

2018  
ANNUAL  
UPDATE

PRAXEIS



## **Our Mission**

To make disciples that multiply.

## **Our Vision**

Praxeis is an ever-growing movement of passionate followers of Jesus making disciples that multiply in all the world.

# A LETTER FROM OUR NATIONAL DIRECTOR



*2018 has been a big year - one of growth and challenges.*

**Praxeis continued to exceed our expectations of growth throughout 2018.** It was exciting to see people in Australia and a number of nations embracing Disciple Making Movements (DMM) as a model for making disciples and planting churches in their communities and networks. As people explored DMM and became workers, God began Discovery Bible Study (DBS) groups, people advanced in their faith and many increased in their leadership capacity.

**Perhaps what surprised me the most over 2018 was the explosion of growth internationally.** Over the year our international work saw 1303 decisions to follow Christ with 617 baptisms, as well as 279 gatherings of believers, DBS groups and churches. As this work continues to grow, I'm constantly reminded of how vast God's vision is for his people.



In 2018 we welcomed a number of new workers to the team. Journeying alongside Praxeis workers, supported and volunteers, is one of the great joys of my role, as each person continues to remain faithful in prayer and engaging with the Harvest. I **thank God for the passion of each of our workers** as they seek God in prayer and find the people of peace He has planted in their communities.

In the middle of the growth we recognise the challenge remains. The traditional church in Australia continues to decline and there are still so many unreached people groups who are yet to be engaged with the Gospel. I'm continually challenged by the question, 'what will it take' - how can we see disciples and churches multiply, both here in Australia and around the world? As Praxeis, we step outside church traditions to start groups among those far from the Church and Christ. We equip people to explore the scriptures and become disciples of Jesus who are motivated to share the message with others.

As 2019 begins, our mission remains the same - to make disciples that multiply.

We thank you for your ongoing partnership, support and hard work as we continue to live out the vision and mission God has given us.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave Lawton".

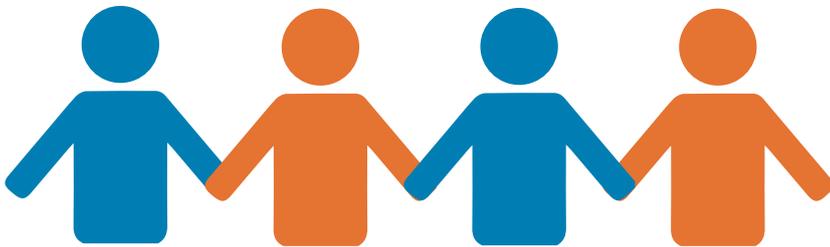
**Dave Lawton**  
National Director

# 2018 SNAPSHOT



New Believers  
1,356 new believers

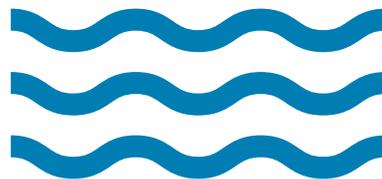
Praxeis is  
working in  
12 countries



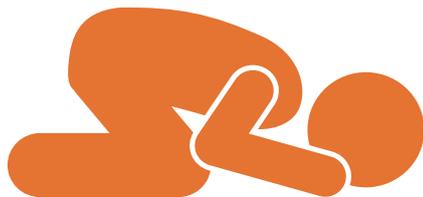
Discovery groups  
and churches

331 groups and  
churches

Prayer  
An average of 449 hours  
of prayer each week



Team members and  
first generation workers  
977 people



Baptisms  
622 people

Workers in  
the harvest  
1,281 people



Trained in disciple-  
making movements  
1,346 people

# PRAXEIS AUSTRALIA



## Queensland

Croydon  
Townsville  
Mackay  
Atherton Tablelands  
Normanton  
Charters Towers  
Cairns  
Kingaroy  
Middlemount  
Toowoomba  
Emerald  
Roma  
Gundiwindi  
Gemfields  
Brisbane  
Ships ministry

## New South Wales

Goulburn

## Sydney

West Sydney  
Northern Beaches  
Iraqi focus  
Iranian focus

## Australia Capital Territory

Canberra

## Northern Territory

Alice Springs

## Western Australia

Perth  
South Perth  
Metricup  
Nepali focus  
Bhutanese focus

## Melbourne

Admin Support / Office  
Prayer / Pastoral Care  
Board

## Regional Victoria

Ballarat  
Shepparton  
Stawell

## Melbourne

Keysborough  
Noble Park  
Dandenong  
Doveton  
CBD  
Monash University  
Fitzroy  
Springvale  
Maribynong Detention  
Centre  
Box Hill  
Hazara focus  
East Timorese focus

# PRAXEIS INTERNATIONAL



Sri Lanka

Singapore

New Zealand

Seattle

Butan

Indonesia

East Timor

Hong Kong

Hungary

India  
Central India  
South India

# MINISTRY UPDATE



As 2018 drew to a close there were **331 Discovery Bible Study (DBS) groups and church gatherings** meeting regularly, 52 of these in Australia and 279 in other locations around the world. These groups represent 2,885 people on a journey to following Christ and becoming disciples.

A significant highlight of 2018 was the **growth of our international work**. We saw works begin in a number of new locations including; Hong Kong, New Zealand, Laos and India, adding to the growing work in Hungary, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and the United States of America. In many of these locations, there has been a groundswell of prayer, networking, coaching of new leaders and the initiation of DBS groups.

**In Australia, there were also some encouraging developments.** Teams formed multiple DBS groups across a number of states. These teams saw an increase of volunteer involvement in the mission as well as church engagement, as traditional churches continued to catch the vision and partner with Praxeis to see disciple-making movements catalysed. There are currently 18 churches engaged in some form of partnership with Praxeis.

At times the Australian work seemed slow compared to the explosion of believers and DBS groups in countries like India. Yet in pockets throughout Australia, we saw God move in tangible ways.

Steve and Mel Behrens spend a lot of time on the road. They are regional leaders in North Queensland and travel vast parts of the country with their son Ezra. As they go they pray, seek out people of peace, raise up workers, partner with local churches and gather those who are keen to make disciples in their own community.

2018 was an exciting year for North Queensland as Discovery Bible Study Groups began in areas where there were none. In the Townsville region alone, new groups are being led by second generation believers as they gather together friends and family to explore the Bible.

Steve and Mel look forward to coaching these new leaders and disciple-makers, and are praying for a multiply movement to spread across the entire North Queensland region.



A key focus for 2018 was to create a deeper sense of identity and the development of team for workers through training, intentional gatherings and pastoral support.

2018 saw **our first interstate Tribe Time**, a four-day gathering for workers to meet, train and learn from the experience of others. This was a valuable time and will be an ongoing annual event. The 2019 Tribe Time will be held in June on the Gold Coast with bookings now open through our website.

We also worked hard to ensure that our **leaders were consistently coached** across the year. All our workers were connected with a coach to reflect on the challenges experienced in the field and discuss areas of strength and encouragement. This coaching relationship is integral to equipping workers to catalyse disciple-making movements.

**Regular regional Hub meetings** were prioritised as a gathering place for workers and people interested in learning more about Praxeis. These meetings were organised by regional leaders to create a space for people to be inspired, challenged and grow in their understanding and practise of disciple-making movements. These Hubs will continue to be held across 2019.

**The MyWorld curriculum** is now in its third generation and has been run in a number of locations and languages. This community of practice is an invaluable tool to train people interested in making disciples in their own communities and networks that make up their world. We are already seeing a number of churches and groups in Australia and across the world planning to run this curriculum in 2019.

Another key development was the **employment of a Communications and Relationships Coordinator**. The focus of this role is to develop our communication capacity, create online learning opportunities and build relationships with current and potential financial partners.

Among the highlights of 2018, we also recognise there were challenges for us as an organisation.

One significant challenge was **the loss of a couple of key workers who had been leading fruitful ministries**. Unfortunately, works were hampered and at times brought to a complete halt due to unforeseen family and personal crisis. Our heart is to continue caring for these workers through the different seasons of life and prayerfully consider how we press on with the work in these areas. We continue to pray for God to raise up new leaders in each of these regions.

Another challenge was the resourcing and communication around the Give2Multiply campaign. This campaign is an amazing opportunity to create sustainable funding for Praxeis's ongoing costs, such as training events, worker support, insurances and staffing. A generous donor has offered to give \$500 to Praxeis for every person who commits to give a minimum of \$50 per month - for at least 12 months. Unfortunately there was little engagement with this campaign in the first half of 2018, although more people committed to give as the year went on. We are praying and planning for this increase to continue into 2019 and beyond.

We are convinced that we will not see a disciple-making movement in this nation until we see a movement of prayer. We are continuing to focus on developing strategies that engage people with prayer for the nation and nations.

We are also aware of the importance of church partnerships; working with established churches to support and train as they make disciples in their community. As we pray and walk in unity with Christ, we look forward to seeing growth in Australia like so many places around the world.

# STRATEGIC UPDATE



There are five strategic focus areas that have guided our work over the past three years.

These areas continue to shape our work and strategic planning in 2019 as we look to grow and develop as an organisation, both here and internationally.

The following is an update of the progress in 2018 for each focus area.

## **1. Developing regional leaders, nationally and internationally**

All our workers are coached through regular meetings with an identified coach. Teams of leaders are gathering in retreats and online to sharpen skills and discuss challenges. We also have a Praxeis Leadership Team who meet regularly. This group continues to grow as the ministry expands.

## **2. Prayerfully engaging workers and leaders**

Jesus sent his workers into the harvests two by two. He told them they were to pray for 'workers for the harvest' (Lk10:2b). The key to Disciple Making Movements is the multiplication of disciples that become leaders. This continues to be our focus in areas of Australia where we are not yet working, and also for nations that we feel God has put on our heart. We have small teams starting in places like North Sydney, Canberra, Tasmania, Darwin and many regional centres are yet to be engaged.

In late 2018, *MyWorld* was run in a number of locations across Indonesia. The training team were blown away by the response from those who took part, many being new believers looking for creative and innovative ways to engage with their neighbours and community.

Out of this training, there are now Hubs meeting in two locations. These Hubs are being led by local people who are coached and supported by a Praxeis worker. These groups will continue to meet, train, pray and support each other as they look to grow a movement that is already in its third and fourth generations.

We can't wait to see what God will do in the lives of these people and across this country in 2019.

### **3. Producing resources to assist in transferring our DNA**

As of December 2018, *MyWorld* ran in a number of locations including Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Singapore, Hungary and South East Asia. Over 110 people have been trained and released to make disciples that make disciples since the inception of the program in 2016.

In conjunction with *MyWorld*, we are currently planning the development of online resources to equip people who are keen to be disciple-makers in their community. The first round of training will be released in 2019.

### **4. Developing our international infrastructure to cope with expansion**

As we have seen the birth of new works in other nations, we have developed an affiliate structure to facilitate growth. Agreeing to a common mission, vision, values and strategy, new structures can emerge in different nations according to their needs and legal requirements. Multiple structures will be held together and operate as one family by agreeing on these core areas.

### **5. Increasing our general donations and donor base to reduce reliance on large donors and grants**

Give2Multiply is a campaign aimed at increasing the number of partners to the Praxeis general fund. Gifts given to Give2Multiply help fund training events, the development of disciple-making resources and administrative support and costs of Praxeis workers. A generous donor has committed to giving a further \$500 for each person who donates a minimum of \$50 per month over a 12 month (or more) period.

In 2018, Give2Multiply did not have the traction we had hoped or planned for the year. Therefore, across 2019 we will focus on communicating the importance of this campaign to the ongoing work of Praxeis and intentionally inviting people to partner. Our goal is to have 50 new partners to Give2Multiply by the end of 2019.

We already have in place strategies and initiatives as we continue to work towards reaching each of these five focus areas over the coming year. We look forward to sharing developments with you throughout 2019.

Thank you so much for your faithful prayer, sacrificial giving and ongoing support.

Praxeis can only live out the vision God has given us through partnership with people just like you.

We're excited to see what 2019 holds and look forward to walking this journey together.