Christianity is on the rise in the developing world, but God’s church in the western world is struggling. The average Australian is post-Christian in attitude—that is, the influence of Christianity on our culture has diminished greatly and there is a growing number of other belief systems rushing in to fill the void.

At the same time, many Australians are also pre-Christian in understanding—they do not really understand who God is and what Christianity is all about. Add to this a rapidly changing society and you have a cultural landscape that is tough-going for Christians who want to effectively live out their faith in the Australian cultural context.

So we need reliable guides to help us get our bearings and map the territory. We need new words and new ways to reach our own culture. We must re-imagine the way our church ‘does mission’ to those living in the Australian cultural context. And that’s where Malyon Traverse fits in.

Malyon Traverse has been established to equip Christians to bridge the gap between Aussie culture and their local church. Our potent combination of deep thought and practical strategy positions contemporary Christians to represent Jesus in the public sphere with a holistic witness. We partner with the Holy Spirit to truly love this world, seeking the flourishing of every person in our pluralistic society.

We offer courses (on campus and via the web-site) on evangelism, apologetics, worldviews, practical theology, and faith–work integration. Video-based curricula such as the Sign evangelism training, The Journey on understanding and living within the biblical story, and Logos apologetics messages and evangelistic tracts are freely available. Through weekly blogging reaching hundreds of Christians around Australia, we ground participants’ efforts to traverse the cultural divide with wisdom and provoke them toward forming a “secular faith” by asking tough questions and featuring outsiders’ perspectives.

Four times annually we bring key thinkers, leaders and interested parties together to squarely face complex issues at the intersection of Christianity and culture. We also consult with church leaders, and speak with their congregations, for greater effectiveness in witness in their local community.

We conduct annual conferences to blend evangelism, apologetics, cultural studies and public theological insight together in search of more faithful Christian practice in a pluralistic space. Through academic publication, key note talks at conferences and public forums, apologetics and evangelism sessions in schools and universities, leadership in the Lausanne World Evangelization Movement, work with Christian organisations such as Scripture Union and the Bible Society and more, we are modelling how Christians in diverse endeavours may reconnect church and culture.

We need the support of the Christian community if we are to continue this important bridge-building ministry. Please consider prayerfully your contribution to sustain this unique work.

Dave Benson