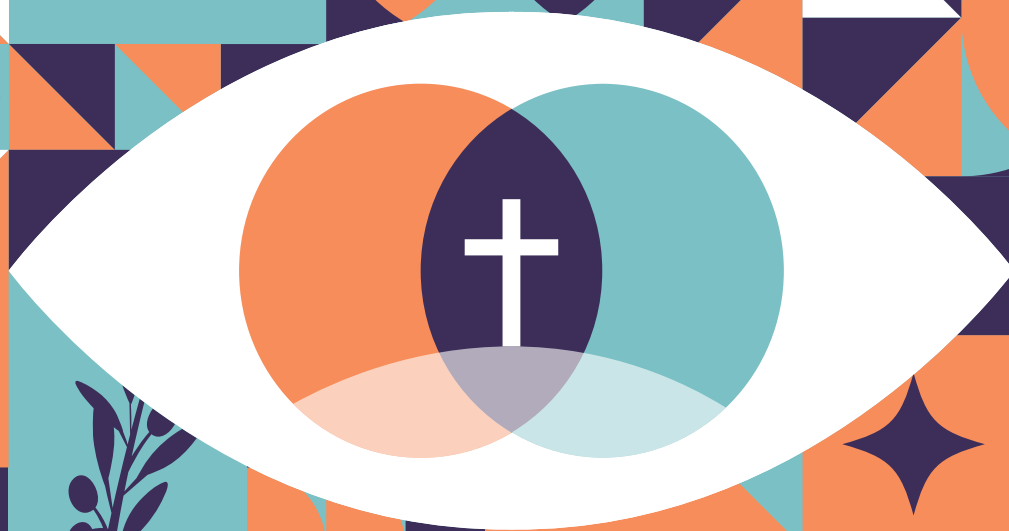


afes⁺
AUSTRALIAN FELLOWSHIP OF
EVANGELICAL STUDENTS



OnCampus 2023



Dear friends

When Martin Luther King Jr gave his iconic speech against racial injustice on 28 August 1963, he quoted Isaiah 40.

"I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, ... and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, ..."

This dream of Isaiah 40 was fulfilled when Jesus ultimately revealed his glory as Lord because of his death, resurrection, and ascension to his Father's side.

It is this momentous news that fuels our dreams for AFES.

By 2025 our prayer is that we will double our reach by proclaiming this gospel of Jesus in a clear and compelling way so that thousands receive him as their Lord and Saviour. Furthermore,

we are asking God to double our numbers offering themselves to take this gospel to the ends of the earth.

Only God can fulfil these audacious dreams. And by his grace, our prayer is that he will save these thousands through our National "Meet Jesus" Mission in 2024, and our feeble efforts to raise up many workers for his global harvest field.

Richard Chin
National Director

What's been happening in our

FOCUS ministry

Matthew Meek
Specialist - FOCUS

with **Brianna** - Apprentice
UOW (NSW)

During COVID, the number of international students in Australia dropped drastically. However since Australia's doors reopened, statistics show that we will surpass our 2019 peak.

Australian universities now have the highest percentage of international to domestic students in the world.

This is a huge mission-field for us as we seek to double the number of those who hear the gospel and are invited to trust in Jesus as Lord, and double the number of those who are willing to take the gospel to the nations.

Brianna, an Apprentice, shares an example of this:

I met Jane*, an international student from Chile. She had had significant experiences with many other religions, which clouded her understanding of Jesus. Through reading John's Gospel together, Jane came to greater clarity about Jesus as her Lord through learning how to carefully read God's Word. As we farewelled Jane, she shared how she had grown a love for reading the Bible to understand who Jesus is, and was keen to share Jesus and read the Bible with her family back home. We have put her in contact with a staff worker from GBU in Chile, praying that she will continue to grow in understanding the true gospel and remain eager to share Jesus with those around her in Chile.

(*name changed for security)



Thinking about Global Mission

Angela - Student
USyd (NSW)

As a young Christian, I gave little thought beyond my own immediate and provincial concerns – the task of global missions and the gospel's proclamation to the less-reached and unreached was something I never thought about. Yet, through university conferences and in conversations, I have been made increasingly aware of this need –

God has grown in me a tender concern for the lost.

To think there are those who have not yet tasted the goodness and riches I have found in Christ... I learnt that my vision for my life was not as big as Scripture's vision of the global plan for Jesus to be known.

The task of gospel-proclamation truly is the Christian's duty, and therefore I want my life's vision and mission to be aligned with Jesus' call to go and make disciples of all nations. To live for Christ for me means to put his global plan before my own, and I feel similarly to Jim Elliot as he wrote that "I have heard of nothing better..."

Until God clarifies my next steps he has been so gracious in providing me wonderful opportunities in Sydney University to do several ministries such as FOCUS at Evangelical Union, where I can serve international students and grow alongside them in love and knowledge of Jesus. This semester, I plan to be a part of an evangelistic team where we will do prayer, evangelism training and walk up within the university campus. Thinking longer-term, I have spoken to some mission agencies about my interest and desire to be a part of God's global mission. Whatever God's will, may it be that those who have never heard will hear the name of Jesus.

Gearing up for our 2024 National Mission

" I love AFES because
it's given me an
amazing supportive
community to step
out in my evangelism
and wear Jesus' name
proudly on campus. "

Abbey - Student

At the 2023 Jesus Week at Flinders University, there were many challenges, but it was so wonderful to see students prayerfully dependent upon God as they proclaimed Christ to their classmates and friends, with many on our campus hearing the gospel in clear and compelling ways, praise God! We now feel ready to start looking forward to 2024 and participating the *Meet Jesus National Mission*. We don't think having a national mission will be a silver bullet for the barriers to gospel proclamation on our campus, but we do think it will greatly encourage and help our students make Jesus known.

We are excited to see the way *Meet Jesus* will enable greater online gospel engagement, opportunities for partnership in our region, and provide encouragement knowing brothers and sisters all around Australia will be working together for the sake of the gospel.

Mike - Staff
Flinders (SA)

At the heart of each student group is the desire for more students to engage with Jesus, and more students to grow in their desire and ability to share the gospel. In 2024, we're aiming to do this together as a national mission, branded *Meet Jesus*. Here's some of the excitement from South Australian students about *Meet Jesus* next year.

MEET JESUS



Theo - Student

"I'm super excited about the National Mission because I know how much of an impact Jesus has had on my life. I'm really excited to hear how the gospel is reaching every state and territory across Australia. What better way to do this than as a national fellowship who want to see Jesus known and glorified."

Elijah - Student

"Knowing that so many people from across Australia will be joining in the National Mission, is such a great joy. Most of my friends from high school go to a different uni to me, but the National Mission means that even though they're not at my university, I can still invite them to the 'Meet Jesus' events that will happen at their uni."

Hearing about Annual Student Conferences from across the nation

Libby - Student
Deakin (VIC)

Amongst the spectacular mountain ranges of the Grampians, the Western Vic Summit was held in Halls Gap, Victoria. We explored the topic of union with Christ, with the talks focusing on passages such as: John 15, Romans 6 and Ephesians 1. We began each day with a manuscript discovery, 'Checking Out Colossians', growing in our understanding of the book together.

One of my biggest highlights from the camp was meeting and getting to know missionaries Anna and Lauren, both inspirational young women so keen to share the gospel overseas!

I also really enjoyed the community at the camp, from board games and hiking to worshipping together, everyone was so friendly and eager to learn. The time away was re-energising and a wonderful reminder of my purpose in Christ!

Ron - Student
Curtin (WA)

This year's Mid-Year Conference took place at Wattle Grove in the Perth hills. The topic was "Christ's death: my life" and in the main sessions we looked at Genesis 3, Mark 14, Romans 3, 2 Corinthians 5 and 1 Corinthians 1. One of the main activities for the conference was small groups, where we were given the opportunity to delve deep into John 19 with our peers.

One of my highlights for MYC was seeing how Christ's cross can be applied to many different aspects of my life, particularly in the area of self-denial. Another highlight for me was the missionaries who gave talks about their experiences and how they served God through missions. It has made me prayerfully consider going on overseas missions in the future.

Rebecca - Student
UTS (NSW)

Credo UTS explored the theme of 'Kingdom Come' at the annual Easter Time Convention, digging deeper into God's kingdom, His kingship, and citizenship in the kingdom. We looked in the Psalms, the gospel of Matthew, and Revelation to see that God is the king of all creation. How wonderful that those who have Jesus as their passport can have citizenship in the Kingdom!

In the community of the Kingdom, there is love and forgiveness, where Jesus' reign is displayed to the world.

**ETC was a glimpse into
the Kingdom community
at Credo and beyond:
many nations, people and
languages praising the King!**





Equipping FOCUS students

to return home with the Gospel

Ken - Staff
Monash (VIC)

Sarah* returned to her home country a few years ago after completing a PhD at Monash. However, finding work in her field of expertise has been difficult and has meant she had to take on different jobs that moves her from city to city. Despite this,

wherever Sarah goes she takes the Gospel with her, sharing it with the people that she meets and lives with.

We thank God for Sarah's love of Jesus and her passion for the gospel. Currently the city where she lives, is not very safe. This limits her ability to join her church fellowship groups. Sarah is discouraged by her circumstances as they are limiting her contact with people and her opportunities to share the gospel.

Sarah is just one of the many graduates facing challenging circumstances. We are thankful for her presence in our online Bible reading group. Through this group, she has been able to find encouragement and be reminded of her hope in Jesus.

Please pray that Sarah will persevere in trusting God's sovereignty and keep her sight on Jesus despite this period of uncertainty. Pray also that God will open a way for her to meet with other Christians in her city.

(*name changed for security)



Be Our Guest

For over 15 years, we have had the pleasure of hosting many of you, our supporters, at the AFES Guest Program.

The AFES Guest Program runs parallel to the National Training Event (NTE) which is a fellowship wide expression of campus ministry; namely the work of Jesus transforming the lives of university students.

This really is one of the best opportunities to

see firsthand the fruit of your prayerful partnership, to gain a deeper understanding of AFES

as we partner together toward our Mission and Vision, and a way to thank you for your continued support.

Please email me directly before the end of October if you are interested, have questions or would like to join the Guest Program.

Chrystal Buckingham-Jones
Financial Partnership Support Team Leader

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To all our supporters,
Thank you

Student ministry around the country this year still bears the consequences from the last few years: COVID lockdowns, students working out how to make friends again offline, international students returning and universities progressively expecting students back on campus. We have had student leaders graduating and groups having to work out how to adjust. One of the major adjustments has been replacing and training up leaders, so it was exciting to see an Apprentice create a group intentionally to raise leaders. God brought along two people to this group who did not consider themselves to be Christian. After one semester for the group, there are ten people confident and willing to serve as leaders and two new professors of Christ. You are part of making this happen.

Thank you for serving our Lord by caring what happens on university campuses, by praying and giving at a time when the temptation is to secure our financial future in this world alone.

May our Lord continue to enable us to partner together and as Luke 16 reminds us, we can look forward to the day when we will rejoice, welcome and be welcomed into our eternal dwelling.



Tracey Gowing
Assistant to the National Director

Know someone heading to uni?

You can help connect the next group of Year 12s with their local AFES group. These QR Codes will connect them to the uni group on their campus. Your personal recommendation makes a huge difference.



headingtouni.info



afes.org.au