



Mission Month: September 2018



Mission month aims to help us build a bridge between our local mission and the world in which we live.

A healthy interest in global mission should be based on an active and passionate participation in local mission. Each event gives us a focus for prayer, support, invitations, and an opportunity to proclaim Christ. How can you be involved in God's mission?

- ✦ **Friday 31 Aug: United Youth Event** – Roseville College 6.00-8.30pm
- ✦ **Sunday 2 Sept: Killara High Scripture** (KDCEA)- Henri Simpson
- ✦ **Sunday 9 Sept: Super Sunday** – Evangelists Baden Stace (8 & 10am) & Simon Manchester at 3.30pm Choral Evensong with Kings Prep Choir.
- ✦ **Saturday 15 Sept: Playtime in the Park**
- ✦ **Sunday 16 & Wednesday 19 Sept: CMS** Tim & Kylie and family returning
- ✦ **Sunday 23 Sept: CMS** Josh Ling intro new missionaries Sam & Shan-Shan
- ✦ **Sunday 30 Sept: Anglicare** Parish partnerships – Michael Aitken

From the beginning, the Christian movement was a missionary movement that took the first-century world by storm when ordinary people “turned the world upside down” with their evangelistic message (Acts 17:6). As we have seen in our sermon series on the Acts of the Apostles, its recorded speeches provide us with the content of the apostolic testimony. Jesus has sent his witnesses to us, and their testimony is now enshrined in what has been written. Those who read and reread this book are kept in touch with the witnesses. We receive their word of salvation, and we share it with others. In this sense, we bear testimony to the apostolic witness and in so doing participate in Jesus’ mission through their word. The Acts is not a closed book, for the apostolic testimony did not reach the end of the earth with Paul's arrival in Rome. This open-endedness reminds us of an unfinished task and encourages us to be committed to the ongoing mission of God, locally and globally.

Ultimately the goal of mission is the glory of God, that he may be known and honoured for who he really is. Jesus said, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe in the good news!” (Mark 1:15). The mission of Jesus is the most fundamental mission in Scripture. The work of Christ is two-fold: to reveal the Father through his life and teaching and redeem the world through his sacrificial death.

The Gospels conceive of the church’s mission in terms of discipleship, which includes a person’s need to grow in faith as well as a global emphasis not merely to disciple *individuals*, but entire *nations*, indeed, *all nations*. The goal of the mission then is

not merely to evangelise and make converts, but to see those converts living in obedient faith as a response to the gospel, transformed by grace in Christian community.

The book of Acts connects the mission of the apostles (as witnesses) to the mission of the Lord Jesus who was sent because of the mission of God. The Apostle Paul preached the gospel, a message he spoke of as the power of God for salvation for all who believe (Romans 1:16). In going to the Gentiles, the Apostle Paul sought to fulfil his missionary commission of seeing people from all nations obey King Jesus and believe in his name. As he wrote to the churches he planted, he encouraged them to continue the mission of disciple-making, not in the same way he did (through apostolic ministry), but according to their personal gifts. The methods and actions may be different, but the heart to see people saved must be the same.

Ultimately the mission of God revealed in the Scriptures is the most important plotline in the grand narrative. And God in his wisdom and grace includes us in His mission. So what should we do?

Mission and us



Sam Chan trains Christians in how to do evangelism in today's world, and helps us in this interview to apply this practically to our everyday lives:

What is one thing you wish all Australian Christians knew about evangelism in today's world?

The premise of evangelism is that God uses our human attempts as the natural means for his supernatural work of saving someone. So, on the one

hand, we can just give evangelism a go. If God chooses to save someone, it doesn't matter how feeble our attempt might be – God will save.

There is no secret silver bullet method that will be guaranteed to work. And there is no 'you must do it this way or else you're wrong' method. I've met gifted Christians who were so scared that their methods were going to be judged as wrong by other well-meaning Christian leaders. On the other hand, your question mentions Australian and today. So we also need to be sensitive to our 21st century Australian cultural context – which I call post-modern, post-reached and post-Christian. Methods that once worked really well don't seem to have the same traction. And methods that work well in other countries, might not work so well here.

Australians today – rightly or wrongly – form beliefs based on intuition, emotions and community groups. Where we once tried to win the mind, we now also need to win the emotions, hearts and trust of our friends. So this is an exciting time for us to be creative and explore other methods of evangelism – especially through the creative arts. This is also the time to explore other biblical metaphors of salvation which might have more existential traction with our Australian friends. For example, my friend who became a Christian in the 1990s really loved the forgiveness aspect of salvation. Today others might find more connection with freedom, or peace, or adoption.

You regularly train Christians in what it takes to do evangelism in today's world. Do you think that Christians are in general more anxious than they used to be? If so, what are the main causes and what can be done that might help them be more confident in their evangelism?

If we are more anxious about evangelism there are many good reasons! First, in the Western narrative, Christians are now the bad guys. We are the ones who oppress, harm and take away freedom.

Second, we have a strict sacred-secular divide that has been imposed on not just us, but our friends. Australia is what I call an unofficial, de-facto closed country. It's almost impossible to talk about matters of faith, values or worldviews in public.

Third, most Australians simply do not believe in a transcendent, interventionist God. When we talk about God and the Bible, we may as well be talking about unicorns, fairy-god mothers and mermaids.

As a result, our evangelism needs to be like a lifestyle change. The analogy is fitness. Every New Years day, we promise ourselves that we're going to get fit. So we add something to our lives – maybe a 5am run, or we sign up to the gym, or we take up a diet. But after a few months we stop. Instead, fitness needs to be a lifestyle change, not something extra that we add on to our lives. Our whole life needs to become fit.

It's the same with evangelism. It's not simply an evangelistic church event or brave conversation that we add onto our busy lives. Instead, our whole lives need to become evangelistic. We do this by becoming friends with non-believers. We invest time into our non-believing friends. We become part of their trusted network of friends. We go to their events, parties and birthdays. It's just as much about being as it is about doing. In doing so, our non-believing friends might gradually adopt our plausibility structures. When this happens, the Gospel – which is true – will also become more and more plausible to them.

It has been said that it takes a far longer time to bring someone to faith now than it did 50 years ago? Is that true or does instantaneous conversion still happen?

I still meet many people who say they became a Christian at an evangelistic talk. But I think that this was the final step in a long journey. I think it takes a longer time simply because Australia is now essentially post-Christian and post-reached. It takes a longer time for plausibility structures to change. It takes a longer time for paradigms to shift. Of course, when someone does become a Christian, it often happens instantly. But there has been a long journey prior to this. And often the person experiences their own conversion as a fuzzy, gradual change, rather than instant flick of a switch.

A good analogy is how Westerners and Asians approach romantic relationships differently. Westerners with their binary, all-or-nothing logic, often need a DTR – 'define the relationship' – talk. What is the status of our relationship? But Asians often drift into a romantic relationship. There is no DTR. And maybe that's what it's like now in our post-modern world. People experience their conversion more as a gradual drift into a relationship with God.

What excites you most for evangelism?

There is *so much* that excites me. God is glorified by our evangelism. We are telling good news. Our friends might become saved by God. But *another thing* that excites me is that if evangelism is about both *being* and *doing* – our evangelism results in us being salt and light to this world. We bring God’s love, mercy and justice to our world. Even if we don’t see our friends become saved, just the fact that we lived and spoke the gospel makes a difference to our world in other ways.

What are the characteristics of some of the most effective evangelism you see happening in Australia today?

The definition of ‘evangelism’ is telling someone the gospel of Jesus – in its variety of metaphors, formats and methods – and praying that God in his mercy will save. But the characteristics of *effective* evangelism are also becoming a trusted friend. Taking an interest in the other person’s life. Spending time. Earning the right to speak by being a good listener. Making the effort to hear, understand and empathise with the other person’s story.

Interview Source:

<https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/evangelism-in-australia-today-an-interview-with-sam-chan-part-1/>

<https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/evangelism-in-australia-today-an-interview-with-sam-chan-part-2/>



9th September 2018

A super special Super Sunday, is a chance for your friends and family to check out what happens at St Martins & meet Jesus.



8am & 10am Church

Baden Stace is a gifted evangelist and is completing PhD research on Australian preaching and missiology. He is married to Karin and has 3 primary aged children



3.30pm Choral Evensong - Kings Prep School Choir

Simon Manchester is Senior Minister at St Thomas’ North Sydney. Married to Kathy with three adult children.

Your prayers supporting our Super Sunday need to be bold and specific – who would you love to see know God better and join us? Be bold in inviting!

St Martins Mission Prayer

Our heavenly Father, please bless St Martin’s as we seek to make disciples of Christ, and see changing lives through grace, so that everyone reaches maturity in Christ. By your Spirit enable us to **connect** to Jesus and one another, **grow** in Christ-likeness, **serve** and meets the needs of others with the gifts you have given us, and **share** the love of Christ in our community and all the world. Amen

St Martin's Mission Links

Killara High School Scripture teaching (KDCEA)



St Martins has a long history of supporting the Killara District Christian Education Association (KDCEA). It is a partnership of local Protestant churches providing Special Religious Education (SRE) at Killara High School. KDCEA provides students the opportunity to engage with the God of the Bible as they develop their own commitments and worldview for life.

The NSW Department of Education recognise spiritual wellbeing plays an important role in successful learning. They permit up to one hour of SRE per week. SRE encourages students to question, explore and discover the basics of the Christian faith based on the Bible. SRE Teachers are authorised, trained and equipped to teach classes and run seminars for students whose parents or caregivers are happy for them to be involved.

KDCEA employs Peter Gardner as an SRE Teacher & Coordinator. KDCEA must raise over \$50,000 per annum from supporters to hold this paid position and to provide Protestant SRE and associated activities to Killara High School, as they do not receive government funding. Go to www.kdcea.org.au and www.whysre.com.au to find out more information

Pray that the students will find places – churches, youth groups etc - to connect and feel that they can belong. Give thanks for the 12-15 regular students at the Wednesday lunch time group called Tag. Pray for more teachers to be available to meet the need of these students and to answer the questions they have about God. St Martin's contributes at least \$1000 annually on top of a number of personal contributions.



In 2017 and 2018 a handful of generous individuals provided funding of \$12,000 for our Youth and Kids Minister Alex Drobnak to teach Scripture in Killara High school and develop links to our youth ministry.

If you would like to support Alex's work financially in 2019 please contact the Rector, Matt Heazlewood or the St Martin's wardens.

Killara Primary School Scripture teaching

Under the banner of St Martins, Alex Drobnak also co-ordinates and leads a team of volunteers for Protestant SRE at Killara Primary School where we teach seven classes and almost 200 children weekly in years K-6. Thank God for this wonderful opportunity and pray for students to grow in faith and for more teachers to be available to meet the need of these students and the questions they have about God.

Church Missionary Society (CMS)

CMS has a vision for a world that knows Jesus. We partner with them to set apart, equip and support long-term workers who cross cultures to share the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. The world is growing and changing rapidly, but the gospel of Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. The distinctives of CMS are: Bible-based, Gospel priority, Long-term focus, In-depth training. See more at www.cms.org.au/nswact/

Tim & Kylie



We are welcoming home Tim and Kylie and their children Peter, Sonya, Michael and Andrew from the Middle East. Please pray for them as they transition back to life in Australia.

Another CMS missionary, Stan, will be taking over some of Tim's responsibilities in teaching. Please pray for him and his family as they settle in. Sadly, the pastor who was instrumental in bringing them to the Middle East has just been diagnosed with cancer. Please pray for a full recovery and continued ministry in the Middle East.

Sam & Shan-shan Chrisp



We are excited to introduce new Sam and his wife Shan-shan. In July 2018 Sam & Shan-shan will begin 6 months of training at St Andrew's Hall. They will spend time building relationships with their link churches (like us) during the first half of 2019.

Sam grew up in New Zealand as an atheist and moved to Australia to work in IT. He first read the bible in order to argue with some Christian friends, but God had other plans, and he ended up believing the gospel and wanting to share it with others. He then gave up IT and worked as a ministry apprentice (MTS) at UNSW.

Shan-shan was born in Taiwan and moved to Australia with her family when she was 5. She started going to church during her school years to find out how God could help make her life better. But when she went to University to study Medicine, she went to a church which taught the bible faithfully, and she discovered that life was all about God, not her. She also went on to work as a ministry apprentice at UNSW, where she met Sam. God willing, they hope to serve with CMS in Taiwan.

Pray that their time at SAH would be productive and effective in preparing them for mission.

St Martin's contributes at least \$4000 annually on top of a number of personal contributions. Sign up online to receive prayer updates and become a member of CMS.

Anglicare Parish Partnerships

Anglicare's mission is to 'serve people in need, enrich lives, and share the love of Jesus'. To achieve this we seek, where possible, to partner with Anglican churches like us. St Martin's contributes at least \$500 annually.

A Mobile Community Pantry which can visit churches in more vulnerable areas, helping you to establish a food ministry that provides practical help for people in need and also opens



the door for them to be connected with other church activities. **We are looking for volunteers to help set up new activities to help source food this wonderful outreach such as a stall the local shops.**

English classes (ESL) have been running at St Martins for 12 years – praise God! Led by Meredith Breden and trained by Anglicare's Trish Bell.

SHIFT is the Support and Housing Initiative for Families in Transition. Involves a church member renting an investment property to Anglicare to house refugees or those fleeing domestic violence, and others praying, filling the pantry, helping with furnishings.

New Churches for New Communities (NCNC)



Over the next few years Sydney's population is expected to grow by up to 1 million, with new suburbs popping up all over the city. The Sydney Anglican diocese has taken action for the future by buying land in preparation for this growth (in 2018 St Martins contributes \$6790 through the Greenfields levy). Six sites have all been purchased and the construction of

facilities at Stanhope Gardens commenced at the beginning of 2018, with the remaining to be rolled out every two years after. For each project NCNC will need to raise \$2.5M. We partner with NCNC to help build the facilities to serve these new communities.

Giving tax deductibly we had (at least) 8 people from St Martins who contributed \$7290 at the end of June 2018 to support NCNC.

Compassion Child Sponsorship

Compassion Child Sponsorship Program doesn't just address children's physical needs, but the needs of their heart, mind and soul.

Here's how they're different:

1. Jesus is at the heart of what they do. Each of the 1.8 million children in their program has the chance to hear the life-changing message of Jesus' love. They believe Jesus is the ultimate source of hope: both for the immediate and the eternal.



2. Their Child Sponsorship Program meets the specific needs of each individual child. When you become a sponsor, you're personally connected with a boy or girl who will know your name.

3. Their program is run entirely by local Christian churches in Africa, Asia, Central America and South America. Why? Local churches are experts on their community's needs. They equip them with the resources, training and expertise to help children escape poverty.

There are currently 17 Compassion child sponsorships linked to St Martins. From the following countries: Burkina Faso, Colombia, Dominican republic, El Salvador, Indonesia, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Nicaragua, Peru, Philippines, Togo, Tanzania, and Uganda. Go to www.compassion.com.au to find out more.

Anglican Aid



Anglican Aid is an overseas relief and aid agency of the Anglican Church of Australia, committed to excel in the provision of Christian aid to vulnerable communities throughout the world.

We are currently supporting Anglican Aid as they work with partners in the Diocese of Armidale, and other dioceses affected by the drought in NSW and southern Queensland. Support will focus on providing practical support to families affected by the drought, including food and clothing vouchers, feed for stock, and water to refill depleted tanks.

To help support our rural friends in need go to <https://anglicanaid.org.au/nsw-drought-relief-appeal> and make your donation to Anglican Aid's NSW Drought Relief Appeal

Bush Church Aid (BCA)



St Martins has had a long connection with Bush Church Aid (BCA). BCA shares the gospel, builds up the church, and cares for people all around Australia. They place gospel workers in regional and remote parts of Australia with a deep desire and prayer that many would bow their knee to Jesus, be transformed by God's word, and live their lives to His glory. **Go to www.bushchurchaid.com.au to find out more. St Martin's contributes at least \$500 annually.**

James and Brittany Daymond moved to Narromine in February 2017 to engage in an evangelistic ministry. James partners with Phil Howes, the Rector of the Narromine and Trangie Anglican Church, to share the gospel and connect new believers to the local church. They hope in time to extend this ministry throughout central western New South Wales.