



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING 23rd AUGUST 2020

Church Secretary report

What a year we have experienced so far. Where are we heading you ask, what a great question. The answer is, we are doing God's work and he is directing us.

The pandemic we're experiencing has changed our lives in so many ways. The way we live our lives and the manner in which we conduct ourselves and go about our daily affairs and business. Who would have thought that we would be praying and attending Church via Zoom, or that we would be dialling into Facebook to catch Steve each morning during the week for our daily update? How about attending a meeting to share coffee on Zoom, after Church?

There are so many new experiences, that one could wonder, when will life slow down and when will I know it all. The answer – possibly never.

As secretary at CBC, I have now been involved in a number of things that I would warrant as firsts for me. Some of these are:

- Chairing Church Council Meetings approx. 12 times a year
- Chairing our Quarterly, Annual and Special (if required) Church Meetings
- Being an active member of the Elder selection committee
- Sharing life with a warm and loving bunch of friends
- Learning how to make a reasonable coffee in a timely manner, and loving it
- Preparing and cooking breakfast for our Men's breakfasts
- There are too many others to record here.

Most of all, every one of these tasks has brought me some form of challenge, but also a very rewarding experience, when complete.

I think that being in the engine room of our Church, as secretary, has made me realise what an amazing thing every one of you does in the daily life of your Church. Sure, we are short a Treasurer and Property Ministry Team Leader, but I feel reassured by our Father, that a person is here among us now for each of these roles. Most days, I see or hear about an answer to prayer from someone, so please join with me as we pray for God's hand and guidance in these matters.

Looking forward to the balance 2020 and 21 as we keep on rolling on.

Regards,
Ian Read

Senior Pastor's Report

Do we see God's good purposes even in these difficult times & are we ready to get involved?

1. Reviewing Strategies: Next Generation, Connect Groups, Community Engagement, Cross-cultural and cross-generational connections, Unity and Prayer.
2. Other matters include the Safe Church Health Check, preaching and other miscellaneous updates.
3. Expect to hear more about a Church Review.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV) Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

As we have worked our way through the 'Just For Starters' preaching series on fundamentals of faith that don't change, even in this context where so much is changing around us, it was good to focus on this gem from the apostle Paul's letter to the church in Philippi, when we looked recently at prayer (or 'talking to God'). There is such a lot of anxiety around, at this time. Things happen that immediately make us anxious, but it's also there in the background, sometimes hardly noticed, and yet taking a toll. How good to be reminded that we are invited to bring all those things that might make us anxious, to God in prayer. And that we can do it with thanksgiving, as those who know the amazing grace and love of Jesus in our lives. And that as we do this, we are promised God's peace – a peace we can't manufacture or even understand ourselves, but one that will keep us safe in Jesus. May promises like this shape our hearts and lives so that people may know Jesus through us.

This continues to be a year full of the unexpected. Mostly these are things we'd rather not have had to experience. Yet as God's people we trust that he is at work in the midst of it all to fulfill his good purposes, and we see evidence of this time and again. Certainly I have seen many inspiring examples of people showing loving support for each other, beyond what we might normally see, as we've together faced the challenges of this time.

In terms of progress towards the Strategies we affirmed as part of our Revisioning process in June 2019, much of what we expected has either been put aside or changed significantly in response to our situation:

Discipleship – Investing in the Next Generation: the taskforce has gone on hold, but the value has worked itself out through the readiness to launch KidsHope once restrictions allow (thanks to George Gourlay and his team), and through the excellent, adaptive work that has come from Emma Ridley and her team, to support children and families in growing together in discipleship and worship at this time.

Discipleship – Connect Group ministry: some have struggled to stay connected in this context but for others their Connect Group has been maintained and in fact been a key support, taking advantage of a range of online and more traditional communication technologies. Margy Ridley has adapted the support she is offering groups to this new context. The current Sunday Home Fellowship small group strategy builds on the same values that lie behind this Connect Group strategy.

Communities on Mission – Community engagement: Apart from KidsHope as above, our expectations for community engagement have been diverted into the online space largely. We've attempted to make the most of the broader audience we can access and believe there is more for us to learn about the opportunities here. As difficult times continue in terms of job losses, business failure, financial cost, anxieties, etc – we need to pray that we would see the opportunities to love and serve our community.

Communities on Mission – Clear Mission Focus: These are already in place for our main communities but the task of encouraging and following up so that all significant ministries have a clear, defined mission focus has been temporarily laid aside.

United – A cross-generational & cross-cultural weekly Sunday gathering: The values driving this strategy have continued to shape our gatherings, even though they are now online. The cross-generational element in particular, has been apparent through the regular Kids' segments, as well as the provision of resources for families and children to learn together, and for young and old to worship in song. The online format has actually removed one barrier to cross-generational ministry, since people can mostly choose their music style. The small Sunday Home Fellowship gatherings have also provided an opportunity to promote cross-generational connections in ways that were not possible in our larger physical meetings, though not everyone has been able or willing to engage in these. Cross-cultural connections have been more difficult in the online context but we continue to work hard to include elements that are shared across our communities and that celebrate our diversity, especially on the weeks designated for 'Celebration Services'. We still look forward to the time when we can re-engage physically with less restrictions.

United – other: Hospitality and social opportunities have been difficult obviously at this time, but we continue to look for opportunities to bring people together, such as the 'Silly Hats and Cupcakes' event. While successful, it is felt that such events would not work if done too frequently. Other symbolically powerful attempts to bring people together include a couple of the video presentations prepared by Emma. The CBC Facebook page has grown in importance as a point of connection. Growing the Diversity in our Teams is an important strategy in this space, and one where we are continuing to see encouraging progress at the Leadership level, with God's help!

Prayer: is the strategy underlying all the above, and with the help of our Prayer Team we have continued to seek to grow our dependence together on prayer. A blog to encourage each other with stories and resources for prayer will hopefully be up by the time you read this report. Our monthly themes have been helpful. It's popped up as a theme in sermons and daily updates, with stories of answered prayer being shared. At first we were getting more people to our prayer meetings in the online format, but as the novelty has worn off numbers have been smaller again, especially to our monthly prayer meeting. There is still plenty of room for us to grow more into dependence together on God in prayer.

In **other matters**, we hope to finalise the **Safe Church Health Check** soon. Please note new policies and procedures as they are published and try to make it as easy as possible for ministry leaders as they ensure everyone is up to date with paperwork. **Preaching** since May has mostly been the 'Just For Starters' series, with 1 Samuel our likely focus from the end of August. It was a delight to celebrate **Dan's ordination** on 26 July / 2 August. We had to put aside our **Church Camp 2020** (we've postponed our booking to 2021), also for now **Project Refresh**, our many **programs**, and our **building** has only partially re-opened for use by some church groups and the community. Our connection to the **Baptist Association** has been invaluable as they've provided clear and helpful guidance through this time, and a greater networking with churches and pastors via Zoom has been encouraging. My 1 day/week **Church Health Role** has been challenging but rewarding at this time. It's been very busy for all our **pastoral and administrative staff** and **lay leaders** and I thank them all for their willingness to step up and serve in new and creative ways at this time. Please keep them all in your prayers.

You will be hearing at the meeting about the possibility of a **Church Review** in the first part of 2021, as an important part of our commitment and desire to prayerfully seek God's guidance for our future – learning and growing out of this difficult but unique time, and responding to other challenges in our church life, including the sustainability of our budget, compliance and the demands on staff and lay leadership. The opportunities are immense – for personal faith and kingdom growth – if we can see with God's eyes.

Grace and peace,
Steve Hales

Elders Report

The Elders would like to record their gratitude to Betty Moore and Karl Hochstetter as they concluded their years of service in 2020. Betty has concluded her six years as an Elder and her wise counsel has been much appreciated. Karl has contributed a great deal in his two years, but is unable to continue due to commitments in his new job. It has been a privilege for the Elders to work as a team with the Senior Pastor this year to provide accountability and suitable governance for all the activities carried out by our church. This task has been made more difficult by the restrictions imposed by the pandemic and the resulting strain on the pastoral staff as they undertake their tasks in extreme circumstances.

We spent a weekend together at the Leaders Retreat in October. The weekend was a time of fellowship and discussion, which deepened the ties between all. We also met in August with the MTL to discuss the budget for the coming year. We have been unable to complete the Senior Pastor's Annual Competency Review due to the extra demands on his time in the past months, but this will continue through to next year. We have continued with our own roles of mentoring various members of the CBC staff, which is always a privilege.

At our last meetings we have spent many hours trying to plan for the time ahead when we come out of this environment, relying always on the assurance of God's constant love and commitment to us. Please feel free to contact any of the Elders at any time to discuss matters which concern you, we are here to be used by you in any way possible.

Korean Congregation

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. 1PETER 1:22

1. **Whole NT Bible Reading completed through ZOOM with KC from April to July**
 2. **Gospel Project will start from 19 wed AUG and will do during 3years.**
 3. **21days Special Prayer movement "the Pillars" from OCT to Nov**
- **Whole NT Bible Reading completed through ZOOM with KC from April to July**
Korean community read whole NT bible during a Covid-19 pandemic last Apr to July. Every Mon to Fri we gathered in on-line Zoom and like a early church leader read the each chapter by 3 a day . Totally 8 people completed the whole race and 19 people joined for this event .We had celebration together in sunday service. We are ready and plan to start the reading for OT bible soon.
 - **Starting of New bible study project called "Gospel Project"**
We have a planning to start new bible study program named "Gospel Project"
It made from southern Baptist union in USA and translated to Korean version 3years ago. This series deal with key story from Genesis to revelation. Every Wednesday we will try gathering to ZOOM for studying and sharing.
Indeed Many people want to know more bible knowledge and get inspiration for spiritual growth from bible these days. I'm sure this opportunity will be very helpful and get value to KC for unity in Grace and Love of Jesus Christ. Whole courses need 3 years duration and it will be great challenge to all.
 - **21days Special Prayer movement "the Pillars" from OCT to Nov**
Exodus 13:21-22 is motivated for this event. During the Covid-19 many Christian feel some drawn and tired condition for spiritual issue and difficult to recover it because of some restriction like social distance and hard to physical gathering for health safety. During 21days we will allocate each time frame for pray list and focus to having a spiritual experience and healing. Also for repentance and stimulation to revival we will try scheduled Fasting .

Yours in Christ
Korean Pastor, David Choi

Mandarin Ministry Report

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. (1Jn 5:1-5)

1. During Covid-19, the Mandarin congregation used Tencent Meeting and YouTube to live stream Sunday services online. After each worship service, brothers and sisters chat online and to have fellowship. We planned to return to church for service at the end of July, but this has to be postponed due to the increase Covid-19 cases recently. The specific time to conduct service in church will depend on future development of this Covid pandemic.
2. The cell group bible study of Mandarin congregation was held by Zoom or Tencent meetings respectively, and the attendance was stable. During the outbreak control period, the cell groups held family groups, picnics, Bush Walking and other activities.
3. We held some online discussion seminars since June. The purpose is to help those who are interested or new to the faith by clarifying some confusions about Christian belief through discussions. Participants like these seminars very much.
4. Devotional materials are sent out daily in Mandarin congregation WeChat group. Prayer items are also sent in WeChat prayer group every morning and evening. There are regular attendees at the weekly prayer meetings. Care team continue to help those in need.
5. Pastor Nick has tendered his resignation on 1st July. His last day of service will be 31st Aug. The Mandarin working committee will continue with the organizing of the Mandarin ministries.

Mandarin Pastor : Nick Song

Children's Ministry & Safe Church Report

The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Deuteronomy 31:8 (NIV)

In Summary:

- Children's Celebration Service in June was an encouraging time to hear from our kids.
- Kids Church Online continues with resources available on our website and updates in our Facebook and WhatsApp groups.
- Oliver and Mei segment provides updates about what's happening around our church.
- Girls Brigade engaging with CBC online service and GB projects from home.
- Playtime trialling fortnightly rotation between meeting in person and meeting on zoom.
- SRE has resumed in some schools and Kids Hope is hoping to commence soon.

In our children's ministries, as in our communities, we are negotiating the challenge presented by the ever changing Covid-19 situation. We would appreciate your prayers for our children, families, ministries and schools.

In June the children hosted our monthly **Celebration Service**. This was a wonderful time to hear from our children about what they have been doing during the lockdown period and how they are connecting with God. Some examples included exploring God's creation, praying for people who are sick, and engaging with bible stories through drawing and craft models.

Kids Church continues online. We have a weekly "Sunday Pack" with various activities for families to explore together on our website, as well as variety of other resources such as worship videos, prayer and

memory verses. By now you will probably have seen the very popular puppet segment **Conversations with Oliver and Mei!** This is a regular feature in our English service and also available in the Kids Church section of our website. Oliver and Mei explore some of our kids church stories and things that are happening in our CBC Community.

Playtime has continued on Zoom. With requests from some families to attend in person and others wishing to remain at home, we are trialling a fortnightly rotation of Zoom and in-person gatherings. Although we know it's much appreciated, we've seen a drop in attendance this term. Please pray for our families who are juggling many things at the moment, and for our leaders as we consider the best way to support our families.

Girls Brigade is not yet meeting in person, and Rhonda continues to be in touch with the children and families. The girls have been engaging with the CBC online service and various Girls Brigade projects at home. We are facing some uncertainty in our **Schools Ministries**. Advice continues to change for our local schools. Please be in prayer over the covid-19 situation at our schools, that the situation does not get worse and cancel programs and for the health of our volunteers and school communities. We would love some more helpers for SRE (scripture) at both schools as some teachers are unable to return this term. At the time of writing North Rocks SRE has resumed, Carlingford West SRE is starting soon, and Kids Hope Aus Mentors are ready to go once they receive word from Roselea.

We continue to trust that God will lead the way as we support children and families to grow as disciple of Jesus.

Yours in Christ,
Emma Ridley
Children's Ministry Worker

Youth & Young Adults Quarterly Report

"On a mission to seek and disciple the lost in our generation and to play our part in promoting His justice"

In summary:

- Program return for now
 - The young adults group is renewing outreach conversation
 - The Table Youth is focussing on relationship development
 - Beyond Leadership Youth is working through the topics of "calling" and "visioning"
- Young adults are investing in Sunday Morning Fellowship and learning about a different way of doing church together
- Please pray for growth and momentum

The last quarter for our youth and young adults has been hard, but God's presence has been close. Our key programs returned to meeting in person at the start of term four in the wake of easing restrictions, although this may change at any time.

Our Wednesday night young adults program has been focussed on a range of key justice issues, while the ongoing outreach conversation has continued. The past 12 months has seen a bunch of us reading the Bible with our non-Christian friends, and we are seeking to continue this while developing relationships further. Please be praying for God to be at work.

The Table youth has started back with good numbers (approx. 10) – exciting considering the many obstacles. Our leaders are seeking to find new ways to deepen relationships in a holistic manner, wanting more contact than the program alone provides. We are convinced that stronger relationship will be key to the success of the ministry so please be in prayer for wisdom in finding ways to do this. While the Baptist State Youth Camp cannot meet as normal at the end of September, a modified semi-online version will be going ahead – please pray that this be a great time of encouragement and challenge for our youth and for maximum involvement.

Beyond youth – the Christian leadership program run for students from Carlingford High – has also returned with almost all the regular attenders. Our leaders have started the conversation about what it means to be called to mission in our local context and how to set vision and strategies – this is a time of

“raising the bar”. We know that helping the youth learn to see themselves as called and to know how to dream big will be vital in their growth as agents of transformation within the school. Please pray that they learn to rise to the challenge and answer God’s call on their lives with new intentionality.

In seeking to find ways of meeting that are not just adequate, but with strengths of their own, our young adults have also been leaning into what has is being called Sunday Morning Fellowship. This is a time where we seek to meet in homes with small intergenerational groups to do church together. This involves watching the online service as well as being intentional about discussion and prayer afterwards. This is a valuable opportunity for us to get to know each other more intimately, and to have deeper conversations. At the same time this is a chance for us to explore patterns of meeting that rely less on production, programs and structure. Please pray that these groups continue to expand and that we continue to learn from them.

In all things we ask that you be praying for growth and the building of momentum – both so hard to achieve at the current time. However, we know God is big, and that our prayers are powerful.

Yours in Christ,
Dan Waugh
Pastor – Youth, Young Adults and the Cross Gathering

Mission Report

It would be stating the obvious to say that 2020 has been a challenging year. The world has struggled with Covid 19, international political instability, displaced people, Beirut has been blown up and at home we have had fires and floods added to the mix. That is the short list and doesn’t take into account what the consequences of these challenges are and will be going forward. It is tempting to retreat into our own protective space or feel isolated or just feel fearful and helpless.

God says” Trust in me with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge me, and I will make straight your paths”

(from Proverbs 3:5&6)

The figures in the financial report give the regular commitments that Carlingford Baptist Church makes to the groups that the Mission Committee has agreed are the groups who best represent the outreach of Christ both locally and internationally. What doesn’t appear on that report is the generous and cheerful giving made independently both to Hope Street in goods and individual contributions made to mission groups that have called out to our members hearts and minds.

Missions whose work has been publicised include;

- HELP Bangladesh with a video during the service
- Global Interaction with updates from Villi and Muana
- Sydney Refugee Team with their new support group WEC. Karl and Caroline Hochstetter were interviewed for the service online.
- Shane and Melissa Hamilton form Power to Change. Shane also was interviewed
- Emma interviewed Joy Arnold and Di McGill about SRE
- Open Doors presented their work for the persecuted church in a video and interview. During May Mission Month \$9680 was raised for Open Doors “Hope for the Middle East” which was a great blessing.
- For Father’s Day this year we will again support the appeal for cans of fuel to keep their planes flying where they are most needed.

The church bulletin has given information and requests for prayer both for our Mission support groups and others whose letters we regularly receive.

Yours in Christ,
Karen Read

Justice

- Thought from Jer 32...our nation in God's sight
- Opportunity to engage government about supporting regional nations
- 2020 Ethical Fashion guide launch and invitation to interview BWA
- Next Catalyst meeting will be Thursday 17 September, 7.30

I was recently struck, but encouraged by the exchange between Jeremiah and God in **Jer 32**. After lamenting their instability as a nation under threat, God responds to Jeremiah by sharing about the kind of things Israel has become and given themselves to over past decades...it would have been a sobering response to hear. God doesn't shy away from telling this confronting truth (verses 26-35). I couldn't help but think to myself...what would that list of things we've given ourselves to over past decades look like if God were to simply recount our history...where are the places I've let my guard down and sacrificed untold time or money for things that are at best, unimportant, and more seriously, offensive to God. What are the business practices in modern trade leaving communities in hurting, that are not questioned by consumers (or the church)?

That said, though God calls to account those in business, in government, in ministry, and everyone in between (verse 32) to account, he later reveals his plans for them (verses 36-44). **May we be a group of people who laments any felt instability, and also a people willing to hear confronting truths as God reveals them to us.**

Two areas the Catalyst group are encouraging our church to consider in the coming weeks:

- *Remembering nations surrounding ours, more vulnerable throughout this pandemic*
Is this topic something your connect group could have a study on to better understand? Is this something you personally are interested in? Is this something a group of us from CBC could have a conversation with our local MP about? let me know ☺
For some **bible study notes** by Tim Costello, please email me or visit:
www.micahaustralia.org/end_covid_for_all
- *2020 Ethical fashion guide*
This guide is being launched in October. With the pandemic in mind, this year Baptist World Aid are inviting companies to endorse what they've called the COVID Fashion Commitments. These are to help companies more consciously support their workers (identifying those most vulnerable) and their communities. If you would like to be involved in helping promote this research / advocacy effort, please email me, or visit BWA's facebook page **@BaptistWorldAidAustralia**

Adrian
adrian.p.miller@gmail.com

Property Report

Areas covered:

- a.) Main Church buildings, b) The Centre, c) Admin. Office, d) Manse,
 - e) Associated grounds, Bus.
 - f.) Items of worship – eg, Piano, Organ, Sound system and AV equipment.
1. Maintenance of Buildings, Furnishings, Fittings, Gardens, Car park, and Drainage systems.
 2. Provision of new/updating equipment used to promote the church's vision statement.
 3. Capital Works – Proposed property developments:
Provision of new & modified property, internal & external.
 4. Legal matters, new/updates:
Work, Health & Safety, Fire Protection, Health Inspections etc.

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This annual report records the events over the past year relative to CBC Property.

The main items have been costly in the repairs of sewerage systems for both the main building and the Manse.

The buildings, Auditorium and Main Foyer, have continuing problems with water leakage. Future expenditure has to be spent to correct the main areas designated for consideration and, hopefully, reduction of water ingress to the building.

An evaluation of the total problem areas has been undertaken by roofing experts, with quoted costs that are above our financial capacities at present.

An ongoing investigation of designated areas is being assessed which will require significant outlay, but it is required to remedy the most trafficked part of the building. The Foyer and Stairwell to the Northern Gallery.

Behind the scenes our faithful volunteers have been addressing the grounds ensuring the grass is kept down. Other day-to-day items have been attended by other church folk who spend their time and efforts correcting the “smaller” things that need attention.

Electrical “Tagging” continues of ALL electrical cords used on the property. Please ensure any cord that is used is “Tagged”. Please contact the Administration Office to action any requirement.

This is a required legal Safety Compliance issue.

Work Health & Safety/Safe Churches, which work in association, and legally required Statutory Compliance issues continue to be maintained.

A great deal of time has been spent by a group (known as DAG) to outline serious Building Compliance issues which goes under the name of ‘REFRESH’. This a continuing requirement of the church to be covered in an ongoing commitment to bring the buildings in line with State Legal Requirements which will be a benefit to the whole church communities and, particularly, our PURPOSE and VISION for the future.

The BUS is still with us and I am pursuing an entity to buy the unit in the hope of not having to outlay service, registration and insurance costs. Any suggestions welcome.

This is the writer’s final report as Property Manager and this opportunity is taken to thank ALL persons who have assisted in the maintenance of the property over the past years. It has been greatly appreciated.

The church, both buildings and grounds, requires constant attention, and as the total area gets older the more attention is required.

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