

# CONNECT



**“...The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”**

Galatians 5:6

# Welcome Home ▲

Welcome home to Abundant Life Church. We believe that you are loved, your life is significant, and no matter what path has led you to this point, we want to tell you that you don't need to "believe" in order to belong.

We believe that our lives have a wonderful plan and purpose, which has been masterfully created by a loving God. Our heart and hope at Abundant Life Church is to walk with you in your journey of faith – to dream, grow, overcome fear, and flourish as together we set our hearts on Jesus.

We are here to bring help for today and hope for tomorrow in Jesus. For those in our city and around the world; for those within and outside of our church family; for you to feel connected in your relationship with God on a Wednesday just as much as you do on a Sunday.

Our prayer is that you'll find a place to call home here in our church family. We'd love to walk alongside you in your journey of faith and life.

**Matt and Karen**



# Who We Are

## Vision

To be a Christian church of influence and significance bringing abundant life and hope to our world.

## Mission

“In Jesus, we bring help for today and hope for tomorrow by connecting people with God, each other, their culture, and the world.”

## Values

### **A Jesus Centred Life:**

Growing in intimacy and maturity with Jesus

### **People and Community:**

Offering invitations to take the first step and the next steps of faith

### **Honour and Celebration:**

Moving in joy, freedom and responsibility for our gifts, diversity and development.

You can read more about our values on page 12





## Marty's Story

“I have found that there is a significant difference between knowing about Jesus and actually knowing Jesus as a person. I have known a life with and without Jesus, and it is clear to me that Jesus has brought me hope and purpose in a way I didn't know before. I have made my share of mistakes that have affected me and many people I love, but with Jesus at the centre of my life, so many things have become easier: relationships, decision making, parenting and even health. I know that whatever is around the corner, God is always with me.”

# Connecting People With God ▲

Through intimacy and invitation, we create opportunities to connect you into a deeper relationship with God

The opportunity to be in relationship with God is life changing. As a church family, we are devoted to helping each other develop this relationship to its fullness.

Our Sunday services are all about making room for you to encounter the presence of God; through worship, prayer, and teaching – or perhaps simply in the spaces in between. We also have a variety of mid-week groups that seek to achieve the same goal for you and your family.

# Connecting People With Each Other ▲

Through the development of strong and mature relationships we grow together as followers of Jesus

As people of faith we are committed to growing, and growing together. Jesus teaches us to love one another, and we know that life is far more fun when we experience it together. Our lifegroups are designed to help you on your journey, regardless of your age or stage in life. We meet in small groups through the week that encourage deeper relationships with each other as we continue to grow in our relationship with God.

## Connecting People With Their Culture

Through taking faith into our everyday lives, we empower others to do the same

Our faith and love isn't just for a Sunday - it should influence where we live, work and play. We want to inspire you to carry the good news of salvation and the peace and power of the Holy Spirit into every situation and circumstance.

We are called to bring the promises of God to everyone we come across. Our church family includes athletes, artists, musicians, teachers, politicians, and those in business - people just like you - who are inspired to share the goodness and love of Jesus in their everyday lives.

## Connecting People With Their World

Through our local, regional and global focus, we engage with missions projects here and around the world

Jesus lived a life of love, characterized by helping people. He healed, blessed, and transformed lives (and even whole communities) wherever he went. We are called to do the same. We invite you to partner with us as we support a number of local, national and global organizations. You can join us by donating financially, volunteering your time, or providing prayer support. A full list of the work we do and organizations we partner with is available on our website

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



## The Jacometti's Story

“We love being part of Abundant Life Church as we raise our own family. Our connection to those who have already been down the parenting path gives us both amazing strength and hope, and plays a vital role in how we grow in our own relationship with God. We believe that we are truly valued and recognised by this church; both as individuals and as parents, and through these daily and weekly connections we feel empowered to lead our daughter on her own journey towards Jesus.”



## Pip's Story

“Our family stands on a great legacy built by previous generations of family, who, although experiencing great hardships in life, lived with an absolute trust and faith in God and were always surrounded by a loving, praying, encouraging church family.

To my husband Terry & I, Church is family, and this value continues in our children - that connection to church is not an optional extra, but an integral part of life. This extended ‘family’ have been and still are those extra voices in our lives, that encourage and love us all, value who we are and spur us on in our relationship with Jesus and all that life brings. For us, there is great strength and hope in ‘doing life together’.”

# A Further Look At Our Values

## **A JESUS CENTRED LIFE:**

Growing In Intimacy And Maturity With Jesus

We value a life with Jesus at its very centre, and therefore we grow intentionally in this relationship, with honesty, and a sense of child-like delight and wonder.

We are committed to practical faith expressing itself through love and grace.

We value the daily decision to sacrifice time in order to connect with and become more like Jesus through worship, prayer and his word.

We value hosting the presence of God and being continually filled with his Spirit, in order to do the things he did and even greater.

With Jesus at the centre we are devoted to loving God, all people, and life with our whole heart, mind, body and strength.

We are dedicated and unafraid to seek God passionately.

## **PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY:**

Invitations To Take The First Step And The Next Steps  
Of Faith



We value each and every person and believe they are made both uniquely and in God's image. His love is equal and impartial. Because we believe this, we are active in local, regional and global missions programs.

We believe in God's plan of putting people into different kinds of families; their nuclear family, the family of faith, and their community, to name a few.

We place value on building loving relationships with each other and those around us. This is so we can extend clear invitations to take the first steps of faith as beloved children and then the next steps of faith as disciples.

We value empowering and resourcing people so our faith can be outworked with authenticity, generosity, freedom and joy.

God's value of people compels us to preach the Gospel in fullness, inviting surrender and repentance, and celebrating and partnering with "New Life".

We support people in their growth and journey through lifegroups and practical teaching.

We provide open opportunities for connecting both socially and spiritually, throughout the year, such as Carols Under the Stars, Sunday gatherings, men and women's groups, and children and youth ministries.





## Theresa's Story

"I have come from brokenness, guilt, shame, and hopelessness. I've known some really dark days where my only option was one moment at a time. This is tough when you have four beautiful girls and an action packed young man to raise.

Walking into a church for the first time in my adult life was one of the toughest things I've ever done. What I encountered was life changing forgiveness, love, encouragement and support for me and my five beautiful children.

We are now so full of hope for this next season of our lives, and with the encouragement and support of our church family, we will continue to walk with purpose and the fullness of all that Jesus has intended for us."

AND ALL MY



## **HONOUR AND CELEBRATION:**

Moving In Joy, Freedom, And Taking Responsibility  
For our Gifts, Diversity And Development ▲

We value drawing out the dreams and destiny of this church family and of those we live in community with.

We value the gifts of the Spirit and the five fold gifts (as outlined in Ephesians 4 and 1 Corinthians 12 - namely Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers). We desire for all spiritual and natural gifts to be developed and released for the glory of God and joy within His church.

We believe that people are powerful and gifted to do extraordinary things. We value seeing these gifts mutually submitted and celebrated within the church.

We value celebrating who a person is, and always honour who they are becoming.

We are called to speak the best, seek the best and believe for the best in everybody. We speak the truth with love, forgive quickly, and consider others better than ourselves.

We invite teaching, leadership and release of the five fold ministry as well as all of God's gifts of creativity, service and leadership.

# Next Steps

We want to be active followers (disciples) of Jesus, which to us, means a personal, daily decision to be connected with God and growing to be more like Jesus. A disciple is simply “one who follows”, and our goal is to do this personally and corporately.

We make time to actively pursue God so we can know him more. What does this pursuit look like? It looks like praying and singing, reading the Bible, and cultivating a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit.

We also place great value on ensuring we are a people of action, who are intentional about investing our time in meaningful ways.

In all of this, we are building a community of faith: all of us unique, and all of us coming from different perspectives, but all of us on a journey.

To support us in this, we engage with:

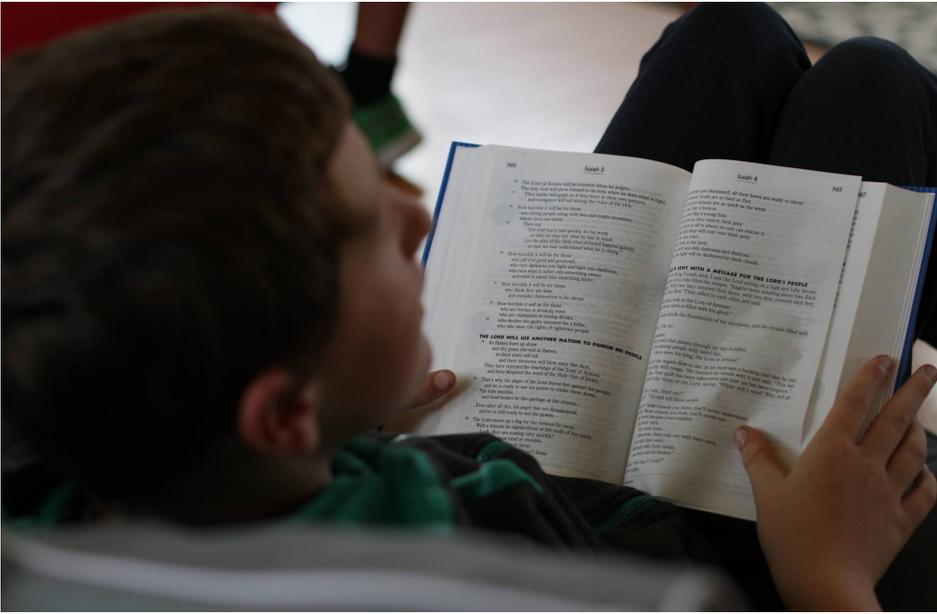
- Lifegroups (small mid week gatherings)
- Men’s / women’s Ministries
- Kids Ministry
- Youth Ministry
- New Christian’s classes
- Community Connection
- Serving on a Sunday
- Missions opportunities

For more information on taking your next step as a disciple, why not connect with us in person. You can find all of our details at the back of this booklet.



## A Prayer Of Connection and Commitment

Dear Jesus, I need you in my life. I acknowledge that I have sinned and I come to you right now confessing that and asking your forgiveness. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I believe you are the Son of God and that you rose from the dead and are alive today. I open the door of my heart and receive you as my Saviour and Lord. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. I surrender my whole life to you now and from this point on I want to walk in relationship with you, asking that you help me to be the person of love you want me to be. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.





## Connect With Us!



@abundantlifechurch



Abundant Life Church



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