

Summerleas: to 2020 Vision (and beyond...)

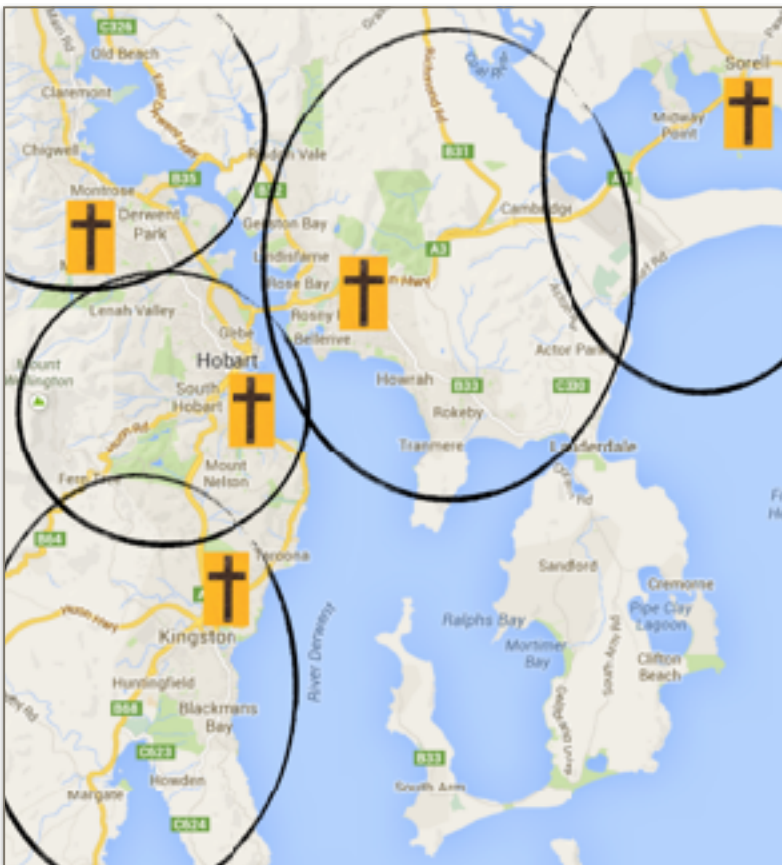
Intro.

For a couple of years now Summerleas has had the vision of seeing Hobart littered with Gospel Communities (GCs). In fact, our big dream is that every single suburb of Hobart (and surrounds) might have a GC in it, living, modelling, and (most importantly) holding out the Gospel of Jesus Christ. However, whilst this vision sounds nice in theory, until recently we have had no idea as to how to move toward it actually.

We now have GCs gathering regularly in Kingston, Blackman's Bay, Huntingfield, even as far as Margate, and Snug, and we are very thankful for this. However, busting out of Kingborough and planting GCs in Central Hobart, the Eastern Shore, the Northern Suburbs, let alone Sorell and Brighton, has been difficult for us to imagine... that is until now.

Our 2020 vision is a bold attempt at thinking big and strategically about reaching our city - all of it - using the GC model.

1. What it would take...



In order to litter all of Hobart with GCs we would need to plant a number of GC planting churches in four other key population centres. This is because for GCs to work, a reasonable degree of proximity is required. We would need committed communities of people living and reaching out in the areas we're seeking to reach.

The map shows key areas that would require churches. If we could plant GC churches (represented by the crosses) in roughly the locations indicated, they could then litter the areas marked out by their surrounding circles with GCs.

2. How we intend to do it...

Under God, we believe that the first step in all of this is to plant a strong, viable, sustainable GC planting Church in Hobart by 2020.

We would love to see this church consist of 80-100 people. This would require at least 5 elders, a music team, and would consist of apx 5 GCs, each with a GC leadership team of at least 4 (so all up around 20 GC leaders). Our 2020 vision is to see Summerleas double in size (to apx 200 people), raise up the required number of leaders and then plant in central Hobart.

By 2027 we'd love to see the next church planted in either the Northern Suburbs or Eastern shore, and then continue planting every 7 years after that until the necessary churches are in place to litter Hobart with Gospel Communities.

3. The rationale...

Many people have asked us why we have chosen central Hobart as the first step. The below points provide a brief answer to this question (points in no particular order).

a) Hobart needs more Churches: The very name Vision 100 (V100) came out of a recognition that if we were to try and reach just 10% of the population of Hobart and environs, we would need to plant 100 new churches! Since V100 started, we now have four card carrying V100 churches in central Hobart. There is apx 50,000 people living in central Hobart, 10% of which is 5,000. If we were to reach this number with churches of 200 people (which is exceptionally big by Tas standards) we would need 25! That means we'd need another 21 V100 churches just in central Hobart!

b) Hobart needs different kinds of churches: We know that the GC model of church is not the only way to do church. However, we do believe that it contributes something unique to the Christian scene and that it has the capacity to reach people that other Churches won't. This is not to suggest that other models of church are 'wrong' (in fact we know that they will reach people we never will), but GCs will add another 'missional arm' to the ministries that are already happening in Hobart.

c) Excellent Student Ministry potential: We have found that our Gospel communities have already been able to provide significant and unique kind of ministry support to the International student ministry on campus and that's from Kingston! If we had GCs in close proximity to the university, we believe that we could have an enormous impact on campus as we partner with, and practically support, the AFES work there, not just with internationals but Australian students as well.

d) Strategically speaking Hobart is important. It's very hard to reach the Northern Suburbs or the Eastern Shore from Kingston. However, it is possible to start reaching these areas from Hobart. What's more, whilst you can't reach the Eastern Shore from Kingston, you can start reaching Hobart from Kingston. We already have 9 people living in Hobart (including 2 international students) and if we adopt this vision we

could intentionally try to reach more. This would lead to us having Hobart GCs well before 2020, ready and waiting before the Church has even been planted!

If we continue with this strategy, from Hobart, we can start reaching people from the Eastern shore and Northern suburbs, and maybe even plant GCs in those locations in readiness for the eventual church plants that would follow.

4. Where do you fit in???

If this vision is to get anywhere, then we are in desperate need for God to work in answer to the prayers of his people. We would love it if you could **support us in prayer** as we start to move toward this vision.

We would also love you to consider **partnering with us in this work**. The more people that join us, the faster we'll be able to make this vision a reality! Perhaps you are interested in trying the GC model? Maybe you are looking for the next bold step in your christian life, but you're not sure what that is? Well if any of that is you, why not partner with us and make this your 2020 vision as well?