

Genesis helps Christian Organisations with strategic planning and seed capital in order to multiply their work and implement projects that become self-funding, so that they have the greatest impact for Christ's Kingdom. The project needs to be strategic and have a multiplier effect. We review the development plan, strategies, budgets and management requirements. The grant usually is a reducing commitment over 3 years.

Chairman's letter

The Genesis Foundations have supported 147 projects during 2014/15 (157 in 2013/14), including 56 (52) that were approved this year.

Of the funds distributed in 2013/14, 28% were directed to youth ministries, 19% to points of influence (e.g. Christian media), 20% to Church Development, and 17% to resource ministries. 84% were for Australian projects (overseas projects included 8 with global impact, 3 in Asia, 4 in NZ, 4 in Africa, 1 in UK).

Our heavenly Father is reaching out to people all over the world and we see many of His initiatives in Australia and beyond. Individuals everywhere are making peace with the living God.

We sincerely thank those donors who have continued to support Genesis.

David R Smith
Chairman

Newsletter June 2015

Some groups that Genesis supports:

Youth

- School Chaplain providers
- Crusader Union
- Scripture Union Vic/SA/Tas
- Logosdor
- YFC Aust
- RedFrogs

Christian media

- Christian Media Aust
- Various growing radio stations
- National Sales Media
- SPARC (film prize)

Church Development

- Various plants in Aust/NZ
- Geneva Push
- Overseas Council
- Vinegrowers

Leadership

- Ministry Training Scheme
- Arrow Leadership
- Christian Management Aust

Community

- PeaceWise
- Mainly Music
- Focus on the Family

Sports

- Sports Chaplains Australia/NZ
- Christian Surfers Aust/Int
- Surf Lifesavers Chaplaincy
- Active faith Australia

Mission

- AFES
- Navigators
- City Bible Forum
- Focus Military
- Church Army (evangelists)

Poverty ministries

- Christians Against Poverty

Prison ministries

- PFM
- Alpha

Grant Categories

Our grant application process involves 2 stages – first a “Preliminary Enquiry” (PE), which we ask to be 2 pages to minimise the speculative work by ministries. Then certain enquirers are invited to make a full submission for consideration by our Board. This year we received 135 PEs and 56 grants (41%) were approved at our 2 Board meetings.

We have target ranges for giving which we monitor retrospectively; target ranges and actual support:

- Youth work (10-30%) 28%
- Christian media (15-30%) 19%
- Church growth (10-25%) 20%
- Evangelism (5-15%) 2%
- Resources (0-15%) 17%
- Other ministries (0-15%) 13%
- Good works (0-10%) 1%

We also monitor our actual geographic spread:

- Sydney (20-40%) 7%
- Australia (30-50%) 77%
- World (15-30%) 15%

"you will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God"
2 Cor 9:11

Youth Ministries

Most believers admit they made their decision to follow Jesus in their youth, the time when life's values are being formed.

Some of the youth ministries we support are:

Primary: e.g. Logosdor, various Scripture teaching & chaplaincy

Secondary: e.g. Crusader Union, SU, YFCA, VETA, various Scripture teaching & chaplaincy

Tertiary: e.g. AFES, Navigators, Redfrogs

The Federal Government funding for school chaplains was distributed by the State Governments last December where many public schools lost their funding. There is a strong demand for chaplains eg in Victoria 1,000 out of 1,300 public schools applied for a grant. Most public school chaplaincy providers have developed a community funding model where the chaplain is funded partly by a committee of the local church and school. Furthermore, schools want their chaplain to be available for more than the 1-2 days pw that the grant (\$20,000 or \$24,000 for remote areas) provides – this extra cost is also being funded by the community support.

In Victoria, the State Government was in caretaker mode during the election, which further complicated the Department determining their distribution policy for the first time. Genesis has encouraged the Victorian school chaplaincy providers to form a network with an MOU that develops a State-wide vision of community funding and media awareness campaign, including awareness of the 100 schools at risk of losing their chaplains this year. Genesis has provided a matching grant to assist these schools, our largest grant ever.

Other strategic youth projects include the Scripture Union SA project to provide mentors for at risk children in local partnerships with the school and church members.

Points of Influence

Christian media has an important influence on the community culture and contact point for churches.

Over 4 million Australians listen to the 38 Christian radio stations each month

and ACC TV is available (via Foxtel) in 40% of homes.

Genesis has assisted Christian Media Australia with the expansion of their work across the sector, including transition to the new CEO, employing the CONNECT and SPARC managers.

Assistance was provided to those stations that sent their Chairman and CEO to the CMA conference, which for the first time included a special stream for Chair/CEOs in which vision, and Governance was discussed.

Genesis assists smaller stations obtain mentorship for their growth (Bendigo, Geelong, Sunshine Coast, Adelaide).

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."
Colossians 3:23-24

Church Development

Our grants assist new churches being planted; existing churches grow to new levels and church leadership development and training.

The Board established a Church Plant/Development Committee to focus on the increasing and specialised grant submissions. The Committee includes experts in the field from outside the Board. We received 24 Preliminary Enquiries for church plants, from which the Board approved 10 grants.

Genesis has given a grant to Geneva Push to fund research into church plant health and survival, which should be available later this year.

Sports Chaplaincy Demand

There is an overwhelming demand for pastoral carers (sports chaplains) in sports clubs in Australia. Sports Chaplaincy Australia (SCA) has formal and informal requests from sports bodies to potentially place over 5,000 additional chaplains into local sports clubs. The AFL alone is seeking 2,600 chaplains for their community clubs throughout Australia.

SCA believes that there are sufficient volunteers in local churches willing to undertake their volunteer chaplain training.

About 15% of sports clubs have a critical incident each year, eg a player suffered a broken neck during a game in regional Victoria when an experienced chaplain was called to brief both teams on working through the incident. Clubs are being asked to fund this "Club Care" programme (\$400pa per club), which will fully fund this service after 3 years – Genesis has given a grant to assist SCA reach this point.

Coming Up

- Expand Childsafe service for more robust management of standards for children workers
- Expansion of City Bible Forum into women's ministry and graduates entering the city
- Growth of Alpha courses into Catholic churches
- Story telling training for Townsville church members serving at "Stable on the Strand" Christmas festival
- New course explaining Jesus' message for prisoners, through PFM

Bible teaching

Bible colleges supported by Overseas Council are developing (with Genesis support) a curriculum review process to assess the effectiveness of their courses with alumni students - with a purpose of revising their course to be more effective. The 10 pilot colleges, in a variety of cultures and places will present to world conference for 200+ colleges in November 2015.

Evangelistic Projects

Genesis has a vision of supporting a mission in a region of Australia every year. This year, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Assoc is running 4 "Come Together" regional events (including Alice Springs and Mildura) where local churches work with young Australian evangelists under the guidance of Bill Newman.

Resource Ministries

Genesis has provided a grant of up to \$100,000 pa to Christian Management Australia to provide scholarship funds to specific leaders to enhance and develop their management skills by attending world class management courses. The applicant must find half the funds and the CMA have a formal review process. Past courses include courses at Oxford University and Stanford University for Nonprofit Leaders.

Other ministries

Some of the other ministries supported by Genesis include Christians in fine arts (FEVA) and developing music for church (Emu Music).

Good Works

Assistance was provided to Christians Against Poverty to establish a branch in Brisbane to expand their work of helping people avoid financial troubles (seminars on disciplined planning) and if caught in serious debt, helping such people back to a balanced ongoing budget.

"Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less" - CS Lewis

Genesis Directors change

The Board has recognised the long and faithful service of Bob Bucknell, a founding Director in 1999, who retired in May 2015. Alan Rich and Scott Sanders have joined the Board.

Genesis Foundations

The Genesis Charitable Foundation is a foundation to which donations are tax deductible. Accordingly, the Australian Taxation Office requires that distributions from this foundation must only be to organisations that are also "Deductible Gift Recipients – item 1". Genesis Charitable Foundation mainly supports youth and Christian media projects.

Genesis Life Foundation is a foundation to which donations are not tax deductible. The distributions from this foundation must be for organisations that are income tax exempt charities.

The trustee of both Foundations is the company Genesis Charitable Foundation.

Thank You – your support is achieving great things!

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