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## ANNUAL REPORT



**Baptist Churches**  
of South Australia

A movement of local churches thriving in Jesus transforming the world

## Our vision

**We see a movement of local churches thriving in Jesus transforming the world.**

Through our churches we see:



### **Worship**

People's lives being transformed as they receive and celebrate God's presence



### **Prayer**

People growing as a people of prayer



### **Community**

Where people matter, choose to belong and actively serve others as they receive and share God's love



### **Formation**

People's lives transformed so they become more like Jesus



### **Service**

People showing God's love as they generously serve others and prepare God's people for ministry



### **Mission**

Through God's reconciliation bringing justice, mercy, and proclamation, increasing numbers of people led to Jesus and leading others to Jesus

## Our objectives

In keeping with this purpose and vision the ministry team and ministries of Baptist Churches SA will, with godly stewardship, support, encourage, influence and extend the life and mission of the Churches by:

- inspiring imagination
- advocating mission
- facilitating connections
- cultivating leaders
- resourcing churches





**We exist  
for Christ  
reconciling  
all things  
to God.**

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# From the President

Karen Walker



Sitting alongside the other BCSA Board members on the first Monday evening of each month is a joy, privilege and wonder. There is joy as together we hear of the work of the Spirit across our family of churches. As we hear of Baptist faith communities of differing sizes serving into their own unique communities and witnessing among themselves the fruit from the maturing of faith.

The privilege arises from having on the Board individuals with a committed passion for a healthy, God-focused association of member churches. These women and men who intentionally pray for BCSA, for the churches and all who serve within them and who willingly draw on their diverse skills and knowledge to serve the church of God in this small corner of the planet.

Wonder arises when stories from around our churches reveal the miracles of God's grace and love both between folk inside the church and with those outside the church. When we learn of those serving in our churches who faithfully persevere within sometimes challenging contexts. Wonder at the provision of needed support for families serving with GIA. Wonder when through the accessing of the resources available at BCSA our churches demonstrate that they understand the vital role of good governance for the health of a congregation in enabling it to fulfil the great commission. Wonder at the lives being transformed through the often challenging work of those serving in Baptist Care. These are just a few of the wonders from being able to serve at the Board table.

In my visits around our churches I have been blessed as I have witnessed the strong desire among our faith communities to be faithful hearers of the Word, wise stewards of what has been entrusted to the local church and a godly presence in the local community. There are churches reaching out to new arrivals through actions that without reservation announce, "You are welcome." There are those in our churches sitting alongside hurting families as unemployment, sickness or death becomes the overwhelming experience. Churches who are exploring ways to engage well with those inside the congregation who 'don't fit' the 'normal' church stereotype and whose previous church experiences have been ones of rejection and hostility. The terrain we as followers of Jesus are living in and seeking to negotiate with wisdom and grace has many edges and facets.

As followers of Jesus we also wrestle at Board alongside many in our member churches with concerns of this day and age – for example, the decriminalisation of abortion, the 'right to die' matter, questions in the area of gender identity. We pray for God's wisdom and understanding as we seek to lovingly respond to issues in ways that offers some guidance to our churches negotiating these spaces, we seek your prayers for us in these conversations.

As an association of churches and as the Board serving the association our faith rests 'in Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to his power that is at work among us.' (Eph 3:20)

## From the State Executive Minister

Mike Mills



This past year has included my completing 10 years in the SEM role (boy where did that time go?) and I am continually grateful for the privilege of serving in this capacity. Such milestones often lead us to reflect and as I look back over this period I am thankful for all the ways we have seen God at work. I believe it would be true to say that in general terms we are, as movement, in a healthy place of high trust and good relationship evidenced in this past year's journey of entering the National Redress Scheme. There has been a wonderful sense of unity, affirmation and 'buy in' that has made this a relatively smooth process for us as a family of churches, thanks be to God!

Even in the past 12 months there have been new initiatives such as Recognised Pastor status and ministry internship, and continued improvements in our support for our churches and their ministries, which I will let other team members speak to, all signs of health.

As we look back we also look forward and so, together with the Assembly Board, we have been intentionally considering the future. To this end the Board generously gifted me some sabbatical leave for rest, renewal and reflection – for which I am extremely grateful. Melinda stepped up as Acting SEM and I want to acknowledge her contribution and that of the team that together saw things continue strongly during this period.

With the ever-changing Australian context and shifting place of church in our society we have sought to address the issues arising with sensitivity and in a manner that does not build barriers to people coming to know Jesus. This requires great wisdom and appropriate grounding in the broad narrative of God's story. I want to acknowledge those who are working in these areas as we seek to continually honour God and his mission in this world.

This past year the staff team have enjoyed a season of relative stability. Beth Hoy commenced maternity leave with Michelle Stevens gratefully filling in during her absence. Likewise, toward the end of the year Ruth Grace left on maternity leave and we welcomed Deborah Wakefield to the team in the interim. Both Beth and Ruth and their families welcomed healthy new babies into the world – congratulations! We have also welcomed Steve Woods to the role of Baptist World Aid State Representative SA/NT. At the commencement of 2019 Melinda Cousins was appointed to the newly created role of Deputy State Executive Minister in addition to her role as Director of Ministry Formation.

Thank you to all who have served our churches this year in roles small and large, significant and seemingly insignificant. Thank you to the team here at Unley and to the Assembly Board who continue to strive to support, encourage, influence and extend our local churches as they give expression to the mission of God. But most of all thanks be to our great God for His love, grace, faithfulness and provision.

**Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.**

**(Ephesians 3:20-21)**



## Church development

Andrew Turner



It's a privilege to serve in my role and see how God is working in, on, and through our churches – and shaping and compelling us as a movement .

This year my priorities were:

- **Consulting with Churches:** This year I've consulted with Hills, Mt Barker, Gawler, Grange, Hallett Cove, Holdfast, Mannum, Soul Food, SoulSpace Pennington and LeFevre/The Port Church, as well as others who have sought me out.
- **Fostering Church Planting:** Our new and 'newer' churches continue to work hard and take good steps forward. It's an honour to support and encourage pioneers. As always there are some possibilities on the horizon for further new plants, though perhaps a little less than in other years.
- **Equipping for Evangelism:** We have formed a new 'Gospel Sharers Network' across our movement, though to date it has only met once. A resource-base and two further events this year are in planning.
- **Resourcing Churches:** I continually keep an eye out for effective mission resources. The 'Baptastic' team have developed a new approach for attractive and informative 'default' website for churches that don't have such a one.
- **Writing & Speaking:** Apart from my Sacred Agents blog, this year I have continued to tinker with my new book "Taking the Plunge: Baptism and Becoming a Christian". The FAQ section at the end is needing some research and deep thought.

Thank you for the privilege of serving our churches as part of a terrific team and exciting movement.

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## Leadership development

Elliot Keane



It is a joy to be part of all that King Jesus is doing in and through our movement of churches.

Our 2019 4D Leadership Conference was a great day of connecting with leaders and volunteers from across our movement. We had challenging talks from Tim Foster and had great input from many of our local leaders in our electives. Thank you to everyone who was part of the day!

We have also shared together in Journey Seminars that covered vocational leadership, preaching, evangelism and mental health. Our 2018 Pastors Conference was held in May as thus reported on last year. 2019 Pastors Conference is coming up in August and we are looking forward to fantastic time gathering our pastoral teams in Victor Harbor once again.

In 2018, we saw another five emerging leaders graduate with a Cert IV in Christian Ministry & Theology. This year has seen us replace our Ministry Apprenticeship with our new Ministry Internship. We are halfway through 2019 with eleven interns from seven of our churches. The internship has also seen us strengthen our partnership with Tabor College who are offering two subjects of credit for our interns. Stay tuned, as we will be opening enrolments for 2020 soon.

I continue to seek ways to walk alongside our movement of churches to discover, discern, develop, and deepen leaders across our movement. Our hope is to walk with emerging leaders from across generations, cultures, and backgrounds to develop leaders for the workplace and for local church life and mission.

I look forward to supporting the mission of King Jesus with you for another year.

## Accredited Ministry Formation

Melinda Cousins



The majority of my time is spent overseeing Accredited Ministry Formation. Accredited Pastors are key leaders in our movement, entrusted alongside member churches to carry our history and shape our future. Accreditation is continuing, on a three-year cycle, with our pastors committing to intentional professional development and mentoring. We are encouraged by the ongoing engagement of our pastors with this process.

Accreditation and ordination are an affirmation by our movement of an individual's calling and readiness for ministry, as well as a commitment by the individual to ongoing relationship and leadership within our movement. We currently have ten pastors working towards accreditation and ordination: Riley Smith, Jarrod Flack, Beth Hoy, Mang Cung, Nathan Randall, Michael Thompson, Mick Barrett, Michelle Stevens, Mike Harris and Miranda Dixon. It's a joy to meet regularly with these candidates to pray, read, share, theologically reflect on ministry, and learn together. Special thanks must go to their Supervisors, experienced accredited pastors who provide their time and experience, as well as wisdom, oversight, and discernment.

Over the last year we have acknowledged our first cohort of Recognised Pastors, a status that provides affirmation and accountability for those currently serving in various ministry roles. We held a day two intensive at Baptist Churches SA in November 2018 and will hold another in September 2019 as a key part of the training for this. Already we have granted Recognition to seven pastors.

In 2019, I've also stepped into the Deputy State Executive Minister role, including seven weeks Acting SEM while Mike was away, which was a good challenge and gave me a renewed appreciation for the load he carries on behalf of our movement. In May, our movement formally joined the National Redress Scheme. Working on this could never be said to be 'fun', but it is a privilege to lead in a movement which has responded to this need so well. This included unanimous decisions by our Board and Assembly, as well as significant work by our operations team, which we are grateful for, and we trust God will guide us as we respond to the hurting with the love and compassion of Jesus. I'm also enjoying our Ministry Team's collaboration and imagination as we seek to lead in various ways across our movement faithfully and well.

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## Next Gen Ministry

Michelle Stevens



This last year in Next Gen has had some wonderful peak experiences where many of our young people have encountered God in a life changing way.

This year's Easter camp theme was 'Faith of Living Colour' with speaker Kimberly Smith exploring Joseph's story. We praise God for the fruit of camp: 15 first time commitments, 71 campers re-dedicating their lives to Jesus, 34 considering baptism and 83 campers saying they would like to learn more about God. This was followed by our May Baptist Youth Gathering, where we saw over 500 young people come together. It was a wonderful time of encountering God and worshipping Him together as Baptist Family.

M&M camp was a great weekend of opportunity to learn and experience more of our Aboriginal culture with activities, art workshops, dance, food and more. Ema Bovoro was the guest speaker, who shared her culture using scripture from John 10:14. There was a special worship and prayer time where several children responded and asked God to show them how He wants to use their gifts to tell His story to others.

Whilst I hold the fort for a few more months as Beth is on maternity leave, I am so grateful to the Kids, Youth and Young Adult Core teams for their support and investment into others.

## Baptists of the NT and SA working together

Mike Mills



### The Baptist Family

To the north of our state there is a small family of Baptist Churches spread over vast distances; the Baptist Union of the Northern Territory (BUNT). The six indigenous and seven non-indigenous churches that are members of BUNT lack resources for the supports our churches of other states benefit from.

Baptist Churches of SA (BCSA) continue to recognise, support and encourage this part of our Australian Baptist family.

### Memorandum of Understanding

- A MOU exists between BUNT and BCSA and is regularly reviewed by both parties.
- An addition to the outworking of the MOU has recently included BCSA's support of BUNT's processes in seeking to enter the National Redress Scheme
- Activity under the MOU have included:
  - Continued support and resourcing of pastors and church administrators
  - Provision of Child Protection training and Professional Standards services through Child Protection Solutions
  - Implications of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
  - Provision of insurance scheme management
  - Church and pastoral review
  - Moderating services in pastoral search
  - Connection with, representation and advocacy within the national Baptist movement contexts
  - Ministry Accreditation formation and ongoing accountability

### Visits

I have continued to travel to Darwin generally 3 times a year, aiming to be present at times when Assembly Board meet and keep in touch with the workings of the Board through emails and papers/minutes. On all visits I seek to maximise my availability to pastors and other Baptist leaders and am pleased to affirm that the times spent "pastoring the pastors" continue to be valued and provide a 'value add' in the sense of connecting them with wider networks and resources.

## Rural Regional Minister

Leigh Philp



New to this role at the end of 2018, I have thoroughly enjoyed connecting and networking with our Rural Pastors. The sense of isolation for those in rural locations can be a real inhibitor to ministry stimulation, energy and resources, so to have regular connection with BCSA, as well as connections with one another, is a significant encouragement to ministry. A sense of belonging, inclusion, and being understood is critical.

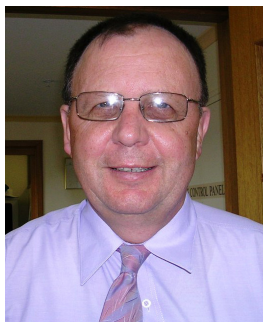
We have enjoyed joining corporately with Pastors from a given region for prayer, fellowship, meals and encouragement. Taking time to share stories of struggles and blessing encourages the story-teller as well as the listener. Some Pastors have chosen to connect one-to-one with me rather than travel a distance to meet with others, and some of these times have been deep places in the Spirit. A highlight for those from North and West was a 24-hour overnigher at the end of May '19 at a retreat centre near Laura, in Beetaloo Valley.

Please uphold our Pastors in the rural locations, who are committed to their Kingdom call, beat with the same heart as those they serve, and long to see the fruits of ministry bringing refreshing and transformation in these distant Communities. Please particularly pray for the few who are approaching retirement, and therefore needing some kind of succession process, or are seeking the right pathway to what God has next for their town and region.



## CALD Ministry Facilitator

Darryl Bishop



Twenty five percent of South Australians were born overseas. For almost forty five percent of us, one or both parents were born overseas. Adelaide Chin Christian Church is our largest Baptist Church in South Australia with a membership topping 1000. The most recent church to be accepted into affiliate membership of our movement is the Adelaide Matu Christian Church. Our Zotung Family Church has recently purchased its own property. In our neighbourhoods we are seeing a growing cultural diversity.

Baptist Churches throughout the state are responding in many creative ways as they join God on His mission into these new communities. Richmond, Camden, Broadview, Salisbury and Playford are providing space for other ethnic groups to worship in their first language. Mt Gambier and Rostrevor have language other than English congregations. Edwardstown has an annual multicultural service. Flinders Street has an extensive English as a Second Language program. Rostrevor concurrently ran the Alpha Course in Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean and Tamil in 2018. Earlier this year thirteen people from the Korean fellowship were baptised at Normanville. Other churches have ministries in place to assist new arrivals to our state.

There is a transformation taking place as God is bringing people from all over the world to South Australia.

There are many valid expressions of multiethnic or culturally diverse churches from landlord/tenant arrangements, homogeneous churches & congregations, friendship, partnership and intercultural models. All provide opportunities to continue to reflect the New Testament vision of Church community in which there is mutuality, reciprocity, and equality among and between cultures and where relationships between all of God's people are defined by justice, respect, understanding, acceptance, freedom, diversity, peace-making, and celebration.

## Pastoral Services Facilitator

Mark Foley



As Pastoral Services Facilitator my role is primarily about ensuring systems are in place to encourage, resource and initiate connections and services to help pastors maintain their well-being (in particular spiritual, emotional and relational) and, in the unfortunate eventuality of them finding the going tough, provide more intensive support services.

This occurs by focusing on three main areas:

1. Ensuring effective Pastors Renewal Retreats. These have been operating as a primary means of mutual support for our pastors for many years. They operate on a 2 year cycle and consist of three 72 hour retreats every 12 months and two 24 hour retreats in between. They are covenant communities which provide a safe space for pastors to provide the support and encouragement that will help them flourish. Currently around 40 of our pastors are involved in one of these.
2. Supporting local networks of Pastors. Franc Ahlin coordinates a monthly gathering of pastors south of Cross Road, Terry Williams facilitates the network of our northern pastors, I facilitate one for the pastors of the West and Leigh Philp cares for our regional pastors. As well as these there are a range of other networks (some relatively informal) including for retired pastors, pastors of larger churches, and ministry specific staff.
3. Providing resources for Pastors who are finding the going tough. As a movement we are committed to providing whatever is helpful for pastors who are struggling. These include linking with recently retired pastors for support and mentoring, provision of professional services and encouragement in healthy practices. There are many stories I could tell where pastors are present for one another and through relationships of trust, vulnerability and confidentiality are providing vital connections to maintain our mutual wellbeing and support us when the going gets tough. It is a privilege to be involved in this with the women and men of God who are giving of themselves to serve Him and His Church in a pastoral role.

## Baptist Insurance Services

Glenn Dixon

2018-19 saw some major changes to the way that Baptist Insurance Services (BIS) operated, which impacted how BIS charged their premium fees:

- The Contingency Funds that had been collected over a number of years were stopped and the accumulated funds were returned to the Baptist Office. Thanks to the churches generosity, these funds were used to kick start the pool of funds for the National Redress Scheme.
- A State Administration Fee was not able to be charged.

In an effort to resolve these issues, BIS applied to ASIC for an Australian Financial Services Licence in early 2019. We are pleased to announce that this was successfully granted in May 2019. We praise God for the speed that this occurred, and for the additional breadth of the licence that was granted. With this in place, not only are our usual business services covered but we can also look at how we can increase and improve on what we already offer.

Helping churches with their claims is just one aspect of the services we provide. Our website – <http://baptistinsurance.com.au> – hosts a number of useful resources including training for WHS, FAQs and guidelines around managing risks in our churches, schools and care agencies.

This year, we were again pleased to provide support to the Inspire SA & LifeWell conferences to help our church pastors, leaders and members.

## Accounting

Bridget Townsend



The Finance and Administration Section provides accounting, banking, payroll, insurance, book-keeping to churches and reception services to Baptist World Aid, Company of Grace, Child Protection Solutions, Global Interaction and other areas of ministry which includes the local churches. In short, “God is Good”, the financial statement for Baptist Churches of SA shows a healthy surplus for 2018/19.

**Thank you** - Contributions by the churches are invaluable and our thanks to the churches for accepting their part in ensuring that we are able to sustain and maintain the level of services provided. This year contributions were below budget by 2.45% bringing the contribution for the year to \$253,628, compared to 5.01% below budget last financial year. 56.8% of church contributions have gone towards church planting.

### Facts and figures of interest:

- HoodSweeney continue to be our Investment Advisors in 2018/19.
- Healthcare Australia remains our tenant at the Baptist Centre. This is beneficial as the income generated from this tenancy ensures cash flow availability.
- Donations received, Baptist Financial Services (BFS) Distribution and Capital Contribution Grant were greatly appreciated and contributed vital support to the ministries of BCSA.
- The Ministers Long Service Leave Fund set up to provide continuity of long service leave for church staffs, has continued to meet its goals.
- Ministers Relocation Fund is available for pastors moving to a new church (refer to Ministers Relocation Fund T&C)
- Redress Scheme Pool has been set up following the refund of reserves from Baptist Insurance Services (BIS)
- Fricker Trust had finally been handed over to Baptist Care (SA).

I would like to extend my grateful thanks for the dedication and ability of the Finance and Admin team. Well done team!



## Baptist Financial Services

Cameron Hawke

I continually thank The Lord for the privilege it truly is to walk together with you, servicing the area of finance. As I reflect on last year, I would firstly like to extend thanks from everyone at BFS to all the church treasurers and leaders who have embraced BFS as their financial services provider. It is your continued support that helps us resource the entire Baptist family of churches to extend the Kingdom of God in their local community.

During this last year we saw one-member church complete their journey towards new premises, with Zotung Family Church purchasing an existing church in Hope Valley. It is an exciting time as many other member churches are just commencing their journey towards new premises.

We have also continued to see a significant increase in loan applications from Non-Baptist churches whom we also support (but at a slightly higher interest rate). In addition, as anticipated more churches utilised our Giveway electronic payments portal due to \$0 merchant fees for tithes and offerings.

The coming 12 months will continue to be busy due to interest rates being at an all-time low for financing projects and returns greater than the banks for term investments. Please remember all investments go into resourcing Christian ministry so your investments not only deliver a great return but as an individual you are also contributing to resourcing the Kingdom of God.

There will also be winds of change for SA/NT as I have accepted a National role with BFS as Loans Manager. As I will continue to be based in SA, I look forward to introducing my replacement to you over the next year.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge and extend thanks to Allan Priest and Darren McDonald for the great work they do as the SA/NT representatives on the BFS board.

## Business and Systems

Glenn Dixon



Hello and greetings from the Baptist Centre, This year, the larger projects that the office has been working on include:

- Commencing the Bookkeeping As A Service for our churches
- Management of church property changes for Le Fevre BC, Lyndoch BC and Whyalla BC
- A refresh of some of the Baptist Centre facilities, and
- Sending out the BCSA “Who Are We?” guide to churches for those people newly coming into a ministry position.

This is amongst the usual day-to-day support we provide to the larger team in the office and to our wider church family. We have also seen some more changes in our staff as we welcomed Alison Jeisman into the role of Bookkeeper as she takes on this task for some of our churches.

I would especially like to thank our volunteers who help us in a number of ways throughout the week, either coming into the office or working remotely – Chris Butler & Peter Wiskich.

If there is anything that you think we could do better to support our churches in the areas of finance and administration, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me for a chat.

## Child Protection and Professional Standards

Carl Collins



2018/19 has continued to be an extremely productive year within the Office of Professional Standards. This time last year I advised of the development and implementation of a number of additional key initiatives within the BCSA child protection strategy. I am pleased to report twelve months on that those initiatives have become an integral component of our overall strategy, which is designed to make young people and our churches safe.

Whilst my role within Baptist Churches SA takes absolute priority, I am engaged by a number of mainstream denominations on a national level in the areas of child protection training, consultancy and the profiling of sex offenders. I can honestly say that the level of “buy in” which reflects a fantastic relationship between the Office of Professional Standards and BCSA churches is second to none in my experience. I want to take this opportunity to thank our Pastors and Child Protection Contact Officers for their outstanding commitment, cooperation and support.

Never before has “the church” been under more scrutiny in terms of the safety and protection of young people. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, based on the testimonies of hundreds of victims over a five year period, implicates over 1000 organisations within Australia. The even more disturbing fact is that over 60% of those organisations are faith based. A recent internal BCSA analysis has found that all but three recommendations arising out of the Royal Commission are already in place and have been for a substantial period of time within BCSA. Whilst this sounds good, it remains the responsibility of each and every church to ensure that BCSA standards are being fully implemented. It is the role of the Office of Professional Standards to provide intensive, ongoing and unlimited support to churches in order to not only maintain but build on our established child protection strategy and culture.

The Office of Professional Standards works hard to ensure a high level of integrity and accountability within our churches and is committed to ensuring as far as possible the safety and well-being of all people. I again want to thank Mike Mills the State Executive Minister, and the Board for the opportunity to continue to journey with BCSA.



## Global Interaction

David Turnbull  
and Jane Norman



### What we do

Global Interaction partners with Australian Baptists to see growing, vibrant faith communities emerge among least-reached people groups.

The Global Interaction SA/NT team, David Turnbull and Jane Norman, spent their first year together stabilizing the activities of the office and building relationships with individual supporters and churches.

The vision for Central Australia and the ‘least-reached’ people groups remains strong. God’s activity and presence in this journey prompts a spirit of thankfulness.

First, for the encouragement and warm reception given to the new State team staff by the South Australian Baptist community. The team has appreciated the opportunities to visit churches throughout South Australia.

Second, for the departure of Luke, Rachel, Isaac, Tahlia and Michaela in September 2018 to provide team leadership in Cambodia and for the way God has provided the 100% support for their first term.

Third, for the ongoing prayer and financial provision to sustain the South Australian commitment to the eight cross-cultural workers amongst the Thai, Khmer and Yawo peoples. Also, for the pledged support so far for David and Susie Haydon (with Anushka and Kyran) who plan to depart for Malawi in June 2020. Funding new cross-cultural workers still remains the challenge. Sadly, the Stevens resigned in late 2018.

Fourth, for the creative activities in May Missions Month and the re-birth of Unearthed, a group for globally minded young adults in the Baptist community who gather 3-4 times a year to explore global issues.

We look forward to the work of the Lord of the Harvest in the coming year



**BAPTIST  
WORLD AID  
AUSTRALIA**  
Be love. End poverty.

## **Baptist World Aid Australia**

**Steve Woods**

### **Our vision**

A world where poverty has ended and all people enjoy the fullness of life God intends.

### **Our mission**

We partner with like-minded agencies overseas to empower communities to lift themselves out of poverty, challenge injustice and build resilience.

**Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.**

Prov 31:8-9

It is good to be able to present this report to you as the new SA/NT Church Relationship Manager. Since stepping into the role in May it has been very satisfying to meet with churches, pastors and leaders to reconnect. I am grateful for all the work Mark Purser has done holding down the interim role for the last few years. I have appreciated the encouragement that it's nice to have someone located in the Unley office again!

At Baptist World Aid, we believe that God loved the world so radically that He gave His Only Son for our salvation. He teaches us that to love means to act. Our response to poverty is essential to our identity. With love, we can end poverty.

It has been encouraging to see many people and churches in our Baptist family respond to this call over the past 12 months and see our response to global poverty as a crucial component of our discipleship.

We can recite many stories of transformation as families and communities have been lifted out of poverty because of the generosity of SA Baptists. Stepping into an incredible journey and sponsoring a child through our Be Love campaign. The Be Hope Christmas appeal coupled with the Big-Hearted Gift cards. Churches choosing to partner in our community development work and others responding to unexpected disasters through our disaster fund.

SA churches and individuals gave \$794,000 to BWAA in the last financial year, an increase of approximately \$60,000 on the previous year. Thank you!

Early in 2019 Susy from our Advocacy Team helped launch the year for our Catalyst Groups at an event at Parkside Baptist.

This year the 6th edition of our Ethical Fashion Guide was launched and is proving to be a powerful tool in the hands of consumers. We also launched our End Poverty App, which has a host of valuable information and resources.

In late May we were excited that Hills Baptist Church launched a long-term partnership with a community in Uganda. This was a great day of celebration as Hills became the first church in Australia to partner with this new project.

Thank you again for your ongoing support and I look forward to engaging with you as we continue to be the hands and the feet of Christ in needy communities around the world.





## Baptist Care SA

Graham Brown

### Our vision

Baptist Care SA, motivated by Christ's servant heart, aspires to be a leading, life-transforming agency, founded in a faith community that is engaged in client focused care.

### Our mission

Baptist Care SA expresses God's love and compassion for people, especially those at risk or marginalised, by journeying with them toward the attainment of their full potential.

Baptist Care SA has enjoyed an exciting year of 'Journeying Together in Mission' with, and on behalf of, the Baptist churches of SA in response to the identified needs and aspirations of people living in despair and struggling under compounding layers of adversity.

Our dedicated staff are inspired every day by the courage of the people they work with and motivated by a mutual aspiration to overcome social and economic disadvantage.

A bold 'Strategic Horizons Plan' has been developed that outlines organisational growth and development goals, initiatives and desired outcomes for the next 3-5 years including:

- Streamlining services to support Transition Pathways from adversity to opportunity
- Fostering Empowered Teams and strengthening organisational capability
- Developing Purposeful Partnerships with organisations that share our values and interest in achieving improved outcomes for children, young people, families and Aboriginal people;
- Sustainable Social Enterprise – enhancing corporate capacity by implementation of contemporary information management systems and upgrading facilities
- Expressing an Influential Voice that draws upon over 100 years of insight into social disadvantage to support our advocacy for improved public policy and mobilise resources to address social and economic disadvantage.

We highly value the ongoing prayerful, practical and financial support of Baptist churches and appreciate the openness of churches as we endeavour to 'shed light' and 'be salt' in lives and local communities across our State.

I extend sincere thanks to our dedicated Board for their enduring commitment to strong, insightful governance and to our skilled management and staff team for their daily determination to finding ways to make lives better.



*Early in 2019, we commissioned Molly Peterson of the Luritja Nations, NT, now living in Adelaide, to paint her interpretation of how people at Baptist Care SA's WestCare Centre are assisted to move along their own, unique 'transition pathways from adversity to opportunity'. This is her artwork which now hangs at 130 Rose Terrace, Wayville.*



## Company of Grace

John Beasy

**I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will turn their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.**

Zephaniah 3:19

The Annual Meeting in Vietnam in January 19 was a wonderful time of celebrating the advance of this amazing ministry for disabled young people and children in Vietnam. It was a time to reflect on significant milestones in the operations of the COG Centre and day to day operations. Of particular note:

- The Place: COG looks good. Well maintained. Good facilities and shade. It provides easy access for people with disability. People with disability are wanting to train and work there and people with disability are fully managing the Centre.
- The COG building stage has come to completion with 5 new rooms. In total there are now 20 rooms & 10 bathrooms
- 100% day to day operating self-sustainable: With buildings complete, the costs for running the COG Centre are now covered 100% by the income derived from the disabled workers.
- License to Teach English as a fully registered English Centre

Hoa's wife Hien has continued to take on more management responsibility for COG as it operates under full local control. BCSA continues to make a supportive contribution by managing financial support from Australia, and offering strategic guidance, child protection and oversight of ministry accreditation.

Plans are well underway to start building the Family Care Home for 100 abandoned children. This facility will be under the full authority of the COG ministry, and will be known as House of Grace. A team of dedicated supporters continues to work diligently to help raise financial support for this new venture.

During 2020, 10 years of COG presence will be celebrated.

Continue to pray that COG will effectively outwork the goal of having a clear identity within context of a local church mission.



*(left) Helping giving the fence at the facility a paint*



*(right) Hoa Supervising preparation of the new land for the Family Care facility (House of Grace) and his own home with Hien*



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