tables.

The rest of the year was relatively quiet, with a couple of small groups using the Mornington building.

In addition to the Casual Hires, we have had a busy year with our other Permanent Hires. Each week well over 1000 people enter into the Mornington building to attend one of the many activities that are run through the week. Clarence Gymnastics have again increased their numbers both in their morning sessions, and also their after school and weekend sessions. Move Well Pilates seems to have a constant flow of participants, and we hardly know that the Community group using the space on Saturday evenings is here as they're so quiet.

I look forward to the 2025 year! Thank you to those who have helped in hosting an event, being a sound technician, and even cleaning up afterwards. You guys rock!

Jess McEldowney



WORSHIP

"Come let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation." Psalm 95:1

We just love getting together to make music and sing to God, and every week during the past year we have enjoyed preparing and practising for our Sunday services.

We thank our worship leaders, Robyn, Chelsey, Emily, Dan and Bruce for their continued prayerful and thorough preparation for each service, as they have liaised with our pastors, Matt and Dan, to support the message theme each Sunday, and played a critical leading role during our practise evenings each Thursday.

We value each member of our team, from our musicians to our vocalists, and are grateful for the way they continue to work together as a vibrant group to bring their respective skills and heart for worship to each and every song and practise session.

Our regular Worship team continues to be made up of Renata and Mitch on Bass, Stu on drums, Bruce, Dan and Sam on guitars, Zac and Anne on keyboard and Daniella sometimes on violin. On vocals we are grateful for the support of Chelsey, Jane, Louise, Marg, Sonya and Heather for their support.

We welcomed Louise onto the vocals team last year, and also enjoyed Lizzie Astley's contributions, both at our Big Day Out and also during our Youth Service. We look forward to hearing Lizzie singing again.

Creating and writing our own music has long been part of our team's discussions and future goals, and last November we as a church were blessed to hear a song written and sung by Chelsea. Thank you Chelsea! We look forward to playing your song together as a team.

We are always excited and blessed when our Youth take over Sunday morning for the Youth Service, and we enjoyed their planning, sharing and leading in November. We also loved the Nepalese leading the combined worship time for one of our services.

As 2025 is well underway, we continue to seek to honour God with our worship and look forward to seeing where he will lead us in this new year.

Anne Knibbe & Stu Semmens



YOUNG ADULTS

We have had another great year in the young adult life group. We began a connect group before our main group, where those who chose to attend shared a meal and intentionally spent more time with God as small groups. It was great, and I loved the idea, but unfortunately, for many reasons, it fizzled out before the end of the year. However, we are constantly learning and changing how we run this group.

We started the year at Sophie and Mitch's place, but when they moved, we were too big as we have grown a lot this past year, so we now meet at church. Dan Evenhuis continued to lead our bible studies fortnightly, and some of them included Francis Chan series called *Greater Than* on RightNow Media – Intro to Christian Living. We studied the first half of Acts, explored how our lives change as a Christian and looked more into Hagai, Ezra and Nehemiah.



This year, we have partnered up and taken turns planning our casual nights, which has led to some fun nights together. Some of the other events we have enjoyed is a special visit from Annie from REHOCH, we filmed videos for the annual MAANs night and helped host the night, we have enjoyed the youth and young adults service where we got to lead the church service. Earlier in the year, we participated in the Relay for Life, where we raised money for the Cancer Council by walking laps of the Domain, All those who attended found it an enjoyable experience. We ended with a Christmas dinner, a delightful way to wrap up a great year.

We have grown a lot, and we are looking forward to continuing to grow in our faith and community more this year.

Kate Astley



16

years Raie Semmens coordinated

Time Out

170



people on average attend a Citywide service each week

76

People watching a Sunday service on Youtube



107,175

Views of Citywide videos on Youtube in 2024

12

sponsor children from around the world supported by Citywide



25

students in the Nepali driver mentor program



93

People asked Citywide for prayer on Facebook



1044



followers

46.8km

Toilet paper used at Citywide



240



Operation Christmas Child boxes filled and packed to be sent off to children overseas

60%

of the church are involved in life groups

3



Quilts donated by Time Out to Corumbene nursing home

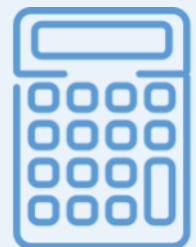
660

LED lights used in the Citywide Christmas Tree



35

Years Maurice French has served as a Baptist finance team member



**TWENTY TWENTY
FOUR
BY THE NUMBERS**

5

new Citywide Baptist church members



FINANCES

Another year, another financial outcome largely in line with the budget—aside from some unexpected expenses, like replacing air conditioners! While this investment has increased the value of our building, it has also added to our mortgage. With higher interest rates, this will have an impact on the church moving forward.

A few major decisions are on hold as we discern God's direction for the 'block.' Once that is determined, we will need to make decisions regarding debt management. However, I want to emphasize that our current level of debt is not a risk and does not hinder the church's ability to serve our community.

Financial Overview

We ended the year with an operating loss of **\$65,648**, close to the budgeted deficit of **\$50,000**, particularly considering the increased interest payments following the **\$98,000** air conditioning replacement.

Income fell slightly below expectations, finishing **3% under budget** for offerings and facility hire. The Nepalese congregation continued their faithful generosity, contributing **15% above budget**, while other congregations were **7.5% below budget**. As we begin a new year, I encourage everyone to review their giving in light of inflation and consider adjusting direct deposits accordingly.

We successfully renegotiated a two-year lease with our major tenant. Going forward, we will rely on Jess's continued efforts in securing casual hires to help meet the 2025 budget.

Expenses and Mortgage

Expenses exceeded budget by **5%** (excluding air conditioning costs) due to some unforeseen expenses and rising costs. Our thanks go to all the volunteers whose contributions in maintenance, gardening, and administration help keep costs down, allowing us to allocate funds elsewhere.

Insurance costs continue to rise, now totalling **\$45,000** (including workers' compensation). To manage this, we took out a low-interest loan with BFS, which was more cost-effective than making an additional mortgage withdrawal.

Our mortgage now stands at **\$245,566**, reducing our financial flexibility for unexpected expenses. In response, we are in discussions with BFS about transferring and increasing our loan to ensure we have sufficient capital to pursue our vision for the block.

Missions and Community Support

The **Baptist Mission Australia (BMA)** grant supporting the Nepalese Community is now integrated into our standard ministries. Over the past two years, this

initiative has been successful, and BMA has agreed to continue supporting it. Expenses exceeded income by **\$21,787.30**, which was covered by the Nepalese church's savings from the merger.

Under Citywide's banner, **Rehoch support**, managed by Agnes Webb, focused on a **\$45,000** donation toward house building. Despite this, the bank balance increased by **\$11,136** over the year. We are exploring ways to reduce transaction fees before transferring additional funds.

Acknowledgments

I extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who assists with church finances. Special thanks to Kylie for her tireless efforts managing payroll and transactions, and to the finance team for their support and guidance. I particularly acknowledge **Maurice French**, who has stepped down after many years of dedicated service—his wisdom and support have been a great blessing.

Additional thanks go to:

- **Agnes Webb** (Missions)
- **Mark Harris** (financial oversight and advice)
- **Dan** (Nepalese community funds and IT support)
- **Jan Norton** (meeting coordination and minutes)
- **Dilip Jirel** (Nepalese finances)
- **Rodney Marshall** at the Union head office for his Xero expertise

Your commitment and dedication make all the difference—thank you!

Tim Astley



PROFIT & LOSS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Income	Actual	Budget	Notes
Offering			
<i>Mornington</i>	205,059.39	221,550	
<i>Lenah Valley</i>	51,242.80	56,970	
<i>Nepalese</i>	93,181.77	81,000	
Total Offering	349,483.96	359,520	
Outreach	14,232.36	11,150	
Missions Income	18,945.78	5,720	Includes Nepalese Missions giving
Hire Income	113,700.86	116,048	
Other Income	15,865.10	4,680	Includes income for building projects and conferences
Total Income	512,228.05	497,118	
Expenses			
Salary	371,000.50	368,495	
Administration	86,629.89	85,193	
Communications	4,860.90	5,200	
Sunday Services	4,120.60	2,450	
Missions	23,942.45	15,282	Extra costs for ANZAC day and Christmas events
Hospitality and Kitchen	4,078.98	2,380	Purchasing crockery?
Pastoral Care and Community	3,740.65	2,650	
Youth and Children's Ministry	2,578.29	6,810	
Buildings			
<i>Mornington</i>	45,313.58	46,024	
<i>Lenah Valley</i>	9,912.85	6,544	Over spend mostly due to carpeting back room
Interest Paid	13,883.79	6,012	Due to increased borrowing to pay for air conditioners
Other	7,863.96		Includes passing on proceeds from Art Gallery sales
TOTAL Expenses	577,876.44	547,039	
	(65,648.39)	(49,921)	

NEPALI COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM

Income	2023	2024	Overall
Donations for Driver Mentor	1506.20	3225.62	
Grants	66,000.00		
Donations and fund-raising	11,969.48		
TOTAL	79,475.68	3225.62	82,701.30
Expenses			
Driver Mentor Program	2,607.56	2025.37	
Outreach Events	2,055.93	5,937.98	
Purchase of Bus	37,323.12		
Admin and Salary	24,583.04	31,229.01	
TOTAL	65,296.24	39,192.36	102,088.60
Overall cost to church			21,787.30

REHOC

Income	
General Donations	55,357.23
Child Education specific donations	16,159.60
Interest	605.33
TOTAL	72,122.16
Expenses	
General	3,620
House building	45,000
Child Education	11,956.60
Bank Fees	400
TOTAL	60,985.60
Bank balance at 1/1/24	28,712.55
Closing balance 31/12/24	39,849.11

BALANCE SHEET AS @ 31 DECEMBER 2024

Assets	Account	Notes	31 Dec 2024	31 Dec 2023
	Bank			
	General Account		14,350.52	13,753.64
	Nepalese		10.00	0.00
	DC- CA Debit Card Catering		29.94	37.47
	DC- NA Debit Card Nepalese Administrator		291.56	0.00
	DC- Y Debit Card Youth		26.87	26.87
	DC-C Debit Card Communications		232.73	79.92
	DC-EP Debit Card Exec Pastor		858.71	885.56
	DC-H Debit Card Hospitality		183.76	259.86
	DC-M Debit Card Maintenance		324.24	145.30
	DC-NP Debit Card Nepalese Past		1,370.03	919.61
	DC-O Debit Card Office		269.02	306.11
	DC-SP Debit Card Senior Pastor		210.24	563.80
	DC-CW Debit Card Children's Worker		119.74	0.00
	Total Bank		18,277.36	16,978.14
	Current Assets			
	Accounts Receivable		1,605.45	955.00
	Loan - Pastor Motor Vehicle		0.00	6,427.00
	Loan Receivable (Gymnastics)		0.00	9,056.48
	Pre-Paid Insurance		28,000.00	26,000.24
	Total Current Assets		29,605.45	42,438.72
	Fixed Assets			
	Less Accumulated Depreciation on P & E - LV		(30,000.00)	(30,000.00)
	Less Accumulated Depreciation on P& E - M		(114,362.50)	(114,362.50)
	Plant & Equipment - LV (Ins Value)		60,000.00	60,000.00
	Plant & Equipment - Mornington (Ins Value)		233,992.61	233,992.61
	Plant & Equipment- Heating System Mornington		98,011.25	0.00
	Total Fixed Assets		247,641.36	149,630.11
	Non-current Assets			
	2 Pottery Road - Lenah Valley		390,000.00	390,000.00
	400 Cambridge Road - Mornington		1,150,000.00	1,150,000.00
	Nepalese Petty Cash		3,400.00	3,400.00
	Total Non-current Assets		1,543,400.00	1,543,400.00
Total Assets			1,838,924.17	1,752,446.97
Liabilities				
	Current Liabilities			
	Accounts Payable		87.69	1,494.39
	Baptist Mission Aust Grant- Funds Held		0.00	10,713.76
	GST		(5,091.41)	(628.69)
	Gymnastics Bulk Rental		0.00	1,774.19
	Historical Adjustment	Note: 1	(8,434.26)	0.00
	PAYG Withholdings Payable		9,122.00	3,680.00
	Rounding		0.48	0.30
	Samaritans Purse- OCC		0.00	1,187.00
	Superannuation Payable		5,743.02	4,886.38
	Baptist Financial Services Insurance Loan		28,880.00	0.00
	Bonds Held		1,000.00	0.00
	Child Sponsorship-		0.00	550.60
	Total Current Liabilities		31,307.52	23,657.93
	Non-current Liabilities			
	Loan - Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees		250,637.59	92,697.32
	Building Projects		8,323.03	0.00
	Total Non-current Liabilities		258,960.62	92,697.32
Total Liabilities			290,268.14	116,355.25
	Net Assets		1,548,656.03	1,636,091.72
Equity				
	Current Year Earnings		(87,435.69)	(18,441.37)
	Retained Earnings		1,636,091.72	1,654,533.09
Total Equity			1,548,656.03	1,636,091.72

1. Historical Adjustment

This is the balance from an old account (2023) used when the Gymnastics paid their rent in Bulk. Cleared of BS at EOFY

