

The 2025 Year in Review

Graham Nelson – LMC – 21/12/2025

- **This** morning, we are going to quickly look at the 2025 year in review.
- If I was to ask you to sum up the year worldwide, what would you come up with.
- AI says that 2025 has been a year of profound contrasts: groundbreaking advancements in AI and space exploration, historic sporting triumphs, escalating geopolitical tensions, and devastating natural disasters.
- That might be true but the things that came to my mind as I quickly tried to think back over the year were:
 - **Donald** Trump being sworn in as the 47th President of the United States
 - **Pope** Francis's Death on the 21st of April
 - **Anthony** Albanese winning his second term on the 3rd of May.
 - **Cardinal** Robert Prevost ordained as Pope Leo 14th on the 8th May.
 - **The** assassination of Charlie Kirk on the 10th September.
 - **The** Gaza peace plan being signed on the 9th October
 - And now unfortunately we can add the Bondi terrorist attack.
 - I can't tell you who won Wimbledon, and as I was writing this, I have even forgotten who won the AFL grand final, however I do know that Norris stole the drivers' championship from our man **Piastrri** in F1 this year.

And the last one I want to share with you is extremely important and I am sure many would have had on their list, that being Space X has launched a record 166 rockets this year – more than half the rockets launched worldwide by all other companies this year, and starship their newest rocket is going to take rockets to the next level.

I've always wanted an excuse to show you this, and I know many of you will be riveted – in fact we should start a new life group next year for all space nerds called “Majesty”, our theme is:

Psalm 8 "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him,

We will meet online on the day of every starship launch and lastly, we also have a uniform.

Presentation

Show Video

- What I really would like to do this morning is to be a little selfish and focus on us and what has happened around the LMC group in 2025.
- It would be good to stop for a minute in this busy season and praise our God for all His benefits, for the way He has overshadowed the LMC group and for the seeds sown, the growth and the fruit we have seen harvested.

The bible says:

Psalm 100:4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

Ephesians 5:20giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Thessalonians 5:18in every situation [no matter what the circumstances] be thankful and continually give thanks to God; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

- If I were to sum up LMC's 2025 in three words – they would be:
 - **Protection** – I can see Gods protective hand upon us as we have lifted His name high. Not an easy thing to do when you consider the times in which we live, where we see the biblical mandate we have as “the LMC group” being tested by ungodly governments, woke ideologies and fringe groups trying to impose their ungodly agendas.

- **Peace** – Jesus is the Prince of Peace - it's his nature. Peace comes from keeping our minds on Jesus and trusting in Him. Peace guides us in the way we live. Peace and God's Word form the two rail tracks that we ride on to ensure we get to the destination God has in store for us.
- **Mission True** – we have stayed true to God's word and not deviated from the foundation stones that were laid by our forefathers – “what does the Bible say” continues to be the mantra throughout all divisions and their heads.
- I want to thank the Eldership who cover, lead, guide and keep the whole of “the LMC Group” on track and mission true.
- I am grateful for the Godly leadership of Pastor Andy, the Principal of OCC, Michael Bond, and the Director of Oxley Kids, Kim Sopar.
- Obviously, they can only achieve what they do because of the amazing staff that are using their gifts and talents to be a witness throughout the property.
- And then of course the fantastic volunteers who work tirelessly, also using their gifts and talents.
- In a few minutes I am going to ask Andy, Michael & Kim to come and share a few of their own highlights or memorial stones but before they come let me share some of my own.
- From the school it would be:
 - The unity within our staff and the servant heartedness they all have to ultimately see the students thrive and grow – this includes all who work in the school – they demonstrate what Paul says in Ephesians 4, “a body fitly joined together every member doing their part”
 - Another thing would be the joy I get from seeing the children having fun in a safe and secure environment, not having to be exposed to the diversions that have the potential to rob them from being able to enjoy life.
 - Lastly, but not least, the incredible talent we see being released due to the myriads of opportunities that our students have to show their gifts and talents.
- At Oxley Kids:

- It would be seeing the kids run excitedly into their classrooms and the incredible love shown by the amazing educators that God has blessed us with.
- At Church:
 - It would be the spirit of joy and unity in the church resulting in God blessing the work of everyone's hands.
 - All the new people we have seen join the church this year and the blessing they have brought.
 - And finally, some of the fruit as seen by:
 - 14 first time decisions - that we know of.
 - 57 rededications
 - 25 baptisms (Krystal)
 - 9 babies
 - 5 engagements (still to be married)
 - 5 Weddings
- Lastly, before I invite the divisional heads to come and share, I would like to share with you something that shows the LMC group in operation – it made me feel like a very proud father.
- I won't be sharing names or any details that would identify this person, and I apologize to "E" in advance if the details are not 100% correct.
- E's story –
 - E came to Melbourne as a uni-student training to become an accountant – not a Christian, a free thinker meaning no religion.
 - Back to China, met her husband and they then returned to Melbourne to work.
 - Two Children
 - Oxley Kids
 - Kids coming home with Bible stories, songs (way maker) and saying grace before eating – started listening to Christian song in the car.
 - During this time her mother-in-law back in China contracted cancer – Christian friends witnessed to her mother-in-law, she accepted Jesus and was also cured of cancer.
 - Mother-in-law sent E a bible which she started to read.
 - Children moved into Oxley college and the Bible stories etc grew.

- Children started going to Friday Kid's club and then wanted to go to children's church on a Sunday.
 - E felt to go to church while the kids were at Children's church – she said she was a little scared however was met at the door by the lovely Nina, who found her a seat near her, lots of people spoke to her at 60 second hi – she felt loved and welcomed and has been coming ever since.
 - E has since become a Christian and has now been appointed to position at OCC.
- The thing that blesses me most is seeing how all the divisions have played a part in E's story of salvation.
 - E's journey isn't isolated and again I love what God has blessed us to do as a Church, for all divisions started out of and are a ministry of the church.
 - Graham Elliot – 2025 Year 6 Graduation address.

Before we conclude this evening, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and sincerely thank Life Ministry Church for the outstanding partnership they share with Chirnside Park Primary School. In particular, I wish to recognise Peter Harris and the wider life ministry congregation for their ongoing commitment to our students and our community. Through the dedication of their student mentors, they have provided guidance, encouragement, and positive role modelling for many of our children. Their presence has made a meaningful difference, especially for our senior students as they navigate their final years of primary school. We are also deeply grateful for the support Life Ministry Church provides to our school and broader community through their involvement in community events. Their generosity, care, and willingness to walk alongside our families truly reflects the strength of this partnership.

- Michael Bond
- Kim Sopar
- Andy Hunt
- GN close – prayer and song of thanks.

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