



LCANZ NSW-ACT District

Eight weekly 2hr sessions by Zoom, on Wednesdays in July-August 2026

Shaping Mission in 21st Century Australia & New Zealand

9.00-11.00pm NZ / 7.00-9.00pm Eastern / 6.30-8.30pm Central / 5.00-7.00pm WA

An Overview

We will see how we fit into God's mission to his world, seeking

- 1) a better understanding of joining the Spirit in walking with someone on their journey to faith; and*
- 2) the beginnings of a concrete approach to shaping mission in each person's context.*

0. 1/7 An Introductory Sharing of our Local Contexts, Hopes and Dreams.

What can we learn as we listen to one another? How can this help shape our course?

We will then work together on issues such as the following:

1. 8/7 It's the 21st Century and Times are Changing!

What opportunities for mission do you see in your community? Dare to dream!

Introductions and Preliminaries

Dwelling in the Word

1. How Congregations have changed from the time of the Apostles, to Christendom, to Today [Pat Keifert]
2. First Steps towards a Vision for Mission in 21st Century Australia and New Zealand

2. 15/7 Shaping Us and our Team.

Who can you work with in joining God's mission where you are?

Dwelling in the Word.

1. Six Disruptive Missional Practices: Resisting Mission Drift and the tendency to Institutionalise [Pat Keifert]
Dwelling in the Word/Dwelling in the World/Hospitality/Corporate Discernment/Evangelism/Focused Action.

3. 22/7 Walking with Others on their Journey to Faith.

What does mission look like in your community today? What is God up to?

1. A brief look at Conversion in the NT Church
2. Walking with Someone on their Journey to Faith [Dean Eaton]
3. Let Jesus Speak: Explaining your Hope with Gentleness and Respect [Dave Male & Paul Weston]

4. 29/7 Sense-making in our Fallen, Broken, Rebellious World.

How has our society changed in the last 5-15 years? What do you see, hear and experience?

1. Culture: Understanding Others and Understanding Ourselves
2. The Contexts into which we bring Jesus

5. 5/8 Called to Lead when you don't yet know the Road you need to take.

What makes leadership and bringing missional change difficult where God has planted us?

1. Help! My Congregation has Two Problems! Leadership in Uncertain Times
2. Bringing Missional Change in Congregations: What is required for lasting change? [Pat Keifert & Wes Granberg]

6. 12/8 If God has given you a few People, that is all you need!

Walking with others. How do we grow our missional team and new missional communities?

1. Starting a New Mission Initiative with not many People and not much Money
2. Building a Robust Biblical Approach to Mission.

7. 19/8 Corporate Guidance and Discernment.

What do you hear the Spirit saying to you?

Dwelling in the Word

1. Led by the Spirit: Guidance in the Christian Community Today



8. 26/8 Bringing it all together—Where to from Here?

Chosen, called and sent with others to blossom where God has planted you. Sharing our hopes and dreams.

Dwelling in the Word

1. Jacob's Ladder and Contemporary Mission Initiatives: What can we learn from others?

The course is led by Dr Steen Olsen (LCANZ emeritus pastor, LCNZ bishop and SA-NT mission director).

To find out more about the course content, contact steen.olsen@lca.org.au

The cost for the course is \$175 for the first person, and \$50 for each additional person attending from the same congregation or team of people exploring mission opportunities. Contact frontier@lca.org.au to register interest.

Subscribe to Steen's blog *bring Jesus* at www.lca.org.au/enews — You find it under 'LCA Districts'

The mission of Jesus remains the same, but Australia and New Zealand have changed radically in the past decade. To *bring Jesus* to our families, friends and neighbours today we need to move beyond programs and techniques and get back to the basics of being disciples of Jesus in our communities. This course will help you to develop a better understanding of joining the Spirit in walking with someone on their journey to faith, as well as beginning to shape an effective approach to mission in your context.

Why do this course?

Sometimes we spend so much time *growing* our knowledge and faith that we never actually get around to *going* into our communities with good news. The Holy Spirit shapes us to participate in God's mission to his world, and this is an ongoing process in our Christian walk. It is as we *go* that we *grow*. In this course we will explore the holy habits and practices that enable us to *go* more effectively. They are ordinary things and as ancient as the church itself, yet they take on a fresh perspective and energy as we reflect on them in the context of our everyday post-modern lives. We will dwell in the Word of God, and explore how we dwell in the world, receive and offer hospitality, grow in working with others to discern what God is doing in our midst and in our community, recognising where people are in their relationship with Jesus, and working for the healing of the world.

In this course we will examine contemporary cultures in our communities. How does a small group of Christians form church when going out into their local community, engaging with those in whom the Spirit is at work, and nurturing their Christian maturity? Today it is more about being who we are as God's people in the midst of the ordinary things happening locally, than it is about establishing new programs. Waiting for people to come to worship, or our events and programs is no longer very effective, and even when they do come, we need to know how to sensitively engage with them. In this course we will work on practical ways we can *bring Jesus* to others where God has planted us.