

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

DEC 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.



Welcome to OAC's National Newsletter

As 2025 draws to a close, the investment you have made in the ministry of OAC this year has born much fruit and it is well worth celebrating what God has done through your prayer, support, encouragement and resources. As you read through our news, please take the time to thank God for all he has done and for what he has planned for us in 2026. We have two exciting projects to announce for 2026, a mission trip to Kalgoorlie and our new COVE training courses.

But first, I have been doing a little historical digging regarding our modern Christmas traditions. Until the 1840's, Easter was the more important Christian tradition celebrated by the church and the community at large. Easter is still the central celebration as far as the church is concerned (or it should be), as the events of Easter and belief in them determine salvation for all of us. However, Charles Dickens is responsible for the initial trend towards celebrating Christmas as the more significant cultural moment. With the publication and success of "A Christmas Carol" in 1844, and a growing effort to create Christmas traditions related to presents and feasting by retailers, the popularity of Christmas as a secular event began to grow. It had the advantage of a fixed date on the calendar each year and was during the traditional holiday period in many countries. (Continued over...)



Jason Potter
National Director



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Contact Us:

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www.oac.org.au

Be Inspired

From the National Director's Desk (continued)

Alongside these developments was a poem published in 1923 called "A Visit from Saint Nicholas" (in the original Dutch Sinterklaas), which became known as "Twas the Night Before Christmas", this led to the beginnings of the Santa Claus mythology. The Americans embraced this myth brought to them by Dutch settlers, and in 1931 an artist named Haddon Sundblom created the Red-Suited Santa for Coca-Cola, and the transition from honouring the birth of Jesus to worshipping the Santa myth began in earnest. As American culture swept the world first through Disney and Hollywood in the 30's and 40's, followed by a post-Second World War economic expansion of Americana, secular culture raised Christmas above Easter and often our churches have followed.

Over 1,700 years of Christians focusing on Easter as the central event of our faith is something many have lost, and we need to regain it. I would like to encourage you this year to make Christmas an Easter event. When you share the story of the birth of Jesus with your friends, your families and in your churches, remind them that Christmas is the door to Easter. The arrival of the Messiah was celebrated in the heavens, and it is right we should celebrate it too, but the angels sang because the saviour had arrived and Easter was coming!

2026 COVE Training Program

In February 2026 OAC will begin delivering a Diploma in Christian Ministry and Theology program as a campus of Kingsley College. Kingsley College is the ministry training college for the Wesleyan Denomination and are great partners for us to be working with.



This project has been worked on for the past three years as part of a three year plan developed and approved by the NEC in 2022.

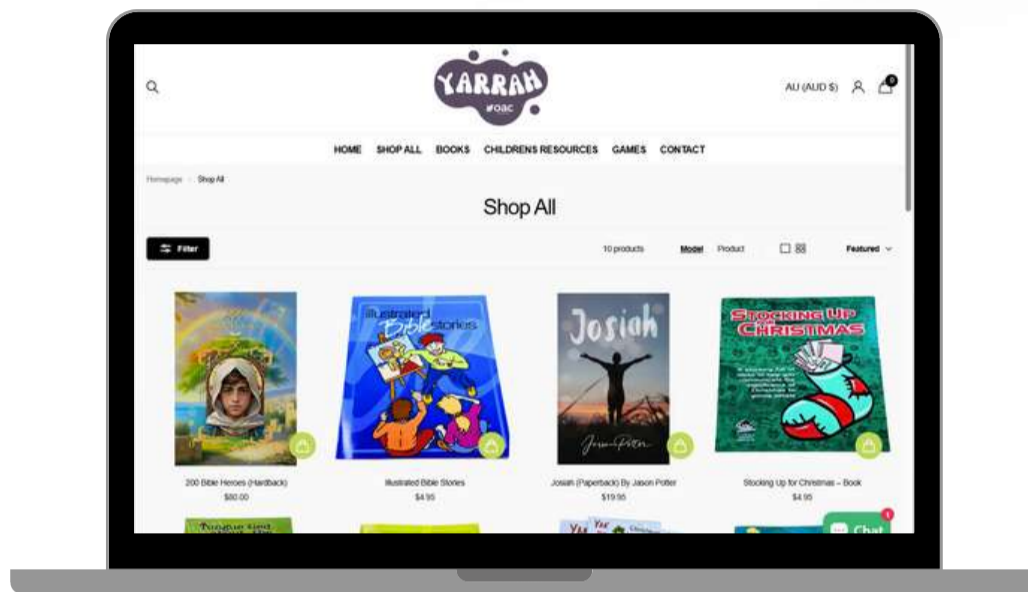
Two specialist evangelism subjects will be available online through our COVE training program. The Biblical Basis for Evangelism begins in February 2026 and has been prepared and will be delivered by Andrew Walkington.

Develop and Implement an Evangelism Project or Camp will begin in July 2026 and is being taught by Rob Ross, the chair of our NEC and an experienced educator and evangelist.

We are so excited to be launching this new program and believe it will develop into a full time ministry training opportunity for future staff and volunteer evangelists and leaders who will influence our nation towards the gospel in the years to come.

To find out more information, or begin the enrolment process please visit <https://oac.org.au/be-equipped/cove/>

In October, we launched our online resources store. We are planning to promote the store to Christian School Teachers, Children's workers in local churches, Sunday School Teachers, and evangelism volunteers. We will be adding more resources to the store soon. We also have the capacity to offer discount vouchers or free vouchers to our overseas partners in countries that are unable to afford AUD prices. Check it out on the OAC website!



March 2026 Mission Trip to Kalgoorlie

This year, OAC Ministries is offering you the opportunity to be part of a team, on mission together in Kalgoorlie and the surrounding First Nations communities. As you step out in faith together, you will learn how to love more deeply, speak the truth about Jesus more confidently, and serve His mission.

Living out Jesus' mission is a rough and tough adventure!

You will be changed. Your teammates will be changed. Come back equipped to live out God's mission in your local community.

We will be based at the Coolgardie CAPS School about 30 mins drive from Kalgoorlie. (<https://caps.wa.edu.au>)

The team, led by Jason Potter, our National Director, and our WA staff team, will receive on-the-job evangelism training, participate in helping the school with some practical projects, visiting and sharing about Jesus in Indigenous communities, participating in street teams, and a bit of sightseeing as well.



Dates: May 3rd -
May 13th 2026

Cost: \$525 (this covers travel from Perth to Kalgoorlie, food, accommodation, and a contribution to the mission activities. Travel to Perth is the responsibility of each team member, some assistance may be possible in cases of financial hardship)

Be Inspired



Rob George (SA/NAT)

We were pleased to have a couple of new schools participate in our Christmas programs in Adelaide's Western suburbs. Our theme this year was "An Upside-Down Christmas" focusing on all the unexpected things about the first Christmas:

- A great new star announcing the approaching birth!
- A young lady having a baby but not with a human father involved!
- Immanuel, God with us, born not in a hospital or a palace, but in a humble stable!
- In a small town, not the capital!
- Which was not even the town where the parents lived!
- Announced to common shepherds, not to authorities!
- Recognised by foreign travellers, not by local dignitaries!
- That baby growing up to do extraordinary things and change the course of history!

A team representing many local churches presented this theme in a range of creative ways, including a "magic" trick and some upside-down lettering from Rob, along with engaging drama and a sparkling (literally at times) PowerPoint. Rob's PowerPoint even had appropriate noises - tinkling sounds as the whole screen rotates every time the words "upside-down" are mentioned; moos and baas when the stable was first mentioned and camel noises when the wisemen make their appearance; fanfare before Rob's tricks; etc.

Please pray that through all the fun and surprises, that the reality of the reason why He came (His name means 'the Lord saves') which we get to before we finish, will bear fruit in hearts in time to come



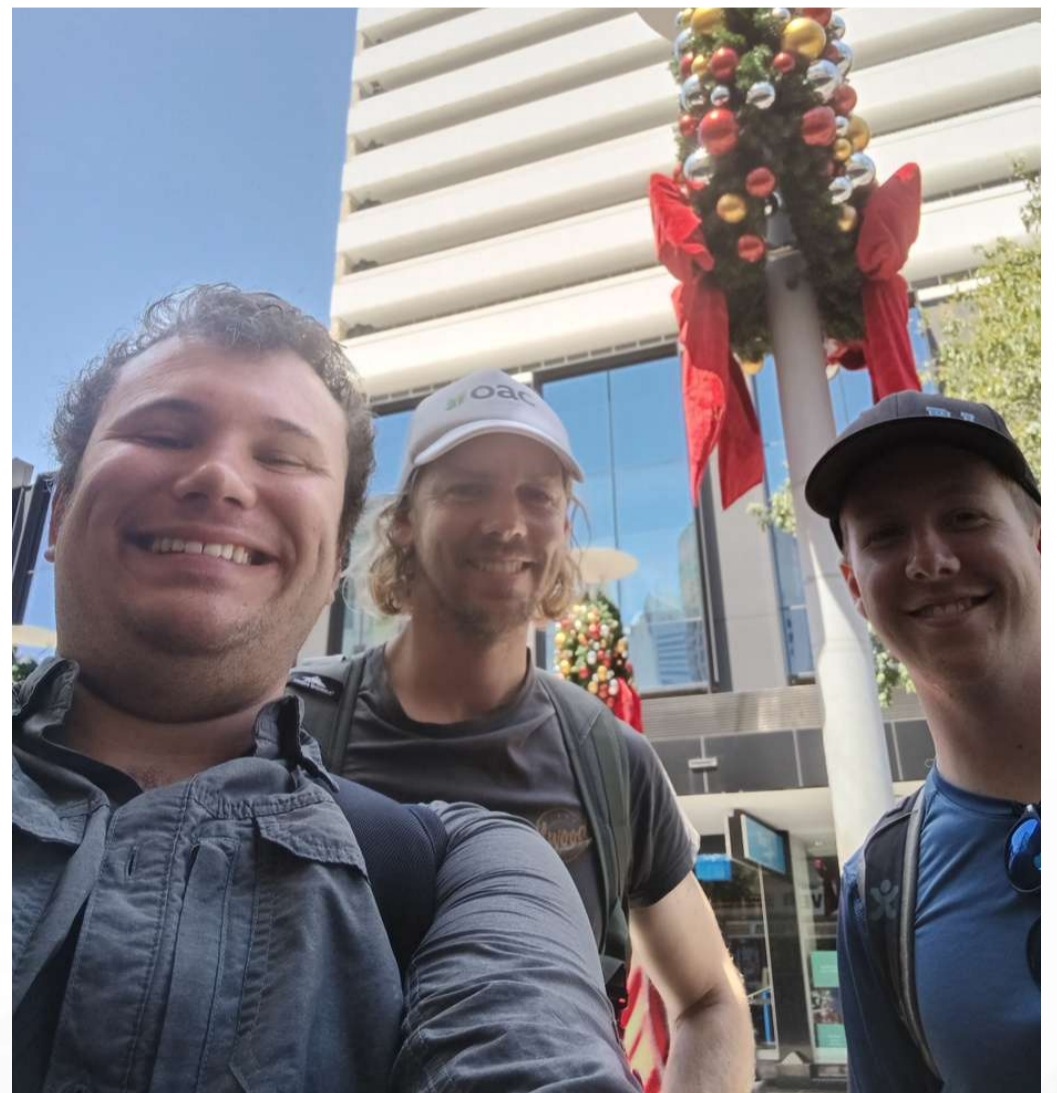
Andrew McLauchlan (QLD)

Nico said his mother believed in local Chinese shamanism (religious practices associated with a shaman), Taoism, and Buddhism. He thought it was strange that his mother followed so many religions. He asked me if, as a Christian, I could believe in other religions, and I explained that Christianity teaches that God created us for a relationship with Him, and following other religions would be a bit like cheating on Him.

Nico said he is an atheist and asked me for an argument for God's existence. I gave him an argument, and he was very impressed. I explained that since the universe has a beginning, it must have something that started it, and if something started the universe, it must have qualities like being powerful or eternal. A being with those qualities would be God.

He asked me, "Who created God?"—a common atheist objection to this argument for God's existence. I explained that Christians believe God is eternal. Something eternal means it never had a beginning. Since God is eternal, He does not need a creator. To ask "Who created God?" misunderstands what we are talking about when discussing God.

He asked me why I think the universe is not eternal and seemed convinced by my answer. I explained that there is something called entropy, which means the universe will continually lose energy until it becomes completely dead. If the universe were eternal, there would have already been enough time for it to have lost all of its energy. He said he was surprised that I supported my belief in God's existence with science. Nico said he will think about what we talked about and shook my hand.



Be Inspired



Steve Stokes (Vic)

In September, our family traveled to the Philippines for a ministry trip—a tradition we aim to keep every couple of years, but this trip was unlike any before, as we went without a team and faced challenges we didn't expect.

In the past, large teams meant ministry was limited to the time we were there, with little continuation after we left. Later, we tried smaller teams combined with a local team, which helped create ongoing impact. This time, our "team" was just our family alongside a full local team.

The first day was spent training and practicing, followed by the usual school and church programs. We quickly noticed the students weren't as engaged as they usually are when a group of Australians shows up!

During our stay, two typhoons and a major earthquake struck the region. Some school programs had to be canceled because classes were suspended, and power outages lasted more than 24 hours in some areas.

Yet, even with these disruptions, God's timing was perfect. Between storms, we were able to reschedule some schools. One school we couldn't reschedule but made an appointment with the principle discussing future opportunities with his school and other communities he is connected with. What seemed like obstacles became opportunities for deeper connection and lasting impact.



Shamina Rozario (ACT)

This has been a busy season for me as the year winds up - I have finalised Volume 1 of 100 Testimonies Volume 1 and can confirm they will be printed and distributed before for Christmas around particularly rough areas in ACT - I will be distributing them via conversations and street ministry, plus working with churches. I have also had several good conversations about Jesus within political circles, to non-Christians, including an atheist. I gave him a large print bible (he is elderly) and a cross of olivewood, made in Bethlehem. Please pray for more opportunities to converse with non-Christians and for receptive hearts, particularly during Christmas. I managed to get 200 Bible Heroes stocked in a large church book shop in WA, and had my first sale there yesterday. I have distributed over 100 copies away for free, at this point, so praise God for that - two people in political circles have told me that their kids love reading the book and one politician bought 6 books from me. Another signed up to my website to receive updates, and I have about 90 subscribers on there currently, meaning when I send updates I can deliver gospel messages straight to their inboxes. I would like to do some letterboxing with them, over Christmas.



Mike Peereboom (NSW)

I have a desire to help Churches imagine and execute outreach initiatives that create opportunities for their members to have a go at sharing the good news in good ways.

I want to help believers in Port Macquarie and surrounds to think through what it would look like to be the kind of people who regularly demonstrate and declare the Father's heart, both as individuals and corporately. And then I want to help those people to actually walk it out. I plan to do this through leading initiatives at which I will model incarnational evangelism, through developing resources and tools that will help believers to develop and maintain missional habits, and through coaching key leaders.

In the last month Christian leaders and congregants from a number of local Churches have started to buy into the missional vision of projects such as Dads Group and ROAM. In addition to this, there have also been new expressions of interest from local church leaders in the idea of having me deliver training to equip local believers for incarnational outreach and evangelism.

By the grace of God 2026 is looking bright, with plans already in the calendar to run two ROAM programs and one Multiply course. In addition to these plans are also well underway to kick off a local Dads Group in partnership with a few local churches.

Be Inspired

Sean & Gina Marsh (WA)

As some of you may know we spent 8 weeks doing ministry in Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie. In this time, we met Pastor Vaughn from Kalgoorlie Baptist. He is a God-fearing man that has a real heart for his congregation. After sharing some of the history about OAC and how OAC could support their church he was very enthusiastic. He has invited us back in 2026 to run the Conversational Apologetics Course and Community Chaplaincy Training which I am really excited about.

When we return to Kalgoorlie in April 2026, I will catch up with my other Pastor mate, Joeseph (right), who looks after 2 churches in Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie. I was blessed to do some preaching and OAC presentations whilst attending his churches. This fellow has a huge heart for people and a fantastic singing voice.

Whilst in Kal we also met an amazing couple from Kalgoorlie Baptist. Dr Sean (below) and his wife Dr Sherry, who graciously had us over for dinner. They both have a heart and much experience with the Indigenous folk which was both informative and helpful. It was so much fun hanging out with them and sharing with each other the wonderful things God has been doing in our lives. Dr Sean has an amazing testimony which I think you should all watch. He died for 85 minutes, but through the miracle of prayer he is with us today! Praise God. It brought tears to my eyes.



Some of you may have heard that my Dad passed away on the 24th of October this year. Gina and I were in Melbourne at the OAC National Conference when we received the news. We flew straight back to Brisbane to be with my Mother and family. I just wanted to say a huge thank you for the lovely messages and emails and phone calls I received from our supporters and friends. I am truly blessed to have you in my life and I appreciate your kind words of comfort.

We have been back in Serpentine for a few weeks now, after leaving Qld. We hit the ground running again with a heap of course content editing to sharpen things up a bit. We are running through the Conversational Apologetics course again at Serpentine Church of Christ and a few lessons combined into one session with our friends at The Gathering church at Jarrahdale. We have relocated to the Serpentine Church of Christ grounds in Serpentine, and would like to show our appreciation to Andy and Kati for housing us for many months,



it has been super appreciated and a huge blessing. Looking forward, we are hoping to spend a few months in Perth, then back out to Kalgoorlie for another few months and the missions trip for the COVE students. We have been ticking along slowly with the background work bringing this missions trip together. After that, we are aiming at going to Geraldton to share about OAC Ministries there.

Neil Clark (NSW)

The drive from home to Bonnells Bay Public School only takes 5 minutes but arriving when parents are dropping off their children takes a bit of negotiating. I greet the Principal as I pass through the front gate, sign on in the office and I head off to the classroom wonder who I will have in my class today. Today I will be sharing the story of the Good Samaritan with the aim of sharing with the children how Jesus wants His followers to treat everyone well. The home class arrives and names are marked off the roll. Those who do not attend scripture leave the room and my class of 20 Year 5/6 students arrive and the lesson starts. The children enjoy the songs, the revision of our previous lessons, the introduction discussion and the lesson presentation. I'm always amazed at the children's responses to the questions asked and their perceived insights into what the Bible passages we read. Bookwork and prayer finish the lesson and as the bell rings the children are dismissed and leave to return to their own classrooms. As I leave the school I praise God for the few minutes I have had this morning sharing the messages of the scriptures with the children in my class. I pray that the seeds shown may bear fruit for the kingdom of God in the future and lives will be transformed as a result.

I sat on a seat outside Coles in Morisset Square on a cold Tuesday morning. It was a busy morning with many people coming and going in and out of the complex. It wasn't long before Bert sat down beside me and we began to talk. His family live in Bonnells Bay and his wife had a doctor's appointment in the Centre. Bert had recently retired as an office worker in Sydney and was hoping to enjoy spending more time fishing and boating on the Lake Macquarie. It was clear that religion had no place in his life and was clear to him that God did not exist. During our short encounter I questioned why he was so adamant the God didn't exist to find that he had been hurt by many of his so called religious friends. As he left I wish him well, praying that God would open his eyes to reveal Himself to him.

Be Inspired

Andrew & Catherine Walkington (Qld/National)

One of the aspects of my work that I enjoy the most is training people in evangelism. I really love the classroom environment, but I also know that the time spent training others will help them reach far more people than I can reach on my own. For the past 5 years, I have been gradually refining a course in basic conversational evangelism that can be hosted within a local church. I run the course 5-10 times per year, and each time, I have the opportunity to see people move from fear to enthusiasm when it comes to sharing their faith with others around them.

This year, I have run the course in several very diverse contexts. Earlier in the year it was with a large group of mostly islander young adults from a range of Brisbane south side churches ahead of their major youth outreach program. Then it was a group of Cantonese speaking churches who came together to learn how to share their faith. More recently I had a church in Melbourne with folks of all ages, and then just a few weeks later, another in rural Queensland! Altogether, this year we would have seen some 200+ people go through the course.



One of the biggest challenges with the course as it currently stands is the volume of content is too much for such a short course. I've begun working on a modified program that will take a portion of the earlier content and convert it to 10 weeks of video based small group studies and a 10-week devotional. This content would precede the actual training course and allow the methodology content to be spread out a little and made easier to take in. It's going to be a massive project, but I am excited to see how it comes together in the new year. I'll be searching for a few churches to test the material some time next year!

I'm also currently working on some teaching material for COVE, OAC's vocational education program that we're conducting in partnership with Kingsley College. I'll be teaching the first unit – "The Biblical Basis for Evangelism" starting in February next year. This material needs to be prepared and endorsed by our partner college before it can be given the green light. This will be a different style of teaching for me, as this is not as robust as the Bible college teaching I have done previously, but more intense than the teaching I have done through local churches. It will take me a bit to get the balance correct!



Another recent highlight was the outreach at the Royal Melbourne Show. Our team of volunteers manned a booth for 11 days (above) and saw thousands either hear the gospel or take tracts.

Catherine and I have had a very big year, and we are now looking towards some well earned down time with the kids. Catherine's vertigo is still an ongoing concern, but we are hopeful that a new treatment pathway will prove effective. We now also have a learner driver in the family, so that will create some new/terrifying adventures in the coming months!

Is this guy me 20+ years ago?

I met a young guy called Andrew. Aside from having a great name, we had a couple of other things in common. He's studying engineering (as I did) and has never really gone to church and has no religious background whatsoever (just like me!). He hadn't thought particularly deeply about the afterlife question but was open to having a chat. I suggested that only God could tell us what comes next. I used his engineering background to make a very simple argument for God's existence from the complex designs that we see in living things. He agreed this was a very strong argument. I then shared how a prophecy fulfilled demonstrates the Bible is really a divinely authored book. He had never opened it and really didn't know anything about Christianity. I offered to explain it to him so that at least he would understand the basics. I explained God's goodness, and how his goodness demands justice. I then walked him through the law to show him that we would be morally bankrupt and condemned. Having concluded that everybody deserves a place called Hell, I was then able to explain the good news to him for the first time - he'd never heard it before! I pleaded with him to consider these things because he doesn't know when his time is up. Even though he hopes to reach 90 years, he had to acknowledge that he was not guaranteed even his next breath. He gratefully accepted the Gospel of John to read and a gospel tract.



Be Inspired

Jason Allott (QLD)

It has been a big year; there have been challenges but God is faithful and there are exciting things ahead. To begin, we want to say a big thank you to the OAC community for your support and prayers as I joined staff in May this year and then as my wife Mim was diagnosed with cancer just over a month later. Praise be to God, the cancer that had rapidly spread through to her bones was then no longer able to be found in a matter of months. Through the prayers of many and the grace and mercy of God, Mim has been healed and life for us has returned to some sort of normality, although forever changed with a renewed awe and wonder of God. All glory to Him.

It has been a productive ministry period, with many days spent out the front of QUT (university in Brisbane), in the city and also in Ipswich sharing the gospel with people and making known to them the gift of salvation through faith in Jesus which is offered to all by the grace and love of God. As a family we also opened a market stall in early November at the Hand-crafted markets in Ipswich which run every month. Our intention is to have a stall there every month which we will use as an opportunity to hand out gospel tracts and literature and share the gospel with people while Mim sells her handmade items adorned with the truth of scripture. We had many positive reactions on our first endeavour. One man walking past stopped and said he didn't think God could ever accept him, he had sinned so much. He heard of the grace and love of God in Jesus and how He calls even the worst of sinners to come to Him. He left with a gospel tract, some local church info and encouragement to learn more about Jesus.



I have also been assisting our church run a course (called '321') for those wanting to explore or understand Christianity, it is targeted at those who do not yet know Jesus. In facilitating group discussion there has been fantastic dialogue and even admissions of a desire to completely trust in Christ, it is incredibly exciting. God continues to open doors and opportunities, and we look forward to what the new year brings. Merry Christmas to you all from our family, we pray you have a lovely festive season.



Melbourne Street Team (VIC)

Troy and Danny and their team continue to faithfully minister on the streets of Melbourne every week. Below is just an excerpt from one Saturday outreach this past month!

- I reconnected with a gentleman that is slightly unsightly; but we have good ongoing conversations. Pray the the Lord will convict him of sin and grant him repentance and faith.
- Another regular, a Muslim antagonist, passed by. Pray that the Lord will open his eyes and grant him repentance.
- I shared the gospel with a lady with a Roman Catholic background and emphasised that the solution is a gift from God in the person of the Lord Jesus, and that each must call out to Him.
- I spoke for a while with Corey, who has a brother attending a Baptist church. He is into Theosophy and philosophy and psychedelics, and I think a bit confused, but I pointed him to the Lord Jesus.
- Michelle and Rachel and Jess (at different times) took a young guy and girl through the Good Person Test flipchart; then three young girls; and then Robbie, who seemed open and accepting.
- Another Christian, Casey (not from our group), spent a good deal of time talking with Tala. Pray that Tala does not use apparent intellectual obstacles to prevent her from turning to the Lord Jesus in repentance and faith.



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 (Saturdays)
- Rosebud Beach Mission (5-9th Jan 2026)

QLD

- Weekly Street outreaches in Brisbane CBD.

ACT

- No programs scheduled at the moment.

WA

- Sean will be establishing regular outreaches in the Perth area as he locates some new volunteers!
- Kalgoorlie Mission Trip (3-13 May 2026)

NSW

- No programs scheduled at the moment.



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:

The calendar will be a little quieter for a couple of months while many of our team will take some annual leave!

- December 7, 14, 21, 28 - Rob is preaching every Sunday morning through December.
- December 17 and 21 - Rob and Gayle present at carols outreach events.
- January 4, 10, 18 - Rob and Gayle, kids' programs at a Chinese Church.
- Late February or early March - Rob will lead sketchboard training for some of our staff and key volunteers in Canberra.

Praise Points:

- 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 the ongoing provision of funds for our team members so that they can serve in gospel work.
- Praise God for the feedback we continue to receive of people impacted by the various programs we have run over the past couple of years.
- Praise God for the ongoing growth of the team, both new staff and many new volunteers.

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 these teams.
- Please pray for Sean as he seeks to establish street ministry in Perth and train some Christians to serve with him.
- Please pray for bookings/opportunities for the various training programs that OAC offers around the country. Please pray for local churches willing to host these events.
- Please pray for a restful Christmas season for those members of the team who are taking leave. Please pray that it would refresh them sufficiently before another big year!
- Please pray for those members of our team who need to raise additional funds to be fully supported, or to increase their days per week.
- Please pray for the ongoing health of our team and for those experiencing health challenges to be restored to full health.
- Please pray that God would continue to raise up more volunteers and staff for the work around Australia.