

# Seventh-day Adventist Church®

*Sydney*

## MISSION 2 SYDNEY Think Tank Discussion Group

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

If you're new to the group, please read the guidelines below. A PDF of these guidelines are available for download here:

<https://sydney.adventist.org.au/mission2sydney-forum/>

It is vital that you read our Group Guidelines. Failure to comply with them will result in your removal from the group without further notice. Not reading them is NOT an excuse for breaking them.

**This forum will run 07 May to 08 July, 2018.**

**Please invite fellow church members to the Group.**

### INTRODUCTION:

In February 2018, around 400 members of the Greater Sydney Conference gathered together to strategise our missional focus on this city for the next four years. Here's what's next.

There were five (5) areas of strategic focus that emerged from our time together. We are now coming together as a wider church to discuss them online. We want you to look at the Think Tank questions and outcomes and share your perspective as we engage together for God's kingdom.

From Monday 7 May to Sunday 8 July, we are facilitating a discussion on Facebook to gain greater clarity on how people right across the church in Greater Sydney feel that these strategic focus areas can be brought into higher resolution. We are being called to take the time to identify the strategies that will be most effective in making these focus areas become a reality.

The five (5) foci are:

1. Increasing spiritual temperature (let us not be lukewarm like the Laodacians)
2. Growing younger (engaging our youth)
3. Media Ministry (engaging with the digital revolution)
4. Community engagement (building community relationships)
5. Total Member Involvement (empowering service)

### GUIDELINES FOR GROUP PARTICIPANTS:

For this group to remain a welcoming place, we need all members to abide by our guidelines posted here. Help us out by reporting any inappropriate behavior you see, as detailed below, to our moderators: Abigail Figueroa, Ben Turner, Joyce Taylor, Pablo Lillo and Raul Moran.



Our moderators will be paying close attention to activity and will enforce the guidelines when they have been violated. It is important for you to read the following paragraphs closely and be aware of steps moderators will take in resolving issues on behalf of the community.

By joining this group you hereby agree to the following terms and conditions:

### **SECTION 1 - How to Use This Group**

1. **BE AWARE WHAT THIS GROUP IS FOR:** The mission of this group is to discuss the five (5) outcomes of the Mission2Sydney Think Tank. Non-relevant and promotional content/posts will be deleted.
2. **BE COURTEOUS AND RESPECTFUL:** We expect Christian behaviour and accountability to each other in the discussion. No SHOUTING (typing in all CAPS), no name-calling (e.g. 'you're an idiot'), no racist / sexist /mean-spirited/ abusive language, and make every possible effort to be honest about your bias or conflicts of interest.

This is to be a large and healthy community, which means we in it will have differences of opinion, but we can still all be constructive.

If you disagree in a debate going on in a post, do share your opinion (politely--be cause after all that's all it is--an opinion) and leave it at that. Be ready to agree to disagree.

If you engage in abusive behavior we reserve the right to remove you from the community permanently.

3. **NO ADVERTISING/SPAM/MEMES/FUNDRAISING:** Please stick to the mission statement of this Facebook discussion group. Content designed to be promotional does not belong here. It will be deleted.

### **SECTION 2 - How to Get the Most From This Group**

4. **SHARE AND ENGAGE:** For this to be effective, we will need your thoughts experiences and expertise. We need you to be present and active.
5. **PRAY:** Before engaging with this site, we ask that you pray. Pray for yourselves, pray for this forum, pray for the members and administration of Greater Sydney Conference and for the people who live in the magnificent corner of the world. Ask for humility, patience and wisdom as you engage each other in this space, and for the Holy Spirit to engulf every nook and cranny of this city (from Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands to Wollongong) and our hearts.

### **SECTION 3 - What Happens After the Forum Closes**

6. **THE CONSTITUENCY:** Your responses will refine the Conference strategic plans, which will be then taken to the GSC Constituency Meetings in August for your prayerful decision.



## SECTION 4 - GSC Think Tank Questions for Discussion

**Note: The five (5) foci resulted from the discussion of these questions at the Think Tank. As you go through and discuss them.**

### Plenary 1: Lessons Learned from the History of Adventist Urban Mission

- 1A. What are the challenges confronting people's lives in Greater Sydney?
- 1B. How can we look beyond our human limitations to recapture God's dream for Sydney?
- 1C. How can we communicate the depth of God's love for people in Sydney?

### Plenary 2: Church Revitalisation

- 2A. How can you deepen spiritual engagement on a personal level?
- 2B. How can you deepen spiritual engagement as a whole church?
- 2C. What "culture hurdle" needs to be addressed for your church to reach the next level? How will you go about doing that?

### Plenary 3: Understanding Australia

- 3A. How can we effectively communicate with a generation that is: Digital, global, social, mobile and visual?
- 3B. How can we be innovative in our missional methods but timeless with respect to the gospel?
- 3C. How can we be more responsive in meeting the needs of our community?

### Plenary 4: Urban Mission

- 4A. Among the many urban mission challenges, which one do you think is affecting your effectiveness where you are located? What could you do to overcome it?
- 4B. What do you think are the best mission strategies to reach the entire population of Greater Sydney which is growing rapidly?
- 4C. What practical steps can you take to implement a relevant and lasting discipleship process in your church?

### Plenary 5: Applying All of This to Mission

- 5A. What three (3) strategic initiatives can we focus on over the next 5-10 years so that we are most effective in our mission in our:
  - a) Local Church
  - b) Conference?
- 5B. What SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time limited) goals do you believe Jesus wants us to set for our:
  - a) Local Church?
  - b) Conference?
- 5C. How can we become more united as a sisterhood of churches in Greater Sydney to reach more people and lead them to become active followers of Jesus?

