

WOLLONGONG BAPTIST CHURCH

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



Our mission

To know Christ and to make Him known.

These eight words capture our heart as a church. These words are our compass which point us in the direction of life's true purpose. We desire that all people would find the life, freedom, and hope that is found in Jesus, and we want to play our part in announcing to the world that Jesus is Lord and Saviour.

Our vision

Our vision is to be a Bible based, mission oriented, multi-cultural community of Christ's disciples who make disciples.

Bible Based

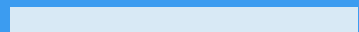
Our vision is to always be a bible teaching church. We are determined to teach God's word systematically, and respond to it wholeheartedly. Our prayer is that the Bible will be central in all that we do because we believe that the church is created and sustained by God's word.

Mission Oriented

Our vision is to always be a mission-oriented church. As a church we want Wollongong and the world to come to know Jesus, and so we seek to raise up disciples who will make disciples. Our hope is that we will always continue to partner with missionaries in both Australia and overseas.

Multicultural

Our vision is to always be a multi-cultural church, that draws a diversity of people together. Currently, our church has people from 40 different countries. We are a multi-congregational church that wants people to be able to worship God in their heart-language. We have services in English, Cantonese/Mandarin (bilingual), Burmese, and Karenni. In addition, the Vietnamese Evangelical Church meets in our building.



Looking back

This past year has been one of steady growth, gospel fruit, and unmistakable signs of God's kindness. We've seen a new church take root and grow in Calderwood Valley—what a joy it's been to partner with CVBC in its first year and to hear stories of people coming to know Jesus in that new community!

At the same time, back at WBC, we've welcomed two new staff members into our team: Grace Jones (Magnification) and Michael Parker (Maturity). Their presence and gifts have been a huge encouragement, and a sign that God is continuing to provide for the work He's called us to.

We've also witnessed extraordinary generosity through the purchase of 83 Kenny Street—the first step in expanding our church home for more ministry and mission.



The fact that several hundred thousand dollars were raised to make this possible is a testament to the sacrificial hearts of this church family. But even beyond the "headline moments," perhaps what's most encouraging is the everyday, often- unseen growth that continues as we open God's Word together, pray for one another, and seek to follow Jesus in all of life.

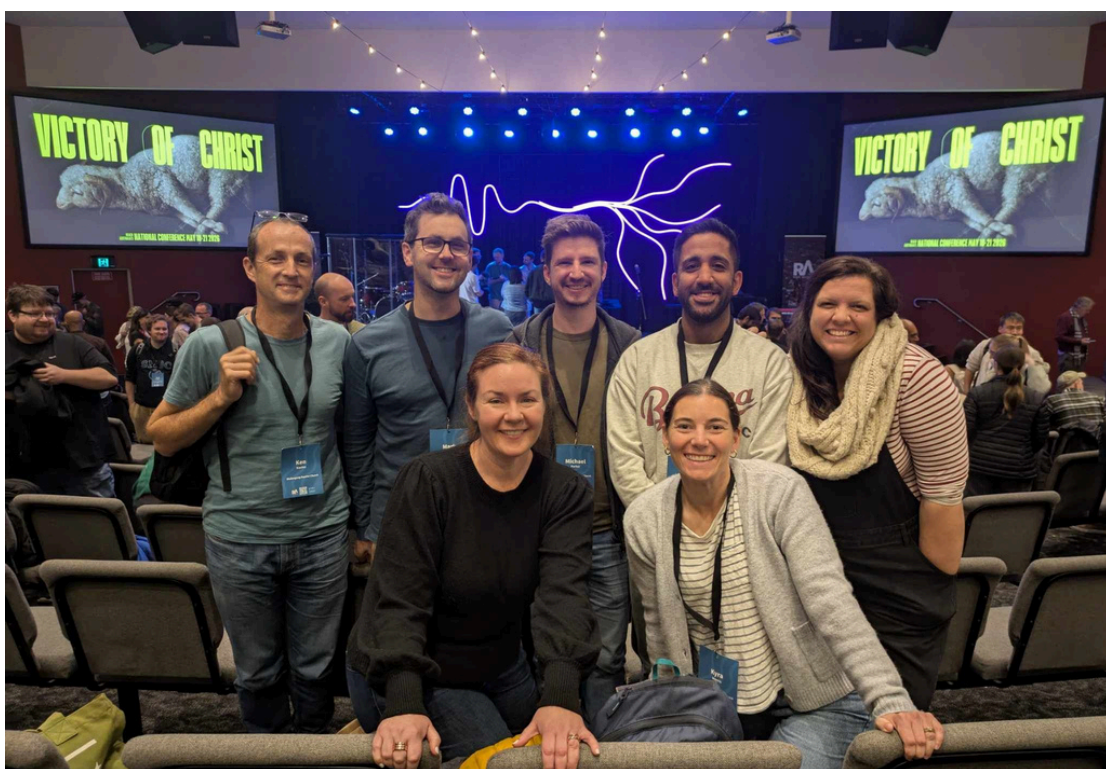
And in a particularly joyful milestone, just one year after sending around fifty members to help plant CVBC, our Sunday attendance is now higher than before they left. This isn't just about numbers—it's a visible reminder that God is able to provide, rebuild, and grow His church as we step out in faith.



Looking forward

As we move into the next twelve months, two key priorities lie before us.

The first is to reshape and strengthen our pastoral care structures. At our Onboard course, I often say to incoming members that we're not the kind of church where I, as your pastor, will be in your lounge room having a cup of tea every week—we're simply too big for that. And more than that, it would actually be selfish of me to insist on being the hub of the wheel, with every spoke connected to me. That's not how the body of Christ is meant to function. Ours is a church where "the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work" (Ephesians 4:16). There is of course a danger in a growing church that people might slip through the cracks—which is why we need to build capable teams and structures that can ensure every person in our church is known, loved, and spiritually supported. We want to ensure that care is not just reactive, but intentional, relational, and grounded in the gospel.



Looking forward



The second priority is to deepen our engagement with mission —both here in our city and further afield through the gospel partnerships we support. God has placed us in a region where many still don't know Jesus, and we want to keep growing in courage, clarity, and compassion as we share the good news. In the coming year, that will mean seeking out opportunities to be better equipped and emboldened in our own witness. It will also mean launching new initiatives and programs to help connect with and reach the community around us. We're excited about some of the ideas currently taking shape. At the same time, we remain deeply committed to the missionaries and gospel workers we support across Australia and around the world. These are not just names on a noticeboard—they are partners in the work of Christ. We want to keep lifting them up in prayer, walking with them in encouragement, and standing with them in generous support, so that together we play our part in God's mission to make disciples of all nations.

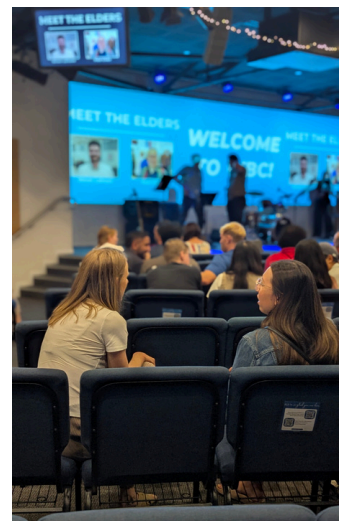
Through it all, we remain committed to the same calling: to know Christ and make Him known. The shape of ministry may change, the names and faces may come and go, but the heart of our church beats to the same rhythm it always has—growing disciples of Jesus, for His glory and the good of His world.

Please keep praying that God would guide us, stretch us, and grow us in this next season. There's much to thank Him for—and much still to do.

With love in Christ,
Mark

Celebrating God's work

At Wollongong Baptist Church, we are passionate about knowing Christ and making him known. Everything we do flows from this objective. As we look back at the past year, we give thanks for all God has done here.







PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM



YOUR LIFE, BUT BETTER



Sermon Series in 2025

Our church is built on the conviction that God speaks today through His word. That's why we are committed to opening the Scriptures, preaching them clearly, and responding to them with faith and obedience.

This year at Wollongong Baptist Church, we've covered a lot of ground as we've studied the Bible and grown as disciples of Jesus.

KINGS WILL BOW
DANIEL 1-6





Gospel Pursuits



MAGNIFICATION

Magnification is about helping people respond to God with worship—because we were made to know and praise Him together. It's where we lift our eyes and remember who's at the centre of everything.



MINISTRY

Ministry helps each person use their gifts to serve others. Every disciple has a part to play in building up the church and making a difference.



MATURITY

Maturity is about becoming more like Jesus through His Word. Disciples aren't meant to stay the same—we're meant to keep growing.



MEMBERSHIP

Membership helps us belong to a church family where we're known, loved, and supported. We grow best when we're not doing life or faith alone.



MISSION

Mission is about sharing the hope of Jesus with a world that needs Him. Disciples aren't just called in—they're also sent out.

Magnification

Magnification is all about giving to God the glory due his name. We want to be a church that adores, praises and thanks God for the tremendous grace he has poured out on us in Jesus. We want to worship him with joy and reverence, both in the day to day moments of our lives, and in our time gathered together as a church. On Sundays this looks like singing together, praying together, taking communion together, sitting under God's word together and responding with faith and obedience.





Over the last twelve months, some particularly special times gathered together have included:

- Delighting in the gospel unity we share across the diverse cultural backgrounds of our church at our annual **International Service**
- Celebrating **Christmas** together. In 2024, our Carols event was aimed at reaching young families with the peace that Jesus brings. We were delighted to have QUIZ WORX come and share music and a Christmas message with the children.
- Witnessing the **baptism** of nine people who each shared publicly about their faith and commitment to Christ
- Our **Good Friday** service, which was a full house and a wonderful time of reflection as we remembered the sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf. Our **Easter Sunday** services were a great time of celebration as we rejoiced together in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!
- We have also seen the revival of our **Prayer + Praise** nights. These have been tremendously encouraging times gathered together worshipping our great God through song and all kinds of prayers.

In the 2024-25 year, we travelled through a number of sermon series including a study in Ephesians, time in Revelation 1-3, a series in chapters 14-17 of Matthew's gospel, time exploring the stories of Daniel 1-6 and a short topical series focusing on generosity.



For Prayer

- Give great thanks, praise and glory to God for the grace of the gospel which we gather around each week
- Give thanks for those who faithfully serve each week in our music, tech and stage teams
- Pray that God would raise up more musicians to serve (especially for our morning congregations)

Maturity

The Maturity focus of WBC exists to encourage personal Christian growth as we seek to help each other increase in faith, love and knowledge of God, and in love and care for one another. The Bible emphasises that disciples, having experienced the life-changing regeneration of the Holy Spirit, are to continue in obedience to Jesus by becoming more and more like him so as to ensure perseverance through suffering and discernment of false teaching, holding to the true faith until we're joyfully in the Father's presence for eternity.

- **Home Groups** are ground zero for our maturity focus at WBC. Over the last 12 months in these weekly Bible studies, group members have delved into the passages we've heard preached from on Sunday. Doing this regularly over time increases our Christian maturity as we become more practiced at thinking, feeling and living as faithful disciples. Doing this in small groups also enables us to develop deep, Christ-based friendships as we bear one another's burdens and celebrate God's faithfulness to us. WBC currently has 23 Home Groups with 221 members from our three English congregations. We'd love everyone to have the opportunity to be in a Home Group, so if you're not yet and you'd like to be, let Michael Parker know!





- Complementary to our sermon series and Home Groups is our **podcast, Deeper**, which restarted early this year after a hiatus. The episodes have delved into deeper discussions with our preachers about the biblical text and what it means for the Christian life, led with excellent questions from podcast host, Sarah, and with questions submitted by the listeners. If you think of a question while listening to the sermon, you can submit it on the website or by scanning the QR code on the back of the seats in the auditorium. We'd love more input!
- Finally, the **Men's and Women's ministries** aim to help members of WBC grow in Christian maturity by putting on topical events targeted at issues which more generally effect men and women distinctly. This year we've had two women's events on the topics of prayer and friendship, and we've had one men's event on perseverance. Each of these events had 50-70 people attend which is upward of similar events in previous years. Praise God for the work he is doing through the men's and women's ministries, and pray for the additional events in the upcoming months!



For Prayer

- Praise God that so many are able to take part in Home Groups
- Praise God for the work he is doing through the men's and women's ministries, and pray for the additional events in the upcoming months



Mission

The Local Mission Team exists to make Jesus known to the people of Wollongong through clear invitations to explore who He is, and our prayer is that as a church we'd grow in sharing Christ in ways that are relational, loving, and courageous.

- Over the last 12 months, it's been so encouraging to see God at work. Across the two **evangelistic courses we ran (321)**, more than 20 people came along to hear and explore the Christian faith. These courses were followed by a Bible study where people could dig deeper into the Gospels and meet Jesus for themselves. Out of our courses and bible studies, four people gave their lives to Jesus and were baptised! It's been such a joy to witness lives genuinely transformed by the grace of God.
- In late February 2025, we were also part of **Hope for the Illawarra**, a large evangelistic event with churches right across our region worked together to proclaim Christ. In the lead-up, we ran two training sessions to help people in our church grow in confidence to share Jesus with their friends. And not long after, we held a three-week evangelistic sermon series called **Your Life But Better**, giving people another opportunity to come along and hear the good news explained clearly and engagingly.



- We also ran a pre-evangelistic event called **Sourdough Saturday**, a relaxed and creative way to connect non-Christian friends with Christian community. One person who came to that event ended up coming to our 321 course. It's small moments like these that remind us how God is always at work, often in quiet and surprising ways.



- Another key part of our local mission is our **ESL** (English as a Second Language) ministry. Each week, a faithful team teaches English to people from different cultures and backgrounds, many of whom are new to Australia and unfamiliar with Christianity. We now regularly have 17–18 people coming. Through these classes, we not only help them grow in language skills but also introduce them to the story of the Bible in simple, accessible ways. It's been a wonderful opportunity to build friendships, show hospitality, and gently point people to Jesus.
- Looking ahead, we're running two more evangelistic courses by the end of term 1 in 2026, alongside a follow-up Bible study that currently has around half a dozen non-Christians involved. We're excited to see how God will continue to open hearts and change lives. We'd love everyone in church to be part of this, whether through prayer, inviting a friend, or offering a warm welcome to newcomers

For Prayer

- That God would use the 321 courses, Bible studies, ESL classes, and wider evangelistic events to bring people into His kingdom
- That more people would come, listen, and be changed by Jesus
- That our whole church would grow in love, boldness, and mission
- That those who have recently come to faith would be strengthened and discipled in Christ

Membership

Everything we are and everything we do centres on the fact that God has reconciled us to himself and one another through Jesus. Because of this profound truth, we long for the saints at WBC to deepen their love toward God and each other. Growing our community in faith and love happens in a myriad of ways, and the Membership ministry focuses on creating opportunities for us to deeply embrace each other and the newcomer.





We have many reasons to celebrate and give thanks:

- Since our last annual report, we have welcomed over 430 as **visitors** to our church, and 62 of those friends have chosen to call WBC home.
- About 50 people have attended our **Onboard** newcomers course this past year; usually the course runs once a term but we ran it twice in term 1 to accommodate all of our new friends.
- Give thanks for the wonderful **teams** of people who welcome people into our church; the Onboard team who run our newcomers course; our Hospitality teams who set up, serve, and pack down morning tea, dinner and supper.
- We had the opportunity to gather in each others homes for **Hospitality Sunday**, to gather together at **church picnics**, and will be gathering at our upcoming **Day Camp**.



For Prayer

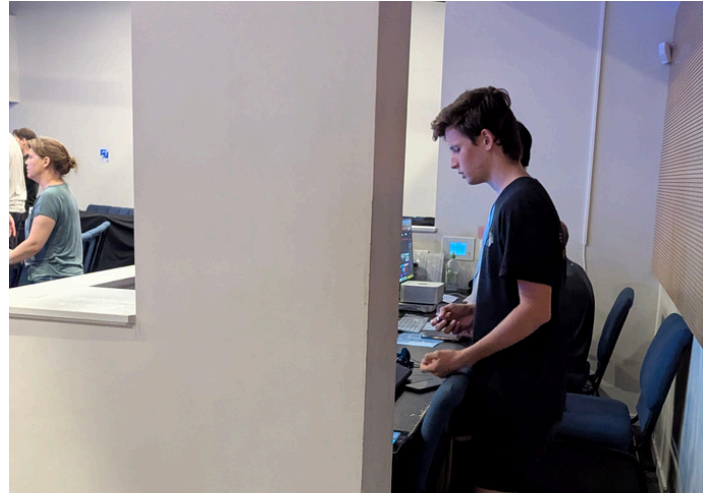
- That we will have a growing and deep sense of belonging to God's gathered family
- That we will genuinely welcome and connect people warmly into God's family
- That we will love, bear with, and care for our brothers and sisters as we walk

Ministry

Ministry helps each person use their gifts to serve others. Every disciple has a part to play in building up the church and making a difference.

Highlights from the last year:

- People saying 'yes' to **serving** – All year we've seen a steady flow of people who have joined ministry teams here at WBC. We thank God for the growing sense of ownership of our mission to make Christ known. It has been a particular joy to see several new volunteers start teaching scripture in local primary schools. We have 55% of people serving in a ministry team.
- **MTS** – Part of the way that we are seeking to raise up workers for God's harvest field is through training ministry apprentices. Sam Mahdavi is now in his second year of MTS and we have loved to see him grow in his leadership of the Mission Team and in his handling of God's Word as a trainee preacher.
- **MTS Recruit Conference** – In October we took 11 young people up to Katoomba for MTS Recruit where we were challenged to consider the call to vocational ministry. We continue to pray for a pipeline of people who want to devote their lives to the service of the gospel.
- **Team Leader Training** – In March we had special guest Dave Moore come and train our Team Leaders, along with those from CBVC, Salt Church and St Michael's. Dave literally wrote the book on the topic—The Team Leaders Handbook.





Priorities for the next 12 months:

- Meeting our growing needs - We're so thankful for the many people who give their time to serve—but there are still some key gaps, especially in our Kids Ministry. One of our goals is to invite more people to step into these roles so that every team is well-staffed and every child is well-supported.
- Strengthening Team Leaders - While many of our volunteers feel well-supported, there's still room to grow. We want to keep building up our Ministry Team Leaders so they feel confident and equipped to care for and encourage their teams even more effectively.



For Prayer

- Pray that the Lord of the harvest would continue to raise up workers for His harvest field
- Give thanks for the many people who give their time to serve

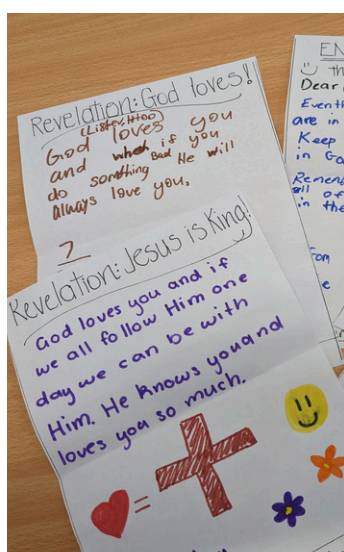
Kids

At WBC we desire for children to be growing in their knowledge and love of God and to seek to follow him all the days of their lives.

It is a joy to see kids have a simple and genuine faith in God as we faithfully teach them in age-appropriate ways. On average

we have 80-90 kids in our **kids church** programs each week. We have a wonderful team of leaders investing in and discipling the kids of WBC but most groups still have gaps to fill.

Time and again we are blown away by how God is at work in the hearts of the kids at church. We particularly love seeing that for ourselves through special videos in the services. **Square One camp** for Years 3-6 is always a highlight where we spend lots of time in God's word, grow lots and have a heap of fun together.





Not only do we care about the kids already at WBC, but we are looking outwards to those in our community who don't know Jesus and trying to connect them into church. The main way we do this is through our **Playtime** ministry. With the daycare opening across the road and Playtime almost fit to bursting we want to make sure we can continue welcoming new families in so we are hoping to start up a new playgroup in 2026.



For Prayer

- That kids will keep growing as they hear God's word taught
- For the proposed new playgroup, that it will be launched well and that non-Christian families will connect into church through it and Playtime
- For new leaders to be raised up to invest in and disciple kids at WBC

Youth

Immerse, WBC's high school-aged youth group, continues to be a great place for our youth to hang out and grow, with around 30 people attending most Friday nights. We said goodbye to long-term leaders Dave and Caitlin at the end of December, but have a great team that continue to serve week by week. It's a great mix of games, food, fun and studying the bible together.

We had a record number of 30 youth and leaders attend **KYCK** in Katoomba in April. This continues to be a highlight of the year for many. At KYCK and the **Hope Event** we saw a number of youth make commitments to Jesus. A number were also **baptised** at the end of 2024.



The **youth band** continue to be a regular on Sunday nights. We give thanks for the fulfillment of our hope to see youth integrated into the church and growing in their walk with Jesus.

Teen Zone is the Sunday morning group for years 6-8 that study the Bible in an age-appropriate way while adults are hearing the sermon. It continues to grow in numbers and in encouraging each other in applying God's word in young lives.



For Prayer

- Give thanks for leaders of Immerse and Teen Zone who have served and continue to serve – for energy, insight, patience and love
- Give thanks for kids who have grown – particularly for those who have made commitments and been baptised
- Give thanks for those who are getting involved in church by serving

CVBC

Calderwood Valley Baptist Church turned one in mid-August, and what a 12 months it has been! We have **doubled in size** and have had over 400 visitors, which does include a number from WBC who have come south to visit us, which has been such an encouragement.



We have seen God's sovereign hand in the way things have unfolded, and are deeply thankful for His faithfulness to us, and for our partnership with WBC. Your prayers and financial support have been so encouraging and have helped propel our growth. We started with 22 members and we now have **39 members**, with several more to hopefully be added at our AGM in late August.



Our **Mainly Music** ministry continues to make connections with families in the community, and our Kids Church ministry on a Sunday has grown from two to three groups. Our most recent addition is that we commenced a youth bible study that takes place before our Sunday service. Seven high schoolers were present for our first week, and they had a great time enjoying their cooked breakfast and studying Philipians.

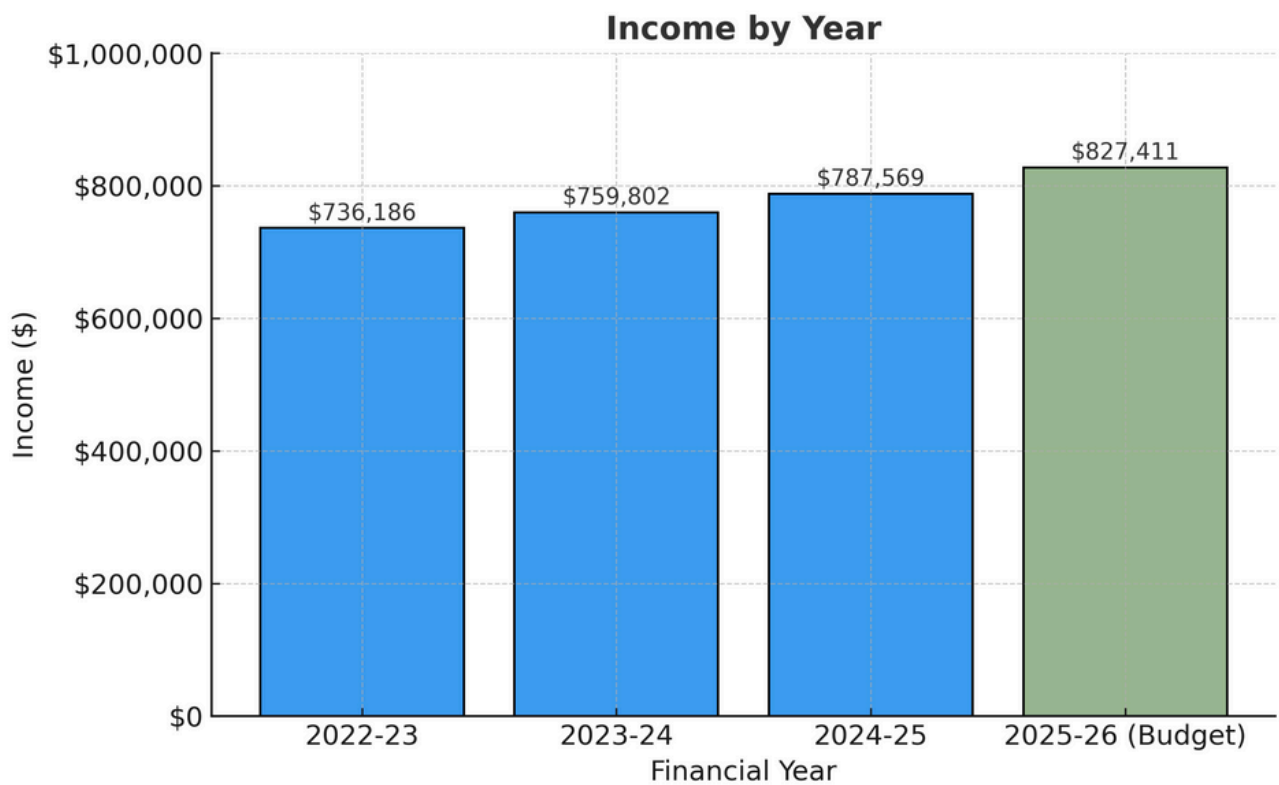
For Prayer

- Give thanks for our first anniversary service on August 17 and pray for the visitors on that day
- That CVBC would continue to grow and reach their community



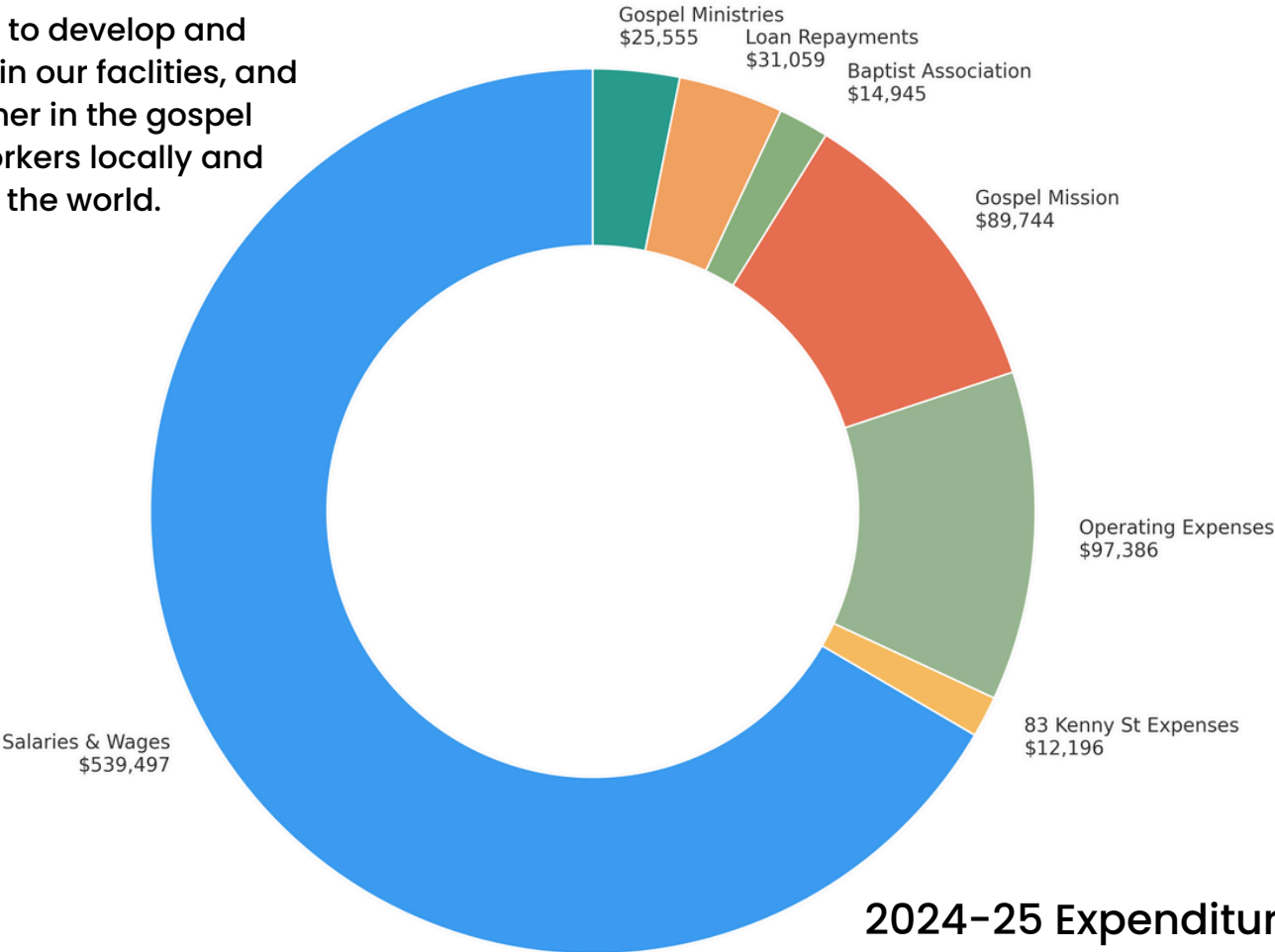


2025-26 Budget



*We believe that generosity is our privilege
because Jesus was first generous towards us*

We aim to use your giving to reach and mature people, to develop and maintain our facilities, and to partner in the gospel with workers locally and around the world.





2024-25 Finance Overview

Total Income \$787,569

Net Deficit
\$22,813

Total Expenditure \$810,382

For this coming year, WBC has set an annual giving budget of \$827,411. To meet this budget we require an increase in giving of 5%. Please pray that God will provide all our needs through the generosity of his people.

Mortgage Balance

2024
\$111,583

2025
\$1,438,663

We are very thankful for your generosity towards our Beyond These Walls campaign. Following this, \$400,944 has been pledged over the next three years towards paying off the mortgage.



Global Partners



Scott Adamson

Power to Change

Scott heads up Power to Change's digital ministry with the mission of "making disciples through digital strategies."



Richard & Ester Akogun

Iyinfest Missions

Richard serves as the mission director of IYINFEST Missions, a ministry in Nigeria dedicated to evangelism and helping believers grow in their faith.



Andrew Beddoe

Vocational Bible College

Andrew is the Principal of VBC which seeks to equip everyday people by providing theological and ministry training in the vocational sector.



Philip & Kim

Wycliffe Bible Translators

Philip and Kim live among an unreached ethnic minority group in South East Asia where Philip works to translate the Bible to the local dialect.



Rich & Ali Maegraith

European Christian Mission

Rich and Ali are church planting in Berlin, Germany whilst seeking to reach the music community for Christ.



Matthew Meek

AFES

Matthew works at UOW, seeking to reach international students with the gospel, as well as leading the AFES FOCUS national strategy.



Jordan & Rachel Milburn

Quizworx

Jordan and Rachel work with Quiz Worx, sharing Jesus with kids everywhere through puppet shows and other creative mediums.



Samar Musson

WCCEB

Samar teaches scripture and runs lunchtime Christian groups at Smiths Hill High School here in Wollongong.



Jasmine

Project Video

Jasmine leads the global team at Project Video, seeking to get the gospel to people in a language that they can understand using media.



Josh & Ali Reeve

European Christian Mission

Josh and Ali are on staff at Torchbearers "Crossroads" Bible School in Erseka, Albania, where they teach and disciple students from around the world.



James & Shila Roy

House Church of Bangladesh

James is Senior Pastor of the House Church of Bangladesh, a church planting network of over 30 churches with over 1000 members.



Jan Yawan

Baptist Mission Australia

Jan serves through Lanternlight Ministries, bringing light and hope to those with disabilities in the community as she seeks to share Christ.



Mel Higgins

MAF

Mel is a pilot working for Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) in remote Arnhem Land, flying teachers, students, healthcare workers and more.



Staff Team



Mark Roberts

Senior Pastor



Michael Parker

Associate Pastor - Maturity



Ken Davies

Associate Pastor - Youth



Grace Jones

Magnification



Kate Cole

Membership



Kyra Morris

Children's Worker



Sam Mahdavi

*Ministry Apprentice
-Mission*



Sarah Grant

Office & Communications

Please ask God to
give our staff team
wisdom, love and
endurance in 2026.





WOLLONGONG
BAPTIST CHURCH