



# More than ever

A gracious, compassionate Jesus-centred justice movement is needed now, more than ever.



# Introduction

Last November we celebrated two years since the launch of Common Grace. Since then, we've been evaluating our progress and considering what the next season might look like for us, as a Common Grace community.

Looking ahead, we believe that the work of Common Grace is more important than ever – and we need your help to get it done. More than ever in our crazy world, we need to wrestle with what the Bible has to say about justice and how we should respond as Christians. More than ever, we need non-Christians to hear a Christian voice that is gracious and others-focussed in our national conversation. And more than ever we need resources and tools that empower us to act for justice in the midst of busy lives.

Common Grace is committed to doing all this and more, but the fact is that we need your support. We need to become movement-funded to be able to continue to do the work that we do and to take it forward - and we need everyone to be involved!

We encourage you to take some time to look through these pages and explore what we've achieved to date, where we're going in 2017 and why it's so important we are supported by our movement.



# A word from our CEO

Our CEO, Scott Sanders, shares his heart for our movement and reflects on why Common Grace is needed now, more than ever.

I am grateful to have been part of the team that helped set up Common Grace a few years ago, but to be honest at the time it felt utterly inappropriate to presume we knew what a Christian movement of justice could look like. Who were we to suggest things could be different? What did we have to offer? Would people even respond? But that place of feeling inadequate and powerless, that place is precisely where a movement like Common Grace needed to start.

You see, we are a movement of Christians who believe in a better way – the way of Jesus. We believe that as we speak, think and act more like Jesus, God will move us to the margins of society, proximate us with the vulnerable and inspire us to stand with them in confronting and overcoming the injustice that holds them back.

As a movement we seek to build power so that we may have influence to impact the issues that concern us. But the crazy notion behind Common Grace is that the way we seek to build power *is through powerlessness and vulnerability*, as modelled by Jesus.

This has been a sobering thought for me over the last six months as I've taken on the reigns of Common Grace from our Founding Director, Jarrod McKenna. To presume my privilege or my experience somehow gives me a platform to pursue justice on behalf of others is to miss the point. Instead I've learnt as I've met with Aboriginal Christian leaders, as I have heard from survivors of domestic violence, as I have grieved the state of God's beautiful creation, that God calls us to pursue justice alongside the powerless.

**And now, more than ever before, our world is in need of God's common grace.**

We are becoming increasingly polarised, and in response too many are retreating into safe, comfortable, familiar echo chambers that lead to exclusion and derision of those who see things differently to us. Rather than generously opening our homes, we are fiercely closing our borders. Instead of stewarding God's beautiful creation, we're increasingly harming it. As our neighbour

sits beaten on the road to Damascus, too many of us are crossing to the other side of the road.

We believe in a better way – the way of Jesus – and your commitment to be involved is needed now, *more than ever*. We are a movement made up of thousands of Christians who together believe things can be different, that Christians can be champions for justice across our country, that we can be known for our generosity, our grace, our compassion, for our likeness to Jesus.

But to be honest, we are a movement funded by you. We operate on super-lean budgets which are stretched wide to reach our ambitious goals, but we're not there yet for 2017. We get that a big part of this is living in faith that God will provide, and our story is a testament to his goodness in this regard, which is why we'd invite your support.

I am praying that 2017 will be a year when, even as many are closing their doors, Christians will be keeping theirs open. That we'd be bursting our filter bubbles and engaging with those who think differently to us, that we may hear from and stand alongside those experiencing injustice rather than speak on their behalf. I'm praying that we may together know and practise the power of powerlessness that is marked by Jesus – because God knows we need this now, more than ever.

Grace and peace,



Scott Sanders  
CEO, Common Grace

# What we've achieved

As a movement we've achieved some really significant outcomes in the past two years - all of which are worth celebrating!

## **We produced inspiring Christian formation resources that:**

- Partnered with Aboriginal Christian leaders to engage with January 26th - including a digital 'Acknowledgment of Country' tool - and hosting services of prayer and lament across the country
- Contributed a justice perspective to key Christian seasons of Advent and Lent, with daily devotional reflections from a beautifully diverse group of Christians.
- Equipped Christians to consider the marginalised when voting in the federal election.
- Used video teaching to consider the biblical concepts in The Lord's Prayer and about Loving Our Neighbours.

## **We acted to steward and preserve God's beautiful creation when we:**

- Crowd-funded solar panels for the Prime Minister to witness the Christian concern for our climate and renewable energy.
- Called on our government to increase our renewable energy targets.
- Partnered with Pacific Islanders and Australian farmers who are on the frontline of Climate Change
- Hosted a Christian climate conference and mobilised thousands to march together in the People's Climate March.

## **We worked towards justice for people seeking asylum, as we:**

- Engaged Christians on what is happening in Aleppo, while partnering with organisations responding on the ground in Syria.
- Mobilised Christians to write to their local members opposing unjust changes to the Migration Bill.
- Supported and amplified the Sanctuary movement, as churches implored MPs to let children and their families stay in Australia.
- Produced a comprehensive resource detailing policy issues as Christians headed to the Federal Election.
- Created a widely-shared animated video - 'Dear Mr Prime Minister, from the Aussie Mamas' for Mother's Day - calling on the PM to close detention centres.

## **We highlighted the epidemic of family & domestic violence:**

- Produced a comprehensive resource detailing policy issues as Christians headed to the Federal Election.
- Sourced grant funding and contracted an expert researcher to develop resource to equip church leaders facing DV (released soon).
- Ran a '16 days of prayer against domestic and family violence' campaign.
- Produced a social media campaign on how Christians could help local survivors of family violence.
- Responded to the Government's 2016 Budget, the Victorian Royal Commission into family violence findings, and relevant national news.

## **And we partnered with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in pursuing justice:**

- Created a digital hub of resources for January 26, and partnered with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian leaders in establishing services of Acknowledgment, prayer and lament in every state and territory.
- Responded to the ABC's DonDale report in Christian media, blogs, and as a signatory to an Open Letter by more than 100 organisations in the sector.
- Stood with the #SOSBlakAustralia movement, that called on our leaders to support Aboriginal communities in remaining on their homelands, as well as their right to self-determination, collecting 1,500 Christian signatures.

You can read more of the details mentioned here, how successful these initiatives were, and our other achievements together at [www.commongrace.org.au/2017](http://www.commongrace.org.au/2017)

## Highlights from our team

Two and a half years ago, Jess Smith, Kylie Beach and Jody Lightfoot formed the initial Common Grace 'core team' under the leadership of Founding Director, Jarrod McKenna.

Over two years later, the three of us continue to form the core team, today under the leadership of CEO Scott Sanders, and together we have become something of a 'little family'. Here is a brief snapshot of where we are at as a team and a key change that we are excited to announce, beginning with a few words of reflection from each of us.

Reflection by Jess Smith, Operations Director:

*"It's amazing that Common Grace exists at all. From the dreams of a small bunch of young Australian Christians and through the abundant generosity of many individuals giving their time, their passion and vision, Common Grace has come together. A bare bones team have stretched resources over many years by working from our homes, meeting on Skype, gathering around my kitchen table & using our living room for planning days, and yet something has been born that fills me with excitement at what it could become, that refreshes my faith, calling me again to Jesus, and sending me out into his beautiful and broken world. It has been a delight over the last year to have Scott Sanders join our team, to welcome Brooke Prentis' contribution, to see our Board strengthening our governance processes and the proportion of our funding coming from the contribution of members more than triple."*

Reflection by Kylie Beach, Communications Director:

*"When I was first approached to join the team at Common Grace my immediate response was a resounding 'Yes!'. Yes, of course I wanted to be part of building a community that transcended denominational bickering. Yes, of course I wanted to be part of a Christian community whose energy was spent on working towards justice for those our broken world had marginalised. Yes, of course I wanted to contribute to our national conversation with a gracious tone that sounded more like the Jesus I read about in my Bible!"*

*"What I wasn't expecting was the resounding 'Yes!' that came back to us when we began inviting Australian Christians to be part of our Common Grace community. So many people who were equally frustrated with what they were seeing and hearing, and passionate about Jesus and justice... all excited about the idea of all that Common Grace could be and do."*

Reflection by Jody, Climate Justice Team Lead:

*"What I love about Common Grace is seeing Christians pursue justice in practical and meaningful ways. My favourite moment has been walking with 1000 Pacific Islanders as they sang hymns in four part harmonies at Sydney's People's Climate March. It was like the music of heaven descended on Macquarie St for 15 minutes! But what was most precious about that moment was the deep feeling of solidarity. Thousands of Christians, including many Common Grace members turned up to walk with our Pacific neighbours on the day, and it meant a whole lot for many Pacific Islanders who for years have felt alone in their fight to protect their homelands from climate change. We're learning more and more that a big part of seeking justice is to make sure those who have been denied justice don't feel alone in their struggle."*

In recent months we've been convicted as a team about the need for us to ensure that we are not speaking on behalf of others, but are using our influence to amplify the voices of those that are either unheard or are not prioritised in our society.

We've always worked hard to ensure that we don't simply 're-invent the wheel' but instead come alongside and support the wonderful work that many people are already doing, but we want to discover how we could do even more to subvert the power relations of this world, in the same way as our foot-washing Saviour did.

Needless to say, this is a long-term goal for us as a team that requires continual attention and a daily commitment from each of us. However one change that we've made and that we are so excited about, is adjusting our processes so that we work more closely with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander justice spokesperson, Brooke Prentis.

Brooke has a full time job as a chartered accountant, and is also very busy with additional ministry work, however she has become a part of our core team in an advisory capacity, allowing us to seek her input on everything we do, rather than only those that directly concern Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander justice issues.

Brooke's input as an Aboriginal woman and Christian leader is so valuable to us and we are grateful that she has been willing to make time to contribute at this core level, so that we can work towards putting justice for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at the centre of our decision making.

Reflection from Brooke Prentis,  
Spokesperson for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice:

*"I'm so excited to be a part of Common Grace. For the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, Common Grace is playing a lead role in the Nation to sit with us in our pain, stand with us against injustice, walk with us seeking truth and Reconciliation and work together in action and hope - just as Jesus does.*

*"I have been waiting for a long time for an organisation and movement that understands the key role Aboriginal peoples have to play in this nation and Common Grace is an answer to that prayer - a prayer I've prayed for many years. I can now point my Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Christian brothers and sisters to Common Grace as a place to hear Aboriginal Christian voices, to find resources to educate themselves, and find spaces where they can share with others who have had their hearts and minds changed to embrace the world's oldest living culture and our issues of justice going back nearly 250 years.*

*"Thank you Common Grace for embracing my gifts as a leader and the important contribution Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have to play in Australia and within the Christian community. "*





# How we've been funded to date

We're committed to transparency, so we wanted to let you know how we're funded and what's needed to keep Common Grace moving.

Common Grace is an independent movement of individual Christians passionate about seeing Jesus shaped justice overflow in God's world. We have no big financial backers but receive our funds from the generosity of individuals, churches, organisations and grant bodies.

As a Christian not for profit securing funding from grants and organisations is a challenge. We believe that long term our movement needs to support our work and we are seeking to grow in that direction.

In year one we received 8% of our funding from our members, in year two it was a quarter of our budget, and already this year we've received a third of our gifts from members and are hopeful we might hit the 50% mark – this will be a wonderful sign of God's goodness to Common Grace.

Common Grace has now been running for two financial years. Each year we've been gifted around \$110,000 from the generosity of individuals and organisations who see the possibility of Australian Christians speaking, acting and thinking more like Jesus for our world.

In 2014-2015:

- 8% of our funding came from the donations of individuals
- 62% came from partner organisations seed funding our launch
- 30% came from grants and partner organisation funding for specific projects

In 2015-2016:

- 25% of our funding came from the donations of individuals
- 46% came from partner organisations seed funding our launch
- 28% came from grants and partner organisation funding for specific projects

So far in 2016-2017, we've already received \$83,000 of our \$200,000 budget:

- 30% of our funding has come from the donations of individuals
- 67% from grant funding for our new CEO role
- 3% came from church funding

We still have a way to go but are excited at engaging our movement more deeply in the financial sustainability of our work.

**Want to know more?** You can watch video from our CEO about how we're funded at [commongrace.org.au/2017](http://commongrace.org.au/2017)



# Our Vision

As our world becomes increasingly divided, our movement of passionate Christians embodying Jesus gracious and compassionate voice is needed now more than ever before.

As a global community in 2017 we face some serious challenges, prompting many of us Christians to consider what our role is in our world more thoughtfully than we ever have before. Should we engage in public conversation at all, or is it merely a distraction from our calling to direct people to Jesus?

Many of us sense that, more than ever, a Christian voice that balances biblical faithfulness, with grace, and care for others, has something truly valuable to contribute to our national conversation. Yet, in a globalised, digital world we find ourselves needing resources from different traditions so that we can wrestle with what the Bible has to say about justice, before we are able to engage.

And once we do know what we want to do – how do we actually do it? More than ever we need resources and tools that help us act for justice without neglecting the responsibilities we have to our friends, families, work mates and church communities.





# Inspire bold acts of justice

Inspiring justice sits at the heart of our work and this year we're focused on inspiring more Christians than ever before.

This year we're prioritising our work of *inspiration*, so that more of us may be mobilised to bold acts of justice in future days.

How? This year we are going to:

## **Discuss a wider range of issues:**

When a key news story breaks, we want to find Christian voices who can help us process what the Christ-like response could be, giving people meaningful words to process, grieve, empathise, share, pray and more engage with the issue through their faith rather than in isolation from it. In the past we've produced occasional content like this, but in 2017 we hope to more deeply resource our blog and invite contributors from our movement to write with us.

## **Develop formation resources across our issue areas:**

Underpinning everything we do is deep theological consideration, biblical reflection and a commitment to prayer within community, but we've not been the best at publishing this content across our issue areas. If we're to inspire Christians towards justice, it is paramount that we are first tell the biblical narrative around why Christian engagement in a justice issue is so important.

## **Pray for boldness:**

In Acts, the Apostles gathered their small Christian community together and prayed for boldness to continue the work they were doing. As our movement confronts major justice issues in our country with a gracious, compassionate response, we're praying for the boldness not to shy away from difficult subjects, driven ultimately to those who are overlooked, marginalised, ostracised or unheard and partnering with them in Jesus' name.

## **Feature a diversity of voices:**

There is something beautiful about hearing an encouraging insight from an unexpected voice, and in the midst of our increasingly narrow filter bubbles being able to open your ears and learn to understand and empathise with those who may see things differently to you is more important than ever. This is foundational to the work we do, seeing a large part of our role as bringing diverse Christian voices together on common ground, sharing in common grace, working towards the common good.

## **Host more events:**

Already this year we've co-hosted dozens of acknowledgement services across the country, and ran an evening with The BRILLIANCE – a band some of you have called the musical equivalent of Common Grace. Having these amazing opportunities to meet with our movement has inspired us to host even more events, so that together we can open up conversations and topics, and ensure that we hear from those who often aren't invited.

## **Widen our circle:**

Today, we are a movement of more than 30,000 Australian Christians who are engaged in justice work and concerned about a more gracious, compassionate Christian voice in spoken in society. This year we hope to inspire another 30,000 Christians to join us, engaging in our work and mobilised to action, through our formation and celebration work.

# Welcome with generosity

We've been so encouraged in the last few years to see the Australian Church increasingly unified in a response of generosity and compassion towards those people who seek asylum on our shores.

But we are also aware that, despite a welcoming stance being shared by most, many Christians do not engage in advocacy on this issue due to political party allegiances, a concern about the issue's complexity, uncertainty regarding what the Bible teaches about advocacy, and the prioritisation of other social justice issues that are deemed to be a 'safer' topic for Christians.

As a result, it seems that our national leaders rightly do not consider justice for people seeking asylum to be a primary faith issue for Christians.

Therefore, over the next few years we want to work strategically to ensure that Christians do consider justice for people seeking asylum to be a primary faith issue and that our national leaders know it! Some of the specific goals that we hope to achieve this year are to:

## **Build a network of leaders:**

If we, as a Common Grace community really want to inspire more Christians to consider justice for people seeking asylum as a primary faith issue, it will involve engaging churches more deeply. We are therefore hoping to build an active network of pastors, ministry leaders and influential Christians within churches, who all share a common passion for justice in this area. We'll be resourcing these leaders with teaching, content and stories to share within their communities and inspire collective action, and encouraging them to share their own resources and learnings with each other.

## **Bring a unique contribution:**

As a Christian community, we have a unique role to play alongside secular movements, and finding that unique space allows us to contribute to national actions while telling the Christian story and mobilising otherwise unreached Christian partners. We therefore plan to continue to build the significant relationships that we have built in the asylum seeker advocacy sector, to seek the advice of leading organisations with greater resources and experience, and to ensure our initiatives fit within the wider sector's strategy.

## **Develop valuable Church resources:**

With many Christians already concerned about this issue, but not necessarily highly engaged, we believe Common Grace has the opportunity to develop resources that articulate why Christians care and that overcome the obstacles that can prevent Christian engagement. We hope to produce bible studies for the thousands of small groups that meet every week, creating space that opens up discussion while providing valuable and accurate resources to help guide those discussions.

## **Build a media profile:**

While we, as a Common Grace Community, can reach many *Christians* through our networks, shifting a national perception will require the media to notice the shift and report on it. This will require us specifically engaging both Christian media and mainstream media, by identifying influential voices and artists who care deeply about this issue, and promoting stand-out Christian stories that are able to cut through in the media.

# Confront domestic violence

In Australia, most violent crimes have been in decline, but the rates of domestic and sexual violence are soaring.

Gendered violence has escalated to the point that now two women are killed each week - twice the historical average. As at the time of writing, 78 women have been killed in Australia this year alone, the majority of them by male partners.

There are three specific ways that we believe Common Grace can work towards the ultimate goal of eliminating domestic and family violence in our nation, whilst 'staying in our lane' as a Christian movement.

## **Create an online resource for church leaders:**

We have been working hard on the development of a web-based resource/tool-kit that provides practical, accessible, best-practice materials for church leaders on how to recognise and respond to family violence, and teach and educate congregations about this issue. The resource is intended to help churches provide suitable wrap-around support at a local level (including referral to specialist services) for people affected with domestic violence, depending on their resources and levels of expertise.

## **Share stories to raise awareness:**

Whilst seeking to 'get our own houses in order' we also want to ensure that our Common Grace community is well informed regarding the latest developments in national and international efforts confronting domestic violence, with a specific emphasis on hearing from those who work on the frontline and amplifying the voice of survivors where appropriate, so that we can learn from their experience.

## **Contribute a Christian voice to National Campaigns:**

We also want to contribute a compassionate Christian voice to our national conversation on this issue, confronting the causes and responses to domestic violence in our nation. Rather than taking action in isolation, this year our focus at Common Grace will be on deepening our engagement with other national campaigns in the sector, learning from their extensive wisdom and experience, and when appropriate, mobilising Christians to advocate for increased funding to frontline services and policies that help address the epidemic of domestic violence as part of the wider sector.

## **Encourage churches to engage:**

Later this year we'll be inviting churches to publicly engage in educating and raising awareness within their congregations by setting aside a Sunday to focus on the issue. We'll be providing prayers, liturgy, and content to be presented during a service, to help create a culture in our churches where people might be willing to speak up and out more often.

More details about these projects and resources are available at [commongrace.org.au/2017](http://commongrace.org.au/2017)



# Sustainable Stewardship

At Common Grace, we have a passion to see Christians in churches across Australia deeply concerned about human-induced climate change, and proactively acting together to address the impacts of climate change.

We think one of the best ways that we can work towards seeing this vision become a reality, is by inspiring and resourcing our Common Grace members to boldly champion the cause of addressing climate change in their local churches. This year, we're planning to:

## **Develop a climate narrative:**

We're aware that climate justice is not necessarily a priority for many Christians and we're determined to understand why. What are the theological arguments that stop people from engaging in proactively caring for our earth? What are the theological arguments for Christians acting that are most compelling? What words and phrases have negative associations for people and how can we communicate about caring for God's creation in a way that is most effective?

This year we're hoping to do some real research, consultation and evaluation around all of this, to inform our work so that is more robust and effective.

## **Amplify vulnerable voices:**

The fact is that humanity's failure to care for God's good earth is affecting some of the world's most vulnerable people more than anyone. We want to make sure that their stories feature most prominently in all we do - not just because amplifying marginalised voices is a foundational ethic for Common Grace, but because these stories are an effective way to move the hearts of others, so that they too will advocate for the creation.

We're also conscious of the fact that it is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were the original custodians of the land here in Australia and whose stewardship we have much to learn from - so let's learn!

## **Build a network of influencers:**

In the past we've been able to gather Christians who are passionate about addressing climate change - but we want to do more of it! We're hoping to bring together Christian church leaders, key influencers and other Christians to be equipped strategically to mobilise their local churches - equipped with the findings related to language and theology that our research has unearthed, of course!

## **Give key Christian leaders the opportunity to go public:**

Our Christian leaders can help turn whole churches and denominations, and attract media attention. Public expressions of concern, conviction and confession can help give permission for others to follow their example, while breaking down our barriers, and lead to a more positive public Christian witness.

## **Keep our finger on the pulse during key climate action moments:**

There is a strong climate justice sector that is ready to mobilise at key moments and we want to ensure that Christians are 'sharing the load' at these pivotal times - encouraging other Christians to engage with our elected decision makers, and bringing witness to God - who after all is the Creator of all that the whole sector is fighting to protect.

# Reconciliation in our lifetime

At Common Grace we have a vision to see true Reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples in Australia become a reality in our lifetime.

We're therefore committed to nurturing a deep friendship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christians and non-Indigenous Christians across Australia, as we work together in this pursuit.

We hope to inspire non-Indigenous Christians to both engage honestly with the injustices experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and to develop meaningful connections with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christians, through the sharing of stories, the recommendation of quality resources, and the promotion of opportunities to respond.

But there's a LOT of things we'll need to do, to achieve this:

## **Model friendship and Reconciliation:**

We are incredibly aware that any work we do that hopes to shift Christian engagement towards Reconciliation, must first be modelled by Common Grace internally. We have therefore committed to ensuring there are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian leaders involved in our core team, week-to-week project teams, and on our board.

## **Resource Church leaders:**

At Common Grace, we want to specifically help church leaders to guide their churches through a journey of Reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians - equipping them with resources that cover everything from "What are the correct terms to use?" right through to "How do I engage my whole Christian community towards Reconciliation by taking one-step-forward at a time?"

## **Mobilise a public Christian voice:**

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander team leaders who are already engaged in the national debate on Reconciliation will share this involvement with the Common Grace community, and we will, of course, provide opportunities for non-Indigenous Australian Christians to partner as a public witness to our pursuit of meaningful Reconciliation in our lifetime.

## **Amplify Aboriginal Christian voices:**

Our role is not to speak on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, but to amplify their voices across our platform and together speak of friendship and Reconciliation. We are planning to gather a network of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian speakers, as a resource for Christians who would like to invite Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christians to share with their communities, or speak in their church services and conferences.

## **Collect, publish and promote:**

We believe that the generation of Australians who are currently decision makers (i.e. who vote, etc) have a significant knowledge gap when it comes to the true history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and how this history connects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

We therefore have plans to collate a widely-accessed online repository of resources that are recommended by our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander team members, designed to enable Christians to explore history, current issues, and to connect with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

# Your Movement

Common Grace is a movement of people like *you*, a collective of passionate Christians who believe the gospel calls us to pursue justice in Jesus' name.

Our community may be somewhere around the 30k mark these days, but that number actually represents thousands of individuals who bring diverse understandings and perspectives that we can all learn from as we wrestle through the application of our faith in Jesus.

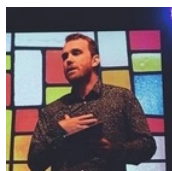
Without the support of our movement we cannot exist, and ask you to consider how you can support Common Grace in 2017.





## Meet some of our movement

It's so encouraging to hear why people are involved with Common Grace and what it means for them to support our movement:



"Common Grace is shifting the perspective of the wider community's view of the church in Australia, showcasing the diversity of the church in Australia & mobilising the local churches of Australia to make a continuing positive difference in this great country."

**DALE HEWITT** PASTOR , DREAMBUILDERS

"Years ago I was ashamed to be known as a Christian, but I loved Jesus. His life and teachings guided my life, but what represented Christianity was just not Christlike. Today, Common Grace makes me proud to be a Christian who loves Jesus and justice."

**PETER BRANJERDPORN**



"We as God's people are called to live our lives the way Jesus lived his by demonstrating love to everyone and bringing Justice to this world. Common Grace encourages Christians to open up their hearts and show love to those who need it."

**LENA SNOOK** MUNDARING ANGLICAN CHURCH

"Although in the past we have been too easily divided, we have so many issues that we share. Common Grace helps us understand the power of our common voice – it focuses us to act together, to celebrate wins together, and face our concerns together."

**TANYA RICHES** HILLSONG CHURCH



"Australian Christians are being captivated by an image of a restored future- freedom from oppression, earth renewed, justice reigning & a day where every tear is wiped away. Together Common Grace paints this image in the public & political sphere."

**BETHANY KOCH** FITZROY NORTH COMMUNITY CHURCH

"Common Grace, what a beautiful thing and in only six months showing Australia what we as followers of Christ can do in this world. Not to judge but to bring justice, not to condemn but to show mercy! Diversity without division, amazing stuff!"

**BEN HOOD** MOUNT GAMBIER UNITING CHURCH

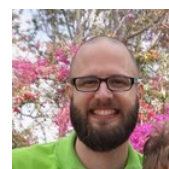


"I have received abundant grace in the Lord Jesus Christ. I want to overflow with his gracious love to the world in all kinds of ways. I'm excited about Common Grace helping me love some of my more vulnerable neighbours."

**SHANE FENWICK** ST GEORGE'S ANGLICAN, PADDINGTON

"Jesus called himself the light of the world and, amazingly, called us the same thing! I see Common Grace shaping up as an important way of expressing this today."

**ARTHUR DAVIS** CMS AUSTRALIA



## How you can support in 2017

For Common Grace to be financially viable in the future, we need to transition to a movement funded model. That is, we need the majority of our funding to be sourced from the movement itself.

At present, we are entirely funded by donations from members, like-minded organisations and grants, and funding that is linked to specific campaign partnerships. This has given us an excellent foundation to launch and become established.

Our current funding model, however, requires an investment of time and energy from our team that constrains our progress and is ultimately unsustainable moving forward.

A movement funded model, in contrast, allows our budget (and therefore the work we do) to be directly proportional to the support of our members. It is an excellent model that keeps us accountable for the stewardship of resources moving forward.

## Become a monthly supporter

**Regular monthly donations are the best way to support the work of Common Grace as we become movement-funded.** Not only does monthly donating enable us to budget and plan, it ensures that we give our energy to the work that we believe is most important, rather than to ongoing urgent fundraising.

Monthly donating is also an affordable option for many of our Common Grace members who believe in and benefit from our ongoing work, and who rarely find themselves with enough spare cash to donate an amount that reflects their heart, but can find a smaller sum once a month.

Every donation helps us, no matter how big or small and regardless of whether it is a once off or a regular one... but we have to say that we are especially grateful for the provision of our monthly donors!

## Get your church involved

If you are a church leader who would like to stay in contact with us so that we can resource you in any way that we can, we'd love you to sign up to our Church Leaders database and we will be in touch. Please write to us at [info@commongrace.org.au](mailto:info@commongrace.org.au).

If you would like your church to be involved with Common Grace, but you are not a leader there, then we encourage you to make a time to chat to your pastor/minister and let them know about Common Grace and ask how you can help them access these resources.

We'd also love churches to consider contributing to Common Grace's work financially and would be happy to talk to you further about what this might look like.

# Let's get to work!

Thank you for taking the time to read through all that we've achieved as a Common Grace community, and to learn about the vision that our core team and board have prayerfully outlined for the days ahead.

We hope that you are feeling as inspired about the future as we are. There's so much opportunity and we really believe that Common Grace is needed now, **more than ever!**

As you will have noticed when reading, we are determined to see this next season be one where our whole Common Grace community together contributes to our movement - as volunteers, team, attendees, supporters, and everything in between!

So, we'd love it if you would take a quick moment now, to pray about what your part might look like as we move forward. Can you invite your friends to become part of our movement? What can you do practically or financially?

Together, let's pray that God really uses Common Grace to bring change in our country, so that Christians in Australia are known for being passionate about Jesus and justice, and for speaking up with a voice that is compassionate and gracious... a voice that sounds **more like Jesus.**





United for the common good, finding common  
ground and sharing in common grace.

[www.commongrace.org.au](http://www.commongrace.org.au)

We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians  
and their stewardship of the land that now sustains us all.