

# Christian Reformed Churches of Australia

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Business & Finance Committee

## Prescribed and Recommended Offerings Summary Information

Synod 2022 agreed to support the following ministries by way of either a Prescribed or Recommended offering. Following is a list of these ministries and a short summary of their work for your information.

Annual Prescribed offerings as follows:

- 1 for the Church Planting Taskforce
- 2 for the Train Workgroup for Ministry Formation
- 4 for the Solomon Islands Workgroup
- 1 for the MAMA Gift Account
- 2 for the Candidacy Committee
- 1 for the Reformed Children's & Youth Committee
- 5 for the Reformed Theological College
- 3 for World Transform
- 2 for G.O.S.P.E.L.

Annual Recommended offerings as follows:

- 1 for the RTC Overseas Education Fund
- 1 for Cadets/GEMS (i.e., half each)
- 1 for International Justice Mission
- 1 for Crossroads Prison Ministries
- 1 for Bible League
- 1 for Wycliffe Bible Translators
- 1 for Middle East Reformed Fellowship
- 2 for World Transform
- 2 for G.O.S.P.E.L.

## **PRESCRIBED OFFERINGS**

### **Church Planting Taskforce:**

The Church Planting Taskforce aims to provide financial support for churches looking to start new congregations and to encourage new or potential church planters via networking and resourcing. The goal of this committee is to see the CRCA grow in the number of churches in Australia and to reach new communities that haven't been reached with the gospel before. For more details contact Rev KJ Tromp [kjtromp@crca.org.au](mailto:kjtromp@crca.org.au)

### **Train Workgroup for Ministry Formation:**

The TRAIN Workgroup exists to nurture, encourage, and inspire ministry training and leadership development across our denomination's churches--one part of our Four Fold Task. The members of the workgroup are drawn from across the country, and from a variety of contexts. They meet twice yearly to review what's already happening around our churches, share wisdom, and to figure out how we can work together to do even better in those areas in our local contexts. The workgroup collaborates closely with our denominational Ministry Development Coach in the broader task of intentional ministry formation. Rev Bernard Cane (Convenor) [bcane@crca.org.au](mailto:bcane@crca.org.au)

### **Solomon Islands Workgroup:**

The Solomon Islands Workgroup oversees the running of the SWIM Base in the Solomon Islands. The SWIM Base is spiritual leadership training and equipping facility that reaches out to people right across the Solomon Islands. SWIM develops and delivers training courses focussed on ministry development, church leadership training, youth development, and many other courses. SWIM is also a conduit to connect the people of the CRCA to mission opportunities in the Solomon Islands. The Base also caters for local groups such as local churches for pastor training, youth groups, World Vision, WHO, Oxfam, SSEC Education Department, Ministry of Health – to name just a few.

The CRCA Prescribed Offering supports the work of SWIM by providing 50% of the budget to run the SWIM Base. The balance of funds comes from the people who use the facilities. SWIM Base is a well situated to facilitate local and international mission works within the Solomon Islands. For further information please refer to our webpage <https://swim.crca.org.au> or contact the SIW Chairperson – Rod Peet – [repeet777@hotmail.com](mailto:repeet777@hotmail.com)

### **MAMA Gift Account:**

The Ministerial Aid & Mutual Assistance ("MAMA") offering goes towards the funding of gifts to CRCA churches. The churches can apply for funding with regards to paying for: a vicar, the cost of removal expenses for ministers and vicars, the establishment of new churches, the establishment of part-time ministry positions and for other special circumstances. The MAMA Gift Fund is administered by the CRCA's Business and Finance Committee. Contact the Synodical Administrator.

### **Candidacy Committee:**

The CRCA Candidacy Committee has the responsibility of assisting men who are seeking ordained ministry in the CRCA through their time of study, until they are placed in a vicariate. This process involves receiving initial recommendations from their churches, consultation with the RTC regarding their course of study, regular contact with the candidate throughout their time of preparation, and ultimately placing them in a vicariate. The committee has representatives from each of the states, plus a Victorian executive.

Clinton Berends. [Clinton@southbarwon.org.au](mailto:Clinton@southbarwon.org.au) Mob: 0424 477 487

### **Reformed Children's & Youth Committee:**

Our committee is here to help and encourage CRCA youth leaders and pastors in their vital task of growing disciples of Jesus. We have a representative in each State and Classis who are working with Classis to find ways to best serve the churches there. State reps will promote Biblically solid youth leadership events and conferences in their areas. They will also facilitate the sharing of good resources for youth ministry. The RCYC also oversees the organisation of the bi-annual youth conventions which have been a blessing in our denomination for many years. Funds will help secure speakers and subsidise the costs for youth to attend. The contact list for your RCYC state rep is on the CRCA website under Youth. <https://crca.org.au/our-ministries/children-and-youth>

### **Reformed Theological College:**

RTC is a reformed, evangelical theological college based in Melbourne, Australia. We offer flexible study options across a broad range of courses, providing high quality training for Christian life and ministry. We have recently relocated our campus from Geelong to Melbourne's bustling CBD.

RTC is committed to theological education that is biblically grounded, theologically robust, gospel-hearted, culturally relevant, spiritually rich and winsomely engaging. We have students from many different denominations, studying for many different reasons. For more details see: <https://www.rtc.edu.au/>

### **World Transform:**

World Transform seeks to minister – in the Name of the Lord of mercy – to the spiritual and physical needs of all those in distress, including through natural disasters, war and hostilities, irrespective of sex, race or creed. With God's blessing, World Transform aims to be an instrument to help to transform developing and needy communities through relief and very importantly through sustainable, holistic development programmes. Some examples of World Transform's work are: The Heart Project, The King Project, Compassionate Catalogues, and Peniel Community College in India. For more information, please visit <https://worldtransform.org.au>

### **G.O.S.P.E.L.:**

Since 2002, G.O.S.P.E.L. has been working in a global partnership where over 75 evangelists are resourced to engage in planting indigenous churches amongst unreached tribal populations in Central/Western India. The work has born abundant fruit. CRCA congregations and individual sponsors are linked with a specific evangelist so that prayer can be more targeted. GOSPEL works closely with World Transform so that "Word and Deed" are aligned. For more information, please visit <http://gospel.net.au>

## **RECOMMENDED OFFERINGS:**

### **RTC Overseas Student Fund:**

The Overseas Student Fund has been able to fund visits to the G.O.S.P.E.L. field by RTC staff. Dr Phillip Scheepers and Dr Murray Capill have visited at various times. These visits have been thoroughly appreciated by the team in India, and have been a massive encouragement for the G.O.S.P.E.L. subcommittee.

We thank the RTC for giving so freely of the time and energy of these time poor professors. They have put up with heat, long and arduous road trips and were able to communicate so well with a very different kind of students. Phillip Scheepers and Murray Capill were able to meet various members of the PTS staff while they were in India. Such face to face meetings/discussions are beneficial forums for exchanging ideas and information. E.g. CRFI/G.O.S.P.E.L. were challenged to give further consideration to ensuring elders are appointed in the churches

### **Cadets/GEMS:**

**Cadets** is a Christian organisation, run by volunteers, with a programme that is created especially for Primary School boys from ages 9 to 14. At Cadets we aim to teach today youth about God, complete badge work, create crafts, play games, sing songs, make new friends and go on camps and outings.

**G.E.M.S.** is a Christian organisation, run by volunteers, with a programme that is created especially for girls from ages 9-15, with some groups also including a programme called Busy Bees for girls ages 6-8. The name G.E.M.S. stands for Girls Everywhere Meeting the Saviour. This name represents both the mission and vision of G.E.M.S. Girls' Clubs. The mission of G.E.M.S. is to help bring girls into a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ. The vision of G.E.M.S. is to see girls actively and enthusiastically expressing love for God and others by equipping and encouraging them to live out their faith. At G.E.M.S. the girls learn about God, complete badge work, create crafts, play games, sing songs, make new friends and go on camps and outings.

If you would like to join a Cadets or G.E.M.S. group contact:

Bruce Smith. Mob: 0413 947 591 Email: [secretary@gcboard.org.au](mailto:secretary@gcboard.org.au)

### **Bible League:**

Bible League Australia was founded with the support of the CRCA in 1970.

Gerald Hanscamp started the ministry here in Australia and was the founding National Director.

Our purpose statement is to serve the under-resourced Church globally through the provision of Bibles, biblical resources and training to transform lives worldwide through God's Word and help people meet Jesus.

We work in 50 countries around the world, with a focus on those who cannot afford or access a Bible.

Our ministry includes:

- Project Philip (training in discipleship and evangelism - based on the story in Acts 8)
- Bible-based Literacy (teaching adults and children to read and write using Bible-based text)
- Church Planter Training (Training of pastors to grow the Church)

For more info: Website: [www.bl.org.au](http://www.bl.org.au)

### **Wycliffe Bible Translators:**

Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia (WBTA) exists to see disciples of Jesus growing through the Scriptures available in the language that they understand best. To achieve this end WBTA is involved in the following activities:

- Promotion: presenting the work of Bible Translation to the Australian Christian public
- Advocacy: speaking out on behalf of language groups without adequate Scriptures
- Recruitment: inviting and encouraging Australian Christians to join the movement
- Training: providing appropriate and timely training to prepare people for roles in Bible translation
- Networking: working with churches and other mission organisations to further the work of Bible translation
- Empowering: supporting people in ways that allow them to work effectively
- Resourcing: cultivating resources, such as prayer and funding, to assist Bible translation around the world

WBTA is accredited with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission and is a member of the Wycliffe Global Alliance which is a community of over 100 diverse organisations and networks serving together in Bible translation movements around the world. More information about WBTA can be found on our website

<https://wycliffe.org.au/>

**Middle East Reformed Fellowship:**

Middle East Reformed Fellowship (MERF) is an evangelical Christian missionary organization which serves in the Middle East, North Africa and Asia on behalf of Reformed and Presbyterian Family of Churches and believers worldwide.

Our work is bearing fruit for the Kingdom of Christ among the twenty-two nations of the Arab League and other Muslim areas in Africa and Asia. MERF strengthens national churches with ministries of evangelism (reaching Muslims with the Gospel via broadcasts, websites and literature), church extension, biblical training, and diaconal aid. <https://merf.org.au/>

**Crossroads Prison Ministries:**

Crossroads Prison Ministries operates in Australia and the South Pacific. Our primary function is to assist in the rehabilitation of prisoners in changing their lives by taking God's Word within the prison walls through our ongoing Correspondence Bible Study Courses. We are a faith-based organisation that does not receive any Government assistance and are totally depended on the generosity of our donors. We are bathed in prayer and trust wholly and completely in the Lord to supply all our needs

At Crossroads Prison Ministries we encourage inmates to commence our extensive correspondence bible study program and connect them with volunteer mentors in Christ centred relationships. The mentors review their completed bible study lesson and answer their questions. They share stories from their own lives and help their students see how God is speaking to them through His Word. Also, our mentors send a letter of encouragement and hope with every lesson. Crossroads Prison Ministries currently has more than 500 active inmate students and over 400 dedicated mentors across Australia. We are all about the good news of Jesus. Only Jesus can break the chains of the prisoners and bring true freedom to those that come to know Him.

More information can be obtained from our website [www.cpm.org.au](http://www.cpm.org.au)

**International Justice Mission:**

International Justice Mission (IJM) is the world's largest anti-slavery organisation. Since 1997 IJM has rescued over 76,000 people from slavery; IJM provides trauma informed care for those rescued for as long as that is required; they restrain the perpetrators of slavery by seeking their prosecution in courts of law, and they work with developing nation governments and law enforcement agencies to repair broken and ineffective justice systems. Their evidence based approach had yielded amazing results resulting in the protection of millions of otherwise vulnerable people. IJM does all this as a response to the Lord's command to 'seek justice and defend the oppressed' (Is 1:17).

The CRCA has supported the work of IJM through their recommended offerings since 2015. IJM has about 34 offices in about 24 countries, and are committed to continue this work to God's glory until all are free. More information can be found at [www.IJM.org.au](http://www.IJM.org.au) or by contacting:

David Groenenboom. Email: [dgroenenboom@IJM.org.au](mailto:dgroenenboom@IJM.org.au) Mob: 0418 383 055