

2018

# REACH OUT



## ANNUAL REPORT



Community of Christ

12 TAYLOR STREET, WEST PENNANT HILLS NSW 2125

# CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2018 HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES/ RESULTS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Visioning Project, Sydney .....	8
Kallara Conference Centre .....	9
Green Cathedral Chapel.....	10
Bulahdelah Closure .....	11
Camps and Events .....	12
Youth Rezolutions .....	18
Tunes4Tots .....	20
Kinship (KinCarers') Camps.....	21
Hope Safari, Brisbane .....	22
Woodlands Food Pantry, Perth.....	23
<b>FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>THANKS &amp; INVITATION TO GIVE .....</b>	<b>26</b>



# COMMUNITY OF CHRIST MISSION STATEMENT

WE PROCLAIM  
JESUS CHRIST  
AND PROMOTE  
COMMUNITIES OF  
JOY, HOPE, LOVE  
AND PEACE.

# LOCAL PURPOSE STATEMENT

THE PURPOSE OF COMMUNITY  
OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA IS  
TO ENGAGE PEOPLE IN  
CONNECTION WITH EACH  
OTHER, AND WITH GOD,  
THROUGH THE MESSAGE  
OF JESUS CHRIST.

# INTRODUCTION

2018 was a year spent in reflection and consolidation; our efforts directed to understanding where the church is called to be and where we need to change. Our five year strategic plan set the tone to build on the successes and learnings of the past, while reaching far into the distance, discerning where the Spirit is calling.

The end of 2018 marks a time of review, we reflect on the sparks of inspiration and impulse to change that has helped us to move toward a more diligent deployment of our resources.

Change, although difficult and even scary, is being embraced as we rethink the way we meet, the way we learn, the way we talk to each other - all with a view to adapt in order for us to continue reaching those in need.

Looking forward we see the opportunity to strengthen our leadership and spiritual identity, enhance the experience of congregational life and focus outward to where our ministry can be of service in the pursuit of peace. And, inescapably so, the context for our growth is molded from the perspective of sustainability and the wise and careful stewardship of our resources, at all levels, and environment.

I am constantly inspired by the stories in our sacred texts which point to trials and struggles as it reminds me that our current situation is not new, nor is it unsurpassable. Throughout history, people have tussled with the call of the Spirit as it makes us uncomfortable and leads us to places which seem dangerous and unknown. There is reassurance, however, and time and time again we are told to 'fear not', for God is with us. My own spirit has struggled in recent months, with the fear of fate resting heavily on my heart. It seems we often take one step forward, only to go two steps back. As I reflect on how far we've come, and how far we have yet to travel, I'm strengthened by the sense that we are moving to a great place of discovery. We are nearing a place where our journey will uncover the kind of fulfilment we yearn for, and this fills me with a great hope.

As we lean in and listen to the call of God in our lives, we will discover anew.

*Ben Smith*

Australia Mission Centre President



# REACHING OUT ACROSS AUSTRALIA



Community of Christ



# VISIONING PROJECTS

Over the past year or two, several areas of the church have embarked on projects to intentionally listen and respond to the spirit in their areas. Late 2018, Sydney appointed Lisa Hoelzl to lead a research and development project to bring together research and ideas from around the Sydney cluster with the view to presenting several concepts for the church to explore. These concepts will be ready for release in approximately July 2019.

The Victoria cluster has also begun a process of visioning, attempting to find a way to be more relevant in the community. The hope is that a plan will be in place by late 2019 to look at new concepts and models.

Perth has been in discussion for some time as to how it pursues its future opportunities. The Food Pantry operations have been expanding over the past 5 years, and employs a part time coordinator to run that program. In the coming year, more development on that program will come into being.





# KALLARA CONFERENCE CENTRE

Kallara Conference Centre is a unique venue nestled in the scenic foothills of the Strathbogie Ranges, a short 2hr drive from Melbourne CBD. The grounds back onto native bushland with unique wildlife and scenic walking tracks and it offers a fully equipped conference facility catering for up to 116 people.

Visitor Camp nights increased by over 60% from 112 in 2016/17 to 180 in 2017/18. And the number of visitor camps also increased: from 23 in 2016/17 to 30 in 2017/18.

Kallara continues to be well utilized by our own membership and increasingly by the wider community. There are a myriad of different programmes that operate across a year, testament to the 'spirit' that is present at Kallara that impacts the lives of visitors.



**VISITOR CAMP  
NIGHTS  
INCREASED BY OVER  
60%**

**NUMBER OF  
VISITOR CAMPS  
INCREASED BY  
30%**

# TIONA CHAPEL



After over 15 years of dreaming, the Tiona Chapel development is coming to life, with construction starting in June 2019.

The Tiona Chapel is (and will be) more than simply a building. We believe it will become a centre for the whole community to share in the sacredness of the place we have been custodians for generations. It will be a place where cares are jettisoned and hope is lifted, a truly restorative ministry. This facility is a ministry, an avenue for Christ's mission to be lived out in the world, and a way Community of Christ can share its message with those who walk through its doors.

The vision of a chapel at the top of the path, as a companion to the Green Cathedral, has been dreamt of by our community for many years. The good news is, it is now close to becoming a reality!

Not only will this facility be a blessing on days that are too wet or windy to gather in the Green Cathedral, but far more excitingly, it will offer the opportunity

for programs and ministries to be experienced by all who gather there, year round. Like salt and pepper, yin and yang, hope and joy, peace and love, they will complement one another.

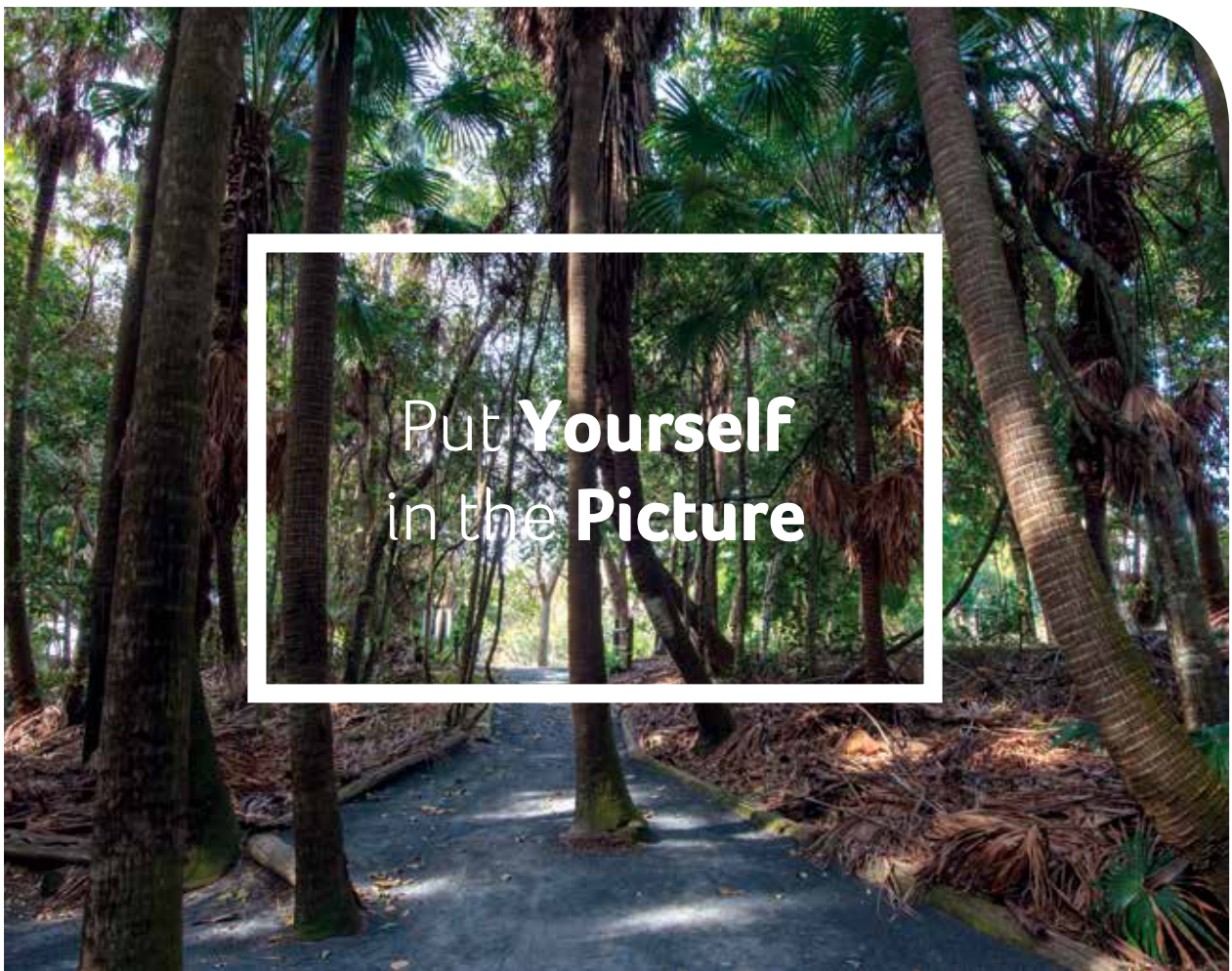
Picture Yourself here in this incredible space!

You can be part of its story and its future by donating to Tiona Chapel, ensuring that it is well built and well maintained for future generations, to be blessed by what is being offered there.

How wonderful would it be to watch it grow and develop, and to know you were part of it? Perhaps you would like to donate in your name, or in a loved one's name - we would certainly welcome it, and be grateful for it. We are inviting you to see how you'd be a part of this story. Not simply a church or a chapel, this is a space for the whole community to enjoy.

Follow our journey or to donate:

[www.tionachapel.com.au](http://www.tionachapel.com.au)





# BULAHDELAH CLOSURE

After decades of service, in September 2017 the Bulahdelah congregation held a business meeting to close the congregation. There are always mixed emotions when it comes to saying goodbye to the institution that held so many memories, however the group was blessed by a spirit of transition and transformation as it requested its assets be used towards the Tiona Chapel development, continuing their legacy in the community. In February of 2019 settlement occurred on the building sale, and, in addition to Bulahdelah's excess funds, 100% of the net proceeds from that sale were allocated to the Tiona Chapel project.



# CAMPS AND EVENTS

2017/18  
SAW AN  
**INCREASE**  
IN CAMP  
ATTENDANCES:

**UP**  
**16%**  
ON THE SAME  
NUMBER IN  
THE PREVIOUS  
PERIOD

This is an area where we are in growth, as efforts are directed at inviting friends and members old and new to connect with us in this way.















# YOUTH REZOLUTIONS



A joint project of Saints Care, and the Diocese of Parramatta, Catholic Care, Youth Rezolutions is focused on alleviating the risk of homelessness and equip young people with the skills to transition to independence.

The aim is to connect young people with education, employment, brokerage and counselling services, with a case management approach.

Delivering services including group work and mentoring programs, life skills programs and connecting them with practical assistance such as accommodation and financial aid.

RAS Bundles (wRap Around Service) include the provision of both Living Skills and Material Aid to clients in order to establish them in a "liveable" situation, encouraging connectedness and stability.

In 2017/18 forty seven RAS and thirty one Mini RAS Bundles were provided to individuals, including 30 young mums, total value \$115,000.

RAS bundles have shown to create a longer lasting change to those who receive them, allowing them to focus their cash flow needs on food and other essential services. The bundles often include the initial things you might need to setup in a new home (a bed, fridge, sofa etc) which then allow the individual to focus their attention and resources on creating a safe and sustainable way to live. We have found that recipients of RAS bundles have been able to maintain their housing for much longer periods than those without, showing us that this service is a positive way of assisting the community in achieving sustainable housing solutions.

[youthrezolutions.com.au](http://youthrezolutions.com.au)



**IN 2017/18  
YOUTH  
REZOLUTIONS  
WORKED WITH  
889  
YOUNG PEOPLE:**

**42%  
MALE**

**58%  
FEMALE**

**12%  
PART OF YOUNG  
FAMILY  
(WITH A  
CHILD/REN)**

**53%  
NEW  
CLIENTS**

**\$115,000  
WRAP AROUND  
SERVICE BUNDLES**



OVER  
**60**  
FAMILIES WITH  
**72** KIDS

Tunes4Tots is a music program designed for those not yet at school. Through play the children learn how to interact socially with each other, to take turns, to share. For caregivers, especially parents, it is simply a safe place where they can share and learn from each other. The children play, the caregivers share and the Community of Christ provides a safe loving environment where all this can take place.

The popular Tunes4Tots program is set to expand from a single site at West Pennant Hills in NSW to a second location in Bendigo Victoria. It is expected in 2018/19 we will see the engagement number more than double.

Find out more at: [tunes4tots.org.au](http://tunes4tots.org.au)

# KINCARER CAMPS

A kinship carer (Kincarer) is someone who provides care for a child other than their own. Camps are run twice a year at Bendigo and Frankston and provide the opportunity for Kincarers and their children to have a neutral place to share some quality time with each other as well as receiving support through companionship.

These programs often have unintended consequences which build on our work to connect people and create lasting relationships.



# TUESDAY CONNECT

*....love in action*



**30** AVG.  
VISITORS  
EACH WEEK

ASSISTING  
OVER  
**1000**  
INDIVIDUALS  
EACH YEAR

**10**  
VOLUNTEERS

Our Brisbane congregation has had a long history of meeting the needs of the bruised and the broken-hearted within our community and continues to adapt to these ever-changing needs. Through Tuesday Connect some of those needs are being met. The program has evolved over the last 2 years

The unique part of the program is the focus on social engagement. People need to feel they belong, and there is a sense of belonging here. The service sits geographically within a culturally diverse area and the needs in that area are also diverse.



# PERTH FOOD PANTRY

Some 20 years ago a local Uniting Church in Perth started the Food Pantry to provide free food parcels for people needing support to help make ends meet. The closure and sale of their building in 2011 meant a new home was needed and, following some prayerful discussion, the Perth congregation stepped up.

Since then the Food Pantry meets every Wednesday morning at our Woodlands Church, weekly attendances average around 45 people, each person represents another two or three at home who benefit. Many regulars who attend now call Community of Christ "their church" and one or two have joined us for Sunday worship too.

The Food Pantry provides practical support to help people maintain their essential needs.

**\$40,000**  
SPENT ON FOOD  
PURCHASES

ASSISTING  
OVER  
**2000**  
INDIVIDUALS  
EACH YEAR

**1 PART**  
TIME POSITION  
FUNDED THROUGH  
SAINTS CARE

**12**  
VOLUNTEERS

# FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

**From a financial perspective, 2018 has been a year of good performance. There was overall improvement in financial health.**

Total assets increased by approximately \$900,000 and net assets by \$800,000. The simple net return on 1 July opening balance units in Community of Christ Ltd Investment Fund was 7.23%, 1.13% above the targeted 5 year rolling average of 4% (net of fees) + CPI.

Investment income continues to be the largest component of total revenue, 53% in 2018. Followed by Partnerships at 15%, Rental & Lease income at 12% and Camps & Events at 10%. Donation income continues to be a concern and decreased by 10% from the previous year.

Personnel expenses continued to be the largest expense, comprising 58% of total expenditure, followed by Camps & Events at 9%. Many of the exciting developments that occur are sometimes difficult to see when looking at purely financial numbers.

One that can be seen is 3% of total expenditure on the Tiona Chapel development. In addition, \$338,452 was

allocated from the Bequest (special projects) reserve to the Tiona Chapel Development reserve along with a generous \$50,000 from Bulahdelah congregations investment funds as a result of the congregations closure. The Tiona Chapel Development reserve thereby had a great start of \$340,848 by the end of June towards the recommencement of the project. A dream that began in 2003, halted 11 years later, is now being fulfilled. **Learn more at [tionachapel.com.au](http://tionachapel.com.au)**

Harder to see is that 2018 was a year of discernment and repositioning for the future, in March an exciting new strategic plan for the next 5 years was finalised (learn more at [cofchrist.com.au/news/2018/3/15/strategic-plan](http://cofchrist.com.au/news/2018/3/15/strategic-plan)). Work immediately commenced to progress with its message, living it out across the nation. 33% of legal expenses was a result of the Community of Christ Ltd board beginning to work with legal counsel to assess the structure of all aspects of the Australia Mission Centre as per Aspect 4, Objective 3, Response 1.

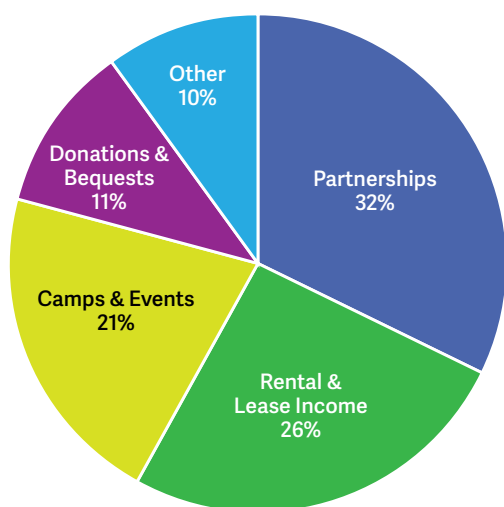
2019 will see numerous exciting financial impacts as the first full year of the new strategic plan is lived out.

A full set of audited financial statements can be found at: **[cofchrist.com.au/reports](http://cofchrist.com.au/reports)**

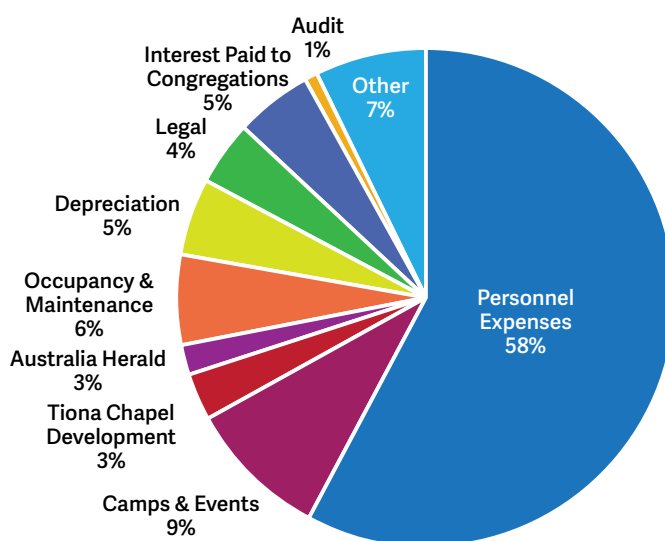
<b>FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2017-18</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>EXPENSES 2017-18</b>	<b>\$</b>
Revenue*	809,029	Personnel Expenses	800,196
Investment income	896,641	Camps & Events	119,439
<b>Total revenue from operating activities</b>	<b>1,705,670</b>	Tiona Chapel Development	41,422
Congregational Support	802,858	Australia Herald	21,605
Finance & facilities	449,006	Occupancy & Maintenance	86,106
Communications	35,599	Depreciation	66,233
Kallara Campground	84,557	Legal	48,998
<b>Total expenses from operating activities</b>	<b>1,372,020</b>	Interest Paid to Congregations	68,036
Result before investments movement	333,650	Audit Expense	19,000
Movement in investments at fair value through profit or loss	482,092	Other	100,984
<b>Net operating result</b>	<b>815,742</b>	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1,372,020</b>



## REVENUE



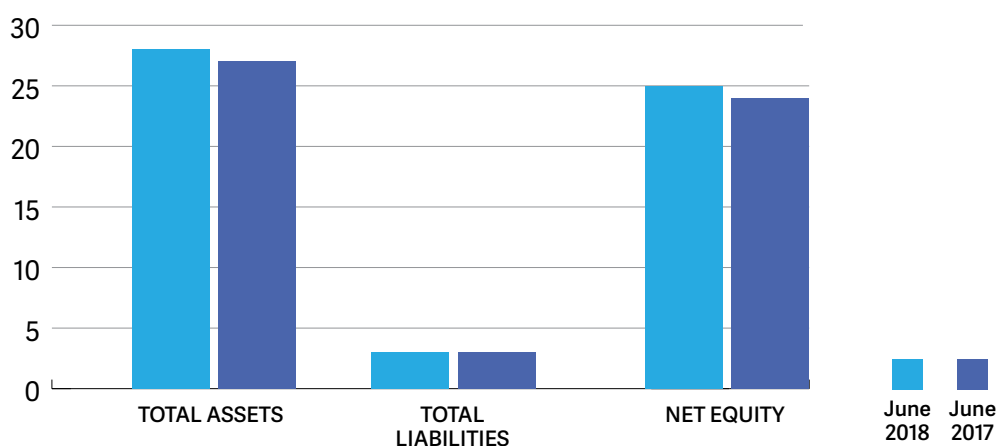
## EXPENSES



### FINANCIAL POSITION, 2018

	JUNE 30, 2018	JUNE 30, 2017
Current assets	\$ 4,951,725	\$ 5,514,773
Non-current assets	\$ 22,579,966	\$ 21,083,122
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 27,531,691</b>	<b>\$ 26,597,895</b>
Current liabilities	\$ 2,663,683	\$ 2,555,717
Non-current liabilities	\$ 23,730	\$ 13,642
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 2,687,413</b>	<b>\$ 2,569,359</b>
<b>Net equity</b>	<b>\$ 24,844,278</b>	<b>\$ 24,028,536</b>

### BALANCE SHEET (\$ MIL)



# THANKS FOR GIVING

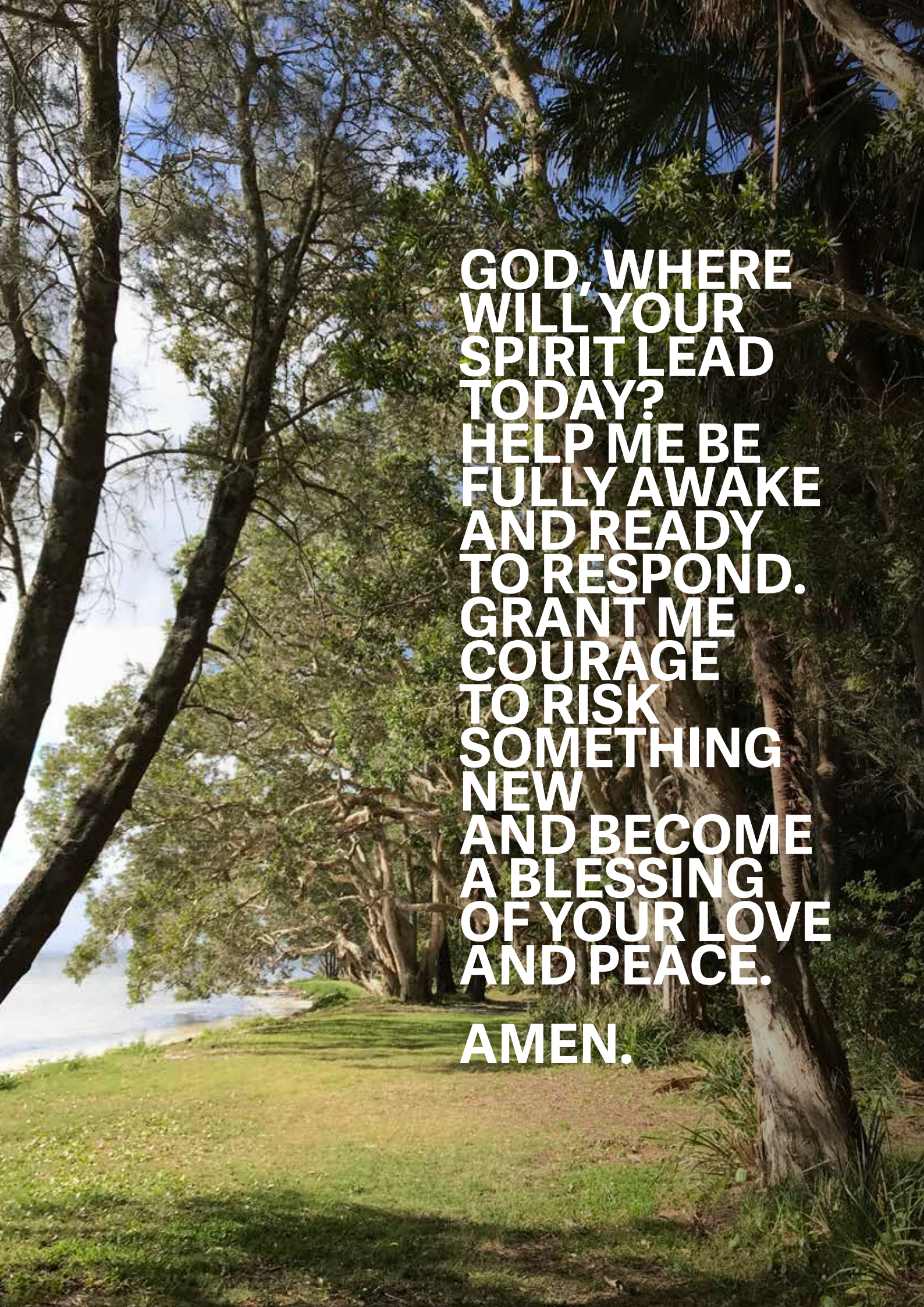
The successful delivery of the programs and initiatives of the church is only possible with the cooperative service and bountiful contribution of many. For this we would like to express our earnest thanks and infinite gratitude. Support by way of financial patronage is received with deep appreciation for the life-changing, congregation changing, world-changing opportunities it facilitates.

We likewise give thanks for the dedication of those that serve on boards, committees and teams; your care and attention to delivering on our local mission is invaluable and we commend your work and the efforts you make in order to share your time and talents in this way.

We are grateful for the support of our mission staff and pastoral team, your devotion to your role and the enthusiasm and effort with which you carry it out is invaluable in its service both to the church and its people.

Our gratitude extends also to the hundreds of volunteers and friends; sharing their ministry through action. Whether it be leading a camp or activity, preparing a morning tea, maintaining communications and records, working on the upkeep of a property or mowing a lawn; each and every action supports the church community and its mission and we are thankful for your faithful commitment and service.

We invite you to continue to share your time, talents and resources generously. If you would like to give support in a financial way, you can send a contribution to the Mission Centre Office, 12 Taylor Street West Pennant Hills NSW 2125 or for an electronic funds transfer contact **[accounts@cofchrist.com.au](mailto:accounts@cofchrist.com.au)** for bank details.



**GOD, WHERE  
WILL YOUR  
SPIRIT LEAD  
TODAY?  
HELP ME BE  
FULLY AWAKE  
AND READY  
TO RESPOND.  
GRANT ME  
COURAGE  
TO RISK  
SOMETHING  
NEW  
AND BECOME  
A BLESSING  
OF YOUR LOVE  
AND PEACE.**

**AMEN.**

