



One of the first monthly gatherings in the student apartment complex

395 International Students and a Small Church.

Nearly three years ago, Victor—a pastor of a small church—reached out to connect with Power to Change (Cru in Australia). What began as one meeting grew into a friendship and a shared prayer that God was preparing their church to reach international students with the gospel.

Right next door, 395 international students live in a high-rise complex. We prayed for favor, and God answered: the apartment company welcomed the church's presence and even were interested in starting a chaplaincy program. The church now hosts monthly dinners and social gatherings in the building, and several students have started attending church.

Recently, the church formed a volunteer team that has already met dozens of students. One volunteer launched a Discovery Bible Study with Chinese students—and praise God one has already trusted Christ!

Victor's church is located near the University of New South Wales (with 38,000 international students), and has been a huge support as we prepare to launch a team there next year. Our Power to Change (Cru) team recently applied to become a recognized student organization, and currently are in the process of gathering Christian students who want to help. Our faith goal is to have a fully established team on campus next year so more students can encounter Jesus.

We thank God for this local church with a global vision—to see international students transformed

by Jesus and sent out with the gospel to the world.

Sydney Summer Mission

Every December, Power to Change sends students on both global and local mission trips. For the past four years, our team has organized a local Sydney Summer Mission that international students can readily attend. This year's five-day experience once again brought together international students eager to grow in faith, learn to share the gospel, and join God's work among the nations in our city.

From December 1–5, ten students participated—full of anticipation and ready to take steps of faith. Throughout the week, they received hands-on training in evangelism and then put it into practice by engaging international students on their campuses in spiritual conversations. They also partnered with a local church, helping them connect with their community and invite people to their Christmas services.

Two of the participants had only become Christians this year, making their willingness to share their faith especially encouraging. As part of the mission, students were challenged to host Christmas parties for their friends—intentional spaces where the hope of Jesus could be shared naturally. Divided into two teams, they planned the events themselves and trusted God to draw people in.

The result was exciting: each group saw more than 20 students attend their Christmas parties! Many heard about Jesus in a personal way, and the international students who participated in the the summer mission left with a renewed vision for how to continue walking alongside friends who are open and interested in exploring Jesus further.



Sydney Summer Mission Christmas Outreach

Merry Christmas!

Thank you for praying for our son Nathaniel. Over the past few months he has truly turned a corner at school, and we've been amazed to watch him step into friendships and classroom learning with growing confidence. His principal even remarked on how rare it is to see this kind of change in such a short time. We honestly can't explain it apart from God graciously hearing our prayers—thank you for standing with us.

Elijah, meanwhile, is already counting down the days until he can start kindergarten next year. He is nervous, but excited to start “big school.” Emily's back continues to get stronger, and every week she continues to go to physical therapy, and a special bone building exercise class. Please continue to pray for her vestibular migraines. Addie is learning to say new words every week, loves to play and wrestle with her brothers, and somehow is about to turn two in January!

As a family, we're looking forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus—both at home and with our church community—and we're especially excited to welcome Blake's sister and her family when they visit at the end of December.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we seek to make Christ known to international students in Sydney. Merry Christmas!



Above: Raj, a new believer from India, attended our church for the first time and our boys loved showing him how to set up the Christmas tree!

Blake & Emily Ackerson

Prayer Requests

- **Continued growth for Nathaniel:** Pray that his confidence, friendships, and learning would deepen and that he would continue to flourish socially and emotionally.
- **Healing for Emily:** Ask God to bring full relief from migraines and continued strengthening of her back.
- **For the church's ministry to international students:** Pray that their monthly gatherings, conversations, and emerging chaplaincy program would open many hearts to the gospel.
- **For new believers:** Pray for the Chinese student who recently trusted Christ and for Raj as he looks to grow in his relationship with God.
- **UNSW team launch:** Pray for favor in the student organization approval process, for more Christian students to join the launch team, and for God to prepare hearts on campus.
- **Fruit from the Summer Mission:** Pray that students who attended outreach events will continue seeking Jesus and that mission participants will remain bold in following up with them.
- **Friends for Dinner Christmas** - we matched 56 international students with 16 hosts for a Christmas meal. Please pray for God to use these relationships to draw many to Himself.