

Discovery
Church

AGM Report

2018

Senior Minister's Report

Dear Church,

Wow — it's been such a privilege to serve Discovery this past year, and it is an honour to now report on some of what the Lord has done in 2018, and how we as a church are positioned to move into the future. Our hearts are full of gratitude for the way you have put your shoulder to the plow, and served along with us, as we both express and impart who we are as a church community to the community around us.

We stepped into the role of Co-Senior Ministers in March 2018, and our job was pretty clear. After a season of sorting and many internal shifts, our staff team was in need of some fresh eyes, hearts and hands. Over the ensuing months, the Lord called many faithful, gifted and humble pastors and leaders to serve alongside us. We ended 2018 with all but one major staff position filled. These staff have served way above and beyond what was expected of them, and have acquitted themselves with wisdom and courage.

The year unfolded with three major points of focus:

1. To be spiritually led.

The ancient Proverb declares that the heart is “the wellspring of life”, and that it should be guarded and attended to at all costs. We have sought to lead Discovery into a space with God where He would speak to us, work on our hearts, prune, shape and mould, that we might be used more fully for his purposes. Our spiritual life does not perish for lack of fruit, but always for lack of connection to the vine. Once abiding in Him, good fruit will come.

2. To be values-driven

Every church community has something that makes her unique, that makes her different in contribution and connection to the world. Discovery has always been a creative community, exploring new things, pushing the boundaries, finding solutions to

problems, with the Arts as a focus. We have always been a restorative community, where people can ‘come as they are’ and receive grace and mercy from the Lord in a way that would help them move forward. We are also a community of belonging, in which displaced and lonely people can find a true home. To hoist these values up before our eyes as a church has been essential, that we might continue to create communities of restoration and belonging, wherever we are.

3. To be mission-centred

We exist to serve those whom God has placed in our spheres — all whom God loves and Jesus has claimed through his death and resurrection. We have sought this year to consider afresh with God, the communities, projects and initiatives that he would have us partner with, support, or initiate. We have so much to offer, both to our local neighbourhood and right around the globe, and so as God leads us and sends us into those villages and communities, we will need to continue to grapple with our being in the world, yet remaining distinct in our discipleship to Jesus.

Each of us has a story. God has interwoven His story with ours, so that now it's not our lives that take centre stage, but rather, the story of God that we find ourselves in. Let's continue, with all compassion, faith, generosity and courage, to devote ourselves to Jesus, to serve one another well, to love our neighbour with kindness and mercy, that in all things the Father would receive the glory and His Kingdom would continue to advance and make all things new.

Matt and Jody Destry
Senior Ministers

Finance & Operations Report

Discovery Church continues to hold its strong financial position – in fact, strengthening from the previous year with an increase in overall income and a strengthening asset position.

The continued faithfulness of our congregation, along with an increase in numbers has seen Tithes & Offerings increase \$17.6k or 1.3% on 2017 giving.

Vision Offering was up slightly on 2017 (3%), with tax deductible giving totalling \$49k and non-tax deductible giving at \$71k (note that tax deductible giving is receipted through our Gift Fund so will not appear as income in the Discovery Church accounts). This generosity has enabled Discovery Church to support local and global missions and ministry via Discovery Community Care, Southern Cross Kids Camp, our own facility, Glen & Jayne Cox, EFICOR and CIS.

Generated Revenue was up \$168.7k or 84% on 2017. Generated Revenue refers to areas of income such as the Treasure Corner Op Shop, External Event bookings, rental and café income.

Employment costs for 2018 decreased 21% from 2017 after the redundancy payments were finalised in 2017. Our operating surplus for 2018 was \$87.8k which included depreciation of \$170.7k. This was an improvement of \$405k on 2017.

Cash reserves decreased by \$129k from the end of 2017, largely due to funds loaned to DCC for the fitout at Beresford Road. Despite this decrease, cash balances of \$510.3k still see Discovery Church in a strong cash position, especially when compared to liability balances which are quite low relatively.

Capital works & purchases for 2018 included foyer speakers & upgrade, café upgrade, PA system & mixer and electrical rewiring to offices amongst other works. Whilst not completed in 2018, preliminary works started on an electric gate and carpark lighting which were both significant undertakings.

It continues to be a great privilege to oversee the finances and operations of Discovery Church and I anticipate great ministry opportunities as a result of our strong financial position in 2019.

Beck Lambert
Operations Pastor

Elders' Report

2018 was a year that saw Discovery step into a new season.

Pete and Sandy Lusk concluded the term as our interim senior ministers, and it is appropriate to again acknowledge all that Pete and Sandy did to guide the church and staff team through the period of transition.

In February the Eldership brought a recommendation to the partners that Matt and Jody Destry be appointed as the new Co-Senior Ministers. This was overwhelmingly supported by the partners with Matt and Jody being commissioned into their new roles in March.

Tim Lambert concluded his final term as an elder at the AGM. Tim capably and faithfully chaired the board through the changes of 2017 and preparing the way for a transition in the eldership team. His contribution to the life of Discovery Church during his time and Board Chair cannot be underestimated.

Bec Gebert, Saskia Van Schie and Haydn Stewart joined the Eldership at the AGM in May filling all vacant eldership positions. The addition of new elders and appointment of new Senior Ministers created focus on the establishing of a new team. Our eldership retreat in September was a great opportunity to learn more about working with each other, drawing on the gifts of each person, working towards building the foundations for the next season.

In August the building works at the DCC site in Beresford Road finally got under way. This lifted a significant weight from the team, knowing that God had seen them through the many challenges the project faced before it could commence. During this same time DCC continued to serve the community with emergency food relief, Coach programs and assisting the poor and homeless through many ventures. With the recent opening of the newly refurbished site, our hope for DCC's future remains positive.

Throughout 2018 a number of staff appointments were made through the various ministry areas of the church. It has been particularly encouraging to see that many of the new appointments have been from within our congregation as people have stepped out in faith to serve the Kingdom.

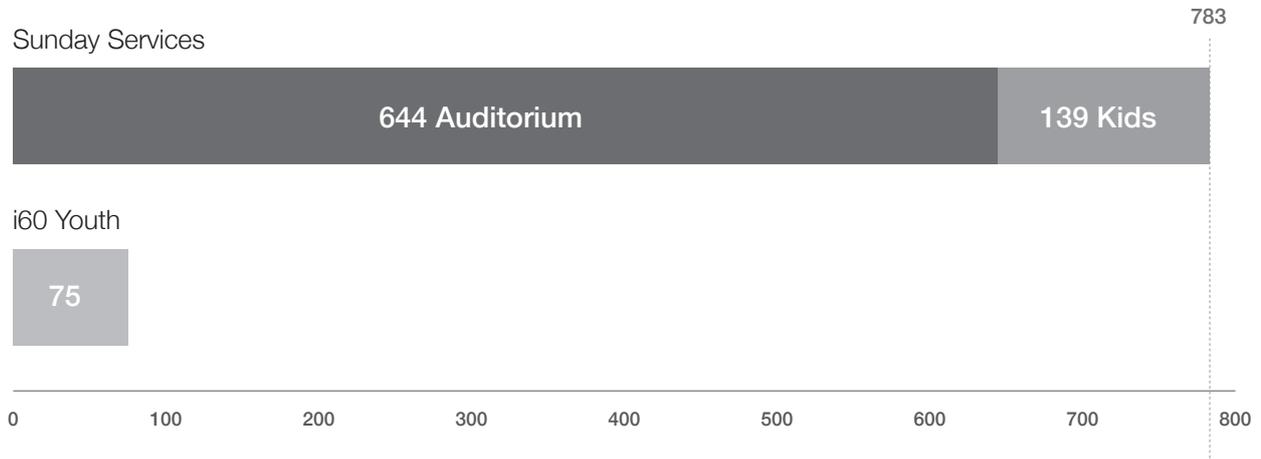
2018 also brought a new but encouraging challenge. Our morning service continued to grow and by the end of the year the auditorium was regularly reaching 85% of capacity. The question for 2019 will be what do we do to ensure we have capacity to cater for further growth.

We are expectantly looking forward to all that God will do through our community and the role Discovery will take in His plans.

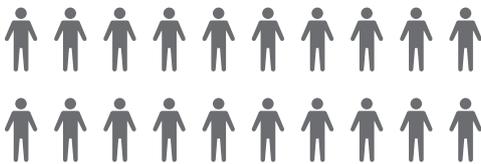
Stephen Tinsley
Chair of the Elders' Board

2018 Highlights

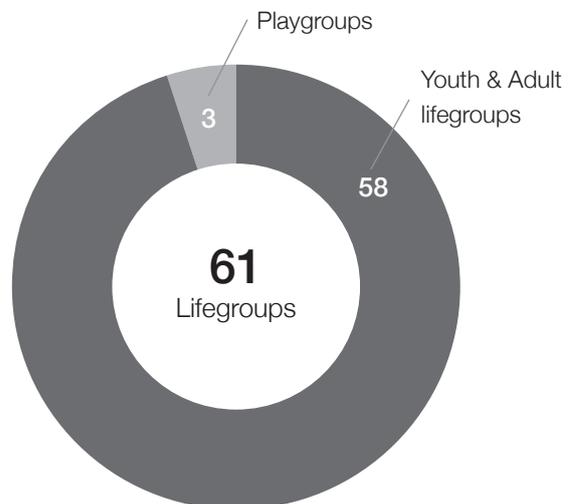
Average Attendance



20 Baptisms



Lifegroups



Tithes & Offerings

Total Tithes & Offerings

\$ 1,352,471

Average Weekly Tithes & Offerings

\$ 26,009

Community

Community Support

Total Client visits: 2,219

Cost of goods/services provided through fruit & vegetables/food pantry (excluding labour) - \$131,600

- 10% increase in new people seeking assistance
 - Overall increase of 10% of families seeking assistance
 - 74% return rate of clients who have previous visited DCC
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15% increase in referrals to external agencies

32% of the clients that we saw in 2018, actively returned for fruit and vegetables on a regular basis - i.e 5 times or more

14% clients were homeless- decreased from 18% previous year, highlighting an improvement in being able to provide referrals and support for people to transition in particular from boarding houses.

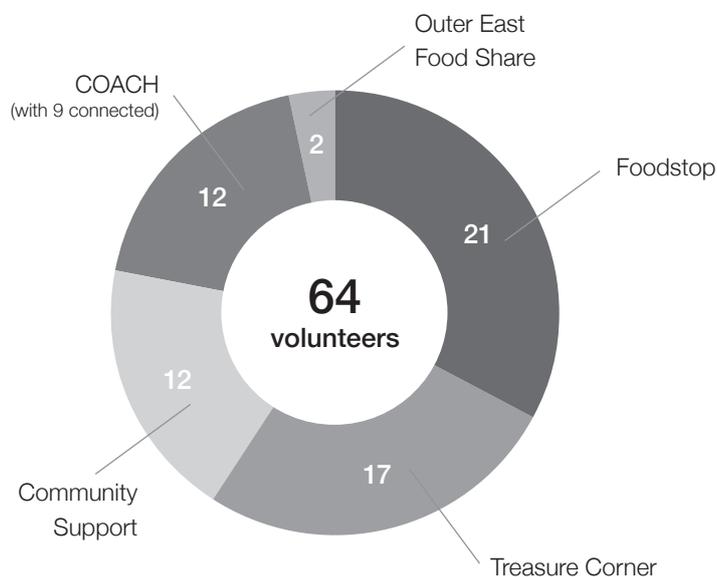
50% increase in clients returning 5 times or more: i.e coming back regularly for fruit and vegetables – capacity for relationship building

Coach & Foodstop

9 Active COACH mentor relationships during the year – impacting generationally on 28 children

The volunteers at FoodStop served 1,539 guests across the calendar year

Community Volunteers



Global

India – EFICOR - Unnati Child and Maternal Health Project

Total numbers of direct beneficiaries (men, women, boys & girls) reached in 2018 through the project – 11,087 across 120 villages in two areas (blocks) of Balangir district, Odisha State.

- percentage of mothers with children 0-23 months who put their baby to the breast within the hour of birth – increased 5% to 65% in 2018
- percentage of mothers with children 0-23 months who had 3 or more antenatal care visits from government – increased from 61.4% to 65%

Daughter-in-law and Mother-in-law Support Group meeting: 82 group meetings were conducted and 1377 people participated including 492 pregnant women, 535 Lactating mothers and 450 mothers in-law.

Home Visit and Face to Face Counselling: 2,602 pregnant women were counselled by project on antenatal care.

Total 3,071 lactating mothers and 150 husbands were counselled on exclusive breast feeding, infant and young child feeding and use of ORS.

45 High risk pregnant women were identified and sent to block and district hospital for safe delivery.

35 malnourished children were identified and sent to nutritional support centre.

Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Other

Over 200 churches/church representatives supported with counselling and theological training utilising Lifekeys materials in Russia.

18 weeks of travel on the field over 3 trips in four countries. (Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan).

Over 100 students trained in counselling and theology at a seminary in Ukraine.

One special three day conference for Stop Vi (A NGO, Stop the Violence in Bishkek – Kyrgyzstan).

3 Bibles schools - 22 seminars of various lengths in 22 churches.

Masterclasses at a Youth Conference with 1,500 attendants (Location cannot be published).

Discovery
Church

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