

PM

PROCLAIM MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2023
AUSTRALIA

INSIDE THIS MONTH

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD
TESTIMONIES FROM HISTORY
KEN HAM'S OAC ENCOUNTER
WORLDVIEW CAMPS



ADVANCE AUSTRALIA
WHERE?

 **oac**
Ministries



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It's a New Day

Welcome to the first edition of PM (Proclaim Magazine), the new national magazine of OAC Ministries Australia. PM is a new project designed to help create a dynamic and innovative conversation about how local Aussies can fulfil the mission of Jesus in our current culture. PM is just one part of a national approach to move the conversation beyond the traditional fixes that the Australian church tends to embrace and create a new space where evangelism is no longer a word we should avoid in polite company, but instead becomes central to the purpose of every follower of Jesus in our wonderful country. This national approach includes this magazine, an interactive web presence, training resources, podcasts and events. But more on that later in this edition.

I am from Generation X, and when I was a teenager in the 1980's, youth ministry and rock music was all the rage in churches, but only a few of my mates who loved that show are following Jesus with their hearts today. In 1988 John Smith, a pastor and famous biker, published a book called "Advance Australia Where?" John asked a question we were all wrestling with at the time, how does Christian faith find a place in the heart of the Aussies who lived then, and what does that look like? It is a question we have continued to wrestle with, and 35 years on, we still haven't found a workable answer.

We need to ask John Smith's question again but in a new context and in a new way. For the past three generations, our churches have failed to reach as many young people for Jesus as they had parents in the church. In 2023 the Australian church entered its seventh decade of numerical decline. Leaders have made many attempts to "fix the church" in that time without success. It seems clear that "fixing the church" is putting our energy and attention in the wrong place.

It is time for a different conversation. It is time to focus on the people God loves and take the gospel where they are.

In John Smith's final essay written shortly before he died after a 19 year battle with Cancer he wrote:

"Throughout history, God has used ordinary people in extraordinary ways to grow his church. They didn't need impressive qualifications or praise sessions well-crafted for online church. They held prayer meetings where they cried out to God, sometimes through the night, until the Spirit fell. That passion and willingness to follow the promptings of the Spirit, whatever the personal cost, is at the heart of healthy church growth."

(Eternity Magazine, 2019)

As you read through this edition of PM, I hope it will inspire you to join us in conversational action. Conversational action means having conversations that lead to measurable goals and outcomes. The national conversation that OAC hopes to inspire has to result in goals and outcomes. Goals and outcomes focussed not on ourselves but on fulfilling the mission we exist to fulfil, which Jesus Himself gave us.

Jason Potter





By Jason Potter
National Director OAC
Shamina Razario Contributor

The challenge that drives OAC Ministries today is the same as it was in the beginning 130 years ago

- To pray for evangelism ministry across the country.
- To evangelise Australians by inviting them into a conversation about Jesus.
- To train Aussie Christians to fulfil the great commission themselves.

What does this look like?

OAC seeks to inspire, equip and release a movement of evangelists who live out their faith and speak the truth about who Jesus is with every person God brings across their path. We do this in one of the largest mission fields in the world. Australia is no longer a church culture; we have entered our seventh decade in a row of numerical church decline. In 2023, 95% of Aussies don't attend a local church.

Cultural Context

In 2023 we live in a contested culture. Our culture is no longer just a contest of ideas or belief systems; it is a contest for the hearts and minds of children, teenagers and adults. It is deliberate, calculated, and founded in the old enemy of the Christian faith, Gnosticism. Gnostic thought permeates our education system, news media, art, movies, tv, radio, books, social media and reams of other online content.

Gnosticism teaches that the material world is evil and created by a lesser being than God. God created and lives in the perfect spiritual world. A person's spirit dwells in the human body but is not integrated into it. The material human body is evil, and the spirit is good. So the material human body can be treated as disposable, it is already evil, but that evil does not corrupt the spirit.

This Gnostic philosophy is the basis of the rationale for euthanasia, transgenderism, abortion, sexual orientation theory, group identity politics, and the so-called sexual revolution.

At the same time, Christians are being slowly squeezed out of the public square. Chaplains have been banned from public schools in the ACT, Religious Instruction has been removed from schools in several states, and Christians in the workplace have been fired for sharing their faith with their workmates or online.

Christians are being told to keep their beliefs to themselves, and that religion is a private thing not to be imposed on others through evangelism.

What does the Bible teach us?

In 1 Timothy 3:15-16, Paul describes the church as God's household, a family of believers united by their shared faith in the living God, who is the pillar and foundation of truth. In this context, a household refers to an extended family, including immediate relatives living together. As God's adopted family, we form a community grounded in truth, as revealed in the scriptures, through which we interpret the world around us.

This means we cannot adjust our beliefs to suit the culture or the times. Our understanding of truth can only be found through the lens of scripture, which is the method God has used to teach us what truth is. Embracing Gnosticism isn't an option.

What about the Church?

Since the 1970s, there have been many attempts to change the church to suit the times. Changes in the style of worship, methods of discipleship, new leadership models and governance styles, new denominations, independent churches, and parachurch movements have all tried to help the church become what it needs to be to attract people to it.

We have created new words like 'Missional' to try and describe the kind of church culture that will make a difference.

Bible Colleges have launched new degrees, and we have invested millions of dollars in the academic pursuit.

The work and effort put in by literally thousands of pastors, leaders, academics, and writers to find a way to help the local church remain relevant in their context, up-to-date in ministry methods, and adaptable to their audience has transformed the local church and its ministry methods. New expressions of worship, new church locations and contexts, new governance models, and more flexible locations and times have seen an explosion in the types of local church expressions a Christian can attend. None of this has made any impact on our continuing decline.

How did the early church do it?

The book of Acts describes the lived experience of the early church as it sought to live out all that Jesus had taught the Apostles. I believe three core principles in the book of Acts form the basis of how Churches can align themselves with God and pursue the mission of Jesus in a way that bears great fruit.

The first principle is that disciples are made in the context of evangelism. The great commission gives us the context, "go into all the world and make disciples", and the principle is then exemplified in the book of Acts. When individual followers of Jesus speak their faith in words and actions to a person who doesn't believe, they grow in their faith, deepen their experience of God, and grow as disciples.

When you read the book of Acts from beginning to end in one sitting, what stands out time and again is that the early church was constantly on mission. They were preaching daily and living out the gospel together. Making disciples wasn't an endeavour that happened exclusively within the church community at the feet of the Apostles; all learning was embedded, not just applied, in the mission field.

The second principle we find first in Acts 6 as well as in the letters of Paul. When the local church focuses on its purpose, as given by Jesus, to announce the good news that the Kingdom of God has arrived and salvation is available to all, it changes by bringing new Christians into the heart of its community life. It is by focussing outwards rather than inwards that growth and change occur.

This is demonstrated in Acts 6, when seven Greek-speaking leaders are appointed to help resolve a dispute within the early church in Jerusalem. Each of those leaders is also in the mission field; they aren't appointed just to look after the existing community. Stephen is martyred preaching the gospel, and Phillip baptises a Eunuch from Ethiopia. Leaders were never only focused on the internal life of the church.



The Stoning of Stephen by Santo Peranda 17th Century AD

From that moment onwards, Acts reports that instead of new believers being added to the church daily, the church began to experience multiplication growth.

The third principle is demonstrated first on the day of Pentecost and then through the rest of the book of Acts. The Holy Spirit acts most profoundly in the context of mission. In fact, whenever the Holy Spirit manifests himself in the book of Acts, it is in the context of mission.

How can we apply this today?

There is no longer time for us to keep trying to "fix" the church and make it more attractive to newcomers. Australia is a mission field; we are an unchurched country. Prayer is the essential underpinning for any change, and this is where we need to start. But the early church had it right. It is time to take the principles we have learned and apply them.

Evangelism must be embedded in every aspect of discipleship in churches. The time has passed when connect groups, Bible studies, and sermons can be effective discipleship tools without evangelism being at the centre. Every part of church life needs to be evaluated so that evangelism becomes the central focus of the church's energy, expenditure and volunteer hours. At least 50% of the work of any church needs to be focused on sharing the gospel with words, not just actions.

Growing up in the church, I was always excited by people like Barry Goode, Bill Newman, and other evangelists who had a gift of evangelism. I don't have that gift, but I have learnt that every Christian is called to share the gospel with others, regardless of their gifting. Churches cannot afford to have staff or volunteers that are unable to share their faith with others; being able to do this task needs to be a prerequisite for being appointed to leadership.

OAC has a role to play in this too. For the past one hundred and thirty years, we have focussed our energy on sharing the good news and helping other Christians do the same. Our role is not to replace the church but to serve the church.

I believe God has placed a challenge in front of OAC Ministries Australia. To raise up two thousand trained volunteer evangelists over the next seven years so that by the end of 2030, there will be thousands of Australians speaking and demonstrating the gospel in their local communities.

To do this, we have committed to restructuring our ministry so we are fit for this purpose. We are moving from state branches to regions and putting significant resources into equipping people for evangelism.

We will also continue to do what we have always done, to speak the truth about the gospel of Jesus Christ fearlessly and without compromise in our contested culture, and we hope to do this in partnership with you.



Ken Ham
and David Lovell

Ken Ham, founder of Answers in Genesis, talks about his encounters with OAC.

My father was a Primary School Principal in Queensland, and he was transferred every three years as he was promoted. In each town we lived, they would start Sunday Schools and/or bring in missionaries like those from OAC to be an outreach to the community.

When I was about ten years old, my parents brought an OAC missionary to Innisfail. It was a Presbyterian church that was built like an "A" frame. My parents would bring as many children as they could in their car (the days before seatbelts) so they could reach as many as possible with God's Word.

Not only did the programs conducted by the OAC missionary impact me (and our whole family), but my parents would host the visiting missionary at our home.

I distinctly remember him using fluorescent chalk on white paper and doing "magic" tricks to illustrate aspects of God's Word during the programs.

I also remember sitting in our home with my family while the OAC missionary would tell us about his recent adventures and how people were impacted by the Christian message.

Towards the end of this multi-day program, the OAC missionary handed out a statement on paper. It said, "I commit my life to the Lord and am willing to go anywhere he wants me to go and do anything he wants me to do". I (and I remember a sister of mine did this, too) signed this document, and we really meant it.

I didn't know that would mean founding an apologetics ministry, moving to the USA and eventually building the two leading Christian-themed attractions in the world.

My wife Mally told me that she responded with a similar commitment when she was at Sunday School in Brisbane and heard the gospel message. She told the Lord, "If you did that for me, dying on the cross, I want to do whatever you want me to do and go wherever you want me to go."



Ken Ham speaking at a recent OAC Worldview Camp in QLD

We see the generational impact of the spiritual legacy our parents passed on to us as children, and now we see that being passed on to our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

I encourage you to come and visit the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum attractions in the USA. And look for the "Ham Family Legacy Exhibit" that honours our parents for how they trained us in God's Word. The Answers in Genesis ministry, Ark Encounter and Creation Museum are all a legacy of parents who taught their children to stand boldly, unashamedly and uncompromisingly on the authority of God's Word.

I want to thank OAC for their special part in this spiritual legacy that now impacts millions of people around the world. I pray God will raise up supporters for OAC's ministry in Australia and provide all the workers needed. "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38)

David Lovell, Senior Pastor at Bendigo Baptist Church, tells his OAC story

OAC had a profound influence on me as a young child. My first memory of OAC and its work was on holidays with my parents at Warrnambool. Every year we'd spend the last two weeks of January (school holidays) at a caravan park enjoying the beach together. At nights I (and my siblings) would head down to the front of the caravan park to participate in the kids' program.

One of these evenings, as I returned to the caravan, I told my parents that I wanted to invite Jesus into my life. I was around 4-5 years of age.

Undoubtedly, the ministry of OAC that I experienced in Warrnambool played a significant part in helping me understand that Jesus loved me and wanted to have a friendship with me. I looked forward to seeing them in the beach holiday camps each year.

Having a personal relationship with Jesus has profoundly shaped the course and direction of my life. While my walk of faith has had its fair share of ups and downs over the years, the guiding work of His Spirit has been obvious at critical moments in my life. I'm so grateful for Jesus's nudge into ministry and His constant presence in my life as I continue to serve and follow Him in pastoral ministry.



Geoff Westlake (WA)

"Atheists could be offended by what you said about them." I gulped and looked over at two atheists I knew in the crowd who had come to hear our first Worldview Bites lecture, but they were happily engaged in group conversations.

Still, I wondered if my lecture had been too ambitious. Open to all and aimed at young adults, WorldView Bites is a series of four fortnightly lectures per term; this first series was on the topic of Worldviews – what do we mean, how do we know it's true, and what difference it makes? In week two, attendees brought friends. In the fourth lecture, one of the atheists prayed to receive Christ. We're not always sure of how we're doing, but we are grateful to see Jesus at work.



Geoff Westlake with Pioneers Bevan and Brian Hill

I recently met Josh McDowell for the first time. I shook his hand and thanked him for his research which I first encountered at fourteen. It grounded my faith in facts and became the foundation of my Core Stuff Gospel series. Two nights later, I was privileged to watch Ben, one of my students, grounding yet others' faith in facts! Praise the LORD!

A few weeks prior, I'd thanked Bevan and Brian Hill, who pioneered the Scripture Union camps where I've been presenting the Core Stuff with OAC. Brian Hill also taught me to teach religious education at Murdoch Uni, which I have taught since the 1980s.

Many champions have given us skills and opportunities for the Gospel: thank you all, and long may the ripples continue to share the name of Christ.

Sean Marsh (QLD)

Approximately fourteen months ago, I joined the local Jiu-Jitsu gym because I needed some new friends to share Jesus with. One of the instructors, Erik, has had quite a difficult life and shared some of it with me. He was quite openly angry and what I would call a militant atheist. After packing up the gym for the day, I lingered with the hope of a worldview conversation, and God gave me an amazing next hour and a half with him. This was the second big conversation that I have had with Erik, and I was so excited as he is well and truly a backslidden atheist now and now acknowledging agnostic! Praise be to God!!!

He wrestled with the idea of God and evil, and I walked him through that extensively, as well as evidence that God exists. He said very kindly at the end, "You know Sean, I enjoy talking about this kind of stuff and really appreciate your passion, and you make a really good case for what you believe, but I am just not quite ready yet". I answered back, "That is ok. If you think about it, if I really believe in what Jesus taught, that there is a real afterlife for everyone in heaven or hell, how unloving would I be if I just kept that to myself? That's why I am trying to persuade you to think more deeply about it." He really thanked me, and we both headed home. Please pray for Erik that God would do His work and bring him closer to Christ.



Sean sharing the gospel in Brisbane's CBD

Steven Stokes (VIC)

We had a wonderful time at Halls Gap as part of the Easter Mission! Even the wet, thunderous weather couldn't stop the good news! Only the first program was cancelled due to wet weather. We prayed for the rain to pause so we could run the programs, and God answered! Every other program went ahead. It would rain before and after we finished the programs, but the rain mostly held off so kids and parents could come and hear the good news! 'Good news in good ways' has been the OAC motto and this is what was presented.

It was great to be part of a highly talented team who all had a part to play in creatively sharing the gospel with children. Kids and adults in four different caravan parks around Halls Gap and Stawell heard the gospel's good news. Many seeds were planted, and great conversations were had.



Easter Mission Halls Gap 2023

One parent shared that after a program at Stawell caravan park, her son was coming home talking about Jesus. She doesn't have a religious background but realized something resonated with him for him to want to discuss it. She said that she was happy to explore it with him and wanted to read some Bible stories but didn't know where to start. I suggested she could start reading the 'Beginners Bible' as a bedtime story together at night. She googled it and said she was going to buy it from the Koorong website. I encouraged her in this and also shared with her about the OAC program and gave her a 'Hope' card so that

she could find out more about the gospel and hear testimonies of people whose lives have been changed through a personal relationship with Jesus. She told me she was going home to check it out because she knows that it's real, and she knows other people whose lives have been changed too.

So many people were receptive to hearing the gospel message. It was also great to have conversations with adults about what OAC was. Several parents said that they re-book the caravan park every Easter so their kids can come and be part of the program, and they look forward to it.

On Easter Sunday, we ran a church service that was open to the public, and we had a family on holiday come in to join us. One of the boys in the family received Jesus as His Lord and Saviour. All of Heaven rejoices when one comes into the Kingdom of God! God's word never returns void!

We pray for the seeds and message of the good news sown over Easter to fall on good soil and to yield a harvest of souls!

Special thanks go to our wonderful cooks who kept us well fed and to our team for organising and leading us through Bible studies, prayer times, a night walk, and a walk up to 'The Pinnacle'. There's no better way to spend Easter than with good company, a beautiful location and sharing the love of God!



Caravan parks have been a strategic ministry for OAC in Victoria for many years and thousands of young people have heard the gospel for the first time through these programs.

Rob & Gayle George (SA)



At a West Adelaide primary school in late March, Gayle spoke to an older boy after our Easter message who said that he was not afraid of dying.

He talked about making himself and others into “immortal toy machines”. Gayle shared why she was not afraid of dying – referring to what Jesus did at Easter! And about the reality of heaven!

The boy continued to talk about immortality. Gayle shared from the Bible that God has placed eternity in our hearts, and that’s probably why he was thinking so much about immortality.

At the same school, a new reception child could not speak English, only Spanish; how her face lit up when Rob bent down and said: “Hola! Muchas gracias. Gloria a Dios!” (Hello! Thank you very much. Glory to God!). Nearly Rob’s whole repertoire in that language!

We plant seeds with all kinds of people!

Stephanie Jordan (QLD)

On my first Friday night outreach since becoming an intern, I had a really encouraging conversation with two guys who were sitting and eating ice cream after work.

Andrew and Jeff shared that they both had loved ones that passed away, and that experience had changed their views of God and the afterlife. Andrew drifted away from the church in his early 20s, but when his grandfather passed away a couple of months ago, he felt like God was drawing him back to the church. Even though he was raised around the Catholic church, his Mum currently attends an Anglican church, so he said he may go there.

Jeff and his Mum used to go to church; however, when his mother passed away in 2019, he became very confused and full of questions. When no one in the church could answer the questions he was asking, he decided to leave and find answers elsewhere. His answer to the afterlife question was interesting. He said that when we die, we get to go and be with the gods, but not forever, just a short while, before eventually coming back to this earth in a new body and the same but changed consciousness.



Stephanie sharing the gospel with a student at university

It was a fascinating conversation; they both had deep and important questions. Both Andrew and Jeff were engaging in the conversation. The questions they were both asking were very different. On multiple occasions, Andrew commented, “It is just so funny that you decided to talk to us tonight because I have been thinking about these sorts of things the past couple of months.” Throughout the conversation, we talked a lot about apologetics, church culture, and ideas that seemed to be around the gospel but not necessarily the gospel itself. At one point, Andrew asked us what our stories were; “how did you come to believe what you do now?” So with that, we were able to tell our testimonies which was really cool.

Towards the end, we asked them if they had any questions for us. They said, “Well, at the beginning, you asked us what happens to us when we die. Can you tell us what you think?” So with that, I was able to explain the gospel.

Catherine Walkington (QLD)

I've been taking on more of a coaching and mentoring role at outreaches for our two interns, so I have been doing less solo street witnessing. During this time, I've been reminded that it's important to listen carefully to the conversation and have the wisdom to know not only what to say but also what not to say.

A good example of this is a conversation Andrew McLauchlan and I had with Callum, a self-proclaimed atheist. Callum shared his personal beliefs with us when we explained that we were Christians who were interested in talking with him about Christianity.

To Callum's credit, he is a very logically consistent atheist – when Andrew M took him through the law of God, he admitted to having sinned but stated that as he didn't believe in God, it didn't matter because he wouldn't be judged anyway.



Catherine sharing the gospel with Alana on campus at the university

I then took the conversation in a different direction. I told him that I appreciated that, as an atheist, he was logically consistent in what he claimed to believe and asked him what evidence he would need to be convinced that there was, in fact, a God. He responded that he would need ALL of the available evidence neatly packaged. I shared with him that one factor that convinces me that there must be a God is the complexity of the created order, that even something as simple as a leaf or blade of grass has an intricate design.

Callum defended his position by stating that ordered complexity can come about given the correct number of 'attempts over time', and given the age of the universe, it made sense that we would have life this complex by now. I asked him, 'Where did the initial material that you mentioned come from?' and he admitted to not being able to answer. Callum was clearly near the tipping point between being able to see, dispassionately, the 'gaps' in his worldview and feeling humiliated.

Part of our responsibility in sharing the Gospel with people is to present a good and sensitive witness – people are not numbers or targets; they are made in the image of God and, as such, have inherent value. Had I pushed him, I would've 'won points', but he would have left the conversation feeling humiliated and perhaps with a worse perspective than 'God doesn't exist'.

Callum had mentioned earlier that he was on his way to a class, so I stopped the conversation at this point and gave him an 'out' – 'We'd better let you get to your class.' He seemed relieved and began to walk away, then turned back, offered his hand for us to shake and thanked us for the conversation.



Jason is one of our regular volunteers in Brisbane. In this photo, he shared the gospel with Anthony who had talked with another team member only a couple of months earlier.

It pays to be in the same place regularly!

Ben Price (VIC)

Travelling to other places is a great opportunity to evangelise in a new location! I recently had the opportunity to go to Adelaide, and so while I was there, I took a team out to share the gospel on the streets of Glenelg, including Rob & Gayle from the SA ministry! There were many, many conversations throughout the day and here are just a few brief stories!

I spoke to about seven young guys who were all about 13-14 years old. It was a really fun chat. They listened & heard the gospel.

I also talked to Jason & Emily from Alice Springs and chatted about morality & its consequences. They needed to meet up with someone, but I was able to share the gospel quickly.

Kasim is a former Muslim from Pakistan. He said he's spiritual and he was very open & receptive to the gospel. I used John 14:6 to explain Jesus being the only way to salvation.



Ben Price, Rob & Gayle George and other team members from Glenelg

I also enjoyed recently sharing with 150 year-nine students at Donvale Christian College. I outlined the gospel and taught them some basic principles for sharing Jesus with their friends. I got to demonstrate a few different voice imitations too. It was fun!

Rob Ross (VIC)

Over Easter, I had the pleasure with OAC of helping teach 50-odd teenagers all about different worldviews, apologetics and foundations for the Christian faith. After my second seminar, one teenage boy came and shared that he goes to a Christian school, but some of his friends have been asking him why he believes in Jesus – after all, there are many other religions – how could this one be the only right one? He went on to tell me that he had been praying that over the Easter Convention, someone would be able to give him the answers and that these sessions were an exact answer to prayer. Praise God!

Evangelism is essential to share the good news of Jesus with the world. It will be hard to evangelise if we don't know why we believe what we believe and have our foundations deep in Jesus. As we covered prophecy, archaeology, manuscripts, morality, design, and the life of Jesus, it was great to see a new generation preparing themselves to trust Jesus and take His message to their communities around them.



Some of the team at Belgrave this past Easter

I also talked to Harris from India, who is a Hindu. He was also receptive to the gospel. I shared that there are no other gods besides Jesus. He gladly accepted a copy of the gospel of John.

Another man I spoke with, Nicholas, said he is a Christian but he's struggling with meth addiction. I prayed that he'd be set free & he'd find help.

It was awesome to see many people receive tracts in Adelaide.

Andrew McLauchlan (QLD)

I had a conversation with Stuart, an atheist. He acknowledged that he did not know what happens after we die and had not researched the topic. I explained to him the concept of divine revelation, the severity of sin, and the gospel. For a brief moment, I could see that he was moved by what I shared, but he quickly regained his composure. I spoke to him about how God offers forgiveness through the death and resurrection of Jesus as a free gift. I explained how we cannot earn this gift, but there are conditions for receiving it. I explained that trust in Jesus is God's first condition for receiving forgiveness, but unfortunately, we were not able to discuss repentance since he had to leave. I gave him a tract to take with him.



Andrew M shares the gospel in the Brisbane CBD

Andrew Walkington (QLD)

As we go out into the public to share the gospel, we speak to many people that we never see again, however, being in the same place each week means that there are individuals who we get to know and the gospel conversation continues.

One such example is Liam, who I met in the Brisbane CBD. He is 21 years old and hopes that there is something that comes next but is ultimately not sure that this is true. He studied religions throughout high school and seemed to use this as his claim to expertise early in the conversation.

He turned out to be quite postmodern in his thoughts about beliefs and couldn't accept that the exclusive claims of the different religions ensured that they cannot all be true.

I eventually showed him that religion is about objective truth claims rather than subjective (opinion) claims. I shared how we know God exists and why we believe that the Bible is true.

He shared that he had some Catholic background, and so I used this to swing to the gospel. As I shared about the justice of God using an analogy about a human court, he shared that he is a law student and that this made a lot of sense. He was left pondering my argument very deeply and told me that he would keep an eye out for me on campus in a few weeks.

Sure enough, later that month, Liam found me again! As I chatted with a young Muslim girl, he came and waited nearby for us to finish. We talked about the next steps in his journey, and when we talked about church, he shared that Sundays are often affected by his hobby – he's a soccer referee. This was an instant bonding point for us as this was something I did for years at a relatively elite level.

It's been a few months and we've talked regularly. He's still very much thinking about what I shared with him and how this squares with his Catholic upbringing.



There is a desperate need to equip our young people with a solid understanding of what they believe and why.

Too many of our youth spend years in churches, Sunday school, youth group, or Christian schools and walk away without any significant understanding of the basics of the Christian faith. When they are then presented with the non-religious claims of our culture, which appear to be based on facts, they quickly discard the “myths” of their upbringing. Consequently, we meet them at university, and they are now post-churched.

Our team here in Queensland had lamented this for some time and then our Western Australian team shared the stories from a Worldview based youth camp they had run the past few years. This camp provided these teens with a solid foundation for their Christian beliefs and then showed them why this should completely shape their lives. This was it! That’s what we needed!



Stu Millar of "Train to Proclaim" was one of our keynote speakers

With some help from the WA team, our Queensland team spent months replicating their camp and this past June, we hosted our first Worldview Queensland youth camp.

40 youth and a team of “young” adult leaders gathered for 5 nights up at Mount Tambourine to consider:

- What we believe,
- Why we believe it,
- What difference does it make.

There were more than 20 interactive sessions talking through topics such as:

- What is a worldview?
- The evidence for the resurrection
- How we can share what we believe
- How to study the Bible
- How should we relate to authorities?
- And so many more!

Our speaking team featured some OAC staff, and guests including Rob Norman from the ACL and Ken Ham of Answers in Genesis! The sessions were then supported by small group times led by our young adults and put into practice during practical activities focused on leadership and outreach.



It wasn’t all academic. We had fun as well. The Red team took out the inaugural Vegemite Cup event scoring points through the week for participation, but also for the team games during the Thursday afternoon program. The energy through the week was massive and the campers engaged brilliantly. Many testified of how God impacted them during the week, and we saw several campers profoundly transformed even during those few days.

We’re now preparing for next year with the WA camp in January 2024 and Queensland in June 2024.



For the past 130 years, OAC has reached out to the people of Australia with the life-changing message of salvation through Jesus Christ. By God's grace, we have seen lives changed for eternity, and we are grateful for the opportunity to share the good news in good ways. But there is much to do. Australia is now one of the largest mission fields in the world.



But we need people like you to be part of this too.

OAC Ministries is an accredited not-for-profit organisation that relies on the Lord to provide through the generosity and sacrificial giving of Christians and churches to support our team through prayer and finances. OAC missionaries rely on the consistent financial assistance of individuals who see the value in what we are doing to advance God's Kingdom here in Australia.



Would you prayerfully consider whether you might be able to partner with the work of OAC?

To learn more about joining our team of ministry partners, please visit our website:

oac.org.au

There you will find information about how you can join us in the work of preaching the gospel or how you can speak to a team member in your area about what it would look like to support the efforts of a local gospel worker.

Could you afford:

- \$15 per week (\$60 per month)
- \$30 per week (\$120 per month)
- \$45 per week (\$180 per month)
- \$60 per week (\$240 per month)
- Another amount?



- **Rob George** is the South Australian Director of OAC Ministries. Both Rob and his wife, Gayle, have been involved in evangelism ministry for decades in Australia and overseas. Before joining OAC, the Georges were high school Physical Education teachers.
- **Steve Stokes**, Abby and the family live an hour north of Melbourne. Steve coordinates teams for summer missions and leads teams to the Philippines. He shares the gospel with groups of all ages.
- **Geoff Westlake** and his family live on the Northern Edge of Perth, WA. Geoff teaches Christian Education and is an evangelist who leads WA's Worldview Camps, Worldview Bites and Worldview Chunks programs. Geoff has been part of the OAC team for several decades.
- **Darren and Kathryn Birch** recently joined the OAC Evangelist team to train parents and work with families as they seek to share Jesus with their children and raise them in healthy Christian families. Darren and Kathryn are based in WA and have raised their own adult children.
- **Stephanie Jordan** is an intern evangelist with OAC Ministries. Stephanie is currently studying a Bachelor of Ministry at BST while interning with the Queensland team. As part of Stephanie's internship, she has been learning street evangelism as well as using her administration skills to help the team.
- **Andrew McLauchlan** is a part-time intern evangelist with OAC, whose ministry centres around street evangelism. He can often be found sharing the Gospel outside the QUT campus at Gardens Point and Queens Street Mall. Currently, he is studying and residing on campus at the Brisbane School of Theology.
- **Catherine Walkington** served as a missionary from 2007 to late 2009 before an extended season of being a full-time mum. She joined the Queensland team part-time in October 2021, with the kids now all at school. She does street evangelism, looks after volunteers, and helps train interns.
- **Andrew Walkington** has been on staff with OAC in Queensland since April 2018. Having been saved out of an atheistic upbringing, he has a deep passion for evangelism and for training others to share their faith effectively. He has served in vocational ministry since 2007 in both missions and pastoral work. He is married to Catherine, and together they have four children.
- **Sean Marsh** joined the OAC Queensland team in October 2022. Sean is currently serving as a Chaplain at Borallon Correctional Centre. "I love going to jail and sharing my faith and listening to the concerns of those who have made some poor life choices". Sean has been married to his wonderful wife Gina for over twenty-five years and has two adult daughters and two Rottweilers.
- **Ben Price** is based in Melbourne. You may know Ben as a Comedian; he has spot-on impersonations of personalities such as Arnold Schwarzenegger, Donald Trump, Liam Neeson, King Charles, Homer Simpson, Dr Phil and lots more. Ben has been sharing his faith and speaking in churches and on the streets of Melbourne for many years; in 2023, he joined our OAC team.
- **Neil Clark** is our worker in NSW. He has over 40 years of experience in ministry to the whole family. His work for OAC focuses primarily on religious instruction in schools. Neil is married, has 3 sons, and lives in Bonnell's Bay NSW. He is also a pastor of a Congregational church in Sydney.

VOLUNTEERING WITH OAC

Spring, 2023

One person preaching the gospel might reach hundreds.
One person in a team preaching the gospel might reach thousands.

What might it look like to have 2000 volunteers serving together to take the gospel to the nation?

OAC is looking to build a big team of volunteers who want to become confident and competent in sharing their faith, and who are committed to investing what they have learned in other followers of Jesus.

Our volunteers aren't superheroes!

- They're everyday Christians just like you who see a need and are willing to have a go.
- You may not see yourself as an on-stage evangelist or preacher, but if you are willing to be trained, you can confidently speak to people who need to hear about Jesus.
- Our volunteer teams go to the streets, schools, caravan parks, conventions, retirement homes, and anywhere else where they can find non-Christians to share with.
- They share one-to-one, they share with small groups, and sometimes they even share with small crowds.
- All they need to do is faithfully speak to people about Jesus, and then God does the work in people's hearts when they hear the good news.

Our volunteer teams aren't special because of their gifts or skills.

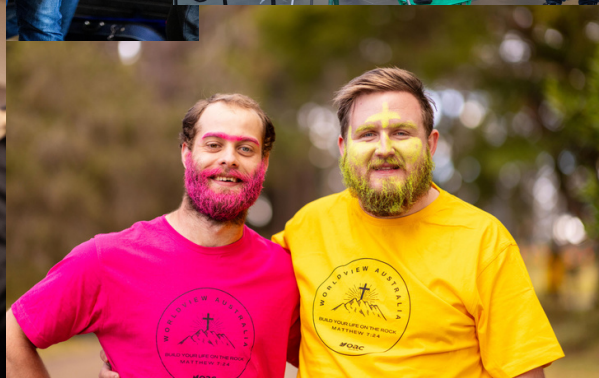
They're special because they love the lost.

They're special because they are willing to go.

Will you Join In?

To learn more about volunteering with OAC, please visit:

oac.org.au



BEYOND BELIEF.

COMING SOON

A brand new resource is arriving soon from OAC Ministries Australia!

Beyond Belief is a 60-day learning experience that helps equip you and your friends to love people from God's perspective and share your faith with others.

The program is based on the conviction that sharing our faith with others belongs at the centre of discipleship.

It includes a 9-week small-group video Bible study, leadership training, promotional materials and 60 daily devotions.



www.oac.org.au



Worldview Australia Leadership Camp

When: January 14th-19th, 2024

Where: Camp Wattle Grove,
59 Kelvin Road, Wattle Grove, Western Australia

Who: Years 9-12 (High School 2023)

www.worldviewaustralia.org

