

Church Plant Update



Why Team?

One question people ask me is ‘Why team? Why do you need a church planting team?’

You can’t be a church by yourself. Our church planting team have journeyed together every Tuesday night in our lounge room and come to realise the potential of belonging. Community is especially vital when faced with the challenging task of starting something new. Designing programs to help people find faith from diverse cultures and launching a Sunday gathering has tested our team. What we hope might take two weeks to plan, takes 3 weeks. Every step has taken us longer than we anticipated, more energy than we planned and greater intensity of prayer on our knees than we expected.

God created us for family. One couple said “Thank you for the way you welcomed us in. You included us.” Reaching new cultures and new generations with the love of Jesus means many shared meals. The dishwasher is always full with 22 cups, 25 forks and 36 plates... but I like the way different cultures share their faith over a simple stir fry.



Leaders

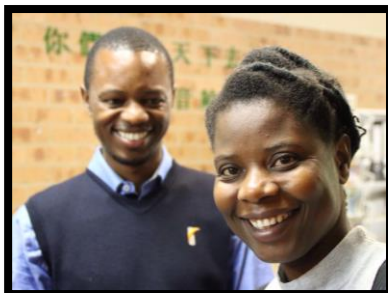
One exciting step in growth for the new church is the development of a leadership team. These leaders are the engine room of our new church – they help carry the load with Cathy and I.

Daniel Tuckwell, leading Church Services Team, have created our first Sunday Service on 21st May. We met in an office space on Campbell St, Parramatta. Creative elements like using lego pieces and joining them together with others in the team symbolised our new church unity. Norah Moyo shared about the African way of giving a gift that will help the receiver as an essential item like clothes for children (rather than chocolates!). I preached on, “Why You Are a Gift!” We appreciated the way Sam Sterland led the worship by introducing a new song that speaks to the unchurched. We have discovered that it is difficult to meet for the first time and not have a collection of songs that the church already knows - this was the first time we have sung together. It was certainly a taste of going where we haven't gone before!

Seekers Bible Study

Last night a young lady at the seeker's bible study asked, “So where is this place of life?” Cathy, Siavash and I (Gavin) were sharing about how Jesus' death on a cross is a bridge that takes us from death to life. I showed how from John 3:16 the 'place of life' is in our heart for anyone who believes in Jesus. She replied, ‘Don't worry, just believe.’ Exactly. Amy Shum has spent one night a week with her, helping her with a CV and getting ready for interviews. Witnessing is not just about using words to tell of God's love – it's also about loving people and earning the right to talk about Jesus.

Gavin & Cathy Casey



I invite you to Pray for Parramatta with us, the team and Makhosini Moyo, Prayer Leader this Monday 19 June, from 7pm – 8.30pm in the Basement.