

WHAT WAS

2024

EXPANSION

WHAT IS

WHAT IS TO COME

We live in an exciting time where Highlands continues to affect the world with the unchanging message of Christ. Together, through Expansion, we have continued to make a difference locally, nationally and around the world.

With our faith linked together with the power of the Holy Spirit, we can accomplish great things. In Acts 1:8, Jesus says “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth”. Our ‘Jerusalem’ is Toowoomba, Highfields, and Gatton. ‘Australia for Christ’ is our Samaria, through our movement of International Network of Churches (INC). Our the ‘ends of the earth’ this year is helping plant a school and church in Lake Lugarno in Switzerland, supporting mission work in Asia and the Middle East and creating a partnership with INC churches in Vietnam.

Expansion is about connecting our faith and vision together, it is not about the amount you give, it is about the heart of generosity. In Mark 12:42-44, Jesus made the clear distinction between faith and the amount of money given.

Generosity is a core value at Highlands, as it has been from the beginning of this Church. We all stand on the shoulders of the generous generations that have gone before us. What was a lettuce field in Middle Ridge, is now a vibrant Church and education facility. What is a block of farmland in Highfields will become a thriving church and education facility. What has been the prayers of people in Gatton, is beginning a life-giving church in the Locker Valley.

What was before has become the reality of what we see today. We are always humbled and amazed at what God has done, and we are excited for what is to come through the community of Highlands.

Thank you for your generosity, which makes a difference to thousands of people every day. Our prayer for you always is 3 John 1:2, that your soul prospers, that you are healthy, wealthy, and wise, and that prosperity abounds in every area of your life.

Much love,

Ken & Moira Wootton

SENIOR PASTORS, HIGHLANDS CHURCH



**"I am the Alpha
and the Omega,"
says the Lord God,
"who is, and who was,
and who is to come,"
the Almighty."**

REVELATION 1:8 (NIV)



YOUR INVITATION
to celebrate together at the

Expansion Celebration

Join in as we conclude the Expansion Season with a big celebratory Sunday in community! It will be a time to party together and be filled up with faith. There will be creative, worshipful moments, the opportunity to bring your completed pledge card as an offering, and an after-party for everyone. There will also be a special festival for children aged 1 - Year 6.

SUNDAY 25 AUGUST 2024

MIDDLE RIDGE 8.30AM, 10.30AM & 6.00PM

HIGHFIELDS 8.30AM & 10.30AM







WHAT WAS

Finding my Foundation

DOM SALIS

Before I came to know Jesus, my life felt very scattered and directionless. I was constantly looking to the world and the people around me for guidance, but I always ended up feeling unfulfilled. I lacked a sense of purpose and felt out of place, even among people I had known since childhood. Despite having a lot of friends and being well-liked, I didn't have any deep, meaningful connections. I felt like I had outgrown everyone around me.

In August 2023 I came to Highlands for the first time, just as the Expansion series was beginning. I was very sceptical and I kept telling myself that I wouldn't become one of "those people!" However, I couldn't help but notice the positive changes in my girlfriend, who had started coming to Highlands about 12 months before me. She was filled with positive energy, was less anxious, and had a different outlook on life. So I kept coming back.

Now, my life has transformed in ways I never imagined. In the last 12 months I've made friends who are more than just people to hang out and

go for a drink with, they've become like family to me. As someone with a small family, these deep connections have been incredibly meaningful. I also feel so much more peaceful and I have a lot less anger in my life. I've stopped worrying about why things happen to me because I trust that God is in control. I've also learned to recognise the things in my life that serve God's purpose rather than a worldly one. I used to think that when I did things for others, I was owed something in return. Now, I understand that serving is a spiritual gift, and I do it with joy and gratitude.

Building a strong foundation in Jesus has made me less anxious and much more grounded. I no longer feel the need to constantly chase after the latest and greatest material things. Instead, I spend my time with good people and focus on what truly matters. As I look forward to the next 12 months, I'm praying hard for my family and childhood friends to come to know Jesus. I believe that God's plans for me are unfolding, and I'm excited about what the future holds. With Jesus in my life, I feel equipped to face whatever comes my way.

WHERE HAVE YOU ALREADY SEEN GOD'S GOODNESS AT WORK IN YOUR LIFE? TAKE A MOMENT TO WRITE DOWN THE THINGS YOU'RE GRATEFUL FOR, CELEBRATING HIS FAITHFULNESS AND PROVISION IN YOUR JOURNEY.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR LIFE TODAY THAT YOU'RE HANDING OVER TO GOD TO TRANSFORM IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS? REFLECT ON HOW HIS PRESENCE CAN SHAPE YOUR ACTIONS TODAY.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

**“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,
the evidence of things not seen.”** **HEBREWS 11:1 (KJV)**

(HEBREWS 11:1 (KJV))

WHAT IS

Standing Firm in His Goodness

DANIELLE AND SAM TRUSCOTT

I went into preterm labour unexpectedly while Sam was away in Townsville training for work. Walter was born six weeks early and immediately needed significant medical intervention. He spent seven weeks in the hospital, fluctuating between doing well and experiencing episodes where he would stop breathing, turn blue, and need oxygen. Eventually, he improved enough for us to bring him home.

We thought the worst was behind us, but about a week and a half after we brought Walter home, he stopped breathing in his sleep. He was rushed to the hospital, where they managed to get oxygen into his body but couldn't get him to breathe on his own. Throughout this ordeal, we leaned heavily on our faith in God, remembering His goodness and love. We believed that Walter was entrusted to us for a reason and that there was a greater purpose for him.

A few days later, Walter was discharged again, but he continued to have episodes where he would stop breathing, requiring CPR and urgent trips to the hospital. The doctors were unable to diagnose his condition, and we were told that this would be our life for a while. It was a challenging time, but our faith kicked in. We stood our ground, believing that Walter would be okay and that we would be okay.

One day, Walter stopped breathing eight times within a 15-minute span. There were no

ambulances available, so I [Danielle] drove him to the hospital myself, praying "Holy Spirit come" the entire way. Despite the terrifying situation, I felt an overwhelming sense of peace, knowing that God was with me in the car. Walter was airlifted to the Gold Coast and the team there saved his life. He finally received a diagnosis and treatment plan, and his condition improved dramatically. Since that day, in June last year, we haven't had to perform CPR on him again.

During this time, Sam's employer transferred him from Townsville to Brisbane. His boss told him, "You're going home," and the next day, Sam was on a flight to Brisbane. He was reassigned to work in Toowoomba instead of Mt Isa, which allowed him to be home every weekend. Everything fell into place so perfectly, which is a testament to God's hand in our lives.

Reflecting on the past year, our lives have completely changed. We've consistently needed to have faith in God, from our early days of marriage with no money or stable housing to this recent ordeal with Walter. Each time, we've placed our trust in God, and He has always provided. God's presence was with us in emergency departments, ambulances, and every moment of our journey. He has met us everywhere. Our lives and Walter's life are a living testament to God's goodness and faithfulness.



WHAT GOD IS DOING **at a Glance**

Thanks to the generosity and faith of our Church, we've seen God do amazing things. Here's a snapshot of what's been happening in our local, national and global communities over the last 12 months.

LOCALLY

*over the Middle Ridge and Highfields Campuses

1223

PEOPLE GATHERING
EACH WEEKEND

194

PEOPLE SERVING ON
TEAM EACH WEEKEND

521

RESPONSES
FOR JESUS

14%

CHURCH GROWTH

110

SMALL GROUPS
GATHERING REGULARLY

RED FROGS

16,362

PEOPLE IMPACTED
LOCALLY

780kgs

OF RED FROGS
GIVEN AWAY

52

REGULAR
VOLUNTEERS

over
4000

VOLUNTEER HOURS

231

CHILDREN ATTENDING
KIDS CHURCH
EACH SUNDAY

242

TEENAGERS ATTENDING
YOUTH EACH FRIDAY

NATIONALLY

\$61,000

**INVESTED INTO INTERNATIONAL
NETWORK OF CHURCHES (INC)**

We have continued to heavily invest into the movement with our time and coaching many arms of INC, including: Strategy Team, Network Plus, Next Generation Leaders and Christian Heritage College.

WE HAVE SUPPORTED MULTIPLE PASTORS AND CHURCHES INCLUDING

**WORKING
WITH PS. GEOFF
WOODWARD TO
PLANT A SCHOOL
IN PERTH**

**ASSISTING PS.
JOSH AND TAYLA
BULL IN PLANTING
SOCIETY CHURCH
MELBOURNE**

**FUNDING
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
FOR OVER 80
PASTORS**

GLOBALLY

**SUPPORTING GLOBAL
MISSIONARIES**

327+

**CHILDREN SPONSORED
THROUGH COMPASSION**

REGULAR SUPPORT TO OUR GLOBAL CHURCH PARTNERS

Assisting with a school and church plant in Switzerland and partnering with Christian Life Centre (CLC) in Vietnam to help with various projects.



WHAT IS Your Impact

If you choose to partner with Highlands over the next 12 months these are just some of the things that you'll be a part of impacting locally, nationally and globally. Our goal is to see not only Australia for Christ but the world for Christ and that starts with you.

Shovel-Ready Projects

PRACTICAL PROJECTS WE'RE READY TO GET STUCK INTO NOW!

- MIDDLE RIDGE** KIDS AUDITORIUM Create age-specific spaces for growing age groups, and relocating storage.
KIDS PLAYGROUND Support the growing children's ministry and accommodating more families.
- HIGHFIELDS** KIDS RESOURCING Enhance resources and environments for kids
CAFE AND FOYER Update the cafe and foyer areas with new lighting.
FENCING Ensure the safety of children with secure fencing.
- GATTON** SOUND AND PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT Prepare for early 2025 services with appropriate sound, production, and lighting equipment for bump in/out services.
START-UP STAFFING Hire essential staff to support new initiatives.

LOCALLY

YOUTH Help over 200 young individuals to safely travel to youth camps in 2024/25 through sponsorship.

RED FROGS Provide ongoing resources to serve thousands of students at after parties, schoolies, and weekly University events.

HIGHFIELDS CAMPUS Support the development of the new Highfields Campus, which will cater for prep to Year 12, with onsite Church, playgroup, Kindy, and an Early Learning Centre.

Stage 1 Landscaping, church, hub, kindy, and first College rooms.

Stage 2 Additional College facilities.

Stage 3 Full College completion.

NATIONALLY

SOCIETY CHURCH MELBOURNE Support the church planting efforts of Pastors Josh and Tayla Bull in Melbourne.

HIGHLANDS SCHOLARSHIPS Establish scholarships at Christian Heritage College for aspiring church planters, demonstrating our commitment to planting more churches and helping others do the same.

YOUNG LEADERS TRAINING Facilitate training and networks for young leaders across INC Australia through in-person training, online content creation, resource distribution, and coaching/mentoring, to meet the growing need for well-equipped and well-supported Christian leaders.

GLOBALLY

CHRISTINE BRODIE Support our missionary Christine as she serves as a Literacy and Education Advisor in the Asia-Pacific. Her mission is to equip children with life-long literacy skills and a strong start to their education journey, enabling them to read Scriptures in their own language.

VIETNAM COMMUNITY SUPPORT Help build 10 solar-powered community wells to support churches and serve the community. Each well costs \$4000 and takes 3 weeks to complete.

VIETNAM CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS Help Highlands partner with over 90 churches and 10,000+ members to reach all of Vietnam for Christ.

INC CHURCH & SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS Help Highlands share our unique blessings and stewardship by supporting university connections, church plants, and school pioneering globally. Current opportunities include: Vietnam, Switzerland and Perth.



WHAT IS TO COME

Following in Faith

PAUL EDWARDS

Before I found Jesus, I thought I had everything together. But in reality, my heart, mind, and spirit were a mess. I carried a lot of resentment towards others, but especially towards myself. I had just moved to Toowoomba, and as I would drive past Highlands every day I felt a strong pull to go in. One day, I decided to follow that feeling, and I haven't looked back since.

My life with Jesus is infinitely better. I am more positive, more caring, and more mindful of my thoughts and actions. I feel loved and like I'm on the right path. Where once I carried resentment, I now find myself loving people.

Shortly after being baptised at Highlands, I felt the nudge to move back home to Gidgegannup, Western Australia. My children live here, and I felt a strong duty to introduce them to Jesus, so they can make their own choice about faith one day.

Since returning to WA, incredible opportunities have opened up. My boss offered to share his property with me. This is the property where I've worked for the last ten years, investing a lot of blood, sweat, and tears. To my complete shock, he has given me 50% ownership of the property. I never thought I'd be a homeowner, but now I own 150 acres. It's truly amazing!

My biggest prayer is for my children to be saved. I've taken a couple of them to church, hoping to cut through the outside influences and misconceptions they hear about religion and Jesus. I want to set the record straight for them. I often think of Jesus as a spotter on a bench press: you know the weight is heavy, but knowing He's there makes it so much easier to bear. My journey with Jesus has shown me that with Him, anything is possible, and I'm believing for my children to experience that, too.



**TO WATCH PAUL'S
STORY OR ANY OF
THE OTHER STORIES
IN THIS BOOKLET
SCAN THE QR CODE**

WHAT IS TO COME

Reaching Vietnam for Christ

KEN WOOTTON

As part of Expansion, we want to sow into the places that make a difference in the world, and we're excited to announce a new partnership in Vietnam! Remarkable things are already happening there. A church has been built floor by floor, faith by faith. They're constructing a kindergarten and have already established a music school to train musicians for worship. They also have a College where students from the Highlands are brought down to Ho Chi Minh City to gain a new worldview. Imagine the transformation for those living in poverty-stricken areas, where there is no water or power, to come to a bustling city of 15 million people!

At the College, students are trained in Scripture and theology, given computer skills, and taught English. This education equips them to make a significant difference when they return to their communities. The need for education in Vietnam is immense, and many families are selling their land to afford university education for their children. Our partnership aims to offer these students a chance to study at a Christian university, raising Christian leaders who will go out and uplift their

communities. We can provide new opportunities for children finishing high school, influencing the next generation to make a positive impact in their villages and towns.

Currently, there are about 90 churches in the villages with 10,000 people connected. Imagine the impact Highlands could have to multiply that number in the years to come! Simple acts like installing a well or providing solar panels can transform entire communities, while also spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

As Highlands, we also have the opportunity to travel to Vietnam, encouraging and supporting them by sharing our knowledge and resources. This partnership allows us to join our faith with theirs, impacting not only our local community in Australia but also the lives of many in Vietnam. We encourage everyone to get involved during this time of Expansion. Think about where you can direct your resources and how you can contribute to this life-changing opportunity. Together, we can help reach Vietnam for Christ!



WHAT IS TO COME

Tomorrow

WHAT DO YOU HAVE BIG FAITH FOR IN YOUR FUTURE? DECLARE IT HERE WITH CONFIDENCE AND EXPECTATION! TRUST IN GOD'S PROMISES AND BELIEVE FOR HIS BLESSINGS AND BREAKTHROUGHS AHEAD.

...to this mountain

“For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.” MARK 11:23 (NKJV)

Expansion Offering

PLEDGE CARD

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

LOCALLY

Tax deductible donations can be made to Red Frogs or Highlands Christian College Building Fund for the Highfields Campus Development. To receive a tax invoice, you must email accounts@hcct.org.au at the time of giving.

☐ YOUTH CAMP \$ _____ ☐ HIGHFIELDS \$ _____

☐ RED FROGS \$ _____ **CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT**

SHOVEL-READY PROJECTS

☐ Middle Ridge \$ _____ ☐ Highfields \$ _____ ☐ Gatton \$ _____

NATIONALLY

☐ SOCIETY CHURCH \$ _____ ☐ YOUNG LEADERS TRAINING \$ _____

☐ HIGHLANDS SCHOLARSHIPS \$ _____

GLOBALLY SUPPORTING GLOBAL MISSIONS

☐ CHRISTINE BRODIE \$ _____ ☐ VIETNAM COMMUNITY SUPPORT \$ _____

☐ VIETNAM CHURCH \$ _____

INC CHURCH AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

☐ Vietnam \$ _____ ☐ Switzerland \$ _____ ☐ Perth \$ _____

PLEDGE TOTAL \$ _____ ONCE-OFF / MONTHLY / FORTNIGHTLY / OTHER _____

fold here

WAYS TO GIVE Please note, if your giving area has reached its funding goal we will direct your donation to another area of need.

☐ **CREDIT CARD** ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Amex

Name _____

Card Number _____

Expiry Date / / / CVV
M M Y Y

Frequency ☐ Once ☐ Monthly

Start Date _____ End Date _____

SIGNATURE

☐ **AT A GIVING POINT**

☐ **DIRECT CREDIT DETAILS**

MIDDLE RIDGE
CBA BSB 064 459
Account Number 10431426

HIGHFIELDS
CBA BSB 064 433
Account Number 11181112

☐ **BPAY**

MIDDLE RIDGE
BPay biller code 807503
Reference 026

HIGHFIELDS
BPay biller code 319327
Reference 026

☐ **ONLINE**
highlandschurch.au/giving/





**For more information
on Expansion, scan the QR Code**