

Christian growth remains a priority for Wesley Mission which continues to cherish the importance of Word and Deed. Over 500 people attend weekly Bible study fellowships, and a new contemporary worship service called 'Pulse' meets at noon each Sunday. Sixty-three people have been baptised and seventy-two have entered into church membership.

Each Wesley service provides a different emphasis for varying spiritual needs.

Ministry and Mission – at the heart of it all

When Jesus began his ministry, he announced his mandate (Luke 4:18-19). It included a compassionate ministry of 'freedom for prisoners, sight for the blind and release for the oppressed', work we continue today as evidenced throughout our report. Of supreme importance is the 'proclamation of good news to the poor'. Jesus later charged those who follow to continue to spread this good news.

Wesley is first and last a parish mission. On average 2200 people worship each week across ten congregations in five languages: English, Mandarin, Japanese, Samoan and Rotuman.

During the year, the church has farewelled some faithful servants, notably Pastor Christine Jeyachandran and Rev Leonie Findlay. We have also welcomed Rev Peter Pereira to head up our Chaplaincy team, Rev Graeme Watkins and Michael Earl, thus strengthening the Ministry and Mission team.

The Superintendent and other members of the team have visited, preached and encouraged churches in developing countries. For example, Graham Want, Rev Kau Lee and others visited the Shandong Province of China to develop a relationship with the leaders of the '3 Self Patriotic Church'.

The Superintendent was pleased to host the Conference of the World Methodist Council Executive and our Wesley International Congregation hosted the Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit, attended by over 700 church leaders from across the city and state.

Relating to people from all walks of life

Wesley Church and Wesley Theatre are the two main worship venues within Wesley Centre, housing services held in different languages to reach congregations from all walks of life. Further afield, chaplains perform a vital function in Wesley Mission's network of more than 150 homes, hospitals, hostels and services. Some relate especially to children in our care while others minister in retirement villages. One chaplain ministers to those struggling with mental illness. All have special pastoral functions in caring for the dying and the bereaved.

The Multimedia Ministry helps to share the Word of the Gospel via new and dynamic forms of communication. Around 30 Praise, Prayer and Preaching episodes are produced each year, recording Sunday evening services at Wesley Mission which are then broadcast by Australian Christian Channel in Australia, New Zealand and the UK. The Easter Sunrise Service was shown on Channel 7 and reached a national audience of 74,000.

Rise and Shine produces 40 episodes per year at Foxtel and reaches a wide audience in Australia through Channel 9 and Australian Christian Channel. The Rise and Shine Easter Special was seen on Channel 9 by 82,000 viewers.

A Christmas documentary, *Santa's Forgotten People*, was produced for Channel 7 and telecast on Christmas Day at 8:30am, watched by 171,000 people.

We have made a partnership with Kentigern books who have established a shop within Wesley Mission. This wonderful range of spiritual resources provides our congregations, staff and the community with easily accessible and affordable reading material on Christian living and spiritual development.

The faith that works

Our people shared generously: congregations gave more than \$1.2m in support of the ministry of Wesley Congregations and in excess of \$200,000 to other Uniting Church ministries, overseas ministries and relief agencies. The 6pm Wesley Congregation commenced the Door of Hope Program, a recovery course for women who have endured the trauma of sexual abuse.

Congregations ministering to specific groups experienced significant growth in numbers, highlighting the importance of developing a strong sense of belonging and community. These congregations included ethno-specific fellowships, ministry to single people, women, ministry to couples, Chinese fellowship, Samoan Sunday School and other interest groups.

Chaplaincy ministry at Wesley Family and Community Services, Wesley Employment Services and Ageing and Disability Services (across 27 locations) has been exceptionally well received.

Congregations

| Fellowship | Group | Average weekly attendance 2006-07 | Average weekly attendance 2007-08 |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Congregations | 2,185 | 2,203 |
| | Ethno-specific fellowships | 49 | 25 |
| | Music Ministry | 39 | 59 |
| | Singles Fellowship | 55 | 20 |
| | Women's Ministry | 98 | 35 |
| | Bible Study Groups | 475 | 510 |
| | Interest Groups | 117 | 80 |
| | Alpha | 16 | 15 |
| High School Fellowship | DIG JC Church Service | 90 | 75 |
| | DIG JC Small Groups | 80 | 75 |
| | Chinese Fellowship | 30 | 10 |
| University Fellowship | Blue Sky Uni Ministry | 80 | 80 |
| Young Adults Fellowship | Chinese | | 20 |
| | Club Oasis | 84 | 90 |
| | Club Oasis LIFE Group | 77 | 78 |
| Seniors Fellowship | Wesley International Congregation Seniors Fellowship | 48 | 60 |
| Disability Fellowship | Wesley Video Fellowship | 15 | 25 |
| Sunday School | Wesley International Congregation | 75 | 70 |
| | Chinese Sunday School | 10 | 15 |
| | Rotuman Sunday School | 4 | 5 |
| | Samoan Sunday School | 30 | 18 |
| | Praise, Prayer and Preaching Studio J Kids Club | 8 | 8 |
| Mothers Group | WIC Mothers Group | 15 | 18 |

Chaplaincy

| | Hours provided per week in 2006-07 | Hours provided per week in 2007-08 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Family and Community Services | 40 | 24 |
| Head Office | 4 | 3 |
| Health, Counselling and Accommodation | 64 | 64 |
| Ageing and Disability Services | 282 | 162 |