

# ICC Annual General Meeting - July 2025

## Lead Pastor: Sam Paris

### Welcome

Good morning, everyone, and thank you so much for staying after service to be part of our Annual General Meeting.

I just want to start by saying how genuinely grateful I am for each of you—your faithfulness, your giving, your prayers, and your passion for what God is doing through ICC.

This meeting isn't just about updates—it's about celebrating what God has done and looking ahead with expectation. **I believe the best days of ICC are ahead**, and today we get to take another step forward together.

Our first item today is...

### Voting: Board of Deacons

Before we move into the voting, let me quickly explain the role of our Board of Deacons.

At ICC, board members, referred to as Deacons, serve alongside the pastor to provide practical and administrative leadership. They're not here to preach sermons; they're here to help make sure the church stays healthy, focused, and functioning well.

#### **Their responsibilities include:**

- Overseeing church finances and ensuring transparency and stewardship.
- Helping to manage facilities and property development, including both the old building and new projects.
- Supporting the operations and systems that keep ministries running.
- Helping maintain unity, accountability, and trust within the church body.

#### **This year, the board will focus on:**

- Overseeing the regeneration and phased reopening of the rebuild.
- Ensuring we stay mission-focused and financially healthy as we grow.

This isn't a popularity vote—it's a prayerful selection of those who serve with integrity and wisdom.

We will take a few minutes and review the names on your ballot.

Now, let's go ahead and vote. You can select up to 6 names on your ballot. If you have gone through the voting member process and have not received one, raise your hand, and someone from our team will bring one to you.

Now let's look at the DNA of ICC.

Let's begin with who we are.

### Mission & Vision

At ICC, our mission is simple but powerful:

***To passionately share Jesus, worship God, love the community, grow disciples, and serve all.***

**This mission is built on our Five Pillars:**

1. **Outreach** – Sharing Jesus through intentional love, service, and evangelism.
2. **Worship** – Building a culture of authentic, Spirit-filled worship.
3. **Fellowship** – Creating space for real relationships and community.
4. **Discipleship** – Helping people grow spiritually and follow Jesus.
5. **Ministry** – Equipping believers to serve and lead with their gifts.

**Everything we do at ICC flows from these pillars.**

***Our vision is to be a church for the city and the world—a hub of healing, discipleship, and mission for the English-speaking community of Port Vila and beyond.***

***All of this can be summed up in one simple statement: “ICC, a church that loves!”***

***What we mean by that is this—we strive to be a church that lives out the love of Christ in everything we do.***

## **Where We've Been**

This past year has been full of God's faithfulness:

- We've seen steady growth in attendance and salvations. We started out last year with a little over 200 in attendance every Sunday. Going into this year, we have seen God increase the ICC family to over 300 every Sunday! So thankful for the work of the Holy Spirit at ICC.
- We've celebrated baptisms and life-change stories. So thankful for the many who have been baptised and their public profession of their faith!!
- We've launched new ministry initiatives like Life groups, worship nights, marriage courses, and women's and men's events.
- We've continued the hard but hopeful work of rebuilding after the earthquake, first the demolition of damaged portions of the church, then the cleanup.

And through it all—every salvation, every gathering, every block cleared from the rubble—God has provided.

None of this would be possible without His hand on this house and without your faithful generosity. As the ministry has grown, so have the opportunities—and the responsibility—to steward well what God has entrusted to us.

So now, let's take a look at the numbers behind the mission. Here's where your giving went in 2024:

Total Expenses: VT 23,784,630

### **Breakdown:**

1. Bank Charges – VT 17,549 **(3.6%)**
2. Building & Ground Maintenance – VT 309,720 **(7.1%)**
3. Giving / Sports Outreach – VT 481,715 **(10.7%)**
4. Outings & Events – VT 490,975 **(14.3%)**
5. Utilities – VT 518,575 **(17.9%)**
6. Missions – VT 720,000 **(21.4%)**
7. Property Development – VT 18,276,329 **(25%)**

Over VT 1.4 million was invested directly into **outreach and missions**, and **25% of all expenses went toward property development**, including both the ongoing recovery efforts and exciting future expansion, like the construction of our new café space.

As of the latest update from our accountant, we have VT 882,088 in our building fund. On top of that, VT 483,000 has been generously designated by a donor specifically for the completion of the café.

Thanks to our faithful partners in the U.S., we've also secured an additional VT 1 million for rebuilding, with several more large commitments expected to come in later this year.

***We know this: God is our provider, and He is faithfully supplying all we need to accomplish His vision here at ICC.***

We remain fully committed to transparency, wise stewardship, and kingdom impact—because what we're building isn't just about structures. It's about creating space for lives to be changed by the love of Jesus, both here in Port Vila and beyond.

## **Church Missions**

Missions is in the DNA of ICC. This year, your giving has helped support:

- Jared and Joyce Waipori
- Rodger and Cini Sutter
- Armin and Chelsea Geriger
- Tuma and Judith Niumatawalu

In addition, we've provided one-time donations to several ministries and helped cover airfare and medical costs for someone in need of a life-saving surgery.

We've also hosted multiple youth outreach events, building bridges to the next generation and extending the love of Christ to our community.

And we're not stopping there—I believe God is calling ICC to expand our mission's impact even more.

**It's my vision that by the end of this year, ICC will be supporting 10 missionaries regularly.**

This is about multiplication—investing in the people and places where the gospel still needs to go.

*Missions is the heartbeat of Jesus, and when we put His mission first, we align our church with what matters most to Him—reaching the lost, making disciples, and advancing His kingdom to the ends of the earth.*

## **So What's Next?**

As we celebrate all that God has done, we're also looking ahead—with faith and expectation. The next chapter at ICC isn't just coming... It's already unfolding.

### **Old Building**

We hope to soon begin regenerating the frame of our old sanctuary. This is a breakthrough and a huge answer to prayer.

We'll be taking a phased approach to get back into the building wisely, safely, and as quickly as possible. Here's what that will look like:

#### **Phase 1 – Get Back In**

Our first priority is getting back into the building for Sunday services. That means finishing the internal structural framing and securing the basic setup to ensure it is safe for us to meet under the roof, even if the outside isn't complete.

#### **Phase 2 – Cyclone Ready**

The next step is making the building cyclone-resistant. We live in a region where storms are part of life, and we want to ensure the structure is strong and secure, and as waterproof as possible.

### Phase 3 – Finishing Work

Once we are storm-ready, we'll begin the finishing work. This phase will move forward as funds become available, and we'll keep the church informed each step of the way.

At this point, we don't have specific dates locked in for each phase, but I can confidently say this: we are doing our due diligence. We're seeking wise counsel, stewarding every resource carefully, and making sure every step we take is sustainable, safe, and Spirit-led.

We're not rushing just to get it done—we're building something that will bless generations to come. I believe there will be a day in the not-so-distant future when we look back and say, **"I'm so thankful we did it right. I'm so thankful we didn't rush what God was doing."**

And as soon as we have more clarity on timelines or specific dates, **I'll be sure to update the church.** We're in this together, and your continued prayers, patience, and support mean everything as we move forward in faith.

Because this isn't just about getting back into a building, it's about laying a foundation for the future God is building through ICC.

### What's Coming – Future Projects

***As we move forward in faith, we believe God is calling us not just to rebuild, but to reimagine what ICC can become.***

We're not only addressing today's needs—we're dreaming with God about the future. *We believe ICC is called to be a powerful hub for raising and sending out leaders—adults, youth, and children—who are equipped to share the gospel, make disciples, and impact the world.*

God has given us a big vision, and we're doing our best to look several years down the road, starting the planning today so that we can build for what He has in store tomorrow.

Here's a glimpse of that vision:

- A new **Children's Life Center** will be built to house classrooms for Sunday children's ministry and provide space for weekday programs, family events, and future discipleship development.
- The **playground** will be relocated next to the café, creating a welcoming and central space where families can connect, kids can play safely, and community can flourish.
- We're also planning an **improved parking area** to accommodate the growth God is bringing and to make Sunday mornings and special events more accessible for everyone.
- Behind the Youth Center, we envision a **Sports and Recreation Complex**—a dynamic space for youth sports, community outreach, and physical activities that help build relationships and open doors for ministry.
- A larger **permanent sanctuary** is being designed to reflect who we are as a church and provide room to grow, worship, and gather as one body.
- Once the new sanctuary is complete, the current building will be transformed into a **Youth Center and Multipurpose Facility**—a space dedicated to youth gatherings, leadership training, community engagement, and flexible ministry use throughout the week.
- And as our ministry team grows, we'll also be building a new office wing, providing dedicated space for leadership development, administration, and team collaboration.

This is more than construction—***it's preparation for generational impact.***

***We're building a place where lives will be changed, leaders will be launched, and the love of Christ will be experienced in tangible, life-transforming ways.***

But this vision isn't just my vision, it's a shared vision. One that we carry together as a church family.

It will take all of us, our faith, our prayers, our generosity, and our commitment to the mission to see it become a reality.

Through the faithfulness of ICC families and the generosity of our partners overseas, we believe this God-sized vision can and will come to life, one step at a time, one gift at a time, one soul at a time.

***Together, we can build more than buildings; we can build a legacy of faith for generations to come.***

### **Questions or Comments**

Before we wrap up, we want to give space for any questions or comments you may have. If you'd like to ask something or share a thought, just raise your hand, and one of our team members will bring a microphone to you so everyone can hear.

We value your voice and want to walk forward in unity, clarity, and transparency.

As we come to a close, I just want to say—thank you.

Thank you for believing in this church.

Thank you for serving, giving, praying, and showing up with faith and expectation.

Thank you for being part of what God is building through ICC.

We are committed to leading with integrity, being Spirit-led, and staying rooted in God's Word as we step into the future.

I truly believe the best is still ahead. Let's keep following Jesus, loving one another, and building something that will outlast us.

Lets close in prayer.