next steps
EVERYONE HAS A NEXT STEP
what’s yours
CONTENTs

Introduction 3
Longing for Home 4
Welcome Home 6
Servant Heartbeat 8
Now and Not Yet Home 10
Open Hand, Closed Hand 11
Excellent Sundays 12
Connect, Grow, Serve 18
Kids, Youth, Young Adults 20
Membership 22
Next Steps 24
Multisite Church 28
Church2Church 29
Next Steps for Carina 30
Next Steps for South Bank 32
Next Steps for Springfield 34
Ministry Pathways 36
Cross Cultural Connect 38
How we Communicate 42
Our Staff Team 44
Our Board 45
2018 Calendar 46

reach the city
reach the world
Welcome to 2018 at Creek Road. This year we’ll be encouraging you to take a next step in following Jesus. We’ll be challenging you to consider taking steps forward on the path of discipleship. As we seek to grow our servant hearts for Jesus, we all have a next step to take. At Creek Road, we talk about Jesus all the time, and so if your next step is the first step of meeting and trusting Jesus – we’ll be inviting you to join that journey.

This 2018 Vision document has been written to inspire you about next steps you might take in meeting and following Jesus. And it sets out all the practical information you’ll need to take those steps. So please enjoy reading along, considering what next steps might look like for you.

At Creek Road, as we seek to ‘Reach the City and Reach the World’ with the gospel, we’ve taken some big steps together in recent years:

• Adopting a pathway approach to discipleship – connect, grow, serve
• integrating our teaching series for all ages in the church – kids, youth, young adults and adults
• transitioning to a multisite ministry – 1 church in 3 locations
• innovating with our team preaching model
• establishing our partner church ministry as a separate entity – church2church
• partnering with John Warlow to develop the pastoral care ministry of our Growth Groups

And as we seek to ‘Reach the City and Reach the World’ with the gospel, we want to always be open to big steps God might have us take in the future:

• growing our ministries
• starting new campuses
• establishing new gospel partnerships
• raising up and sending out people into the harvest as ministry workers

How might these big steps happen? When we all take smaller steps together in following Jesus. Beneath all the big steps we might take as a church are the smaller steps we can each take as part of the church. Taking small steps together is good for us. And if we all step forward together for Jesus, who knows how God might use us to grow his Kingdom?

Everyone has a next step to take: what’s yours?

Pages 24-27 give you some snapshots of steps forward you might take – and how the Next Steps Team can help you take them. But this whole booklet is all about how we – as God’s people at Creek Road – seek to take these steps together, following Jesus on the road to life.
What is your destination in life? What hopes or dreams are you stepping towards? Where is life’s journey taking you? As you think about today or tomorrow, as you think about the distant future, what is the deepest longing of your heart?

Have you ever wondered why we even have these longings? Why do we have a sense of something not being right in this world? Why do we have a sense of something much better? Why do we have a sense of some better “home” that we’ve never actually been to?

Christians believe that the Bible makes sense of our present experience of the world. We believe it makes sense of our longings for a better future. We believe it makes sense of the extremes of good and evil we see in our world and (in our honest moments) know about ourselves. We believe that in the person of Jesus, real answers are found to the deep questions of our hearts.

The closing chapters of the Bible describe the true home we long for. Revelation 21 and 22 show us an eternal future that answers the deep longings of our heart. A world of beauty. Of untarnished beauty. A world no longer in decay. Relationships of perfect love. No more pain or tears or sickness or suffering or death. Eternal joy and peace.

Home at last. Home forever with the one who made us, knows us and loves us. Home with the one true God. Loving him. Singing his praise. Serving him from the heart.

“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” - Revelation 21:3-4
The opening chapters of the Bible describe the home we lost – and why there have been tears in this world since. This is the home we somehow “remember” but is now lost – like a distant memory. This is our home with God.

Genesis 1 and 2 show us the one true God making a beautiful world. A perfect world. A perfect world for us to enjoy. A perfect relationship with God for us to enjoy. Perfect relationships with each other to enjoy. Taking care of each other. Taking care of this wonderful home. Home. Home loving and serving the one true God. Home loving and serving each other. Sadly, this wonderful home was very short lived...

Genesis 3 describes how we lost this home – the home we somehow remember and still long for. It shows us the disastrous choice Adam and Eve made, putting this home and all its relationships into ruin. It’s a choice we’ve all followed since. It’s a choice to serve ourselves instead of God. It’s a choice to serve ourselves instead of each other. It’s a choice that darkens our hearts. It’s a choice that makes us much less than we’re meant to be. It’s a choice the Bible calls sin. It’s a choice with deadly consequences for us and our world. It sets us on an eternal pathway of death.

“There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God.” - Romans 3:10
How can we ever regain the home we lost in Genesis? How can we journey to the home promised in Revelation? Jesus is the connection. Jesus is the answer to our longing hearts. Jesus is the light for our darkened hearts. Jesus comes from that home we remember. He promises to take us to the home we long for. He stepped into this world to make that possible.

Have you read the gospels? Have you met Jesus there? Have you been met by Jesus there? You can meet someone who stirs those memories of a better place. You can meet someone who stirs your heart and shows a better way. You can meet someone inviting you home. With an invitation written in blood.

Jesus’ death on the cross is that invitation. An invitation to be forgiven. Completely forgiven. An invitation to make a new choice. A choice to no longer serve ourselves but to serve God. An invitation to come back home. Jesus’ resurrection from the dead shows that this invitation is real. It shows us that the deadly consequences of our sin have been dealt with. It opens the door to our heavenly home. It sets us on an eternal pathway of life.

*For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.* – 1 Peter 3:18
THE FIRST STEP?

If you’d like to start following Jesus, then what’s the next step? The first step is to give yourself. To give your life to Jesus. To recognize your need for Jesus and what he’s done for you. And to start serving Jesus from the heart.

Have you accepted Jesus’ invitation? Have you been welcomed home by Jesus? Are you ready to begin the journey and start following Jesus? You might like to take that step today.

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” - Luke 9:23

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. - 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

If you’d like to take that step and start following Jesus, here’s a prayer you might like to pray:

Heavenly Father,
Thank you for your invitation to come home through Jesus. To begin the journey and start serving you first in my life. I confess I haven’t been serving you first. I’ve been walking a dark road that leads to death. I’ve wandered far from home. Thank you for sending Jesus, who left his home in order to bring me home to you. Thank you that he died for me, to pay for my sin, and rose to give me life. Thank you for your Holy Spirit who has given me this new heart so I can worship you, and follow you, and serve you from the heart.

I want to start doing that today.
Please help me to walk this new path, and to hold firm to this forgiveness, love and hope you give me through Jesus. Help me to walk with people who will encourage me when the journey is hard. And help me to encourage others, so they too might find their home with you.

In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.

Welcome home.
They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

– Acts 2:42-47

Jesus doesn’t leave us on our own as we journey on this new road to heaven. He gives us his Word, the Bible, to describe life on this new road. He gives us his Spirit who makes our hearts alive. He gives us a new heartbeat. He gives us a new song. And he gives us a new community. Brothers and sisters gathered around Jesus, sharing this new heartbeat, singing this new song together, walking this new road together, serving from the heart together, giving from the heart together. Hearts for Jesus. Hearts for others to know Jesus. Servant hearts.

The invitation we extend to everyone who connects with us at Creek Road is to join this journey following Jesus – growing to maturity in Jesus. We talk about this as growing a Servant Heart. Ultimately it’s God’s invitation through Jesus, his “welcome home” that grows our Servant Heart.

What does a Servant Heartbeat look like? It’s a heartbeat for Jesus. It’s a heartbeat for the lost. It’s a heartbeat for giving. Our hope and prayer is that each of us will be open to God’s loving work in our lives, growing in us a Servant Heart.

Welcome home. Seriously, It’s great to have you connecting with us at Creek Road. In fact, your being here is an answer to our prayers. Because our heart beats for others to know Jesus, we constantly pray that God will bring more and more people to join with us, being brought home to God, following Jesus together to our eternal home.
HEART FOR THE LOST

Having a heart for JESUS means having a heart for THE LOST. At Creek Road we treat very seriously Jesus’ call to have the same heart for the lost that he has.

_For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost._ – _Luke 19:10_

Being rescued by Jesus not only gives us a heart for Jesus but a heart for the lost. Our heart for the lost means we are committed to making our church community, and our gatherings, focused on the newcomer.

For us, at Creek Road, having a heart for the lost means making it easy for people to connect with Jesus. It means making it easy for people to grow in Jesus. It means making it easy for people to step forward in serving Jesus.

We do this by speaking clearly about Jesus, and having a clear pathway, with clear next steps, so that every newcomer who comes through our doors can meet Jesus and grow to maturity in Jesus: Lost Hearts being welcomed home to become Servant Hearts.

HEART FOR GIVING

When we have a Heart for JESUS, when we have a Heart for the LOST, we will have a Heart for GIVING. Generous giving is a vital step in following a generous Saviour on the road to life. It all flows from his generosity in giving us life:

_For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich._ – _2 Corinthians 8:9_

It’s hard to give money. It’s harder to give time. It’s hardest to give yourself. Yet that is what Jesus has bought with his blood – our everything. 100%.

If you call Creek Road home, we invite you to give generously and regularly, to help us invite others home.

Our giving is all directed to supporting gospel ministry, including: our paid ministry staff, students and trainees; our ministries to kids, youth, young adults and adults; our Cross Cultural Connect Partners; production of ministry resources; upkeep and hire of our ministry facilities.

At Creek Road we are a church that talks about giving. We talk about soft hearts that give hard. We talk about giving as an invitation to show the character of God – radical, generous, lavish giving – giving that looks like the cross of Jesus.

(for details on how to give see p22).
When we talk about our vision as being to ‘reach the city and reach the world’ with the good news of Jesus; we’re talking about the good news that Jesus has died and been raised as God’s king; that death has been defeated, and that with the coming of the Spirit, God’s kingdom has begun here on earth. This is the good news the pages of the Old Testament point forward to — the climax of its story, and the climax of history.

Life in this world will never be the same because God appeared in Jesus to invite us home. As new creations, we become ambassadors for Christ. Our gatherings and our homes become embassies for his kingdom here on earth, where people get a taste of what is to come. These things are true now. When we come home to God, through Jesus, and God makes his home in us by the Spirit the kingdom is present now. We’re equipped to live as a radically new community now.

But we’re not yet fully there yet.

When we talk about reaching the city and reaching the world there’s a hint of what it is we hope for; what is to come. The home we are looking forward to is the new city and new world pictured in Revelation. Where we’re going shapes how we live now. We are reaching towards this new city and new world as we live together. We ultimately reach it when Jesus returns.

At Creek Road we proclaim the Gospel every week because it’s God’s invitation to come home, through Jesus. The Gospel isn’t just an invitation to have our sins forgiven, but also to live in God’s kingdom — to receive God’s Spirit and be made truly alive... but we also remember that we are not fully home yet; suffering still happens. Tears still flow. There’s sin, and curse, and sickness and death.

Because of this vision of the future — the not yet — we’re able to share in that suffering now... because we know that life now is about sharing in both the death and resurrection of Jesus. This means taking up our cross to follow Jesus as we step towards the goal. But it also means we’re able to celebrate the glorious miracle of our new lives beginning now. We’re called to live together in a way that is different from the way of life we’ve left behind; that embodies the life and loving sacrifice of Jesus, and invites people to join us in both this new way of living now, and in our hope of an even greater new home.

Our gathering is not yet perfect as it will be in heaven. We are not yet perfect as we will be in heaven. But as we celebrate and live out the love and forgiveness of God in Jesus, we have a taste of our eternal home in heaven. As we grow in this new life of serving Jesus and each other, we have a taste of our eternal home in heaven. We’re called to live in this tension between the now and the not yet of God’s kingdom following the one who is now God’s king, and ours.
The key to many questions we might ask about church, and the key to our life and mission together as a church family at Creek Road, is to constantly discern what is fixed from what is flexible. On the one hand there are fixed eternal truths in God’s Word that are simply not negotiable. These are things we must agree on. On the other hand there are a range of issues that are a matter of liberty of opinion. Christians are free to agree to disagree on these issues, while always seeking to maintain the unity we have in the gospel of Jesus.

It can be helpful to picture these two ‘categories’ of issues as a closed hand and an open hand.

The **closed hand** stands for the not-negotiable truths that we must agree on. These are truths like the ones in the previous pages:

- Jesus’ death on the cross is the only way to be right with God
- All we need to know about living as a Christian is in the Bible
- Prayer is vital to our whole lives
- The story of Jesus’ death & coming alive again changes lives, communities and countries
- Everyone needs to hear about Jesus now

In the **open hand**, there are a whole range of issues that we need to be flexible on and/or that bible-believing Christians may have different views on. Some of these include baptism, Lord’s Supper, membership, denomination, music and other aspects of how we ‘do church’.

Of course, even these open hand issues need to be shaped by what’s in the closed hand - they need to be shaped by the gospel of the cross of Jesus. And calling them ‘open hand’ issues doesn’t mean they are of no importance. Rather, it is a way of acknowledging that differences over these issues must not distract us from focussing on those things of ultimate importance—the closed hand issues. Creek Road is made up of Christians from a vast array of backgrounds and the key to our unity is this discernment of what belongs in each hand...
70 MINUTE SERVICE

We work hard at Creek Road to integrate every part of the service around a single big idea from what we’re learning in the Bible that Sunday. We want every minute to play a part in presenting clear steps, what it means to trust in Jesus and to follow Jesus.

SONGS: We love singing about Jesus and what he’s done for us at the cross. We all sing together, with the words up on the screen – sing the words in your head and when you feel comfortable, join in with your voice.

KIDS SPOT: This could be a video, a short skit, a puppet show… we love mixing it up a bit. It helps get the kids (and all of us!) engaged with whatever question we’re trying to answer from the Bible that Sunday.

STORIES: We share interviews and stories that describe our life together following Jesus. We love building community and encouraging each other with real life stories of taking steps forward in following Jesus.

PRAYERS: We love praying as a way of expressing that through Jesus we have a relationship with the God who made the universe. We talk to him – about how great he is. We say thanks for the good things he has given us (especially Jesus).

We say sorry because we do wrong things. And we ask him for things – we pray about the things that are wrong with the world, and that more people would meet Jesus.

BIBLE READING: A reading from the Bible. We believe the Bible is all about Jesus. It tells us who Jesus is, who we are, and how we should live if we want to follow Jesus as our king. We want all services to be based on the Bible, and we want to make what the Bible says clear and engaging – showing its relevance.

BIBLE TALK: This is a chance for us to hear from one of our Pastors about how the bit of the Bible we’ve read is about Jesus. We speak about how Jesus answers big questions for how we live now. We hope the talk will also raise questions for each person hearing it – questions to dig into in our Growth Groups.

CHURCH CONTINUES: Church isn’t over with the last song! We spend time as a family catching up over a cup of tea or coffee, or sometimes a meal. This is a special time to spend as the body of Christ – as we then go out to be his church in the world...
We talk about excellent Sundays – our 70 minute church service – but beyond the excellent Sunday, is the 10,080 minute service – the entire week. If we give 100% of ourselves to Jesus, our worship doesn’t end as we walk out the door of church on Sunday. Our worship walks out with us, and extends into all aspects of our week.

During the week, we have many ministries running, including kids ministries, youth ministries, growth groups, cross cultural connect and more. Every day we have ‘Grow Daily’ to help you engage in God’s Word and prayer. Having a heart for Jesus means living your life for him through the week. Having a heart for the lost means working to connect people to Jesus through the week. Having a heart for giving means giving of yourself through the week – all 10,080 minutes of it.

Excellent Sundays require a servant heart
But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, “God is really among you!” – 1 Corinthians 14:25-26

Gathering Sunday by Sunday is an essential part of expressing our heart for Jesus, the lost and giving. Our Sundays are the foundational steps for everything we do on our journey following Jesus together. We want every Sunday at Creek Road to be an excellent Sunday. Not excellent in the way the world might think of excellence (but we strive for excellent in this way too). But excellent in the way the Bible describes excellence:

Excellent Sundays are about loving others

The “most excellent way” is the way of love (1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13). Paul presents this in contrast to the Corinthians’ way of selfishness (1 Corinthians 11:20-21). Excellent Sundays repent of “me” church, calling us to focus instead on others.

Excellent Sundays focus on the cross

This sacrificial love is seen most clearly in Christ and him crucified (1 Corinthians 2:2). Paul says his mission to save some (1 Corinthians 9:22) is about following Christ’s example of sacrificial love. He invites us to do the same (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Excellent Sundays put newcomers first

Paul urges the Corinthians towards the excellence of love, not only in being more ‘other-focused’ generally, but also in being unbeliever-focused specifically (1 Corinthians 14:22-26).

Excellent Sundays value church in God’s purposes

When the gospel was first preached at Pentecost, the next thing we see is the gathering and growing church (Acts 2:42-47). Unbelievers were present at church. Unbelievers became believers at church.

Excellent Sundays make the gospel clear

Paul also states his concern to the Colossian church about clarity with the message of Jesus. “Pray I’ll be clear” he says. He similarly urges them to point to the gospel in word and deed (Colossians 4:2-6).
Excellent Sundays are completely integrated

No competing messages. Rather, every element of the service will be linked to one big idea, always related to the central events of the gospel in Jesus’ death, resurrection and pouring out the Spirit.

Excellent Sundays have a big idea

From the website and site signage, to the car park and foyer experience, through every moment of the service, to conversations afterwards, all communication is integrated in the interests of clarity and love.

Excellent Sundays remove distractions

Sunday gatherings are about corporate celebration, teaching, prayer and praise as a large church community focused on Jesus. It’s all about Jesus.

Excellent Sundays invest in the next generation

Kids and Youth need to be welcomed and taught at their level. The gospel needs to be taught clearly to all ages as we eagerly seek to pass the gospel on to a new generation (Acts 2:39).

Excellent Sundays means a focused calendar

Countless hours from a huge team go into clearly presenting the gospel every Sunday, so we don’t busy ourselves with too many other events. Every Sunday is an ideal opportunity to ‘just ask’ people along.

Excellent Sundays get us all on the same page

From preachers to Kid Church teachers, Service Leaders to Bible Readers, Musos, Sound, Lighting, Connect teams. We’re one team. Everyone is working towards the same clear goal.

Excellent Sundays require a servant heart

Everything we do at Creek Road is about serving from the heart. Our 52 Excellent Sundays are all about serving from the heart. Hearts for Jesus. Hearts for the Lost. Hearts for Giving.
SONGS FOR THE PATH

Why is singing in church so important? The Bible’s clear: it’s because singing is a Word ministry. Singing together in church is a way we serve each other with the Word of Christ, strengthening us to walk the path of life, following him. Paul puts it this way:

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.* - *Colossians 3:16*

Singing in church is an important part of the way we minister God’s Word to each other. When you sing in church you’re spurring on your friends. You’re encouraging us. You’re loving your family. You’re praising Jesus before the unbelievers who are visiting. You’re doing ministry. Because music is a Word ministry. Singing together is three-dimensional:

1. **God-to-us:** We hear from God in song – as scripture-soaked songs teach us God’s Word.
2. **Us-to-God:** We respond to God in song – singing praise, prayer, and thankfulness.
3. **Us-to-each other:** We encourage each other in song – with the truth of God’s Word.

TOGETHER ON THE PATH

We sing together in church – many voices becoming one – because we journey together in life – following Jesus not just individually but as a community. The New Testament paints a beautiful picture of people partnering together in ministry – Jesus and his 12 disciples; Paul and his co-workers in the gospel. At Creek Road, we value ministry partnership and being generous beyond ourselves.

One important example is that we take a team preaching approach. Our preaching team work closely planning a teaching series, wrestling together about the best way to teach a passage. The talk writing is shared amongst the team, and as a team, they critique and hone the talk.

But the team isn’t just the preachers. The teaching series is complemented by an integrated kids program and curriculum, youth program and curriculum, growth group materials, devotions for growing as a family, media resources, song selection and more. A raft of dedicated ministry partners, all work from servant hearts to make sure the message of the Gospel is communicated with clarity and passion every Sunday.

*In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now* – *Philippians 1:4-5*

We count it a joy to partner in ministry together. Ministry Partners lead, and care for ministries across Creek Road, working side by side with staff to share the gospel. As a multisite church, we love being partners in the gospel with each other, as one church in three locations (see p28). We believe we are better together.

We are also very intentional about building gospel partnerships not just within our church, but within the wider church. Our Partner Church program has seen resources shared between 28 partner churches around Australia, and the world. It has grown to the point where it is feasible to start a separate entity – Church2Church (see p29).
“Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” – Luke 24:26-27, 32

This is a great picture of what it means to follow Jesus. Having a new heart, burning for Jesus. Joining a new community, gathered by Jesus. An old life lived for ourselves is exchanged for a new life lived for Jesus. We delight in a changed heart as we take the next step to our destination. Taking your Next Step is vital to your maturity in Jesus and to role that Creek Road is seeking to play in Reaching the City and Reaching the World for Jesus.

At Creek Road we talk a lot about ‘pathways’. These pathways reflect this New Road, this eternal pathway that Jesus has set us upon. Everything we do at Creek Road is about growing mature servants of Jesus, as a reflection of where our eternal pathway is leading. ‘Connect, Grow, Serve’ is our horizontal pathway to maturity. ‘Kids, Youth and Young Adults’ is our vertical pathway to maturity. What will this maturity look like? Maturity is about growing a servant-heart.

CONNECT GROW SERVE

At Creek Road, we want people to connect to God through Jesus, to grow as they follow Jesus, and to serve Jesus from the heart.

Connect is the first step along our ministry pathway of ‘Connect, Grow, Serve’. It’s all about making it easy for people to connect to Jesus. It’s because of Jesus that we make sure the entire church service is welcoming to newcomers and presents the message of the cross clearly; that we invite newcomers to join us in community after the service and online; that we engage with them personally at a Connect Lunch; and to join a Growth Group at Creek Road.

Growth Groups are where we experience the closeness of family relationships, and grow in our relationship with Jesus through studying God’s Word together. Once you have attended a Connect Lunch, you will be invited to take this step of joining a Growth Group. You don’t have to be a follower of Jesus to join a Growth Group, it’s simply the next step in learning about him.

Serving together in Ministry Teams is another way we build our understanding of our connection with each other. At Creek Road we are not only a church of Growth Groups but also of Ministry Teams. Joining a Ministry Team is the next step in following Jesus together – and also a big part of our vertical pathway as kids, youth and young adults also serve in age appropriate ways.
Our Growth Groups are very important to us at Creek Road, growing our servant hearts together. They give us the opportunity to learn together from the Bible and to put it onto practice by caring for each other, praying for each other – and praying for others we’re trying to reach with the gospel. Our Growth Groups are our primary approach to pastoral care – prayer and care through sharing our lives.

At Creek Road, we’re a church of Growth Groups, not a church with Growth Groups. Being just a church with Growth Groups is an approach that says: ‘the groups are there if you want one – just for the keen ones’. Being a church of Growth Groups is an approach that says: ‘everyone needs to be cared for, and everyone has a role to play in caring for others’.

**THE PYRAMID**

_The Pyramid_ is a model created by Christian psychiatrist Dr John Warlow, that shapes the way we frame pastoral care at Creek Road.

The shape represents the groups of people who surround us, from our family members to work colleagues or school friends, to people we go to church with to the doctors we see regularly. The pyramid represents who we are with in life.

God is at the pinnacle of the pyramid regardless of whether a person is a Christian or not. Non-Christians often benefit from common grace that is available to everyone, but for Christians who acknowledge God as being the pinnacle of the pyramid, we can receive a ceaseless flow of grace, mercy, love and joy.

_For more detail on how we use the Pyramid, visit creekroad.org.au/using-pyramid-see-life/_
KIDS YOUTH YOUNG ADULTS

At Creek Road the goal for all our young people is to develop them into spiritually mature followers of Jesus. We want to help young people and their families connect with Jesus, and grow in their love and service of him. So in every step of a young person's development we seek to help them Connect, Grow & Serve in age appropriate ways, from babies through to young adults.

KIDS

At Creek Road we love kids, because Jesus loves kids. All our kids ministries are about helping kids and families connect with Jesus and grow in their love and service of him. We take the safety of kids seriously. All our leaders have blue cards & have done child safety training. We have a thorough sign in/out process for all kids.

Kids Church

Kids Church is a fun & engaging kids program run at all our campuses. Each Kids Church team has a bunch of committed leaders who love Jesus and love kids. Kids Church is for all kids up to grade 6.

All kids start in the service with their families before heading out to Kids Church. Kids Church starts with some big group time before heading into their Kids Growth Group where kids grow in following Jesus together with their leaders. Our Kids Church material is integrated with what the whole church family is doing, so we can all be on the same page as we seek to follow Jesus together.

You will find Kids Church at:
Carina: 9:00am
South Bank: 4:00pm
Springfield: 10:30am

Kids Connect

Kids Connect is a fun & interactive free kids program that points kids to Jesus. Through games, songs, bible stories and activities the kids are shown what it means to truly follow Jesus. It is the ideal place for kids to invite their friends along so they can have a great time, but more importantly find out about Jesus. Our Kids Connect team has a bunch of passionate leaders who love Jesus and love kids. Kids Connect is for kids from Prep to Grade 6.

You will find Kids Connect at:
Carina: 5:00-6:30pm, every second Friday during term (check the web site for details). Family dinner afterwards.

Playtime Connect

Playtime Connect is a mid-week ministry for families and their small kids. It as much for the parents as for the kids. We provide a safe place for children and their families to grow through play, stories, and music. It is a place where families can connect with each other, connect to the church, and connect to Jesus. Playtime Connect is for families with kids from birth up to when they start school.

You will find Playtime Connect at:
Carina: Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30 – 11:30 am

For more about any of our kids ministries contact: kids@creekroad.org.au | 3398 4333
YOUTH

Creek Road Youth is a dynamic youth community that has a diversity of young people following Jesus together. All our youth ministries are about helping youth connect with Jesus and grow in their love and service of him.

Youth Connect

Youth Connect is a vibrant and engaging youth program designed to introduce young people to Jesus. Our youth community gathers as one to celebrate Jesus together through songs, creativity, interactive activities, Bible talks & discussion.

You will find Youth Connect at:
Carina: Friday, 7:00 – 9:30 pm at the ministry centre (Check the web site for details on which weeks Youth Connect runs). Family dinner before.

Youth Growth Groups

Youth Growth Groups are the cornerstone of our youth ministry. These are small groups of young people that meet regularly with their leader to explore God’s word and follow Jesus together. We have a passionate team of youth leaders who share with their Youth Growth Group not just the gospel, but their lives as well. As well digging into the Bible, they will also have fun times together and even serve together. Our Youth Growth Groups material is integrated with what the whole church family is doing, so we can all be on the same page as we seek to follow Jesus together. Through our Youth Growth Groups we pray God will change the world, one disciple at a time.

Youth Growth Groups are for anyone of high school age.

You will find Youth Growth Groups at:
Carina: Sunday, 4:00 – 6:00 pm
South Bank: Friday Night
Springfield: Friday Night

For more about any of our youth ministries contact: youth@creekroad.org.au | 3398 4333

YOUNG ADULTS

The heart of Young Adults Ministry are Young Adults Growth Groups. Young Adults Growth Groups will work in a similar way to adult Growth Groups, following the same integrated material the whole church family is doing. They also organise socials, weekends away and basically do life together.

They are led by older men and women who can challenge and disciple young men and women to grow Servant Hearts and let the gospel of Jesus influence every area of their lives.

When they move on from Young Adults, people will join an existing adult Growth Group.

You will find Young Adults Growth Groups at:
Carina: Wednesday 7:00 pm at the ministry centre
Springfield: Tuesday 7:00 pm in a local home

For more about any of our young adults ministries contact: youngadults@creekroad.org.au | 3398 4333
At Creek Road we see that the issue of membership goes hand in hand with ‘SERVE’. To be a member at Creek Road is to be ‘a partner in the gospel’ (Philippians 1:5). To be a member is to be a player on God’s team, not a spectator. We all have a part to play. At Creek Road we call our members ‘Ministry Partners’. Being a Ministry Partner is also a great way of expressing our interdependence as a church family—we need each other! Some people are understandably wary about membership, perhaps due to past experiences or a concern that the church not be worldly.

In reality however, the way of the world is increasingly towards independence. There is in fact something beautifully countercultural about committing to a church family in this way. Romans 12:5 reminds us that in the body of Christ "each member belongs to all the others". Being a Ministry Partner, of course, is not what makes us Christians or members of God’s family—only the cross does that. But the cross certainly teaches us the importance of sacrificial service and commitment to each other.

Connecting, Growing and Serving aren’t just steps we need to take for ourselves. They are ongoing steps in how we serve others. They embody what it means to be a member – a ministry partner – at Creek Road.

CONNECTING WITH OTHERS
At Creek Road, while we have a Connect Team who greet people and follow up newcomers, we are all the Connect Team. We all have a part to play welcoming newcomers among us on Sunday. We all have a part to play sharing the gospel with unbelievers in our lives. We can all just ask our friends and family to come along to church to hear the gospel any Sunday. Ministry Partners serve through connecting with others.
GROWING WITH OTHERS

At Creek Road we are all the grow team. Devoting ourselves to growing together in Growth Groups is another vital way that we serve each other. Growth Groups are a key part of our New Community following Jesus at Creek Road. We have a vision for Growth Groups where we really commit to growing together and sharing life together. We have a vision for continually planting new Growth Groups as we welcome in new members to our groups and then see new groups needing to start as a result. Ministry Partners serve through growing with each other.

SERVING WITH OTHERS

At Creek Road we are all the serve team. What does it mean for you to serve at Creek Road? Serving is a great way for you to grow. Serving in a Ministry Team is a great way for you to develop relationships with others beyond your Growth Group, and grow your connection and appreciation of our new community.

Our serve ministry is all about Jesus. Serve is about growing Servant Hearts as we serve Jesus together; matching Servant Hearts and hands with needs; matching God-given gifts with opportunities to serve. Serve is about being open to new challenges and discovering new gifts as we serve Jesus together. The mission to reach our city is too big for pigeon holes. It’s too big for us to believe there is only one way we are gifted. There is more than one way we can serve Jesus!

GIVING FOR OTHERS

What does it mean for you to give at Creek Road? Having a heart for giving sums up what our Connect Grow Serve pathway is all about. Giving is not one more step tacked on at the end. Giving is a crucial way we live out having our life changed from an eternal pathway to death to an eternal pathway to life. Changed hearts, Servant Hearts, are giving hearts. Giving ourselves to God. Giving ourselves to others.

As we’ve read, if you call Creek Road your home, it would be great if you regularly, and prayerfully reviewed how you are giving – of your money, your time, and yourself. The information below will help you think about your financial giving. We suggest that you go through this process annually, or if your financial situation changes.

- Read 2 Corinthians 8 & 9
- Pray
- Review your budget (a simple weekly or fortnightly budget tool is available at creekroad.org.au/give)
- Start your new giving (see creekroad.org.au/give for details on how you give).
In 2018, what step forward might you take as a follower of Jesus? What step might you take to grow to maturity in Jesus? Everyone has a key next step to take on our journey following Jesus.

What is that next step for you?

In our ‘Love My Church’ series at the end of 2017 we learnt that every one of us has a part to play:

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.
– 1 Corinthians 12:27

As we turn to Luke’s Gospel in 2018 in our ‘The Way Home’ series, we’ll hear Jesus picture ‘playing our part’ as walking a path following him. We’re called to a journey which is the same journey Jesus walked:

Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

The New Testament is rich with this imagery of the Christian life as a walk – step by step growing to maturity in the Christian life – walking in the steps of Jesus, keeping in step with the Spirit:

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. – 1 Peter 2:21

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. – Galatians 5:21

At Creek Road, our vision to ‘Reach the City and Reach the World’ is all about making Jesus’ invitation real in our own lives as we invite others to join us on the journey following him. We don’t just ‘attend’ church. We certainly aren’t just ‘consumers’ of Jesus. We are followers of Jesus, walking in his steps. We learn from his journey to the cross, graciously saving us, what stepping forward in love looks like.
We pray that 2018 will see us take a huge step forward in our vision. This step as a church will best happen if every one of us, together, take at least one small step forward. We are better together. And when a whole church steps forward together as followers of Jesus, big things can happen by God’s grace. Big things in your personal growth. Big things in our growth together. Make it your goal this year to take a step forward in following Jesus.

In 2018 we want to make it easier for you to take these steps through establishing ‘Next Steps Teams’ who will be available for you to talk to before and after every service at each of our campuses. They will be able to point you in the right direction to follow through with the step you want to take.

In 2018 will keep teaching from the Bible and calling for actions which reflect the priorities of following Jesus. We will keep telling stories of people modelling such steps. The Next Steps Team will be there to help you join the journey.
EVERYONE HAS A NEXT STEP THEY CAN TAKE. WHAT’S YOURS?

**Joining Elvanto and Facebook Community Groups** – These are two important and different ways we keep in touch with each other. Join in, have a look around but know that no matter how helpful these are, they don’t replace our warm and loving face to face contact.

**Downloading the Creek Road App** – A gateway to great resources we produce at Creek Road. In the palm of your hand you’ll be able to read the Bible using Grow Daily, you’ll be able to refresh what you heard on Sunday by listening to a podcast or watching the video, prepare for Growth Group with an electronic version of the Series Companion or stretch your thinking with one of our blog posts.

**Meeting with someone to find out how to become a Christian** – every person who is a Christian heard the story of Jesus and what he has done for them from another person. If you’d like to talk with someone who has taken that step, or if you just have lots of questions – we have people who would be delighted to meet with you. Just let us know.

**Stepping forward to be baptised as a follower of Jesus** – This simple act marks the point at which you are seeking to declare that Jesus is your Saviour and Lord (or want to raise your children to do so). It’s a beautiful thing to share with friends and family and our church family love baptisms. We would love to talk this over with you.

**Being part of a Connect Lunch** - A great way to get to know Creek Road. Connect Lunches start with talking about Jesus because everything we do is about him. We then move onto how we seek to live for and serve him as a church. Lunch & childcare provided.

**Joining a Growth Group** - Growth Groups are the way we stay connected as a family, reading the Bible, doing life, serving together and having fun. Please let us know if you’d like to join a Growth Group & we’ll help you settle in.

The steps on these pages are some examples of next steps you might take. It’s not intended to be exhaustive, but designed to fire your imagination about possibilities as you step forward following Jesus.
Joining a Ministry Team

There are many Ministry Teams at Creek Road. There is a place for everyone to help. To get to know you, we sit down & chat through your experience, skills & what is happening in your life – we then match what you have shared with the current ministry needs. We call this a Serve Interview – let us know if you'd like to chat about serving.

Becoming a Ministry Partner - Membership

- If you have been a part of Creek Road for some time and would like to find out more about joining in a formal sense, please let us know and we will make a time to chat through that. You can read more about membership on page 23.

Starting to give

- Giving money to the work of Creek Road is part of our response to what God has done for you and how you seek to live for him. We can show you a couple of ways to sort this with your financial institutions, but worth thinking about as you start giving would it be worthwhile to chat through things like, how much, how often and cheerfulness? Let us know what would help.

Increasing your giving

- Circumstances change and from time to time we have more capacity to give. Once again we can help with the detail of how to increase your giving and if you would like to chat with someone about how to increase your giving but you can't see how your budget will survive – we can do that as well. Let us know.

I'm keen to be trained for more ministry involvement

- Sometimes you just know that you need to know more. If you have arrived at that decision or if you'd like to more about deeper training in ministry – let us know.

Making the most of opportunities to invite friends and family to church

- There are lots of ways that we can help you as you invite people to church. There are different ways that might be enticing to them, what makes it easier for newcomers to walk through the door and ways to help them see the possibilities that flow from meeting Jesus and his people? Come & have a chat.

Steps Desk

- Making the most of the opportunities to invite friends and family to church. There are lots of ways that we can help you as you invite people to church. There are different ways that might be enticing to them, what makes it easier for newcomers to walk through the door and ways to help them see the possibilities that flow from meeting Jesus and his people? Come & have a chat.
WE BELIEVE THAT GOD INVITES PEOPLE HOME THROUGH GROUPS OF PEOPLE WHO GATHER AROUND THE GOSPEL AS ‘THE BODY OF CHRIST’. WE CALL THOSE COMMUNITIES — THOSE LITTLE GATHERINGS OF PEOPLE WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS — CHURCH. GOD’S MISSION TO THE WORLD HAPPENS THROUGH CHURCHES. A FEW YEARS AGO AS WE CONSIDERED THE BEST WAY TO REACH OUR RAPIDLY GROWING CITY — WE BECAME CONVINCED THAT OUR CITY NEEDS MORE CHURCHES.

WE’RE ALSO CONVINCED THAT GOSPEL MINISTRY HAPPENS IN TEAMS — THAT WHOLE CHURCHES WORK TOGETHER TO SHARE IN GOD’S MISSION, AND THESE CHURCHES APPOINT AND SEND PEOPLE WHO ALSO WORK TOGETHER. WE SEE THIS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT WHERE PAUL NOT ONLY PLANTS CHURCHES WITH ‘CO-WORKERS’ BUT ALSO WRITES LETTERS WITH THEM. WE SEE TEAM MINISTRY AS BOTH THEOLoGICALy AND STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT; AND YET, WHEN NEW CHURCHES ARE PLANTED THIS HAS OFTEN INVOLVED MINISTERS BEING SENT OUT SOLO.

THESE CONVINCIONS ABOUT CHURCH AND TEAM LED TO BOTH OUR ‘MULTISITE’ AND OUR ‘TEAM PREACHING’ APPROACH TO REACHING OUR CITY. IN 2013 WE MADE THE TRANSITION FROM BEING ONE CHURCH MEETING IN ONE LOCATION, TO BEING ONE CHURCHES MEETING IN THREE LOCATIONS. THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO PLANT CHURCHES AND TO PROVIDE TEAM SUPPORT IN THOSE SITUATIONS — AND CHURCH2CHURCH IS SHAPED BY THOSE SAME CONVINCIONS, BUT THIS MULTISITE APPROACH TO GATHERING IN OUR CITY AND WORKING TO REACH OUR CITY AS ONE CHURCH IS, WE BELIEVE, A WISE WAY TO SEEK TO PARTICIPATE IN GOD’S MISSION TO REACH GREATER BRISBANE WITH THE GOSPEL.

THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING PART OF ONE OF OUR CAMPUSES IS MUCH LIKE THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING PART OF ANY CHURCH COMMUNITY — PEOPLE SERVING ONE ANOTHER, PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL TOGETHER, MEETING IN GROWTH GROUPS DURING THE WEEK, AND SHARING IN ONE ANOTHER’S LIVES AS WE GROW TOWARDS MATURITY AND WORK OUT WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW JESUS IN THIS CITY... BUT IT SHOULD ALSO BE THE EXPERIENCE OF ENJOYING THE FRUITS OF A SHARED REALITY; OF BEING PART OF A BIGGER TEAM.

GOD HAS BLESSED OUR COMMUNITY WITH SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES — HUMAN RESOURCES, PROPERTY AND GENEROUS PEOPLE — AND MULTISITE HAS BEEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO MULTIPLY THE IMPACT OF THAT PROVISION. EACH OF OUR CAMPUSES BENEFIT FROM THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE GOD HAS GIFTED OUR CHURCH WITH — OUR KIDS AND YOUTH MINISTRIES AND OUR GROWTH GROUPS ENJOY THE FRUITS OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO WRITE AND EDIT OUR TEACHING MATERIALS, SERIES COMPANIONS, AND ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR TEAM PREACHING APPROACH.

WE ARE ONE CHURCH, UNITED BY ONE KING, PARTICIPATING IN ONE MISSION, AND WE MEET AS THREE COMMUNITIES IN THREE LOCATIONS. THIS MISSION SHAPES THESE COMMUNITIES IN DIFFERENT WAYS — BY THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE UP EACH CAMPUS, BY THEIR LOCATION, SIZE AND STAGE, AND BY THEIR PASTORS. THESE DIFFERENCES AREN’T A THREAT, BUT PART OF THE RICHNESS OF MULTISITE. IT’S NOT A ONE SIZE FITS ALL MODEL, AND YET WE’RE ALL CONNECTED. OUR CAMPUSE PASTORS AND MINISTRY PARTNERS NOT ONLY ENJOY THE SHARING, SUPPORT AND TRAINING THAT COMES FROM A WIDER TEAM, BUT ALSO ENJOY INVESTING THEIR GIFTS BEYOND JUST ONE LOCATION.

THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS WE’RE STILL FIGURING OUT IN THIS MULTISITE APPROACH TO CHURCH; WE’VE MADE MISTAKES, WE’VE LEARNED FROM MISTAKES, AND WE’RE NOT CLAIMING PERFECTION... BUT WE’RE ALSO DISCOVERING NEW POSSIBILITIES AND NEW BENEFITS, AND WE’RE SEEING THE FRUITS OF THIS APPROACH IN LIVES THAT ARE BEING TRANSFORMED AS PEOPLE TAKE STEPS TO FOLLOW JESUS AND GROW TOWARDS MATURITY BECAUSE THERE ARE CHURCH COMMUNITIES MEETING IN SPRINGFIELD AND SOUTH BANK THAT WOULDN’T BE THERE IF NOT FOR THE GENEROSITY OF SERVANT HEARTED PEOPLE MOTIVATED BY THE GROWTH OF OUR CITIES TAKING THESE STEPS.
STEPS FORWARD FOR CHURCH2CHURCH

Church2Church is a separate entity to Creek Road, but is intrinsically tied in goals, vision, and philosophy. It is an extension of the Creek Road Partner church network, and was set up to focus on supporting and resourcing church establishment and growth. It combines church resources – created by churches – and mentoring to support church leadership growth – provided by church leaders.

The Church2Church story began in the late 90s when Steve Cree was sent to regional NSW to plant Southern Cross Presbyterian Church in Lismore. He found himself thrown into preaching each week, answering pastoral needs, chasing up kids and youth curriculum, sourcing music and media, writing bible study resources and wrangling technology. Needless to say he felt a little overwhelmed. But Steve’s story is not a unique one. Every week, pastors in churches all around the country are living the same story. We are not good walking the ministry path in isolation. We are better together.

The Creek Road Partner Church ministry was developed to help with the resourcing of these smaller churches, and to date has partnered with 31 churches around Australia and Ireland. But there’s still so much more that can be achieved. And with Dave and Kathy Thurston joining the Church2Church team in 2018 – with over 30 years ministry experience, especially in mentoring and church consultancy – we’re taking big steps forward.

Church2Church will take the partnerships of Creek Road to another level – not just resourcing, but mentoring, coaching, and supporting smaller churches, as well as collaborating with larger churches as they partner with, and contribute to the collective resources.
What will it look like for our Carina Campus to step forward together to ‘Reach the City and Reach the World‘ with the gospel of Jesus in 2018? How can you play a part in this, as we step forward together in our love for Jesus?

This year, we have a special opportunity right on our doorstep. Across 2018 we will have several hundred new neighbours moving into the new ‘Minnippi Estate’ Housing Development, just up the road from the Ministry Centre. Many of them will have moved in by Easter. Many more by Christmas. How might we love them?

Jesus invites us to love our neighbours:  

* Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ – Matthew 22:37-39*

We don’t yet know who these new neighbours might be. We know they need Jesus. We know that Jesus calls us to love them with his love. We have a small team starting work on how we might make ‘Reach the City, Reach the World’ real – through reaching these new neighbours with the gospel. It will be exciting to see this story unfold – please:

- Pray the story – pray for open hearts among our new neighbours.
- Follow the story – as we share updates across the year.
- Join the story – we’ll be sharing ways you can get involved.
- Live the story – consider how you might love other neighbours in your life in the same way.
Personally, I’m looking forward to spending some Sunday afternoons knocking on doors in the Minnippi Estate – meeting these neighbours. But it also makes me think of the neighbours in my own street and neighbourhood who also need Jesus. It gets me thinking about how I might love them. It prompts me to pray for them – and to look for opportunities for God to answer that prayer.

As you read through the ‘Everyone has a next step to take: what’s yours?’ vision piece, hopefully there are a number of steps that grabbed your heart. The last on the list is by no means the least: ‘Making the most of opportunities to ask friends and family to church.’ I hope that focusing on loving our new neighbours in the Minnippi Estate will help us all love all the neighbours in our lives. Who else might you invite to church?

Pray also that we’ll be ready for these neighbours when they come to church. Pray:

- For our Connect Team – and for all of us to be ready to welcome newcomers among us.
- For the Facility Upgrade Team as they work on making our facilities more welcoming.
- For all our Ministry Teams as we seek to make the gospel of Jesus clear every week.

What a great privilege we have to love our neighbours with the love of Jesus

STEVE CREE
Senior Pastor

next steps for carina
It’s been interesting thinking about ‘next steps’ for church in terms of a child growing up. Creek Road South Bank turns four in 2018. That means we’re moving from toddler to running and climbing on things, and thinking about school. I know this because my son Xavi is just a little bit older than South Bank. In our early years at South Bank we’ve been trying to figure out who we are, how to relate to our family, and how to communicate with the people around us in ways they understand. We’re growing up, and so gaining clarity about who we are, and even imagining what we might be when we grow up (Xavi wants to be a builder).

God has gathered people to South Bank from many nations, ages, suburbs, cultures, with a variety of languages, education, employment, issues and interests. We’ve seen many people become Christians — especially Iranian refugees — and are facing the sort of growing pains you’d expect in a community where there are lots of different people figuring out what it means to follow Jesus together. God has also generously supplied us with Christians who are committed to the mission of the Gospel, and keen to see people growing up in Jesus. Now, we’re at a key developmental point in the life of a no-longer-newborn church where the next steps are a challenge because we all have to decide what we want to be when we grow up together — how much we want to grow, and how we’re going to make the costly changes required.

Our vision is to be a church that is growing by reaching the lost. We want to grow by proclaiming the Gospel in word and action in Brisbane’s inner city — to do this we’ll also need more mature Christians (and to be growing and training them) participating in this mission, on the ground and in prayer.

A new year brings a new home for us. After years meeting at the Queensland Theatre, and a few months at Opera Queensland, we’ve landed in a partnership with LifePlace Church in West End. West End is having its own growth spurt, and figuring out what this means for its identity and sense of community; there’ll soon be thousands more people living on our doorstep, but we’re also still very much a ‘city church’ not just a church for this suburb, and this new home is set up to help us reach the city and show hospitality to our neighbours, both local and from throughout Greater Brisbane and we have use of it on Sunday afternoons and midweek. To do this our church community needs to have a sense of
connection to the community we’re trying to reach. In our first four years we’ve sought to build connections to the local community through partnerships with organisations like Micah Projects and the Hope Street Cafes. These connections continue to provide opportunities for us in terms of physical space to use, and also demonstrate our concern for the needs of our neighbours, especially those at the margins of our city. Our diverse church community means many of us already belong to different local communities as we live, work, and play. One of our challenges is to turn these relationships we have as individuals into genuine connections with our church community, to multiply the opportunities we have to share and proclaim the love of Jesus to people who don’t know him, in genuine relationships.

Deepening and widening these relationships is an important ‘next step’ for us as we think about reaching the city and reaching the world. The other big ‘next step’ is in growing our capacity as we grow up in the Gospel through Sundays, growth groups, training and serving in ministry teams, and in more deliberate one-to-one relationship.

NATHAN CAMPBELL
South Bank Campus Pastor

next steps for south bank
This year marks four years since we began as Creek Road Springfield. We’ve come a long way since beginning as a revitalization project, and we’re now a small team growing as a small church in a big city.

Greater Springfield has a growing population of more than 35,000 residents, and that number is on the rise with housing developments in Springfield, Springfield Lakes, Springfield Central, and Springfield Rise. Over the last couple of years we’ve watched the completion of a number of big building projects – the Orion Lagoon, the Mater Private Hospital, and the Aveo Retirement Village.

All of this is to say that there’s great opportunities for the gospel here in our city. While Greater Springfield grows, God’s growing his church to meet the needs in our city. God’s growing us to be a church with a heart for Jesus, growing the heart of Jesus. Jesus’ heart was set on seeking the lost – so that’s our heart too.

To reach our city, it will take every one of us playing our part to serve together as a team on mission. As a small church, we need to keep praying that God might send mature Christians to join the mission. But we also want to be faithful with what God has already given us, with the gifts we share and the resources we have, to work hard at making an impact for the gospel.

Across 2017 I’ve seen God working to grow us deeper as a community through Sundays, Growth Groups, serving in ministry teams, and one-to-one relationships. I’ve also seen us maintain an outward focus to welcome people in and invite people to find a home among us. Since moving to the USQ Auditorium we’ve had more visitors than any other year previously. How might we reach people in our community in 2018, and especially people who step through our doors for the first time?

One next step for us in 2018 is to foster deep connections with the people in our community we’re trying to reach. Personally, it gets me thinking about friends, family, and neighbours who don’t know Jesus. But it also gets me thinking about how to turn those personal relationships into genuine connections with people in our church community, to increase the opportunity for people to hear about Jesus through our witness together.

As you read through this vision document, please pray about next steps you might take this year and about what part you might play in our church, so that Jesus’ name would be seen as great in Greater Springfield.

JOSIAH WILSON
Springfield Campus Pastor
MINISTRY PATHWAYS

Creek Road is a training church. Just like a teaching hospital teaches and trains medics to go out to the world, we aim to teach and train gospel workers to go out to the world.

We want everyone to be taking steps on the ministry pathway, wherever they are. We believe the biblical picture of training is:

1. **Done in relationship** – person to person, one to one, heart to heart; the picture of how Paul invested his life in training Timothy.
   
   And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others – 2 Timothy 2:2.

2. **Done as church** – it is the core of the life of a church – the whole church is to be a body in training for ministry. It is for every member of the church, and it is by every member of the church.
   
   Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him 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 4:15-16

3. **For the whole person** – training is holistic. It is training the head, the heart, and the hands. Training is too often focused on knowledge (head), without the flow onto heart, and without the outward application.

4. We believe that *Pastors and Ministry Leaders have a special role to play* in delivering this training:

   Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. – Ephesians 4:11-12

5. We believe that *all Ministry Partners are workers in God’s harvest*. Our Pastors and Leaders are committed to training and equipping them. Indeed, we believe there is a need to pray that God will raise up more such workers for the gospel.

   He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. – Luke 10:2

At Creek Road our training is structured through 2 main arms: the growth groups arm, and the ministry teams arm.
Galen Rangiawha  
Ministry Trainee 2018

We came to Creek Road about 4 years ago. At my serve interview, I told the team I would “go where the need is”, thinking I could use my skills as a chef on the morning tea roster, or physical labour in the garden or something. The last place I wanted to be was in kids ministry.

But the need was in kids ministry, and the church needed leaders for Kids Connect on Fridays. At the moment I am a leader on Friday afternoons, and the 3 / 4 boys leader at Kids Community Connect in the June - July school holidays. I have a bunch of kids that are on the fringes, and marginalised at school. I love that they can come here, and just be who they are, without being told they need to be quiet, or sit still. We try to provide a safe place, where they feel loved, and can just be. One of my kids was so anxious, he couldn’t get out of the car to go to school, but he can come here and just be safe, and his mum has noticed a change in him.

I think God has used this ministry to soften my heart for Kids. I asked one of the other leaders why she does it, and she said “I just look out on all those kids and I don’t want any of them to be separated from God”... Now I look out on all of them, and I just want them to be with God.

Chris Pine first shared the idea of the ministry traineeship with me, and I thought he was joking. But a few weeks later, Steve and Andrea approached me about it. I was at a cross roads, having just had surgery on my shoulder, I couldn’t go back to work for a while. I started my Certificate IV in youth work, thinking I could go in that direction. But then God presented me with the opportunity to do this traineeship.

I love Creek Road – I can feel God working here – and I am excited by the idea of being part of the team.
The away game

The Bible tells us that we will be joined in heaven by a multitude from every nation. What an exciting vision of our future. Through our Cross Cultural Connect ministry we will continue to support and invest in gospel ministry around the globe, particularly in South East Asia and the Pacific, in ministry to people from the Middle East and to international students. 10% of our giving is allocated to Cross Cultural Connect.

We are excited to continue partnering with our Cross Cultural Connect Team serving Jesus in many places and in many ways. We support people working in places like Tanzania, Taiwan, the Phillipines, South East Asia, Fiji, & Japan as well as on university campuses in Brisbane reaching the many foreigners studying here.

The home game

In recent years it became increasingly apparent to us that Cross Cultural Connect does not have to mean leaving our shores. People from many cultures are coming to us. This presents an incredible opportunity to share the gospel with people from other cultures, for their lives to be transformed, for their hearts to start beating for Jesus, and for many of their friends and family to encounter the gospel through individuals living changed lives, speaking from changed hearts here in our city.

In 2014, Ryan Dehnert joined the Cross Cultural Connect team to concentrate on developing relationships with people from the Middle East, and in particular those from Iran and Afghanistan. To date, the work of Ryan and his team has developed initiatives such as Farsi readings at our South Bank campuses, Iranian bible studies before the sermon to help Farsi speakers understand more of the teaching, and strategies to help non-english speakers connect.

CROSS CULTURE CONNECT PARTNERSHIP

Reaching the city and reaching the world are never competing priorities. They are overlapping. We are passionate about reaching the lost in Australia, and beyond. At Creek Road we view cross cultural connect in 2 ways – the away game, and the home game.

Help people from a cross cultural background move across ethnic and societal boundaries to connect, grow, and serve with Jesus, and Creek Road.

Sending, caring for, supporting, and encouraging cross cultural connect partners, as they take the gospel to other cultures and other countries.
**John + Kay Rowse**

**Tanzania**

John and Kay Rowse serving with the Uhakika Christian Education Trust Fund in Tanzania under the umbrella of the Lutheran Diocese of Konde. John gives ‘Assurance of Salvation Seminars’ in churches throughout Tanzania for lay people, students and seminary students. He is training successors to take over when he eventually retires. He is also extensively involved in radio ministry, reaching areas not accessible by other means.

**Ash + Kim Hood**

**Thailand**

Ash and Kim Hood serving with the Baptist Student Centre in Thailand by teaching locals English and sharing the ‘Good News’ with anyone they come in contact with, and helping establish new churches through relationships developed with Thai students.

The task in sharing the gospel in Bangkok is so large it involves more than 100 teachers and trainers from many denominations.

**Tala-Andig Outreach Program**

**Phillipines**

Tala-Andig Outreach Program in partnership with Paul and Debbie Howells ministering to the Tala-Andig and Higaunon people in the Philippines. Creek Road supports indigenous mission on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines – a number of full time staff, over 70 male evangelists and over 30 female RE teachers (part-time) – to 4 unreached people groups (including 2 in Muslim areas). TAOP is overseen by Australian missionaries Paul and Debbie Howells.
Steve + Saeko Manders

Japan
Steve and Saeko Manders serving with OMF in Bibai in the Sorachi area of Hokkaido in northern Japan. They support various small churches in the area in their outreach ministries and programs. It is not an easy ministry and developing meaningful and trustworthy relationships is difficult.

Tim + Jeanne

South East Asia
Tim and Jeanne serving with CMS in SE Asia seeking to build long term relationships with people so they can share Jesus with them. They are using their skills in Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy to help them connect. Having ministry experience in a similar region they recognise the deep spiritual needs that are present in the local people and are reliant on on-going prayer and financial support.

Linda McKerrell

Taiwan
Linda McKerrell serving with OMF in Taiwan. Linda is part of a ‘Bible storytelling Church planting team’ in southern Taiwan. They look for groups of locals to share Bible stories with and help train local Christians to be more effective in evangelism and discipleship using Bible stories.

Keith + Kathie Benn

Wycliffe
Keith and Kathie Benn serving as Bible translators with Wycliffe. They have worked with the Dang Tharu people in Nepal, with the Bontoc people in the Philippines and now Keith is the Wycliffe Australia Bible Storytelling Coordinator as well as Academic Coordinator for four translation projects in South Asia.

He works closely with Serampore College in India developing bachelor and master degrees for training mother tongue Bible translators. Kathie is involved in Member Care for Wycliffe in Queensland. Keith & Kathie are members of our Carina campus

James and Honoria Brennan

AFES Brisbane
James and Honoria Brennan serve with AFES working with international students at the University of Queensland, developing relationships, providing support and introducing them to the Lord Jesus. Their joy is seeing people, come to faith, grow and mature in their faith and serve God by witnessing to other students.

Ma’afu Palu

Tonga
Ma’afu Palu ministering in Tonga. Rev. Dr. Ma’afu Palu is Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies at the Sia’atoutai Theological College in Tonga, teaching Old Testament, New Testament and the Biblical languages. He received his PhD from the University of Western Sydney through Moore Theological College
HOW WE COMMUNICATE

Communication is a vital part of being a community – and that is what we are, a community of believers. There are a number of ways that we communicate and build community.

**Elvanto**

This is the main platform through which we keep you updated on all that’s happening around our Church. It acts as our church directory, our ministry rostering system, our church calendar, and our community noticeboard. If you haven’t connected on Elvanto, talk to one of our Connect Team Members.

**Creek Road News**

This is a weekly email newsletter that comes out on Thursdays. It contains all the goings on at Creek Road, including church family prayer points, church news, events, serve opportunities, stories from the week, and notices. If you aren’t receiving this, talk to us about whether your details are correct in Elvanto.

**Facebook Communities**

Each campus has a Facebook group set up for their individual congregations. This is a great place to get a group together for dinner on a Saturday, talk about Sunday’s talk, place prayer requests, and share what’s going on. To get included on the Facebook group, talk to one of the Connect Team Members.
RESOURCES

Grow Daily

Alongside meeting in our Growth Groups, another essential way we can grow is through daily personal Bible reading and prayer. Daily study of God’s Word further builds each person’s relationship with Jesus. It’s not always easy to get started or keep on track with this important daily habit. ‘Grow Daily’ makes it easier.

GROW DAILY is an App based devotional resource that follows the teaching objectives of the sermon series. Through Grow Daily people are encouraged to learn and apply the same truths in their lives on a daily basis. Grow Daily is a resource designed to help us dig deeper into the Bible passages we are being taught from in our Sunday services and in Growth Groups.

Each day digs deeper into a small section of the passage for the week, or explores some of the background material from other parts of the Bible. It includes reflections on the passage to help you think through the implications of the Gospel, and its application to your life, some further reading suggestions from the Bible, and a prayer so that your time spent being spoken to from God’s Word becomes a conversation with God.

You can subscribe through the website, or use the Creek Road App.

Creek Road App

The Creek Road App is the place to go to catch up on talks you’ve missed, get our Daily Devotionals – Grow Daily, access an electronic version of the series companions, read blog posts, and more. [insert download details]

Vodcasts & Podcasts of the talks

If you missed the talk on Sunday, or you wanted to remember something that was said, we record the talk and provide videos and podcasts each week.

Series Companion

The series companion is just that – your companion for the series. It usually provides some introductory, contextual, and background information on the series; a place for you to take notes from the bible talk, Grow Daily, or reflections; the material to discuss and work through in your growth groups; and a spot to write down prayer points. Your growth group leader will provide these to you at the beginning of each series.

Family Growth

An engaging way to include your whole family in growing servant hearts, Family Growth provides age appropriate, inclusive activities that help teach the big ideas each week. These can be found in your Series Companions, or as the Grow Daily for Sunday each week.

Spotify Playlists

If you want to listen to the songs we sing in church, we have set up Spotify playlists of songs we sing in church, songs we sing in kids church and songs we sing at Playtime Connect. Just search for “Creek Road”.

43
who?

STAFF TEAM

Ministry Executive Team
Steve Cree – Senior Pastor
Tim Collard – Ministry Operations Manager
Andrea Pryde – Connect Grow Serve Pathway Director
Chris Pine – Kids Youth Young Adults Director

Preaching Team
Nathan Campbell – Campus Pastor, South Bank
Josiah Wilson – Campus Pastor, Springfield
Peter Yock – Music Pastor
Ryan Dehnert – Cross Culture Connect Pastor
Phil Strong - Campus + Partner Church Development

Kids
Tom Fittell – Kids Pastor

Youth
Matt Mansfield – Youth Pastor

Media
Vicki Meehan – Graphics & Media Manager
Kristi Hanger – Events Manager

Operations
Janet Sutton – Finance
OUR BOARD

**Chairman**
Phil Strong

**Senior Pastor**
Steve Cree

**Elders**
Des Soares
Tim Hewlett
Wes Fittell
Mal Griffin (on leave in 2018)

**Managers**
Abel Immaraj
Dylan Byrne
Kerrie Dahler
Sandra Hinrichsen
Steve Currie

CHURCH2CHURCH

Dave Thurston - Mentoring Consultant
Kathy Thurston - Church Consultant
Emily Andrews - Business + Planning Manager
2018 CALENDAR

**Term 1**
- Staff retreat
- Kids, Youth, Young Adults Leader’s retreat
- Youth Leaders/Parents breakfast
- The Way Home (Luke 1-6) series start
- Youth Growth Groups start
- Youth Connect start
- (February 2, 9, 16, March 2, 9, 16)
- Youth Camp
- Youth Grow Weekend
- The Gathering
- Share A Meal (all campuses)
- Term 1 finishes
- Good Friday
- Easter Sunday

**Term 2**
- Youth/Young Adults Cross Cultural Exposure Trip - Woorabinda
- Ministry Dinner
- Waiting for the True King series start
- Youth Growth Groups resumes
- Youth Connect resumes
- (April 27, May 11, 25, June 1, 8)
- YNET Conference
- Youth Grow Weekend
- Term 2 finishes

**Term 3**
- Kids Community Connect
- Ministry Dinner
- The Way Home (Luke 7-9) series start
- Youth Growth Groups resumes
- Youth Connect resumes
- (July 27, August 3, 10, 24, 31, September 7)
- The Gathering
- Youth Grow Weekend
- Share A Meal (all campuses)
- Term 3 finishes

**Term 4**
- Spring Holiday camps
- Ministry Dinner
- Youth Connect resumes
- (October 12, 19, 26, November 9, 16, 23, 30)
- Who Am I series start
- Youth Team Meeting
- Youth Growth Groups resume
- Youth Grow Weekend
- Grade 12 Adult Connect Course
- Last Youth Growth Groups
- Grade 12 Graduation
- Christmas Carols
- Christmas Eve
- Christmas Day

TEACHING SERIES

**2018**
- Term 1- The Way Home (Luke 1-6)
- Term 2- Waiting for the True King (1 Samuel)
- Term 3- The Way Home (Luke 7-9)
- Term 4- Who Am I (Christian Identity)

**2019**
- Term 1- The Way Home (Luke 10-19)
- Term 2- Waiting for the True King (2 Samuel)
- Term 3- The Way Home (Luke 20-24)
- Term 4- Faith at Work