

22 June, 2010.

Reference – Ben Gray.

I have known Ben Gray for nearly 10½ years since I first moved to Brisbane to assume leadership of Garden City Christian Church (now Hillsong, Brisbane Campus). I was senior minister of Garden City from 2000 to 2008. It was a large, suburban Pentecostal church with around 4000 adherents. Ben's church, City Harvest, was situated fairly close to Garden City. Ben went out of his way to welcome me to Brisbane and to foster not only a ministerial relationship but a personal friendship.

Ben is a man of impeccable Christian character and unquestioned integrity. Given his many years in ministry, his proven record of fruitful local church ministry and his many national Christian leadership roles, Ben is highly regarded and respected throughout pastor's networks in Brisbane and the nation.

As founder and leader of City Harvest International, Ben was instrumental in forming and forging networks of pastors (and churches) across the spectrum to combined prayer. Ben initiated what became known as Briznet – a network of key Brisbane churches that gathered regularly for joint 'concerts of prayer'. Briznet became a catalyst through which key pastors and churches united in relationship and prayer.

Out of the Briznet network came the 'Yes We Care' initiative which mobilized hundreds of Christian people to demonstrate Jesus' love through practical acts of compassion. For example, the homes of the elderly, infirmed or disadvantaged were painted, cleaned or tidied in a citywide display of practical Christian care. This attracted significant media attention and both local and state government recognition. 'Yes We Care' continues to grow each year.

Ben is known for his passion for missions. He has travelled extensively to speak, teach and facilitate strategic gatherings (and conferences) of pastors and leaders. Ben has a 'kingdom' mindset and genuinely strives to see the 'church' – locally and globally – becoming all that God has called it to be.

Ben is a high caliber speaker with a great insight into the Scriptures. He is in demand across the world at conferences and leader's gatherings.

Most of all, Ben is a man who passionately loves and pursues God. He has a great heart for the lost, the hurting and the poor.

I have a high personal regard for Ben and unreservedly recommend him.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Hills". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'B'.

Bruce Hills
International Leadership Development Director
World Outreach