

# BUILDING CHURCHES THAT INFLUENCE OUR COMMUNITY



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In 2003, OzReach conducted a conference in Wollongong. Anthony Walton was one of the speakers. He challenged us with this statement: "If your church closed down would your city miss it?" Most decided that apart from a few less cars parked on a Sunday, the city would not even notice.

That sent a number of churches on a pilgrimage working out how they could be a more relevant part of their community.

Life Church, (back then Celebration), was one of those churches that began to missionalise itself into the community by finding needs and endeavouring to meet them. We have not stopped travelling this journey.

Doing church this way is nothing new. Steve Sjogren wrote a book 20 years ago called, 'Servanthood Evangelism'. He use to say that if Jesus walked down the street of Cincinnati He'd probably wash your car and not your feet. 40 years ago, Robert Schuller used to say, "Find a need and fill it."

The Salvation army in 1865 worked a grassroots church movement that served the needs of the community gaining world recognition for it's practical style of Christianity.

Through the course of history, we can see numerous other examples of the church missionalising itself into the community and serving it. But right now, across the globe, the Holy Spirit is highlighting again the whole missional approach to ministry again so as to push the church out there where the real action is.

**Revelation 2:7** says this: "Let him who has spiritual ears let him hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church..." Connecting to your community is hot on the Holy Spirit's agenda at present and the way it happens is diverse because the needs in my community are different to yours. The needs in the country, the city and the suburbs are all different and varied.

## 1 IT ALL STARTS WITH VISION

There are a few things that stimulate vision and one of those is prayer. The other is getting a 'feel' or a view of your area.

In prayer you pick up God's heart for the area and the people that live there. Just like Nehemiah did when he heard about the need of his home town. He cried a prayer that **Romans 8:26-28** speaks of. It is in this place where God downloads his plans to you. **Nehemiah 2:12**, is probably the greatest vision Scripture in the Bible. "What God has put in your heart to do."

The other side of getting vision is looking. God is saying constantly, "Lift up your eyes, look and see the harvest." In **Genesis 13:14**, God says to Abraham after Lot, (the greedy relo), had parted from him, "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north, south, east and west." Where are you at now? Not looking from where you'd like to be or from

where someone else is but where are you at physically, geographically, financially, spiritually, numerically and 'now', not 'tomorrow'. Make sure that you are getting a 360° view and not just looking straight or having a tunnel vision of doing what you have always done. And then in **Genesis 13:17**, it says to start walking in it. Walk your region and your city, get a feel of the needs of your community.

For example: a couple in our church walked into the Mission to Seafarers only about 1km from our church building which is situated next to Newcastle Port, Australia's biggest and busiest ports, seeing 1800 ships arrive from overseas and 40,000 Seafarers.

The Mission is oversighted by the Catholics and Anglicans but has not been open in the evenings because of a lack of volunteers. How sad is that with all our churches in town, that we could not have been there to open the Mission at night so sailors can have access to computers so as to contact family, and exchange money into Aussie currency, watch TV, be taken to the shops, be given free clothes, and be ministered to by believers? Instead they go to clubs, brothels or just hang around in shipping centres with no one to talk to.

Well this couple quickly got a vision not only for themselves but for others to be involved. Now the Mission is open 5 nights per week. Seafarers are being ministered to and supported as they enter the city of Newcastle.

So I think you getting the picture about vision and how it relates into reaching your community.

The other thing about vision is that it generally flows out of your relationship with the Lord, just in loving God, (the first commandment). He will entrust things to you to give out to people; that is where the second Commandment of loving people kicks in.

Loving people involves understanding and if you think about it, its a study of sociology, (the understanding of people).

## 2 SOCIOLOGY

I remember when I started out by running my first church at 23. I really admired the local Church of Christ minister, Barry McMirtie who at that time, had grown his church from 60 to 600. I had about 60 people at the time and asked if I could attend his lectures on church growth.

After attending for about a month, I said to him, "Barry, you teach a lot on sociology but not much on theology." He said, "To build a great church you must study both people and God. Most churches just study theology and not the group where their theology is to be outworked. It would be like a salesman who only knew his product and not his clients." It was obvious that Barry loved and understood people

especially the unsaved.

Clarke Taylor who at one time had one of the largest churches in Australia said, "To build a great church, we must understand the ways of God and man and blend them together somehow."

Trying to understand, people will uncover needs you can meet when you love and understand them; people like drug addicts, the mentally ill, the prisoner, the homeless, the rich, and the asylum seeker. It causes your judgement to subside and instead causes you to ask yourself why they are in that position and His compassion will then rise in you to minister to them in a practical way; "1Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. 2Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. 3If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself."

## Galatians 6:1-3.

We just recently had the mental health team come in and share with our staff on understanding the mentally ill. It was extremely helpful in the area we work in.

Mental illness is becoming one of Australia's big concerns. I wonder how we as a church will minister into it or will it fit into our church growth culture?

## 3 WE ARE HERE TO SERVE

One of the most profound statements of the leadership of Jesus is simply this: "28Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." **Matthew 20:28.**

I somehow don't think it fits into our leadership model from what I've seen as I've travelled over the years. The height of your position in the church, community or business, simply means the more people you are to serve. It says in the Word that Jesus came to serve and although I do not believe we are slave to anyone, we must be servant to all. We are to serve and minister into the life of our community.

Many churches back off from serving in missional expression because they don't instantly get to preach the gospel or lead some one to Christ.

The missional way of church life involves rolling up your sleeves, and getting your hands dirty. It involves relationships, perseverance and leading by example. It's about a lifestyle expression which presents Jesus in a practical way.

We have Alcoholics Anonymous and all other recovery groups in our building. At first there was no opportunity to share the gospel but as we served them, accepted them into our lives and building, it wasn't long before they were turning up for church. Approx 20 have come to the faith and many others are ministered to.

Our Jazz venue which we run about 6 times a year is one of the most laid back approaches to witnessing we do. Numbers of believers question why we do this. They may ask, "Is it worth all the effort?" But we are offering to the more wealthy of our city great food, wine, and music in one of the cities best non music venues, (our church). How cool is that? They all know that the profits go to serving the needy. They all know I'm the local Rev and all the workers are volunteers from our church. From these events, people are being ministered to now.

Pub church, where we actually run church in a pub. We have a local muso play and I speak for 15 minutes. We then pass the hat around for a local charity. About 8 people are coming to our church as a result of this.

One of Newcastle leading restaurant owner phoned me and said, "Kev, I have something else for your church to do in the community, OzHarvest." This is rescuing food from co ops, restaurants etc, and delivering it to charities throughout the Hunter. I just agreed without knowing it was going to cost us over \$100,000 a year to run. But now we are delivering about 2500 meals a week to 30 different charity groups allowing the charities to reduce the cost and the countries waste and gas emissions. What a privilege to be serving the charities of the Hunter, working with volunteers and creating an opportunity for companies to give to those in need. People have come along to church through the influence of OzHarvest. In fact in all the missional expressions with our church, People have connected to God. Many doors of opportunities have opened for us to share on many scales and in varied ways from public forums of hundreds to individuals.

Be encouraged by these

Scriptures:  
Galatians 6:9  
Proverbs 31:8,9  
Isaiah 1:17  
1 Corinthians 15:58

Live, love and laugh  
Kevin  
Senior Leader  
@ Life Church



## 4 New Packs by Kevin Available & 2 Books

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LIFE CHURCH VISION \$20.00

This is a 4 cd pack which is a vision of a missional church which is working at emerging at incarnating itself into it's community

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Kevin Wilcock  
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I love the church  
Kevin Wilcock

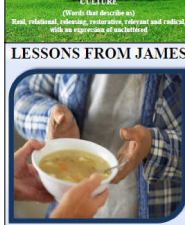


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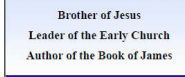
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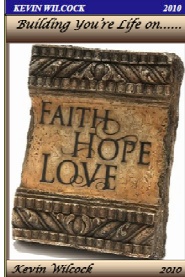
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CONTEMPT PRIOR TO INVESTIGATION  
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## EXPERIENCE A MISSIONAL CHURCH IN ACTION



SOAPBOX IS OUR  
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www.lifechurch.org.au



Hunter Homeless Connect Day  
SLEEP OUT

are you brave enough to spend the night in their shoes?

Sunday 17 October 2010, Newcastle PCYC, Broadmeadow



### Soul Café

Serving the Marginalised  
Breakfast: Friday to Saturday  
Lunch: Monday to Thursday



PUB  
CHURCH  
2 Beer Service  
Twice This  
Month



10th October  
@ 6pm -7.30pm

Darryl Gardiner will  
be speaking

Darryl has been involved in  
youth work for more than 25 years.  
He ran a boys' home for 16 years.  
He is a regular speaker and trainer  
in New Zealand and overseas.



17th October  
@ 6pm -7.30pm

David 'Hippy' Holmes as a new  
Christian was in a  
brutal revenge attack. Left to die  
after having both ears cut off,  
Come and hear his  
fantastic testimony and  
some great Blues Music too

## CAMBODIA – Linda Chisholm

### What is Great

Our Freedom Project; working with children of prisoners, has just re-opened its base of operations in a new location. As planned, we are now expanding from only providing emergency care for children in need while we look for longer term solutions, to including the support of people caring for children of prisoners in the community. We currently have 27 families including over 50 children receiving support. This is a ground breaking service in this county, and a great joy for us to be able to serve the most vulnerable.

Two children aged 8 and 10 will be coming to stay for 6 months while their grandmother undergoes medial treatment. Their mother has 9 more years on her sentence and there are no other caregivers.

The first family taking advantage of the Parent/Child contact program will come to stay at the Freedom Centre to enable the children they have been caring for to visit their mother in prison who they haven't seen in several years.

5 women whose children are staying in prison have turned 5 years old, where they have to leave. They have agreed to the relief of the prison and ministry of social affairs to allow PFC to transfer care of the children to family members with ongoing support from PFC.

### What is Coming Up

Adam & Kimhuot, (Operations Manager), are doing a road trip around the Northwest Cambodia; 7 provinces, visiting 8 prisons, prison staff and 8 church partners to strengthen activities and relationships. It'll take a week, and some rugged travel to the newest prison in the country just in early stages of building, located 70 km in the middle of nowhere in the rainy season on a recently cut road through the forest. My kind of fun! We are both taking our families on the trip which looks to be a great adventure!

### That's there to pray for?

- ◆ Wisdom for the PFC leadership team and myself as we seek God and develop our plan for the next few years. Pray that we respond wisely to recent requests from the Government to become more involved at government level in overseeing coordination and provision of certain services.
- ◆ An increase in funding for the organization and ability to receive it from multiple countries around the world so that we can improve and strengthen our staff and systems, as well as funds to fully run our projects—2010 has been ok but is a bit lean!
- ◆ Adam is hopefully having a second operation in his knee at the end of this month to remove the pins and wires around the knee cap. Pray for success that this will reduce the ongoing pain and discomfort and enable full healing to take place.

### What Opportunities are there at PFC?

I'm looking for the following volunteer expatriates to join the team. For more information on any of the following jobs with other opportunities not outlined here, contact me through either of the bottom email addresses.

- ◆ **Personal Assistant for the Director**—(myself) - minimum 1 year commitment
- ◆ **Fundraising Manager** — minimum 1-2 year commitment
- ◆ **Foreign Prisoner Support Program Coordinator**—minimum 1 year commitment
- ◆ **Expatriate Volunteer Liaison Officer**—minimum 1 year commitment
- ◆ **Someone to come and support our family**, help with schooling etc for at least 6 months

If you would like to support our family financially, you can do so by contacting us on either email addresses below and details will be given to you.

Thank you for your prayers, your emails, your financial support and your visits. Keep coming!!!

### Blessings

**Adam Hutchinson**  
[director@pfcambodia.org](mailto:director@pfcambodia.org)  
[Linda@pfcambodia.org](mailto:Linda@pfcambodia.org)

## ARGENTINA – Paul & Veronica Harb

### Dear Friends & Partners



Greetings from San Juan Argentina. Please pray as Tomorrow Sunday at 5pm, it will be the opening up of our second church plant.

This will be in the slums among the extreme poor and needy. It's the place where we have been reaching out to, working and sowing into for over 5 years.

This is one the worst slums in the whole province. It has all the major drug lords, witches, prostitution, drugs, alcoholics, criminals, all sorts of sexual abuse and incest among children etc. There has been much prayer and fasting done for this place over the past years from our church people, from

many missionary teams and pastors who have come from Australia, USA and New Zealand.

We are expecting a approx 200 hundred or more people to come tomorrow. It will be an evangelistic Outreach meeting. So we appreciate your prayers and support in this Challenging work.

Thank you

### What Has Happened Since Our Church Plant Opening

We want to thank you all for your prayers for the New church plant in the slums.

Well, Praise the good Lord, because last Sunday we had our first meeting with over one hundred people including children. This is a great start and a good number of people to work with. We are believing for a greater harvest in this place.

Just as the Scripture says: "Where darkness abounds, grace abounds even more."

We believe that the grace of God is going to move so powerfully among these people with many signs and wonders for the glory of the Lord.

This place was full of mud homes. The government had knocked them down and now built new match box homes for the poor. Therefore the area at the moment is only half full.

At the end of this year they will all return to the area and this is where we are believing for an even more greater harvest.

We will keep you up to date on the progress and send you more photos

Once again thank you for you faithful

Love, prayers and support towards us and the ministry.



**Love: Paul & Veronica Harb**  
**H.I.M Ministries Australia/Argentina**  
 Email: [him\\_ministries@hotmail.com](mailto:him_ministries@hotmail.com)

## FIJI – Peter Shultz



### Mobile Phones 2 Go

Every day we receive between 5 -10 calls from ex-prisoners that we are working with.

What is second hand to you becomes a lifeline for another.

Let us know if you have a spare unlocked phone and charger that you can donate to a prisoner who is being released.

Yes we need mobiles that are in 'good condition' so that we can donate them to prisoners being released. It allows us to maintain contact through those early critical months of transition.

We supply the phone and a \$5.00 pre-paid credit sim as part of our 'Go Home' pack. They are responsible for all their calls after that. Looking ahead to March 2011 we anticipate needing 50+ phones.



When we hear from you we'll let you know the nearest place to drop it off or send it.

### Blessings

**Peter Shultz**  
[peter@operationfoundation.org.fj](mailto:peter@operationfoundation.org.fj)

# GlobeReach

local missions and some of the works we support overseas

## CAMBODIA – Donna Byham



### HERE & NOW

After 5 months, and at this stage of only being able to get by in the basics of Burmese language, I find myself looking and listening more than talking. I've

learnt that the Burmese are very passionate about their beliefs, whether they be Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism or Christian.

I hear the neighbours below me pray to their Buddhist shrine every night. Most people when they have a view of the famous gold-coated Shwe Dagon Pagoda will stop and pray, whether they are walking, in a bus or driving a taxi. I've seen Hindu festivals of people walking through the streets with fire, singing and dancing. I've seen hundreds of Catholics parade down my street with shrines to Mary praying and singing.

I am regularly invited to join friends who visit Pagoda's on Buddhist holidays to worship with them. One close friend always asks me to visit her Buddhist teacher's who she goes to most every week for counsel and prayer. Another friend has been explaining to me about the Islam holy month of Ramadan.

One good friend has shared with me that he has a "strong desire" for me to learn meditation so I can discover the truth of inner peace. In the

past 2 months, he has been on two 10-day Buddhist meditation camps. We talk about faith and belief often. He shares with me the truths of Buddhism and I share with him the truth of the love and grace of the one true Creator God.

I have been led to meditate on the words from John's Gospel below:

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it."* John 1:1-5

I am assured that over all these faiths and beliefs there is One True Creator God who is the word, the light and the life, He has always been and is now. Interestingly enough Buddha agrees with me.

Testimony of Buddha from the Buddhist Bible (Tri Pi Dok Bible) page 23 of book 27:

**Brahman:** "If so, what can I do to be saved?"

**Buddha:** "Man's sins are so many, so heavy, heavier than the sky, thicker than the earth, higher than the great stone, filling all four corners to the thickness of a cubit. If the angel comes once a year and lightly wipes the stone one time, when the stone has been completely wiped away and disappears, then will the sin be gone." Buddha preached again, "Even though we, ourselves, sacrifice our wealth, our desires, become a monk, consider oneself a person of highest virtue and

do so in ten re-incarnations, we will not be saved."

**Brahman:** "If so, what can we do?"

**Buddha:** "You must give alms and search for another God that will come to save the world and will help you afterward. His name is Phra Siariyametrai (Merciful Saviour). He was before me but will come after me."

### Praise Points:

- ♦ The cooler weather and more consistent electricity.
- ♦ Much improved health and energy.
- ♦ Opportunities in talking about my faith with people.
- ♦ My growth in understanding of the Burmese language has improved a lot. I'm able to read and write but mostly I don't understand what I'm reading.
- ♦ More clarity about our team in Yangon and a growth in closeness.

### Prayer Points:

- ♦ Increased ability and confidence in speaking Burmese.
- ♦ For those I've been sharing my faith with.
- ♦ Continued good health and stamina.
- ♦ Persistence to draw nearer to God in difficult circumstances.
- ♦ For peace in the country with the elections coming up on Nov 7.

With much love

Donna

Email: [donnabyham@gmail.com](mailto:donnabyham@gmail.com)

Support Details:

Acc. Name: Donna Byham

Acc. Number: 124 195 819

BSB Number: 633-000



## OzReach

P.O. Box 2021, Dangar NSW 2309

[www.ozreach.org.au](http://www.ozreach.org.au)

## Ozreach Conference—Building Great Churches that Influence Communities



### DAVID & ALIX MORSE

Alix and I share an ever-increasing love for the local church. We are convinced that the Kingdom of God will most effectively advance through the influence of flourishing, empowered local churches; churches just like yours. God is connecting leaders across cities, nations and across the

globe so that we can advance the Kingdom to a world that needs its liberating message in increasing measure.

[www.energizerlifechurch.com](http://www.energizerlifechurch.com)



### DARRYL GARDINER

Darryl has been involved in youth work for more than 25 years. He

ran a boys' home for 16 years. He is part of Incedo; a national youth organization. He is a regular speaker and trainer in New Zealand and overseas.

### KEVIN WILCOCK

Kevin has pioneered and pastored a number of growing churches. Kevin's realness and relational ability to the Australian culture has allowed him to travel extensively across the nation and beyond. He now serves as Team Leader of Life Church Newcastle and OzReach Incorporated.

[www.lifechurch.org.au](http://www.lifechurch.org.au)



**When:**

**Friday 15th & Saturday 16th October 2010**

**Where:**

**Tuggerah Lakes Christian Fellowship, 22 Adelaide Street, Tumbi Umbi (near the Entrance)**

**Register:**

**Via email to: [info@lifechurch.org.au](mailto:info@lifechurch.org.au) or phone 4961 0211**

**LAST DATE TO REGISTER IS 11TH OCTOBER**

## KEVIN'S TRAVEL

OzReach Conference Gosford  
Engadine  
Tasmania  
Philippines

October 15th & 16th  
October 30th & 31st  
November 28th—1st December  
February 9th—15th

