

ANSWERING THE CALL

MEETING NEEDS AND TRAINING PEOPLE

In response to the enormous physical and spiritual needs encountered throughout the world, COC launched Global Care in 1996. This new organisation has a mandate to help reach the world for Jesus Christ through the delivery of relief aid, by initiating development programs, and by deploying strong Christ-centred mission works.

One of the most exciting developments for COC was the launch of Christian Outreach Centre Ministry Training Institute in 1997. This innovative training program was introduced into the movement to the foundational principles of Christian living, to the dynamics of leadership. The course's balance of practical involvement competency based training and Bible study, and its potential to be implemented by churches both large and small, make the course unique.

The Holy Spirit continues to bring a powerful sense of destiny and purpose into the hearts of pastors and leaders throughout the movement. COC continues to expand on a world wide scale focussing on areas where the Holy Spirit directs, and areas that will benefit from the involvement of a local Christian Outreach Centre.

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History of COC

THE BEGINNING

The first meeting of Christian Outreach Centre was on June 23rd 1974, when 25 people met in the lounge room of founding president, Clark Taylor in Brisbane. The following week the group met in the

Teacher's Union Building and remained there for nine months. As numbers grew, the church moved into a Salvation Army Hall in Trafalgar Street, Woolloongabba. This was extended at regular intervals due to the centre's growing popularity.

FREEDOM AND ACCEPTANCE

In the beginning, there was a freedom of worship that was uncommon in other Australian Churches. COC was noted for its members dancing and clapping during the singing of choruses. The choruses sung were not of traditional origin but written by members of COC or by members of similar churches.

While traditional churches were in decline, COC was experiencing rapid growth. This was partly due to its willingness to accept all types of people. Neither their background nor current circumstances inhibited people from becoming active members of the church.

Disadvantaged people, including many unskilled or 'marginalised' people such as the homeless, drug addicts and ex-criminals were readily accepted and welcomed into the church alongside every other person.

In late 1975, COC moved to a warehouse located in Victoria Street, West End, Brisbane where it remained for 6 years. By 1977 over 1000 people were gathering at West End, and COC's had been planted in nearby townships.

SPREADING FAR AND WIDE

1977 also marked the start of the television show "A New Way of Living", featuring footage from the Brisbane meetings and shown on stations in Australia from Mt Isa to Hobart. Miracles were phenomenal, both on the screen and in the homes of those who watched. Hundreds of people rang the Brisbane centre from around Australia wanting healing or salvation. Each week in Brisbane hundreds were being born again, many of them visiting a church for the first time in their lives. In retrospect, these were times when God was laying the foundations for a movement which was destined to reach the four corners of the globe.

The TV show widened public awareness of Christian Outreach Centre throughout Eastern Australia, and before long COC's were being planted in South East Queensland and Northern New South Wales.

Throughout Australia, men and women with a Heart to pioneer for Jesus Christ began launching COC's in cities and towns far and wide.

By late 1985 Christian Outreach Centres in Australia numbered 48, including centres in Victoria and the Australian Capital territory. COC now has churches worldwide and in Qld.

