



As the end of 2019 approaches, it is a delight to recognise God's handiwork in the lives of Arrow Leaders around Australia.

And undoubtedly His handiwork in your life as well.

We are thankful for your support of Arrow Leadership, enabling us, in partnership with God, to engage, stretch and release emerging and executive leaders for transformative impact around Australia.

As we celebrate the Christ child this Christmas, my mind is drawn to Jesus' words in John 10 where he explains why he came, and for many, why we continue to celebrate his birth centuries later.

To give you everything in abundance, more than you expect - life in its fullness until you overflow! (John 10:10 TPT)

Jesus is truly a transformational gift. Not something that requires batteries or "simple" assembly. Jesus bringing life into our life allows us, as a conduit, to share life with others.

Whether you're slowing down as Christmas approaches or speeding up, our prayer is that you would know afresh the true life giver this Christmas, and as a result, others with whom you connect would know the same.

May your Christmas / New Year season be more than you expect.

And in 2020 we look forward to celebrating with you 25 years of Arrow ministry.



Liam Glover
Executive Director



For leaders, Arrow is an experience you don't have time NOT to engage in.

I clearly recall arriving at my first Arrow residential thinking, "I don't have time to be here".

I (Jody) was already overloaded with juggling family life and full-time ministry that the idea of attending yet another leadership course was exhausting. It quickly became very clear that Arrow was not just another leadership course, and by the end of the first day I was convinced that I didn't have time NOT to be there.

There's something different about Arrow. It's not simply the approach that sets it apart from other leadership experiences but the spirit within which it is imparted.

Arrow's unique focus on learning in community is its special sauce. It is a leadership experience that you won't find behind a screen or in a book - it's real life leadership development, forged in environments that are face-to face, and heart-to-heart.

Arrow's strategic focus on equipping the next generation of great leaders in our nation by focusing on the four key areas of leading self, leading teams, leading organisations and leading movements sets it apart as a front runner in leadership training for Christian leaders. Bringing in some of the most influential and respected leaders and experts in their fields, Arrow gives emerging leaders exposure to world-class content.

Arrow was profoundly impacting and transformational in our own leadership story, helping us clarify and language our best leadership and kingdom contribution. Our experience at Arrow has inspired us to intentionally build Arrow into the Leadership Development Pathway for our whole team. Arrow made us better leaders and we want the same for our team because the world needs great leaders in this time in history more than ever before.

As Senior Pastors, one of the best gifts we can give our team is the opportunity to grow into the best leaders they can be. Engaging in the Arrow program positions them for this.

Arrow is a game changer!

Matt & Jody Destry, Senior Pastors
Discovery Church, Melbourne
Arrow 17 / Arrow 19



Christmas Leadings

Gifts, Holidays and Decorations

For many leaders, the number 25 in the last month of the year brings a sense of rest, respite and recovery.

(Unless of course you're a leader in the retail sector, which means crazy busy! And often, what follows 25 December, is 26 December, resulting in Boxing Day sale inspired frenzied shoppers and more refunds, exchanges and returns than anyone cares to mention.)

With Christmas usually comes less time with those with whom you work and more time with those you love. (Not that I'm suggesting you can't love those with whom you work or even love your work. But that's another blog.)

With Christmas there is more time to think and reflect, as you attend to those annual jobs that won't get a look in during the year - cleaning the gutters, treating the deck, or me, venturing into the garden. Perhaps a recognition of God's presence throughout the year and a hopeful prayer of his ongoing leadings in the coming year.

An online dictionary defines "leadings" to include, "GUIDANCE OR LEADERSHIP, ESPECIALLY IN A SPIRITUAL CONTEXT." For a moment I'd like to think about Christmas leadings through a festive framework of Gifts, Holidays and Decorations.



Gifts

There are many recorded reasons why we choose to give gifts: emulating the Wise Men who brought gifts to the Christ child approximately 2,000 years ago; reflecting the gift of Christ to humanity; continuing pagan traditions that pre-dated the incarnated Christ; and possibly less articulated but still very real, knowing that someone may give us a gift and we don't want to be embarrassed by not having an ability to reciprocate.

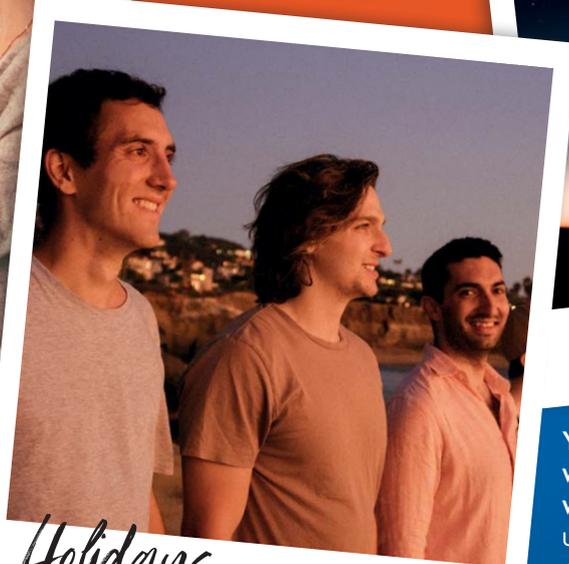
Physical gifts are usually fairly obvious, either sitting under the tree or in the stocking. And often they are gifts that will, over time, depreciate, break or require service.

This Christmas the enduring gift you could share with those around you is the gift of encouragement.

As Paul writes to the church at Corinth, the authority the Lord gave us is for building up not tearing down. To emphasise his point, he repeats himself similarly in chapter 13.

A gift that is life giving is one that speaks hope into the recipients, inspiring them to pass that gift on to others around them.

And this sort of gift does not perish.



Holidays

Most people over Christmas enjoy some form of holidays, recreation leave or vacation. Whilst on first pass they may conjure up the same sort of feelings (relaxation, tan by the pool, dealing with fighting children who have spent too much time together), for a moment I'd like to draw a distinction between these three terms.

Holidays comes from Holy Days – days that are set apart, unique and exceptional from the usual. Recreation unsurprisingly comes from re-creation – to create again. To be renewed, inspired and created again. (Imagine for a moment the God initiated creative impulse flowing through your very being this Christmas season.) By way of contrast, Vacation means "TO VACATE OR TO BE ABSENT."

Let's this Christmas season choose not to see these days as vacation – where you might choose to be relationally absent from God and others, but as holy days or re-creation leave, where amazing, restoratively, God creates again, revealing a new picture of you in your role as leader and influencer at home, work and in your suburb.



Decorations

You may be the sort of person who "Griswalds" your house with decorations. (If you don't understand this reference, please enjoy this holiday season watching National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation.) We had a "Griswald" in our suburb, drawing so much electricity during Christmas, which required the network to upgrade the substation close to his home!

Often decorations can make a tree go from ordinary to extraordinary, a home from plain to stunning or even clothing from great to exceptional. Rather than only seeking to change the outside for a few weeks this Christmas season, as leaders let's seek to decorate on the inside, allowing Christ's light to emanate from us, so that we may shine like stars in the sky (Philippians 2:15).

The perfect light, Jesus, tells us in Matthew that we are the light of the world. And that we should let our light shine before others, that they may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven. These are lasting decorations!

Entering the season of Christmas, as leaders, may we thank God for his work in our lives over the year, for the Godly influence we have had the privilege of imbuing and for the opportunity to partner with him in the Kingdom coming. And with internal and eternal illumination, may we look to give everlasting gifts of life over our holydays.

Liam Glover
Executive Director



arrow leadership

1995 > 2020 **25** YEARS

Inspired by the vision of Leighton Ford, in 1995, Stephen Hale, Karl Faase and Peter Corney initiated the ministry of Arrow Leadership.

Why? To see women and men - leaders in the Christian Church in Australia - be led more by Jesus, to lead more like Jesus to lead more to Jesus.

We're turning 25 in 2020 and hope you can be part of our celebrations!

engage > stretch > release

Would you like to support a leader to be led more by Jesus, lead more like Jesus and to lead more to Jesus?

Donate by visiting www.arrowleadership.org.au/donate

We are thankful to all of our supporters.



New Edition to the Arrow Team Family

Cath wasn't with us for the last half of 2019. Although we missed her terribly, she had a really good excuse.

We are so excited that Oliver has joined our Arrow team family.

We know that Cath has loved time spent with her growing little family but we look forward to her return early next year.

Key Dates 2020

Executive Leaders 12
commencing February 2020

Emerging Leaders Arrow 24
commencing February 2020

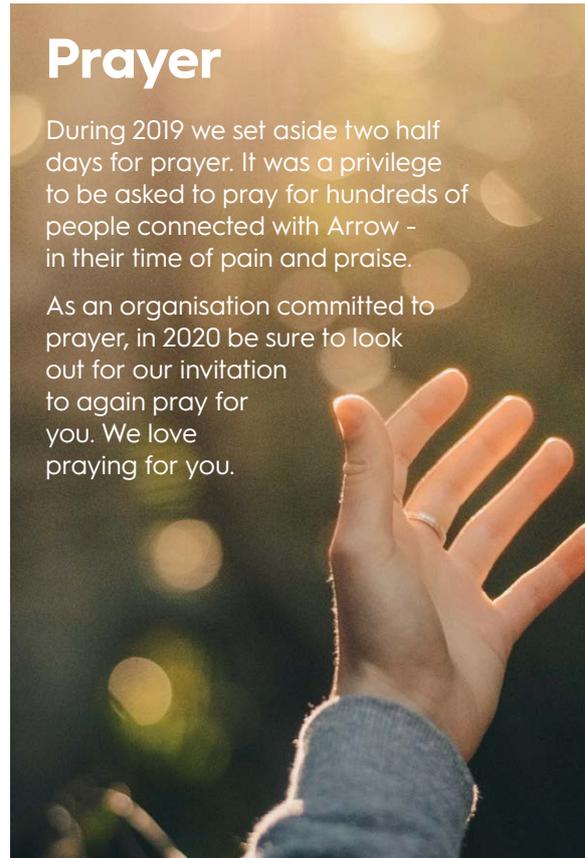
Emerging Leaders Arrow 25
commencing May 2020

Enquire now and register your interest in joining any of these 2020 cohorts.

Prayer

During 2019 we set aside two half days for prayer. It was a privilege to be asked to pray for hundreds of people connected with Arrow - in their time of pain and praise.

As an organisation committed to prayer, in 2020 be sure to look out for our invitation to again pray for you. We love praying for you.



Have you engaged with our new **Australian Leadership Blog?**

www.arrowleadership.org.au/blogs



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Contact Us

We'd love to hear from you!

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