

A photograph of a man and a woman sitting at a wooden table outdoors. The man, on the left, is wearing a green t-shirt and has his hands clasped, smiling broadly. The woman, on the right, is wearing a light-colored t-shirt with a yellow graphic and is also smiling. They are sitting at a wooden table with various items on it, including a water bottle and some papers. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a building.

MTS

IMPACT REPORT

2025

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BEN PFAHLERT

G'DAY FRIENDS

I'm so thankful for your partnership with MTS. Honestly, this movement wouldn't exist without you!

Since our Strategic Pivot in 2024, we've spent 2025 prayerfully working out the next steps for MTS. And here's what's become crystal clear: our purpose is to grow a movement of Healthy Gospel Ministry Trainers. Our mission? To raise, train, and resource these trainers through formation and fellowship—so that they, in turn, raise up and send out more Gospel Workers. You'll find more detail in this report.

One of the most exciting things this year has been watching the movement multiply through tables of fellowship—groups of people within MTS stepping up to run their own initiatives with our support. A great example? Recruiting conferences. Our original Katoomba conference has now multiplied into three: Katoomba, South Coast, and Newcastle. That's what a healthy movement looks like—people equipped to serve and multiply Gospel Workers in their own contexts.

We've also started developing Trainer Formation Modules, which will become the essential pathway for becoming a Healthy Gospel Ministry Trainer. In November, I had the privilege of running Module #1: Healthy Trainer Formation – Christlike, Trusted, and Courageous. It was a joy to see trainers investing deeply in their own growth.

Behind the scenes, we've been building a new MTS website that will eventually serve international movements as well. This is just the beginning of what God has in store!

Looking back on 2025, we're so thankful to God for all He's done in and through the MTS movement. And as we look ahead, we do so with confidence in the One who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power at work within us (Ephesians 3:20).

Thank you for standing with us as we seek to win the world for Christ by multiplying Gospel Workers through ministry apprenticeships. Your prayers, generosity, and encouragement make this work possible.

Yours in Christ,

Benny

Ben Pfahlert | MTS National Director

THE PAST, THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

Ministry Training Strategy (MTS) began with a conviction: If Australia was to be reached with the good news of the gospel, many more gospel workers were needed.

In the late 1970s, Phillip Jensen (then Anglican Chaplain at UNSW) and Col Marshall shared a vision for how to live out this conviction. In 1978 they began training ministry apprentices, pioneering a new model of hands-on ministry training. By 1991, MTS had been formally established as a legal entity, with Col Marshall appointed as the first National Director.

From those early days in Sydney, MTS grew into a national movement that now ripples overseas. Thousands of apprentices have been trained, men and women have been sent into gospel ministry and mission, and many have gone on to become trainers themselves.

In 2024, under the leadership of National Director Ben Pfahlert, MTS undertook a strategic pivot—re-examining its vision, mission, and values, and laying a clear pathway for the future. This process, shaped by God's generosity, strengthened the organisation's ability to serve a growing movement.

Now in 2025, we are seeing the fruit of that work as God continues to bring new opportunities and growth. Through this process, MTS has developed a deeper clarity about who we are and where we are heading.



1. VISION

It all starts with the vision of the MTS movement, which remains unchanged: **To Win the World for Christ by Multiplying Gospel Workers through Ministry Apprenticeships.**

We still have a strong conviction that, as Jesus says in Matthew 9:37-38:

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

The need for our world is unchanged. The world needs the gospel, and we need workers to carry it, share it, show it, live it, love it and pass it on.

The end is global evangelism. The means, Healthy Gospel Ministry Trainers

Ben Pfahlert | National Director

2. PURPOSE

The movement has a clear purpose to **Grow a Movement of Healthy Gospel Ministry Trainers.** It is MTS Trainers whom we support and equip to raise up more Gospel Workers through Ministry Apprenticeships.

3. MISSION

Our mission is to **Raise, Train and Resource Gospel Ministry Trainers through Formation and Fellowship.** This informs how we work, who we hire, what we prioritise, and how we steward the resources God blesses us with.

4. PERSONALITY & CORE VALUES

As a movement of Healthy Gospel Ministry Trainers, we aim to keep expressing our personality in a way that reflects who we are: MTS Trainers who are Christlike, Trusted and Courageous. These traits are what characterise a trainer as "healthy" (the word "healthy" is used in the same way that "sound" is used in Titus 1:9, 13 and 2:1, 2).

Our core values guide the way we work. They also form and equip MTS Trainers as they embody the movement in their context. Our movement core values are: **Health (Christlike, Trusted and Courageous), Fellowship, Multiplication, and Multigenerational Impact.**

5. PROMISE

At MTS, we want to be true to who we say we are—not just as a staff team, but as a whole movement of Trainers, Apprentices, Partner Organisations and Supporters.

Our promise is that Gospel Work Momentum will be created by a Movement of High-Love-High-Demand* Trainers committed to having a Multigenerational Impact. This promise expresses who we are, keeps us united in purpose, and reminds us of the gospel-centred goal: to see more people come to know and love Jesus as Lord.

WHO ARE WE?



**This reflects a spiritual parenting paradigm—training with both deep love and high expectations.*



It's important to keep raising up gospel workers from generation to generation because we're called to it. As people who are convinced of the truth of the gospel and the riches that are on offer as the people of God, it wouldn't make sense for us not to.

There is so much exciting stuff going on. What a joy that we can partner together in seeing more people trained up and grown in godliness. It's exciting for me to be swept up in it [as an MTS apprentice], and how wonderful that we can all partner with MTS in different ways for the glory of our God.

Bek Sheely | Apprentice



BUILDING A LEGACY OF GROWTH



164 TRAINERS WITH APPRENTICES



197 APPRENTICES TRAINED



111 TRAINING CENTRES WITH APPRENTICES



106 APPRENTICESHIPS COMPLETED IN 2025



32 NEW TRAINERS TRAINING



614 DELEGATES CHALLENGED AT RECRUITING CONFERENCES

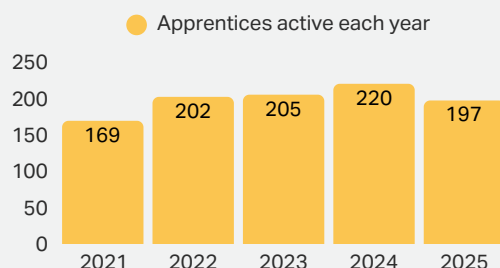
INDIVIDUAL TRAINERS ACTIVE



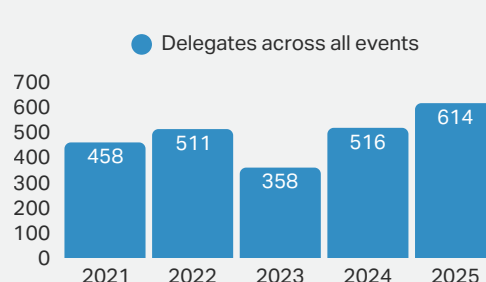
NEW TRAINERS EACH YEAR



1ST & 2ND YEAR APPRENTICES TRAINED



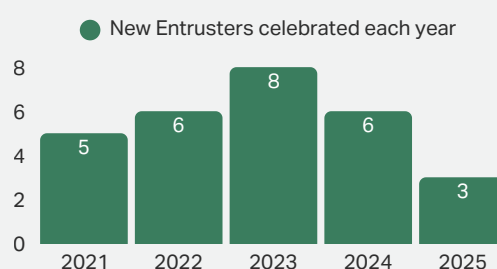
DELEGATES CHALLENGED AT RECRUITING CONFERENCES



“My passion is to see a strong and healthy church here in Australia, raising up gospel workers and sending them out to fulfil Christ’s great commission. That’s what I’m excited about, and because of that, I’m really glad that MTS exists.”

Jordan Born | New 2025 Trainer

ENTRUSTERS AWARDED



TRAINER

GOSPEL IMPACT THROUGH MINISTRY TRAINING WITH JOSH ALLEN

From his earliest memories of hearing the gospel, to planting a thriving church in Melbourne's inner west, Josh Allen's story is a testament to the multiplying power of gospel ministry training.

At every stage—apprentice, college student, and church planter—Josh's life has demonstrated how a Healthy Gospel Ministry Trainer shapes not only one leader but countless lives reached for Christ.

EARLY FAITH AND EVANGELISTIC FORMATION

Josh grew up in Coffs Harbour, New South Wales, in a home where faith was lived and modelled.

"I've had the privilege of never knowing a time where I didn't know Jesus," he recalls. Influences at home, school, and church shaped his love for God and desire to serve. A striking moment came at age ten, when a school gardener preached about the cross. "It struck me that my sin was so serious that the Son of God needed to die for me. That showed me something that was true about me that I would never have seen or believed otherwise."

In 2004, after completing high school, Josh undertook a gap year program run by his school. Part of this involved running outreach programs locally and in New Zealand. One of these in particular cemented his commitment to serving Jesus. "It was on a kind of mountainside in the Ahipara in the North Island of New Zealand, where I remember kneeling down on the side of the road and praying, 'Jesus, I want to serve you with my whole life.'"

LEARNING BY DOING

This early commitment led Josh to pursue structured ministry training. After university and a brief period of work, he began an MTS apprenticeship in 2010 at Hunter Bible Church in Newcastle under the guidance of Richard Sweatman.

Reflecting on the apprenticeship, Josh says, "It didn't just involve doing ministry. It focused on character, conviction, and competency. I'd meet with Richard weekly or fortnightly to read the Bible

164

TRAINERS WITH APPRENTICES

32

NEW TRAINERS

115

MALE TRAINERS

49

FEMALE TRAINERS



JOSH ALLEN

and pray, and he coached me in my ministry responsibilities. We'd meet with other apprentices and staff for shared training where we shared our week's stories and tackled ministry challenges together."

Josh's apprenticeship was hands-on and evangelistically vibrant. He preached at church, led multiple one-to-one discipleship relationships, oversaw small groups, and trained leaders.

"There was a lot of responsibility... a lot of word ministry, leadership, and ministry with people. It was about training and replicating, preparing people to pass on what they were learning. And there was always evangelistic stuff going on, personal evangelism, one-to-one gospel conversations, and outreach initiatives."



MULTIPLYING LEADERS

Following his apprenticeship, Josh completed four years at Moore Theological College in Sydney, before planting Laneway Church in Footscray, Victoria in 2016. From the start, he carried the DNA of MTS into his own ministry.

"When we planted, we raised a launch team to come with us... of those people that we recruited, one had just finished an apprenticeship, another started an apprenticeship with us the first year, and another the second year," he explains. Through this approach, Laneway Church integrated ministry training as an essential part of its life, even as a young plant.

Josh has trained four apprentices so far, with Assistant Minister, Angela Prentice, and his wife Sarah helping train the women.

Each apprentice has brought different life stages and gifts. "Their contexts have ranged from single, to newly married, married with one kid or more... We tailor training for them in their current circumstances and also future hopes. We try to be mindful of their particular gifts and where they'd like to be under God in ten years."

- Sam explored cross-cultural mission, so Josh gave him "entrepreneurial, evangelistic work", including helping evangelise a Christian group into existence at Victoria University. "In 2016 there was no AFES group... by 2018 there was a group with three staff."
- Josephine helped launch the Welcome Dinner Project locally, connecting new migrants with the church.
- Immanuel previously pioneered a university residential college outreach program, and now works as a physio while serving as the church's "key evangelist and trainer of evangelists."
- Cindy leads magnification and ministry at church, "helping us to love God and serve Him joyfully and fruitfully."
- Vanessa begins soon with Angela Prentice as her primary trainer.

Josh uses the MTS curriculum intentionally. "We work through the three Cs... proactively and responsively... so apprentices actually demonstrate they've achieved the outcomes."



Cindy Evelyn, Laneway Church Weekend Away

A GOSPEL-CENTRED VISION FOR TRAINING

For Josh, his central motivation for training apprentices is the gospel itself. This is something that Greg Lee, Lead Pastor at Hunter Bible Church, instilled in Josh and his fellow apprentices.

"The extent of the gospel must match the content of the gospel. Since Jesus Christ is Lord of all for all ages, then the gospel must be proclaimed to all people and down the ages. Raising and forming gospel workers is inseparable from that vision. MTS is the pointy end of the journey for lots of people. I pray that as a church and personally, we keep raising up and sending out people to go with the gospel to reach the nations."

His advice to churches and potential trainers underscores the multiplying power of training: "2 Timothy 2:2 is a job description for Christian leaders. You need people to pass on the gospel, people that can teach others. Everything you do is training. It needs to be integral to your whole understanding of what it means to win the world with the gospel. MTS is just one part of a whole ministry where training is at the heart of passing on the gospel."

Josh Allen's journey illustrates the long-term, evangelistic impact of a Healthy Gospel Ministry Trainer. From apprentice to college student to church planter, each stage has been a launchpad for multiplying disciples, leaders, and the gospel itself, showing that investing in the next generation of ministry trainers is not just good practice, but Kingdom work.

Josh Allen is one of the MTS movement's Healthy Gospel Ministry Trainers.

APPRENTICE

LEAVING TEACHING TO BECOME A STUDENT AGAIN WITH JENNI MURRAY

The conviction for vocational ministry doesn't always come in the season you expect, something that current first-year MTS apprentice Jenni Murray would definitely agree with. She began seriously considering ministry ten years into her career as a high school teacher, when she was in her early 30s.

84	FIRST YEAR APPRENTICES
113	SECOND YEAR APPRENTICES
146	APPRENTICES IN CHURCH MINISTRY
51	IN CAMPUS OR OTHER MINISTRY
28	SCHOLARSHIP EXTENSIONS

STEPPING OUT INTO CHANGE THROUGH FAITH

As well as teaching English and History, Jenni spent several years teaching Christian Studies in Christian schools. It was here that she started to realise her love for teaching the Bible and seeing young people know God through it.

Jenni shares, "I was finding how much I loved talking about the Bible. I did some of the Moore College PTC courses as part of my prep for teaching Christian Studies, and I found it so fascinating. Christian Studies became my favourite bit of teaching."

Jenni also got involved in the lunchtime Christian group at her school and enjoyed talking to her students about God in that context. Eventually, she began youth group leading at her church, Norwest Anglican, and it became her favourite part of the week.

She says, "I started to feel God was really putting passion in my heart to move away from teaching history and to spend time talking about God with kids."

This conviction prompted Jenni to start seriously considering ministry. Some of the ministers at Norwest Anglican invited her to join a group going to the MTS Recruit Conference (now called MTS Mission Minded) in Katoomba in 2024. She happily agreed to go along, thinking, "maybe I'll do MTS in a couple of years."

However, God's timing is not our own! Jenni walked away from the conference with a clear answer. She explains, "I realised the time is now. This is where my heart is, so what is the point of waiting?"

After returning to church, Jenni had intentional conversations with ministry staff, as well as her husband Pete. Norwest's Youth Pastor, Miki Sinfield, was particularly impactful in Jenni seeing how MTS could work for her, as well as Jenni's now trainer, Senior Assistant Minister, Paul Lucas.

Jenni says, "Paul was so helpful in sitting down with me and my husband and talking through why I want to do it and if it would actually work for us. He also didn't start in ministry until his 30s, so he could remind me it's not too late and I have time to give it a go."

Given the majority of MTS apprentices Jenni had seen or known were in their 20s when doing their training, Paul's counsel was particularly relevant when helping her and Pete make this more significant lifestyle choice in their 30s.

So after a 14-year career, Jenni finished up high school teaching and started an MTS apprenticeship in January 2025. It's been a leap of faith, but so far, an amazing experience that she is loving.

LEADING, LEARNING AND PASSING IT ON

Jenni's apprenticeship is primarily in youth ministry as part of the kids and youth team. She splits her week between staff meetings, pastoral ministry, studying at Youthworks College on Tuesdays, youth ministry on Fridays and Sundays, and training sessions with her trainer, Paul, on Wednesdays.

Paul trains Jenni through a mix of formal and informal methods. They work through the MTS curriculum together, reading the Bible and discussing passages. Paul also works with Jenni on ministry competencies, like pastoral and leadership skills. Jenni says, "Meeting one-to-one with people or leading small groups can be quite different from

my experience, which is teaching a room of 20 kids, so it's helpful to learn from Paul in this context."

Spending her week reading the Bible, teaching it, and helping others live it out—especially young people—is a real joy for Jenni.

She shares, "MTS is amazing because it's literally learning on the job how to pass on the gospel. It's looking at how you pass on the gospel in a way that is loving and truthful, and helps build people up to be disciples, whether that means they do full-time ministry or not. Either way, they are owning their faith for themselves. They are holding on to God, and then they're able to go out and also do the same for others."



MATURITY IN THE JOURNEY

For some, leaving an established career to go back into 'study mode' and be an apprentice and a student may feel counterintuitive, but not for Jenni. She sees that anytime is a good time to step into vocational ministry, and God will use that!

She shares, "One of the things I love the most is being able to model a different trajectory to other women. And to equip younger women while showing them different paths. It has been really encouraging for me to be able to build into the young women this sense of, 'It's okay if God's plan is different to what you thought it would be'."

The experiences of hardship, illness and anxiety that Jenni and Pete have walked, as well as all the good times too, help her in ministry to be useful to many people.

Jenni reflects, "The biggest highlights have been seeing the impact you can have on a smaller scale when you are walking with people one-on-one or in small groups, and the difference that you can make by sharing God's Word with them in a way that allows them to talk to you about it and get a better understanding of it. It's cool to see God at work in their lives. And it's cool to see that when I'm not feeling very confident, God is doing stuff through me anyway."

TRAINING DISCIPLE- MAKING GOSPEL WORKERS WITH ANDREW SENNETT

"I see a profoundly important part of my task is raising up the next generation of Gospel Workers and increasing that. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we didn't just have the same number of gospel workers after I depart, but we had twice as many? MTS is an indispensable part of that because it gives us that orientation for our ministry work."

Andrew Sennett is an AFES (Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students) Staff Worker at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst. He has trained many MTS apprentices in decades of faithful ministry.

ANDREW SENNETT



ENCOUNTERING CHRIST

In his first year of study in 1987 at the University of Newcastle, Andrew was struck with a sense of his own mortality after attending 7 funerals in 12 months. Having grown up in a Christian environment, he knew he wasn't right with God. After spending 6 months reading the Bible cover to cover—twice—Andrew says he "met Jesus properly for the first time and God took hold of me", so he gave his life to him!

The next year, Andrew started regularly attending church and joined the Christian group at Newcastle University. He was still eagerly reading the Bible and recalls being particularly struck by Romans 12. Andrew explains, "The first couple of verses there talked about giving yourself as a living sacrifice. And in the King James Bible, it called it your 'reasonable service'. And that really struck me. From that moment, I began thinking about serving him with my life."

Over the next few years, God shaped Andrew's life toward ministry. In 1990, he attended 'Club 5'—the very first spark of what are now MTS All For The Kingdom events. That same year, Andrew moved to Sydney, met his now wife and started his career as a CSIRO scientist. But ministry stayed on his mind. In 1995, he left work to do a two-year MTS apprenticeship at St Paul's Anglican Carlingford trained by Andrew Graham, splitting his time between church and Macquarie University.

MTS showed Andrew that ministry was the right path. He studied at Moore College in 1998, then moved into university ministry, spending five years at the University of Newcastle through Hunter Bible Church. He and his wife eventually moved to Bathurst, where he still works on campus today.



PASSING THE GOSPEL ON AND ON

After over 20 years in ministry, with a keen passion to see more gospel workers raised up, Andrew is what we call an MTS Entruster. Simply put, Entrusters are MTS Trainers, who have trained someone who then goes on to be an MTS Trainer themselves.

Reflecting on his years in training, Andrew focuses on growing and mobilising people to pass on a culture of discipleship. He explains, "I don't necessarily instil a training culture; I work to instil a discipleship culture. MTS emerges out of

discipleship, and I've championed my apprentices to engage in personal discipleship with people. This means I'm working to raise up people who will be disciple makers themselves and who will continue that process into the future."

This is seen through the legacy Andrew is leaving through his apprentices! They have taken many pathways, and it's clear God is at work in all of them to further his kingdom.

For Andrew, raising up and training Gospel Workers is part of the call of the gospel.

God is on about making disciples around the world until Jesus returns. He's building his church, and the way he builds his church is that in every generation, men and women are raised up to proclaim the gospel.

For me, MTS is an indispensable tool in doing that. It's a way we can assess people, and they can assess themselves. Then, in fellowship, we can send them out into ministry!

SOME OF ANDREW'S PAST APPRENTICES INCLUDE...



Richard Sweatman

MTS APPRENTICE: 2002-2003

In 2025: Minister at Hunter Bible Church

Richard was Andrew's first apprentice. He trained him while he worked with AFES at the University of Newcastle, in partnership with Hunter Bible Church. Richard has now been in ministry for nearly 20 years and trained apprentices himself.



Jared Killey

MTS APPRENTICE:
2016-17

In 2025: Bible Translator with Wycliffe in Vanuatu



Jonty Perrett

MTS APPRENTICE: 2013-2014

In 2025: Staff Worker with FOCUS at Griffith University QLD

Jonty was the first person Andrew trained once he moved to work with AFES in Bathurst. In 2024, Jonty began training his first MTS Apprentice, Quintin.



Ryan and Emily Barcham

MTS APPRENTICES:
2018-2019

In 2025: Ryan is studying at Moore Theological College while Emily is looking after their three young kids.

Hosea Luy

MTS APPRENTICE:
2018-2019

In 2025: Assistant Minister at St Michael's Anglican Cathedral, Wollongong



MTS EVENTS & CONFERENCES

Events and training are a big part of mobilising and equipping the MTS movement to multiply Gospel Workers through ministry apprenticeships. We run, facilitate and support multiple types of events across the movement.

I'm so grateful to have worked alongside Carmel in creating and supporting these conferences. Seeing them flourish and watching attendees engage and enjoy the events has been incredibly encouraging.

Juliette Lee | Events Administrator

MTS ALL FOR THE KINGDOM CONFERENCES



In 2025, we launched our *All For The Kingdom* (AFTK) conference resource platform, which supports MTS conferences around Australia. These conferences are designed to gather Gospel Workers and potential Gospel Workers around God's Word and consider his call on their life.

MTS Training & Events Coordinator Carmel says, "We want to help trainers and potential trainers raise up gospel workers. So conferences are great places for them to bring delegates (people considering gospel work), whether they're right at the beginning of their thinking or ready to step into an apprenticeship next year."

“

I really love this conference and think it's extremely valuable for me, to keep remembering what ministry is all about.

AFTK Attendee

”

614

DELEGATES CHALLENGED AT RECRUITING CONFERENCES

**Delegates are those considering gospel work.*

MTS IN FOCUS EVENTS

An *MTS In Focus* event is a gathering hosted by a local church or ministry that communicates the vision of MTS and provides an overview of apprenticeships—including their biblical basis, how they work, and who should consider one. They also give attendees the chance to hear from trainers and apprentices, while celebrating supporters and encouraging a local church culture of prayerfully raising up gospel workers. The MTS team resources these events, but the on-the-ground work is done in local churches and ministries.

In November 2025, St Aidan's Hurstville Grove ran its first *MTS In Focus* event in many years. Assistant Pastor and MTS Trainer Anna shared, "There were some really encouraging conversations over supper about how we as a church can keep training and equipping gospel workers. The event also prompted a number of people to think about how they serve Jesus and to consider an apprenticeship. I've since spoken with two women (one in her 20s and another mature aged), and Brian has had conversations with a couple of men—all wanting to explore an apprenticeship. Praise God!"

28

IN FOCUS EVENTS

5

STATES

15



G8 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Run by the MTS Head Office in partnership with a committee of trainers, *G8 National Conference* brings together apprentices and trainers from across Australia to teach them how God's Word must form their character and practice, to instil in them the MTS DNA, and to prepare them for the training and ministry year ahead.

G8 was very, very helpful. MTS did a really good job of training the trainers, helping us understand what the apprenticeship is all about.

Jordan Born | New 2025 Trainer



MTS INTERNATIONAL

MTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

It's exciting to see how MTS continues to grow internationally in 2025, with movements continuing to form across the globe.

Apprentices are being trained in Chile, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Canada, Malaysia, New Zealand, England, Scotland and most recently, Slovenia.

Ministry Apprentice Training (MAT) Zimbabwe also took an important leap this year, appointing Nelson Vhukani, as the first National Training Director for Zimbabwe, starting in January 2026. Interest and development for movements is also growing in Singapore, Japan, Zambia, India, Kenya, Malawi and Uganda. Please continue to pray for all these places as they develop their own contextual MTS movements.

SEEDS PLANTED AND GROWN IN UGANDA

In Uganda, there is a real desire to see ministry training happen more intentionally through apprenticeships. Although it's early days, there is a roadmap to a local movement of trainers forming, and MTS has been privileged to be involved in supporting this local work!

For the last few years, ministry leaders in Uganda have been doing faithful discipleship and training in youth ministry. Now this is developing into a formal vocational pathway for training, with the vision to see more gospel workers trained up.

In 2025, MTS Trainer and Senior Pastor of St Mark's UNEChurch Armidale, Tom Melbourne, and Nelson Vhukani from MAT Zimbabwe, travelled to Uganda to attend the North Kigezi Diocese Clergy Conference. There, they ran Passing the Baton training with ministry leaders. Their goal was to train these leaders to become trainers of trainers themselves.

Having Nelson involved—a trainer from another African nation with its own local MTS movement—was particularly significant as Uganda grows a movement that is relevant and tailored to their context.

Tom says, "There's a massive need for faithful ministry training in rural Uganda, and so it was brilliant to have Nelson Vhukani from MAT Zimbabwe accompany me at the North Kigezi Diocese clergy conference in July. We got to teach ministry training principles from Ephesians 4 to a group of 100 Pastors, and it was particularly powerful for those Pastors to hear about 'equipping the saints' from a fellow African brother!"

"For MTS to run anywhere, 2 Timothy 2:2 has got to be at the centre of it," shares Russ Smidt, MTS Director of Training, who visited Uganda in 2024. "Not just as a Bible verse, but as a visionary commitment to passing on the baton of the gospel from one person to the next. When it's worked out locally, it is healthier and longer lasting."



MTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



AND THE THINGS YOU HAVE HEARD ME
SAY IN THE PRESENCE OF MANY
WITNESSES ENTRUST TO RELIABLE
PEOPLE WHO WILL ALSO BE QUALIFIED
TO TEACH OTHERS.

2 Timothy 2:2



*Passing The Baton cohort of
future trainers in Uganda with
Russ Smidt and Tom Melbourne*

Uganda is still a few years away from seeing its first apprentice, but the movement towards apprenticeships is underway with the formation of Healthy Gospel Ministry Trainers. MTS is privileged to support what God is doing there, watching as Ugandan leaders catch the vision and make it their own.

It is a joy to lead the team God has assembled at MTS. Every single team member is committed to our vision, purpose and mission—and they genuinely seek to live out the MTS Personality: being Christlike, Trusted and Courageous.

Ben Pfahlert





“ I loved that we articulated a 2026 goal and gathered around that. So good.

Staff highlight from the retreat



LOOKING AHEAD AND PLANNING AS A TEAM

MTS STAFF ANNUAL RETREAT

In August, the MTS Head Office team went on their annual staff retreat. This retreat is an important time to step out of the ordinary, look ahead, and be strategic. It was an extremely valuable time to gather in person, work as a whole staff team, and in our smaller teams.

We centred our planning around our key strategic goal for 2026: **raising up 50 Healthy Gospel Ministry Trainers**. As a team, we mapped out the pathway to get there by reviewing the entire 2026 calendar, identifying the actions required, and determining what priorities need to shift to ensure we are set up to execute effectively. This forward planning has given us clarity on the milestones, resourcing, and focus areas essential for achieving our goal.

Some of the staff highlights from the retreat were:

- “Connecting and collaborating with the whole team”
- “The calendar planning for 2026. I love how involved and creative the team were”

FELLOWSHIP & FORMATION

MTS MINISTRY PARTNERS CONFERENCE

The *Ministry Partners Conference* brings together leaders from across denominations and ministries to foster fellowship, encourage growth, and strengthen gospel partnerships.

The conference cultivates deep connections and offers a space where “iron sharpens iron.” Participants reflect on how God has shaped leaders at different stages of formation, share insights from diverse contexts, and are inspired by one another’s work in training and ministry.

The *Ministry Partners Conference* is one way we live out our commitment to partnering with ministries across a wide variety of contexts. By learning from each other and celebrating the work God is doing in different places, the movement is strengthened and we are reminded that winning the world for Christ takes more than any one network.

TRAINING TRAINERS FROM ONE CORNER OF AUSTRALIA TO ANOTHER

A LOOK AT THE YEAR OF OUR DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

MTS Director of Training, Russ Smidt, is always on the go, and 2025 has been another busy year for him as he supports the formation of Healthy Gospel Ministry Trainers. His time is split between coaching existing trainers, onboarding and training new trainers, supporting networks to train well, speaking at events, and much more.



5

STATES/TERRITORIES
VISITED FOR
CONFERENCES &
TRAINERS



17

FLIGHTS



8

STATES WHERE
CHURCH
NETWORKS WERE
SUPPORTED



74*

TRAINER ONBOARD
MEETINGS

**This number will continue to
increase during December*



42

CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS



22

CONFERENCES &
CAMPS ATTENDED

SHARING THE VISION FOR WOMEN TRAINING FOR GOSPEL WORK

CLARE MERKEL'S WORK TO RAISE UP MORE WOMEN IN MINISTRY

2025 has been a landmark year for the MTS Ministry Training for Women initiative, led by Partnership Developer Clare Merkel, as she continues working to make ministry training more accessible, flexible, and relevant for women across Australia.

One of the year's major achievements was the development of a new partnership with Mary Andrews College (MAC). After six months of close collaboration with Principal Dr Laurel Moffatt, Clare helped create a flexible Undergraduate Certificate of Ministry specifically designed for MTS apprentices. The new pathway, launched at the online *MTS Ministry Training for Women In-Focus* event, offers women the option to study either in-person or online.

"It's been curated by MAC in consultation with MTS to ensure apprentices are developing healthy ministry practices flowing from theological understanding," Clare explains. "It's very leadership-focused, with a newly created women's ministry subject in there as well."

What makes this partnership particularly exciting is its flexibility and future potential. Women can complete the certificate during their apprenticeship, and then have the option to continue on to a Diploma or Bachelor's Degree, having completed the equivalent of first year. It's removing barriers that have previously stopped women from continuing in theological training.



CLARE MERKEL

The MTS In-Focus event also cast a wider vision for MTS Ministry Training for Women and showcased diverse stories from apprentices, trainers, and partners—highlighting the many ways God is at work through this growing strategy. It also outlined pathways designed to support women studying full-time or part-time, offering options suited to different seasons of life and apprentices serving in a wide range of geographical contexts.

Another significant aspect of Clare's work this year has been investing deeply in female MTS trainers across the movement.

"A privileged part of my role has been caring for and resourcing female trainers," Clare shares. "This has grown through one-on-one mentoring, the development of the MTS Women's Guild in partnership with Anglican Deaconess Ministries (The Greenhouse), and a National Women Leaders Training Day held in partnership with TGCA." These initiatives are building confidence, community, and capacity among female trainers, strengthening the ecosystem that supports women entering gospel ministry.



YOU ARE THE MTS MOVEMENT!

Thank you for taking the time to read our 2025 Impact Report.

MTS is a movement, and movements grow through people like you. We'd love you to partner with us as we seek to win the world for Christ by multiplying Gospel Workers through ministry apprenticeships.

PARTNER WITH US



○ PRAY

Without God, we are nothing, so we rely heavily on Him in prayer! Each month, we provide specific, timely prayers for you and your church—for apprentices, trainers, and the work of raising up the next generation of gospel workers.

Subscribe to our PrayerMate feed, or visit our website to access the monthly MTS prayer calendar.



○ GIVE

Your financial partnership makes this work possible. Become a regular donor, give a one-off gift, or leave a bequest to support the multiplication of gospel workers.

mts.com.au/support
1300 657 548





We pray for God to send out workers into the harvest and God answers that prayer through local churches. So my deep conviction is that as a local church we have a responsibility to be raising up workers, equipping them, training them, and sending them out with the gospel.

Michael Dodd | Trainer



SUBSCRIBE

Stay connected to the movement. We share monthly stories from apprentices and trainers, reflections from the team, and news from across the movement.

Join the monthly PartnerNews email list.



THANKING GOD FOR 2025

Join us in prayer, thanking God for how he has worked through MTS in 2025.

- Thank God for how He has grown the MTS movement in 2025, particularly for all the new trainers and apprentices that commenced with MTS this year.
- Thank God for the many volunteers whose faithful service strengthens MTS and advances ministry training.
- Thank God for the generosity of financial contributors whose support enables MTS to resource the movement.

The background of the entire page is a blurred photograph of three people sitting outdoors. On the left, a man with a beard is seen in profile, wearing a light blue t-shirt. In the center, a person is partially visible, wearing a white t-shirt. On the right, a woman with orange hair ties is seen from the back, wearing a pink and white floral patterned shirt. They appear to be in a park or garden setting with green trees and a building in the background.

MTS

MINISTRY TRAINING
STRATEGY