

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 178 projects during 2015/16 (147 in 2014/15), including 62 (56) that were approved this year.

Of the funds distributed in 2014/15, 18% were directed to youth ministries, 20% to points of influence (e.g. Christian media), 18% to Church Development, and 21% to resource ministries. 78% were for Australian projects (overseas projects included 9 with global impact, 5 in Asia, 5 in NZ, 5 in Africa).

Our heavenly Father is reaching out to people all over the world: He taught us to pray "your Kingdom come" and we see many of His initiatives in Australia and beyond. Individuals everywhere are accepting Jesus and making peace with the living God.

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

David R Smith
Chairman

**Genesis' Vision:
Development funds for growing
Christian work**

Newsletter June 2016

Some groups that Genesis supports:

Youth

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

Christian media

- Christian Media & Arts Aust
- Various growing radio stations
- National Sales Media
- SPARC

Church Development

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

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
- Military Christian Fellowship
- Church Army (evangelists)

Poverty ministries

- Christians Against Poverty

Prison ministries

- PFM

Grant Process

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. If we sense it is possible that the proposal will meet our criteria, then the enquirer is invited to make a full submission for consideration by our Board. This year we received 143 PEs and 62 grants (43%) were approved at our 2 Board meetings.

This year we introduced a fast track for smaller submissions (up to \$60,000 total) and 29 grants were issued under this system – 46% of all grants.

Our Church Plant committee considers Church plant submissions – out of 24 PEs, 14 were invited to make a Submission and the Board approved 10.

Grant Categories

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

- Youth work (10-30%) 18%
- Christian media (15-30%) 20%
- Church growth (10-25%) 18%
- Evangelism (5-15%) 7%
- Resources (0-15%) 21%
- Other ministries (0-15%) 18%
- Good works (0-10%) 1%

We also monitor our actual geographic spread:

- Sydney (20-40%) 7%
- Australia (30-50%) 78%
- World (15-30%) 14%

***"Honour the Lord with your wealth,
with the firstfruits of all your crops"
Prov 3:9***

Research

Recent research by McCrindle:

- Australia's largest religion is Christianity (61%), other religions 7.3%
- Since 1976, Christianity down 22%, church attendance down 48%, “no religion” up 269%
- Most Australians (88%) say the church is beneficial for their community
- Yet only 1 in 7 attend church monthly
- Main reason Aussies don't go to church (47%): irrelevant to my life
- Age first became a Christian: 42.8% of all Aussies say under age 5, but for evangelical Christians age 15-19 (40.4%), age 10-29 (83.6%)
- “Who or what has most influenced your perceptions & opinions of Christians & Christianity?": parents & family 67%, mass/social media 25%, networks & relationships 24%

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's investment in the National Schools Chaplaincy Program (NSCP) has proven effective, according to a study undertaken by McCrindle Research.

In the “2016 National School Chaplaincy Snapshot” McCrindle surveyed Chaplains associated with the National Schools Chaplaincy Association and found 2,200 Chaplains across Australia who are involved in over 18,000 formal conversations every week with students, parents & teachers. Every term chaplains deliver over 37,000 program sessions.

That is an average of 9 student conversations, 3 staff conversations and 2 parent conversations per chaplain per day.

A breakdown of their time spent:

- social, emotional & spiritual support 50%
- role modeling & mentoring 15%
- educational support 15%
- extra curricular activities 8%
- team contribution 6%
- community development 6%

The stereotypical view of a chaplain as a crusty old clergyman has also been shattered, with women chaplains outnumbering men by a ratio of 2:1 and the average age being only 44.

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 Arts Australia with the expansion of

their work across the sector. Significant development in social media and digital platforms is underway.

A new “hub” model to assist smaller regional stations is being trialled in Tasmania, south Queensland and regional Victoria.

"I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances."
Phil 4:11

Church Development

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

Church plants were assisted in Adelaide, Newcastle, Brisbane, Melbourne city, Footscray, Rosemeadow-Appin, Cronulla, Wellington.

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.

Genesis has been assisting SCA launch the Club Care program initially in AFL (\$400pa per club), which will fully fund this service after 3 years.

Bible College Efficiency

The curriculum review process (to assess the effectiveness of bible college courses with alumni students - with a purpose of revising their course to be more effective) was launched at the Overseas Council world conference for 200+ colleges in November 2015.

We just launched an “**open endowment**” fund for Crusaders

- Minimum 5%/ maximum 15% distribution each year, no matter what income
- Concept of a flow of capital funds to “preserve the ministry, not preserve the money”!
- Board drives fund raising, so can close fund to new money and let it run down between 20-7 years (longer with earnings)
- Min- means in investment downturn, when donations low, the ministry gets support (5-15%)
- Max- encourages long term planning
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Cru named it the Howard Guinness Leadership Trust, to assist minimising mission drift... Anchored on the founder’s vision!

Evangelistic Projects

Genesis has a vision of supporting a missions in regional Australia. This year, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Assoc ran the “Come Together” event in Sunraysia with a 8% response from over 2000 attendees. The recent Will Graham crusade in Alice Springs saw an incredible 15% response rate from over 6000 attendees. (BGEA usually expect 3-6% response).

Resource Ministries

Christian Management Australia launch the Standards Council at the June conference.

Other ministries

Some of the other ministries supported by Genesis include Prisoners Journey pilot project (PFM) and developing the Military Christian Fellowship.

Good Works

Assistance was provided to Opportunity International Hong Kong to establish a fund raising office to provide ongoing funds for their work with micro enterprise in poor areas of China.

"People who have wealth but lack understanding are like the beasts that perish" - Psalm 49:20

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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