

21

A movement of local churches thriving in Jesus, transforming the world!



Annual Report

22



Baptist Churches
of South Australia

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



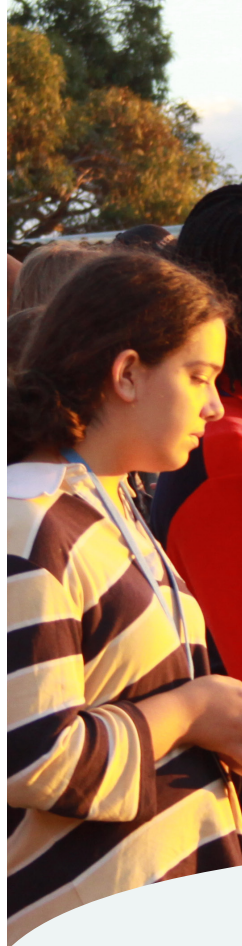
Mission

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**

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From the President



**Daniel
Gardiner**

Despite the continuing impact of COVID-19 there has been much to be thankful for this year.

We continue to see health in our movement with existing churches seeking to either church plant or help re-invigorate other fellowships. We also continue to journey with existing churches seeking to join the Baptist movement. In recent years, the majority of these have been culturally diverse congregations creating opportunity for the movement to learn and benefit from a wider experience of God's mercy and grace.

There has been goodwill and progression in our discussions with our Sister organisation in Northern Territory (BUNT) regarding our proposed amalgamation. As the incoming government has stated its intent to progress further enshrining an indigenous voice into the Australian constitution, it seems timely that our own journey of deeper understanding and relationship with our Indigenous sisters and brothers will increase as the journey towards amalgamation continues.

Personally, I am grateful for my colleagues around the Assembly Board table. Although at times there can be robust discussion there is a real sense of common purpose and respect. Like all organisations coming through the pandemic there is a need to re-evaluate many of our processes and policies and real Godly wisdom and insight is required at this time. I am pleased that this continues to be evident in our own board and with the recent addition of Rev Dan Beasy we believe this will continue.

Moving forward it is clear that the proposed amalgamation with BUNT will continue to draw the Assembly Board's focus as will our ongoing relationship with Baptist Care SA. We are delighted that they have been successful in appointing a new CEO (Shane Austin) and can already see that with this new appointment there are new opportunities. With our own Director of Ministries (Melinda) also bringing fresh eyes to the partnership, we recognise the opportunity to revisit how the strengths that the two organisations bring might better feed into each other.

The Board also continues to note our strong financial health. We are grateful to God for His provision and also recognise the generosity and good governance of those who have gone before us. It continues to be a focus of the board to make sure that we utilise this provision well towards the current vision and ministry of the Assembly but also that we continue to build a platform for the future vision of the next generation.

Finally, I would like to recognise each member of our association, whatever your size, health, strengths or weaknesses, the board and ministries of the association seeks to serve you well and are grateful for you. As we continue to journey together and welcome others into our 'tribe' let us remember how God has asked us to function.

"... some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad."

1 Corinthians 12:22-26



From the Director of Ministries



**Rev Dr
Melinda
Cousins**

The past 12 months have continued to bring changes and challenges for our churches, as for our world. The pandemic has amplified questions we were already asking about our practices and assumptions, and perhaps exposed frailties in our expectations or habits. Violence and oppression in various nations has moved us to prayer and compassionate response, and continues to see those seeking refuge and peace join our communities and our movement. Debates around identity and history swirling around us invite us to consider the voice of the Spirit and the call of the Scriptures to both faithfulness and kindness.

Above and alongside us, in and among all things, throughout and within all seasons, Jesus remains King. We continue to worship Him, to hear His voice, to seek to respond to His call, and to participate in His kingdom mission. We continue to trust that as we thrive in Him, He is transforming the world.

BCSA's purpose is to support, encourage, influence and extend the life and mission of the local church. Our team seeks to advocate mission, facilitate connections, resource churches, cultivate leaders, and inspire imagination across our movement. This is underpinned by the rhythms of prayer, and it is a privilege to gather each weekday at our office to pray for you as churches and leaders, and each week to sit in the Scriptures and listen for God's voice in our midst.

God is faithful in answering our prayers. This year we have seen people across our movement come to know Jesus and be baptised, discern a call to ministry and step out in faith to follow, and use their gifts in leadership, administration, service, teaching, evangelism and so much more to encourage and equip one another, to demonstrate love in action to those in need, and to make Jesus known to many. We've welcomed new pastors, new churches, new congregations, new leaders, and new believers. We've been blessed with God's ongoing provision, even as we seek to faithfully steward the resources those who have come before us have invested and entrusted us with.

As you read this year's annual report, I pray that you will be excited to celebrate God's unfailing goodness to us, invited to see and explore your own place in our story, and challenged to seek with us what it looks like to follow Jesus into all He has for us next.

Church Development



Rev Mark Sanders

My first year as Church Development Facilitator has been focussed on finding my feet and getting to know the pastors, churches, and local ministry contexts of our movement. As I have done this I have been continually encouraged by the commitment and faithfulness of the leaders of our movement and their heart to share the gospel and be a blessing to their local communities.

My ministry has included leading the moderating committee and supporting churches in a wide range of ways including providing staff training, leadership workshops, NCLS presentations, pastoral search support, regular preaching, facilitating pastor forums, working on a new Church planting strategy and supporting pastors.

The role has enabled me to identify a number of key challenges and opportunities facing our movement at this time. The Covid pandemic has impacted the capacity and confidence of Churches to engage in ministry and mission effectively and additionally, the changing nature of Australian society is causing us to reassess how the Church fulfills its mission. The key question we face include:

- How do we make disciples and build community in a time when people are attending Church as a gathered community less regularly?
- How do we live out our mission to share the gospel and make disciples in an increasingly secular society?
- How do we champion the need for, and provide support for emerging pastoral leaders to meet the demands now and into the future?
- How do we encourage and support Church Planting when many churches are feeling the impact of Covid on their ministry capacity?
- How do we support leaders responsible for governance in our churches in an age of greater complexity and regulatory requirements?

While I don't profess to have all the answers to these complex questions, I'm excited by the challenge of supporting churches across our movement as they seek to respond to them with faith, confidence and courage.

Accredited Ministry Formation



Rev Mike Bartlett

Having had the privilege of serving in this role for just over a year now, I've been generously blessed with many opportunities to visit and speak with several of our communities of faith. Through journeying with our pastors and church leaders, it's clear that our neighbourhoods are continuing to wrestle with the challenges that the emergence from this pandemic brings; without doubt it's been another challenging year.

That said, God is of course not just faithful, but continually surprising! I say this in reference to both the new and ongoing calls to the many varied types of folks called to the task of vocational pastoral ministry! Wonderful testimonies to this fact include:

Four of our pastors completing the Accredited Ministry Formation process, and then being subsequently ordained by the communities that have called them, with three of them being women! These are Michelle Stevens, Beth Hoy, Miranda Dixon, as well as Mick Barrett who is now serving as a chaplain at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, and with the Royal Australian Navy.

The welcoming of new pastors to the Accredited Ministry Formation process; this includes another of our Burmese brothers – Pastor Suan, of Bethel Mission Church in Parafield Gardens, who became an Affiliate Member Church with BCSA at last year's Spring Assembly. Along with Abe Johnson (Edwardstown) Kenneth Henderson (Playford) and Nick Van Ruth (Hills) these pastors constitute our current Peer Group - with more 'in the pipeline!'

On a personal note, this year has also brought with it the opportunity to partner with Tabor College in an adjunct teaching and student liaison capacity, which also brings another weekly opportunity to journey alongside some of the pastors in training from our movement, as they equip themselves theologically for the call to ministry; such 'work' is in fact a joy for which I'm deeply grateful.



Leadership Development



Rev Elliot
Keane

We continue to trust in the God who is always at work, and we can notice, name and celebrate stories from across our movement where God is transforming lives and building his church even amidst the challenges and changes of these times.

In 2021/2022 I continued to serve our churches in the area of Leadership Development where I have the privilege of leading our Pastors Gathering, 4D Conference, and other learning opportunities for Pastors, leaders and volunteers and especially working alongside our local churches to identify and develop emerging leaders for our movement and beyond.

Our Pastors Gathering in 2021 we gathered together for two days of recovery and renewal for our pastors and were joined via Zoom by Brian Harris from WA who helped us to move beyond the moment we found ourselves in at the time. Our Pastors were well fed, well cared for and were encouraged by Brian and by one another. We appreciated Brian's timely wisdom and pastoral heart so much that for 4D Leadership Conference in 2022 we had Brian Harris back to share with us on Unexpected Leadership for Unexpected Times, this time in person! He artfully helped us turn our full stops into commas and consider the unexpected opportunities we have found in front of us. As well as these two important gatherings we were able to facilitate seminars and development opportunities for Pastors and church leadership teams in the areas of Conflict, Mission & Culture and Mental Health First Aid.

At the end of 2021 we celebrated another cohort of 15 Leadership Interns from 10 churches who were sent into their local church and vocation better equipped to be followers of Jesus and leaders of His people. From the beginning of 2022 we have loved learning alongside another cohort of 13 Leadership Interns from 10 churches. We continue to pray for the raising up of leaders who develop leaders and hopefully look for the next cohort of emerging leaders in every local church.

This year I added the exciting area of Mission Development to the scope of my role. In this part of my role I have the absolute joy and fun of working alongside churches and leaders who want to explore new and renewed ministry and mission in neighbourhoods, in evangelism, in justice and advocacy, in partnerships and mutual learning with Indigenous sisters and brothers, and together with Mark Sanders in church planting and church revitalisation. While we acknowledge that this year has been difficult to prioritise and resource activity outside of the day to day ministry and pastoral care in our churches, we continue to hear stories of imaginative improvisation as churches take the opportunity that is before us to substantially reimagine their practices and priorities for the next season. We celebrate with you the many Baptisms and new connections that have been made, as well as rejoice as churches take creative and courageous steps into a new season. I am looking forward to walking with more churches as we respond to the voice and call of the Holy Spirit to venture into new neighbourhoods, new ministry opportunities with a reinvigorated heart for evangelism and discipleship and a hopeful imagination for what's next!

Pastoral Services



Rev Mark
Foley

During this past year, along with my normal Pastoral Services Facilitator roles, I have been heavily involved in moderating a number of churches including supporting their prospective pastors during the time of transition and giving some consideration as to how we could better support pastors transitioning into retirement and having just retired. This continues to be something I am working on and in which I am finding great satisfaction.

As the Pastoral Service Facilitator my role focuses on three main areas:

1. Pastors Renewal Retreats. This past year I have been greatly encouraged as we have 3 women in ministry retreat groups and 5 men's retreat groups with another one likely to form. This means that over 65% of our pastors and many of our other folk in ministry are now utilising the benefits of these groups.
2. With all that was happening to resource and support pastors I decided during this year that the local networks were not being as effective as they had in the past and so suspended my involvement in initiating them. However since that time with an increasing number of new folk stepping into ministry within our movement I am wondering about the value of reforming some specific and perhaps short term gatherings of people in ministry within specific contexts.
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 time. However while it is part of my role to confidentially help pastors access these services I have found this past year that with a high level of trust and relationships within the movement many have found the services they need through other connections.

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 and Regional Ministry



Rev Leigh
Philp

As for everyone, this year in our Rural Churches has been characterised by the ongoing complexities of the 'Covid effect' on attendance, how best to be church in this season, and at times seeking unity in a diverse world. I commend all our Rural Pastors for continuing diligence in a less-predictable world, for always seeking the shalom of Kingdom values above all things, for exhibiting and living out godly characteristics of compassion, mercy, faithfulness and grace.

While our rural churches are often physically separated by great distance, the common unity of seeking Kingdom fruit in word and deed has been sustained, as rural church communities continue to seek to be a 'beacon' to their local town and surrounds, despite some very real trials at times. There is genuine diversity expressed in these places, as local churches seek to respond appropriately to their particular town and culture.

Some of our rural churches have suffered loss in key leadership roles, and we surround those churches with prayer and support as they seek the best path forward through change. May you thrive! At the same time, we celebrate with others as they transfer church activities into different premises and so new possibilities. These changes are the fruit of godly vision, patience, and persistent, dogged faith! May you also thrive!



Intercultural Ministry



**Rev Darryl
Bishop**

In the longest of Jesus' recorded prayers, He prays that we would be one as He and the Father are One (John 17:21-23). The specific reason being that people would recognise that He is the promised Messiah and that the Father loves them. In the broken and fragmented world in which we live, this maybe our most important missional strategy. The story of the early church is a story of transformation as God broke down "dividing walls" and took His people beyond the monoculturalism of Judaism to create a new intercultural community.

We are in a time of transition as the cultural diversity of our city and regional areas continue to grow. God is on mission within our migrant communities. Before us, we have an opportunity to learn and grow together; to build relationships, to be transformed, moulded, and changed.

There are so many good news stories from around our movement. These are emerging from our Chinese communities at Hallett Cove and Rostrevor. Chinese Alpha continues to bear fruit under the leadership of Ps Gordon Liao. Covid and the need to go online has birthed new home groups in overseas countries.

Within our Burmese communities we will welcome Bethel Mission Church into full membership at our November Assembly. The pastor of this church, Ps Suan Mung has commenced our Accredited Ministry Formation program. Ps Thang Tunngung from the Zo Baptist congregation of Salisbury Baptist and Lian Thang from the Matu Church are involved in our Internship program. Seven young leaders from our Burmese churches participated in our statewide M&M Children's Camp.

Two of our CaLD leaders attended the BUV Multicultural Pastors' Conference in Victoria in May. Hope Arabic under the pastoral leadership of Mina Boktor is now meeting at West Beach Community Church where Mina serves as Next Gen Pastor. Meanwhile a Persian Fellowship group whose leadership includes Mehdi Rouzafzoun meets regularly at Unley Park Baptist. Ps Gelu Bondor continues to faithfully pastor the Romanian Baptist Church at Mile End.

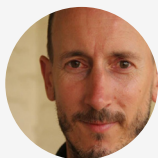
Playford Baptist Church includes a Bhutanese congregation, Karen (Myanmar) and Sudanese fellowships. Another Karen fellowship meets at Mt Gambier. Camden Baptist has developed an International Connect ministry which meets monthly on a Saturday evening. Around our movement there are also Korean, Tamil, African (Kenyan), Vietnamese and Filipino communities that relate to local churches.

There is an old song that finishes with these lines:

Let us join our hands
That the world may know
We are one in the bond of love.

These words so aptly sum up Jesus' High Priestly Prayer. The Kingdom of Heaven is not segregated, nor should our movement or our local churches be segregated.

Next Gen and Young Adults Ministry



Rev Scott
Berry

The shape of the next generation ministry looks different in 2022 than what it has been in the past and this change wasn't due to COVID-19. Under Melinda's guidance, the next gen role has been tweaked so that it is no longer one person seeking to oversee all ministries from birth to 25 years old. Instead, we have sought to divide the role so it can sit under specific expert practitioners with experience in the field. I lead the team and oversee Young Adult ministries. Mary Ackers is in charge of youth ministries and is the key leader over Easter camps. Tash Pillay oversees children's ministries, and together we form a team with greater networks across the Baptist movement. I know it has been a source of joy and encouragement for each of us to get out and about visiting many pastors in next gen roles across our movement.

The youth and young adult pastors have gathered together twice this year to support and encourage one another in their crucial roles amidst our ever-changing circumstances. We have had one Young Adults event gathering well over 200 young adults from across 20 different churches to wrestle with some of the big questions that come to the fore in that age and stage of life. This night was at Blackwood Hills Baptist Church and included listening to 4 different preachers asking if God cared about my career, my money, my relationships and my mental health. The young adults were given space for some external processing of these issues along with a time for worship and dinner too.



Children's Ministry



Tash
Pillay

I started as the Children's Ministry Facilitator in March 2022. Since then, I have had the opportunity to connect with leaders in children's ministry across the Baptist Movement in South Australia, at the 4D Leadership Conference as well as through phone calls, e-mails and face to face visits.

It was wonderful to be part of M&M Camp which was hosted in July. It provided further opportunity to connect with leaders and churches. 92 children attended the camp alongside 55 leaders (junior and senior). For the first time, we had leaders and children from some of our CALD churches (Zo Baptist, Bethel Mission Church and the Adelaide Chin Christian Church). Partnering with the CALD leaders was the highlight of my year to date. The Camp Committee, headed up by Deb Potter and Isiah Groenewald, are gearing up to plan M&M Camp 2023.

For the rest of this year, I look forward to meeting more of the people who are responsible for running children's ministry in their local churches and hearing how I can continue to support and pray for and with them.



Youth Ministry



**Mary
Ackers**

It's been wonderful to complete my first full year in this role, and to work alongside the newly complete Next Gen team is a huge blessing! I continue to meet with Youth Pastors and leaders from across our movement to hear the ways they see God showing up in their ministries.

Easter Camp returned to Baptist Care's Mylor and Wirraway campsites and saw over 200 campers and 70 leaders present. Special thanks to our leaders, Core Teams, and Directors Kate and Jon Brill (Mylor) and Indi Krieg (Wirraway) for their dedication to making this camp happen. Our young people reflected that camp is a place where they experience the presence of God through the Spirit, learn to listen to God's call on their lives, and discover that following Jesus is an all-of-life journey.

We also held our bi-annual Baptist Youth Gathering (BYG) in Sept 2021 and May 2022, and it was great to experience the buzz of joining together all the Baptist youth of our state for one night. Thanks to the teams at Edwardstown and Gateway Baptist for hosting us!



Independent Director of Professional Standards



**Carl
Collins**

At the risk of repeating last year's report, it has been another year of the ongoing development of systems, structures, and strategies in the complex areas of Child Protection and Professional Standards within BCSA.

The ongoing implementation of the findings and requirements arising out of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, as well as the new Children's and Young People (Safety) Act of South Australia has continued.

In terms of the findings of the Royal Commission, an analysis of BCSA structures revealed that BCSA had already developed and implemented over 90% of the recommendations made. This was a result of proactive and forward thinking in this space. Whilst this is the case, the challenge and responsibility for each and every church is to ensure that established standards are being implemented.

The days of "organisational standards" are gone. We now operate under clear legal and legislative standards that are non-negotiable. Failure to implement legislative standards can result in significant fines, and even denial of insurers to cover any claims made in terms of negligence. Of course, this is secondary, as the safety and well-being of all children, and in fact all people is paramount and our highest priority.

We continue to deliver our high level of customised child protection training along with a range of additional support seminars. Components of the CPS/BCSA child protection training model continues to be utilised by The Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide, Lutheran Church Australia, Lutheran Community Care, Anglicare, and Centacare, along with many independent churches and church affiliated organisations.

We now have an updated South Australian Government approved Child Protection Policy, and BCSA has obtained full Child Protection status via the Department of Child Protection/ Human Services.

The Survivor Support Ministry program continues to provide vital support and guidance to those who have been subject to historic child sexual abuse and are now considering reporting the matter to police. This program is for those within the Baptist family who may have been subject to abuse in any denomination or any other setting. It is not a counselling program, but a program that explains what the process would look like if they chose to proceed. Unfortunately demand for this ministry continues to increase

to disturbing levels.

The Person of Concern (Known Sex Offender) identification, assessment and management process is also an area that keeps us extremely busy, as we profile offenders in order to assess levels of risk. Offenders are profiled via a series of interviews, the examination of a wide range of court documents, transcripts, records of interviews, and victim impact statements etc. This process and Baptist model has also been adopted by a number of denominations.

The continual examination of material and listening to horrendous experiences in relation to both of the above ministry programs is extremely sad and disturbing to say the least, however these intentional ministries ensure a high level of ongoing care, support, direction, safety, accountability, and protection.

In terms of Ethical and Professional Standards, we continue to review and implement well established procedures.

There is so much that I could report on, however the sensitive and extremely complex nature of my role prevents me from doing so. I do however invite people to take a look at the Child Protection and Professional Standards sections of the BCSA Website, where they will find a comprehensive overview of the BCSA Child Protection and Professional Standards systems and structures, including the Child Protection, Professional Standards and Person of Concern Policies.

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincerest appreciation to the fantastic team of Child Protection Contact Officers in each church, as well as Pastors for their incredible support and co-operation. I provide various levels of consultancy to a number of mainstream denominations, and I am seriously blessed by the level of support and cooperation I receive within BCSA. I know that I have stated this before, however it would be remiss if me not to again express my deepest thanks and appreciation.

I also want to acknowledge and thank Chloe Randall (Senior Trainer/Consultant/ Psychotherapist) and John Beasy (Snr Analyst/ Policy Consultant) for the expertise that they bring to CPS and BCSA.

And finally sincerest thanks and appreciation to Melinda Cousins and the BCSA board for their confidence in me, and the opportunity to continue to serve BCSA.

Business and Systems (Baptist Centre)



Glenn
Dixon

Hello and greetings from the Baptist Centre.

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

- Supporting Mitcham Baptist Church as they concluded over 160 years of faithful service to their community
- Helping the Laura & Mt Barker churches in their search for new places to be
- A number of small projects to keep our office building safe and well maintained
- Continuing to look for a new home for the Baptist office
- Providing bookkeeping services to 16 of our churches in SA and the NT

This is amongst the usual day-to-day support we provide to the larger team in the office and to our wider church family. In particular, we were pleased to be able to provide regular updates to churches around COVID Safe Compliance. With the move to “living with COVID” this service was concluded in April 2022.

There is nothing as constant as change, and we have seen some more changes in our staff. We farewelled Benito Carbone in his contracted communications role as we welcomed back Ruth Grace from maternity leave. We also welcomed Tanya Whalland to the newly created Operations Assistant role.

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

Baptist Churches SA and the Baptist Union of the NT have been working together under a Memorandum of Understanding to provide an effective partnership in ministry for over a decade. Early last year, the BUNT Assembly Board approached BCSA to consider exploration of amalgamation between the two Associations. A joint taskforce was established and has met both via Zoom and in person to consider what this could look like practically as well as legally, as well as consideration of the challenges, concerns, needs and opportunities of the 12 member churches currently make up BUNT, six of whom are indigenous churches. It has been a joy to work with BUNT's President Mal Good, Immediate Past President Mal Sercombe, and Vice President Neil Wright, as well as NT DOM Mike Mills.

I had the privilege of attending the BUNT Annual Assembly in September 2021, where gratitude for BCSA's ongoing support was emphatically expressed. I had hoped to join with the NT indigenous churches for their annual Easter celebration this year, however this was unable to go ahead due to Covid restrictions. Another trip is planned for early October 2022, and, we pray, for Easter 2023, as we seek to listen to the voices of our indigenous churches and leaders in our ongoing relationship, and in response to wider conversations across our nation.

The May 2022 Assembly of BCSA passed a formal motion to work towards amalgamation of the two Associations, and a similar motion is going to the September 2022 Assembly of BUNT. This has also received unanimous support and affirmation from the National Council of Australian Baptist Ministries.

We trust that amalgamation will provide significant benefits to both Associations. Our hope is that the NT churches will be released from some of the burdens of governance and administration, and more importantly, further empowered to grow and flourish in mission and ministry. For BCSA, we believe there will be opportunities to grow and learn in mission in rural, remote, indigenous and multicultural communities, and to further steward the resources and skills God has blessed us with for the sake of the kingdom.

As this journey continues to unfold over the coming months, I urge you to be in prayer for our sisters and brothers in the Northern Territory, as well as for wisdom, humility, courage, and vision as we walk and work together into this next season.

Finance



**Bridget
Townsend**

The Finance and Administration Section provides accounting, banking, payroll, insurance, book-keeping to churches and reception services to Baptist Mission Australia, Baptist World Aid, Company of Grace, Child Protection Solutions, Crossover Australia and other areas of ministry which includes the local churches and churches in Northern Territory. The financial statement for Baptist Churches of SA shows a deficit for 2021/22. By the grace of our great God we have completed the 2021/22 financial year ahead of budget.

In the current environment of uncertainty and inflation cause by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russian Invasion of Ukraine and strong consumer demand, we are thankful to the member churches for their continual contributions. 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 received, amounting to \$278,020 from the churches were below the \$300,000 budgeted by 7.33% which is short by \$21,980, compared to 3.83% below normal budgeted by \$11,493 in the last financial year. These contributions were a decrease of \$10,487 on the previous year. The exciting news is that 50% of church contributions went towards church planting.

Facts and figures of interest:

- Donations received, Baptist Financial Services (BFS) Distribution and Capital Contribution Grant were greatly appreciated and contributed vital support to the ministries of BCSA.
- Providence Wealth is our Investment Advisors from 1 April 2022. The decision was made to follow our previously Hood Sweeney's investment advisor to Providence Wealth.
- Healthcare Australia remains our tenant at the Baptist Centre and have renewed their lease agreement for another 3 years till 2024. 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 to 2028.

My grateful thanks to my Finance assistant, Jenny van Tienen for her dedication and able assistance with the day-to-day accounting matters and to the hard-working admin support team of Glenn Dixon, Tam Battersby, Jenny van Tienen, Alison Jeisman, Cathy Turner, Ruth Grace, Tanya Whalland and Glen Thornley (BFS & BIS). Sadly, we have had to say farewell to Benito Carbone. Well done team!



Baptist Care SA



**Shane
Austin
CEO**

It is with a great sense of gratitude I provide you with this year's Baptist Care SA 2021 – 2022 report. While COVID impacted hard on the organisation's result, as well as the lives of its staff and the people we serve, the challenges we were presented with were countered by actions which demonstrated our values, enabled us to overcome adversity and allowed us to fulfil our mission of serving those most in need.

I commit the following to you, for your interest and prayer.

- We launched our practice framework, Tapa Marnirni-Apinthi, which means creating change in Kurna and was named with consultation and authority. Constructed around restorative practice principles, the framework focuses on how we undertake our work with each other, our partners, importantly clients and the community.
- We supported 289 Aboriginal community members including men, women and children across the year as a member of the Toward Home Alliance, and in partnership with DHS.
- Our program, Marni-Padni - Pukulpay anama (safe journey - journey safe in Kurna) supported 105 Aboriginal women and 56 children to return home after travelling from the APY Lands, Northern Territory and Western Australia and being left without housing due to COVID restrictions for an average of 10 months. During this time, the women and children were couch surfing, staying in overcrowded dwellings and sleeping rough in Adelaide's parklands.
- We successfully completed the National Disability Quality and Safeguarding Accreditation and the Quality Improvement Council accreditation.
- Our Church Pathways team led our engagement with local Baptist Churches and we continue to strengthen our combined efforts in seeing the movement grow and have impact.
- Overnight camping by schools and Church groups at our Mylor Adventure Camp and Wirraway Homestead sites was unable to proceed due to COVID restrictions. While this resulted in a material financial impact, we are emerging strongly with schools and students keen to return to camping and adventure activities.
- Baptist Care SA's Westcare Centre continued to address homelessness and connect people to resources and community. Through our strong partnerships with Nunkuwarrin Yunti, Drug and Alcohol Services SA, Royal District Nursing Service, Sight for All, Australian Dental Foundation, University of SA Physiotherapy and Flinders University Social Work, we were able to provide access to sometimes lifesaving health services to people experiencing homelessness.

A special thanks to those members of the movement who have continued to support Baptist Care SA. To the Team and Board of Baptist Care SA, the Assembly, and my fellow leaders in the Baptist movement in SA, a big thank you.



Baptist World Aid



Rev Steve
Woods

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)





Baptist Mission Australia



**Rev Lisa
Cornish**

I came into the role of SA/NT State Leader with Baptist Mission Australia (formerly Global Interaction) in February. Jane Norman (Global Team Administrator) and Rachel Stevens (Next Gen Specialist) have national roles and are based here in SA.

It has been my privilege to have visited churches and leaders around SA and NT, hearing inspirational stories of deep commitment to the mission of God.

Thank you to SA/NT churches and individuals who supported our Teams through the May Mission Month appeal. The "Crossing the Street" resources were widely used to encourage congregations to explore mission.

The Hutchinson family returned to Cambodia in February for their second term. Rachel's project, developing a play and learning space for children with disabilities, has been launched.

The Haydon family will be returning to Australia from Malawi for Home Assignment from December until April 2023.

Suzanne continues to build her partnership team in preparation to serve in the Silk Road area from mid-2023. She is thankful for and continues to welcome opportunities to speak at churches and fellowship groups. Suzanne made a valuable visit to the Team on the field in October.

Simon and Widya continue to develop their partnership team as they prepare for their work in South East Asia.

We continue to pray for Catherine and KimLean as they begin their married life and together continue the work of sharing God's Word in Cambodia.

All our efforts are for the glory of God. He is the God of the harvest. Praise God.



Company of Grace

Rev John Beasy

Consultant appointed by BCSA

The COVID-19 lockdowns in 2022 continued to impact on the capacity of COG to provide direct services.

However, with Mark and Ngoc Pham assigned to Company of Grace by Baptist Mission Australia after the passing of Hoa Stone, to provide missional oversight, there was much work done on the COG facility to upgrade and stabilize areas surrounding the foundations. This has led to the facility looking really refreshed.

Following Hoa's passing, John Beasy met with Andy McCulloch (Baptist Mission Australia) and Melinda Cousins (BCSA) to firm up contingency arrangements to support Hien in the leadership of COG. The clear intent was for Mark to oversee COG mission in the local area and pursue the intended alignment of COG to a local Church ministry.

Along with this Ngoc is giving a lead to the development of services for children within the newly establish House of Grace facility which will serve children and families towards family support and restoration.

At the same time Hien continues to serve as Director of COG and oversees the operations of the COG services.

In May 2022 John Beasy attended on site and shared a time of support and strategic planning, as this was the first time travel had been possible since Covid. This was a very productive time of vision clarification and set in train the focus for the remainder of 2022.

Both Mark and Ngoc sense that partnering with the Company of Grace is where God has called them for the season following Hoa's passing.

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

With Baptist Mission Australia serving now in partnership, there is the opportunity for specified tax deductible giving for projects that are published by BMA / SFI. A current project is for the Lift to be funded for the Grace family home.





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 *Giveaway*, 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,



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.



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