

# 19 20



## 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

Dr Karen Walker



With hindsight the Board's decision to create opportunities for listening to people's voices within our movement over the early months of 2020 has been, quite simply, a gift. The information gathered from the online surveys, the face-to-face gatherings and conversations with individuals provided vital data used by Board to shape the role profile of the Director of Ministries (DOM). It also enabled us to gain a strong sense of the health of our movement and to identify a few areas for focused attention in the season ahead.

With the May Assembly approving the DOM role profile the search has been able to progress, albeit slowly at times due to COVID-19 restrictions. The season ahead working with our new DOM holds all the promise of God's continued blessing on our movement of churches as we continue to grow and stretch into new spaces as well as mature and deepen in the places we have been planted.

The Board continued to meet every first Monday of the month throughout 2020, either face to face or online. Likewise, the numerous Board committees have continued serving in the different areas of accreditation and ordination, finances, risk, governance and so on. This year with deep gratitude we farewelled Jason Hoet and John Medlin from Board. Both men have served our movement faithfully using their gifts during their involvement on the Board and its various committees. Their contributions and passion for the work of our churches has added significantly to the robust health and vitality of Board conversations and decisions.

The reports on the findings from the information collected at the beginning of the year provided a wonderfully rich insight into both the movement's strengths and areas for growth. The unity of the movement balanced with the autonomy of individual churches and, the integrity and primacy of the Word among our churches emerged as two strongly valued characteristics. Maintaining a respectful, mature and nuanced posture during conversations of 'hot button' issues as well as our capacity to develop and support pastors were some of the other valued features. Strengthening the capacity within our individual churches to engage in social justice issues within their own unique context and equipping our volunteer church leadership teams in areas like governance have emerged as two of the new spaces for us to stretch into.

As a movement we are in good health without attempting any claim of perfection. Mike Mills' leadership among our churches over the past 12 years has borne an abundance of healthy and growing fruit.

As a Board member I have been privileged to witness again and again the gracious generosity of our loving God to his church as together we seek ways to be salt and light within our diverse communities. As my two-year term as President draws to a close I want to thank Mike, the BCSA team and all who sit at the Board table with me – you inspire and bless so many through your servant-hearted leadership.

Be encouraged, be excited and be in prayer for what lies ahead.

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.

- Romans 8:38



# From the State Executive Minister

Rev Mike Mills



Since God has so generously let us in on what he is doing, we're not about to throw up our hands and walk off the job just because we run into occasional hard times. We refuse to wear masks and play games. We don't manoeuvre and manipulate behind the scenes. And we don't twist God's Word to suit ourselves. Rather, we keep everything we do and say out in the open, the whole truth on display, so that those who want to can see and judge for themselves in the presence of God.

- 2 Corinthians 4:1-2, The Message

In the midst of a series of 'lasts' I find myself engaged in a 'first', writing my first last annual report! And what a year to be reporting on, a year that none of us foresaw or could have foreseen this time last year.

It was at our annual Assembly in November 2019 the announcement was made that I would not be continuing in the role beyond my current term, due to conclude in November 2020. Since then, while I continue to stay focused on leading the team here at Unley and fulfilling my role, the Assembly Board have been working through the processes associated with discerning who will be nominated as my successor.

Life, ministry and business continued pretty much as normal through the end of 2019 and into early 2020 as we hopped on and off aircraft to meet with people interstate and overseas. Then, just 3 weeks before Easter, on the 22nd March, things changed rapidly. We were all introduced to some new words, coronavirus, social distancing, restrictions, COVID-19, pandemic, Zoom, self-isolation etc. As the pandemic was declared and restrictions began to be applied the BCSA staff team worked patiently and tirelessly to support our churches through the changes. In a matter of days calendars were cleared, travel ceased, and appointments were cancelled – yet we all seemed as busy as ever!

The 'COVID season' has seen some wonderful responsiveness from our local church, large and small, urban and rural, local and regional, Anglo and multi-cultural. It has been a season in which our value of "contextualised local" has shone through in the diversity of approaches and the agile responsiveness of our congregations. During all this there was opportunity for many to 'push pause' and spend some time reflecting on deeper things, including our current 'model' of church.

As we realised SA had been very fortunate restrictions began to lift and we are rediscovering the joy, blessing and value of the physical gathering. Learnings and discernments from the period of disruption are being explored and hopeful not lost as we discover new normal(s). A highlight of these latter months has been the Pastors' Gathering held in early August – a very significant time as some 90+ pastoral staff from our churches gathered to sit under God's word, worship together, reflect together, connect and encourage one another.

In all this I wish to acknowledge the ministry and work of the BCSA staff team and all they do with the heart felt desire to support, encourage, influence and extend the life and mission of our local churches.

As I enter the concluding months of my time in this role, I would like to thank the Baptist movement of SA for giving me the immense privilege of serving in this capacity. I have learnt so much and to no small measure because you have extended great grace to me through these past 12 years – thank you! In particular, I thank the various members of the BCSA staff team who have served with me over the years and for the unique contribution each has brought to our movement's health and growth.

Along the way there have also been numerous iterations of the Assembly Board, each of which have generously given voluntarily to serve in this capacity. This board has a wonderfully healthy culture and we can have confidence as an association in their leadership and oversight, especial during the current state leader change process.

Lastly, I encourage us all not to take for granted the family-like strength of our movement, the depth of relationships we share across our diversity and alongside our autonomy. May we continue to hold fast to our values as we navigate the changing world context in which we live, remembering the first of those values is "Jesus is Lord".

## Church development

**Rev Andrew Turner**



It continues to be my deep privilege to see how God is working in, on, and through our churches. This year my priorities have been:

**Consulting with churches:** This year I've consulted with Hills, Mt Barker, Gawler, Grange, Lighthouse, Playford, Port Lincoln, Soul Food, SoulSpace, and Westcare, as well as others who have sought me out. Additionally I have spoken at 5-6 churches.

**Fostering Church Planting:** Our new and 'newer' churches continue to work hard and take steps forward. Each is a unique creature. The Cleve plant is new this year, and I am working closely with Port Lincoln Baptist to support this. It's an honour to support and encourage pioneers. Inspire SA, held in October, was another highlight, gathering and encouraging missional leaders and adventurers.

**Resourcing churches:** I continue to collect, develop and share effective resources. A project this year has been to update the suite of resources we have for churches wanting to undertake a full church review and pastor reviews.

**Writing & Speaking:** Apart from my Sacred Agents blog, my new little book "Taking the Plunge: Baptism and Becoming a Christian" is finally now about to go to print.

Thank you for the privilege of serving our churches as part of a terrific team. I remain deeply committed to and passionate about our movement, and hopeful for our future.



## Leadership development

**Rev Elliot Keane**



I consider it a privilege to serve our movement in this role and continue to give thanks for the mission and potential that we share.

Our 2019 Pastors Conference was held in Victor Harbor. We were encouraged and challenged by Keith Jobberns, the National Ministries Director of Australian Baptist Ministries and Brooke Prentis, an Aboriginal Christian Leader and Director of Common Grace. We shared stories, built friendships, prayed for our movement and our world.

Obviously, the challenging part of this year was the impact of COVID-19. We cancelled 4D Leadership Conference and modified our Journey Seminars. Initially we met regularly online, creating more space for support and prayer and then while the support continued, we made room to explore what had been exposed and revealed in ourselves and in our churches during this season. Before all the disruption we had gathered for Journey Seminars on domestic and family violence, managing change, cultural intelligence, as well as a prayer and reflection day in the city.

In 2019 we saw 9 emerging leaders successfully complete our Leadership Internship program from across 6 of our churches. In 2020 we have 13 interns from 10 of our churches. The internship offers a great pathway for emerging leaders of all ages and stages to grow in discipleship and leadership development, as well as gain credit towards further study at Tabor. Enrolments for 2021 open soon.

We are always looking for ways to develop leaders for the workplace, in our churches and for our movement. We want to help you discover, discern, develop and deepen leaders from across generations, cultures and backgrounds in your church family.

## Accredited Ministry Formation

**Rev Dr Melinda Cousins**



No doubt we will all look back on 2020 as a year of unanticipated change and adaptation in the context of a global pandemic. And yet the heart of our ministry and mission remains constant, and we continue to be renewed and refreshed in how we respond to this calling in our ever-changing circumstances.

In the area of Ministry Accreditation, as I write this report, we are preparing to hold our third annual Recognised Pastors intensive. This is an opportunity for those serving in ministry specific and/or part time pastoral roles in our churches to connect with our wider movement, learn about our story and values, and be equipped and encouraged for their roles. It has also become a great opportunity for our team to remind ourselves again of why we do what we do and how we are seeing God at work in and through it.

We have been excited to welcome three new candidates for Accreditation and Ordination into Accredited Ministry Formation this year: Dave Shepherd (Hills Verdun), Cam Buchanan (Mt Gambier) and Toni Rehrmann (Darwin). Along with our continuing candidates, they undertake supervised reflection on ministry in their local context, ongoing study, as well as gathering together for shared learning and input from leaders across our movement. It is a privilege to journey with this group of pastoral leaders.

Our accredited pastors and chaplains engage with Continuing Accreditation, which involves an ongoing Professional Development Plan and mentoring, and a three-yearly review. There are lots of study, reading, and training ideas shared by our pastors available on our website <https://sabaptist.asn.au/professional-development/>. We are currently exploring the model of professional supervision, recommended by the Royal Commission, and how we might transition towards this. Tony Ling and I have been doing some study in this area this year, which has been both stretching and encouraging.

Did you know that we have started a podcast this year? Called "Movement", our goal is to invite people across our movement of churches to listen and imagine together. Episodes so far have included interviews with various members of the Ministry Team as well as sermons they have preached in their local contexts. If you have missed out, all the episodes are available to catch up – you can listen online at <https://anchor.fm/bcsa> or using your podcast app.

## Next Gen Ministry

**Beth Hoy**



2020 so far has brought many challenges, and also great opportunity for generations ministries across the state.

I resumed my position at the end of January after a successful handover from Michelle Stevens who backfilled while I was on maternity leave. I want to take the time to praise Michelle for the skill, humility, wisdom and leadership she brought to the role while I was away.

The beginning of COVID-19 restrictions in March saw the cancellation of Easter Camp. However, the Core Team and I felt strongly that we should not leave the campers and leaders with nothing. From this birthed Easter Camp Online. This resource was produced with the help of a great team at the Baptist Centre. I also shared the resource with my state equivalents from Baptist associations from around the nation. I have since learned of engagement with Easter Camp Online from Western Australia, to Queensland, and everywhere in-between.

Through the season of pandemic restrictions, I focused a lot of my time on traveling closely with the generations' pastors and leaders to support them through the rapid change. This included facilitating regular zoom chats where the leaders could swap ideas and resources, process current circumstances, and pray.

## Pastoral Services Facilitator

Rev 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. Pastors Renewal Retreats. At the moment over 50% of our pastors are involved in these and are finding them a very effective means of being supported and staying fresh.
2. Supporting local networks and encouraging connection between pastors. We are fortunate in that the size of this state enables us all to know each other, however our pastors can still feel isolated so creating opportunities for regular connection is of great value. These happen in a whole variety of ways but are appreciated by most of our pastors.
3. Referring Pastors to professional services when required. Sometimes things get very difficult for our pastors. It is good to know that there are services and experienced people who are available to support and journey with them during these times, it is part of my role to confidentially help pastors access these services.

Along with these formal parts of my role I enjoy taking the opportunity to meet with as many pastors as I can to touch base, hear how they are travelling, and pray for them. It is a privilege to have this opportunity to support our many godly, faithful and creative pastors and the ministry they exercise. Please continue to pray for them in their service.

## Rural Regional Minister

Rev Leigh Philp



As for every one of our churches, the recent (and ongoing) COVID-19 season has presented challenges to all of our rural church families. And as for every one of our churches, each response has been unique for their unique circumstances. While there were extra pressures in this for our pastors, each rural church has managed well in their setting, some live streaming, some using Zoom or Messenger, others simply using the printed word...

I can say with confidence that the members of these churches have been well cared for throughout, with a high priority placed on ongoing Pastoral Care, ensuring that somehow the faith community was sustained in a modified but valued way, and great care taken that nobody 'fell through the cracks'. As has been our universal experience, there are also some lingering changes coming from this difficult season that will continue into the future, thus strengthening our churches in their Kingdom work. Not to mention a range of new skills for pastors!

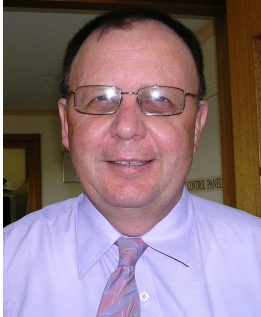
Please continue to uphold our delightfully committed and capable pastors in the more remote places, as they continue to do all that is necessary to further God's work in their fellowship, and into the surrounding communities. Their context may look different from a suburban church, but the work remains the same - building the church, and enabling true followers of Jesus.





## CALD Ministry Facilitator

Rev Darryl  
Bishop



Is it possible that our Baptist movement here in South Australia could be a little glimpse of what the Apostle John describes in his vision of the church in the future? I believe it can. Imagine our Baptist movement as being like a bowl of salad made up of different fruits and vegetables, each still distinguishable but each contributing to the flavour and taste of the overall salad. That's the picture that is painted for us in Revelation 7.

For us as followers of King Jesus, it begins by being a listener. Listening to the stories of our new arrivals who are part of our congregations and part of our communities. It is asking important questions, "Where is God at work in our neighbourhoods?" and joining Him on His mission. "Does our leadership groups reflect the cultural diversity of our congregations?" "Amongst our friendship circles, what percentage of people come from other than our own culture?"

Over the past year, we have seen the Adelaide Matu Christian Church coming into full membership of our movement. We have seen the Adelaide Lai Christian Church come into affiliate membership and begin to explore the possibility of a major property development. Our Zotung Family Church have recently purchased their own property. The Associate Pastor of ACCC, our largest Baptist Church in South Australia is nearing completion of training leading towards accreditation/ordination. Amongst our Recognised Pastors is a Korean Pastor who leads the Korean ministry at Rostrevor Baptist Church.

The collective/community nature of the cultures in which our CALD Churches have been planted have heightened the pain they have felt in not being able to gather physically for worship in recent months. However, this period has also opened up new opportunities for mission with "on-line services" being streamed into several south east Asian countries.

Working with the Director of Ministry Accreditation, ministry students are now being provided with important tools in the area of cultural intelligence. These tools are part of resources cited by the State Director SA/NT of Global Interaction at a Journey seminar which he led for SA Baptist Pastoral leaders in late 2019.

Baptist Churches SA is continuing to grow as a healthy and linguistically diverse movement. It is a tremendous privilege to serve in this position and to have the opportunity to learn from and engage with multicultural Baptist leaders around our country.

## Baptists of the NT and SA working together

Rev Mike Mills



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### The Baptist Family

As a part of our wider Baptist family across Australia, Baptist Churches of SA has, for over 12 years, given resources and personnel toward the support of the churches of our northern neighbours in the NT. At the same time nationally, there is intentional work being given to the ongoing support and encouragement of the Baptist indigenous churches in the NT who have traditionally been under the care and ministry of Global Interaction. These are both tangible examples of what it means to be the Baptist family and to be 'better together'.

### Memorandum of Understanding

- An MOU was established between BCSA and the Baptist Union of the NT (BUNT) in 2011 which is regularly reviewed by both parties.
- BCSA has also supported BUNT in their joining of the National Redress Scheme and continue this support in administration of their participation in the Scheme.
- Over the past 12 months the Boards of BUNT and BCSA have agreed to exploration of the possibility of a merger between the two associations with a view to providing the best supports and resourcing for all our churches. It is anticipated that some clarity on whether to proceed with this possibility will be known by the end of 2020.

### Visits

During the season of restricted travel my visits have been limited, however I am planning on being present at the BUNT Assembly in late September. I have maintained contact with pastors and engaged with the BUNT Assembly Board meetings via Zoom. The churches continue to be in good heart and value the support, encouragement and connection that they are experiencing through the BCSA team.

## Child Protection and Professional Standards

**Carl Collins**



This year has been like no other! A year of adaptation, flexibility and challenge, however in all of this we have continued to push forward and ensure to the best of our ability that our churches are safe places for our children to learn of the greatness of our God without interference.

The previously produced recorded Child Protection Solutions (CPS) seminars/intensives which have been so generously supported by Baptist Insurance Services have played a major role in the ongoing BCSA child protection online strategy and will continue to do so with a range of new recorded seminars/intensives scheduled to be recorded and released in early 2021. Face-to-face seminars will still be available and our preferred option, however we are creating a range of options for our churches in order to ensure a range of flexible options, without compromising standards.

A key achievement in 2020 has been the duplication and implementation of the entire BCSA Child Protection model into the Baptist Union of the NT.

Whilst BCSA and BUNT has the total commitment of CPS, we are now providing strategic child protection consultancy to a number of mainstream denominations at various levels. This includes offender awareness training and consultancy, along with the profiling of known child sex offenders within churches. In short, some components of the SA Baptist model are playing a significant role in a number of other denominations and associated agencies.

On a broader level, the Office of Professional Standards continues to oversee all aspects of professional and ethical standards in order to maintain a high level of accountability at all levels.

I want to take this opportunity yet again to thank Mike Mills, the Board and the wider Baptist family for their incredible support. The level of "buy in" across our churches is phenomenal!

I also want to thank all the Child Protection Contact Officers within each and every church for their commitment and willingness to serve in this area. Together and only together can we make a difference.

## Baptist Centre

**Glenn Dixon**



For the last year, the larger projects that the office has been working on include:

- Management of church property changes for Mt Barker BC,
- Completing the transition to cloud storage (just in time to be working from home),
- New blogs and webpages to support the churches through the COVID-19 restrictions and Steps to Recovery (amongst other things), and
- Refreshed some of the Baptist Centre facilities.

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 also celebrated one year of providing the Bookkeeping As A Service to 10 of our churches (including one NT church).

There is nothing as constant as change, and we have seen some more changes in our staff. We welcomed back Ruth Grace from maternity leave, Cathy Turner has joined the Ministry Team in Admin Support and we have transitioned Deb Wakefield into a short-term Office Support role.

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 and 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.

# 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 2019/20.

In the current environment of uncertainty due to COVID-19, we are thankful to the member churches for their continual contribution. 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 above budget by 2.17% bringing the contribution for the year to \$265,654, compared to 2.45% below budget last financial year. This is an excellent effort from our churches. The exciting news is that 50% of church contributions have gone towards church planting.

Facts and figures of interest:

- HoodSweeney continues to be our Investment Advisors in 2019/20.
- Healthcare Australia remains our tenant at the Baptist Centre. This is beneficial as the income generated from this tenancy ensures cash flow availability. A reduction of rental for 3 months had been granted due to COVID-19.
- Donations received from 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 provides continuity of long service leave for church staff, 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) and churches will continue to contribute into this pool from 2019-2028.
- Due to COVID-19, I would like to acknowledge the financial support and assistance given by the Commonwealth and State governments in these unusual times.

I would like to extend my grateful thanks for the dedication and ability of the Finance and Admin team; Glenn Dixon, Tam Battersby, Jenny van Tienen, Alison Jeisman, Deb Wakefield, Ruth Grace, Cathy Turner and Glen Thornley (BFS & BIS). Well done team!



## Baptist Financial Services

Glen Thornley

Thanks to the many church leaders I have had the opportunity to engage with during the last year. While BIS serves to defend and protect, BFS affords one the ability to be involved in helping facilitate the new work God's Spirit is prompting his people to engage in right across our Baptist family of churches and beyond. Assisting to develop and extend God's Kingdom is a privilege we are all called to be a part of – but one that I can share in from a rare vantage point.

Despite the COVID-19 hiatus that has disrupted so many plans in our community, I am aware of no less than seven churches actively pursuing BFS assistance to outwork God's plans in their respective communities. There are a further four that have either recently completed their building project or are in the throes of construction or purchase right now.

Baptist Financial Services also assists by facilitating the financial needs of the daily operations of the Christian community by providing Savings, Investments, Transaction Cards, and Merchant Facilities for both online and in person payment processing. All surpluses from these operations are reinvested in the work of our movement through grants and sponsorships, so full participation is a win/win for your church.

Our Indue Money account facilities have become a victim of changing Government regulations in recent times – with all Indue accounts withdrawn by the end of September. Thanks to all that have supported BFS through Indue over many years.



## Baptist Insurance Services

Glen Thornley

Thank you to all for your welcome as I have entered into my joint role with BFS and BIS. 2020 has been a year of unprecedented learning on so many levels - personally, professionally and for all our constituents as we navigate sudden and dramatic changes few would ever have experienced before.

While BIS continues to deal with the day-to-day of claims management, there has never been a more dramatic demonstration of the value of being prepared for the unexpected. We are pleased to provide sponsorships for many significant events within the life of the churches in SA and NT, but there are even more valuable tools BIS can provide to every constituent. Our website is full of valuable resources to build resilience within our church communities. There are sample policy documents, risk management guides, and certificate level training courses, all freely available.

The latest innovation is access to BIS funded subscriptions to a professional Business Continuity Planning tool to help churches, schools and care agencies identify risks, effectively plan how to avoid them, and to recover quickly if they do strike. Every diminished crisis represents a saving far beyond cost alone - and I would encourage you to take full advantage of these resources.

Our team in BIS Head Office continue to work hard to keep us all ahead of the curve as market challenges impact insurance everywhere. Stay tuned for further innovative developments coming soon.





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

## Baptist World Aid Australia

### Rev 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.

It's been another year of amazing generosity from South Aussie Baptists towards the poorest and most vulnerable people around the world. There have been so many challenges this year, especially the disaster created by the COVID-19 pandemic. At a time when Australians are struggling financially, it has been such a blessing to see how lots of small gifts add up to significant amounts and how much love can be demonstrated through small acts of kindness.

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 crucial component of our discipleship. SA churches and individuals gave over \$725,000 to BWAA in the last financial year. Thank you!

A significant amount of this will help communities deal with the impact of COVID-19 through education, hygiene, clean water, food supplies and protective equipment supplies. Check out the photos below, drawn by children in Uganda as they learn about safe distancing and hygiene.

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.



## Global Interaction

### Dr David Turnbull

#### 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, completed their second year together promoting the vision for outback Australia and the 'least-reached' people groups amongst the Baptist community. God's presence and activity generates much gratitude, even despite the challenges and interruptions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

First, for the ministry of Ian and Wendy Dicks amongst the Yawo from 1996 to 2020. They concluded their service in February 2020.

Second, for Rob and Deb Griffith's home assignment from Cambodia from December 2019 to July 2020. God made their departure possible, especially as they reached their 100% support target.

Third, for the ongoing prayer and financial provision to sustain the South Australian commitment to the seven cross-cultural workers amongst the Thai and Khmer peoples, and for the increasing pledged support to candidates, including David and Susie Haydon (departure to Malawi delayed until early 2021 at the earliest).

Fourth, for new candidates, Simon and Widya, from South East Asia, for South East Asia, who were welcomed in early 2020.

Fifth, for ongoing development of our young adult programs, Unearthed, a group for globally minded young adults in the Baptist community who met twice physically and twice online to explore global issues, and the new 12:31 Challenge program in 2020 to coach those journeying with Muslim companions.

We look forward to the work of the Lord of the Harvest in the coming year throughout South Australia and the Northern Territory.



## Baptist Care SA

**Graham Brown**  
CEO

### **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.

The 2019-20 year has yielded both unprecedented challenges and unparalleled opportunities for service to people and communities. The dramatic impact of COVID-19 has also provided a reflective lens through which Baptist Care SA has had cause to review and refresh our missional priorities.

With and on behalf of the Baptist Churches of SA, I am pleased to report that Baptist Care SA has boldly stepped up to face very real threats to the lives of the SA's most vulnerable people and communities.

We celebrate the achievements of community volunteers in the Friendship Program which was built upon by the care and compassion of South Australians over the last 14 years, but which is now winding down.

Our commitment to ongoing provision of quality services and development of innovative approaches has been demonstrated this year through:

- Completion of a \$3.3m redevelopment of the accommodation, kitchen and dining facilities at the Mylor Adventure Camp;
- Establishment of a new Family Pathways services portfolio which aims to develop and implement innovative new approaches to engagement with high risk families and reduce the number of children entering State Care;
- Casting a compelling vision for the WestCare site including a new Health and Well-being Centre, heralded by establishment of a Homeless Respite Facility;
- Establishment of Tumbelin Farm at Macclesfield to accommodate an exciting new restorative model that supports 'at risk' young people.

Finally, I gratefully acknowledge the continuing prayerful and financial support of our donors, funders and the Foundation Board, and the faithful guidance of our dedicated Baptist Care SA Board.

This support is the critical foundation that enables our dedicated staff to remain missionally focused upon dynamically responding to the daily needs and future aspirations of people who are vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalised.



## Company of Grace

Rev 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

COVID-19 has caused a significant impact on the capacity of people to visit and serve internationally. However, we are thankful that Company of Grace (COG) has moved to operating self-sufficiently, which has placed it in good stead for such a time as this.

Actual 100% operational financial sustainability was achieved over the full year from January 2019 to January 2020. That includes all utilities, salaries, fees, taxes, building repairs, equipment, and licences etc. No external funds were required over this period for the daily operational aspects of COG.

However, the support for the Hoa, Hein, and new project development relies fully on faithful sponsor giving. Thank you.

Given the progressive decline in health of Hoa, he has released significant management of the most of the COG operations to Hien who serves as Associate Director.

### Board meeting

The oversight of COG continues to reside in the Board, and Mark Pham is now serving as a Board member and providing consultancy to COG in general. It is planned also to invite Mark's wife Ngoc to be on the Board to foster relationship with Hien and to accompany Mark in this ministry.

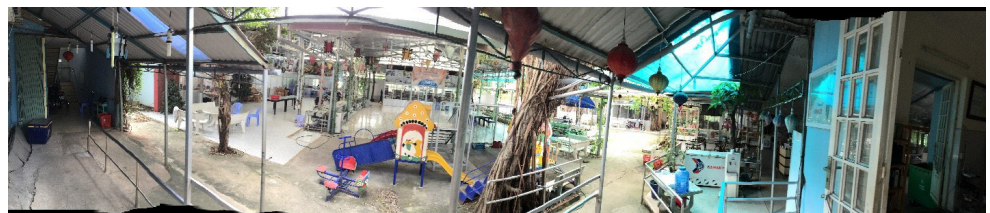
### House of Grace

Reference to the new facility (to be developed adjacent to COG) as a "Shelter" is being discouraged. Rather, the term House of Grace better describes the facility as a family care home full of grace, where displaced children are given an opportunity to grow and develop in a loving, caring home environment, and where COG services are aligned and accessed.

The longer-term plan for this includes development of a local church, which alongside facilities for disadvantaged children will form a combined ministry reflecting evangelism and social justice.

With Mark serving in a GIA missionary capacity in Hanoi, the opportunity for a closer supportive relationship with GIA is worthy of exploration.

Continue to pray for staff safety and progress of the COG and House of Grace project, and that connection with volunteers will again be possible.





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