

BRISBANE

COOLANGATTA

Newlife Church Annual Report 2024 - 2025



ROBINA

MORETON



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Mission & Vision

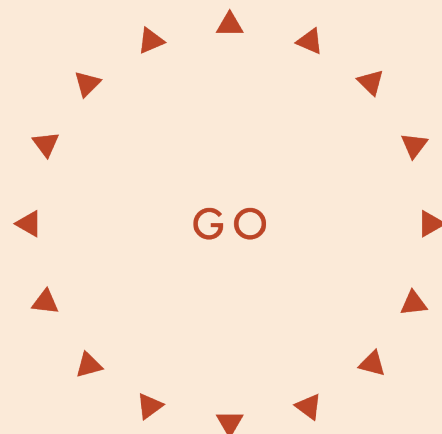
OUR MISSION

Newlife exists to see more people more like Jesus by planting and leading thriving local churches.

OUR VISION

Our vision is that Newlife will be a movement of renewal in Australia, with and through the Uniting Church.

Discipleship Values



Numbers to *Celebrate:*

62

CATALYST

(people completed Catalyst across 24-25)

56

BAPTISMS

07

REAFFIRMATIONS

45

NEW MEMBERS

213

PATHWAYS

(people completed Pathways)

225

ALPHA

(people completed Alpha)

1,443

SMALL GROUPS

(people in small groups)

1,111

**VOLUNTEERS NEWLIFE
CHURCH/CARE:**

Lead Minister *Report:*

REVEREND MICHAEL HANDS

What a year it has been across our family of churches. I count it one of the deepest privileges of my life to serve the mission and vision of Newlife and to see the hand of God at work among us.

More than seven years ago, I sat on a hillside in Maleny, wrestling with God's call on my life. It was there that the words of Ezekiel 37 came to me with piercing clarity. Where others saw only dry bones, that is, the fractured witness of the church and the declining future of the Uniting Church, God saw an army waiting for prophetic vision and the wind of His Spirit - "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! ... I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life'" (Ezekiel 37:4-5). In that moment, I was convinced that God was not done yet and that we will see renewal and the mighty work of God - in our time (Habakkuk 3:4).

This year, more than ever before, we are seeing the fulfilment of that promise. Across our family, we are witnessing stories of renewed faith, first-time commitments to Jesus, and a deep hunger for the presence of God. In the last twelve months, 62 people completed Catalyst, 225 people journeyed through Alpha, 213 finished Pathways, and more than 1,000 are gathering regularly in small groups. Alongside this, 56 people were baptised, seven reaffirmed their faith, and 45 became members of our church. These aren't just statistics; they are lives transformed by grace. Every number has a name, every name has a story, and every story matters to God. Each one is living proof of Jesus' words in John 10:10: "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

This has also been a year of honouring those who have faithfully stewarded the journey of Newlife from its foundations. We farewelled Dr Daniel Pampuch, Lance Robertson, and Shema Haima from our Council, and in this next season, we will farewell Mark Peters and Racquel Brown. These leaders have modelled integrity, grit, and a faith that has inspired us all.



In particular, I thank Daniel Pampuch for his nine years of service, including four as Chair of our Council. His wisdom, strength, and unwavering commitment have been a gift to me personally and to our church family. Each of these leaders is a living reminder of God's faithfulness across the decades.

And yet, as we give thanks for the past, we look ahead with expectation. Jesus reminds us, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few" (Matthew 9:37). We are living in days of renewal, but there is more to come. The dry bones are rising. The breath of God is still moving. And the promise that has anchored me since that day on the hillside in Maleny, still holds true: "The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

In our time, friends. God is just getting started.

Let's go.

Chair of Council *Report:*

DR DANIEL PAMPUCH

The Newlife family of churches operates across five locations - Coolangatta, Robina, Brisbane CBD, Moreton, and now Coomera. Supported by 57 staff and five Church Plant residents, Newlife serves 8066 locals across South East Queensland with around 1889 congregants attending one of the 9 services each week.



The church membership has grown by 6% in the past year and our staff and volunteers continue to reach deeply into the local community of South East Queensland, supporting and caring for those in need.

The Newlife Family Council has gone through a refresh with the original council founded four years ago, being replaced by new and committed congregants who are ready to take Newlife into the next stage of its growth and development.

I want to thank the founding Newlife Council for its hard work in establishing the new policies, practices, and procedures which have taken Newlife from a single church to a multi-location family of churches. This is not easy work and has required a steadfast commitment to enacting God's vision to see renewal in and through the Uniting Church.

The structures of Newlife have also gone through significant review and transformation with the appointment of the Executive Pastor and the Associate Pastor at Robina. These Pastors will support the Lead Minister so that he can focus on the strategic, missional aspects of the Newlife family, rather than being drawn into operational activities. The Newlife Council thanks the Elders at each location for their ministry and support.

They provide a vital balance to the work of the Council and ensure ministers are supported well and that congregations are vital, life-giving communities of worship. Thank you also to the ministry teams under the inspirational leadership of Michael Hands. We are blessed as a family of churches to have such a high-quality, servant-hearted staff.

As my final responsibility as Chair, I wish to thank members of the Newlife Family Council for their tireless work and the role they play in seeing "more people more like Jesus". It has been an amazing eight years on Elders and Council, and I stand in awe at all God has done in that time.

Financial *Summary:*



NADINE HARDY

Finance Manager

The growth we have experienced in prior years continued throughout 2024-5, building on the strong foundation of many years of God's faithfulness. In this vibrant season we have seen our Newlife family thrive, ministries flourish, and many lives transformed by God's amazing grace.

The generosity of the Newlife family has ensured financial stability and enabled growth in our God-given mission of planting local thriving churches and seeing more people more like Jesus. This year we have invested in our Kidzlife, Youth and Young Adults ministries, discipled future leaders through our Catalyst program, welcomed people through our Pathways program, grown our small groups and deepened our prayer ministry.

The Church Plant Residency program was also expanded as we seek to train and equip Kingdom leaders in line with our Church Planting mission.

A year focused on improving our systems has strengthened the central function of Newlife and set us up for growth. Consistent giving throughout the year, and careful stewardship of resources, mean that Newlife finished the financial year in a surplus position. We are grateful to God for his continued faithfulness and provision.

Thank you once again for your heart and generosity in partnering with Newlife as we seek to grow God's Kingdom together.

Discipleship *Testimonies*



Gather the lost

One of the most beautiful stories of God's redeeming work at Newlife Robina this year is the journey of Jodie, her husband Roy, and their two children. In February, they walked into church together for the first time. Until then, their only connection had been through playgroup, but God was already at work, answering the prayers of Jodie's parents and stirring hunger in their hearts.

Life had been full, fast, and noisy, with little room for faith, but through worship and preaching, they discovered the Bible as the living word of God, speaking directly into their lives. Wanting to go deeper, they joined Alpha and encountered the grace of Jesus and the reality of the Holy Spirit in a life-changing way. This year, they were baptised together as a family, publicly declaring their faith in Christ. Their story is a testimony to God's faithfulness: a family redeemed, restored, and finding abundant life in Jesus.

Glue in community

This year has been a journey for Thejas and Reema, and their daughter Thea, as God faithfully directed their steps to Newlife. Thejas grew up with faith expressed mostly through rituals, but he always felt something was missing. Through Alpha, he discovered a personal relationship with Jesus and a faith built, not on empty practices, but on grace and truth.

Serving at Newlife gave Thejas a sense of belonging, standing alongside others with a shared focus on Jesus. Worship and teaching opened his eyes to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, transforming practices he once dismissed into life-giving experiences, filling him with confidence and peace. For Reema, moments of prayer and speaking in tongues, brought deep joy and freedom. Thea has also flourished in Kidzlife, going home each week excited about Scripture and talking about Jesus.

After moving through change and challenges, the family has found a home where the Bible is central, Jesus is the focus, and the Spirit is alive and active.

Discipleship *Testimonies*



Grow as disciples

Thad and his family first walked into one of Newlife Moreton's earliest services two years ago. At the time, they were feeling weary and disenfranchised with church, unsure if they would find a place to belong again. But as they kept coming, week after week, something began to shift. Through worship, teaching, and genuine community, they slowly rediscovered a love for Jesus and His church.

Over time, their faith has been renewed and found fresh purpose. Thad now serves faithfully as Newlife Moreton's Worship Coordinator, helping shape the worship life of the church. His wife, Andri, completed the Catalyst discipleship program, deepening her faith and commitment to Jesus. Together, their family has become a core part of the Newlife Moreton community, embodying what it means to be disciples who grow in love for God, serve His church, and live out His mission in the world.

Go on mission

For five years at Newlife Coolangatta, Pastor David grew faithfully as both a disciple and a leader. His heart for God and people was evident, and this year we joyfully sent him to plant a church in Coomera.

While the Coolangatta community deeply loves David deeply and will miss him, it is fully committed to our vision to "See more people more like Jesus by planting and leading thriving local churches". Sending Pastor David was an act of faith, love, joy, and obedience to God's call.

The congregation celebrates what God has done in and through David at Coolangatta, and looks forward with excitement to see gospel fruit in Coomera for God's Kingdom.



Overseas Missions:

JON MORRIS

At Newlife we believe the gospel calls us to look beyond ourselves, joining God in His mission to see lives restored and communities transformed. Together as a family of churches, we are privileged to partner with missionaries and ministries across Cambodia, Thailand, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Malawi, and Togo. One of the most significant ways we are making a difference is through child sponsorship, with almost 500 children currently supported by people from Newlife. These partnerships provide not only education, food, and care, but also the hope of Christ planted deeply in young hearts and families.

A particular highlight this year has been our partnership in Cambodia with Byron Davis, along with Pastor Perlito and Rose Gatman. Serving through Bridge of Hope, they are reaching some of Cambodia's most vulnerable children and families. Byron has overseen the construction of a new school and church that will directly serve our sponsor children and their families. His long-held vision of a Trade College is also gaining momentum, creating a pathway for young people to develop practical skills that will provide sustainable livelihoods and dignity for years to come.

At the same time, Pastor Perlito and Rose continue to provide faithful leadership by discipling children, supporting families, and shaping the future of their community. Together, this has led to the development of the Mercy Ministry Land project, an initiative designed to provide safe housing, holistic care, and Christian education.



Newlife Care

BRETT LUSH Executive Officer

Through Newlife Care, our mission is simple: empowering local people to bring local good to people in need. This year, we have seen that mission come alive in countless ways through the love and generosity of our Newlife family. Thanks to your faith in action, people across our community have discovered dignity, belonging, and hope through practical care.

At Robina, the extension of our Op Shop created space not just for clothing and goods, but for connection. Volunteers and customers alike describe it as a place where conversations matter as much as purchases, often becoming a doorway into wider care.

Alongside this, our church family rallied through initiatives like the Christmas Hamper Appeal and Pack the Pantry, blessing families with food and gifts, and ensuring households in crisis could find stability and hope. For those moving from homelessness into housing, our Home Starter Packs turned empty rooms into homes filled with warmth and generosity.

Our Community Care team continued to walk alongside people in moments of deep struggle. Families displaced by disaster, individuals escaping domestic violence, and neighbours facing housing or mental-health challenges all found safe pathways forward through the support of our Senior Social Worker and strong partnerships with local agencies.

Programs such as Princess for a Day, Crossroads, and Men's Kitchen became places of joy, laughter, and friendship. Families discovered financial freedom through Christians Against Poverty and food relief through The Table. Our Welcome Home Project celebrated the safe arrival and settlement of the Ahmed family.

In Brisbane, City Meals brought hope to people doing it tough in the CBD. Week after week, volunteers cooked meals, shared stories, and offered friendship alongside food. Beyond the meals themselves, what people remembered most was being seen and welcomed by name.

Every project, every gathering, and every act of generosity tells a bigger story: together, we are living the gospel in action. Thank you for praying, serving, and giving so faithfully. The following statistics capture just a glimpse of the lives renewed this year through your love in action.

Newlife Care

Numbers to *Celebrate*:

\$335,311

IN DONATIONS

602

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

522

FOOD HAMPERS

2438

MEALS COOKED BY
BRISBANE CITY MEALS

87

COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS

669

REFERRALS MADE TO
EXTERNAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

297

PEOPLE SUPPORTED FOR DOMESTIC
AND FAMILY VIOLENCE, HOUSING
AND HOMELESSNESS OR MENTAL
HEALTH CONCERNS



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