



CITY TO CITY AUSTRALIA

Melbourne West



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OUR VISION

The vision of City to City Australia is to join with God to see major city centres in Australia worshipping Jesus Christ as Lord, so that God will renew them spiritually, socially and culturally to the glory of God the Father. City to City Australia is a resource for church planting and renewal in the cities of Australia. We seek to catalyse new church plants and strengthen existing churches through our programs and resources. We do this by:

- Training & equipping leaders
- Developing City Networks

WHAT WE DO

TRAINING

When urban church planters set out to start new churches in their cities, we want them to be faithful and fruitful. We recruit, assess, train, and coach local leaders all over Australia, helping them to launch and grow healthy churches.

RESOURCES

New churches take the lead to reach new people groups and generations with the Gospel and act as a lab for existing churches. City to City Australia utilises resources from our international City to City Network to share the best training, thinking and experience after planting about 300 churches.

NETWORKS

City to City works with network leaders all over the world to create sustainable and faster-growing Gospel movements. We are seeing networks of Gospel-centred churches that train, fund, and support others so that hundreds of new churches can be planted and sustained in 65 global cities by 2025.

FUNDING

Australian cities, like most global cities, are expensive, and a lot of the churches we help start each year will require money to commence, and to grow. When the church becomes self-supporting, it can provide seed money to start another church in that city.

MOVEMENT

Our founder, Tim Keller says that it takes a movement to reach a city. In other words, we won't see Australia transformed by the Gospel until denominations, churches and leaders cease seeing each other as competition and start to cooperate and collaborate. City to City Australia is committed to helping catalyse this kind of Gospel movement through the sharing of resources and training.

VISION & NEEDS OF THE WEST

This booklet is designed to help you connect with a City to City resource that will help you reach your corner of the West with the Gospel in more effective and fruitful ways, and partner with us to see God's Kingdom come in the West, as it is in Heaven.

The challenge is significant. Statistics show that in order to merely keep up with population growth, we need to plant at least 10 new churches per year towards 2041. In fact our greatest hope and prayer is that we might contribute to a Gospel movement that leads to a new Kingdom reality in the West – one healthy, growing church of 150+ members for every 1000 residents. We believe that kind of Gospel saturation would herald a cultural tipping point of significant spiritual, social and cultural transformation.

The western suburbs of Melbourne is an exciting place to live. The West has had a long reputation for being working class and multi-cultural, but the reality is far from such a simplistic view. From the gentrifying grittiness of Footscray, to the established yuppies of Williamstown, to the multicultural Sunshine, and the aspirational Werribee, the West refuses to be pigeon-holed. This is not to mention the gigantic new developments in places like Tarneit, Truganina, and Aintree – soon to be home to thousands of new residents. The West is a giant just beginning to wake up.

Many see the West as a land of opportunity. Yet that vision has not yet captured the Christian church. Certainly there are great churches in the West, who love Jesus and have a passion to see the nations saved by His grace. But they are few and far between, and there is little collaboration, or even communication, between churches, even those in the same denomination. Unlike other parts of Melbourne, there are few resources available for ministry. And very rarely does a budding church planter or church revitaliser direct their gaze westward. Given there are very few medium or large-sized churches, there are few home-grown men and women in the West who are called to vocational ministry.

Yet God has sparked something in the heart of the West. Aware of the enormous need, pastors are beginning to communicate and collaborate, particularly in regular prayer for God to act to bring Gospel renewal and revival. God is raising up faithful servants to plant new churches and revitalise declining churches. The spark is still small – but the Spirit can fan such sparks into a flame that engulfs a city with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

City to City Australia is committed to joining with God to see Melbourne's West worshipping Jesus Christ as Lord, so that God will renew them spiritually, socially and culturally to the glory of God the Father. We are a resource for church planting and renewal in the cities of Australia. We seek to catalyse new church plants and strengthen existing churches through our programs and resources.

*Rev Pete Greenwood
Melbourne West Catalyst Leader*



EARLY STAGE CHURCH PLANTING

01

RESIDENCY

Church planting requires a unique set of learned skills in areas such as networking, designing vision, communication and fundraising. In the Residency, a planter will be immersed in a weekly program designed to equip them in all this and more, along with the benefit of learning alongside others in the same stage of planting.

03

ASSESSMENT

Few things are more important in planting than the competencies, the character, and the personal spirituality of the leader. Across the course of the Residency and Intensive, City to City employs a number of tools to examine key aspects of their character and competencies including the work of the Gospel in planters' lives, their dreams and plans for planting, and their alignment with CTC's Theological Core & Ethics statement. Their assessment culminates in a 360 review and debrief that uses the Christian Leadership Framework to set them up for ongoing health and development.

02

CHURCH PLANTING INTENSIVE

In partnership with City to City Asia Pacific, the Intensive is a training program for those starting churches in global cities, held online over two weeks. The program is designed to prepare church planters by exposing them to church planting concepts, theological resources to grow churches, leadership modules, and other church planting principles.

04

FUNDING

City to City Australia understands that church planting costs money. The City Renewal Fund was created to help with this challenge, by providing no-interest start up loans for new churches. The funds are paid back at a percentage of offerings, and then paid forward to start more churches. CRF loans are available to planters who have committed to the CTCA Residency, Intensive and Assessment pathway.



LATE STAGE PLANTING & ESTABLISHED MINISTRIES

1. MINISTRY INCUBATOR

The Incubator is our key two-year program which aims to serve, train, and develop church planters and pastors in Australia. It equips participants to apply the grace of the Gospel into every aspect of your ministry. Topics included are Gospel Theology & Spirituality, Gospel Contextualisation & Mission, Gospel Communication & Community and Gospel Discipleship & Influence. Each seminar provides opportunities for peer-to-peer coaching, personal spiritual formation, application of ideas to real-world problems and hands-on training that combines theology, church leadership theory and best practice in adult learning.

2. ADVANCED INCUBATORS

Advanced Incubators are deep dives into some of the topics covered more briefly in the Incubator. You will not just cover the topics more fully, but have the opportunity to apply the concepts into your ministry and get feedback from a cohort of peers as well as qualified trainers.

Ministry Design::

A targeted learning experience to guide you through auditing your ministry design and re-engineering it to promote and achieve genuine spiritual transformation in your context.

Preaching::

Preaching is vital for the life and health of God's people. Christian leaders need to keep growing in their ability to faithfully handle the Bible and communicate its message effectively so that Jesus is proclaimed in a way that deepens faith and transforms lives.

Family Systems Theory & Ministry::

This incubator will take a sustained look at Family Systems Theory, as applied to the content of ministry, both our own personal lives (nuclear family and family of origin), as well as the wider church context. The theory of family systems will be explored thoroughly, but the incubator will not leave things at theory - and participants will have the opportunity to present a family systems analysis of a current situation.



3. COACHING

Coaching provides church planters with support, assistance and accountability. A coach helps a planter develop their church planting competencies, addresses personal life issues, and provides insights into role navigation in the church planting project in the context of a coaching relationship. It is a process of imparting encouragement and skills to the planter in order to succeed in starting a Gospel-centred church, in the context of a Gospel friendship.

4. REVITALISE AUSTRALIA

While church planting is essential to transforming our city, just as vital is bringing new life to existing congregations experiencing plateauing or decline. Revitalise Australia comes alongside 'stuck' churches for a year of intensive engagement. Working across denominations and church expressions, in major cities and country towns, and with men and women church leaders, Revitalise Australia works to enable churches to move into a new season of fruitfulness. So that churches may grow. So that they may multiply. So that they may be prepared to better proclaim the gospel to more Australians.

Beginning with an in-depth analysis of their history and context, their strengths and opportunities, and then moving to sustained coaching, training, and resourcing, our prayer under God is to walk alongside churches, pastors, elders, ministry and parish teams, to equip, coach and grow Gospel-centred communities. To register your interest in Revitalise Australia, click [here](#).

5. MISSIONAL CONSULTATION

City to City offers the opportunity to meet regularly with City to City consultants with deep mission and evangelism experience to ensure outreach and evangelism remain on the agenda in a church plant. In these consultations, attention is given to the inner life and outward rhythms/practices of the planter and plant. A key point of focus is ensuring clear and contextual pathways are provided along which unbelievers can move to connect with Jesus and His church.

6. TOGETHER FOR THE WEST

As part of our commitment to Gospel movement, CTCA gladly partners with Together for the West. Launched in 2019, Together for the West is a movement of pastors, planters and leaders from across denominations and networks, who gather regularly to pray for spiritual revival in Melbourne's western suburbs. It provides an environment for leaders to pray, share and think strategically about to reach the West for Christ, with a special focus on church planting and church renewal.



GET IN TOUCH

REV PETE GREENWOOD

City Catalyst Leader, Melbourne West

✉ pete@citytocityaustralia.org.au

OUR SOCIAL MEDIA:

 [/citytocity.australia](https://www.facebook.com/citytocityaustralia)

 [@citytocityaustralia](https://www.instagram.com/citytocityaustralia)

OUR WEBSITE:

 www.citytocityaustralia.org.au

