

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

FEB 2025



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Stay up-to-date with OAC ministries and find out what has been happening recently, and what projects are coming.



2025

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

OCT 21-24
BELGRAVE HEIGHTS
CONVENTION CENTRE

Welcome to OAC's National Newsletter

As our ministry partner, **you are a part of this mission with us** and so we want you to know what God has been doing in answer to your prayers and support. We have gathered a selection of updates and stories from around the country to inspire you, and as content for your ongoing prayers for God's work through OAC.

In our first edition for 2025 there is exciting news to share. There's a new work beginning in Perth soon with Sean & Gina Marsh landing there late March/early April. We are also opening up a new region in Port Macquarie with Mike Peereboom relocating there in April. God has continued to do his good work through our teams over summer at Belgrave Heights, short-term missions, camps, schools work, and street teams.

I am looking forward to 2025 and what God has planned for us. Some of it we can see, but usually there are some God planned surprises along the way. As we journey together we know He will always take us into the places and spaces where Australians need to hear the gospel.

Please continue to partner with us through your prayers, and if you are able to partner with us financially we would greatly appreciate your support. Thank you for serving with us.



Jason Potter
National Director

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Contact Us:
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www.oac.org.au

Be Inspired



Sean Marsh (QLD/WA)

Our preparations to relocate to WA are going well despite a few hiccups along the way. Both our cars have engine codes on the dashes, and our caravan is back at the dealers with a shopping list of things requiring warranty repairs. Our proposed leave date of the 4th of March is not looking promising. All we can do is hope and pray they can have our mobile home back to us in time.

Over the holiday period, I managed to make a couple of new friends, one of whom is Phil, is an Irish Catholic. I got to know him and asked about his upbringing and his beliefs. Very typically, he held to a lot of traditions which conflicted with the Gospel and Biblical teaching. We had several really good chats, and I walked him through the differences between what the Bible teaches compared to his traditional background. He really appreciated the chats, and stated several times how it was very different to what he had been taught growing up. I shared that it wasn't that unusual and worth thinking through on a deeper level. I encouraged him to consider reading the Gospels for himself, and reflecting on the differences he has been taught growing up. He thanked me and said it was a bit of an eye opener. Praise God. Please pray for Phil, that he may see the truth of scripture and the message of Jesus.

Mike Peereboom (ACT/NSW)

In April 2025, Renee and I will be relocating to Port Macquarie. We lived in Port Macquarie after we got married and we are excited about moving back there and beginning a new work for OAC in a similar way to the work we began in Canberra. I will be handing over much of the work in Canberra to Shamina who is continuing to grow in her evangelism role in Canberra.

At ANU, I was endorsed by Unilodge as a chaplain. In an effort to raise students' awareness of my presence at ANU, Unilodge invited me to address a cohort of students who live onsite and who function in a social leadership & resident wellbeing role. Unilodge management invited me to address these 60 student leaders to encourage them, to share with them about how chaplaincy adds value to the university experience, and how to connect with a chaplain should students choose to do so.



I have also been leading a Dad's Group on the north side of Canberra. Dad's Group is a national not-for-profit who are all about changing the culture of fatherhood for the better. They promote positive parenting and create peer-to-peer support networks for new dads. Over the Christmas holidays I had the opportunity to grab a coffee with the founder and CEO of Dads Group, who just so happens to love Jesus. He was excited to hear about how the strategic partnership between OAC and DGI is developing.

In the last quarter I have also been busy planning and promoting the first SALT Forum of 2025. These discussion forums feature guest presenters and focus on helping Christians get equipped to share their faith. Our first SALT Forum is on the 8th of March and features speakers from OAC, Red Frogs, and the Lauchlan Macquarie Institute. Details and registration form are on our website.



Jason Allott (Volunteer - QLD)

I had a wonderful chat to Cameron, a young man who, as I found out later, was actually on his way to Rockhampton to spend time with his Nan who was in the last days of her life. He confessed he did not know what happened after death but was open minded. He believed there must be a God but did not know who He was. I was able to show him using his conscience that we are corrupted people full of sin who have rebelled against God and this was why God sent us our Saviour Jesus. We talked about how to respond to this free gift and then I asked him if he had a Bible. I offered him one I was carrying and he gladly received it. I instructed him to start in the New Testament. He was very thankful for our conversation and amazed at the timing just heading up to see his Nan.

I stopped Joe as he was walking through the city and asked him what he thought about what happened after death. He has been in Brisbane 3 days after moving over from the UK and he said he thinks about this all the time but doesn't know what to believe. He shared a bit of his journey in this and was asking plenty of questions. I was able to share the Gospel with him but he had to get to the bank so couldn't chat for much longer after that. He was amazed I stopped him, gave me a hug and thanked me for the conversation. I gave him a Gospel tract and some other literature to read.

Be Inspired



Steve Stokes (VIC)

I was heavily involved in the various Vic Summer missions this past couple of months, serving as a part of the Youth program at Belgrave and then the Rosebud and Bright Beach missions.

Belgrave:

OAC has not usually provided the youth program at Belgrave Summer Convention but has been providing the Primary Kids program for many years. This year, a team was able to lead the youth program discussing the life of Moses, a parallel topic to what was being covered with the adults in the main auditorium. It was great to have a couple of brand-new volunteers in both the youth and Children's teams.



On the final day of the program, the youth were invited to share what they had learned. Their feedback shared how their understanding of the Exodus had been deepened and how this in turn impacted their understanding of the gospel and our relationship to God through Jesus. We're hopeful that the successful program this summer will create further opportunities to provide future youth programs there.

Rosebud:

It was great to be accommodated back at New Peninsula Church after not being able to stay there last year due to their building program. The team appreciated those from the church who dropped in to say hi and to encourage us. Hailey and Emma have written about their experience being on team for the first time:

I have always enjoyed sharing Gods word with kids and I love that I can be a part of an OAC mission and do just that. Before coming, I wondered if I could really make a difference with the kids when there were already so many leaders that the kids knew. I was glad when the kids were happy to see me and talk about Gods word with me.

- Hailey

OAC Rosebud mission has been a great experience. It has been good to see kids come along to the programs each day and listen to what we say. It's so good to see how God works through the team doing talks and running games each day. Without him we wouldn't be able to do it. As much as I didn't want to it, doing a talk has been great for building my faith and confidence. We were thankful that the park management let us come each day and run the program. It was great to see one of the manager's kids even coming along. We pray that these kids in the program, their parents, and other kids nearby who may have been listening realise the truth has been spoken to them and hopefully put their faith in Jesus.

- Emma.



Bright:

Normally this mission is Steve leading the team and the family tagging along. This year however was the whole family was involved and contributing to the programs. Abby was up front running the games, the kids helped carry equipment and sat in the program. Although they had seen it many times before they would cheer and yell out at appropriate times.

Bright Mission started really well with good numbers, however a big storm came through on the Wednesday afternoon causing many of those staying in the park to leave. The program never really recovered after that and the last couple of days were very quiet. We really appreciate the work and effort the team members put in to see the Gospel proclaimed faithfully.

Please be praying for management of the holiday parks. Our programs depend on their permission to enter.



Be Inspired



South East Queensland Region

It's going to be a massive year in the South Queensland region. With the new year, ministry on the streets is getting going again and we're particularly looking forward to a return to the uni campus in late February. The campus is a particularly fruitful opportunity for ministry, partly because we can see the same people over and over again, but also because there is a certain openness that seems to be common in the late teens and young adult demographic. If they're asked the right questions, it's usual for a young person to open up and spend a long time talking about Jesus. Last year on campus we were blessed to have many hundreds of gospel conversations with young adults ranging from those who had been church in their youth, to those who have never been to church in their lives. We watched as many moved from apathetic and dismissive to curious, and from hostile to sympathetic. More importantly, many moved from ignorant of basic Christian teaching to an awareness of the core gospel message, and we are praying that this gospel seed would germinate in their lives. It will be good to see if some students recognise us from last year and stop to chat again.



We've also got a number of events in the calendar including multiple evangelism training courses via local churches and 2 major youth events. The MTCC Easter program is a wonderful opportunity to share the gospel with church youth who may not get much clear gospel teaching through their own youth programs. We found last year that the teens had loads of questions and were hungry to learn what the Bible says about the life of Jesus.

The Worldview Camp in the middle of the year also caters predominantly to church youth, but it also has more of an equipping focus. While we know of a couple of kids who did come to faith, we also know of quite a few who gained a desire to make Christ known in their own circles. Some of these have since become young adults and are now joining us in reaching others. It's going to be amazing to watch the kingdom impact of how these young people reach others with the gospel, and we anticipate they will reach many more than we might have reached ourselves.

Please pray for our team here in Queensland. It's an exciting season of growth, but we are also aware that there is a lot of hard work needed to keep this ministry going. Please pray that God would continue to raise up more labourers for the fruitful harvest.



Andrew Walkington (QLD/NAT)

I asked Sean what happens when we die and he immediately responded that we go to heaven or hell. He shared that he has something of a Catholic upbringing. As I quizzed him about the essentials of the Christian faith, it was clear that he did know a lot of things, and so I was able to move through some of the early parts of the gospel message pretty quickly. When asked about getting to heaven, he brought up the 10 commandments and so we started walking through them. It was really clear that neither he or I had kept any of them, and so that left us (and everyone else) in a lot of trouble. I asked him why anyone would go to heaven and he said because God is forgiving, but he didn't bring in any mention of the cross. I used a simple analogy to show him that God's forgiveness required a payment to be made on our behalf. At this point, he was able to put the pieces together and grasped why Jesus needed to die in our place. We chatted a little bit about the differences between Catholic and Protestant understandings of how we receive forgiveness and I challenged him to consider where he stood with God. He was very appreciative that I shared with him and actually offered to give me a hug.



Be Inspired



Rob and Gayle George (SA/NAT)

Last year finished off well with our schools Christmas presentations and several opportunities to speak at carols evenings. One of the carols programs, in Adelaide's Western suburbs, was in a park with about 1,000 in attendance. In the schools we took 14 programs in 10 schools, many in Adelaide's West, but also some in country areas. About 1,600 kids heard the Gospel presented creatively using a Lego Christmas theme.

Soon we will begin preparation for our Easter schools programs. We are part of the core team in the Western suburbs who come up with an idea, write the program, prepare the props, then rehearse with a team. Presentations are done in the schools in the 2 weeks prior to Good Friday. Isn't it interesting how we call it "Good" Friday, yet the only perfectly good person who ever lived was dying a cruel death on a rugged cross!

In mid January, we brought the studies at a teens' camp near Wellington on the River Murray. As is often the case with campers at this particular site, many of the teens came from challenging backgrounds, including foster homes and under the guardianship of the State. These are wonderful opportunities to present the Gospel in creative ways to especially needy young people. The camp theme was 'Jungle Survivor' opening the door for thoughts about the things that we need to survive the "jungle" of life. The most important thing is an alliance, a relationship, with God through His Son!

Since we will reach the 40 year milestone on staff on March 1st, we will be taking some time in late February to reassess life, the universe, and everything. There is no intention, at the moment, to change anything, but it will be a good process to go through at this strategic time. We appreciate your special prayer for this. We also intend to use up more of our accumulated annual and long-service leave in the next year or two. Next year will be our 50th wedding anniversary! Thanks to so many of you for being a part of our journey over these many years - so vital and much appreciated! Our intention is to carry on, with your support, serving the Lord through OAC.



Neil Clark (NSW)

I will continue to teach 4 scripture lessons to over 120 children and their teachers this year in the Morisset area of NSW. Children have eagerly participated in each lesson last year through drama, singing, mime and story-telling and I expect they will do so this year. The lessons from Godspace challenged the children to decide for themselves their relationship with God. During last year a number of the children in my classes put their trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior and requested a Bible to grow in their faith. Please pray for them. I have also had the privilege in the past to be the speaker at a number of combined scripture assemblies in primary schools throughout the state to celebrate Christmas and Easter.

"Bert" sat on a seat outside Coles in Morisset and confessed to me that life was really tough. He was separated from his partner and children and had not seen them for a long time. He was presently living with friends in the area. We chatted for a time and through the conversation I was able to share my faith with him. Before we separated I had the privilege of praying for him. There are many like Bert that I have the privilege to speak to in the centre.

One of the churches in our area has begun a community tea once a week, inviting anyone who was willing to attend. I have been given the privilege, during this tea, to give a brief gospel message once a month.



I also preach regularly as part of the pastoral team at Campsie Congregational Church (a Chinese church with an English congregation). I have shared this responsibility for a number of years and have enjoyed watching our young people grow up and take an active part in the church and their local communities.

Shamina Rozario (ACT)

I have been working on reaching kids in the ACT community. I am tutoring an Iraqi boy in English, which is a subject with a long history of Christian tradition, so he has been reading a graphic novel of key bible stories I gave to him.



I have also self-published "200 Bible Heroes", an encyclopaedia of Bible characters. I have sold over 20 copies, and donated books to kids around Australia. I look forward to spreading the gospel through this ministry as time goes on. If you know a family or person who would benefit from a copy, please get in touch. You can learn more about this project at: www.encyclopaediaproject.com

Be Inspired

Andrew MacLauchlan (QLD)

Blair is a non-Christian who holds a very positive view of Jesus. Blair and I talked for longer than an hour. Blair said that he loves talking about deep questions. He was very engaged, and we had a lot of fun conversing. I was told later that I appeared very animated during the chat! I explained the gospel to him and why we should believe in Christianity in depth. I also explained that Jesus saves Christians not just from going to hell but from a life of rebellion against God. This rebellion brings misery by causing us to sin against others, damaging our relationships with them. God saves us from this misery by transforming Christians throughout their lives - a process that Christians call sanctification. Blair found this teaching, that God saves us from our rebellion, to be very meaningful. He said he would like to pursue Christianity after hearing about it. I encouraged Blair to read the Bible and attend church. I also explained how he should go about doing those things. I also shared my testimony with Blair, and he thanked me, saying he would treasure the story I told him. I gave him a tract.

Allison is a volunteer currently learning evangelism skills and growing in confidence in sharing the gospel. She and I spoke with Nurell, a 16-year-old boy who identifies as a Christian but didn't fully understand the gospel. He grew up in a Seventh-day Adventist church but no longer attends church. I shared the gospel with Nurell, but I also prompted Allison to explain parts of the gospel message during the conversation. Allison felt that she shared the gospel more in this conversation than she ever had before. I gave Nurell a tract and encouraged him to start attending a church.



Melbourne Street Team (VIC)

OAC has a wonderful team of volunteers in the Melbourne area who faithfully go out every Saturday to the CBD to share the gospel. Led by Troy, a key volunteer, they go each week to share the gospel with whoever will stop to talk. Below is just a sample of some of the conversations from a single week:

- I had a good chat with Sean and Max, two young guys with no religious background, but one of whom was attending a Roman Catholic school. They heard the message and they each received a Gospel of John. They were questioning and open.
- Two girls also went through the Good Person Test (GPT) via the flipchart.
- Jesse, an avowed atheist, and his two friends chatted with us for some time. Though not willing to accept the message the added conversation concerning how Christianity works out in our lives and in policy measures in society was helpful. Jesse's friend had just completed a law degree at the Uni of Melbourne, so we were able to discuss social and political matters. This I think helps them to see that a Christian worldview is not as anachronistic as some hold.
- Faith and I spoke for some time with a Chinese Christian lady. She is musing on some aspects about her faith, but I am not exactly sure what!
- We chatted with Eochim, his friend Aiden, and another friend, Nathan, as well as two girls who were part of their group. Two were Maoris (one of whom followed the Maori gods), two were purported lesbians and Nathan was distressed about his parents. They are all young, in their early teens, going through a period of determining who they are, with one or two having attempted suicide (or so it seems).
- Huy took Krishna and his girlfriend through the GPT via the flipchart.
- Huy shared with Mohammad an avowed Muslim but who took off without having heard of the need for Christ, but he received a tract.
- Huy took Eve through the GPT via the flipchart; she seemed open and receptive.
- We went through the flipchart version of the GPT with Mohammad and his three friends. They understood the logic of the need to receive atonement by faith but adhered to their Muslim position. It was a helpful discussion; they received tracts.
- Huy did a great job of taking Nita and her friend Natasha through the GPT via the flipchart. They could see the necessity of turning to the Lord Jesus by faith. They received tracts.

Please pray for Troy and the team in Melbourne that God would continue to use them and that he would raise up more labourers for that significant ministry work.

Be Inspired

Stephanie Jordan (QLD)

Over the past couple of months, I've taken a step back from my ministry commitments with OAC to focus on caring for my family, especially my Mum who passed into glory in December. My family and I have used the start of the new year to grieve and begin adjusting to life without her. Mum's battle with cancer was long, full of ups and downs. I am deeply grateful to God for the opportunity to move back home so I could honour and care for my parents. A wise friend and mentor encouraged me to talk to Mum about the future while she was still with us— to share my plans, my excitement about what 2025 would look like, and let her share in that excitement with me.

This year, I'm returning to ministry with OAC. My internship will finish in June, and Lord willing, I hope to transition to permanent staff. I am eager to build relationships with more ministry partners, to have a strong prayer network supporting the work, and to eventually serve full-time in the ministry. I plan to participate in street evangelism with the QLD team as much as my health allows. Additionally, I'll be completing a Certificate 4 in Training and Assessment, which will open up new opportunities for me to contribute to a future project with OAC. I'm looking forward to attending the Worldview Camp again and am excited for all the opportunities ahead. As I grieve the loss of my Mum, I pray that God will use this time to glorify Him and bring purpose from my pain, trusting that we serve a sovereign God who works all things for His glory and our good.

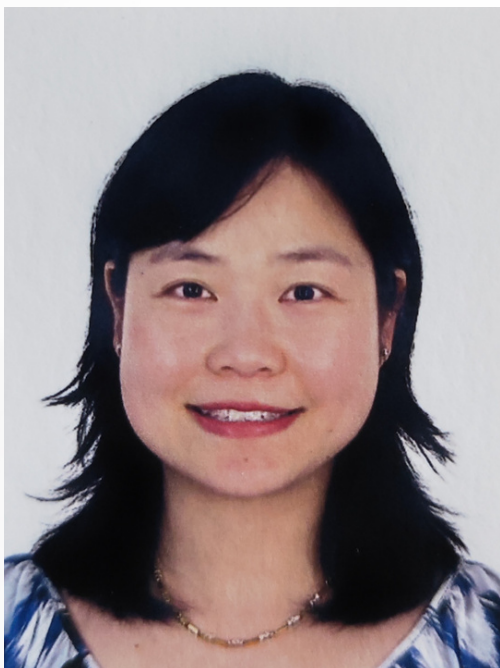


Team Changes

Thanks Carene!

Carene Lim has been our lead national administrator for the past 8 years and has kept OAC functioning through some challenging seasons of adjustment. For much of that time, she was assisted by a second member of the administration team (first Emily and then Melinda) but has needed to operate solo for the past few months since Melinda needed to resign last year due to ongoing health reasons.

Carene has handled donation processing, payroll, HR, insurance, and a host of other administrative tasks like an absolute champion and kept us functioning, however has decided that it is time to pursue other opportunities and will finish up with us at the end of February. She is going to spend the remainder of this month helping document everything she does, and will also assist us as we transition to her yet-to-be-hired replacement! She has also offered to stay in touch and assist as the new administrator settles in over the next couple of months.



We want to say a huge thanks to Carene for the passionate commitment she has made to the mission of OAC. She's treated the role, not just as a job, but as a calling to mission and has poured herself into the tasks so that those of us on the front lines can use our gifts for the ministry God has called us to.



Thanks Joel!

Joel Hernandez has served OAC this past 12 years as a volunteer member of the NEC (National Executive Committee), as the Treasurer, and a regular member of various kids ministry teams at Belgrave Heights Conventions. As a professional accountant, Joel has provided significant financial expertise to the ministry and as a result, OAC has remained financially healthy and well situated to move into future seasons. Having given the past 12 years to serving on the board, he has decided it is time to step back from leadership but plans to continue to assist the kids teams into the future.

We are grateful to Joel for his wisdom and leadership this past 12 years on the board. OAC has flourished thanks to his service. We wish him all the best in the season to come.

Join In

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. You can learn more about being involved in these events on our website.

VIC

- Weekly street outreach in Melbourne CBD
- Belgrave Heights Easter Convention (18th - 21st April 2025)

QLD

- Weekly Street outreach in Brisbane CBD
- Mount Tamborine Easter Convention Youth Program (17th - 21st April 2025)
- Worldview Queensland (29th June - 4th July 2025)

ACT

- SALT Forum (8th March)

WA

- Sean arrives in Perth (late March) and will be establishing regular outreaches there.



Give

OAC Ministries relies on our partners for prayer and financial support. Partners are people like you who pray for and financially support an evangelist, our national services team, or a special project. You are essential to the mission.

You can give to the work of OAC online, by visiting:

oac.org.au/give

All the funds given are carefully stewarded to to maximise gospel impact. Your partnership creates real world gospel impact in the lives of those who we reach.

To those who have given recently:

Thank You!

Prayer Points

Calendar Prayer Points:

- 3-4 March - Rob and Gayle have school programs in the country at Stansbury and Port Broughton.
- 8 March - Andrew W conducting evangelism training at Kuraby Christian Church
- 8 March - Mike P and team running the first SALT Evangelism Forum in ACT
- 11-24 March - Rob and Gayle take some days of Annual Leave. Pray for safety and refreshment as they travel.
- 26 March - "Our Daily Bread" Board meeting and AGM in Melbourne. Rob is the Australian Chairman.
- 31 March - 11 April - Rob and Gayle are involved with Easter themed school programs in Adelaide's Western suburbs.
- 17-21 April - Qld team running youth program at MTCC Easter Convention
- 18-21 April - Vic team running kid's program at Belgrave Heights Easter Convention
- 6 May - OAC National AGM

Praise Points:

- Praise God for the success of the various Vic summer missions in Belgrave, Rosebud & Bright - that the gospel was preached to a substantial number of kids and teens.
- Praise God for the ongoing street ministry in both Brisbane and Melbourne that causes many dozens of unchurched people to hear the gospel each week.
- Praise God for a restful summer for much of our team and the refreshing that it has brought.

General Prayer Points:

- Please pray for our weekly street outreaches in Melbourne and Brisbane that God would use them to reach the lost. Please also pray for new volunteers to join the team.
- Please pray for the national leadership team as they look at hiring a new administrator and as they restructure the national admin for better efficiency and future growth.
- Please praise God for his ongoing financial provision for our team. Please pray for those who need to raise additional funds to be fully supported or increase their days per week.
- Please pray for the planning and execution of the various events being run around the country and for the people and resources to see these run well.
- Please pray for the extended preparation that is needed for the various programs such as Worldview, MTCC Easter, & Belgrave.
- Please pray for Sean & Gina as they relocate to WA, and Mike P as he relocates to Port Macquarie. Please pray that they would settle in well and quickly establish new evangelistic works in those regions.
- Please pray for the ongoing health of our team and for those experiencing health challenges to be restored to full health.