



LIFESTREAM
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Sent in His power to proclaim His name

LifeStream Annual Report for 2020

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Elders Report for 2020

Certainty in an uncertain world.

2020 was a unique year in world history. The Elders had sense that there would be a change in 2020, when the bushfires occurred in late 2019 and early 2020, we thought we had seen a message to Australia. Little did we know what was to come next. If 2020 has taught us anything it is that situations can change rapidly, and we need to know where our help comes from.

During 2019 we began an exploration of what it means to be involved in a Discipleship Making Movement (DMM), this was mainly focussed at the leadership level. One of the key requirements of a successful DMM ministry is for it to be bathed in prayer. Given where the Lord had been leading us over the last few years this approach fits neatly into the other key areas of focus for LifeStream. The events of 2020 have just reinforced the centrality of prayer and in a way, God has given us a “breather” from the work of ministry (programs literally had to stop) to focus on Him for this time.

2020 really affected our ability to continue to build relationships with other pastors and church leaders around the Tuggeranong Valley. Our involvement in the Pastors and Leaders prayer groups moved online during the lockdowns of early 2020 and continued like this through the rest of the year. These groups meet one a month on the first Friday of the month and the third Tuesday. This means that at least one LifeStream leader is meeting with other Christian leaders on a fortnightly basis for prayer. This is LifeStream’s key activity in building the unity of the Body of Christ.

The eldership still strongly believes in the call of God on LifeStream and, like many other Christian churches the Western world, we are finding that people are becoming less receptive to the message of the Gospel. That does not mean that God has given up on them but we will work his sovereign will with people in his way and his timing. The disruptions of 2020 have shaken many to their core and left many unsure of what they had put their “faith” in. This is a great opportunity for the Gospel.

The eldership continues to seek God’s guidance for LifeStream on a regular basis with a particular focus on hearing his heart. We encourage each member of LifeStream to likewise seek his heart for your own life and listen to him during your week to understand where he would have you and what message he wants to bring through your life.

Regards and God’s Blessing

The Elders: Michael Branch, Marjorie Waugh, Peter and Kim Taylor.



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Missions Report for 2020

This has been our first year of the Corona Virus pandemic around the world, affecting us all and the way we and our colleagues do mission.

Australian and Local Missions

Our missional training groups finished where we all learnt more about disciple making movements how and why they work and what are some of the Biblical emphasis in comparison to the way we have been taught and are used to doing mission/ evangelism. One of the principles we like to emphasise in this, is that disciple making movements are about journeying with people, praying with faith and giving time for the Holy Spirit to move. Ultimately this involves discernment and sowing seeds but being prepared to spend time with those who are open to discovering more about Jesus. Graham and Julie started another group in 2020.

We had our first free community meal for those who wanted to attend at the beginning of the year. Due to changing regulations because of the pandemic our cook didn't think it was wise to continue with the free community meal until further notice and things settled down.

We have continued to support Christian Education in Schools (CEIS) here in Canberra. CEIS goes into public primary school Lifestream does this by making our facility available for volunteer training, a yearly donation and by being available to help where there is a shortage of volunteers.

This year (2020), Caroline and I went to Tasmania with Dave and Colleen Lawton to teach about reaching out to others by looking at what the Bible has to say. A number of leaders from various denominations were present at a group meeting in Hobart plus we spoke to quite a few couples and individuals in various areas of the state.

I have met with a group at the mental health prison consistently. This was done on zoom when face to face meetings were not allowed.

International Missions

One thing that was looked at by Lifestream was Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC) compliance for international missionaries. This is ongoing.

Some activities the missionaries we support have been involved with are below in alphabetical order;

Carrascos

Due to the pandemic Oscar wasn't involved in building many homes. Kirsty was involved in helping out with a Discipleship Training School with YWAM. Other activities she has been involved with in 2020 is teaching English and the Homework Bus. The Homework bus has been a great benefit, seeing a lot of kids were unable to attend school and had to do assigned work at home. It was also great for connecting with the parents of Circulo kids.

Hays

The Hays settled back into Ikethelo after returning to South Africa. With lockdowns and volunteers leaving for their home countries the Hays have had a busy year educating children as well as their normal duties of helping to keep the orphanage organised.

JCLCM, the Flores and Bautistas'

Lifestream sponsored a mission trip from JCLCM to Baguio, 261 km or a 4 1/2 hour drive to the North. Bernard and Mely were involved with a small group of police officers as well as normal JCLCM involvement. We have also supported JCLCM with donations in relation to food in a poorer area of Manila that has less access to food.

Jenny Bautista continued her breast cancer treatment. Nelson went to the island of Polilo after a cyclone taking food that was partially viable because of a donation from Lifestream. We also contributed to the raising of the floor at JCLCM so that water didn't flow into the building in event of a flood.

Mercylink and the Parrs

LifeStream provided money for food during the year. Rupert and Angel had an extended stay in Australia due to covid, leaving in mid-June. Due to restrictions, the church has not being able to meet all the time like most places. There was also some stay at home orders, check points with police displaying weapons etc.. The Philippines had the usual disasters such as cyclones, earthquakes and floods.

It great to be in regular communication with those we support to encourage and pray for one another. With lots of activity happening around the world it's good to remember we have our identity in who we are in Christ, not in what we do.

Blessings,
Murray.



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Discipleship and Pastoral Care Report for 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to share some highlights, amongst the difficulties of consistency of face to face meetings during 2020, in the areas of Discipleship and Pastoral Care.

2020 was a year of uncertainty for many as restrictions on public gatherings were enforced. Even though this was different, we found new ways of connecting and caring for one another. Greater appreciation for face to face meetings was echoed when we were able to meet together again.

Pro Active Preparation for Discipleship

Missional Training Groups were formed by late April. One of the aims of these groups was to connect more regularly along with inviting people to join a 'physically distant but socially connected' Missional Group. These groups were to be training in missional thinking and living and for reaching our already formed relational networks as well as any new people who are interested in Jesus. Very specific material was used to facilitate learning about local mission in an engaging and practical way.

These groups were held on line or by phone. Marjorie already facilitated a group, Peter and Kim along with Michael and Andrea, and Murray and Caroline also facilitated groups.

Refresh Ladies

A planned meeting with a qualified and practicing Christian counsellor was still able to take place through an online platform. We discussed the area of self-care which was very timely for the year that laid ahead. Many family members were unable to meet so it was an important topic to reflect on. An invitation for our LifeStream ladies and their friends to enjoy some fun, fellowship and food was held in December. We shared about Jesus coming to bring good news of peace and great joy. Refresh seeks to present a holistic approach to caring for our whole person- body, mind, spirit and soul.

Visitation

It was great to visit those who were unable to come to our meetings on a Sunday and also to encourage and pray for those who were unwell. We appreciate all who are involved with visiting and caring for the body of Christ.

It was a privilege to be able to visit one of our oldest members and be part of her last hours and funeral. Due to covid 19, numbers were restricted to the family members (along with Murray and I) in attendance.

Ladies Connect Group

Thanks to Julie who has faithfully leading this group for many years. Again, this year we were able to walk through some of Paul's letters using Discovery Bible process. It's been a great way to engage with the Scriptures and one another in a meaningful way. We also have meaningful get togethers over coffee or lunch throughout the year as well, to support and encourage one another.

Men's Ministry

Peter has met with some men over a meal to catch up.

2020 offered a time of change due to not being able to meet face to face for a time. This enabled us to connect over the phone on a consistent basis, and eventually with some home visits providing updates and friendly interaction.

Among the congregation, a renewed sense of relying on and trusting God for safety, public gatherings (with social distancing) were reopened enabling us to meet face to face again. It was a good time to reflect and wait on God during this unusual time. God is good all the time. We give Him the glory and honour for keeping us safe during 2020.

Grace and Peace,
Caroline



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Prayer and Worship Report for 2020

2020 was a very different year here in the ACT, Australia and the world, starting the year with bushfires, hail, and then the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic as such we began the year being able to run our usual meetings as per normal times, until April when the COVID-19 pandemic took its toll on all countries, bar a very few, with shutdowns for varying amounts of time.

From April onwards, initially, due to lockdown procedures in the ACT we met via Zoom and used the internet to support worship enabling some of our overseas missionaries to attend some of our meetings, with Roo & Angel remaining in Canberra, unable to return home. With so much time being given to being 'at home' during this time we encouraged all at LifeStream attendees to take time in God's presence to see how He wanted us to fulfill Matt. 28:18-20 both on an individual level and at corporate level. We adjusted our meeting times to include the taking of communion and the designated person bringing the message with opportunity at the end to discuss what God was individually speaking to people as they listened finishing with a time of prayer for any prayer needs that we had discussed.

As the year progressed and we saw less cases of COVID-19 here in the ACT, so restrictions began to be lifted and we were able to meet back in our church building but, due to social distancing rules, only in small numbers. Some meetings continued to be held via Zoom to allow for more people to attend them.

Our prayer times became more global in their perspective and reflected our desired to see people come to know Christ. During this time God confirmed to the leaders how important prayer was to be the basis for/of all we undertook, with discussing how we could encourage this to happen more regularly in the present circumstances.

A new initiative was started called **one thing**. This is what we, as a congregation, were encouraged to get and take a hold of each week from the messages brought and during our times of worship. What was the ONE THING that God wanted you to understand that week. This continued to be a very interesting time for us to press into God, to seek Him as to the way forward throughout 2020 and taking time to do this daily with the worldwide pandemic ever present, adjusting how we did 'church' to reflect this and our growing desire to reach those around us through God-conversations and possible disciple-making ministry opportunities with those near to us at home, work and along the way. Seeking God undergirded what we hoped to achieve in Him and did throughout 2020, despite all the challenges it presented.

Blessings,
Marjorie.



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Church Support Report for 2020

Overview of Church Support Ministry

The Church Support Ministry covers the following essential services to the church body and the other ministry teams:

- 1) Financial management
- 2) WHS
- 3) Information Technology
- 4) Administrative support
- 5) Communications
- 6) Facilities

2020 Report

This year the financial management team comprises Kristelle Mann and Janeane Thompson who undertake the day-to-day running of the financials of the church, these staff were supervised by Michael Branch, the church treasurer. Additionally, Graham Mortimer provides invaluable assistance in liaison with government and other agencies.

Susan retired from her role providing administrative support to all the ministries of LifeStream during 2020, her role was divided between Caroline and Murray for administrative functions and Kristelle Mann being engaged for bookkeeping support. Graham Mortimer has provided an important conduit to government agencies and FreshHope as well.

The purpose of the facilities is to provide a place of worship, ministry and administration for the outworking of God's purposes in and through LifeStream. There were five user groups of the LifeStream facility, LifeStream itself, Samoan AOG Church, Big Improvements Tutoring, ToastMasters and Tabernacle of David. It is a blessing that our facilities are able to support such a great range of Christian ministries striving to worship and glorify God through His Son as empowered by the Holy Spirit.

WHS

LifeStream's WHS functions are primarily provided through the office and Rusty Streatfield as our safety officer. Thankfully no major incidents occurred during 2020.

Information Technology

The information technology area remained relatively static during 2020 owing to it working reliably and there being no major needs to be addressed. The implementation of Elvanto Church Management software was moved forward very slowly during 2020 and is a continuing focus area for 2021.

Facilities

During 2015 we adopted a five-year strategic plan for the development of the LifeStream facilities, incorporating all buildings and grounds. During 2020 only minor repair and maintenance works were undertaken.

In addition to the planned developments, the priority for urgent works is on providing safe, secure and healthy facilities. All users of the LifeStream facilities are encouraged to care for the facilities, report any concerns to the Church Office, and appreciate God's blessing through the facilities. The support of others in caring for the facilities is sincerely appreciated.

The following changes/repairs were made to the property during 2020:

- Early in 2020 due to hail damage prior to Christmas 2019, the pergola roof outside the Kids Hall was repaired.
- The hot-water system in the kitchen was fitted with a water temperature regulator, to reduce the risk of water scalding burns.
- Install of additional storage cabinets within the Kids creche room (this work is still to be finished).
- Repairs/maintenance to the Ride-on mower.

For the rest of the 2020 year, due to COVID, the focus was the creation of a Safety Plan that outlined how we will maintain a safe environment for staff and those who attend at the church property. This was achieved by providing the correct COVID safety signs, limiting the number of people per square metre and providing hand sanitiser solutions within the different rooms to meet the regulations as prescribed by the ACT Government.

Once approval was provided late in 2020 by the ACT Government first and then via Eldership, for attendance to be back at the church building, our next biggest improvement was to the method/technology used in capturing the Church service to enable this to be then present live via ZOOM over the Internet to help those that could only participate with the church family via online.

Michael Branch
Interim Church Support Leader



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LifeStream Christian Fellowship Financial Report for 2020 Annual General Meeting

For the Financial Year 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

Presented on Sunday 21 August 2021

Sections

Financial Report for 2020 Annual General Meeting
Trust Account Transactions for Financial Year 2020
Budget Financial Year 2021

Summary of Auditor's Report

The financial accounts for the year to 31 December 2020 have been independently audited by Gorrell Long Robertson Accountants. The auditor's report states that the accounts have been prepared in accordance with the relevant Act and presents a true and fair view of the financial position of LifeStream Christian Fellowship as at 31 December 2020 and over the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020. The Auditor's report along with the church's financial statements will be sent to the Office of Regulatory Services in compliance with our obligations as an Incorporated Association.

Summary of Balance Sheet

LifeStream's total net assets at 31 December 2020 are \$682,273 compared to the end of 2018 of \$776,661.

The accounts show a net operating loss for the period of \$81,473 and total available cash funds at the end of the year of \$89,615. This compares with a net profit for the previous year of \$12,619 and available cash funds at the end of the previous year of \$159,211.

This reflects the turmoil of 2020 and the significant reduction in income that LifeStream received during this year. The reduction in income was both in the form of general offerings and rent from the facilities as a large portion of the year the facility was unused.

Comparison of Offerings 2020 to 2018

	Total general offerings	Weekly Average
Financial Year 2020	\$ 36,477	\$ 701
Financial Year 2019	\$ 118,483	\$ 2,278
Financial Year 2018	\$ 102,317	\$ 1,967

Missions

With 20% of all general offerings received going to missions, approximately \$11,034 has been used for missions. The previous year was \$23,162. This represents a significant level of giving to missions, especially during a pandemic year and reflects the heart of missions within LifeStream Christian Fellowship.

Operating Cost

	FY 2020	FY 2019
Employment expenses	\$103,490	\$102,679
Utilities expenses	\$ 5,598	\$ 5,106
General administration expenses	\$11,032	\$16,968
Department expenses, except Missions	\$ 6,109	\$ 7,517

During 2020

- Hire of the church building to Samoan AOG Church continued, with Big Improvements Tutoring (a Christian tutoring organisation) and Tabernacle of David continuing during 2020, albeit at a significantly reduced rate.
- LifeStream received a one off government payment of \$20,000 to assist during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Rental of the manse was ongoing with Jane Werriwa taking over the manse during 2018.

Looking forward into 2021

- No significant changes are expected during 2021, except to return to closer to previous years income levels.

2021 Budget

A copy of the Church budget is attached. To cover the operating expenses of the church the offering for 2021 will need to be approximately \$163,300 or \$3,140 per week.

Conclusions

- (1) At 31 December 2020, LifeStream's total net assets, total available cash funds and the net deficit for the year were significantly poorer compared to those of the previous years, primarily due to COVID-19 effects.
- (2) The income for the year 2020 was significantly reduced against the previous year.

The ministry of Church Treasurer enables other ministries to function. Effective operation of this ministry ensures:

- Ministry resources are paid for;
- LifeStream members' mission support is distributed in a timely manner to our mission partners and overseas missionaries;
- the payment of salaries and entitlements; and
- the remittance of bills for services provided to LifeStream.

The Treasurer in combination with the Church Secretary interfaces with many external organisations, such as:

- the Australian Taxation Office,
- the Australian Bureau of Statistics,
- the Australian Charities and Not for profit Commission,
- the ACT Office of regulatory Services
- insurance companies, and other private companies.

These activities represent both LifeStream's statutory obligations and business requirements.

Janeane Thompson continued to be engaged by LifeStream to provide bookkeeping services and Kristelle Mann took over the running of the accounts. Graham Mortimer has provided invaluable assistance in interactions with government agencies and payroll activities.

Thank you to Kristelle, Janeane and Graham for all they have done during the year.

Michael Branch
Treasurer
July 2021

Trust Account Transactions for Financial Year 2020

LifeStream Christian Fellowship 152 Langdon Ave, Wanniasa, ACT, 2903			
Account Transactions [Accrual] January 2020 To December 2020			
		Debit	Credit
2-7100	Kidstream Sponsorship	\$1,446.80	\$1,002.05
2-7290	Miscellaneous sponsorships	\$0.00	\$0.00
2-7300	Rupert Parr	\$19,196.55	\$19,744.58
2-7400	Carrascos	\$15,581.12	\$17,474.45
2-7450	Hay Family Support	\$10,315.40	\$10,157.70
2-7600	Bernard & Mely Flores	\$650.00	\$1020.00
2-7700	Nelson & Jenny Bautista	\$700.00	\$584.00
2-7810	Support:Jerwin Ronda	\$0.00	\$0.00
2-7900	Community Kitchen Gifts	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Totals	\$47,889.87	\$49,982.78

Funds in the Trust Accounts are held in trust for various mission projects. This represents contributions from both LifeStream church members and other external parties that wish use LifeStream’s existing processes to direct their support payments to these mission projects.

Budget Financial Year 2021

See attached Budget spreadsheet.