

# CHURCH IN FOCUS + AGM

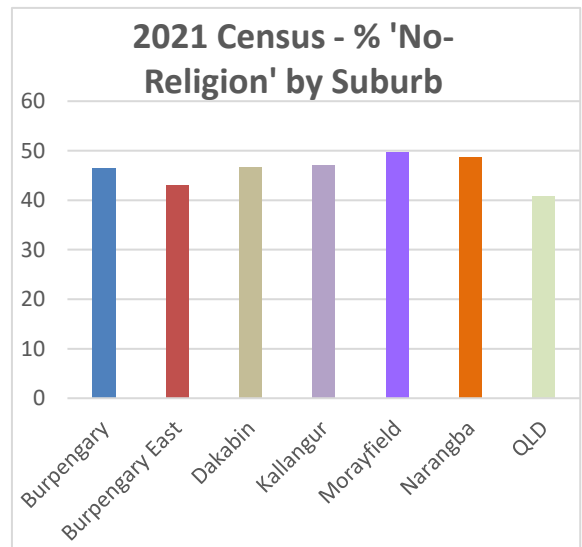
## 1. Our Story

- Various testimonies

## 2. Our Opportunity

**Romans 15:13** *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

- Overflow with hope
  - By power of the Holy Spirit
- Our community is being rattled by events in the world and at home.
- 2021 Census results for our area:<sup>1</sup>
  - You can read that stat as a negative – or as an opportunity.
- N3C is becoming increasingly visible with the position of the facility, and proactive community outreach.



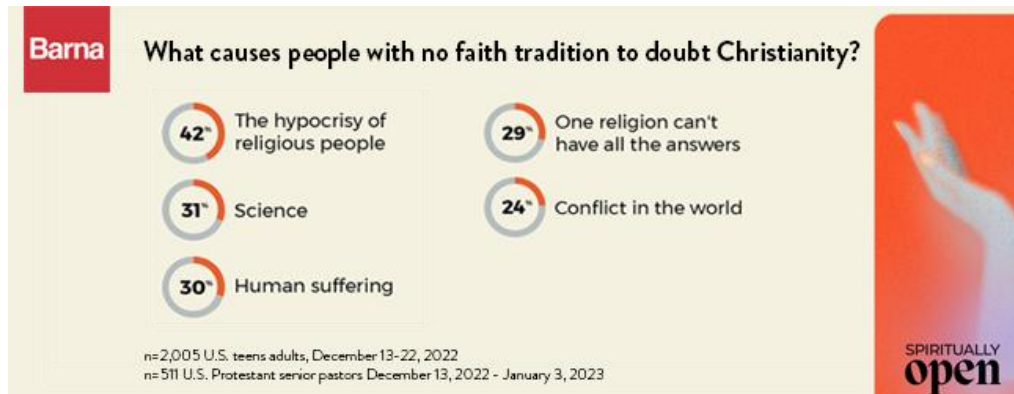
**Overall Vision of our Church:** *“N3C is committed to demonstrating the power and love of Jesus to people in the church and in the community, without discrimination, bringing hope and healing to the spiritual, emotional, relational and physical needs of people.”*

- We are here to demonstrate the power and love of Jesus.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021>

### 3. Our Culture

- Eric Bana Research<sup>2</sup>



- Top issue cited is “*hypocrisy of religious people*”.
  - This is one reason why care outreaches are so important.
- Our culture Statement: “*Love God, Love people, Love life*”.
- Guitar illustration (6-string guitar)
  - Strings – made for a purpose.
  - Strings – must be connected to the head of guitar.
  - Strings – must be connected to the body before it can make a song.
  - The string is fine-tuned as tension is applied.
  - Each string is made to play a particular note.
  - When each string is fine tuned to the head, and is in relationship to the body, the result is harmony.



**Romans 12:16a** *Live in harmony with one another.*

- 5 String guitar illustration:
  - Do you know that you can tune your guitar to itself – but it may not be concert pitch.



**Ephesians 4:11-13** *It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the*

<sup>2</sup> This graphic from [an article from Barna's recent Spiritually Open statistics.](#)

*knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

- Mature when we reach the pitch
  - Letting the five-fold ministry develop leads us to maturity.
  - That's when we learn to:
    - Love God with a passion
    - Love people where they are at
    - Love life and live it to its fullest.

#### **4. Our Future**

ILLUSTRATION: Mountain Climbing Story.<sup>3</sup>

Some climbers climbing up Mont Blanc in the French Alps. The guide said it will be a tough climb, so only bring what is necessary – no unnecessary accessories allowed. One of the climbers had this grandiose vision thought of himself at the top, eating special cheese, drinking his favourite wine, and taking beautiful pictures, so he brought all of that – cameras, lenses, bottles of wine, a wheel of cheese, and shoved it in his bag.

As they climbed, he got slower and slower, and the guide told him, he had to leave all that behind, he refused and kept climbing, until finally, he couldn't go on, so he made a decision. But it wasn't to leave all his stuff behind, it was to stop climbing. He set up camp where he was, enjoyed the wine and cheese, and waited for the others as they returned from their journey. The writer of the devotional then said this: "So many people, when they find they can't make it to the top, with all their accessories, let the top go, and pitch their tent in the plain."

- We need to let go of the unnecessary and keep going!

**Romans 15:18b-19a** *...to obey God by what I have said and done – by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit.*

- By what he said (preaching, testimony, etc)
- By what he did (lifestyle)
- By the power of the Spirit (gifts of Holy Spirit)

---

<sup>3</sup> [Three Counterintuitive Ways to Reach the Unchurched in Today's Culture - CareyNieuwhof.com](https://www.careynieuwhof.com)

## ILLUSTRATION: Be complex not simple<sup>4</sup>

When travelling in a plane recently, Carey Nieuwhof reports a conversation with a fellow passenger. Instead of chit-chat about general topics, they talked about their souls, their identity as human beings, her way versus his way of connecting to the transcendent and experiencing salvation: His way of believing in Jesus; her version of eating mushrooms and tripping out to “connect to the divine-Christ consciousness in all of us”.

There was a lot she had been thinking that needed debate and discussion: the legitimacy of the Gospels; Jesus as an historical figure; the power grabs of the church through history; the hypocrisy of the church in today’s world; the need for humanity to use drugs to really understand the divine; the divine inside of us all, etc.

- Our society is questioning.
- Let’s give them good answers from people who are credibly living a life that honours Jesus and with supernatural spiritual encounters of the Holy Spirit.

---

<sup>4</sup> CareyNieuwhof.com