

ADVANCING
GOD'S KINGDOM

EX PAN SION

'23



To impact and change our generation with the reality of Jesus.

Our Heart for Expansion.

At the start of 2021 we felt led by God to declare EXPANSION and as we were searching the market for another lease property, God supernaturally led us to purchase land! From that time to this, what God has outworked has been nothing short of a miracle! We are in awe of all God has done and the incredible people God has led into LIFE. In all humility and with honesty we are convinced that we are a part of a moment in history where God is entrusting us with the ever-increasing EXPANSION of His Kingdom.

As we signed and went unconditional on Sims St; 'EXPANSION' went from a declaration in faith, to a defining moment where every year we all come with a willingness of heart, bigness of spirit, and an activated faith to say "Yes" to all God is leading LIFE into.

Yes, to stepping out in faith, taking ground, building The Church and enabling a Home for all.

Yes, to His mission and vision to reach the lost and hurting person with the love of Jesus.

Yes, to bringing hope and help to our community through practical support and lasting care.

Yes, to feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and housing the displaced.

Yes, to standing with the lonely the vulnerable and showing we are family not just saying it.

Yes, to living out Gods truth, enabling true freedom and lasting transformation.

Yes, to never settling in what we can do but stepping out into all He declares.

Yes, to living and leaving a legacy that would help shape a nation for the generations.

Yes, to playing our part, sowing financially, and giving generously as God leads.

Yes, to living for so much more and the call of advancing God's Kingdom.



EXPANSION exists to increasingly bring people to Jesus and take Jesus to people.

While we are so stoked in all God is doing, we are not satisfied. The need is big, yet our God is bigger! What an honour that for such a time as this, He chooses to use us to reveal and outwork all He has in His heart.

It's our prayer that through EXPANSION we would all expand. That as we continue to take these steps of faith, that our heart for God's house, His Church and His people would expand. That God would move in and through us, revealing Jesus in an increased way.

And we have no doubt that in the years to come we will marvel at all God has done and yet be humbled at the great honour that we all personally got to play our part.

Together we're believing to see our generation and the generations to come be impacted and changed with the reality of Jesus and God's Kingdom to advance like never before.

Ps Craig and Nadia Clark

BRINGING
PEOPLE
TO JESUS
AND JESUS
TO PEOPLE.





It's about people.



I was raised in an unhealthy religious organisation which controlled every part of my life, from not being allowed to celebrate Christmas and birthdays to not being able to question anything. Once I turned 18, I left the religion to find answers elsewhere. I lost all my friends and family as I had nobody in the outside world and had been cut off from the community I was a part of. This left me very hurt and I ended up hating God and blaming him for all my problems. I went down the path of drinking, drugs and partying every weekend.

That year, I began a relationship with Shannon, who I'm now married to. Shortly after we started dating we moved to Melbourne together for a fresh start. A few years later, Shannon made a decision to be a Christian and follow Jesus which I was not happy about due to my previous experience with religion. I started to become aggressive towards her and I would hate when she read her bible or went to church. A year later we decided to have a break from our relationship.

While I was staying with a friend, I realised where my life could end up if I continued to follow the path I was on. Looking at Shannon's life, she always seemed joyful despite me causing her so much pain. I wanted that joy she had.

Much to both our surprise I reached out and said that I wanted to come to church with her. Three services is all it took to see my life changed forever. Jesus came and met me in my brokenness as I was standing there raising my hand for salvation.

Fast forward a year, and Shannon and I found ourselves searching for a new church, a place to call home. The instant we stepped into LIFE, we felt an overwhelming sense of belonging. The warm welcome we received during the 9am service left an indelible impression on our hearts, prompting us to return that same night.

We have been family here for almost three years and have firmly planted ourselves in community. Today, we even lead a connect group, helping to play a part in guiding others to experience the goodness of God. We love journeying together with others as we seek his kingdom.

Coming into this expansion season, we are so excited to partner with the goodness of God and his transformative power we have experienced to enable more people to come into this amazing community.





“WE ARE
NOT HERE TO
RENOVATE A BUILDING,
WE ARE HERE TO RESTORE
A CITY”

SIMS ST.



Kingdom Land Forever. Settled 27 April 2023

FOREVER set apart for the name of Jesus to be lifted up, God's Church to be built, the generations to be saved, revival to break out and people to be restored. Where the Holy Spirit will move in power, God's truth will set people free, a Home for all will be found and an ever-increasing family will be formed. Amen.

Through our EXPANSION Offering we are enabling:

- Stage 1 construction on Sims St to be complete.
- The exciting transition into our new LIFE home
- \$1m to be paid off the principle and first step towards being debt free

As we sow faithfully today, we are making a way where in the years to come thousands from all generations, cultures & backgrounds are going to gather, become family and with one voice lift-up the name of Jesus.



Our God Given Vessel.

The day before driving onto Sims St for the very first time, God gave us vision of an Aircraft Carrier which has four key roles, to Carry, Equip, Deploy and Recover. As we responded to the kick in our spirit and Him saying "I'm in this", we knew this property was the God given vessel that He was entrusting to us.

CARRY

————— To serve, love and care for more people at a whole new capacity. Creating an authentic community where everyone can belong and discover a Church to call home.

EQUIP

————— That we would see every desiring heart disciplined to discover the truth of who God destined them to be. Enabling true freedom and transformation from the inside out through God's word.

DEPLOY

————— To see hundreds and then thousands activated into their God given purpose, with a united mission to see God's Kingdom advance through every sphere of society.

RECOVER

————— To be a refuge for the hurting and those crushed in faith who wonder if God could still use them. Through care and God encounters we will see the love of God restore hearts and release fresh purpose.

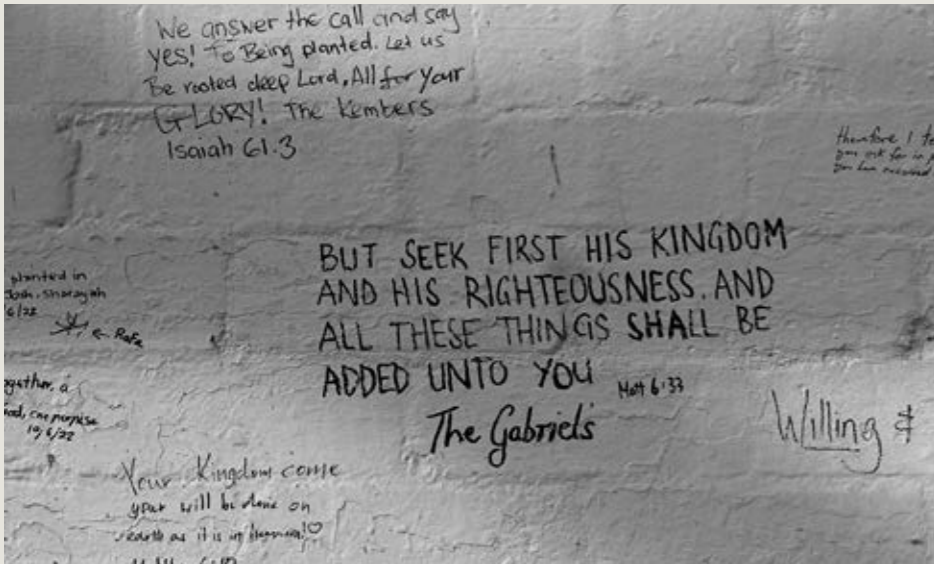


Future Potential.

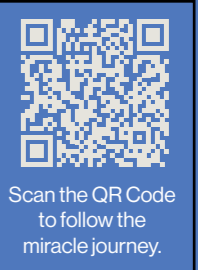


The reality is that with this 13,000sqm+ site we have the God potential for continual EXPANSION. While this drawing is an initial concept, it reveals the development opportunities.

We have abundant space for an incredible Sunday church experience, but also the potential for significant community engagement, training facilities and more. This will not only create a vibrant community hub, but add revenue streams, so we can serve our city even further.



The Miracle Journey.



Scan the QR Code to follow the miracle journey.

Our miracle journey unexpectedly began in October 2020 when we received notice from the landlord to vacate our current venue by March 2021. After negotiations and on the hunt for our next home, God had already begun working in the background, weaving a miracle in motion. In Jan 2021 one phone call changed our history forever. Our Sims St location was revealed to us for the first time and straight away we knew, God was in this.



Our Sims St journey has been God-breathed from the very beginning. To see where it all began head to our website and follow an interactive timeline from 2018 to now.

Follow the journey at expansion.org.au

The Heart of LIFE Community.

Despite the reality of the challenges facing our community – a global pandemic, cost of living increases, a national housing crisis – we are continually encouraged by all that LIFE Community is doing to support those in need. Through EXPANSION we will continue to enlarge the reach of our community through Melbourne, Victoria and increasingly throughout Australia. As we outwork these values, we believe that God will continue to expand the vpopportunities that we have to bring help and hope to others around us.

LIFE Community Kitchens

Through our Community Kitchen locations, we provide free, hot, nutritious meals to the community within a family friendly environment. The reach of these kitchens is continuing to grow and more locations are already in the planning stage.

Christmas Box

Christmas Box is now entering its 23rd year, with an estimated reach of over 1 million people across Australia, New Zealand and the Cook Islands since inception. Christmas Box provides food essentials and Christmas treats for families in need. With the high cost-of-living affecting a lot of homes, we will be increasing to 13,000 boxes across Australia this year.

Red Frogs

Caring for & educating the youth and young adult generation throughout their party and social environments including High Schools, University and Nationwide events.



Sport Chaplaincy

Our Sports Chaplains are positioned in various organisations in our community. Our Chaplains are from varied life backgrounds and are trained in sports pastoral care to assist sporting communities and provide genuine care for their members.

Embrace Grace

Embrace Grace continues to work to connect women experiencing an unexpected pregnancy with a judgement-free community to cheer them on and provide help however needed.

Through our EXPANSION Offering we are enabling:

- Over 52,000 people to receive the gift of Christmas through an increase to 13,000 Christmas Boxes across 5 packing locations and 3 states.
- Open a 3rd Community Kitchen location and enable an additional 3000 meals given to people in need.
- Pioneer 'Help & Hope Week' where we aim to mobilise 100's of LIFE volunteers to bless and serve our new local Footscray community.
- Through Embrace Grace, provide increased support and care for precious women facing unplanned pregnancies.
- Empower our young adults to serve and support uni students through Red Frogs



Meet Tee

Wow!! What a year it has been.

Food most definitely changes lives! Besides preparing delicious, free, hot, nutritious meals for our two locations my highlight would have to be the connection. Building relationships, creating new friendships with people in our communities and our amazing volunteers.

I regularly get to hear people's life stories, and serving at community kitchen is such a great way to connect with people of all walks of life. Each life represents a story and what an honour to be included in hearing these stories and then having opportunities to pray and share about Jesus.

Why do I love serving in Community Kitchen and why I continue to do it...? It's most definitely about people, love God and love people. Meeting people like Doug, Jennie, Marie, Danielle, Karen - that's why. For every week the task is different but the vision is the same "TO IMPACT AND CHANGE OUR GENERATION WITH THE REALITY OF JESUS".

Community should never be boring! Believers can be goofy, witty and just really fun to be around and I can honestly vouch that this is the atmosphere we set at our LIFE Community Kitchens.

Knowing there are so many people in our communities who need a place to find help and also a place to belong. I love that through Expansion we will be able to meet the need of every Human Heart

It's a privilege to serve God and serve his people.



Tinashe and Tracey's Story

Tinashe and Tracey have been a part of LIFE Melbourne since 2021 . We asked them what being a part of this church community has meant for them, and how God is now using them to reach others:

Tracey and I have been attending LIFE Melbourne since early 2021. It all started when Tracey moved to Melbourne in 2019 and was invited by a friend to LIFE. Due to Covid, Tracey found herself back in Brisbane where we got customarily married at the height of Covid before moving back to Melbourne together and waiting for it all to pass to allow us to celebrate our marriage with family and friends.



We figured we'd try a few churches having both been in churches for a long time. We were carrying a lot of hurt from some bad experiences of being in leadership and ministry. When we walked into LIFE together, we were overwhelmed by the sincerity of the people and the desire to connect. Many times we'd try to just slip out after church but we couldn't make it to the stairs without someone pulling us in. We quickly found community in a way that we had never done before including through a connect group. Due to our past hurts, we tried to hold back, but time and time again, the Holy Spirit nudged us to get involved.

While God doesn't need us, he has chosen people to be His church and build His church. Our church will only go as far as we're willing to go. So from a couple of hurting people we found and are finding healing.

God has done so much in us through this church, and so we too want to be available to be used to bless others. We now serve in a few areas and also open our home to host connect group, something we never thought we'd do again. We believe that that's where church happens; as we connect with others and fulfil the Great Commission.

Heart of Kingdom

From the very beginning, we have been a church that is committed to carrying a kingdom spirit – one that embraces the bigger picture of what God is doing beyond our walls. Whether by helping grow local churches, or reaching into the nations of the world through active partnerships, LIFE carries a passion to invest into the wider body of Christ.

ONE HEART FOUNDATION

Through our support, One Heart continues to have a significant impact on the lives of children and the community in Uganda. This year they have seen the Street Business School program set up in four villages, the construction of a Skills Training Centre with classrooms, offices, and facilities allowing for vocational training in various disciplines. Care packs have also been provided to boarding school children in Kenya and Uganda, ensuring their nutrition and hygiene during holidays. As a church we are practically helping to break the poverty cycle and empowering these children to fulfil their potential.

Through our EXPANSION Offering we are enabling:

- Extend our partnership with One Heart Foundation and the establishment of the women's training centre in Uganda, creating sustainable change through micro business and education.
- Ongoing encouragement and support of local churches and ministries across Melbourne.
- Be positioned to sow \$50,000 into another Christ centred church taking a step of faith to advance Gods kingdom.

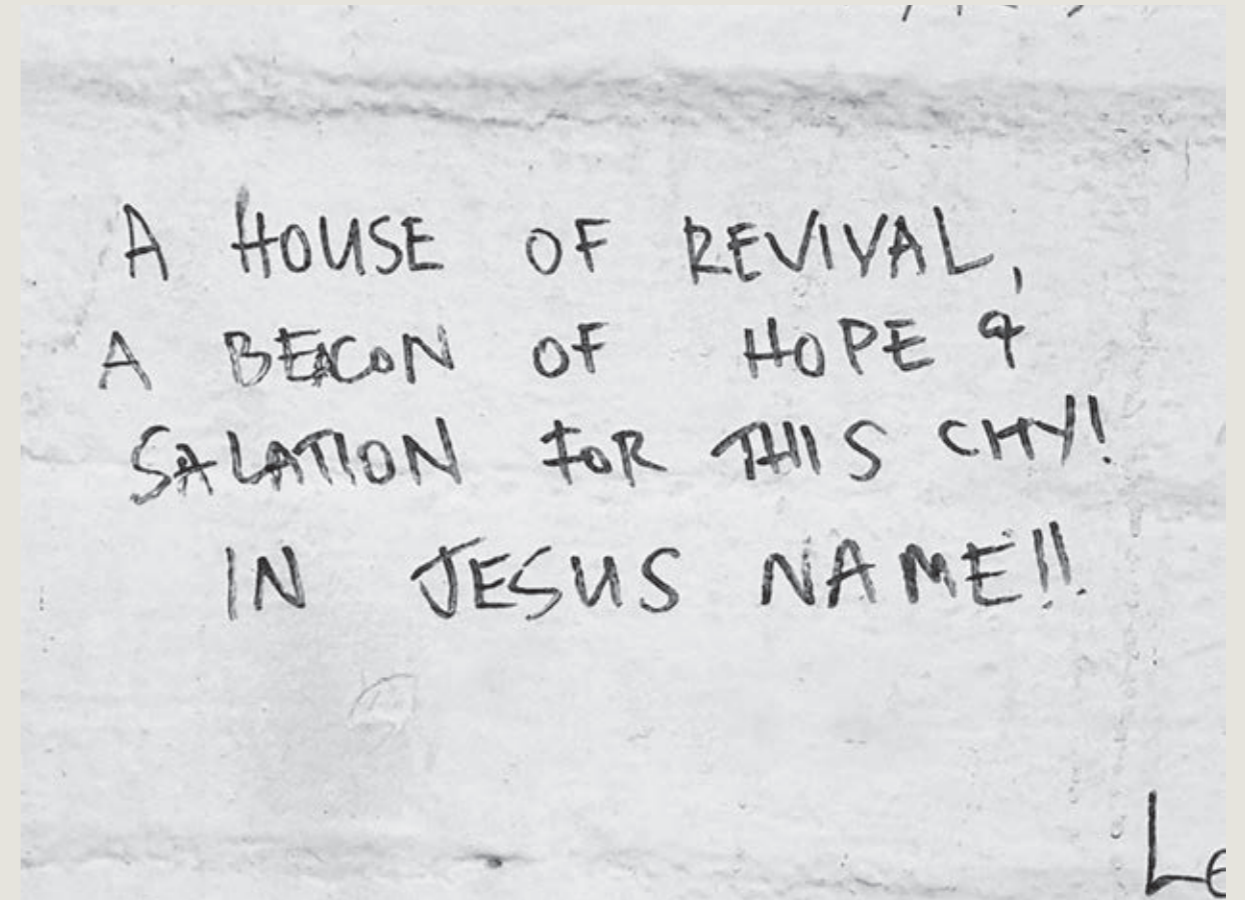


Not just our Church but The Church.

This year we really have it in our heart to not only believe for the financial provision for what God is leading at LIFE Melbourne, but if we receive our \$1.8m Expansion Offering goal, we will sow \$50,000.00 into another Christ centred church who are stepping out in faith, taking ground and also advancing God's Kingdom.

It's not about our church but The Church and how together we can reach this amazing nation together.

DECADE OF DESTINY



Only days before our first EXPANSION Sunday, God put this statement in our spirit – ‘DECADE OF DESTINY’. And with that were some declarations of faith and a sense of God saying, “Could you believe me not just to provide a miracle property but to continually lead us into all I have destined.”

Now two years in we believe God is saying, “Declare it, and by 2031 you will see it.”

DEBT FREE ON SIMS ST & STAGE 1.

Believe that we could be debt free on the purchase of Sims St and the stage one fit-out costs. This will enable us to be continually be positioned to pioneer and step into all He leads, while every year expanding our community impact and Kingdom reach.

LAUNCH TWO NEW LIFE CAMPUSES

That we would pioneer two additional LIFE campuses across Melbourne and continue to make room for more people to discover the wonder of Jesus, find their family of faith and step into all God leads. What excites us in this is the raising and releasing of many who will take leaps of faith and step into their ministry call.

LIFE HOMES

To have short, medium and long term accommodation available to enable emergency support, crisis help and essential care to key areas of vulnerability. Through unconditional love, the presence of God and professional support we would walk with and lead people into lasting life transformation.

EDUCATION SERVICES ENGAGED

It is our vision that we will have multiple pathways that we will be able to bring lasting transformation to our communities through learning and education and reverse the cycle of poverty. From helping the unemployed, to empowering the disadvantaged to discover and be qualified in their purpose, we know we are called to be a part of the answer.

SIMS ST REVIVAL

God is entrusting us to first and foremost lift up the name of Jesus and see many thousands upon thousands discover His eternal life. If it is anything else, we have missed it. As these words ‘Sims St Revival’ landed in our heart, tears flowed. This is not a catch phrase or casual statement or cliché; but will be sovereign, sacred and something we won’t need to label, but through a mighty move of the Holy Spirit only He will enable.

It is our heart that we don’t state this all flippantly, but steward this prayerfully and step into it faithfully as our God leads.

BE PART OF

Play your part.

EXPANSION OFFERING GOAL - \$1.8M

Through Expansion offering our goal is to raise \$1.8 million over the next year through over 300 Expansion Partners to enable the growth of our Church, Community and Kingdom impact.

- Stage 1 construction on Sims St completed
- Enable the move into our new LIFE home at Sims St
- \$1m paid off our property loan, reducing interest payments considerably
- Christmas Box increased to 13,000 boxes, impacting over 52,000 people
- Open a 3rd Community Kitchen with over 3000 more meals given to those in need
- Pioneer 'Help & Hope Week' to bless and serve our new local Footscray community
- Provide increased support for women facing unplanned pregnancies through Embrace Grace
- Serve and support more uni students through Red Frogs
- Extend our partnership with One Heart Foundation and transforming lives in Africa.
- Sow \$50,000 into another vision filled church taking steps of faith to advance God's kingdom

Bringing people to Jesus and Jesus to people.



To play your part, visit expansion.org.au or scan the QR code to fill out a digital giving card.

Expansion Offering 2023/24 • Giving Table

This table shows how giving multiplies across the year and, when combined with the faith filled commitment of others, how together we will reach our faith goal.

We are so grateful for your prayerful and generous consideration of the part you can play.

Total Partners: 407		Total Giving: \$1,800,000	
Number of Partners	EXP23	Per Week	Total
1	300,000	6,000	300,000
2	100,000	2,000	200,000
5	50,000	1,000	250,000
15	20,000	400	300,000
25	10,000	200	250,000
40	5,000	100	200,000
64	2,500	50	160,000
75	1,000	20	75,000
80	500	10	40,000
100	250	5	25,000
407			1,800,000

“If we all do what God wants us to do, we will have what God wants us to have.”

- Ps Paul de Jong

THE MIRACLE

WE



DREAM

We have a dream that LIFE Melbourne would be a church that is full of faith and in anticipation to actively engage in everything God brings our way. Always ready to scale countless mountains and run at every giant with an unwavering faith that continually relies on the God of the possible to overcome the impossible.

We dream of LIFE having multiple campuses across this city and even the nation, reaching all ethnicities. A church that is authentic, relevant and real. A home where people don't encounter religion but the greatest relationship of all - Jesus. A church known in its community for the hope it has brought and the life it has enabled through tangible transformation.

We have a dream of wheelchairs being emptied on altars, diseases being defied, cancer being cured and that the power and presence of God would be so strong that sickness could not remain. Addictions will break, mental illness will be no longer, and generational bondages will be broken in Jesus name.

We dream of LIFE Melbourne being a church that is big enough in love and overflowing in grace so that we welcome people from all walks of life and we first see the God-potential in people before ever identifying fault or differences.

We dream of the day where we are in the highways and byways caring, providing and resolving the needs of the city, rescuing those in prostitution, freeing those in debt and sheltering those who are displaced.

We dream of a day where our buildings will be too small for what God is doing amongst the youth and young adults as they passionately, creatively and innovatively shower their generation with the saltiness of God. They are the ones bringing transformation and belonging to a generation that will rise up and as they stand on our shoulders, they will have visions that far exceed our dreams.

We dream of the day we see a night club filled with young adults hearing the love of Jesus proclaimed and hundreds fall to their knees as they meet the one, they have always longed for.

We dream of the day where we will also have our own purpose-crafted facilities that are nothing short of God-breathed. A campus that is a full of activity Sunday to Saturday and a community hub that is a home for all. A campus that declares the bigness and faithfulness of God and love her or despise her - you won't be able to sidestep her.

We have a dream that our influence in the business community will see business people discovering true success, significance, value and identity. A group of people championed in their Kingdom purpose who lead the way in their sphere of influence, personally flourishing and living a life full of God's true riches.

We dream of a day when not only do we have a number of LIFE businesses resourcing our community vision, but the people employed by these businesses are finding transformation. I see people leaving their life from the streets and getting qualified in a society-strengthening profession rather than the destruction they were raised in.

We dream of elite sports-people, world-recognised performers and the Kings and Queens of our day walking into LIFE campuses and finding acceptance, value and a place to belong based purely on whose they are - rather

than what they do. Then, in this, discovering the full purpose of God to enable them to touch the world with far more than their gifts and talents but God's grace, peace, hope and love.

We have a dream that once again we will see the MCG at record capacity not because of a sporting fixture, but the unifying of the Church to praise and lift the name that is above every other name.

We have a dream where the love of God will sweep over our city and nation so radically that regardless of people's religious affiliation, corrupt lifestyles or perspective of Jesus, they are undone when they encounter a love so powerful, so real that they can't help but surrender their hearts and unlock the freedom, forgiveness and purpose that is only found in Jesus.

We have a dream that as a church we will always be known for our depth of unity in spirit and deed. Where men & women of every creed, culture, background and generation unite as one; and collectively with one voice we lift up the name of Jesus.

We dream of a church where people never respond out of obligation, but faith-filled, spirit-willing, roused hearts that are constantly hungry for the expanding, extending and adorning of His Bride to see every sphere of society and every generation impacted and changed with the reality of Jesus.

GOD'S
HOUSE
BUILT BY
GOD'S
PEOPLE