



*City*  
**MOVEMENTS**

APRIL 2024



**CITY to CITY**  
AUSTRALIA



## Friendship at the EFAC Conference

Julie-anne Laird had the privilege of hosting workshops on Evangelism and Outreach for around 35 clergy and bishops at the recent EFAC conference in Sydney. The workshops included a reflection and discussion on John Chapman's observation that "If the senior minister in a church isn't doing evangelism then evangelism doesn't happen". For people in ministry, personal evangelism can be tricky and hard - how do people in ministry make friends outside of Christian circles?

Julie-anne reflected afterwards on how incredible it was that there was so much shared laughter and insight arising as the attendees reflected on friendship. Some good resources are available, including the **Missional Engagement Incubator** and **Ripple Effect**.





## Partnering with Kaimai Presbytery

In April, City to City Australia and the Kaimai Presbytery in Aotearoa New Zealand commenced a journey to strengthen churches across the presbytery. Kaimai Presbytery has a host of wonderful leaders and God has planted His plans on their hearts. During April, the Director of our Revitalisation department spent a week with the leadership at Kaimai and visiting churches in the area. What was clear was that God is at work, planting His plans in the hearts of the leaders throughout the presbytery, but equally clear was the leaders need support, encouragement and prayer.

We and the Kaimai Presbytery ask that you earnestly pray for this partnership, and that many churches would flourish from this work for God's glory.





# Incubator CORE in New Zealand

Three Incubator Core Cohorts commenced recently in Aotearoa New Zealand as a part of City to City Australia's partnership with the Nelson Anglican Diocese in the Revitalise Nelson Project. Over three days, in Greymouth, Nelson and Blenheim, 55 lay and ordained leaders gathered together to explore the wonders of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and how it is the dynamic that enables and empowers ongoing transformation of both people individually and churches as a whole.

It was an incredible privilege to work with these leaders and we look forward to the second session in June.





## Unity Movements across Australia and Fiji

There are over 60 active unity movements in Australia and Fiji - God is moving in a new way among the leaders of His church across the cities in these countries. He is bringing church leaders together from different denominations and organisations to walk together and work together to bless their cities to His glory - to go make disciples of all nations. It is a steep learning curve and God is giving new insights and creative ways of engaging in this new 'one church for the city' paradigm of being and doing church.

New resources are being developed and shared, and leaders are discovering the freedom, boldness and hope that comes when we bring 'my church' into 'we church.' Church communities are being mobilised into their communities with the love of Jesus and we are seeing the earliest of the fruit of 'oneness' that Jesus prayed the Father would bring among us, and it tastes and looks wonderful.





God may already be doing something in your city, town or region that you could join and help resource, or maybe He is taking you on the journey of exploring this paradigm starting to form in your city. If you would like to connect with us about what could be possible, and how you can receive support and be connected, please email our Director of Movement, Greig Whittaker [here](#).





# Gospel Renewal Camp for Chinese Leaders in Europe

We are thankful to God for the Gospel Renewal Camp held in Madrid, with 14 Chinese church leaders attending from Spain and Italy. The camp was held in partnership with Gospel City Network and Grace to City.

At the beginning of the camp, when asked how many are interested in or have been called to church planting, two participants responded. At the end, when the same question was asked, we had nine participants responding positively, with all participants sharing that they experienced gospel renewal.



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“What I gained from this camp is to boldly re-think the vision I used to have which has to do with the 2nd Generation. I didn't dare to share this burden with people as I felt that it was an impossibility. But during this camp, I came to realise that what is impossible with us is possible with God... I now know that God has a plan for each one of us and for each context.”

~ Pastor of Barcelona Chinese Church

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“This camp helps me to clear the rubbish in my life, including the idols. After serving for some time, we have more and more idols. As pastors we are good at pretending... In this camp, I've been renewed by the gospel in many areas, and to view myself from God's perspective, including what is lacking or places that need breakthrough. I need to preach the gospel to myself.”

~ Pastor of a Chinese Church in Rome







# Are You Called to Plant?

~ By Chris Swann

One of the best things I get to do in my work alongside church planters is hear about the different ways God calls people into the adventure of starting new things.

Some catch the bug by being part of a church planting team or another evangelistic and pioneering ministry. Youth ministries, university ministries and beach missions are often the places from which potential planters emerge.

That's how it was for me: my first "plant" was a new beach mission on the south coast of NSW. Together with two other established teams, the team I'd been leading birthed this new work to reach new people in a new place.

There seems to be something about these sorts of contexts. Perhaps it's the way leadership, vision casting and team empowerment gifts are married with an urgency around reaching out to people who don't know Jesus – and a constant need to develop leaders (because of the relatively high turnover of volunteers). Others find themselves with a burden for the spiritual well being of a particular community or place.

I know one planter who, during his late teens, mysteriously felt led to pray for a city he didn't even live in. He never stopped. And the church he and his team planted in that city just turned 7!

Another planter I know moved with his family into a rapidly growing area in Melbourne. The exploding population – hailing from all over the world – and the almost total lack of visible church communities struck him with particular force in the carpark of his local supermarket one day. The spiritual need broke his heart and he broke down in tears. That was a decade ago. The church plant he leads just moved into a public venue in the community.

Still others find that God works in and through their personal affinity and connection with a group – perhaps a shared language or cultural background or comparable set of life experiences.

One couple I know grew up and lived in one of Australia's most disadvantaged postcodes. They've been raising their family, loving their neighbours, and seeking the good of their community informed by their faith in Jesus for years. But in the past couple of years, God has opened a very significant door, doing something new. And this couple with their family were perfectly positioned to step in and join with what God is doing.

They likely never would have seen themselves as church planters. And their story is a far cry from the stereotypical one of the heroic solo planter, parachuting into a new community to make something new happen. They're so obviously not "outsiders" looking to do things for and fix their neighbours and friends. But God is blessing their faithful presence and they're gathering a community seeking to experience Christ's presence and power together.

There are so many different paths into church planting – and there's more even than these!



Would you be open to considering how your gifts and abilities, burdens and interests, and/or relationships and points of connection might be part of how God is leading you? I'd love you to join me for a four session Zoom cohort exploring this.

**Dates:** May 13, May 27, June 10 & June 24

**Time:** 5.45 PM -7PM AWST | 7.15-8.30PM ACST/7.45-9PM AEST/9.45-11PM NZST)

[EXPLORE HOW GOD MIGHT BE CALLING YOU](#)



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Download an excerpt from Redeemer City to City's Am I Called to Plant a Church resource:

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD](#)





**“He who calls you is faithful;  
he will surely do it.”**

**- 1 Thessalonians 5:24**

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