

APRIL - MAY 2021

# TOGETHER IN MISSION



## New Beginnings

We celebrated two ordination services in February, with the involvement of local churches and leaders as well as representatives of the wider Baptist Churches of SA to mark these significant moments in the life of our movement.

On 14 February, Nathan Randall was ordained at Enfield Baptist Church, where he has served as Senior Pastor since early 2020. Mike Mills preached from 1 Peter 5, encouraging both leaders and members to always look

to our Great Shepherd, Jesus.

On 28 February, Pastor Mang Hlei Cung was ordained at the Adelaide Chin Christian Church, the second ordination service there in the last two years, shared in both the Hakha Chin and English languages. It was a great celebration, highlighted by an item from the Youth Choir and the presentation of Chin traditional dress to the new Reverend.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

In this edition: 

GOVERNANCE: SPIRITUAL  
AND INSPIRATIONAL?

PUTTING IT BLUNTLY

NEWS FROM  
THE PORT CHURCH

NEWS FROM GLOBAL  
INTERACTION, BAPTIST  
CARE SA & BAPTIST  
WORLD AID AUSTRALIA

  
**Baptist Churches**  
of South Australia



28/02 - Mang Hlei Cung's Ordination at Adelaide Chin Christian Church



14/02 - Nathan Randall's Ordination at Enfield Baptist Church



21/03 - Jessie Sanders' Induction at Soul Food Christian Community



21/03 - Beth & Llewelyn Hoy's Induction at Aberfoyle Park Baptist Church

## CONTINUED FROM COVER

On March 21, we celebrated two induction services, with the commissioning of new local church pastors. Beth & Llewelyn Hoy were appointed co-Senior Pastors at Aberfoyle Park Baptist Church.

At the celebration service, Andrew Turner led the act of induction, moderator Mark Sanders prayed for them and Director of Ministries Melinda Cousins preached from Psalm 67, after which the Aberfoyle

Park congregation sang a blessing over their new pastors and family.

Jess Sanders has been appointed pastor of Soul Food Christian Community, and her commissioning service coincided with the Café's 15th birthday.

Flick and Glenn Pederick shared on the journey of Soul Food and the community's excitement at this next season, while Melinda Cousins led the act of commissioning Jess into her role.

It is wonderful to see God faithfully raising up new leaders for our churches and we look forward to how Jesus will work in and through them all.

We pray God's continued blessing on Nathan & Chloe, Mang & Nancy, Beth & Llewelyn, Jess, and their families, and for many years of continued fruitful ministry and mission through their local churches.

### ISSUED BY

Baptist Churches of  
South Australia  
35 King William Rd,  
Unley SA 5061

(08) 8357 1755

tim.sabaptist.asn.au  
info@sabaptist.asn.au

Mailing Address  
Baptist Churches of SA  
PO Box 432  
UNLEY SA 5061

### EDITOR

Benito Carbone  
bcarbone@sabaptist.asn.au

### ARTICLES & ADVERTISING

In this publication are the opinions of the authors, not necessarily the editor or publisher. The publishers reserve the right to accept or decline any advertising.

## Transformational Decade? Baptist church life in the 1960s

As part of the SA History Festival, the next meeting of the SA Baptist History Group will be a workshop held on Saturday 22nd May at Knightsbridge Baptist Church, 455 Glynburn Road, Leabrook, 5068, at 9:30am-12pm.

Please come prepared to share your memories of the 1960s and bring any photos of interest. There will be an opportunity for folk to make a small donation to help cover costs.

A warm welcome to anyone who may be interested.

Register by contacting Marie Lines on 0497 528 978 or by emailing her at her new address: jswalk77@gmail.com



# Governance: Spiritual and Inspirational?

The Assembly Board recently spent a day together to hear from God, pray and plan the year ahead. Our particular focus was to ensure we are fulfilling the role that our membership has asked of us.

Amongst numerous requirements given to us, we are “expected to provide governance, leadership and ministry in a *spiritual and inspirational manner*”. When you think about it, this is a quite a responsibility.



Generally, governance is making sure procedures and legal requirements are followed, so how do we attempt to do that in a way that is spiritual, let alone inspirational?

Although what we do is important, I believe it's how we do it that is of greater consequence. Do we take time to listen to quieter voices and a range of views that fully represent our members?

Do we take time to pray over our decisions? To look to the future and not simply to what we've always done? Are we careful how we journey disagreement or conflict?

Will we stay in unity even if we disagree with a decision that our fellow board members have ultimately chosen? Are we holding to our Baptist values and traditions?

Fortunately, in my experience the broad answer to these questions is *yes*, although it's not always easy.

The Assembly Board is tasked with responsibility covering many areas of governance. We're therefore made up in part by those possessing a particular skill, but also those with a theological or church ministry background.

We try to ensure that a wide range of churches are represented as well as ensuring diversity in race and gender. The remit of the Board is so broad that it necessitates several committees that meet regularly to focus on their area of skill.

Currently these are; Asset Management, Audit & Risk, Moderating, Nomination & Remuneration, and Accreditation &

Ordination. These committees are also tasked with focusing on the future and leading in a spiritual and inspirational manner. Why am I telling you all this?

In most organisations, what goes on behind the scenes is rarely celebrated or even thought about unless a problem arises or a question is asked. But the team of board members we currently have are genuinely dedicated individuals who give many hours of their time to serve our members.

I know that to some, the thought of being involved in governance is mind-numbing, but I hope we all understand the importance of carrying out our roles earnestly, with integrity and to the highest ethical standards.

As we seek to do that, can I ask that at least occasionally you remember to pray for us, especially in strengthening us in carrying out our duties in the *spiritual and inspirational manner* requested of us.



**Daniel Gardiner-**  
President



## It's your life.

### Let's make it better together.



When you select Baptist Care SA as your registered NDIS provider, we work with you to get the best out of your plan.

With Baptist Care SA on your team, you'll continue to feel valued, while growing in confidence and independence.

**Talk to us today.**

130 Rose Tce, Wayville SA 5034

T: 08 8273 7190 | [ndis@baptistcaresa.org.au](mailto:ndis@baptistcaresa.org.au)

[baptistcaresa.org.au](http://baptistcaresa.org.au)





## Make Easter even more meaningful with a gift that gives back to the community

We are in the season of Lent and Easter is just around the corner! This is a time of reflection and ultimately celebration.

This Easter, let's celebrate the hope we have in God by empowering disadvantaged people in our community.

Food4Futures is a social enterprise initiative which partners with community to offer training and employment pathways. The team has put together an Easter hamper filled with handcrafted delicacies made right here in Adelaide. Proceeds support Food4Futures participants

and gives struggling members of our community a better future.

Each hamper includes:

- 1x Easter Egg Rocky Road
- 1x Lemon Myrtle Biscuits
- 1x Apple Chutney
- 1x Carrot & Cardamom Jam
- 2x Darrell Lea Easter Eggs
- 1x Fruit Balls
- 1x Food4Futures meal voucher

Order your hamper on <http://www.food4futures.com.au/portfolio/items/easter-hamper>

Thank you!

## New online Community Learning Hub!

**Would you like to care effectively and compassionately for people in your church community?**

Then our FREE updated online 'Be Care' course will support individuals, small groups and ministry teams to grow an effective Health and Pastoral Care ministry.

The course has 6 topics – each less than one hour in length. Every lesson has 3 short topics

that have video tutorials and accompanying notes. The first 3 lessons are available NOW so why not equip yourself or your team to BE CARE using a biblical, holistic and compassionate approach.

With easily accessed lessons and courses hosted on our secure website, enrol now via <https://baptistcaresa.org.au/events-training-and-workshops>.

## Dare to DO Building a Community of Contributors

*"The arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice"*  
(Dr Martin Luther King Jr)



I have long believed it takes a community of contributors to achieve real and sustainable social change in lives and communities.

It also seems to me that our Lord's instruction to put love into action is well summarised in Romans 12: 9-13:

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

There are many and diverse ways in which followers of Jesus take action to extend the kingdom of God. Recently we highlighted the amazing work being undertaken by local Baptist churches through Collaborative Community Projects. Their dynamic responses to the needs of local communities is aided by the generous support of the Baptist Care SA Foundation (donor support very welcome!).

As we re-emerge from the COVID-19 emergency, Baptist Care SA is urgently seeking to mobilise volunteers for areas of service at the WestCare Centre, including:

**Kitchen Assistants** who help prepare and serve 100-120 meals to homeless people each day.

**Pastoral Care Assistants** who can sit, listen and encourage people who are living life under layers of adversity.

**Community Food Hub Assistants** who learn retail skills whilst providing low-cost food to low income and vulnerable people.

Pre-COVID, the WestCare Centre was enriched by the daily contributions of a dedicated team of 60+ people who contributed over 250 weekly hours of volunteer support. Post-COVID our WestCare services are constrained due to only having approximately 50% of our usual volunteer workforce. If you would like to help out this critical work, please register interest via our website.



**Graham Brown**  
CEO  
Baptist Care SA

In closing, I encourage members and friends of our Baptist Movement to find ways to strengthen the community by responding to the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

Inspired and empowered by the servant heart of Jesus Christ, may each of us to 'dare to do', and find a way to participate in a community of contributors that reflects good news in local circles as each is enabled.



## SACRED AGENTS

## Putting it Bluntly

There's an awful lot of talk out there, but how much of it makes a difference? With so many voices and messages in our lives every day, we have become masters of determining genre – as a way of coping with the on-rush and categorising all the information.

What do I mean by genre? It's simply our way of sensing what type of information we're getting, and so determining which part of our brain it goes into.

If we sense that what we're hearing is a joke, we listen in a particular way. If we pick up that we're hearing a reminder 'Don't forget to socially distance and wash your hands', we let it drift to the back-of-mind. But if we're hearing an urgent alert 'Get out, get out, the place is on fire!', then back-of-mind is absolutely the wrong place for that.

We determine what genre we're hearing through a whole bunch of little signals.

My kids tell me that I have a 'joke voice', even when I think I'm being dead pan. But it helps them to tune out, laugh politely when I stop talking, and get on with their lives. It would be wrong of me to use my joke voice

to alert them to the fire and their need to escape.

This of course leads us to think about evangelism. There's more thirst-for-meaning and openness in people than we believe. But it's one thing for people to be willing to hear our message, and another thing as to how they hear us.

For instance, a family may be willing to make a rare visit to church at Christmas, and I'm pretty sure they'll be exposed to the greatest story and biggest truth.

However, if they are in 'Christmas sentimentality' mode, then the message they hear may well be headed straight for the Fairy-tale Department of their mind. They'll smile and nod and thank you for it and change absolutely nothing of their lives.

We can't fully control what 'mode' people are in when they hear us, but we do have a role in the signals that we send.

If we tell the gospel like a fairy tale, people will hear it as such. If we speak with doubt, as though saying 'Look, this is probably of no interest to you,

but...' it will also be a genre-signal.

So let's take into account the tone and other signals that surround our message. The gospel is real news, great news and revolutionary news. If we truly believe this then if anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. (1Pe4)

We should speak as if our message matters - We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.(2Co5)

We know that some may not respond well to the message. Note that Christ himself had people gnash their teeth at, despise and reject Him. This will, in fact, be a sign to us that we have spoken in an appropriate genre – who gets upset at a fairy-tale or joke that they don't like?

However, this doesn't excuse us from our responsibility to speak with gentleness and respect(1Pe3) – even when we're being blunt and direct. Sacred agents do it all out of love for Christ and with love for those He loves.



**Andrew Turner**  
Church Development  
Facilitator

## Adventure Plus! Holiday Program

Baptist Care SA's 2021 Adventure Plus! Holiday Program is beyond a recreational experience – our program focuses on personal development and purposeful outdoor experiences.

The program is tailor-made for children aged 7-15 years wanting to make new friends, improve life skills, step out of their comfort zone and do something out of the ordinary!

Activities include archery, bouldering, canoeing, flying fox, ropes courses and a range of team-building games and initiatives.

Your child will leave each day enthused by new experiences, and most importantly, having had a great time, giving them memories and lessons for a lifetime through an adventure-packed program aligned with Christian values and teachings.

**Dates:** 20 to 23 April 2021

**Location:** Mylor Adventure Camp

**Cost per child**

One day – **\$65** • 4-day pass - **\$260**

Bookings on <https://2021-adventure-plus-holiday-program.eventbrite.com.au>



Pray that faithful people will be able to generously support future development plans for the WestCare Centre.

Pray that Baptist Care SA will secure resources to sustain and extend its social inclusion programs.

Give thanks that Baptist Care SA was selected to provide support services for Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors (refugee children aged 5-14) whom the Government is seeking to settle in SA.

Pray for churches that are delivering innovative Collaborative Community Projects with Baptist Care SA to address the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged people in their local community.

Give thanks for the wisdom and discernment of Baptist Care Australia as they continue to advocate and work toward social justice across our nation.



## ‘EVEN IN THE DARK PLACES’ A Q&A WITH MARBZ DIAZ

Meet the new National Church Engagement Manager at Baptist World Aid Australia

When Marbeun Diaz was growing up in the Philippines, he spent his first 10 years living in a red-light district. Surrounded by poverty and heartache, the young boy began to question, ‘Where are you, God, in this dark situation?’

Now Marbuen (or ‘Marbz’ as he prefers) leads Church Engagement at Baptist World Aid Australia. After 18 years pastoring a church, he joined Baptist World Aid and in December 2020 was promoted to his new position as National Manager, overseeing a staff of five across the country.

Today, with a deeply held conviction that ‘God is always there; present even in dark places’, Marbz’ passion in service and leadership is to inspire others to see God at work where they might not otherwise.

We sat down with Marbz’ to talk about the invitation he feels God is issuing to Australian Christians to partner with vulnerable, marginalised people.

**BWA:** Tell us a bit about your role and

why you love being a part of Baptist World Aid.

**MARBZ:** I love being a part of what God is doing here – both overseas and here in Australia. As a pastor, I felt called to make disciples and that is still my calling.

For me, the gospel is an invitation to step into empathy, and ask, ‘how will God’s grace respond to the situation faced by those on the margins?’ It is not enough just to be accepted into God’s grace; he wants us to grow in that grace.

**BWA:** But sometimes issues around global poverty can feel overwhelming. How do you stay hopeful?

**MARBZ:** Seeing the witness of my brothers and sisters overseas brings about a fire in my soul. They lead me in my understanding of what resilience is and what faith looks like. In situations of crisis upon crisis, or war upon war, the witness of these faithful servants will outlast any conflict. Their witness is like the cedars of Lebanon in the Psalms.

Our supporters here in Australia also inspire hope. They don’t know our brothers and sisters in these places, and yet they respond in solidarity and love their neighbours with generosity. Seeing the work God is doing in His people here in Australia gives me hope.

**BWA:** What are some ways we can practically participate in addressing global challenges today?

**MARBZ:** First, pray. Then pursue awareness. We offer lots of resources through our website, and several options for those looking to support our global partners. Prayer creates a desire to understand these situations better, and that understanding deepens our care and leads us back to prayer. We don’t come to God hopeless, we come with faith. When we pray, we pray believing God can and will act. When we pray, we begin to understand our place in seeing God’s kingdom come here on earth.



**Meredith Wright**  
Baptist World Aid Australia

## VIBRANT COMMUNITIES



Global Interaction's strategic roadmap for 2021-2025 seeks to see vibrant faith communities come into being. Communities that follow Jesus in their distinctive ways, share God's love, humbly contextualize the Word of God and partner together with the wider body of believers.

Global Interaction's intercultural workers go and live amongst communities where most people do not know a follower of Jesus. They sit with the local people, learn, chat, and share God's love.

One people group is the Yawo. Recent reports indicate that believers are now sharing God's Word in their own language amongst their own people. Doabu, who has been baptised, recently came to the point where he was ready to lead a Bible Study. The week before he chose a passage of Scripture – from Ezekiel!

He was nervous, but God's Word is important to him. Every night that week he read it, praying that God would give him something to share. And God indeed gave Doabu something to share. With his wife beside him, he sat and shared to 20 other Yawo believers and seekers.

What a milestone amongst the Yawo! This is the goal of your partnership with intercultural workers. This is the vision and God has used your generosity and prayers to meet it.

Our theme for May Mission Month 2021 is Vibrant Communities. It's a time to ask big questions and seek God's lead as we partner with His mission around the world and in our own backyard.

As Australian Baptists, we are a mission people. Thank you for your partnership with Global Interaction's teams and ministry.

We invite you and your church to get involved in May Mission Month, where you can grow in awareness of what God is doing around the world, stand with our teams, pray, learn, and unite afresh in partnership.

All resources are available on the website – [www.globainteraction.org.au](http://www.globainteraction.org.au). The material is being created for use over 1, 2 or 4 weeks, where each sermon, video or resource can be used individually or as part of the bigger series.

Options include an animated video, filmed sermons, mission story videos, intercultural worker videos, and children's programs. It is an exciting time of focused mission partnership and exploration for Australian Baptist churches.

For any enquiries, please contact David Turnbull for church or ministry related needs on (08) 8357 1755 or the national office for support matters on (03) 9819 4944 or [info@globainteraction.org.au](mailto:info@globainteraction.org.au).



**Dr David Turnbull**  
State Director  
Global Interaction SA/NT



INTERESTED IN  
SENDING THROUGH  
A MONTHLY PRAYER  
COLUMN?

email the editor!  
[bcarbhone@sabaptist.asn.au](mailto:bcarbhone@sabaptist.asn.au)

## Growing Together in Marriage

### Making marriage a priority in 2021

We were excited and thankful to our Lord that we were able to run, very successfully, three GTIM weekends in 2020 with Covid restrictions, at the Weintal, Tanunda.

In 2021 we are inviting married couples, no matter what stage or age, to make time to strengthen their marriages at a GTIM Retreat.

On the weekend, there is no group discussion or public sharing of your marriage! The Team couples share honestly and openly of their personal experiences and insights, sometimes out of pain and sometimes with humour,

about different aspects of marriage.

Following each session opportunity is given for couples to discuss their responses in the privacy of their own room.

#### UPCOMING RETREATS

May 21-23 • June 25-27  
August 27-29 • October 29-31

Retreats held at the Weintal Resort, Tanunda. For more information contact Rob & Lee Allen (0438 892 980) or other Team members - see [gtimsa.org](http://gtimsa.org) for details and registration.





Nestled in the backstreets of the Le Fevre peninsula, the Port Church's mantra is "spirit-filled, community driven", and it is quite clear that this newly Baptist church closely follows its calling.

Worship is a major ministry of the church, and there is an emphasis on allowing a spiritual freedom in the room during services. There is no stage (just a carpet!), no music director, and plenty of spontaneous moments.

The church has committed to 40 Days of Prayer before Easter. Kickstarted with a prayer and worship night, Ps. Ben Carbone has been preaching with a team on God's grace and truth.

Ben has been the senior pastor of the church since its conception 11 years ago, leading the church in its decision to join the Baptist movement in 2017.

To address the "community driven" aspect of the church, look no further than their Pop-Up Kitchen.

Originally launched as a community barbeque at the local skatepark, Pop-Up – as it is affectionately known – now runs as a full community dinner, clothing, and grocery giveaway on a Wednesday night.

The old Le Fevre Baptist building fills out quite easily with community members and disadvantaged folk from across Adelaide, yarning away on a dozen round tables in the church auditorium.

The next generation of community is also well serviced at The Port Church. Kids up to Year 5 can attend Kids Club on Fridays from 3:15pm – 5:15pm, with Kids Church

on Sundays.

Fearless Youth runs for Years 6-12 on Friday nights, with some awesome faith breakthroughs in disadvantaged young people post-COVID.

The older generations are looked after too, with Pop-Up Primetime on Thursday mornings to cater for those 60 and beyond.

Although healthy, there are challenges for the church to grapple with. There is a strong Indigenous population on the Peninsula, and outreach these communities has been limited so far.

Leaders are working on a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), and other ways to bring about a sense of community that goes beyond lip service for our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

The Port Church is always looking for more ways to reach out and be a light in the area. Prayer in finding new ways to show God's love to the community around them would be greatly appreciated!



**Benito Carbone**  
Editor

*What's happening at...*

# The Port Church

## BAPTISMS

It was awesome to see 15 people baptised on February 21 at Clovercrest Baptist Church.

At West Beach Community Church in December, Steph Turner (pictured left) was baptised!

And in late January at The Port Church, British exchange student Katy Kemish was baptised at the beach. Congrats to all!



### Morialta Charitable Trust Fund

Morialta Charitable Trust Fund has been supporting disadvantaged Children, Young People and their families in South Australia through its annual program of Distributions for 40 years.

To enable the Fund to continue this support through Community Organisations in South Australia Morialta Charitable Trust Fund seeks donations from the public.

Donations of \$2- and above are Tax Deductible and can be forwarded to the Morialta Charitable Trust Fund at PO Box 92 Crafers SA 5152.