



MINISTRY TRAINING STRATEGY

IMPACT REPORT 2023



Our Mission

To raise up, train and resource MTS Trainers, as they multiply Gospel Workers through ministry apprenticeships.

Thanks be to God

In 2023 God continued to display His goodness and sovereignty over this mission. This impact report shows just a small portion of the work God has been doing through the MTS movement over the last year.



"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17



The impact of MTS in 2023

Over the last 12 months we had 25 new trainers training an apprentice for the first time, and 105 new (first year) apprentices!



172 trainers with apprentices



205 apprentices in training



79 female apprentices



121 training centres with apprentices



83 apprentices completed their apprenticeship



50 partner organisations

We're thankful to have varying levels of partnership with; Across the Divide, Anglican Aid, Anglicare, Australian College of Theology, Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES), Belgrave Heights Convention (Melbourne), Bush Church Aid, Christ College, Church Missionary Society (CMS), City Bible Forum (CBF), Cornhill Sydney, Crossbeam Communications, Dunham + Co., European Christian Mission (ECM), Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC), Fundacion Generacion (Chile), Katoomba Christian Convention, Mary Andrews College (MAC), Matthias Media, Melbourne School of Theology, METRO NSW, METRO VIC, Ministry Apprentice Training (Zimbabwe), Moore Theological College, Ninethirtyeight (England), Partners in Ministry, Perth Gospel Partnership, Pioneers Australia, Presbyterian Theological College VIC, Presbyterian Youth NSW (PYNSW), Queensland Theological College (QTC), Reach Australia, Reformed Theological College (VIC), Ridley Theological College (Melbourne), Sydney for the Kingdom, Sydney Missionary and Bible College (SMBC), Sydney Prayer Breakfast, The Bible Talks (South Africa), The Gospel Coalition Australia, The Timothy Partnership, The Wandering Bookseller, Trinity Theological College, The Values Driven Co., Virtual Church Assist, Vision 100 Tasmania, Vocational Bible College (VBC), Youthworks College, Youthworks - Year 13.

Passing the baton of the gospel

In 2 Timothy we see the apostle Paul urging for the gospel to be passed on. 2 Timothy 2:2 says, "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." Later in the letter, he affirms the truth of the gospel and urges them again to remember it and to teach it! (2 Timothy 2:8-10, 3:14-17)

This is an instruction for us today too. If we aren't actively passing the gospel on with the training and instruction to teach it, it won't reach people. As Paul says of his preaching and training ministry - it is "for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory." (2 Timothy 2:10.)

MTS is a movement committed to obeying the words of Jesus Christ in the great commission - to make disciples of all nations. Our contribution to this wider purpose stems directly from this pattern laid out in 2 Timothy 2:2, that is, to ensure that the gospel is passed on to reliable people in each new generation. Our unique strategy is to multiply gospel workers through ministry apprenticeships, so our mission is to equip, raise up, train and resource MTS Trainers as they train apprentices!

When you support MTS with your prayers, your money and your time, you enable this biblical pattern of entrusting to continue and many more workers in His harvest to be sent out. Thank you.

Benny

**MTS NATIONAL DIRECTOR
BEN PFAHLERT**



Entrusters

155

entrusters

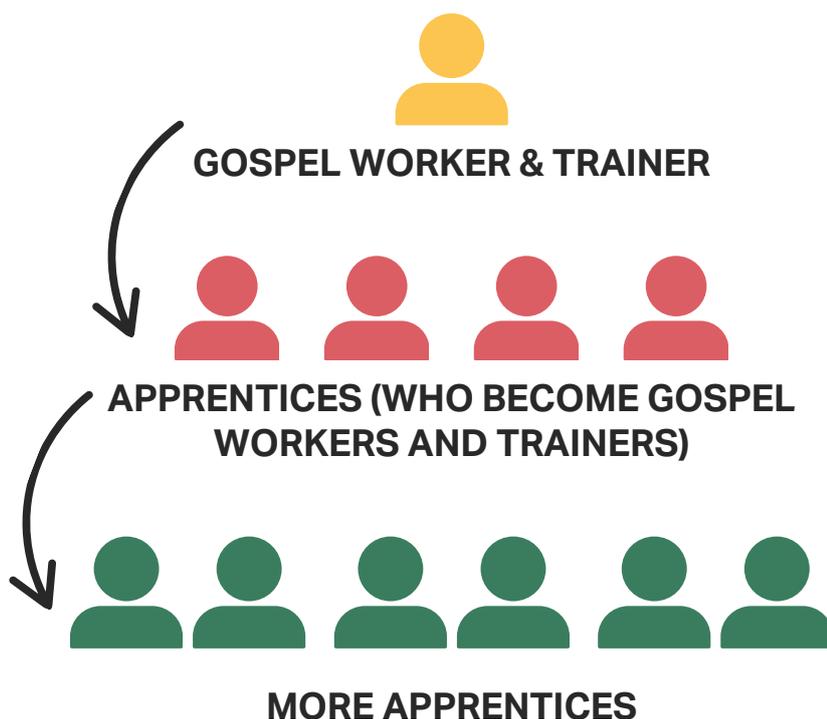
151 IN AUSTRALIA
4 INTERNATIONALLY

What is the MTS entrusters framework?

82% of MTS Apprentices say that the biggest influence for them taking up ministry training is another gospel worker. The “tap on the shoulder”, where a mentor or ministry leader prompts a potential gospel worker to take up an apprenticeship, is key.

In short, entrusters are MTS Trainers, who have trained someone who then goes on to be an MTS Trainer themselves! This is how the entrusting family tree sprouts and grows.

MTS Director Ben Pfahlert says, “We’d love all MTS Apprentices, as their God-given gifts allow, to become MTS entrusters.”



Entruster: Rob Copland



In 2023 Rob was presented with his gold baton as he became an entruster in the MTS movement!

Rob Copland works for AFES at the University of Wollongong and is Uni Bible Group's Campus Director. He has so far trained two apprentices, Seth Fellows and Luke Murray, who are now both training apprentices themselves.

Rob says, "We need to keep learning the gospel. You must keep learning it from the Bible and from the Gospels. You never stop and should never stop learning how the Lordship of Jesus is the rule over all nations and all people through His death and resurrection. That is the thing that we need to keep coming back to and learning afresh from the Gospels and it's that simple but also that constant".

Trainers

172

trainers with Apprentices

MTS trainers work within their own churches and ministries, training apprentices in ministry competency, Christlike conviction and christlike character.

25

new trainers

121

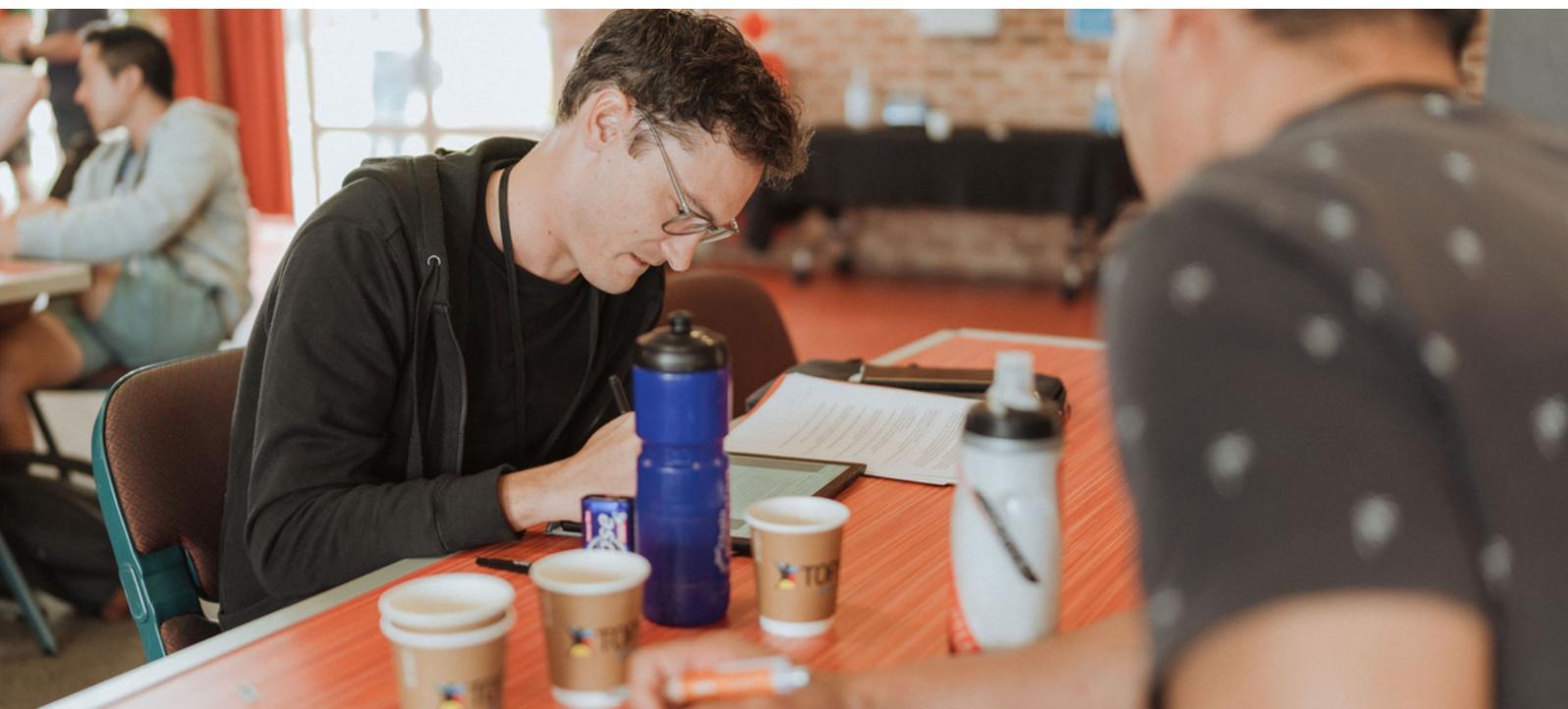
training centres

142

male trainers

30

female trainers



Hear from our Trainers



Mike Wong

THURGOONA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Recruiting and training with intention

Saved by grace as a teenager, Mike Wong is passionate about seeing the gospel of Jesus Christ shared, taught and lived. In 2024 he is training his second MTS apprentice in his church, Thurgoona Presbyterian Church, part of Albury Presbyterian Churches.

He sees the value in apprentices as contributing members of the team, but also as part of helping trainers rely on Christ more too. There is great intention in how he aims to shape his apprentices!

“I think it’s part of the great commission to make disciples of all nations and to see gospel workers raised up to win the world for Christ. So biblically, there are just really great reasons to keep training apprentices, particularly gospel workers.”

[READ MIKE'S STORY](#)



Katherine Ollis

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BULL CREEK

Training women in service of the gospel

Katherine’s journey into ministry felt accidental from her point of view, but God was clearly behind it. It was an appreciation of study and learning that set her on the path that would reveal ministry to her. She went to Trinity Theological College thinking it was just so she could learn more about the Bible, but while there grew a ministry conviction and once graduated made an intentional move into women’s ministry.

Now training is a big part of her role at WPC Bull Creek, and she’s thankful for how God has grown her while helping her to grow her apprentices! Reflecting on something Ben Pfahlert shared at G8 2023 Katherine says:

“I really liked how Ben said that we want to aim for our apprentices to be better than us. I think if you don’t have that in your head, then it can be quite an insecure thing when you feel like ‘they did that so well and way better than I could have done’, but actually that’s the aim.”

[READ KATHERINE'S STORY](#)

Apprentices

205

apprentices trained

Apprentices are the 'fruit of the tree' that is the MTS movement! As trainers are well-resourced and supported, they train up skilled apprentices to be gospel workers and trainers of new workers too.

105

first year apprentices

100

second year apprentices

165

in church ministry

40

in campus or other ministry



Hear from our Apprentices



John Brackenbury

MINISTRY APPRENTICE 2023/2024 CITY BIBLE FORUM

From managing risk to sharing the gospel

John first had a pull to ministry when studying at university, but he pushed the idea aside at first. After finishing uni and starting in Risk Management, John started getting involved with City Bible Forum as a participant.

This gave him more exposure to ministering to non-Christians and grew his conviction for sharing the gospel. He eventually chose to do an apprenticeship with City Bible Forum, which allowed him to stay as a member of his church too. His apprenticeship is clearly showing him the saving power of the gospel!

“When people become Christians as adults it’s really special. In the past few years I’ve seen a guy my age become a Christian and then come to Headstart to meet more Christians. Now he is trying to share Jesus with his Muslim work friends at the bank.”

[READ JOHN'S STORY](#)



Dhanu Eliezer

MINISTRY APPRENTICE 2022/2023 SCOTS CHURCH SYDNEY

Sharing the Gospel of Jesus with those who need it

It was originally while at university that Dhanu heard about MTS. While involved there she was encouraged to think about how she can be living her life to serve God and to tell others about Jesus, and as a part of this challenge, she started considering an apprenticeship.

“I was constantly wrestling with it, and thinking through; How am I using my time? How can I be growing and being trained up? I thought MTS was a good option because I would have this dedicated time to learn more about God through reading the Bible. But once I started working, it got harder.”

Dhanu decided to do an MTS apprenticeship part-time, and has been doing ministry with a particular focus on evangelism. People walk into church for many different reasons, and seeing God work through that has been a real encouragement for Dhanu.

[READ DHANU'S STORY](#)

The international movement

In 2023 the MTS movement continued to expand throughout the globe. Apprentices are being trained in Chile, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Canada, Malaysia, New Zealand and England. Interest and excitement for the movement is also growing in Singapore, Japan, Slovenia, Zambia, Kenya, Uganda and Malawi!

INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Ministry Apprentice Training Zimbabwe

Ministry Apprentice Training (MAT) Zimbabwe is an outpost of the MTS movement in Africa that is growing thanks to the grace of God and the dedication of His workers! Though most of the population is Christian, many churches do not have pastors and close to 80% of the pastors are untrained. The need for equipped gospel workers is great.



MAT Zimbabwe currently works as a Hub Country. They help other nations live out the MTS DNA too! They've worked to establish a healthy movement and are now inviting people to watch what they do and replicate it in their country.

Antony Dandato is working with this vision in mind, "From Zimbabwe to Africa and the world at large, we pray to multiply Faithful, Godly, and Competent (FGC) gospel workers for the African church." Ben says, "What's exciting about that is not only are they grabbing hold of the vision of training apprentices, but they're multiplying the vision."

MAT is also working to increase the number of apprentices they're training – but without reducing the quality. Over the past decade, MAT has been seeing exciting growth in its apprentice numbers, and has now trained over 45 apprentices!

Support the work of MAT Zimbabwe!

WHEN YOU GIVE TO MAT ZIMBABWE YOU SUPPORT:

- The training of trainers
- Apprentice living expenses as they train as gospel workers
- Conferences designed to grow the quality and quantity of apprentices
- The overhead costs of MAT Zimbabwe

[**DONATE NOW**](#)

Events and Conferences

A key part of how MTS raises up and equips trainers (and in turn apprentices) is through training events. These happen on a big scale, like 162 delegates at MTS Recruit and on a smaller scale, like an Info Night in a regional church.

MTS Key Events in 2023

G8 NATIONAL CONFERENCE
at Stanwell Tops NSW

LEADERS' TRAINING DAY at
Carlton NSW + Online

MTS ANNUAL DINNER

MTS RECRUIT at Katoomba
NSW and Upper Plenty VIC

NETWORK COORDINATORS
CONFERENCE

MTS Recruit Australia

MTS Recruit ran over the October long-weekend in Katoomba NSW and the first weekend in November in Victoria. It was an amazing conference that challenged attendees to consider gospel work, and encouraged those pursuing it as a path.

402 TOTAL ATTENDEES

162 DELEGATES

(delegates are those considering gospel work)

MTS Info Nights

MTS Info Nights are designed to help introduce potential MTS Apprentices and Trainers to the MTS movement. They are 1-1.5 hour events hosted by churches and ministry partners exploring what MTS is, and providing attendees with a chance to talk through their questions with MTS alumni.

43 INFO NIGHTS

6 DIFFERENT STATES

NSW: 21 VIC: 6 WA: 5 ACT: 3 QLD: 3 TAS: 2

3 ONLINE

3 AT CONFERENCES

37 DIFFERENT CHURCHES

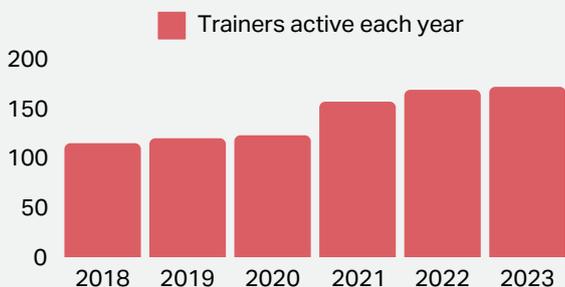
Building a legacy of growth

Over the past six years God has been kind in using the MTS movement and we have seen ongoing multiplication!

FROM 2018 - 2023:

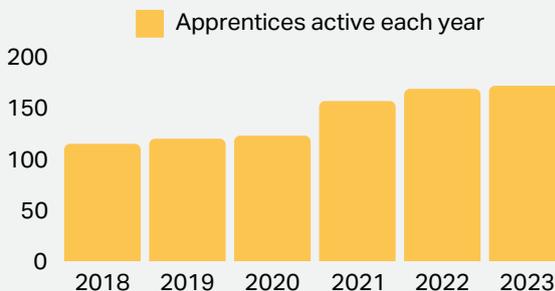
376

individual trainers active



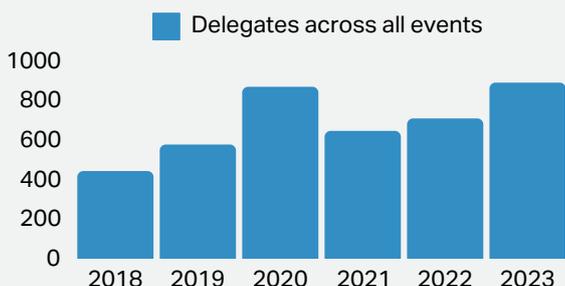
617

individual apprentices trained



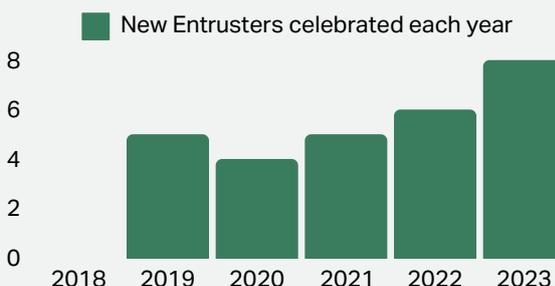
4110

delegates challenged at MTS Recruit or similar events



28

entrusters celebrated



Our MTS staff team at head office has also grown from 8 to around 12 and is still growing, thanks to the grace of God and generosity of our supporters, which has contributed greatly to the multiplication of our ministry.

Support the MTS movement

Thank you for taking the time to read our 2023 Impact Report. We rely on our supporters to continue the work we do.

We would love you to partner with us at MTS. There are three main ways you can support the work of multiplying gospel workers through ministry apprenticeships.

PRAY

Subscribe to our PrayerMate feed or visit our website to access our MTS prayer calendar each month. Our calendar provides specific, timely prayers for you and your church to pray.

GIVE

Financially support the work of MTS by becoming a regular donor, donating a one-off gift or leaving a bequest. Visit mts.com.au/support or call 1300 657 548 to become a financial partner.

SUBSCRIBE

Join our PartnerNews email list and receive a monthly update on the work of MTS. We share stories of apprentices and trainers, thoughts from the team and other updates. Visit mts.com.au to sign up.

