



TIME TO BUILD

Building lives, homes & communities

Newsletter of Our Place Christian Communities
and Hope Christian Homes - DEC 2023

Highlights of 2023

Celebrate with us the highlights of 2023 as we reflect on the past year. The Lord's done great things and we are filled with joy (Psalm 126:3).

1 Weekly Meals Welcome Home Springwood

Each Tuesday Jerrah, Lewis and Simon have shared dinner. It has been a time of laughter and mutual encouragement filled with conversations, board games and prayer for each other. The group have been excited to invite others into their homes for meals. This time of fellowship is central to building a community where people with and without disability are safe and known, connected and growing, celebrated and loved.



2

Belonging workshops for churches seeking to create inclusive communities

This year, we ran three Belonging workshops in partnership with All Saints Anglican Epping, St Matts Anglican Botany and Kangaroo Valley Anglican. The workshops were a wonderful time of sharing knowledge and ideas surrounding how churches can be more inclusive and work towards mutual discipleship. We look forward to seeing what fruit these workshops will produce in our church communities.



3 Community Celebration at Welcome Home Springwood

In August, Welcome Home Springwood held a community celebration inviting people from Springwood Presbyterian and Springwood Baptist churches, Jesus Club, sporting teams as well as friends, family and neighbours. Around 50 people attended creating an inclusive and diverse event which demonstrated that disability housing doesn't need to be segregated from the local community.



4

The Board and Staff of Our Place Christian Communities

We're so thankful for our faithful board and committee members – for Jenny, Lisa, Ian, Sam, Simon, Paul and Renee. We are thankful for the contributions of all those who worked for us during 2023 – Kirk, Louise, Trix and Fiona. Pray for the ongoing work in creating Christian communities where people with disability are safe and known, connected and growing, blessed and blessing others at church and home.

5 Disability and the Church Event - St Andrews Cathedral

In May, we co-hosted with Anglican Deaconess Ministries a panel on Disability and the Church featuring keynote speaker Prof. John Swinton, and panellists Dr Louise Gosbell & Rev. Dr Kirk Patston, with panel host Stephanie Kate Judd. It was a wonderful night learning what the bible says about disability and considering how Christians can respond well.

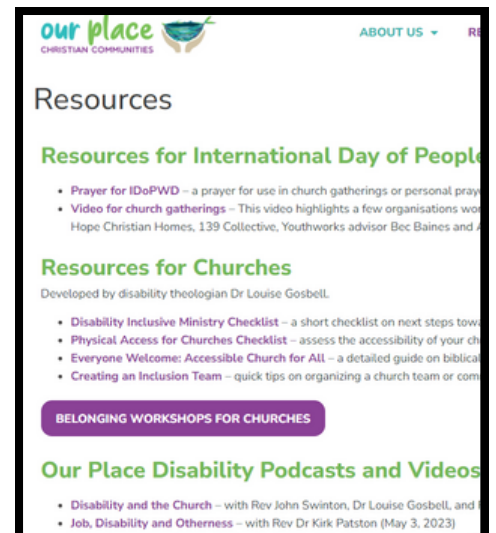


Rev John Swinton

Dr Louise Gosbell

6 New online resources

We are thankful for the new resources we have made available on our website and pray that many churches and individuals will find them valuable.



7 Our advocates - partners in encouragement, time, energy, finances, and vision

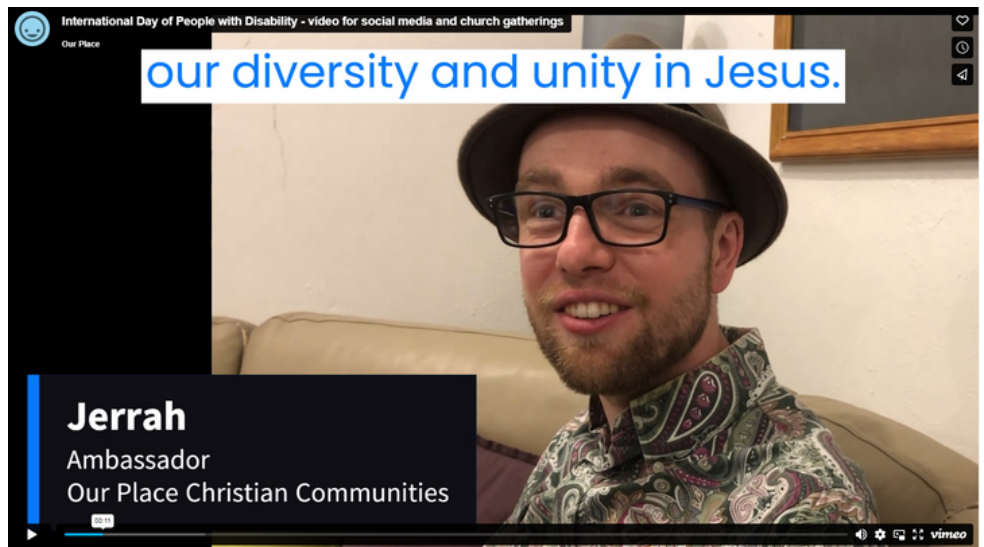
We give thanks for all who have partnered with us in time, energy, finances, and who advocate for our vision to others. Pray for us as we seek to steward these relationships well, that we can effectively equip churches, grow our partners in their relationship with Jesus, and communicate the impact that they (you!) make.

8 International Day of People with Disability

We had the privilege of partnering with other disability organisations to produce a video and prayer to celebrate the International Day of People with Disability. It was a special chance to promote awareness and bring our concerns before God.

9 Ministry Matters at SMBC

In October Kirk, Rod Thompson and Jerrah had the privilege to share at SMBC "Ministry Matters" about the work of Our Place Christian Communities and Hope Christian Homes to future ministry workers. We are excited for opportunities next year to share at other bible colleges.



10 A certain hope

Pray for people with disabilities who are searching for hope and community as we approach Christmas and the new year. Pray that they may find hope in Jesus, and a welcoming community in their local church – a home where they are safe and known, connected and growing, celebrated and loved.

We're so thankful for your partnership with us. We pray you have a blessed Christmas celebrating the birth of our Lord and Saviour. Keep praying for us as we head into 2024.

10 ways you can advocate

for people with disabilities by partnering with Our Place and Hope

1 Pray

Keep an eye out for our newsletters and social media posts, and pray.

2 Share your story with us

We know our lived experience with people with disability, including our own - we'd love to connect and hear yours! Contact us at admin@ourplaceecc.org.au.

3 Follow us on social media

This helps us get the word out to people on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

4 Share our social posts and events with friends

Help us to reach more people by sharing about us with others - via social media or word of mouth!

5 Invite us to run a Belonging workshop at your church

We'd love to work with you, your pastor and your church in raising awareness around how churches can be more inclusive of people with disabilities.

6 Let your church know about our workshops

We'd love to make this easy for you and have resources you can use to share.

7 Volunteer with us

Contact us to ask us how and discuss the possibilities!

8 Give a tax deductible donation

Consider giving financially towards our work. You can give to Hope Christian Homes for property or Our Place Christian Communities for ministry.

9 Introduce us to friends

We would love to connect with others who share our heart for people with disabilities to be safe and known, connected and growing, celebrated and loved, in Christian community. A lunch, a walk, a high tea, a BBQ, a tennis match...We're happy to meet friends anywhere!

10

Ask God

Our minds and ideas are finite, but God's isn't! He knows exactly how He has made you and the plans that He has for you. So our challenge is that you ask God how He would have you partner with us (if at all!). May He give you clear guidance and assurance of His great love for you and all people with disabilities.