

APRIL 2023

TOGETHER IN MISSION



Celebrating baptism as a movement

Rostrevor Baptist Church Korean Community 22/1/23

Over the last six months, South Australian Baptist churches have experienced a surge in baptisms, indicating a growing desire to publicly proclaim our commitment to Jesus.

Ben Nah, from the Korean Fellowship of Rostrevor Baptist, reminds us of

the unifying nature of baptism with the quote, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism." This quote, taken from Ephesians 4:5, emphasises that baptism is not only a personal act of faith, but also a unifying factor for all believers.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Baptist Churches
of South Australia

In case you missed it

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Jason Lippitt was inducted as the new pastor at Clovie Gawler on Jan 29th



Peter Swann was inducted as the new pastor at Glen Osmond Baptist



James Foley became a Reverend at Salisbury Baptist



Port Lincoln Baptist celebrated the long-awaited opening of their new building

CONTINUED FROM COVER
Regardless of our backgrounds, cultures, or traditions, we share in the same faith.

On January 22nd, two women from the Rostrevor Baptist Church Korean Community were baptised. They have graciously shared their testimonies with us:

"The time I worked and ran for my children was futile and exhausting, and the relationship was also emotional. It was so divinely difficult that I felt like I was standing on a cliff. I'd never been to church.. I was challenged by the passionate ministry of a Korean community pastor struggling with cancer, and I was comforted by the pure life of



Laura from Hills Baptist Verdun 12/3/23



Kyung Hee and Sinjeong from Rostrevor Baptist Church Korean Community 22/1/23



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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
Ruth Grace
rgrace@sabaptist.asn.au

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faith, service, and love of the community members and opened my heart... I learned about Jesus' forgiveness and put it into practice. After that, I went through difficult things in my life, but I came to rely on Jesus more strongly, and I obeyed the Lord who held on to me so that I could live..." - Kyung Lee Park

"I went to temples with my Buddhist mother, and all my friends around me were Christians when I was in college. She naturally came to know about Jesus and went to churches to live a life of faith, but it did not lead to faith. After marriage, I came to give thanks to God through the children

I gained through hardship, and while educating my children in Adelaide, I was led to {the} Korean community... and I realised the love of the Lord who never gave up on me. I give thanks to the Korean Community... and I give praise and glory to God for leading me to the path of salvation." - Sinjeong Moon

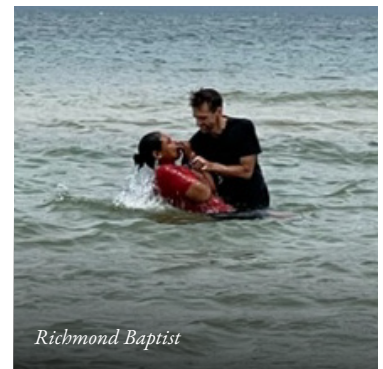
Andrew Turner emphasises that the surge in baptisms is a reflection of the power of a genuine connection with God. He says, "The real experience of reconciliation to God, knowing forgiveness, security, identity, and empowerment by the Spirit – these are what will result in transformed households, neighbourhoods, and nations."

Baptism is an opportunity for us to come together as a community of believers, to

celebrate our shared faith and to support one another in our spiritual journeys. As we witness the baptisms of our brothers and sisters, we are reminded of the unifying power of our shared faith and the transformative power of a genuine connection with God.

We'd love to help celebrate your baptism stories!

Please email rgrace@sabaptists.asn.au or tag us @sabaptists on social media





Have we bypassed compassion?

I was reading an article by Stan Grant, the current presenter of the ABC's Q&A programme. He commented that in all the varied articles, views, and voices speaking on the issue of an Indigenous Voice to Parliament, one word was never mentioned: Compassion. He asked a very pertinent question "How can we begin to move toward healing, truth or forgiveness without first compassion?" and finished his article with a profound observation which has stuck with me. "We have bypassed compassion and moved straight to combat."

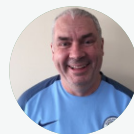
Maybe one of the reasons we do this is because it's hard to be compassionate. Compassion never takes the path of a quick fix. Compassion is not about us, our needs, our desire to make a difference. It is not helping the underprivileged from a privileged position, coughing up a few dollars to the less fortunate. It is, in the words of Henri Nouwen, "going to those people and places where suffering is most acute and building a home there." Compassion requires vulnerability and a willingness to walk and suffer with others not for our benefit but for all our sakes.

It's not inconsequential that the parables in which compassion makes an obvious appearance are the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son and the Unjust Servant. In each of these parables the one who acts

compassionately has every right not to and yet each one in acting compassionately speaks deeply of God's compassion and what it is to be fully human.

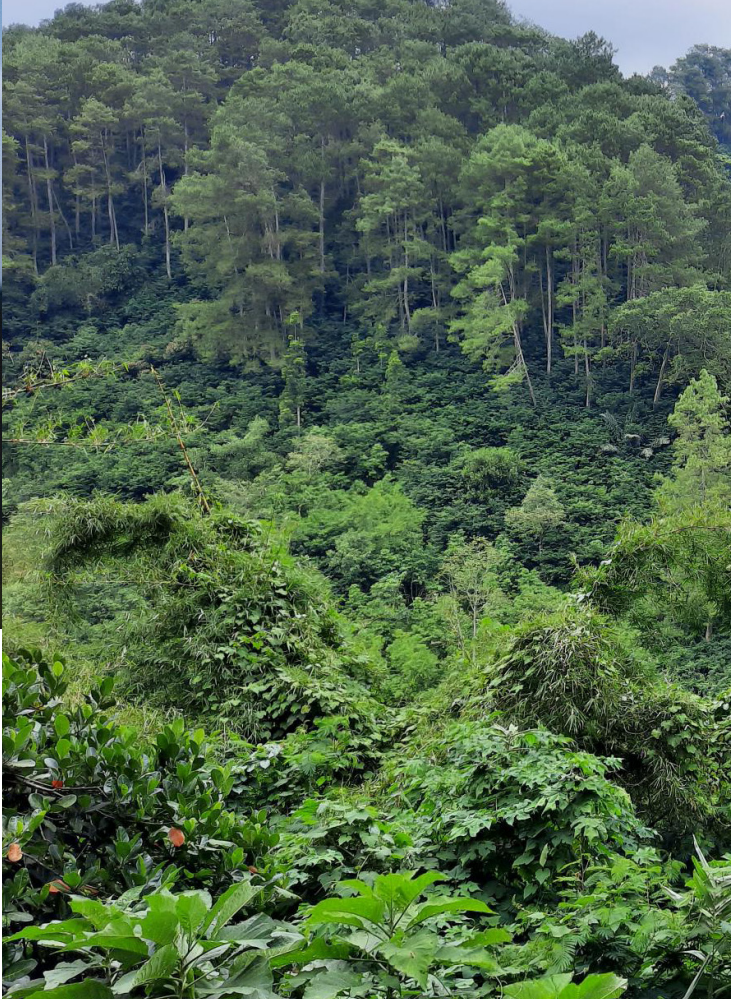
Like the Priest and Levite in the parable of the Good Samaritan we can pay nothing more than a passing acknowledgement to those we need to be compassionate to. We can offer the occasional charity that does nothing more than salve our own guilty consciences. We can excuse our own indifference because those less fortunate have brought it upon themselves. A lack of compassion can so easily lead us to becoming complacent, smug and self-sufficient that we risk missing the Kingdom.

If, like me, you find yourself or your community not always as compassionate as we would like to be, there's a lovely line of encouragement and hope for us in Psalm 145. It simply says "The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made." In the power of God's Spirit may we and our churches do likewise.



Scott Cadman
President
Baptist Churches SA





**Baptist
Mission
Australia**



I recently spent time in South East Asia visiting Baptist Mission Australia's team on the ground. This was a trip of firsts for me; my first time visiting an Asian country, my first time on field, and my first time seeing how teams invest themselves in their local communities. I came home feeling blessed and humbled from my experience.

God is gracious to invite people to go to places of great need, both local and distant. He gives his people a heart to serve the community, and learn how to communicate both by word and deed so relationships develop and trust grows.

One such experience on the trip was when we were walking through a conservation park. After emerging from a beautiful green space where we had admired monkeys and watched men prepare coconuts for drinking, we noticed a statue of a former president. As we approached the statue, a group of young men requested a photograph with a male team member. He agreed and began to speak fluently in conversation with them. The faces of the young men expressed deep

surprise and then excitement as they began to easily communicate with him.

In ways that my finite mind cannot begin to understand, God has allowed us to join Him in His great work, inviting people to know Him personally. Using the passions and skills that He has gifted us with He leads us to meet, speak and share with people so that we might share God's amazing salvation opportunity.

As we draw close to Easter, reflecting on Jesus' act of salvation for all Creation, may we remember all the ways we have been blessed and yearn with our whole being to share this with those around us both near and far joining God in His work of love.



Lisa Cornish
State Director SA/NT
Baptist Mission Australia

Easter Reflection



Opening our doors to those in need



For the needy shall not always be forgotten, and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.

South Australia is sweltering. The temperature has soared past 40 degrees Celsius, and no cool breezes provide relief from the sudden heatwave. Many people will go home to the comfort of air conditioning or perhaps even swim in their pools to escape the heat. But for the 400 plus people who are sleeping rough, finding shelter to escape the heat is a difficult task.

The extreme heat has prompted the South Australian Government to call for a Code Red— meaning Baptist Care SA's WestCare Centre will set up 45 portable beds in an air-conditioned chapel and remain open to provide safe overnight accommodation, cold water and meals to those experiencing homelessness.

It's lunchtime on the second day of Code Red and Baptist Care SA's West Care Centre has remained open since 1pm the day before. Outside, people are relaxed and sitting around tables to enjoy their meals, while instinctively understanding who wants to chat and who wants to be left alone. On the surface, a sense of togetherness is evident – a camaraderie amongst a group who are in a safe space where they are known by their individual names and cared about without judgement.

Inside is a team of dedicated volunteers replenishing their stock of bottled water as they wait for the delivery of more ice. Over the three days Baptist Care SA responds to Code Red; they will give away almost 700 bottles, most of which donated in response to a call on social media. Our volunteers will also help prepare and serve breakfast, lunch and dinner. They have truly stepped up - seeming near infatigable and providing invaluable support.

A journalist and camera operator from Channel 7 arrive to report a story for the evening news. Today, Phil Bunyon, a senior manager at the WestCare Centre will front the camera and explain the importance of providing 150 beds over three days to people whose health is already at risk. Tomorrow, a crew from Channel 10 will arrive to report a similar story and it will be Grant Pearson, General Manager Mission and Business Development's turn to explain that the services Baptist Care SA is providing could save the lives.

A handful of clients want to tell their stories and be heard. A painfully thin older man explains to the journalist that sleeping on a cot is more comfortable than sleeping in the park, while a delightful character who goes by the moniker Loretta, plays up to the camera and makes the room laugh with their antics. Both express their gratitude for the kindness they receive.

Tammy, a young woman who has lost her teeth due to ill health and usually sleeps rough says she values Baptist Care SA's West Care Centre for caring about her.

For three days, people experiencing homelessness will have what many of us take for granted— a place to sleep, with plenty of food and water and access to a bathroom and laundry. They will be with friends and share a safe space. When Code Red ends, they will return to their parks, doorways and couches where they will be walked past, even feared.

As Christians, we will not walk past people in need. With the help of others, we will continue to provide help where we can, seeing people experiencing homelessness as equally loved children of God and an opportunity to combine prayer with action.

When the next extreme weather event is called, Baptist Care SA's WestCare Centre will open its doors and once again welcome those in need.



Shane Austin
CEO
Baptist Care SA

Exscribo Divina An Easter Exercise



Ten or twelve years ago, while chatting socially with a woman who worked as a psychologist, I mentioned rather sheepishly that I had a fear of flying. “You should come and see me,” she said, “I can help with that.” Before I could deflect, she added, “You know, often it’s associated with a childhood trauma. Were you in an accident when you were young?” Indeed I was. Intrigued, I asked what could be done, and to her financial detriment she just said, “Well, come and see me if you like. But you might find that just having had this conversation will have helped.”

What? A passing conversation of all of two minutes? But then the strangest thing happened. When I next flew – some weeks later – the fear was just gone. I am still absolutely amazed by this, that just a few words can have such power, power beyond argument or persuasion or logic. It’s like she had spoken directly to my nervous system.

If you’ve been following Jesus for a while, Easter can be a little strange. We celebrate the heart of the good news, but it doesn’t seem like news anymore. We know how it goes. God bless all the preachers stretching their heads to come up with a fresh angle on this old story! But Easter can just come and go if we let it.

So here’s a little exercise I’ve found helpful to keep the heart from dozing: Copy out Mark 14-16 and Isaiah 53. Copying Scripture* is slow. Slow enough

that sure, I notice little things I hadn’t considered so much before. But it’s not about that - it’s about letting the words hit me in a different way. I’ve just been immersing myself in the wonder of it all. Opening myself up to “just having had this conversation” with God.

My intention here isn’t to know more. Perhaps it’s to know better or deeper. My fear of flying wasn’t logical, and it wasn’t fixed by following logical steps. I did get information, but strangely sideways, so that it got deep enough in me to make a genuine difference.

This is not just something we can do for ourselves but with others too. Perhaps there’s someone in your life who’d be willing just to read through it with you? Not for analysis or explanation or even persuasion – you might find there’s other powerful ways that God works his healing magic both in and through you.

*You can call it Exscribo Divina if the people you’re trying to impress only speak Latin



Rev Andrew Turner
Director
Crossover Australia



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A man, his dogs, and a lifetime of service in youth ministry

Sam Thomson is an enigma. A curiosity. A rarity. A gem. Since the mid 1970s, Sam has held the role of Youth Pastor at Blackwood Hills Baptist. While this means that at his next birthday he will enter the league of septuagenarians, he remains the eternal 15-year-old.

I think one of the secrets to Sam's success and longevity in ministry is simplicity. He knows who he is in Christ, and has many interests, passions, gifts, and talents. Then he invites young people in to explore those interests with him. Simple.

A big part of this is Sam's love of dogs, and the bush. He thrives on helping farmers to catch feral animals which are destroying the land. So, he takes young people with him to do that exact thing.

In a sanitised world of phones, social media, and meat that is already sliced and diced, there is a steady stream of young

people who can't wait to join him to run through the bush with the dogs and hunt feral animals. And over the campfire afterwards, he tells them about Jesus. Simple.

Of course, this is not everyone's cup of tea. But when Paul says to the Corinthians 'whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God', he means it. And that is the example that Sam brings. Aside from consistently turning up to do Youth Group on a Friday night for over 40 years, he has loved young people and included them into his life.

When I first came to faith in 1986, Sam was my Youth Pastor. In 1992 we became colleagues. Since 1998 I have been his boss. He remains my hero in the faith and a role model for us all.

Brandon Chaplin
Senior Pastor
Blackwood Hills Baptist



SA Baptist History Meeting in May

This meeting is registered with the History Festival and will be included in the official publicity.

A talk by Dr. John Walker: "South Australian Baptist attitudes to First Nation Peoples, 1836 to 1886".

To be held in Mead Hall behind Flinders Street Baptist Church, Adelaide. Saturday 20th May, 9:30am to 12:00. There will be an opportunity for discussion.

Morning Tea provided. Gold coin donation.

RSVP to John Walker phone 0497528978 or email jswalk77@gmail.com

If you are interested in this topic but cannot attend because of the 4D Conference or other reason, please contact John.

For any other information please email Marie Lines linesmb@internode.on.net or phone 0417004401.

Growing Together in Marriage

Prioritise your marriage and have time out with your partner

In 2023 we are inviting married couples, no matter what stage or age, to try to balance the busyness and prioritise their partner and marriage!

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.

Retreat weekends in 2023:

- August 25 - 27
- October 27 - 29

This year all weekends will be held at Abbotsford Country House, Lyndoch.

For more information contact Rob & Lee Allen (0438 892 980) Steve & Val D'Arcy (0402 983 154) or see gtrimsa.org for details and registration.



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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.