



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 of 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**

CONTENTS

Our vision and objectives	2
Contents	3
From the President	4
From the Director of Ministries	5
Church Development	6
Leadership Development	6-7
Accredited Ministry Formation	7
Next Gen Ministry	8
Intercultural Ministry	8
Pastoral Services	9
Rural Regional Ministry	9
Independent Director of Professional Standards	10
Business & Systems	10-11
Finance	11
Working with the Northern Territory	12
Baptist Care SA	12
Baptist World Aid Australia	13
Global Interaction	13
Company of Grace	14
Baptist Financial Services	15
Baptist Insurance Services	15
Contact	16

From the President

Daniel Gardiner



This past year has been one of two halves with COVID-19 still playing a significant role throughout.

Between July and the November Assembly, the Board completed the search process for a successor to our State Executive Minister, Rev Mike Mills, with the appointment of Rev Dr Melinda Cousins as our newly-titled Director of Ministries. Transition of leadership is often a difficult season for any organisation, especially after someone has held the role for so long with such a steady hand, as Mike has done. However, the transition to Melinda during the second half of the year has felt natural. The early signs are already present, giving confidence that God has provided us with the right woman for the task ahead. I would like to thank all those involved in the process, especially those on the search committee who gave up significant time.

I would also like to thank Blessing Innmae and Margaret Owade for their service on the Assembly Board which concluded during the year. We welcome Andrew Eldelsten (Human Resources) and Linda Carrapiett (Finance) as they bring their expertise onto the board.

Here in South Australia, we have been protected from the worst of the pandemic however it has continued to bring its challenges in our member churches, ministries and our Board and Ministry Team. Our Board and committees have been able to meet, albeit with various restrictions imposed on us. One blessing has been that the expected deficit we set in the budget did not materialise and we actually concluded the year with a surplus. The return on our investments, the provision of various Commonwealth stimulus and the faithful (and increased) giving of our membership meant that any concerns about our ability to continue as normal were alleviated.

Looking ahead - with the fresh eyes that the appointment of Melinda brings and the realisation that post-pandemic the world will likely be a very different place - the Board has begun the task of reviewing each of our functions to make sure it is still relevant and fit for purpose. We are also aware that in recent years the financial stability of the Association has grown and therefore we are in a position to be open to resourcing the missional opportunities that this new season may present.

Our prayer is that united together with all the movement's membership, the Assembly Board may be like the men of Issachar who the Bible tells us in 1 Chronicles 12:32 (NLT), "understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take". Though these may be days of uncertainty, there is also amazing opportunity as we together ask God to help us understand the times we live in and together discern the best course to take.

From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take.

1 Chronicles 12:32 (NLT)

From the Director of Ministries

Rev Dr
Melinda Cousins



I recently came across an article from the South Australian Register dated 30 October 1863, reporting the first ever meeting of the South Australian Baptist Association. It noted that the Association's objects would be "the promotion of brotherly love among its constituents and the general extension of the Redeemer's kingdom". While our language might have changed, this heart and purpose have not!

Our God is the unchanging one, consistent and faithful in who He is. Yet He is also in the business of change, seeking to bring transformation and renewal in all things. Similarly, as a movement there is much that does not change, as we continue the mission and purpose to which we are called. At the same time, this last year has seen many changes within the BCSA Ministry Team, across our churches, and in the circumstances of the wider community in which we find ourselves.

We have been blessed by the steady leadership of Mike Mills for such a significant period, and I am so grateful for his affirmation and encouragement, and for the opportunity to do transition in this role well, exemplified in the shared service of Thanksgiving and Commissioning held in February. It is a privilege to be entrusted to carry forward the values and story of our movement as we collaboratively discern and shape our future.

The Assembly Board continues to lead in our governance space with thoughtfulness, diligence, and spiritual wisdom. I am thankful for the members of our Ministry and Operations Team who serve our movement so well, and grateful for those God has raised up to join us in this season. We've commissioned Andrew Turner, Beth Hoy and David Turnbull into exciting new roles, and welcomed Mike Bartlett, Elliot Keane, Mark Sanders, Mary Ackers, and Scott Berry to continue resourcing churches, facilitating connections, cultivating leaders, advocating mission and inspiring imagination.

God is faithfully raising up new leaders in and for our churches, and we've welcomed a number from interstate as well as within our movement. We've also welcomed new churches, with our sisters and brothers from Myanmar in particular helping us listen and learn to how God is at work through diverse cultures and circumstances. And we have practiced flexibility in response to the ever-changing impact of COVID-19, while giving thanks for our state's stability and wellbeing, and praying for those far more affected around the world.

As you read this annual report, I pray you will hear an affirmation of God's unchanging faithfulness, as well as the ongoing invitation to transformation as we seek to follow and proclaim King Jesus in our time and place.

This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace.

Colossians 1:6 (NLT)

Melinda

Church Development

Rev Andrew Turner



This year was my final one in the Church Development Facilitator role, as I became Director of Crossover for Australian Baptist Ministries in May. It was such a privilege to minister in this role alongside the inspiring leaders in the Baptist Centre and across our movement. In 2020-21 my focus was on:

Consulting with Churches: I consulted with Aberfoyle, All Nations, Barossa, Gawler, H2One, Knightsbridge, Laura, Mt Barker, Norton Summit, Playford, Cleve (Pt Lincoln), Soul Food and Westcare, as well as others who have sought me out. This year had a strong focus on assisting churches with moderating and leadership transitions.

Fostering Church Planting: Our new and 'newer' churches continue to work hard and take steps forward. Each is a unique creature. The Cleve plant continues to progress, with excellent support from Port Lincoln Baptist. It's an honour to support and encourage pioneers. Inspire SA was another highlight, gathering and encouraging missional leaders and adventurers.

Writing & Speaking: Apart from my Sacred Agents blog, my new little book "Taking the Plunge: Baptism and Becoming a Christian" is finally available and being taken up by churches (and the Easter Camp team).

Thank you for the privilege of serving our churches as part of a terrific team. I remain deeply passionate about our movement and am very grateful to be able to undertake my new nation role still in Adelaide at the Baptist Centre.



Baptists in Mission conference – interviewing Glenn & Flick Pederick from Soul Food Christian Community

Leadership Development

Rev Elliot Keane

As always, we have much to be thankful for! Despite the challenges of this year, we were able to gather online or in-person for Journey Seminars on evangelistic preaching, 'hybrid church' and ethics, as well as a Prayer Day in the city.

We also got together for Pastors' Gathering at Serafino Winery in McLaren Vale. We were joined by Tim Harris who helpfully encouraged our Pastors who were worn out after a complex first few months of responding to COVID. Despite a number of last-minute changes, Pastors' Gathering became a moment of encouragement, community and inspiration as our pastors took a breath.

continued on right...

Accredited Ministry Formation

Rev Mike Bartlett



Some might think it foolhardy to step into a role that has been faithfully serviced by one Rev. Dr. M. Cousins for the previous 5 years (and with excellence!). However, with several months now having passed since I started facilitating Accredited Ministry Formation, I have experienced a wonderful season of learning, building relationships, and appreciating some of the many ways that God is at work in the churches of our movement.

As I'm sure many pastors would appreciate, it is possible to become hyper-focused when leading a local church (as I had been doing for almost a decade) and personally I've really enjoyed the opportunity to have a change of scene and challenge, even in the midst of this very strange time in human history!

In practicality, some of what this has looked like over the last few months has included:

- Getting to know the BCSA Ministry & Operations Team and the Accreditation & Ordination Committee, and all that goes on at the BapCave (way more than I realised!).
- Engaging in process of critical reflection with the 12 current candidates who are at various stages of the accreditation process (three of whom will be accredited at November Assembly).
- Facilitating our current Peer Group (currently five candidates in that stage of the process).
- Facilitating our annual 'Recognised Pastor' intensive for 10 pastors, chaplains, and interns from across our movement.
- Building relationships with Tabor and Bible College of South Australia, our key local partners in ministry education.
- Speaking with and offering guidance to pastors and churches considering engaging in the Accredited Ministry Formation process.

Finally - our Pastors' Conference this year proved not just a great time of learning and community, but also a fantastic opportunity to communicate with various folks about both why I've stepped into this role, and how I hope it continues to serve our movement in bringing formed, wise, and courageous leadership to our churches into the future.

If you're interested in Accredited Ministry Formation in any way, either for yourself, or for someone on your team or in your church community, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

We were glad to be together with leaders from across our movement for 4D Leadership Conference, featuring guest speakers Graham Hill and Grace Ji-Sun Kim. A particular highlight from this year's conference were the GODx Talks as five local leaders shared fantastic talks.

We celebrated with 13 interns from 10 local churches as they graduated from our Leadership Internship at the end of 2020. They were shaped, developed, and inspired as they set off to take on upcoming leadership opportunities in the Church and in the workplace. At the start of 2021 we launched again with 16 participants from 10 churches. We are excited to be investing into a diverse and promising group for the future. If you know of someone who should be joining us in 2022, please let me know!



Next Gen Ministry

Beth Hoy & Mary Ackers (pictured)



Perhaps the most significant win of this year has been the return of our camps! It was a great blessing to have Easter Camp successfully return, and to see it through with no major interruption from COVID-19 restrictions. The decision to create two Easter Camps in 2021 – one for years 7-10 and one for years 11-12 – allowed us to shape each camp more specifically, and dive deep into conversations about God and faith. With 250 campers and leaders across both camps, we have seen an incredible response to the gospel, and many have taken the important step of being baptised because of their experiences on camp.

The Next Gen ministry has also seen the return of Missions & Me (M&M) Kids Camp. Unfortunately this has been rescheduled for October due to a recent lockdown. The M&M team are planning in hopeful expectation for this to also be a Spirit-filled and fruitful event!

We are so thankful for the diligent efforts of each of our camp leadership teams, Core Teams, and Directors; Jon and Kate Brill, Mary Ackers, Deb Potter, and Isaiha Groeneveld, as they have planned and executed despite the changes that are constantly occurring.

We continue to navigate how to support and care for our generations' pastors and leaders as they, in turn, care for their ministries in this ever-changing world. Through Zoom, phone calls, and face-to-face meetings where possible, we have processed the challenges and the opportunities together.

Easter Camp experiences - year 11-12 (left), year 7-10 (right)



Intercultural Ministry

Rev Darryl Bishop



As the community of South Australia and indeed our movement becomes more ethnically diverse, it is important that we are intentional in ensuring that neither a person's language nor culture becomes a stumbling block to following Jesus as part of our Baptist family.

Around our nation and within our communities, such terms as ethnic, LOTE (Language other than English), NESB (non-English Speaking Backgrounds), CALD (Culturally & Linguistically Diverse), cross-cultural/multicultural and diaspora churches are used. Recently, as people of "the book" we have opted to use the term **intercultural**. The Intercultural Ministries Facilitator exists to resource and actively support these churches and their pastoral leaders, and it is a tremendous privilege to do so.

In an **intercultural community**, structures and everyday interactions are defined by justice, mutuality, respect, equality, understanding, acceptance, freedom, diversity, peace-making, and celebration. People from different cultural groups interact with one another, learn and grow together, build relationships, and become transformed, shaped, and moulded from each other's experiences. No one is left unchanged in the intercultural process. Many learn more about what it means to be in community together.

A significant part of our growing culturally diversity are people from the Chin and Kayin (Karen) States of Myanmar. Adelaide Chin Christian Church includes people from the Hakha ethnic group. At our November Assembly in 2020, we welcomed the Adelaide Lai Christian Church and their Falam ethnic group community into membership. We are also enriched by the contribution of the Adelaide Matu Christian Church and the Zotung Family Church. We are currently on a journey with a church with people from the Zomi ethnic group. The Zo congregation and our two Karen fellowships contribute in a significant way to the life of Salisbury, Mt Gambier and Playford Baptist Churches. Please pray for these churches, particularly for peace in all the upheaval unfolding in their home country of Myanmar.

Pastoral Services

Rev Mark Foley



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. We do this because there is overwhelming evidence that being well connected with others who understand both the person and the role is a key to maintaining well-being.

For the Pastoral Service Facilitator this occurs by focusing on three main areas:

1. **Pastors Renewal Retreats.** About 50% of our pastors are involved in these and are finding them a very effective means of being supported and staying fresh. Over this year several Retreats for our male pastors are coming to an end of their two-year cycle. This will mean many new groups are launched in 2022. We have also had three groups for women in ministry commence this year thanks to the initiative and support of Jenny Pryor.
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. I facilitate two groups in the western and southern regions and Terry Williams facilitates in the north. We are exploring the possibility of other networks for those who serve in specific areas.
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, and 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 possible 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 ministries they exercise. Please continue to pray for them in their service.

Rural & Regional Ministry

Rev Leigh Philp



There is a saying in SA relevant to those who live and work in Rural areas: "South Australia doesn't end at Gepps Cross." For some of our rural church settings there can be a sense of being distant and overlooked (not true!) - yet there is wonderful Kingdom work happening through our rural churches across the State. I salute those who go where God calls them and continue day-by-day to chip away to bring God's intentions and outcomes, as in any faith community.

I can say with confidence that the members of our rural churches are being faithfully cared for: theologically, as community, through Pastoral Care, as people of God who matter. As I visit rural leaders, hear the stories, listen to the heartaches, celebrate together God's faithfulness, and pray and dream together - I hear Pastors who are dedicated to being Kingdom people, who care for their flock, and who value our prayers for them and our 'family' connections with them.

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. Particularly in these pandemic-affected times, please pray for strength, creativity, and relevance in these towns, that our rural churches will be a valued source of hope, connection, strength, and Good News!

Independent Director of Professional Standards

Carl Collins



To say that it has been another challenging COVID-19 year would be a gross understatement.

A key goal has been to maintain a high level of training, support, and consultancy to churches in terms of Child Protection and Professional Standards. I believe this has been achieved, due to the highly developed and implemented systems and structures that BCSA have in place, along with the incredible support, co-operation and "buy in" from our pastors, their ministry/leadership teams, as well as those who serve in the areas of children, youth, and pastoral care. I want to also acknowledge and thank the Child Protection Contact Officers (CPCO's) in each church for the incredible work that they do. To say that we all have our part to play sounds like a cliché, however it's a fact.

The Child Protection and Professional Standards component of the BCSA website has recently been updated. I encourage people to take the time to look over the site as it provides important information and a comprehensive overview of the BCSA Child Protection and Professional Standards strategy.

We remain on track to professionally record/film updated versions of a range of child protection intensives/seminars. This also includes a new build of IT platforms capable of much higher demands to that of the current system. Unfortunately, this process has been delayed twice due to COVID-19 restrictions but will be completed prior to the end of 2021 and released in February 2022. Face-to-face training will continue to be our preferred model, however the live recorded online sessions will provide a range of new options in 2022. This online model continues to be financially supported by both Baptist Insurance Services and Child Protection Solutions. The updated range of the online seminars will also continue to be made available to Baptist churches across Australia.

A major review of the BCSA Child Protection Policy was completed and ratified in June and this policy, along with a new BCSA Government Child Protection Compliance submission is in the process of being submitted to the Department for Child Protection in line with legislative requirements. BCSA must meet all legislative requirements in order to obtain SA Government Child Protection Compliance Status.

In terms of Professional Standards, a high level of consultancy and support continues to be provided to churches within this portfolio.

Last year I advised that the principles of the BCSA Child Protection and Professional Standards structure was in the process of being duplicated and implemented into the Baptist Union of the Northern Territory (BUNT). This process has now been successfully completed and BUNT now have a structure consistent to that of BCSA, however specific to BUNT.

I want to take this opportunity to also thank Rev Dr Melinda Cousins, the Officers of the Association, and the Assembly Board for the ongoing opportunities to journey with, and support BCSA in the complex areas of Child Protection and Professional Standards.

Business & Systems (Baptist Centre)

Glenn Dixon

Hello and greetings from the Baptist Centre. Amongst the usual day-to-day support we provide to our movement, the larger projects that the office has been working on include:

- Management of church property changes for Mannum Community Church;
- Several small projects to keep our office building safe and well-maintained;
- Taking the first steps to find a new home for the Baptist Office, and
- Continuing to provide bookkeeping support to 9 of our churches (including the NT).

continued on right...

Finance

Bridget Townsend



The Finance and Administration section provides accounting, banking, payroll, insurance, bookkeeping, and reception services to churches and faith-based organisations. In short, "God is Good", the financial statement for Baptist Churches of SA shows a healthy surplus for 2020/21.

In the current environment of uncertainty due to COVID-19, we are thankful to member churches for their continual contributions as they allow us to sustain and maintain the level of services provided. This year contributions were above revised budget of \$240,000 by 20.21% bringing the contribution for the year to \$288,507. Compared to the normal budget of \$300,000, it is 3.83% below budget, compared to 2.17% below last financial year. The exciting news is that 50% of church contributions went towards church planting.

Facts and figures of interest:

- Bequest from J.M. Diprose Estate was received with gratitude as we extend our thanks to him and prayers to his family.
- Donations received, Baptist Financial Services (BFS) Distribution and Capital Contribution Grant were greatly appreciated and contributed vital support to the ministries of BCSA.
- HoodSweeney continues to be our Investment Advisors in 2020/21.
- Healthcare Australia remains our tenant at the Baptist Centre and have renewed their lease agreement for another 3 years. This is beneficial as the income generated from this tenancy ensures cash flow availability.
- 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 was 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 received from the Commonwealth and State governments.

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, Cathy Turner, Ruth Grace, Benito Carbone, and Glen Thornley (BFS & BIS). Well done team!

There is nothing as constant as change, and we have seen some more changes in our staff. We farewelled Ruth Grace as she took maternity leave and welcomed Benito Carbone as her temporary replacement.

I would especially like to thank our volunteers who help us in a several ways throughout the week, either in the office or working remotely – Chris Butler, Peter Wiskich and new recruit Rebecca Hearnden, who is working on translating our archive material to electronic form.

If there is anything that you think we could do – or 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.



Working with the Northern Territory

Rev Dr
Melinda Cousins



BCSA works alongside the Baptist Union of the Northern Territory (BUNT) to support churches and pastors in the NT. COVID-19 has made connecting in person more difficult, but has, I think, helped us all become more attuned to the opportunities and challenges of online and remote interactions.

In 2021, Mike Mills has continued as Director of Ministries for BUNT, as BCSA continues to provide support under the Memorandum of Understanding established in 2011. This includes Toni Rehrmann from Darwin Baptist currently being part of our Accredited Ministry Formation process, and her voice and perspective are greatly valued.

We were looking forward to numbers of pastors joining us for 4D Conference and Pastors Gathering. While last minute lockdowns and border restrictions thwarted this for many, we delighted in welcoming Mal Sercombe to 4D and Warren Douglas to Pastors Gathering.

I am grateful for the opportunity to listen, learn, and share with our NT churches and pastors at the BUNT Assembly in September. Our boards have continued exploration of a possible merger between the associations, with the BCSA Assembly Board establishing a Taskforce to consider the best path forward. BUNT initiated this conversation due to an ongoing appreciation for the encouragement, resourcing, and connection experienced from our movement. Australian Baptist Ministries and Global Interaction are supporting us in this exploration, and how to best work alongside our Indigenous churches in the NT.



Graham Brown
CEO



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.

With and on behalf of Baptist Churches of SA, Baptist Care SA has continued to adapt to the challenges of entrenched poverty and despair that have been exacerbated by COVID-19. Through it all, we have seen more services and genuine care expressed, more hope inspired and more lives transformed! Continuing pursuit of our *Strategic Horizons Plan*, has led to:

- Provision of quality support services to thousands of vulnerable children, marginalised young people, struggling families and adults;
- WestCare Day Centre creatively adapting to sustain their provision of emergency relief and food even when the dining room had to remain closed;
- Our Community Food Hub providing food hampers and emergency relief to thousands of vulnerable people including stranded international university students;
- Stronger missional relationships with a growing number of Baptist Churches through the development of *Collaborative Community Projects*;
- Acquisition of the Wirraway Homestead campsite at Strathalbyn;
- A bold new *Reconciliation Action Plan* that fosters cultural competencies and stronger collaborative links with Aboriginal people, communities and organisations;
- Development of a *Housing Pathways Strategy* that aims to increase access to safe, appropriate and affordable places to call home for the vulnerable people that access our services, including people living with disabilities;
- Establishment of the *Toward Home Alliance* to provide better integrated services to homelessness people in the Adelaide CBD, Hills and Southern metropolitan area.

I thank the Baptist Care SA Board for their diligent, insightful and faithful governance. We also gratefully acknowledge increasing financial support of our generous donors and the Baptist Care SA Foundation that helps to sustain our life-changing daily endeavours.

Finally, as my tenure as CEO draws to a close at the end of 2021, it has been my personal privilege to serve the community alongside a skilled and dedicated group of executives, managers, staff and volunteers. I pray that Baptist Care SA will continue to be blessed with opportunities to assist vulnerable and marginalised people to forge their own *Transition Pathways* from adversity to opportunity by making 'healthy choices easy choices'.

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."

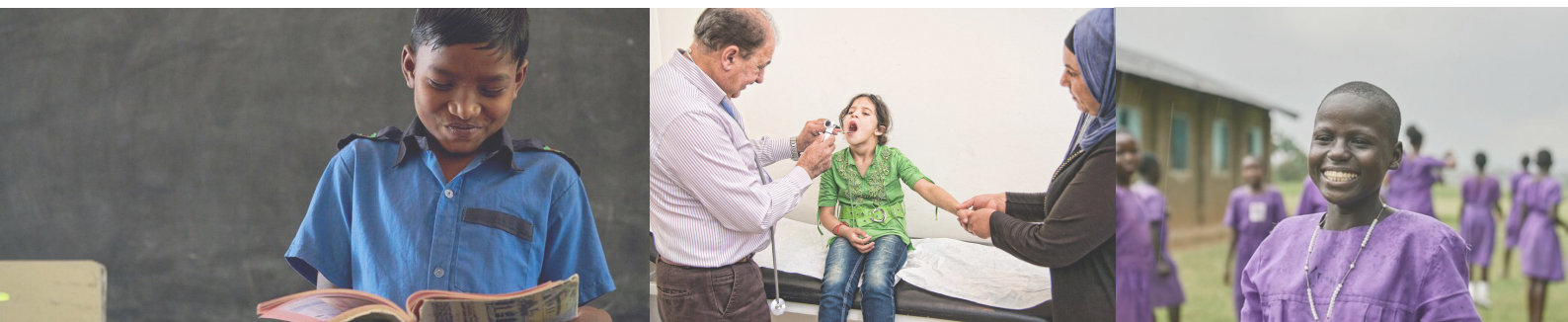
Wow! South Aussie Baptists have been generous beyond all expectations in 2021. There's been so much happening around the world, and we seem to roll from one crisis to the next – all with the dark cloud of COVID-19 hanging over our heads. Just like last year, it has been such a blessing to see how lots 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 dream of a world where poverty has ended, and all people enjoy the fullness of life God intends.

I am so pleased to be able to report, that despite the pressures of the pandemic, South Aussie Baptist people and churches have (for the first time ever) given over \$1million to help end global poverty! In fact, it was approximately \$1.2M, which is just astounding! Thank you all so much for your kindness and support.

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. It will also help us strengthen and develop Health Programs through Baptist hospitals in PNG. Of course, there is the unfolding situation in Afghanistan too, which we are able support in meaningful ways.

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.

Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.
Isaiah 1:17 (NRSV)



Dr David Turnbull

What we do

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

What a year of change it has been for the Global Interaction SA/NT team. Jane Norman finished up in December 2020 as the Executive Assistant, while I concluded my role as State Director in July 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact society but ongoing prayer and financial support toward the vision for outback Australia and the 'least-reached' people groups, particularly in Cambodia, Thailand and Malawi remained consistent, for which there is much gratitude.

One special highlight for the year was the Haydon family finally departing for Malawi in January 2021, after reaching 100% support. They are progressing with culture and language learning after adjusting and settling in.

Two new workers from SE Asia finally reached Adelaide in April 2021 and stayed for two months before travelling to Sydney to commence studies at Morling College. A big thanks to the Grange community for their hospitality and their support in the month of May.

South Australia welcomed a new candidate, Suzanne from Port Pirie, for the Silk Road probably from 2023. She is now building a partnership team.

We praise God for the ongoing development of young adult programs: Unearthed, a group for globally minded young adults in the Baptist community which met twice to explore global issues; and the new 12:31 Challenge program in 2021 to coach those journeying with Buddhist companions.

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



Rev John Beasy - Consultant, Company of Grace (BCSA appointee)

The saddest and most impactful matter to report this last year has been the passing of our dear Director Hoa (Peter) Van Stone peacefully at the COG home with his wife Hien and Company of Grace family on 12th April 2021.

Hoa had been suffering for some time from the after-effects of his childhood polio, known as post-polio syndrome. The last time it flared up he became confined to a wheelchair and could no longer use his crutches to get around. Sadly this condition flared up again with a rare complication of post-polio syndrome attacking his brain and placing him in a state of unconsciousness. While the doctors did all they could to stave off other infections, sadly his condition continued to worsen.

A public funeral service was held in Vietnam and streamed live, on Wednesday 14th April in Ho Chi Minh City. A celebration of his life service was also held in Adelaide at Aldgate Baptist Church on Saturday 24th April.

Hoa will be deeply missed and always remembered for his selfless, caring heart and incredible impact on this world and all those fortunate enough to have known him.

Until his passing, and as the COVID-19 constraints allowed, progress continued on the House of Grace development adjacent to Company of Grace land. This project is still very much a current priority. COVID-19 lockdowns in 2021 however have brought all project work to a halt. This will commence as soon as it is allowed, and the project will be developed according to the plan.

Following the time of Hoa's passing, John Beasy met with Andy McCulloch (Global Interaction) and Melinda Cousins (BCSA) to explore contingency arrangements to support Hien in the leadership of COG. It was agreed that Mark Pham and his wife Ngoc would be assigned by Global Interaction to serve in Ho Chi Min, to provide ministry support to COG in its restorative mission. The intent will be to oversee the plans for COG mission in the local area, and pursue the intended alignment of COG to a local Church ministry.



Hoa with his COG Team in late-December 2020

This is an exciting development which will gain further definition and practice once restrictions have been lifted. A MOU is being developed to guide this ministry relationship as a genuine partnership between COG, BCSA and Global Interaction.

Both Mark and Ngoc sense that partnering with the Company of Grace is where they are most needed at this point in time.

More than ever, we ask that you maintain your faithful support to Hien and Company of Grace as there will be challenges ahead.



Baptist Financial Services

Glen Thornley



BFS gratefully acknowledges the many churches, Baptist ministries, and other supporters who pool their financial resources with BFS to enable these resources to be available for Kingdom purposes. BFS total assets under management have grown to exceed \$500 million.

We are pleased to have expanded our Client Services team with several new members, as well as other new staff across BFS which we hope will be a blessing to each client we serve as we continue to grow in our mission to *Resource Christian Ministry through Good Stewardship*.

During the year, BFS approved funding for several new church buildings and renovations in South Australia. We are also working with around five ministries on new projects about to commence. BFS currently manages approximately \$45 million in accounts for South Australian clients and has over \$25 million in outstanding loan accounts locally.

We introduced an upgrade to *Giveway*, our online giving platform that facilitates offerings, donations, and other payments to be made easily for church and ministry activities or appeals. The system's flexibility and user experience has been greatly enhanced, offering new features tailored to the needs of Christian ministry. Please contact me to find out more about this.

BFS provides significant support to ministry activities in South Australia through operating and capital grants to BCSA, and through sponsorships. This year, BFS has provided funding to assist running several events, including the Pastors', 4D Leadership, Inspire and Lifewell conferences, as well as providing resources for Easter Camp. Throughout the year we have also supported national ministry projects around Australia with Australian Baptist Ministries, Global Interaction Australia, Baptist World Aid, Global Leadership Network and CMA.

Please get in touch with us if there is any way we can support the ministries you are engaged in. That is the reason we do what we do, and we would be very pleased to help further the work He has called you to do.



Baptist Insurance Services

Glen Thornley

Thinking back to my childhood, nobody ever had an "analogue" watch – we just had a watch. Analogue watches didn't exist until they needed to be distinguished from digital watches. This time last year, we were all concerned about COVID-19 – but today we look back almost nostalgically at the relative safety of a society under threat of what we now know as the *Alpha* strain, as we consider the risks of its *Delta* successor. In uncertain times, it is indeed comforting to realise none of this is a surprise to our great God. He has seen it all, and knows how to deal with it all. We need only to follow His lead.

In SA, life has – but for some minor detours – flowed along more closely to the normal patterns when compared to our Eastern cousins. This has included fire and flood, accident and theft, and BIS has been able to provide assistance in many of these circumstances through the year.

Of particular note is a series of theft / malicious damage claims where copper pipe has been stripped from various pieces of fixed infrastructure (mostly air conditioners and hot water services) leaving significant damage and inconvenience for the constituent to deal with. The prevalence of "working from home" has also provided opportunity for a significant number of cyber-crime incidents around the country. Each claim has the potential to cost serious amounts of money to repair damage to systems, data, and reputations, and potentially provide reparations to other people whose personal information has been compromised.

The ever-increasing frequency and scale of these claims has caused the premiums for this class of insurance to increase dramatically. BIS has had to take extraordinary measures to maintain this cover just for our churches for the next policy year. We encourage every constituent to review and upgrade their procedures to protect against cyber-attack, so our claims history does not prevent this cover being available in future years.

Our National Office strives to buy the most cost-effective insurance that still provides the necessary cover for our constituents. The scale of our group certainly opens more doors than would be available to an individual church, and we continue to provide a program of insurance at the leading edge of faith-based schemes in Australia.

We look forward to protecting all our constituents again in 2022.

35 – 39 King William Road
Unley SA 5061

PO Box 432
Unley SA 5061
☎ 08 8357 1755
sabaptist.asn.au



Baptist Churches
of South Australia

