



10  
CITIES  
VISION

**CITY**  
**ONAHILL**





*"I've been calling City on a Hill my church home for a short two months. The reason I chose City on a Hill is because of the vision to "know Jesus and make Jesus known". It's a place where I can come every week to hear the truth. Aside from week after week proclaiming the word, it's also a safe place where I feel accepted, known, and cared for."*

EFFIE - MELBOURNE WEST





RISE  
WITH CHRIST

SHALL  
I NOT LOVE  
THAT GREAT  
CITY?

God is *relentless* in His pursuit of rebels.

One of the most vivid pictures of God's surprising grace appears in the ancient story of Jonah. It is a colourful tale that introduces us to a reluctant prophet who refuses to take God's message to the immense city of Nineveh.

Nineveh was a powerful nation who stood as the single greatest threat against Israel's security, but Nineveh was also characterised by godlessness, wickedness and evil. If ever there was a people in need of God's transformative love it was the Ninevites!

God was committed to reaching this city, and though Jonah headed in the opposite direction, the Lord God used a series of supernatural events to bring Jonah to the walls of Nineveh. There – with great reluctance – Jonah preached a sermon that lasted just four words! And yet, what transpired was nothing short of a miracle! The people responded with repentance, grace abounded, and in one day the entire city was transformed to God's glory.

Remarkably, Jonah refuses to enter the celebration, harbouring bitterness against God for His amazing grace. The great I AM rebukes Jonah in turn, leaving the reader in no doubt as to the unfathomable depths of love that He has for those who have turned from Him.

Indeed, God's final retort to Jonah echoes through history to us today,

*"And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city?"*

- JONAH 4:11

In Australia today, approximately 68% of the population live in an urban area. That number is expected to increase to 72% by 2053.

In addition to the density of urban areas, they are also marked by great diversity. In cities we meet the rich and the poor, the influential and the marginalised, the religious and the irreligious. They are the gathering point for the artist and the architect, the banker and the busker. Furthermore, cities are home to people from all around our great world – with many nationalities, faiths and world-views represented in a rich tapestry of colour and life.

And yet, as we walk the streets of our own great cities, streams of spiritually lost men and women flowing past us, all too often we can stand at a distance with indifference, apathy and in some instances the same contemptuous attitude of Jonah.

The cities of our world will be confronting and at times overwhelming, but it is in the darkness of this world that the light of God's love will shine most brightly.

In Matthew 12 Jesus explained to His disciples that one "greater than Jonah" was among them (Matthew 12:41). The life and mission of Jesus Christ proclaims a gospel of *greater repentance*, *greater salvation* than Nineveh ever knew, and yet they turned to God *in just one day*.

Here at City on a Hill we are all about this Jesus. We are all about taking His message of repentance and salvation to our great cities. Today. The good news of Jesus' life, death and the resurrection is both the inspiration and the aspiration of our vision and mission. We are committed and compelled to know Jesus and make Jesus known.

The "10 Cities Vision" document you are about to read is big, bold and audacious. After months of prayer, strategic thinking, planning and consultation we have given voice to our commitment to *invest in the health of our churches* and to *raise up leaders* who will *plant new churches* in Australia and beyond, that we might serve and reach *ten cities*.

We believe that church planting is a faithful response to Christ's commission, and the most fruitful way to serve the poor, reach the lost and lift up the good news and glory of Jesus.

*“The vigorous, continual planting of new congregations is the single most crucial strategy for the numerical growth of the body of Christ in a city and the continual corporate renewal and revival of the existing churches in a city. Nothing else—not crusades, outreach programs, parachurch ministries, growing megachurches, congregational consulting, nor church renewal processes - will have the consistent impact of dynamic, extensive church planting.”*

— DR. TIMOTHY KELLER

We see a world where God's people are equipped, the poor are served, the Bible is taught, the gospel is shared, the cities are loved, the lost are transformed and above all else – Jesus is lifted up.

“10 Cities” presents a real and important challenge, and so, *opportunity* for us all. We need you. To become reality “10 Cities” needs *your wisdom and prayers, your active participation, and your financial provision.* You'll find details on how to do just this at the back of the document.

And yet despite the exciting scope of this vision we step forward as one family with trust knowing that ‘the arms of the Lord are not too short to save.’

I trust this document is a blessing to our world, but also to your faith.

In love,



GUY MASON

*Lead Pastor, City on a Hill*





*"Using film and story to teach the gospel is incredibly powerful, and something that many people who attend City on a Hill are also passionate about. During my five years at City on Hill, I have had the wonderful opportunity to produce narrative content that portrays the biblical message through visual imagery. In my opinion, there is no better way to make friends and create relationships than creative collaboration. The story is just a bonus."*

DANA - MELBOURNE



## ONE BANNER

City on a Hill continues to uphold and pursue the same mission that has led us since our inception:

*To know Jesus, and make Jesus known.*

We want the person and work of Jesus to be famous. His fame begins in our lives, and extends into our homes, workplaces, universities and cities.

The reason for Jesus' fame is unlike any other.

You can't add to it; you can't take from it. He is the light of the world (John 8:12). He is the Way, and the Truth, and the Life (John 15:6). We want Jesus to be received with repentance, celebration and worship (John 20:28). He is the supreme and sovereign king (Colossians 1).

City on a Hill will unashamedly and uncompromisingly make a big deal about Jesus! For this reason, all we do at City on a Hill sits under the central banner of knowing Jesus and making Jesus known.

## ONE VISION

### *Reach 10 Cities with the gospel of Jesus.*

City on a Hill's story and identity is richly tied to the cities. From our beginnings at the James Squire brewery in the heart of the new Docklands precinct to the centre of Melbourne, and now to Geelong, Melbourne's West, Brisbane and Melbourne's East, City on a Hill has taken the gospel into the heart of the urban environment, and has already begun reaching three cities with the gospel of Jesus.

The "10 Cities" lifts our eyes to the next horizon: reaching *multiple cities* with the gospel of Jesus.

Our vision will be pursued by *raising up gospel hearted leaders* who will *plant healthy churches* that will *reach and serve cities* with the gospel of Jesus. By reaching 10 Cities, we don't simply think in terms of a single church plant in a single urban area, but multiple churches working together to serve, reach and bless the city.

*"Having been part of this church for nine years, I sometimes try to reflect on why I am still here. I'm someone who freaks out in large crowds of people and I don't cope well with change, and yet I find myself part of a church that continues to grow exponentially in number, in ministries and in vision. I have seen all the big chapters of our story, the first being our name change from "Docklands Church" (where I was baptised at James Squire Brewery!) to "City on a Hill". For years, changes like this really scared me. But every time this fear crept in, one of our pastors would pray or share in such a way that I would be immediately reassured that everything was being done to glorify God and show Jesus clearly. I've had the privilege of knowing our leaders well over the years and I see that their hearts, just like our Heavenly Father's, have NOT changed. It's the constant heart that wants to know and love God, and wants to show Him to all. And that's why I'm still here."*

AMY - MELBOURNE





THE  
'FLAGS' OF  
A HEALTHY  
CHURCH

## THE 'FLAGS' OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

Fundamental to our strategic priorities is *church health*. By 'health' we refer to City on a Hill's distinctive 'five flags' which will be used both to define healthy church benchmarks and to inform aspirational goals at whole-of-church and local church level. The five flags being:

1

### FLAG ONE

#### BIBLICAL TEACHING & TRAINING

Jesus is our teacher. His words are the words of eternal life (John 6). Faith comes from hearing His word (Romans 10:17). We are transformed by the renewing of our mind (Romans 12:2).

Our recognition of biblical teaching and training will be evident in our unashamed declaration of the whole counsel of God in and through our Sunday services, online media, Gospel Communities, song writing, courses and conferences. We not only seek to connect people to Christ, but deepen their knowledge of and trust in Christ.

We want to equip people for engagement in the world.

# 2

## FLAG TWO

### HUMBLE, COURAGEOUS & SACRIFICIAL LEADERSHIP

Jesus is the Senior Pastor of our church. We want to be led by Jesus, lead like Jesus and lead others to Jesus. We will train men and women for leadership in the home, workplace, university and church.

We will stand with other leaders in the body of Christ and offer support, energy and encouragement. City on a Hill will model to the wider city a different and counter-cultural priority. Within the city of man, we will shine as a city of God. We will model a gospel-centered life in the areas of marriage, sexuality, finance, community, environment, justice and truth.

# 3

## FLAG THREE

### COMMUNITIES OF LIFE, LOVE & MISSION

God Himself is by nature in community (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). We who are made in His image therefore reflect His glory by living in community, just as the Lord instructed Adam, “it is not good for man to be alone” (Genesis 2).

City on a Hill seeks to not only grow in size and influence, but also in closeness and connection. We want to see new and current people welcomed into our midweek Gospel Communities that exist to serve a neighbourhood or network. These communities will be known for the life they enjoy, authenticity they embrace, the love they show and the mission they share.

# 4

## FLAG FOUR

### COMMITMENT TO GOSPEL GROWTH

Jesus is on mission to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). We want to follow Him.

Our commitment to gospel growth will be evident in the language we use, the life we live, the services we run, the prayers we pray, the leaders we hire, the churches we plant, the missionaries we send, the songs we sing, the courses we host, the organisations we partner with and the companies we build.

# 5

## FLAG FIVE

### GOD-CENTRED GENEROSITY

The generosity of God is displayed perfectly in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. His generosity is costly, indiscriminate, selfless and abundant.

City on a Hill seeks to mirror the generosity of Christ. Our generosity will be evident in our engagement with our city's poor, marginalised and oppressed, the wider body of Christ, and the care shown towards each member of our church. Our generosity will reach the young, old, married and single and meet them in their intellectual, financial, relational, spiritual, physical and emotional needs.

*Under God, we truly believe that He can and will empower us to see Jesus known and made known in 10 cities. We pursue this vision with gospel confidence, humbled by our need for Christ's grace, yet empowered by that same grace to dream big, give radically, preach unashamedly, serve sacrificially and pray dependently.*

*"I am thankful to God for a church that is big on the Bible, big on truth but also big on love. In my eighteen months here I feel like I know my Bible better, I understand theology more deeply and my affections for God have been stirred like never before. I am thankful for the passion to make Jesus known in our cities. I am thankful to God for what he is doing in our church, seeing people get gospel clarity for the first time, others coming from death to life and even having a colleague becoming a Christian listening to our Podcasts! I am thankful that this is the church our children get to grow up in!"*

MICHAEL - BRISBANE





## OUR STRATEGY

Our 10 Cities Vision has three strategic priorities:

### ***1. Leading and Planting Healthy Churches***

Raising up church planting pastors and leadership teams together with capacity, knowledge and systems that will enable City on a Hill to plant churches beyond our present scale and presence.

### ***2. Supporting the Health of All Churches***

Strengthening our shared ministry and operational capacity to serve and support the health of all City on a Hill churches whilst cultivating unity of purpose, vision and mission.

### ***3. Investing in the Health of our Churches Locally***

Developing each City on a Hill church towards health, maturity and sustainability whilst articulating our common mission into each local church context.

City on a Hill's staffing structures are focused into three key 'arms' to align directly with our strategic priorities: *Church Planting (Priority I)*, *Central (Priority II)*, and *Local Churches (Priority III)*. Local Churches comprises all existing locations (Melbourne, Geelong, Melbourne West, Brisbane, Melbourne East) and the new locations as they are planted. Central comprises the shared ministry and operational support staff who together serve all locations, cultivating unity and health across City on a Hill.

The Church Planting arm will undertake to build specific staffing structures that will support the planting of new City on a Hill churches and the raising up of leadership teams who will plant them.

City on a Hill has been blessed by a unique two-pillar governance model resting on our twin identities as Authorised Anglican Congregations in the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne and as an Acts29 Church Planting Church. We are led by a number of pastors (the Movement Pastors) with lay accountability (the Church Wardens and Council).



*For more details on City on a Hill's external and internal governance and accountability structures, and on our internal organisation, please see the 10 Cities Appendix online – [cityonhill.com.au/10cities](http://cityonhill.com.au/10cities)*

*“Being involved in a church plant was a new experience for me. The lead up to the launch was a crazy time. From trying to find a venue, purchasing equipment, launching Gospel Communities, to looking at countless spreadsheets. But to stand at the back of our launch service, to see over 250 people worshipping together and excited about this new gospel work, it was all so worth it. “*

MATT - MELBOURNE EAST





KNOW

JESUS AND

MAKE US

KN



*"We have been at City On a Hill for the last nine years. In that time I have really grown in a personal understanding of my relationship with Jesus. I love our Church's mission and am always encouraged and inspired when we gather as a whole church or just hear what the other church's are up to from visitors - it shows how we are all part of a bigger vision. The community is great too and we've been able to make some great friends. Now we are based in Geelong and we're excited to see what God continues to do."*

SARA - GEELONG



*"I don't think I could be any more grateful for City on a Hill. Nine months ago, I didn't know that a church so authentically built on knowing Jesus and making Jesus known existed. I had hoped, but thought - and had been told - that my hopes were unrealistic. From my first week at City on a Hill, my heart felt refreshed and encouraged, and I yearned for there to be more Sundays in a week! Through the solid Sunday teachings and loving discussion in my Gospel Community, my heart has been loved and lead into a place where I can love more vulnerably and serve others wholeheartedly. The joy of being a part of the City on a Hill family has leaked into every area of my life; I am a better nurse, friend and family member because of it. I thank God every day for the gift that is Church, and I cannot wait to see God's plans continue to unfold through His people."*

ALANA - BRISBANE





## YOUR PART IN HIS STORY

There are three ways that you can get on board the *10 Cities* vision ...

1

### PRAY

City on a Hill's history is one of prayerful dependence, faithful witness, and gospel confidence. We ask that you please pray for 10 Cities –

... Which as yet unknown *leader*, which yet-to-be *church plant*, which unreached *city* will you commit to our Heavenly Father in prayer that He will raise up, build and reach?

... Which *existing location* will you pray God's blessing, wisdom and grace upon as you put on your shoes each morning?

... Which dear friends, which family members, which work colleagues or acquaintances will you pray for that God will use the out-workings of *10 Cities* to transform in the gospel of the risen Jesus Christ?

2

### PARTICIPATE

There are countless opportunities to be involved in this extraordinary movement of God. We pray that you would be listening for the promptings of the Holy Spirit to show you which areas you might be able to support. You are the body of Christ, we need every toe, finger, eye, ear, heart, and hand to find their place and experience the joy of Christ-like service to realise *10 Cities*.

... To participate in *10 Cities*, please *send an email* to [10cities@cityonahill.com](mailto:10cities@cityonahill.com) letting us know which area of *10 Cities* you are inspired by, what you'd like to offer, or what you'd like to be trained and grown in to help out.

# 3

... Your participation could be either at your local (existing) church, in the central area which supports all of our churches, or in the church planting arm to see new City on a Hill churches come into being. (Or maybe you see opportunities to participate in all three areas!)

... You can also talk to any of our staff or leadership team about any aspect of *10 Cities*. We'd love to hear your thoughts and learn from your ideas.

## PROVIDE

If you are a member of City on a Hill, we encourage you to continue giving to your local City on a Hill church. Your regular giving provides for the staffing, venues, and ministry resources which support our ongoing health and gospel growth.

Additionally, every City on a Hill member is part of a church plant. We appeal to you to donate to the Church Planting Fund (CPF). The CPF is the key mechanism used by City on a Hill to fund the establishment of new City on a Hill churches and to equip and train church planters.

... To support the *10 Cities Vision*, donations to the Church Planting Fund and to each of the City on a Hill churches can be made via [cityonahill.com.au/give](http://cityonahill.com.au/give), or contact [finance@cityonahill.com.au](mailto:finance@cityonahill.com.au) for more information.

*More details on the Church Planting Fund and the 10 Cities budget can be found in the 10 Cities Appendix online – [cityonahill.com.au/10cities](http://cityonahill.com.au/10cities)*

*"Our first thought at the end of our first service at City on a Hill was 'This is it. We're home.' We'd heard about the-church-in-a-pub not long after we moved to Footscray and we popped in just to see what it was like and we never left. It's grown and evolved and grown and evolved some more, just like we have. Back then we were enjoying working life and dinners at the Harbour Town Hotel. As the church moved into the city, first at Arrow then at Hoyts, we hatched our first egg and evolved to coffee's and bubba-chinos after church. Now our kids are being taught the same biblical truths at City Kids that are taught in the service. The pastors all work very hard to keep the church strongly rooted in the bible."*

SIMON & RACHEL - MELBOURNE WEST









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