



Chai and Chat - End of the Semester Celebration.

Building a South Asian Community

For the past two years, our team has been praying to build a community of trust among South Asian students—one of the most challenging groups to engage with the gospel. Praise God, He is answering those prayers and giving us growing favor with this community.

Food has been the key! We call our weekly gathering **Chai and Chat**. Each Friday, we offer a quality meal, and it has consistently opened the door to meaningful connections. While it's easy to assume students come just for the food, we've been encouraged to see them returning even on the weeks we don't serve a meal.

Allen, an Indian Christian student who joined us this semester, shared: *"This group keeps coming not just for food but because of the community. They feel safe here, and it's a great opportunity to build friendships. You guys are doing a great job."*

While we continue meeting for fun and friendship, our heart is to see students take steps forward in their spiritual journey toward Christ. In June, we plan to launch a new initiative called **Dinner and a Story**, where we'll share about Jesus through storytelling—a format that resonates well with many Hindu students, who are often more open to listening to stories than reading the Bible directly.

Please pray that the Holy Spirit would stir curiosity in their hearts and deepen the trust we're building through these relationships.

Friends for Dinner - Easter

*Thank you for praying for our Friends for Dinner Easter campaign. We had **79 international students** registered from **6 universities/ colleges in Sydney**. This past Easter season, they were hosted by **29 families and friends** from **16 churches** across the city. Praise God! May the Lord bless these new friendships!*

Flora and Rudy, pictured below, brought two students to church the day after they hosted. These students are from Hindu and Muslim backgrounds. It was their first time in a church. Both were given a copy of the Bible after the service. The Muslim girl said it was her first time holding a Bible and that she is interested in exploring Christianity.

It was amazing to hear about their joy and gratitude to be able to meet this family and have such an incredible experience in their home. This host family intentionality shared their lives and the gospel. Both students plan to return to their church and join the explore class where they can learn more about Jesus.

Praise God that a simple act of hospitality has opened up opportunities for so many to hear about Jesus.



Growing Kingdom Resources

Our team's vision is simple yet bold: ***"International students changed by Jesus, making disciples wherever they go."*** We long to see God spark spiritual movements among the nearly 80,000 international students studying at the University of Sydney, University of Technology Sydney, and the University of New South Wales.

With an annual operating budget of \$50,000 AUD (approximately \$33,000 USD), our team trusts God each year to provide the resources needed to continue strategic outreach efforts—such as providing meals for our South Asian community gatherings. In fact, 74% of our budget directly supports evangelistic initiatives. The remaining funds help us invest in developing our staff and equipping Christian students through conferences, training events, and retreats that cultivate disciples who multiply their faith.

At our recent Vision Night (see picture above), nearly 200 people gathered to hear stories of how God is moving among students in Sydney. It was an evening of both celebration and renewed commitment to this vital mission of bringing the gospel to the nations in our city. Praise God—we were able to raise around \$18,000 AUD! With ongoing commitments from annual partners totaling \$14,000 AUD, we still have a remaining need of \$18,000 AUD (approximately \$12,000 USD) to fully fund our team's various initiatives.

If you would like to help reach our team's goal and invest more broadly in international student ministry in Sydney, you can give online at <https://give.cru.org/1159137> (Please note your gift for "Sydney ISM.") Thank you for your partnership in the gospel.



Family Update

It's getting cold as autumn turns into winter. Since living down under, we will never get used to June and July as the coldest months. The boys have been active at school. Addie is beginning to say a few words as she tries to keep up with her very active brothers. Emily continues to get stronger. Please pray for Nathaniel as he is having a difficult time settling into his school. He was recently diagnosed with ADHD which we had suspected for some time. We are thankful to be surrounded by a supportive church and a support team at his school who are coming alongside him in his growth journey.

Thank you for your prayers and partnering with us in the gospel! We love you!

Blake & Emily Ackerson

Prayer Requests

- Praise God for all the relationships we have been able to form with Hindu students. Pray that as we live out the gospel, that many would be drawn to Jesus.
- Praise God. We shared the gospel with 25 Hindus in April. Please pray, on June 23rd we will host our first "Dinner and a Story" where students can explore Jesus through hearing and discussing a story from the Bible.
- UNSW campus is starting a new term this month. Please pray that the Lord would lead us to students who are interested in Jesus and that we can raise up more volunteers from our partnering church.
- Pray for our team as we meet for mid-year planning and evaluation that the Lord would unify us.