



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



COMMISSIONING SERVICE
{FEB 07}



WEEKEND AWAY
{MARCH 12-14}



HIGH SCHOOL TRIAL
{21 MARCH}

3 MNTH LOCKDOWN
{JUN-OCT}



FIRST WEEK BACK AT THE SCHOOL
{NOV 14}



HIGH SCHOOL MOVE
{MAY 30}



FINAL WEEK AT 482 DARLING ST
{MAY 23}

2021: LEAD PASTOR REPORT

1 CORINTHIANS 15:56-58

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

If I could go back in time and warn myself of what 2021 was going to be like...I probably wouldn't. In the end, if we'd known how disjointed the year was going to be, we probably wouldn't have tried half the things we did...and would've missed out on some of this year's highlights! In this way 2021 has probably been a practical lesson in gospel confidence.

Paul argues in Corinthians 15 that, if the gospel is true and we are saved from sin and death through Jesus, then nothing done for His sake will ever be in vain. It can be tempting in a time when every thing feels so uncertain that the best way to play is to play it safe, but that has never been the way of the gospel. In the Gospel, we are set free from sin and death to live for Christ and His purposes in the world, and despite all this disruption this year, God has proved faithful to His Word that our labour would not be in vain.

The mission of City Light will never change: Jesus has commissioned His church to make more and stronger disciples until the end of the age (Matt 28:16-20). And in pursuing this mission we laid out before the church earlier this year that we believe God is calling us to become a:
“growing, healthy, multi-generational church having a Sydney wide impact”.

This year in God's grace, despite the pandemic, we've been able to take some big steps forward. We started the year by heading away for the weekend to re-connect as a church and sit under God's Word and it was one of the high points of the year! Following the high school trial we made the decision to re-locate permanently and aimed to raise \$20 000 dollars to get us across the line. In God's abundant grace the church stepped up to meet the need and we raised over \$36 000 within a few weeks!

We managed to squeeze in a dedication service and three other weeks in before lockdown hit, shutting us out of the school til Nov 14...but even lockdown had it's opportunities. During our online season we had dozens of guests join us for online Sundays and and #trysomethingnew Thursdays before we finally had the chance to meet together again. But possibly the highlight of lockdown was kicking off an online Alpha course. Six people joined us online for Alpha with that number growing to 14 for our most recent in-person Alpha course, more than we've had at any previous course in our short history as a church!

All in all it's been a practical reminder that the best course of action is always to trust God and have a go, knowing that anything done for Jesus will not be in vain.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'JD', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeremy Dunne

Lead Pastor

NEW CONNECTIONS (MEMBERSHIP)

Membership at City Light this year has looked to help create a church community that is loving and connected. We want to be a church that welcomes christians and non-christians into our church family and help create a culture where everyone who comes to church feels loved and welcome. At the start of year we were still meeting as two seperate services, the



start of year we were still meeting as two seperate services, the Membership teams felt stretched and community was some what disconnected between services. It was a real evidence of grace to come together as one service and build a Membership team united under the same mission.

Another evidence of God's grace was seeing the church use online platforms to stay connected despite being separated physically. Through 'do something fun' activities, online bible readings and weekly prayers and check-ins, God really sustained us through what could have been a really difficult time for community.

2021 saw only 6 new members join our CL communities. However in the past two months at the high school we have seen more non-believers coming along to our Sunday gathering than we have in two years! Looking forward to 2022, it is exciting to be planning and equipping our church to Welcome newcomers well in the new year.



PRAISE POINTS

Membership team growing to 15 people
#Trysomethingnew thursdays throughout lockdown



PRAYER POINTS

Membership team to continue to grow in loving newcomers well
To have the opportunity for regular Newish and Connect in 2022
For church community growth in 2022

OUTREACH (MISSION)

Our whole aim on the outreach team is to move the church to make disciples. Our main hope this year was to create a pathway for unchurched people to explore the gospel over an extended period of time. At the ground level what this looks like is a series of discussion based courses that follow on from each other and go deeper into the gospel much all of our plans were upended by disruptions this year we managed to start building a pathway with the first 2 courses: Alpha (6 weeks) and the follow-up course Christianity Explored (6 weeks).



It's probably been the highlight of the year for me seeing people who are friends or family of church members or having no connection with church at all come out of the blue and begin to explore the gospel for the first time.



PRAISE POINTS

For the 14 people who have done Alpha this year.

For the dozens of unbelieving visitors who've joined us this year on Sundays.



PRAYER POINTS

For all of our volunteers who make Sunday gatherings great.

For those who were able to join us for the first time this year.

SUNDAY GATHERINGS (MAGNIFICATION)

Our Sunday Gatherings are our weekly opportunities to gather as one church, to sit under God's word and to respond in worship. Typically, they are also the first point of contact for those who are exploring questions of faith. This year saw a major change to our Sunday gatherings, as we moved to a new location at a new time, to enable us to run these gatherings in a more effective, more healthy way. One key reason for this change was to be able to strengthen and build up the teams responsible for our Sunday gatherings. The move to the high school meant that we were able to build three new bands that have done a fantastic job in leading us in worship this year, as well as strengthening the various tech teams that serve us each week.



Unexpectedly, Sunday gatherings had to move back online for 3 months, but even through this, God was gracious in leading some to visit online who may not have joined in person. We are looking forward to seeing Sunday gatherings continue to be a time that people are confident to invite others to meet Jesus.



PRAISE POINTS

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For those who were able to join us for the first time this year.



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COMMUNITY GROUPS (MATURITY)

City light communities are the primary context in which discipleship occurs at City Light. They are a place where people form deep connections, share their lives, and encourage one another to follow Jesus. We started 2021 by consolidating our groups into 7 groups each lead by a pair of leaders and a pair of assistant leaders. Whilst this consolidation meant that all groups started the year larger than what would ordinarily be ideal, it meant that every group had a healthy core in place as they went into the year. When many areas of church life were thrown into disarray throughout the lockdown this year, City Light Communities continued to thrive online, and to be a place where people could connect and support one another through the lockdown. Despite the extra challenges of 2021, we are finishing the year well positioned to grow our total number of groups to 10 at the beginning of 2022 which will give us room to connect with and disciple new Christians and new members.

Prayer points

- We will be aiming to start 2022 with 10 groups with some leading and assistant leading for the first time.
 - For refreshment for leaders over the summer break.
- praise points
- For our leaders and assistant leaders and the way God has



PRAISE POINTS

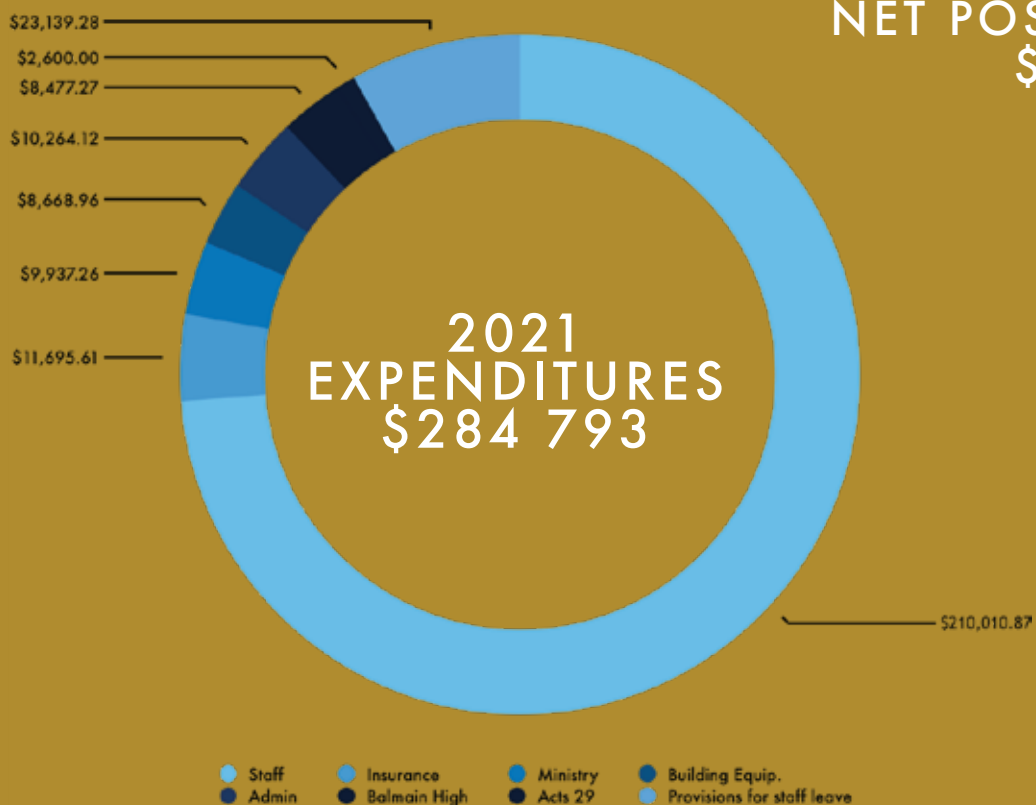
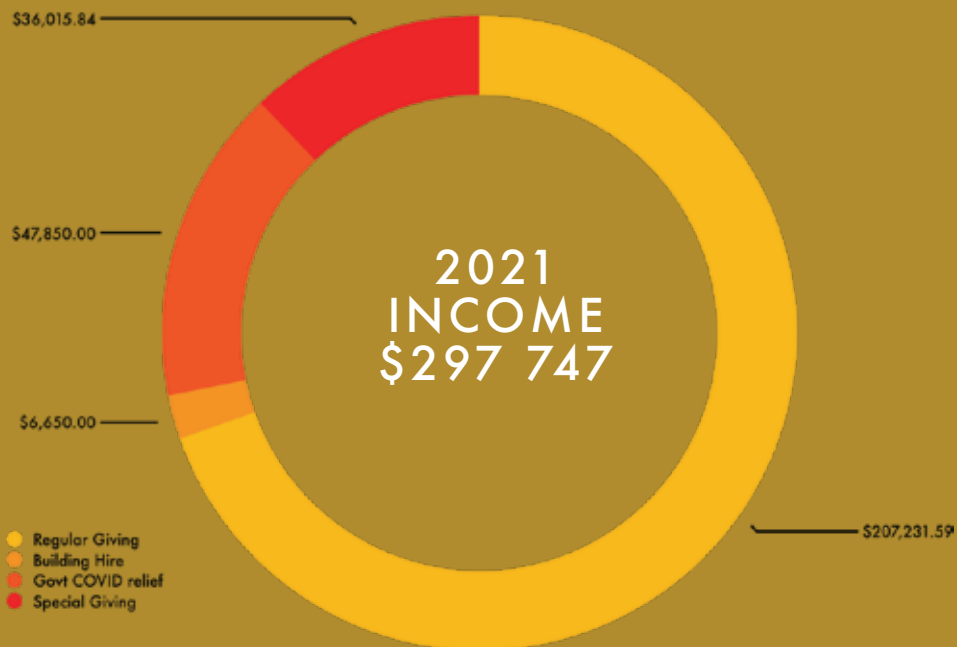
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FINANCE



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CITY LIGHT
CHURCH

BALMAIN