2024

## AFES National Mission

An invitation to proclaim Christ together









### Dear gospel partner,

For 87 years, AFES has been proclaiming Jesus Christ on university campuses across Australia. We delight in telling people that Jesus is the good and gracious King who reigns triumphant over sin and death. And we delight that we do this in partnership with you.

Next year, AFES is praying that the Lord will bless our efforts to run a National Mission across Australia. Campus groups will use the same slogan, taglines, and brand to warmly invite people to 'Meet Jesus' in the pages of John's gospel.

Under God, we hope that we can make an even greater gospel impact by inviting you and your Church or evangelical organisation to join with us in this. Read through this document to discover the options and possibilities for how you could partner with us to proclaim the wonderful news of Jesus across Australia.

Every blessing in him, Richard Chin

**AFES National Director** 



# Why do we care about evangelism?



For many, evangelism conjures up feelings of guilt and reluctance. For others, evangelism is a chance to bolster one's reputation and hit the annual outreach target. But we trust that you are eager to evangelise because you've come to see that Christ alone is worthy of all respect and recognition. The world offers comfortable homes, a comfortable lifestyle... We can surf the net, surf the waves, travel the world... We applaud good grades at graduations, we cheer our speed and agility at sporting stadiums, we celebrate love at weddings... But the loudest applaud goes to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus surpasses all that this world can ever offer and can ever achieve. Jesus is wiser than Gandhi, smarter than Einstein, stronger than nature. He rules over every politician, every dictator, every monarch, every hero. Jesus is better. Yet he's kinder than Mother Theresa, more gracious than Nelson Mandela, more loyal than your best friend.

So, when friends shrug you off with post-modern tolerance, or neighbours insist that all religions are the same, we must urge them, reason with them, beg them to open the Bible and consider – 'One day every knee will bow at the throne of the greatest monarch in the universe. His name is Jesus. Have you met him?'

We pray that as you regularly remind those in your congregations of the glorious goodness of the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ, that your hearts will naturally overflow with joy to speak of Jesus to everyone around you.

# Why a National Mission?

AFES groups across the nation will be leveraging our gospel unity in 2024 by inviting unbelievers on our campuses to 'Meet Jesus'.



The advantages in this are many:

**Many voices are louder than one:** As we promote Jesus using the same brand and slogan, we hope Australia is overwhelmed with invitations to 'meet Jesus'.

**Many hands make light work:** You will save time in utilising the ready-made 'Meet Jesus' templates and designs.

**People know people everywhere:** In the national village that is Australia, social networks extend beyond local borders. You can invite friends and family living in other parts of the country to attend similar events happening in your area.

**Gospel unity is a witness of God's unity:** Proclaiming Jesus with one voice displays the unity given to us by the Triune God. "May they all be one, just as you Father are in me, and I in you… so that the world may believe that you sent me." John 17:21

Please pray that Christ will be glorified in our efforts to work together to proclaim his gracious Kingship.





# How will it work for AFES?

AFES cherishes our gospel unity, but we also value our local distinctiveness. We want to work together but be considerate of the cultural settings in which we serve. We imagine this is similar in parish settings. So, here's what's happening...

**Unified Branding:** The 'Meet Jesus' logo, branding and message is for you to use across all your promotions.

Customised Taglines: We've collated a curated list of taglines that can run alongside the 'Meet Jesus' logo (see the next page for suggestions). These originate from the best of AFES's ideas. Choose which you'd like to use for your mission.

**Tailored events and timing:** AFES groups and churches know the optimal seasons for evangelism in your context. So, choose a time that works for you. Brainstorm events that will maximise opportunities for gospel proclamation.

**Mutual encouragement:** As we work together to speak of Jesus across Australia, we'll be sharing stories through social media platforms so that we can encourage one another, share ideas, and join together in praise and thanksgiving to God.

Shared resources: Running a mission takes thought, time, and preparation. AFES is in the process of collating training resources to help you equip your people to be bold in sharing Christ in casual conversations, in walk-up and, also, using the Scriptures.

Uncover John: The best way for people to meet Jesus is by letting Jesus introduce himself through the Bible. Uncover John is the primary resource we're encouraging people to use as unbelievers are invited to meet Jesus. Uncover John has been designed for the Australian context and comes with easy study questions (the '5R's) and suggested passages (see page 8 for more details).

## Meet Jesus: Taglines

Taglines will run alongside
the main 'Meet Jesus'
logo, either to raise
questions that resonate
with our current culture, or
to explain something of
who Jesus is or what he
offers. We hope these
serve to proclaim Christ in
all our promotions.

We have gathered ideas from
AFES staff and students and
collated the best suggestions for
you to use. Choose any of these
tagline sets to best suit your
context!

Satisfied? Meet Jesus.

Messed up? Meet Jesus.

Want purpose? Meet Jesus.

Want answers? Meet Jesus.

Meet Jesus. **Meet God.**Meet Jesus. **Meet you.**Meet Jesus. **He is good.** 

Meet Jesus. Find the truth.

Meet Jesus. Find forgiveness.

Meet Jesus. Find life.



# **Meet Jesus: Merch**

We all know the power of brand saturation. As you encourage people to be walking talking billboards, here are some merch options you could consider:

- T-shirts or hoodies
- Hats, caps, or bowl hats!
- Tote bags
- Pens
- Socks

You'll need to organise your own printing of merchandise, but templates will be available online.



## Meet Jesus in John's Gospel

We know that God's word is what miraculously illuminates dead and dark hearts to open blind eyes and see God's glory in the face of Jesus Christ (John 1:1-18, 2 Cor 3:16-4:6). So, what better way of introducing people to Jesus than by letting Jesus do this in his own Word.

**Uncover John:** A modern, pocket-sized, hardcover version of John's gospel.

**The 5 R's:** Five simple questions to study any portion of John's gospel.

**Suggested passages:** Work through selected passages, which introduce Jesus through key characters in John's gospel.

**Online Resources:** Uncover John will be added to our existing <u>uncover.org.au</u> website by December to assist you.

**Training Resources:** Equip your congregration to feel confident to read Uncover with their friends with our training materials.

If you'd like copies of Uncover John to use in your church or context, contact **office@afes.org.au** 



#### **Overview**

**Study A:** John 1:1-18 pg. 6-7 Meet Jesus with the world **Study B:** John 3:1-21 pg. 14-17 Meet Jesus with the religious **Study C**: John 4:4-42 pg. 20-25 Meet Jesus with the outsider **Study D**: John 11:1-45 pg. 62-67 Meet Jesus with the grieving **Study E**: John 18:28-19:22 pg. 98-105 Meet Jesus with the powerful Study F: John 20:1-31 pg. 106-111 Meet Jesus with the sceptics



### **Uncover John: Inside**

From UCCF to AFES

The pages of Uncover John are designed for those new to reading the Bible. Check out this video from UCCF to discover the origins of Uncover.

John had been baptising in the early days. There he stayed, 41 and many people came to him. They said, 'Though John never performed a sign, all that John said about this man was true," 42 And in that place many believed in Jesus.

Now a man named Lazarus was ill. He was from Bethany. the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay ill, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.)  $^3\,\mbox{So}$  the sisters sent word to Jesus, 'Lord, the one you love is ill.'

4 When he heard this, Jesus said, 'This illness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.' 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So when he heard that Lazarus was III, he stayed where he was two more days,  $^{7}\,\mathrm{and}$  then he said to his disciples, 'Let us go back

8 'But Rabbi,' they said, 'a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?"

9 Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the day-time will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. <sup>10</sup> It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."

11 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, 'Our friend n- but I am going there to wake him up."

if he sleeps, he will get better."

that you may believe. But let us

s Didymus ) said to the rest of may die with him.





Meet Jesus with the grieving



From UCCF to AFES: One Lord. One Gospel.









### Meet Jesus Socials

Part of the joy in a National Mission, is being mutually encouraged by the Lord's work among us. So, as we run events, do walk-up, and read Uncover John with friends and strangers across the country, our socials will share regular updates and stories of how the Lord is glorifying Jesus through us.

To get a taste of this, be encouraged by IFES students from across the globe speak of the goodness of meeting Jesus in this video.





# Will you get involved?

We invite you to join with us ...

- To leverage our gospel unity for greater gospel impact;
- To further equip your congregations in evangelism;
- To share resources and reduce the workload;
- To glorify the only one who is worthy, Jesus Christ (Psalm 96:3-4, Phil 2:10).



## MEET JESUS

# What we can offer

Depending on how you'd like to partner with us, AFES is able to provide the following resources:

#### **Regular Prayer Updates:**

- Join our socials for stories, videos and photos from the National Mission.
- Begin by praying today. We are encouraging believers to pray for two unbelievers for two minutes each day.
   Do join us in this!

#### **Promotions:**

- Full access to our logo, taglines, brand identity and style guide for you to use.
- Editable templates
   for merchandise, print
   promotions and social
   media.

#### **Evangelism training:**

Possible options include...

- How to read Uncover
   John with an unbeliever.
- How to talk to people about Jesus.
- Why evangelise using the Bible.

#### **Joint events:**

Depending on your region, different AFES groups will be able to offer different levels of support and resources. Your level of support will also depend on the size of your ministry. We'd love to serve each other in this through open discussion. The best way of beginning this discussion is by filling out the EOI form here.

All our Meet Jesus resources will be available online from December. Fill in the EOI here to gain access.



## How can we partner together?

There are multiple levels of partnership and involvement to choose from:

Commit to praying for the

AFES National 'Meet Jesus'

Mission. We cannot do this

without the Lord's blessing

(Psalm 127:1).

2. Ask AFES if they might be available to train and encourage your Church in evangelism.

- Partner with other churches and the local AFES groups to run a combined mission event.
- 4. Use our 'Meet Jesus' branding and run your own mission.

If you'd like to partner with us in any of these ways, please read our <u>AFES Doctrinal Basis</u>, and this article on 'The momentous news of the gospel' to prayerfully consider your involvement.

If you would like to join us in this National Mission, <u>please fill out this form</u> to express your interest. We'll get back to you with more information in the coming months.

# MEET JESUS

"Finally, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honoured."

2 Thess 3:1



