



Our Story

2020 Annual Report

2020



"I joined MBM only a few weeks before the Covid hit, which meant I didn't really know anyone. When I was called and prayed for during the lockdown I felt so cared for. I really needed to be able to share and be prayed for. Now being able to join a growth group in person I'm feeling just that little bit more connected. Thanks so much!"
~Rachel



MBM South West
celebrate their 3rd
birthday!



January

Rob Abboud begins full-time
on Staff.

Rehan and Kartika Prins,
Josie Allen and Frankie Cutri
begin their apprenticeships.



February

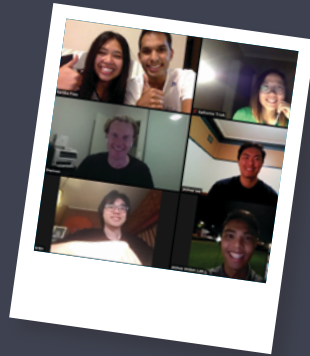
Village Church begins
meeting on February 9th in
the Anglicare Retirement
Village in South Rooty Hill.



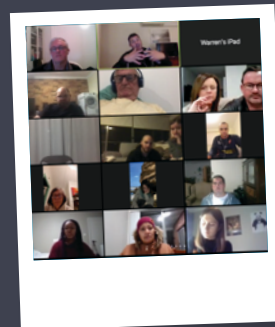
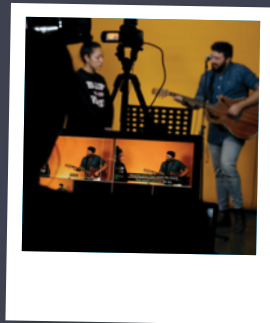
"I've loved the brotherhood and being able
to be raw and open and just share deep stuff
with people you've built a connection with
and share in the love of Jesus." ~Mason

On March 22nd all of our church services and growth groups move online during COVID-19 Lockdown

March



On the last week of the newly established SUPA club in Eastern Creek, Maggie and Kalliopi prayed that God would bring even more kids than ever. And he did! 36 kids came to SUPA Club at lunchtime. 21 of these children had had no contact with us either via Scripture or SUPA Club before. One of the boys who came said, "No one ever told me about sin before. And no one ever told me about Jesus before. Can he really forgive my sins?"



Over 50 people attend our first Explaining Christianity Online



We were looking at the parable of the Good Shepherd one lesson, and half way through a girl gasps loudly and says "Woah Jesus is just like the good shepherd in the story because He also dies to protect his people and we're like His sheep" ~Year 6 Scripture Student

April

3,500 People watch our Easter services online



"'Onward Upward' proved to be such a blessing to me during 2020. At a time when we couldn't meet face to face, it enabled me to get to know my church family better. I loved hearing what God had done and was continuing to do in their lives." ~ Eleanor

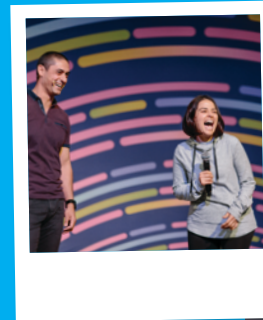


May

Onward/ Upward Podcast Launches and has 150+ people listening to each episode.



"I've loved seeing peoples lives being changed by the word of God in my growth group. Not only seeing them grow as an individual but also in the way they interact amongst the group. I love being spurred on by my Growth group to love and serve Jesus." ~Jamie



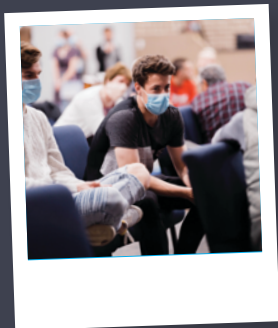
"My Leadership Group has been such a blessing. It's allowed me to step up as a man and as a leader. Not only has the group ignited joy in my faith, but it's kept me accountable in living out the truths of Scripture in real and practical ways." ~Dave

June

Renovations on the kitchen at Rooty Hill were completed



MBM Online is being watched in India, South Africa, Fiji, Singapore and more



"Leading a Growth Group humbling. It is such a privilege and a great responsibility to serve God's people to grow in the knowledge of Christ and His word. It makes me depend more on the Holy Spirit for grace and insight into God's word." ~Seun

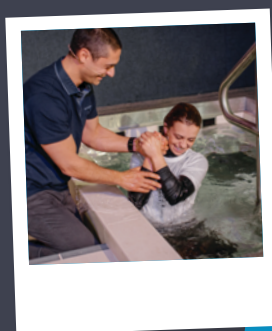
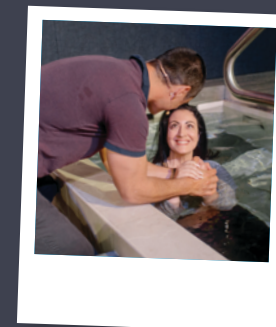
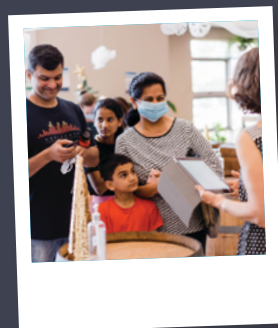
August

Construction on the Film and Recording Studio at Rooty Hill begins.

6
People
from South
West are
Baptised!

July

On July 19 we begin to reopen church services at Rooty Hill and The Village.



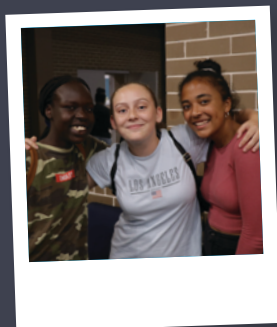
"We found couples counselling very helpful as we navigated various struggles in our marriage. Learning new skills and having a safe space helped us to tackle difficult topics. We are not sure we would still be married if we did not seek and prioritise marriage counselling. We are thankful to God for changing and growing us." ~Anonymous

"One thing I've loved about my Growth Group is seeing one of my close friends grow in their faith. One particularly encouraging thing was hearing how much more confident she had become praying in the group." ~Sarah



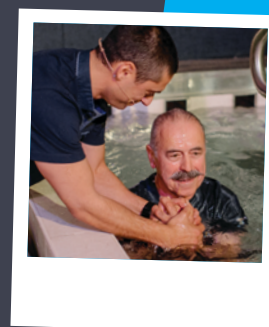
September

On September 27 South West reopen their doors for in-person services.



The preschoolers were learning about the Mary and Martha story. The leader asked the children if they had a sister. One of the girls sadly replied, "I don't have a sister". Immediately another girl looked up towards her and said reassuringly, "Yes, you do have a sister; we are all your sisters!"

"I became a Christian 5 years ago and being a busy mum of 2 under 2, the Mums and Bubs group at Connect gives me the time to read and learn about God whilst I grow in my faith" ~Joanne



October

We welcome back the Cuschieris' after 13 years of God's faithfulness in Malta.

A new safe ministry check was implemented and 190 people completed it.



"A huge thanks to Andy and all of you for MBM Online. It has been so important for us since COVID struck; we still do church as a family in our PJs with a big plate of pancakes. It is often the highlight of the week for us. Although, yesterday, we spoke to a couple translating the Jesus film into an 'ethnic minority' language that will result in an extra 130,000 being able to hear the gospel! All spurred on because people are available due to COVID." ~Al and Liz Walker (SE Asia)



November

We have the joy of welcoming back the Borgs from Malta on Home Assignment



"Having graduated from school, I'm so excited to step back into Youth and invest in the Year 6 girls, just as my first youth leaders invested in me over many years." ~Rachel

December

1,200 people across 7 services at 3 campuses celebrate Christmas together.

MBM Parramatta is announced.



"My youth leader Imogen checks up on me about my Bible reading and my prayer life; I have really been encouraged to go out and evangelise and share to others that I am a Christian. She has had a big impact on my life and helped me to grow in my relationship with God." ~ Joanna (Aged 15)



Ray Galea



Lead Pastor and Rooty Hill Campus Pastor

I want to take this opportunity to express my deep thanks to God for each and every one of you. It has been a tough year with bush fires, floods and COVID-19. You have all stepped up to the challenges that kept coming with changes taking place each week.

I am thankful to God for the NSW government who has kept us safe through the pandemic. While frustrating at times, never able to plan with any confidence, I'm grateful that the word of God has continued to go out and God has brought people to Himself. Thanks also to Mark Boyley for keeping us on track with COVID-19 rules. COVID-19 has increased mental health issues, making Kim Morris and Lynette Cain's work so much more critical.

Yet through it all, we saw the church generally, and MBM specifically, dragged into the 21st century with MBM Online, Youth Online and MBM Kids online. A big shout out to Andy Kerr and the online teams at Rooty Hill and South West on a fantastic job! Our music teams stepped up and produced high-level online recordings, and with it, I'm excited about our new music and video studio being built at Rooty Hill and the plans for Among Nations music.

Each ministry has been under pressure having to go online via zoom from Deacons meetings to Growth Groups, Explaining

Christianity, and Firm Foundations. For those starting this year on staff (Rob Abboud, Rehan Prins, Kartika Prins, Josie Allen, and Frankie Cutri), it's been a strange and successful introduction to full-time ministry. Through it all, God brought people to Himself and to us via our online ministry.

Our Overseas Ministry Partners have perhaps struggled the most during COVID-19. Matt Anderson needed to return due to health issues, Robyn Cuschieri's mum was seriously ill, and the Reilly's were in desperate need of rest and restoration. The Borgs were on their way to Australia, first stopping in London, only to be sent back to Malta, and Jayasekera's are still waiting to catch a flight to Australia. The Walkers began their first year overseas under COVID-19 conditions, and Phil and Lil struggled in harsh conditions in a developing country ill-equipped to manage COVID-19. I thank God for them all and join with you in praising our God for the work of the Cuschieris who served for 13 faithful years in Malta.

Dan Lee persuaded us to stay focused on the starting a new campus in Parramatta, and with about 55 adults on-board, we are getting closer to a launch date.

I think we all agree that Sandy Galea has done an extraordinary job in leading the MBM kid's ministry for 30 years. Her passion for Jesus, the kids, her leaders, and training us in running teams

"Coming into MBM was like coming back home. We were returning home to Plumpton after 18 years overseas. During hotel quarantine, we looked online for a church. The MBM webpage had the words 'Welcome Home,' which resonated with us. We clicked 'Get in touch' and were pleasantly surprised to be contacted immediately. We were also really touched by a visit to our home during the height of Covid. We joined the online services then physical meetings. We attended Belonging and joined a Growth Group. Some church members even helped us with shopping before we bought a car. We've found our home!" ~ Raja and Charmaine

has been such a special blessing to MBM. As she steps down from that specific role, we are so thankful that she remains serving in children's ministry under the excellent leadership of Ben Purdy.

As I look back over the year, so much has been accomplished under great strain. We were doing ministry from a new playbook. As we often said, we were building the plane while flying it. Yet Jesus' great commission to make disciples of all nations remained unchanged.

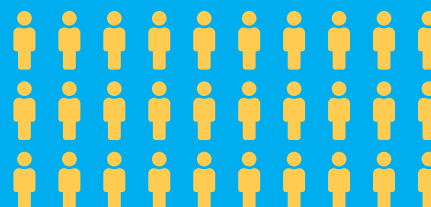
I have been especially thankful to our Deacons who served behind the scenes, making some hard and wise decisions. It truly is a testament to God's grace in the lives of MBM that we ended the year above budget and could set up a crisis fund established at the initiative and donation of the congregation.

Our biggest challenge in 2021, primarily for MBM Rooty Hill, is getting people back to the gathering (except for those with health issues and when new outbreaks occur).

It has been an honour walking side by side as we see lives transformed through Jesus Christ to the glory of God.

MBM Stats

30 PEOPLE SAID 'YES' TO JESUS!



Rooty Hill - 25; South West - 5

10 PEOPLE WERE BAPTISED

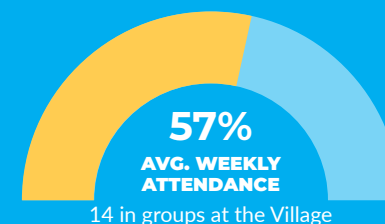
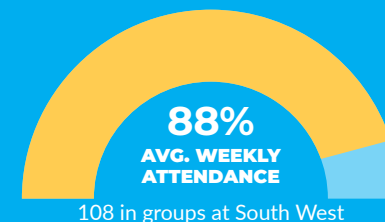
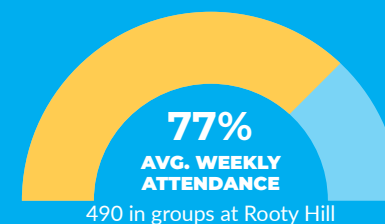


South West - 6; Rooty Hill - 4

170 GUESTS ATTENDED 11 EXPLAINING CHRISTIANITY COURSES



GROWTH GROUPS



**69 New
Leaders
Trained**

**720 new
people
contacted**

**1600 care
phone calls
made**

South West



Grant Borg

2020 has been a year of maturity. As we continue to think hard about who we are as the church of God, it is becoming more apparent how God wants us to act.

We have been so thankful for our partnership with Thomas Hassall Anglican College, who have allowed us to use their premises even while the threat of COVID was in our area. It has enabled us to continue meeting together—mostly outdoors and under shade—and continue to accomplish our mission of revealing the glorious character of Jesus as we love one another and the community around us.

We continue to meet with the knowledge that we are a church without a home. A church whose home is in heaven but has no venue to do ministry in and from Monday to Saturday. This has become a more frequent prayer point for us, especially because our goal is to plant this church in or around the Wetherill Park area.

Our ministry trainee, Frankie, has started his second of three years of training with us, and by God's grace, continues to grow in stature as a man of God and one approved to handle the Word of truth.

I thank God for the ministry of Marcelo and Lizzie Morbelli, and while we grieve their leaving, we are excited by the move to the

Eastern Suburbs to serve Jesus and the opportunities they have been presented. Their leaving has created an opportunity for some godly men and women within our church, to take more responsibility over the souls of God's people here, and it has made us a healthier church. We are praying that God would raise a brother from within our church family to take Marcelo's place—all in God's time.

2020 was also a challenging year as we worked out how to oversee the church of God without being able to meet, but in typical fashion, God has used this trial to make us wiser, better equipped, and more resilient as a church. We believe there are many challenges ahead for the church in Sydney, and we feel God has been preparing us to stand firm and boldly proclaim his gospel despite these trials.

We have been blessed more than we can tell with our relationship with MBM Rooty Hill and The Village, and we look forward to seeing how we can be a mutual blessing to the plant in Parramatta in 2021. We are growing in confidence that God's Word is sufficient for all things and that God himself will continue to reveal himself to us through his Word and by his Spirit as we continue to see his face in Jesus Christ our Saviour.



Village

Osea Taito

On 9th February 2020, we launched The Village Church! It is a partnership with St. Alban's MBM and Anglicare. The core group consisted of members from the 8am congregation at MBM Rooty Hill, and I was incredibly encouraged that they saw Anglicare Village Rooty Hill as a mission field for the gospel.

During the lockdown, we were challenged to think differently about how we share the good news of Jesus and how we proactively cared for each other and connected during such a challenging period. Praise God for the provision of MBM Online and DVD delivery to congregation members and phone calls during the lockdown.

Since our launch, our church service members have increased with residents from the Retirement Living now well outnumbering the core group from 8am.

We are so grateful for the generous support we receive from Ray Galea, Mark Boyley and MBM group of churches which includes the provision of MBM staff, guest speakers and student ministers for our preaching roster, as well as bible study and media resourcing.

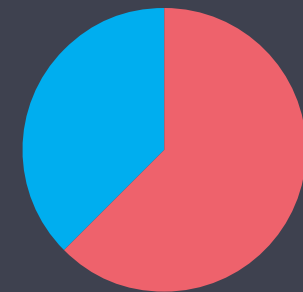
We are thankful to God for the opportunities we have had to reach our small and growing community with the gospel of Jesus Christ, and we look forward to the work He has prepared for us in 2021.



Feb 2020



Dec 2020



■ **Members from 8am**
■ **Members who are residents of the Village**



Ministry Apprentices



Started 2019

Lydia Johnson, Merryn Wilson, Josh Onden Lim

Started 2020

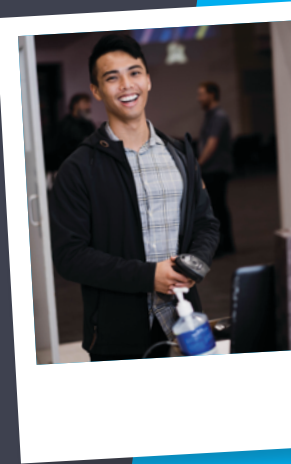
Josie Allen, Rehan and Kartika Prins

Jesus said in Matthew 9:37-38: "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." By God's grace, Jesus has answered his very own prayer point right before our very own eyes in the form of full-time ministry apprentices being recruited, trained and sent out into all the world. Many of our current overseas ministry partners and staff began their journey into gospel work through a 2 year, hands-on ministry apprenticeship.

Under the careful and guided instruction of the MBM Staff, our current apprentices are given opportunities across the board to consider whether they have suitable character, sound convictions, and the necessary competencies to be in paid gospel ministry. Some of these opportunities include: Scripture teaching in local primary and high schools; discipling kids, youth and adults; leading teams; personal evangelism; preaching and service leading

For more info and to support the next generation of Christian leaders, check out:

<https://mbm.org.au/mts/>



**Rehan
Prins**



"I've been incredibly blessed being coached by Ray and Dan in my role as the Youth Pastor and as a Ministry Apprentice. As I've met with them each week, they share the burdens of ministry, encourage me through every high and low, and point me to Jesus.

Ray helpfully reminded me as we went online through Covid, the most important thing is that we feed our flock with God's Word. That stuck with me throughout the whole season.

Having read through 2 Corinthians and coming head to head with my sin and imperfections taught me that weakness in ministry isn't to be ashamed about—instead, God's grace is sufficient for me, and He is magnified in my weaknesses."

**\$176k
was given
towards
Ministry
Apprentices in
2020!**



**Josie
Allen**

"One of the ministries I stepped into last year for the first time was co-leading a women's Explaining Christianity group. This particular group was made up of 6 retired women, most with grandchildren. I'm 22. Our lives are just a little different.

It freaked me out! I haven't spent a lot of time doing ministry with women in such a different life stage, and I didn't really know how to make connections, nor did I feel qualified to lead them.

This group actually became one of my weeks' highlights for the 6 months we met (face to face and then online). The women were so lovely and so ready to share their lives and their homes with me. They'd all come in different ways to a point in their lives where they realised that they needed something more.

I learnt so much about the importance of relationships in sharing the gospel—in making the effort mid-week to send an email or make a phone call to catch up and chat through questions.

And I also was reminded of the power of God's gospel—to work through fearful people like me and to save women!"



Our Ministry Apprentices have all done a superb job. With gratitude and sadness, we farewell Josh Onden Lim, Merryn Wilson, and Lydia Johnson as they have completed their apprenticeship; they have been outstanding.

~Ray Galea



**Kartika
Prins**

God has been tremendously at work in the lives of the Year 7 and Year 8 students at Rooty Hill High! I am so thankful to God for the long-standing partnership that MBM has with the school and the open door it has presented to us to teach Jesus. As I reflect on the past year of teaching Scripture, I have been amazed and thank God.

Last term, I saw three of my Scripture students (from non-Christian families) attend MBM Youth on Friday night for the first time. They had a fantastic time and felt welcomed by the youth and leaders.

There is always several students who stay back after Scripture class (during lunch!) to ask questions about God, life or the lesson itself. I am always encouraged by them.



MBM Online

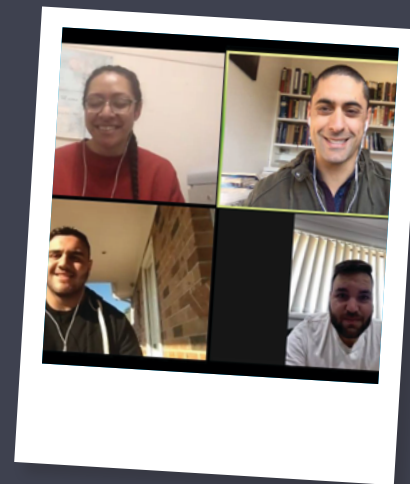
On March 22nd, all of our church services (including youth and kids) and our growth groups moved online during the COVID-19 lockdown in NSW.



"My family and I have had a Sunday evening ritual of watching church together. Normally, we are split across at least two Sunday services between our serving responsibilities. But with MBM Online, we can participate in church together as family—often in our pyjamas—singing, praying, and learning together!

For our 12-year-old daughter, this is the first time she has felt completely comfortable 'in church' for a long time. She has a range of health conditions, learning difficulties and anxiety. She often needs help understanding new ideas and wants to ask questions immediately during the sermon to gain clarification. But these things are hard to do in the middle of a regular Sunday service.

At home, we have the ability to pause the online service at any point to help her understand something complex. We can skip back and watch a section again, or even re-watch the whole service again if we choose to. She is comfortable at home with her cat snuggled up on her lap helping keep her relaxed. And, as a result of being comfortable, she has been able to engage much better with the content of the services and has learned much more." ~Louise



"My wife and I watch MBM Online each week after our service at our Baptist church here in Alice Springs and enjoy them very much." ~Philip



"MBM Sermon's have become the 'go to' for a few of us here in the north-west when we have to be away from our churches (very few of us have an assistant minister and it's not at all easy to get locums in for just a week). The current COVID format where the preacher talks directly to the camera works really well. So thanks to the MBM team for your ministry to us!" ~Simon (Pastor in NW Western Australia)



An MBM Dad downloaded the MBM Kids online resources and had a go at using them to teach his kids. He said, "I'm not a kids leader, but I did it! I'm so thankful for what you guys do each week." ~Jaime



Each episode of MBM Kids Online had between 250 to 800 views. Not only were MBM families tuning in but families across the world. One family serving as missionaries in Senegal tuned in each week with their children. "What a blessing this has been for us as a family. Our children love it! One of our girls has completed every challenge every week." Maggie sent a gift to this little girl on behalf our MBM family.

Top 10 other Countries MBM Online is viewed



United States



United Kingdom



India



Fiji



Russia



Ukraine



South Africa



Canada



Singapore



UAE

Finances

Income

Rooty Hill + Village **\$2,226,555**
South West **\$388,643**

3%

**Ministries and Sale
of Resources**

10%
**Other
income**

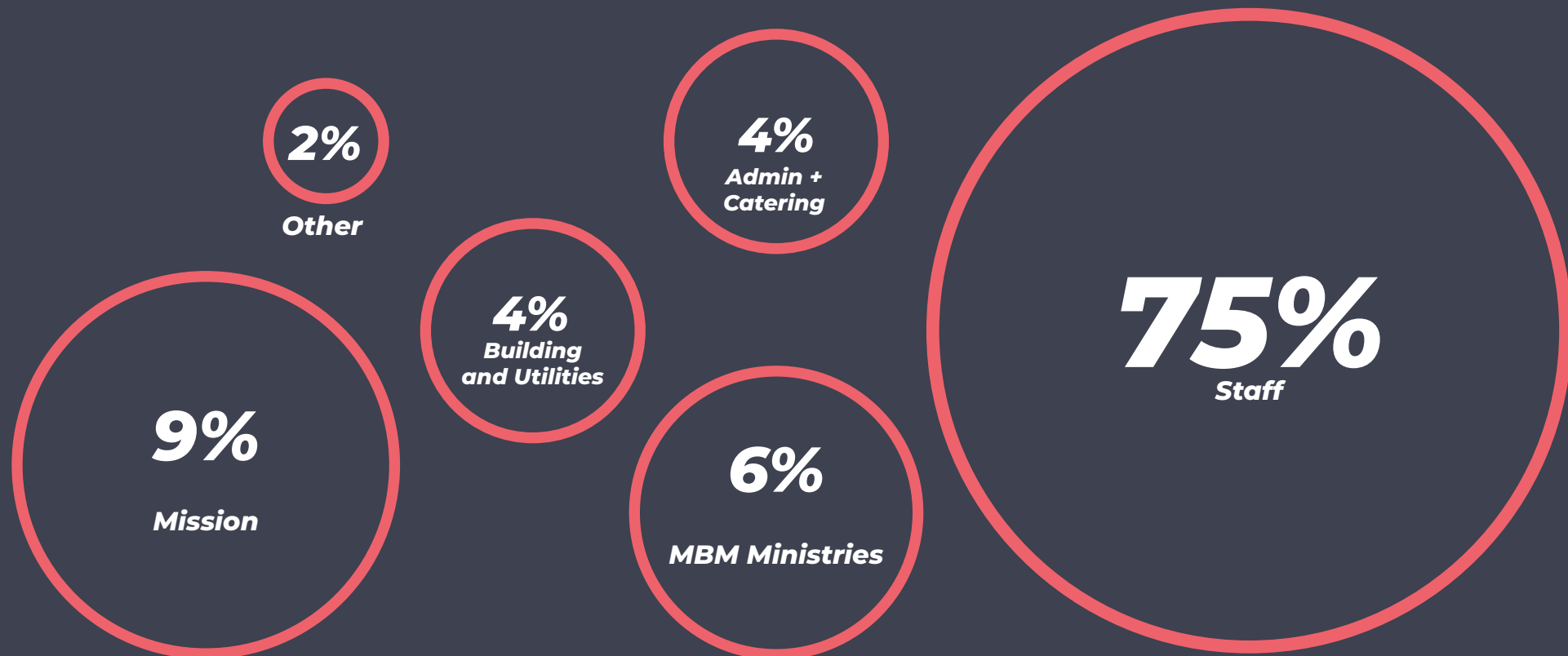
16%
**Government
Stimulus for Covid**

71%
Donations

Tithes and Offerings 97%
Other Donations 3%

Expenses

Rooty Hill + Village \$1,747,526
South West \$345,120



Summary of Financial Performance

Rooty Hill + Village

Income	\$ 2,226,555
Staff	\$ (1,280,223)
MBM Ministries	\$ (120,259)
Mission	\$ (149,101)
Admin + Resources	\$ (71,290)
Building + Utilities	\$ (71,715)
Crisis Care	\$ (20,700)
Use of Government Grants	\$ (13,000)
Catering + Food	\$ (18,430)
Other	\$ (2,807)

Surplus **\$ 479,030**

South West

Total Income	\$ 388,643
Staff	\$ (283,496)
Trainee Fund	\$ (18,930)
MBM Ministries	\$ (5,738)
Mission	\$ (29,163)
Admin + Resources	\$ (2,176)
Venue Hire	\$ (1,773)
Catering + Food	\$ (1,680)
Technology	\$ (1,664)
Other	\$ (500)

Surplus **\$ 43,523**

Summary of Financial Position

Rooty Hill + Village

Assets	
Cash	\$ 693,538
Current Assets	\$ 410,258
Non-current Assets	\$ 7,586,970

Liabilities	
Owing to Staff	\$ 115,106
ATO	\$ 293
Set aside for Mission and Care	\$ 92,148
Set aside for School Scripture	\$ 12,594
Set aside for MBM Ministries	\$ 288,367

Equity **\$ 8,182,259**

South West

Assets	
Cash	\$ 105,594
Current Assets	\$ 150,000
Non-current Assets	\$ 32,198

Liabilities	
Owing to Staff	\$ 8,184
Payable to ATO	\$ 89
Set aside for Mission	\$ 14,184
Set aside for MBM Ministries	\$ 24,227
Set aside for Crisis care	\$ 800

Equity **\$ 240,486**

Deacons

**Irwin
Amir**



South West Sydney Deacon

**Aron
Calfas**



WHS + Communications Deacon

**Steve
Pieri**



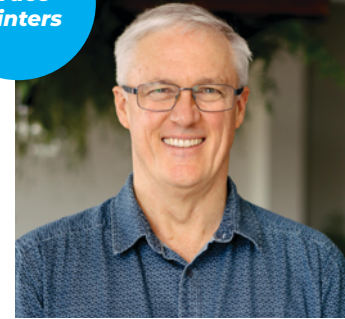
Warden

**Jono
Anderson**



Warden

**Bruce
Winters**



Executive Pastor

**Ed
Johnson**



Finance Deacon + Warden

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:2-4

MBM MULTICULTURAL
BIBLE MINISTRY

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