

Legacy



make room at the table

BUILDING & MISSION | 2026

CONTENTS

WELCOME LETTER	3
GENEROSITY THAT MULTIPLIES	6
KIDS UPDATE	8
CREATIVE DEPARTMENT UPDATE	9
GENERATION UNLIMITED UPDATE	10
SISTERS UPDATE	12
THE STORY OF CHARMHAVEN	14
HOPE GLOBAL	16
HOPE LOCAL	22
LOCAL CAMPUS UPDATES	26
FAUNCE STREET PROJECT	40
LEGACY FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	42

Join us in making a difference

Our annual Legacy and Missions Offering will be received over two weeks, on Sunday 21st and Sunday 28th June.

HOPEUC.COM/AU/LEGACY



Dear Church Family,

Here we are again, Legacy season, and we are oh so grateful to God for the privilege of serving Him alongside each one of you.

We have had a remarkable year. However, it has not come without its challenges. Yet God, in His majesty, remains completely faithful, growing us deeply to completely and prayerfully depend on Him.

Towards the end of last year, one of the great prayer warriors in our church sent us a scripture with the note, "Not sure why these verses, but maybe you know!" As soon as we read these verses, they jumped inside of us:

Isaiah 60:22 NLT (the prelude to Isaiah 61)
"The smallest family will become a thousand people, and the tiniest group will become a mighty nation. At the right time, I, the Lord, will make it happen."

At the right time. In other versions, we unpack this word to mean "suddenly", and this word leapt like fire in our bellies

In the Bible, suddenly does not mean randomly. It means divinely timed. God is always at work behind the scenes, preparing hearts, aligning circumstances, building character, so that when He moves, His purpose is accomplished fully and clearly. And all the glory goes to Him.

Suddenly is what we experience.

Preparation is what God has been doing all along.

We read in Acts 2:1-2: *"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting."*

Some of the most spiritual work you will ever do is staying and waiting when nothing seems to be happening.

Acts 2 begins quietly: *"They were all together in one place."* No spotlight. No microphones. No momentum. Just obedience.

They stayed when it would have been easier to scatter. They waited when urgency screamed, "Do something!"

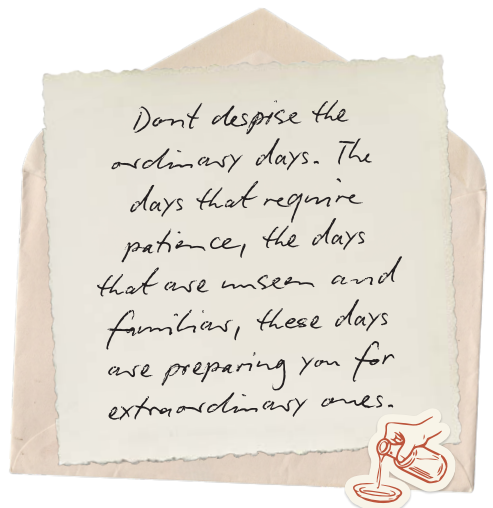
Waiting is not passive.

Waiting requires faith, even under pressure.

Scripture is filled with moments when God breaks into ordinary life and changes everything in an instant, and we see the Bible use this word "suddenly" again and again.

Suddenly chains fall off. Suddenly doors open. Suddenly lives are transformed.

God is never rushed, never late, and never early. But when the time is right, He often moves suddenly.



Scripture shows us a pattern:

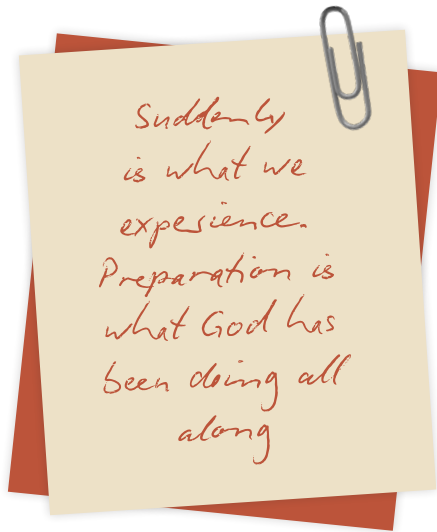
God works slowly to shape us.

God works suddenly to deliver us.

And both are expressions of His love.

2 Peter 3:9 (NLT) *“The Lord is not slow about keeping His promises... He is patient for your sake.”*

We read in Ecclesiastes 9:11 that the race is not for the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise. It goes on and then says that time and chance happen to them all.



It almost paints a picture of us just needing to be one of the lucky ones to walk in the miraculous, to experience our own “suddenly”. But when we dive into the Hebrew on the words “time” and “chance”, the root word for “chance” here is *pega*, which means to make intercession, to pray.

This scripture actually means that being in the right place at the right time is a result of a prayerful life and the Lord’s orchestration, intercession and providence.

Where is the right place? That’s our part to play.

Where are you when it comes to being in the Word?

Where are you when it comes to being in prayer?

Where are you when it comes to living with hope and expectation, right where you are?

When is the right time? That’s God’s part. He says, “I will make it happen.”

How to be in the right place for suddenlies? We don’t want to ever be prescriptive about what God will or won’t do, but we know His character, and the Word of God continually presents us with promises from the heart of God Himself for our lives lived in Him.

Sudden breakthroughs are usually preceded by steady obedience.

Hebrews 10:36 NLT *“Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God’s will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.”*

So family, don’t despise the ordinary days. The days that require patience, the days that are unseen and familiar, these days are preparing you for extraordinary ones.

Sometimes we miss the “suddenlies” because we get so focused on the one big thing that we miss the fact that God Himself has been working all along to see that all things work together for good, for our good and His glory.

God invites us to ask boldly.

Jeremiah 33:3 (NLT)

“Ask me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come”

Matthew 7:7–8 (NIV)

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

God doesn't anoint perfection, He anoints availability, and He says we can ask Him to move mountains.

God hasn't changed. His power hasn't diminished. And your suddenly may be closer than you think.

In that upper room, the disciples didn't manufacture the moment.

They didn't hype it.

They didn't plan the fire. They waited.

They obeyed. They stayed.

And suddenly, God did what only God can do.

Hear this clearly:

God never intended obedience without empowerment.

He never asked us to carry His calling without His presence.

So we pray, we believe, we watch, we step out, we wait, we obey, we prepare, but it is God who brings about the divine timing for the things He is speaking to our hearts. Suddenly. Remember, He says that He will do it at the right time.

The same fire that marked those disciples in the upper room still marks His people today.

Remember, God didn't light the room, He lit the people.

The Spirit didn't come to improve them, He came to transform them.

The same God who moved suddenly then will move here and now.

Jesus said, "How much more will your Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask."

We pray this Legacy magazine encourages your faith and gives you more visibility around some of the things that we are involved with on a day-to-day basis as a church family. We are expectant and believing God for continued suddenies.

We love each of you and pray God's richest blessing over your lives,

Ps Mark & Darlene

Legacy



Generosity that Multiplies

From the very beginning, God designed His Kingdom to multiply through seed. What may seem small in our hands can become something significant when placed in His.

BY MARK ZSCHECH



Generosity is not just something we do, it reflects who God is

From the very beginning, God designed His Kingdom to multiply through seed. What may seem small in our hands can become something significant when placed in His

In Mark 4:26–29, Jesus paints a picture of how the Kingdom of God works.

A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself, the soil produces a harvest.

That's what the Kingdom is like.

In your life, in my life, and in the life of HopeUC, we often see things growing, yet we don't fully understand how or even why. We do our best, we sow what we can, and we trust God for the increase. Still, there is always a sense of wonder in it.

Darlene and I love gardening. It still amazes me that I can put a single sugar snap pea into the ground and end up with bowls of harvest from that one seed. I am part of the process, but I cannot make it happen. Even as I learn more, I am still in awe of how it works.

That is God's system at work. Built into creation is generosity.

We see this right from the beginning. In Genesis 1:11–12, God reveals His nature. Every plant produces seed according to its kind, with more seed inside it. From the start, God designed His world to multiply.

You could call it generosity. You could also call it legacy, making sure the future has more ability to sow than the present.

We may not fully understand every aspect of how God's Kingdom works on the earth, but we can understand this:

Sowing triggers Kingdom timing.

If you want a Kingdom outcome, start by sowing a seed.

Imagine a future where our church, HopeUC, becomes known for a wave of generosity that goes far beyond our walls. Not just within our community, but into our cities, across our state, and even into our nation.

That kind of future does not happen by accident. It takes a people willing to sow seeds for outcomes they may not even see yet. It takes faith. It takes trust. It takes all of us.

It feels like a Kingdom endeavour to me. Count me in.

That's why we are choosing to start with what we have. One simple step has been offering free coffee at our Sunday services. It may seem small, but it is a seed. It is generosity in action, open to anyone and everyone.

And that is how the Kingdom works.

You take what is in your hand, and you sow it.

You may not fully understand how it all works, but God does. And it is His plan to multiply what is sown in faith.

So the invitation is simple.

Would you ride this wave with Darlene and me?

Sow what you can, with what you have.

And trust God for the harvest.

Legacy is our opportunity to sow together.

What we place in God's hands today will shape the future of our church, our communities, and the generations to come.

You don't need to have it all figured out. Just start with what's in your hand.



Kids Update

Over the past year, we have continued to intentionally champion families in discipling their children. We know that what happens on a Sunday is powerful, but it is only part of the journey. Faith is formed daily, in homes, conversations, and moments that matter.

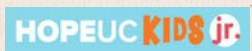
That is why we remain committed to equipping parents with practical tools and confidence to lead their children in faith beyond the walls of church. We are seeing a growing hunger from families who want to build strong spiritual foundations, and it is a privilege to walk alongside them.

We are incredibly grateful for our Kids leaders and volunteers across every campus. Week after week, they show up with faith, creativity, and genuine care, creating spaces where children feel known, safe, and excited to be part of church life. Their investment is shaping lives, and it does not go unnoticed.

Across our campuses, we are seeing a strong focus on creating meaningful and memorable moments for kids and families. Children are growing in their understanding of who God is, learning to hear His voice, and experiencing the presence of the Holy Spirit in real and tangible ways. Families are being strengthened, and kids are not just participating, they are helping shape the culture of our church.

Last year, our kids raised over \$10,000 through our Legacy bake sales, helping fund 290 Hope Carrier backpacks. These are more than school supplies, they are practical support and a message of dignity and hope for children in need. It has been incredible to see our kids step into generosity, learning that they can make a real difference in the lives of others.

As we look ahead, we believe God is continuing to raise a generation who know Him, love His Word, and walk confidently in who He has called them to be. It is a joy to be building a church where children are not the future, they are a vital part of what God is doing right now.



Creative Department Update

Across HopeUC, our Creative teams have stepped into a fresh season of bold faith, new leadership, and a growing sense of God's presence moving through creativity.

Christmas remained a highlight, with our teams part of Carols of the Bay in Port Stephens and the Central Coast Carols in Gosford. These moments reflected a beautiful unity across churches, as creatives came together to declare Jesus to our communities.

At the start of 2026, our GU teams led worship at Summer Camp, and in Charmhaven a Kids Band now leads worship monthly in our Sunday Kids program. Across Port Stephens and Peninsula, new leaders have stepped into key roles, building on the strong foundation already in place.

In February, our teams gathered for Creative One in Charmhaven with Ps Chardon Lewis. It was a significant moment of surrender, prayer, and fresh vision. In that same week, the song "Suddenly" was written by Scotia Emmett and Ps Danny Moses, capturing the sound of this season.

Easter brought a powerful creative expression, with foyer art galleries across our campuses featuring works from artists within our church. These spaces helped people pause and reflect on the beauty of Jesus

Throughout the year, Local Team Nights have continued to strengthen community through training, connection, and worship. A recent Zoom with Ps Darlene also brought fresh encouragement and vision to our teams.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for Worship School in August and September, our first since 2020, with a strong expectation for deep encounters with God and fresh creativity.

We are also seeing more creatives stepping out beyond the church, carrying their gifts into the wider world. There is a real sense that God is raising up people to carry His presence and reflect His glory through creativity in these spaces.



Generation Unlimited Update

What a significant 12 months it has been across Generation Unlimited (GU) Youth. We want to begin by honouring and thanking every one of our youth leaders across all six campuses. Their faithfulness, sacrificial, and consistency is the reason we continue to see such incredible growth. Week in and week out, they are investing into young people, creating environments where faith can grow and lives can be transformed, and we are so grateful for each of them.

This year has been marked by growth in every area. We've seen the highest attendance we've ever had, the most new young people connected into youth, and the greatest number of salvations in a single year. It has been amazing to see so many young people not just attending, but making real and lasting decisions to follow Jesus.

One of the most encouraging highlights has been the growth of GU Life Groups. We are now seeing more groups than ever before, with young people gathering in homes, opening the Word of God, and stepping into genuine discipleship. There is a clear shift happening, where young people are not just engaging on a Friday night, but are taking ownership of their faith and walking out a transformative journey with Jesus alongside their peers.

We are also seeing powerful momentum build in high schools. Young people are stepping out boldly, starting Bible studies, reaching their friends, and carrying their faith into their everyday environments. What is happening in schools is beginning to flow into our Friday

nights, and it is clear that this generation is rising with a desire to take their schools for Jesus.

Our January camp was our biggest and most impactful yet. Across the week, we saw over 500 young people on their knees, crying out to God and responding to Him in powerful ways. It was a defining moment for many, and we are already seeing the fruit of what God did there continue throughout the year.

One story that captures the heart of what God is doing is a young man who walked into one of our youth ministries and gave his life to Jesus. Not long after, he came to camp and made the decision to be baptised. At his baptism, his family came along and witnessed the transformation in his life. That moment became a turning point not just for him, but for his whole family. Since then, every one of them has given their life to Jesus. They are now part of our church, growing in their faith and loving Him. It is a powerful reminder that one life changed can impact an entire family.

As we look ahead, we would love the church to continue to stand with us in prayer, particularly for greater impact in our high schools through SRE. We are believing to see more of our youth leaders and church community step into schools to teach scripture, build connections, and continue opening doors for young people to encounter Jesus.

Thank you, church, for your ongoing investment in Generation Unlimited and for standing with us as we believe for all that God wants to do in this generation.

GU

SPEAK
SPEAK
SPEAK

GENUINE TO



Sisters Update

The Sisters of HopeUC are continuing to grow, not just in number, but in strength, prayer, support, unity, and authority. Across our campuses, we are seeing women from every stage and season of life gathering week after week, on Wednesday mornings and at Sisters at Night. It has been truly life changing for those who are part of it.

There is something special happening in these rooms. Women are coming as they are and finding connection, encouragement, and a deeper confidence in who God has called them to be. It is an invitational space, a “there is a place for you here” space, where women are learning from one another, building genuine relationships, and discovering how they can be a blessing to others in their world.

And at the centre of it all, we pray. Not out of routine, but with faith and expectancy. Something shifts when women come together and contend in prayer, for one another, for our families, and for our nation. We are seeing the miracle working power of God move in ways only He can, both in the room and beyond it.

So know this, you are always welcome to come and take your place at the table of the Sisters of HopeUC. There is a place for you always.

With love,

Darls and the Sisters team





Legacy

*Oh to leave a footprint
on the earth
that speaks of
kindness
and inclusion*

*where hope is
the
thread of gold
linking age
to age*

*for generations yet unborn
to reap the benefits
of those
who planted seeds of
generosity*

POEM AND ARTWORK BY ANNETTE KELSEY

The Story of Charmhaven Campus

Legacy That Started with a Yes

John and Joan Pennicook were educators who loved God and faithfully served in their church. When they were baptised in the Holy Spirit, everything changed. A deeper, fresh passion and sense of mission was ignited, and after prayer and seeking God, they said yes to an invitation to start a church on the north end of the Central Coast.

A group of dedicated pioneers began to meet monthly in a lounge room to pray and plan for the birth of Northlakes Christian Life Centre. The first service was held in Gorokan High School Hall on Sunday 1st February 1987. Regular services started four months later. The church wasn't polished or perfect, but it was full of faith and excitement. There was a family culture of "all hands on deck", setting up chairs, sweeping floors, and building something from the ground up.

Reaching the Community with Hope

In the early days, a prophetic word had been given that the church would be a lighthouse to the community. From the outset, John and Joan carried a conviction that the church should not stay hidden. They made themselves visible in the local community, one that

faced very real challenges of poverty, brokenness, and high youth suicide rates.

In one of the earliest outreaches, 50 people made first time commitments to Christ, and the church of 30 suddenly doubled.

Faith to Build What Didn't Exist

In those early years, the church met in various locations but carried a vision to own a property. They moved from the school hall to an indoor sports centre, then into a leagues club hall. Each location came with the challenges of renting a multi-use facility, but each one also built momentum.

Through consistent giving and what was called "miracle offering", the church was able to purchase land in 1992. Years later, in June 2000, the building that is still used today was completed and officially opened. The dream had become a reality.

Owning property changed everything. It was not just a place for Sunday services, the church became a safe space for the community during the week. Youth ministry thrived, and the church served the community through many initiatives.



The Story of Charmhaven

Scan QR code to watch the full Legacy Story of Charmhaven Campus with John & Joan Pennicook



As the church matured, the vision expanded. From local mission to global impact, they partnered with churches in Sri Lanka, sending teams, resources, and practical support.

The Legacy Continues

Today, almost 40 years later, the story of Charmhaven is still unfolding. The church continues to grow, expanding across campuses and reaching more people than John and Joan ever imagined.


This story isn't just history, it's a reminder that God moves through ordinary people who say yes. He builds through faith, not perfection.

And what starts small can impact generations.

The legacy of HopeUC Charmhaven is not just a building, or a moment in time. It's people. It's faith.

It's a church that chose to believe that the best is still ahead. Friends, the story is not yet finished.

What could God do with your yes?



God moves through ordinary people who say yes. He builds through faith, not perfection.

Hope Global Australia

As we reflect on this past season, I want to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude for your faithfulness, wisdom, and shared commitment to the mission of Hope Global. Across nations, projects, and partnerships, we continue to see both stability and momentum. This is a testament to God's provision and the stewardship of a generous church. Across our mission partners, we are seeing resilience, fruitfulness, and strong alignment:

Ukraine

Wayne and Olya Zschech have transitioned out of local church pastoring but remain at the centre of pastoral and practical support within their community, and through their leadership with Operation Mobilisation. We continue to prayerfully prepare for a significant, long-term rebuilding project as opportunities emerge.

Philippines

The Buchanan family has stabilised following a challenging season. Their church plant has now merged with a tribal church group, and their focus continues to strengthen around training and supporting local pastors and churches.

Vietnam, Cambodia, Georgia

The Hilton family continues to minister across multiple regions, caring for and training field workers. We remain prayerful for protection, fruitfulness, and clarity in future direction.

Vanuatu

We are building strong partnerships with the AOG National Executive, supporting their Eight Nations vision over the coming years.

Rwanda

Fruits of Hope School continues to grow under Fred's leadership. Recent on-ground engagement with architects and key stakeholders has strengthened plans for the Rwanda Leadership Centre. There is a real sense that God is opening doors as we move forward.

Sri Lanka

Momentum continues to build, particularly through the impact of the Ahlokaya Women's Conference. There are clear opportunities for ongoing partnership and expansion in ministry.

India

Church planting, Project Simara, and Hope Carrier continue to expand their reach and impact. We are encouraged by the growth and the opportunities ahead.

Recent Project Investments

Over this past season, we have been able to invest into key initiatives, including:

- Door to the Nations, Pakistan Crusade, seeing significant gospel impact
- Support for the Sri Lanka Women's Conference
- Fruits of Hope, Rwanda, student sponsorships
- Bali Life Flood Appeal
- Sri Lanka Flood Appeal
- ACCI Christmas Appeal supporting child-focused projects

Looking Ahead

GOING 2026 is now underway, with teams being prepared for Rwanda, Vanuatu, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Bali.

We are also continuing to strengthen strategic locations, including Thailand, as a base for church planting and Bible training. These moments are significant as we build into what God is doing across the nations.

Hope Global continues to move forward in a season marked by faith, wisdom, and growing influence. While challenges remain, we do so with confidence, grounded in prayer, strengthened by partnership, and compelled by the gospel.

Thank you for your prayer, your generosity, and your ongoing support. We are believing for even greater impact in the season ahead.

With gratitude and faith,

Stephen Brace

Chairman, Hope Global



PEAK HILL UPDATE

Our mission to Peak Hill continues to be a real blessing to the local community and surrounding churches.

Since 2021, we have consistently sent teams into the region, with well over 100 people now having taken part. What began as a step of faith has grown into a meaningful and ongoing connection. Through church ministry, community events, and our partnership with Engeti Ministry Centre, Morris and our key leaders have continued to build strong relationships and invest into the life of the region.

This year also carried a moment of deep loss with the passing of Aunty Pam Keed, a much-loved and respected figure in the community. She was a great encouragement to our teams and to so many across the region. Her life leaves a lasting legacy, and she will be deeply missed.

As a team, we move forward with gratitude for what God has done and with faith for what lies ahead. We are looking forward with anticipation to a combined regional gathering in August, believing it will be a significant moment of connection, encouragement, and shared vision

HOPE GLOBAL VANUATU

Maitland HopeUC has carried a long-standing connection with mission in Vanuatu. In this current season, there is a clear sense that God is leading us to refocus our efforts and strengthen key relationships across the nation.

In January, Ps Steve Bruce and Steve King travelled to Vanuatu to meet with the national Assemblies of God leadership and key church partners. It was a fruitful visit, bringing clarity and direction for the future. This includes expanding outreach into other islands and building stronger partnerships at a national level.

Looking ahead, a team will return in July with a focus on completing a church building project in Mele. Alongside this, the team will be actively engaging in outreach to youth and children, working through local churches and schools to strengthen and encourage communities.

There is a growing sense of momentum in Vanuatu, and we are expectant for what God will continue to do as these relationships deepen and the work expands.



HOPE GLOBAL DISCIPLESHIP AND TRAINING CENTRE, THAILAND

In February 2026, a team from HopeUC Nashville travelled to Chiang Rai, Thailand, to mark the opening of the Hope Global Discipleship and Mission Training Centre in Chiang Saen.

The team included Ps Dustin Smith, Ps Scott and Melody Norling, Lauryl Kurian, and Ps Steve Bruce. This moment represents the fulfilment of a legacy project first initiated by Ken Rideout and brought to completion by Ps Saripong in partnership with Hope Global.

Through Hope Global, the ministry centre and its accommodation facilities have been fully renovated, creating a space ready to serve the region. Located near the borders of Myanmar and Laos, the centre will operate as a strategic hub for training and ministry, equipping students and pastors across Southeast Asia.

During the visit, the team also officiate the opening of a new church building and ministered at a two-day summit, gathering around 100 pastors from Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar. It was a powerful time of encouragement, strengthening leaders who are faithfully serving across these nations.

As we look ahead, the next phase of this project will include the construction of faculty accommodation and dedicated women's dormitories, further expanding the centre's capacity to train and support those called to ministry.



HOPE CARRIER: MORE THAN A BACKPACK

Because of the generosity of our church through Legacy, HopeUC was able to sow over \$10,000 into Hope Carrier in 2025, and the timing could not have been more significant

Just as the supply of backpacks had run out in India, this giving made it possible to place a new order, ensuring distributions could continue into the year ahead. These backpacks are more than practical support. They are made by a local partner who employs marginalised women, meaning every bag carries both provision and dignity.

Through this contribution, HopeUC funded 1500 backpacks filled with school supplies. By late 2025, 225 had already been placed directly into the hands of children across rural villages in Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Gujarat, with the remaining bags being distributed throughout 2026.

Each backpack represents a child equipped for education, a family encouraged, and a community reminded that they are seen and valued. It is a simple gift, yet it opens doors for connection, care, and the message of hope.

This is the impact of Legacy.

Not just what we give, but what it becomes in the hands of others.

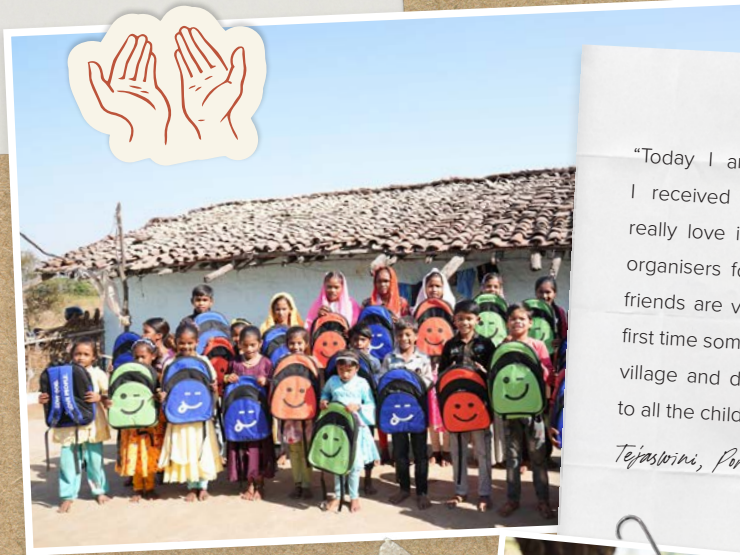
Stories from the field

"This village is also called Chenchu Gudem, where most people are from the Adivasi and Chenchu tribe. It is an underprivileged area, but today I am very happy to see the Hope Carrier team come and distribute bags to our children. This is the first time I have seen something like this done especially for children. I really love the quality and colours of the bags. Thank you Hope Carrier team and organisers for this initiative. God bless you."

Village Head, Narasimhulu, TG Gudem, Andhra Pradesh

"Hi my name is Meghana. I am 13 years old. First of all I want to thank the Hope Carrier team for blessing us with the new bags. I love the colours and the smiling faces on the bag, which reminds me always I can be joyful. I also want to thank Jesus for helping us to get new bags."

Ara Basti, Punjab



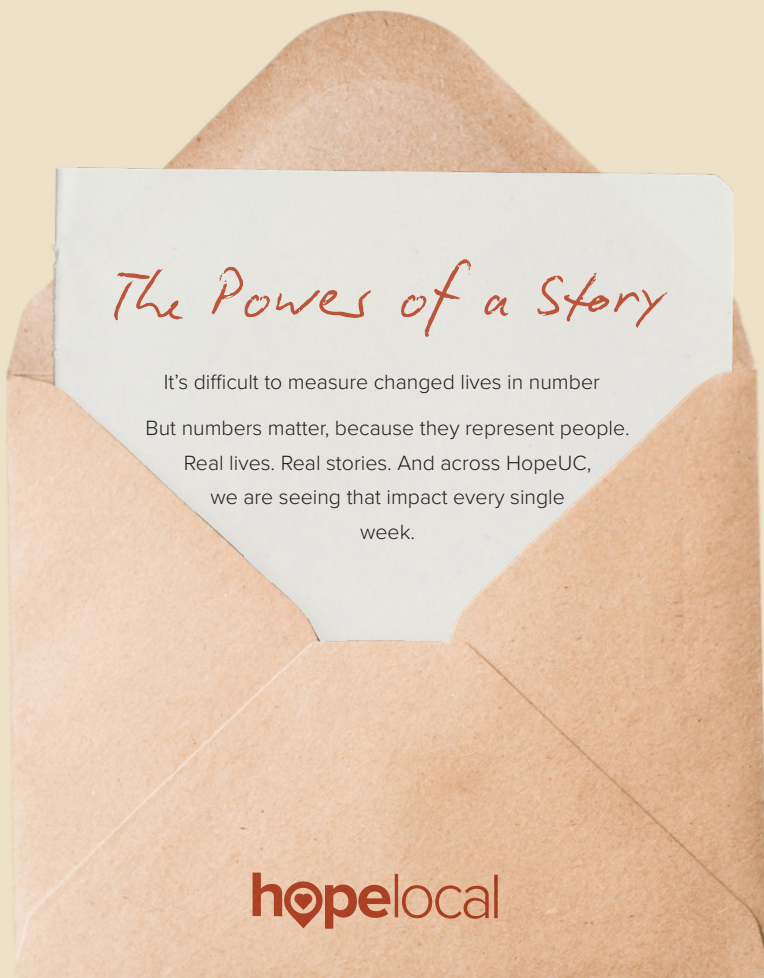
"Today I am so happy because I received this beautiful bag. I really love it. I want to thank the organisers for these bags. All my friends are very happy. This is the first time someone has come to our village and distributed bags freely to all the children."

Tejaswini, Pondi, Madhya Pradesh

"Thank you Hope Carrier for bringing bags and smiles to our place. Today my friends and I are very happy. We received new bags in different colours, especially during this Christmas season."

Vinay, student, Kakada, Gujarat





The Power of a Story

It's difficult to measure changed lives in number
But numbers matter, because they represent people.
Real lives. Real stories. And across HopeUC,
we are seeing that impact every single
week.

hopelocal

Hope Local Update

Each month, over 400 hampers of food and fresh produce are distributed across our campuses, along with well over 400 meals provided to those in need. Each year, around \$10,000 in electricity vouchers are given to support individuals and families doing it tough.

These numbers matter. But they only tell part of the story.

Because behind every number is a name, a moment, and a life being changed through the love of Jesus.

“Just to know that people care... with no strings attached.”

At Peninsula, a solo father of seven was referred to us through a local school after stepping into full responsibility for his children.

Through Meals of Hope, our team began providing regular groceries, fresh produce, and practical support. But more than that, they offered connection, encouragement, and a listening ear.

As trust grew, deeper needs were uncovered. Through pastoral care, counselling support, and connection to local services, this father began to move forward with hope for his family.

He shared that what impacted him most was simply knowing that people cared, with no strings attached.

Another father, also referred through a school, received support during a difficult season. Months later, he returned, completely changed. He asked if he could volunteer, wanting to give back after what he had received.

Because that is what kindness does. It restores dignity. It reflects the heart of God.

“Can we pray for you?”

At Newcastle, a young man walked into The Welcome Place after driving past the church many times.

He didn't believe in God, but something stirred when he saw a simple question on a sign.

He came in, shared openly, and asked for prayer for his mum who was in hospital. Our team prayed with him right there.

Later that week, he reached out to say his mum had come out of ICU. He and his brother had started praying together in the hospital chapel, and both were now open to coming to church.

In his words, “The praying goes a long way.”

Also in Newcastle, a young woman who first came for support is now alcohol free for over a year. Today, she serves others, helping distribute food and care to families each week.

What began as receiving help has become a life marked by purpose.

“The freezer has never been empty.”

At Gosford, Meals of Hope continues to reach families in some of their hardest seasons.

Through freezer meals and pantry hampers, families facing illness, including cancer, are reminded they are not alone. Volunteers deliver meals with gentleness and care, often pausing at the door to ask, “Can we pray for you?”

One mother began sharing her meals with three other families in need. Even in hardship, generosity multiplies.

And through it all, one quiet miracle continues, the freezer has never been empty.

At Maitland, women on house release began attending weekly while meeting with their probation officer .

They came for practical support, food, clothing, and connection, but what they found was love.

When they stopped coming, the team didn’t know why. Weeks later, one returned and shared that the others were planning to come back once they were released.

Seeds had been planted. Hope had taken root.

At Charmhaven, The Welcome Place has become a place of connection, care, and transformation.

Families are supported with food, clothing, and personal care, but what stands out most is the sense of belonging. People arrive early just to connect, to talk, to be prayed for, and to find community.

One woman, who came in a highly vulnerable and anxious state after leaving a difficult situation, began receiving practical support for her and her four children.

Through consistent care, relationship, and invitation, she started attending church. Over time, she made the decision to commit her life to Christ.

The most noticeable change was not just in her circumstances, but in her countenance. She carried a new sense of peace.

Her story is a reminder that meeting practical needs can open the door to lasting transformation.



“A gift of love.”

In Port Stephens, Hope Local supported a woman in her 80s who was unable to afford travel to attend her step son’s funeral. Through the generosity of the church, her flights and accommodation were covered, and members of the campus helped her get to and from the airport.

What seemed like a simple act of support became something much more.

During her trip, she shared her faith with others, leading people to Jesus, including a taxi driver and a family friend. On her return, she described the support she received as “a gift of love.”

A gift received became a gift given.

SRE Teachers

Across the Hunter and Central Coast, SRE teachers continue to make a meaningful difference by teaching the Bible in public schools. We are grateful for the many committed teachers serving across a number of schools as part of this important ministry.

Your Legacy giving helps provide vital resources, including booklets and end-of-year celebrations, that enrich and support this work.

This is Hope Local

It is the Church in action. It is the hands and feet of Jesus in our communities. It is ordinary people saying yes to God and watching Him do what only He can do.

As Jesus says in Matthew 25:35,

“I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.”

Every meal. Every conversation. Every prayer.

It all matters.

And together, as a church, we are seeing lives changed, one story at a time.



Port Stephens Campus

This year at Port Stephens has continued to be a strong testimony of God's faithfulness. We've seen steady growth, not just in numbers, but in depth, with more people stepping into life groups and growing in their faith.

One moment that captures the heart of this year was a girl who was met by some of our team at the shops. It was a simple conversation, but it opened a door. That same week, she showed up midweek, encountered Jesus, and made a decision to follow Him. Since then, she's continued to come to church, getting connected and growing in her relationship with Jesus. It's a reminder that one moment, one conversation, can change a life.

We've also expanded our facilities to make room for what God is doing, with new paving, extended undercover seating, and a new LED screen helping create spaces where people can gather and connect.



Our heart for local mission remains strong. Through Meals of Hope, we continue to serve practical needs across our region, building real relationships and creating opportunities to share the love of Jesus.

Right now, we sense God is building strength in the house. There's a growing hunger for Him and a deeper commitment to discipleship.

As we look ahead, we're believing for more. More salvations, more lives transformed, and more impact across our region.



Thank you, church family, for your faith, generosity, and commitment. The best is still ahead.

Chris & Tristen Klum

Campus Pastors

Charmhaven Update

A day we will remember forever, October 5th, 2025. Our Charmhaven Campus gathered at Norah Head Park, where we worshipped Jesus, shared in fellowship, heard the gospel preached, and baptised 63 people at Cabbage Tree Bay, all to the glory of God.

Since that day, another 15 people have been baptised.

What incredible days we are living in. People are making public declarations of their faith and going all in for Jesus.

Our Kids Ministry has launched a new Champion's space, with a wonderful team helping families come to Jesus and be seen and loved.

GU, our high school ministry, along with Young Adults, ages 18 to 30, continue to grow and reach more young people for Jesus. Discipleship remains the focus, and we are seeing significant growth, not only in numbers, but in maturity and devotion to Jesus.

Life Groups are a priority for us. Alongside Sisters, Brothers, and Discipleship, more and more people are stepping into community and growing in their faith through these spaces.

We have many fun Sundays, but one standout was Life Group Super Sunday. Most of our Life Groups gathered in some way, and it was incredible to see people meeting all across our church grounds. There were picnics, potluck lunches and dinners, gatherings in every available room, and groups connecting at the café next door after each service, continuing into the afternoon and evening.

We are also stepping into new ground. For the five Sundays in August, we will be holding an extension service in Morisset. Planning, preparation, and prayer are already underway for this new venture. With 22,000 people in the Morisset and Cooranbong areas, we are believing for God to move as we pioneer this next step.

Please be praying with us as we prepare and step forward.



Stephen & Jessica Bruce

Campus Pastors





Newcastle Update

This past year has been marked by growth, deep discipleship, and a steady sense of God at work in our HopeUC Newcastle faith community. We are so thankful for all God is doing across our region as people encounter His presence and take steps of faith toward Jesus.

Over the last 12 months, we have celebrated 136 salvation decisions and 156 people have attended discipleship. Each one represents a life being transformed and a story still unfolding. Our Wednesday night discipleship program has been a real highlight, with many people finding hope and growing in faith as they journey toward Jesus.

One story that stands out is a beautiful local businesswoman who joined our community from a Greek Orthodox background. Over the past year, she completed all three of our discipleship pathways, Follow, Freedom, and Future. It has been incredible to watch her grow in confidence and faith. Today, she is leading a life group and actively sharing the hope of Jesus with those around her.



This year, we stepped into launching our Lakes extension service. Each Sunday in the Teralba Community Hall feels like standing in a dream come true, a story God has been writing for a long time. What began as a step of faith has grown into a consistent faith community, with salvations, baptisms, and life groups forming as people find home and family.

Our SRE program continues to make an impact, with Scripture teachers now operating in six schools across the Lake Macquarie region. We are encouraged by the openness of young people to hear about Jesus and are believing for more opportunities to reach additional schools in the future.

Every Thursday, Welcome Place remains a steady lifeline for our community, with a faithful team serving food and groceries 50 weeks of the year. It is a simple but powerful expression of the love of Jesus in action.

We are so grateful for all God is doing in our church family. Thank you for your prayers and for walking this journey with us.



LAKES EXTENSION UPDATE

Since launching on Heart for Hope Sunday, February 8th, our Lakes service has been marked by genuine community and lives being transformed.

One of the biggest surprises has been the consistency. Week after week, a faithful group has gathered with hunger and expectancy. Families have found a home here, including several who had not been part of a faith community since COVID. There is something really special about watching people reconnect with faith, not out of obligation, but out of fresh encounter with Jesus.

Behind the scenes, our planting team has been incredibly committed, showing up early every week to set up and pack down in the Teralba Community Hall. We have been blown away by this faithful group who consistently create space for others to gather and encounter Christ. It is quiet faithfulness, but it carries real weight.

A standout moment was Easter weekend, when we held water baptisms in Lake Macquarie. Seven people publicly declared their faith in Jesus. It was simple, but deeply significant for our community, a moment we will not forget.

Right now, God is building something relational and steady. Six life groups have launched across the Westlakes area, creating space for people to be known, encouraged, and disciplined. We are also exploring opportunities to engage with local public schools, asking God to open doors to share the hope of Jesus in practical ways.

As we look ahead, we are believing for continued growth, more salvations, and a permanent home for our Lakes family. We are so grateful for your prayers as we keep stepping forward in faith.



Chris & Beth Gleason

Campus Pastors

Gosford Update

Easter Sunday at HopeUC Gosford was a defining moment for our community. We experienced record attendance, saw first-time salvations, and had the privilege of dedicating children to the Lord. One of the most powerful highlights was seeing 13 people publicly declare their faith through water baptism. Week after week, more people are saying yes to King Jesus, and we are witnessing more salvations and baptisms than ever before.

Behind these moments are real stories of God's faithfulness. One that has deeply marked our community is a young family who have been walking through significant health challenges with their one-year-old son. From the very beginning, our prayer team has faithfully covered this family, and the church has rallied around them with both prayer and practical support. It has been a powerful picture of what it means to be the body of Christ, a community that shows up, carries one another, and stands in faith together.



Right now, we are sensing a genuine move of God across the Gosford region. There is a strong draw towards salvation, with many people encountering Jesus in a real and personal way. Alongside this, we are seeing discipleship come to life, as seasoned believers walk closely with those who are new in their faith. There is a healthy and growing rhythm of salvation, discipleship, and baptism flowing through our Gosford location.

As we look ahead, we are filled with faith and expectation. We are believing for a permanent building, a spiritual home for the Gosford community. We know God is on the move, and we are expectant for what He will establish in this region in the days ahead.



Danny & Maddy Moses

Campus Pastors

Legacy



**ARE
YOU
NEW?**

*There's a place
for you here*

LEGACY & MISSION 2026 35

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Peninsula Campus

There is a powerful spirit of generosity alive at our Peninsula campus. It has been incredible to watch people not just give, but truly carry one another in practical and sacrificial ways. One beautiful moment that captured this was a young girl in our church who purchased a brand new car for a single mum in our community. In turn, that mum was able to bless another younger member of our church with her previous car. We have also seen life groups step out in generosity, giving above and beyond their tithe each week to create a pool of finance to support those in need. It is a living picture of the Kingdom, where generosity multiplies and flows through community.

This year, we have had the privilege of baptising 18 people from our congregation, many of whom have come through discipleship. These baptisms take place at our local beach, creating a powerful and public witness to our community. Families gather, friends come along, and moments unfold that only God can orchestrate. One story that has deeply impacted us was a young man who invited his parents to his baptism. They did not yet know Jesus, but as they stood on the beach watching their son take this step of faith, they were overwhelmed. Both of them gave their lives to Jesus that day, moved by what they saw and the love of the community surrounding their son.





Right now, there is a real sense of freedom across our Peninsula campus. In worship, in prayer, and in creativity, we are seeing people step into a fresh expression of faith. Our pre-service prayer gatherings are marked by hunger and expectancy, and each week we are seeing the Holy Spirit move powerfully among our people. We are also witnessing many prodigals returning home. People are walking past the building, feeling drawn in, and reconnecting with faith, often after time away. God is calling people back, and we are seeing lives restored.

As we look ahead, we are believing for Peninsula to continue to grow as a leadership development centre. We see people of all ages and backgrounds stepping into all that God has called them to be, both in the marketplace and in the life of the Church. There is a deep sense that God is building not just a gathering, but a sending place, where people are equipped, empowered, and released into their purpose.



Danny & Maddy Moses

Campus Pastors



Maitland Update

It's been so exciting to see all that God is doing in our Maitland campus. Sundays are vibrant, full of life, love and laughter. New people are walking through the doors each week, getting connected, building friendships and making HopeUC their home. We are seeing more and more young families settle in, with kids loving being part of Kids Church. Highlights have been beautiful baptism moments and powerful discipleship conversations that remind us why we do what we do.

Generation Unlimited (GU) has been thriving. The place is full of young people hanging out, having fun, worshipping together and hearing the Good News of Jesus. A huge shoutout to our Next Gen team who pour so much into these young people week in and week out.

Midweek, our campus is a buzz. We have opened our doors for combined church worship nights, rooms for counselling, playgroups, community hangout spaces and lunches, cooking teams and life groups. Our commercial kitchen is in use weekly, supporting Meals of Hope, Welcome Place lunches, catering events, school groups and local teams cooking for the community. We are so grateful for the space we have and the blessing it provides for so many.

Our heart is for the Maitland community. We are seeing more and more people reaching out for support through our Foodbank and meal programs. Two days each week, our team provides groceries, Meals of Hope, clothing, vouchers, showers and laundry for those in need. Our vision is to expand our community services to five days a week, meeting the growing needs of some of the most vulnerable in Maitland.

We are so thankful for the generosity of our church, both financially and through the giving of time, as we continue to see people's tomorrow become greater than their today.



Jay & Jody Gale

Campus Pastors



Faunce Street Project Update

We're excited to share that the HopeUC Faunce Street development has now progressed through the pre-DA design phase and has been formally submitted to the State Government for approval.

This is a significant milestone, and the project is now on the market for sale.

At the heart of this development is a much bigger vision.

As a church, we believe the fruit of this project will help secure a permanent home for our growing Gosford campus. It will also enable the strengthening, redevelopment, and expansion of our other six locations.

This is about more than buildings.

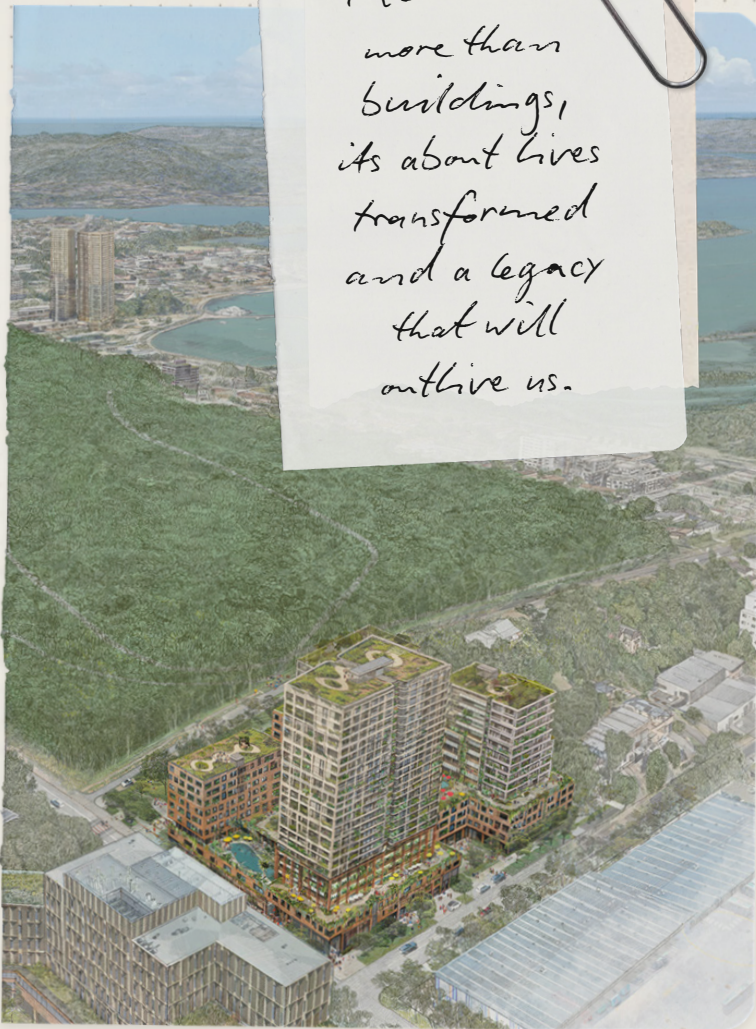
It's about creating spaces where people can encounter God, where communities are transformed, and where the message of Jesus continues to move forward across our region.

We are prayerful, expectant, and full of faith for what God will do in this next step, believing that what is being built now will serve not just this generation, but generations to come.

FAUNCE STREET CGI STREET VIEW



*This is about
more than
buildings,
its about lives
transformed
and a legacy
that will
outlive us.*



FAUNCE STREET CGI AERIAL VIEW

Legacy Financial Overview

JUNE 2025 – APRIL 2026

We are so thankful for the faithfulness and generosity of our church family across this Legacy season. Your giving has continued to strengthen our campuses, resource ministry, and extend our reach both locally and globally.

Because of your generosity, we have been able to step forward with confidence, investing into people, projects, and partnerships that are seeing lives impacted with the hope of Jesus.

LEGACY BUILDING

INCOME LEGACY BUILDING \$754,642

LEGACY MISSIONS GLOBAL + LOCAL

INCOME MISSIONS \$298,553

Because of your generosity, lives are being reached, campuses are being strengthened, and the hope of Jesus is moving through our communities and across nations.

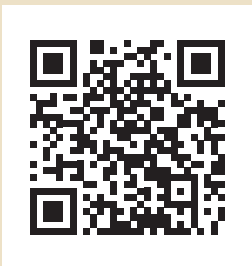
Join us in making a difference

Our annual Legacy and Missions Offering will be received over two weeks, on Sunday 21st and Sunday 28th June.

This special offering goes toward both our building projects and missions initiatives for 2026, and we invite you to prayerfully consider what part you can play.

Every gift, every sacrifice, every act of faith contributes to something far greater than ourselves, a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Let's continue building His Church and reaching the world together.



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**NOW ALL GLORY TO GOD,
WHO IS ABLE, THROUGH
HIS MIGHTY POWER AT
WORK WITHIN US, TO
ACCOMPLISH INFINITELY
MORE THAN WE MIGHT
ASK OR THINK.**

EPHESIANS 3:20 NLT



No place like home

Our annual Legacy and Missions Offering will be received over two weeks, on Sunday 21st and Sunday 28th June. This is our building and missions offering for 2026 and we ask you to prayerfully consider what part you can play.

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