

# TOGETHER IN MISSION



*In this edition:*

**RECONCILIATION: NOT AN EXERCISE IN EYE-ROLLING**

**ROSTREVOR BAPTIST'S CHINESE CONGREGATION CELEBRATES EIGHT YEARS**

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



**Baptist Churches**  
of South Australia

## Breaking Down Barriers

Few Australian Baptist churches can attest to evangelising in mainland China from the comfort of their own homes. Rostrevor Baptist Church's Chinese Congregation have stumbled upon this ministry to great effect.

"Some of our members, they have family in China that have come [to Adelaide] and were baptised in Rostrevor, they have gone back to China [and] started up their own family small group."

Pastor Gordon Liao, founder of the Chinese Mandarin service at Rostrevor (RBC),

speaks in amazement of God's ability to use their ministry in wonderful ways.

With little more than a heart after God's own, a hospitable spirit, and Alpha courses at hand, the congregation has seen over 80 people baptised, and nearly 150 decisions for Christ.

"This is the Lord himself working amongst us. The work done in it confirms that this was established by the Lord's call and is a church with the Lord's presence," says Ps Gordon.

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# Baptists in Mission



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One Movement, Every Place.

Baptists in Mission Conference was a three day conference held from 5th-7th July both online and in hubs across Australia!

South Australians met at Broadview Baptist Church, coming together to hear dozens of stories from Baptists across the country and the world.

The likes of Melinda Cousins, Andrew Turner and Glenn & Flick Pederick shared from the stage, their messages streamed live to hundreds of other viewers on ZOOM.

At other times we tuned in together to many stories of mission beamed to us on screens.

See you there next year!

# Reconciliation: not an exercise in “eye-rolling”

Can I be honest with you? Sometimes I wonder if I should be in ministry!

I often find that my initial reaction to all kinds of things going on in the world is one of judgment, sarcasm and ‘eye-rolling’. There is a lack of any real reflection on what God might think about the issue.

For instance, gender pronouns – why should someone be able to decide they do not want to identify as the gender (or even the species) they were born as and get the right to make everyone else play along with them? Do not get me started on ‘flat-earthers’ or conspiracy theorists.

However, as I get older, I discover there is one common question I keep reflecting on when I encounter viewpoints I disagree with; as a Christian, what should my response be?

In unpacking that, I quickly realise that I do not take any ground for God’s Kingdom by belittling, discrediting, or letting others see my eyes be exercised at their expense!

Most of what I have mentioned involves

identity in one form or another. Wanting to be recognised, to find where we belong, to be heard and ultimately accepted.

As a Christian my response not only misrepresents Christ, but it is at odds with what He is doing. Colossians 1:20 (NRSV) says,

*“and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.”*

The work of Christ is reconciliation!

He made the move of humbling Himself, identifying with us, becoming one of us, accepting us, and ultimately laid his life down to be in relationship with us.

He did not mock us for our beliefs and actions. No, we did that to Him!

So how is this related to us as a movement and our interaction with the world around us?

Even aside from the theological argument, any marketing guru would question why the church and/or Christians seem to go

out of our way to alienate the very people we are trying to reach.

Jesus was so engrossed with loving those excluded, particularly by the religious leaders, that he was accused of being amongst them.

Now, I am not saying that we allow any viewpoint to be accepted. Rather I am questioning whether as Christians, our first response to the people we disagree with should be derision or the acceptance that Jesus offers.

Surely the church is the place where all of us once found our identity in other things before finding it in Christ? Why would we alienate those who have not discovered that yet?

I pray that every church in our movement is one where acceptance of ‘others’ is our starting place and reconciliation is embedded in our DNA.



**Daniel Gardiner-**  
President

## South Australian Baptist Historical Group

Our next meeting will be held at Flinders Street Baptist Church on Friday 6th August at 4.30pm in the Raws Room.

The speaker will be Dr. Ros Gooden who will talk on her latest research.

‘Silas Mead: Transformational pastor and leader’ The meeting will bring to light new research on the impact of Flinders St. Baptist Church’s first pastor.

A light tea will be served and a donation for this would be appreciated.

A warm welcome to anyone who may be interested.

Register by contacting Marie Lines on 8332 4887 or by emailing her at her new address: linesmb@internode.on.net

## 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

**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.

## Baptist Care SA Month 2021 - Celebrate, pray, learn and take action with us!



*“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:10*

August is *Baptist Care SA Month* and in 2021 we are pleased to offer our churches new resources and opportunities to take action and pray with us.

### Building Kingdom Communities

A FREE five study small group discussion guide, considering how the principles of Biblical Justice apply to five vulnerable people group in our community, providing welcome, inclusion, hope, community, and life in all its fullness.

Learn more: [www.baptistcaresa.org.au/building-kingdom-communities](http://www.baptistcaresa.org.au/building-kingdom-communities)

### Prayer Card Packs

Join us in prayer during *Baptist Care SA Month* with our Prayer Card Pack.

The pack contains five double-sided A5 Prayer Cards. One side of the Prayer Card has a list of prayer points that you can pray for each day, as a church community or individually.

Download the Prayer Card Pack via [www.baptistcaresa.org.au/prayer-card-pack](http://www.baptistcaresa.org.au/prayer-card-pack).

Please email the number of packs you require along with a mailing address to [churchsupport-team@baptistcaresa.org.au](mailto:churchsupport-team@baptistcaresa.org.au) without delay!

### Light in the Darkness calendar

To encourage congregations, families and individuals to engage daily with the opportunities to celebrate, learn, take action and pray with us, as we reflect on the various ways God brings light into the darkness through our combined efforts.

View the calendar here: [www.baptistcaresa.org.au/service/church-services/light-in-darkness-on-earth-2021](http://www.baptistcaresa.org.au/service/church-services/light-in-darkness-on-earth-2021).

### Virtual Prayer Walk

Each year during *Baptist Care SA Month* we take time to walk around our CBD together and pray for our community.

We pray in small groups, if this is your first zoom prayer time it's easy to use – jump on in!

When: Tuesday 31 August 2021

Where: Online

Time: 7.30 pm – 8.30pm

## Connecting people – Addressing needs



As a founding member of the Toward Home Alliance, Baptist Care SA continues to play a key role in responding to the needs and life aspirations of young people and Aboriginal people. With and on behalf of our Baptist movement, we offer support to people who are homeless or at risk. Why?

*“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” Matthew 25:35-36 (NIV)*

This well-known text reflects the confronting reality that adverse circumstances including poverty, illness, and disengagement from community have been part of the lived experience of vulnerable people for centuries.

It also reflects the challenge upon the Lord's people to look in the eyes of those vulnerable, to see our Lord in them and to thus treat with dignity as if they were the Lord himself.

To support individuals and local churches to meet the needs of vulnerable people, Baptist Care SA encourages you to save the following contact details (enter them into your phone) to be ready to assist when the opportunity arises.

• **Toward Home ACCESS on 1800 809 273 if you come across people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness in the Adelaide CBD, Hills or Southern Adelaide region**

• **Homeless Connect SA on 1800 003 308 if you are concerned about people who are homeless in all other South Australian regions.**

But is making a phone call all the Lord requires of His followers? Perhaps you might also consider:

- Making that first tentative phone call with/for the person you are concerned about.
- Offering some food or a warm blanket or to take the person to a safe and/or supportive place.
- Buy a few extra cans and packets of food and get into the habit of putting them into your church's WestCare Collection Cupboard/Box each week.
- Become a regular donor or make a bequest in your Will to support the ongoing transformational work of Baptist Care SA's dedicated staff.



**Graham Brown**  
CEO

Baptist Care SA

• Volunteer some time to help “feed His lambs” at our WestCare Centre.

• Pray that gracious support will be extended in ways that demonstrate a genuine belief that all people are valuable in the sight of their Creator.

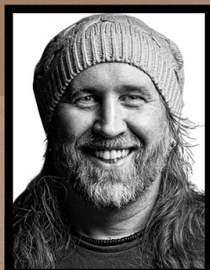
We would highly value your faithful response to our Winter Appeal via [www.baptistcaresa.org.au/donate-now](http://www.baptistcaresa.org.au/donate-now). If you require more details please contact Hugh Ballantyne on 0418 483 087 or [hballantyne@baptistcaresa.org.au](mailto:hballantyne@baptistcaresa.org.au)

# LIFEWELL CONFERENCE 2021

# OVER COME

ONE CONFERENCE | TWO EXPERIENCES  
IN THE ROOM & ONLINE  
AUGUST 19 & 20

**Bruxy Cavey**



**Melinda Cousins**



**Shane Willard**



**Niki Vasilakis**



THANKS TO OUR MAJOR  
AND ONLINE PARTNERS:



baptist  
care sa



## BAPTISMS

It's been phenomenal to see so many churches baptising new Christians this year!

In particular, a number of Mylor Easter Campers have been baptised.

An altar call on the final night gave young people the opportunity to take a step of faith and make a decision to be baptised.

Several youth from Hills Baptist have been baptised since, including seven in June!

While at Unley Park Baptist, Ashley Hoet, Henry Young, Samuel Beames (pictured above, left to right), Max Battersby and Jed Battersby (pictured below, left to right) were baptised recently.

Congratulations to all involved. Please continue to keep praying for our movement's young people!



Lord, bless our nation's leaders as they plan a path out from the shadow of COVID-19

Gracious Lord, we intercede for the restoration of children and young people who have suffered trauma and abuse in their lives

Pray that the many services of Baptist Care SA, will be a beacon of light that illuminates the transition pathways of vulnerable people

Thank God for the relationships that are being forged through the Collaborative Community Projects in Baptist churches and for the resources provided that makes these ministries possible

•Ask the Lord to reveal to you what part you can play in His plan for your church to strengthen your community



### 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.



## IT TAKES A CHILD TO RAISE A VILLAGE: A Q&A WITH TARA LAMERTON

### Meet the Team Lead for Child Sponsorship at Baptist World Aid!

When Tara Lamerton started working at Baptist World Aid Australia in 2010, the Child Sponsorship program was changing in response to community needs. She now heads a team of five serving faithful monthly supporters.

I spoke to Tara about what makes Baptist World Aid's Child Sponsorship programs unique and why now is a particularly critical time for children around the world.

#### How would you describe Baptist World Aid's Child Sponsorship programs?

**Tara:** Children are so important to God. In Mark 10, Jesus called them into his presence and declared that the Kingdom of God belongs to them. So child sponsors reflect God's love and provide opportunities for children to overcome the injustice of poverty.

Our Christian partner organisations run Child and Youth Clubs in several countries, providing opportunities for children to build leadership and communication skills, learn about their rights, and participate in events.

These Clubs become platforms for children to take action on issues such as

combating violence against children, early marriage and health awareness during COVID-19.

What's also exciting is that families are supported through workshops on income generation, agricultural or child rights training, putting the future in their hands.

Our partners address the challenges whole communities face. And we see this support of children first kickstart long-term community-led transformation, not create dependency.

#### Why do you think now is such an important time to support children?

**Tara:** Children growing up in poverty, who are already vulnerable, are being marginalized even further because of COVID. My colleagues recently surveyed almost 1,000 children in six countries. COVID has made life harder for children in poverty.

Many can't go to school, don't have enough food and face increased risks of trafficking, child marriage and trauma—because their families have been pushed into extreme poverty (living on \$1.95 a day).



Thankfully, our sponsors are having a huge impact on children and their communities, which will continue in the years to come. They're part of a movement creating a better world!

#### How do you stay hopeful?

**Tara:** Our supporters! They believe we can make the world better, together, and their generosity shows it. Our local partners overseas also inspire me in their faithfulness during this difficult time, sharing amazing stories.

For instance, while the pandemic robs millions of children of education, our Christian partner in Cambodia helped nine-year old Choum continue learning at home.

When I look at the photo of Choum in her reading corner, I think of my own children and the books they love. It speaks of a flourishing childhood, where children are free to dream of the future. Their stories keep me grounded and inspired every day.



**Meredith Wright**  
Baptist World Aid Australia

## FINAL REFLECTIONS



**Dr David Turnbull shares his final thoughts as he steps away from his role as State Director SA/NT with Global Interaction.**

After almost three years as a State Director, I conclude my service with Global Interaction on Friday 16 July.

My new position, which God opened unexpectedly, is with Overseas Council Australia, as International Program Director, Local Online: A Global Strategy.

The role involves working with over 125 theological and Bible colleges in the Majority World, building their capacity to provide online learning post-pandemic, partnering in training faculty to delivering best-practice, and to develop a repository for visual resources.

I conclude with a thankful heart for the opportunities God provided in the role to partner with individuals and churches who faithfully seek to share the good news of Jesus locally and globally.

These partners encourage a global vision for the least reached, witness God calling workers and candidates,

and deepen missiological understanding.

The highlights are plenty. Visits to churches in the city, rural areas, and the Northern Territory. The welcomes received, the breakfasts, dinners, concerts, and cultural events. And I can never forget the people met in the journey.

The takeaways are numerous.

Firstly, the faith development through God's incredible capacity to provide against the odds, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic, and to be the catalyst in connecting the seekers with the messengers.

Secondly, the incredible importance of showing respect and acceptance through empowering those walking with Jesus to follow in their own distinctive ways.

Thirdly, the generosity and spiritual contribution of God's people as experienced in my travels.

I am excited about the future of Global Interaction and eager to see the impact of our workers in their contexts as they get alongside the people they are called to, and in the continuing provision of new candidates offering for service.

My prayer is that God will continue to use our movement in South Australia and the Northern Territory to respond holistically and contextually to the needs of the least-reached locally and globally, and to allow the lessons of global engagement to inform local activities and practices.



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

### BAPTIST 40+ SINGLES

Our upcoming events for 2021

**WHEN:** 12:30pm Saturday, 21st of August

**WHERE:** Clovercrest Hotel (450 Montague Road, Modbury North)

**COST:** Reasonable!

**WHEN:** 12:30pm Saturday, 18th of September

**WHERE:** Café One Seventy (170 Semaphore Road, Exeter)

**COST:** Reasonable!

Please contact Helen & Brian for more information at 8341 8283 or 0411 772 475.



INTERESTED IN  
SENDING THROUGH  
A MONTHLY PRAYER  
COLUMN?

email the editor!  
bcarbone@sabaptist.asn.au

### SALA 2021 @ UNLEY PARK BAPTIST

15th, 21st, 22nd, 28th and 29th August

Open: 12:30 pm to 4 pm

Come and see the amazing work by local artists of all ages, using various mediums to explore:

**"BEAUTY, GOODNESS & TRUTH  
- THE THREE SISTERS"**

Last year UPBC had a wonderful successful SALA exhibition. This year will be even better.

Come several times as you ponder and share this exhibition with your friends. Bring a friend or two. Free admission.



# Eight years of miracles: Rostrevor's Chinese Congregation continues to break down barriers.

## CONTINUED FROM COVER

“Now since COVID-19, we have used ZOOM and established quite a few different small groups in China. Through online, we have more people coming to Christ.”

Katherine, a founding member who helps to run Alpha courses and the worship team for their Mandarin service, saw this up close, sharing a story where she was quite literally standing in the waters with these new Christians.

“I love Alpha because it’s a God-given tool that anybody can evangelise with,” explains Katherine.

“There was a family a few years back, one of the daughters comes to our church with her own daughter. She starts to attend our church, she believes [and] she’s baptised.

“Then her sister from mainland China comes to visit. That sister attends church in China, but a hidden, underground church. She joins us and is very attracted in the way Alpha runs, so I copied the whole Alpha course onto a USB for her.

“The next year, the rest of the family gradually come over to Adelaide, and the whole family of eight is baptised at RBC at the same time, including the 90-year-old mother and [the daughter’s] crippled brother-in-law!”

“To them, it is a big thing to walk up the stairs and walk into water and totally surrender in that process, and it is very

touching in the way they glorified God in that.

“It’s such a thrilling experience. God always finds a way to bless, God always finds a way to evangelise.”

Gathering at 1:30pm on Sundays and in small groups and Alpha groups during the week, the church quite literally does not take any days off, even on Christmas!

“Every morning from 7-8:30 we have our morning prayer,” says Ps Gordon. “Not just once a week, but seven days a week, 365 days a year. We never say ‘today is a holiday, we can have a day off’ no, never.

“Now we have our online morning prayer group and people join us in Canada, Hong Kong, Beijing [and] Europe. In every area we have new people coming to the Lord.”

Rostrevor’s Chinese community not only crosses the Great Firewall of China but thrives in its local context too. Bringing together the cultures and languages of mainland China with those from Hong Kong and Taiwanese backgrounds, unity can be difficult to establish, largely due to a complex political climate.

But according to Katherine, there is a wonderful togetherness Rostrevor shows in the face of these challenges.

“Most of our members are overseas-Chinese, first-generation migrants, bringing with them their next generation,” she points out.

“We generally have very great hospitality, we always host lots of activities together and

everyone jumps in and joins, in that way it gives people a home feeling. Although we are not a Chinese church – we are just a service – but [this is] a spiritual home.

“I love to worship and build faith together in our own language and culture, we share the same cultural background.”

At 72, Pastor Gordon still has a burning passion to see communities reached and evangelised to. Not only a desire for the congregation at Rostrevor, Gordon hopes the Baptist movement can support multicultural communities in equipping and spreading the gospel.

“In Australia, there are so many different cultures, different languages. Even in Adelaide we have more than 100 different [people] groups in community,” exclaimed Ps Gordon.

“We need to pray for all these communities, that they can be like our church. Rostrevor is more than 100 years old [and] they had never had a Chinese ministry in this church [until] these last eight years.

“The Lord through His work among us can do this for every other church, so do not just pray for us, pray for multicultural [congregations] to be set up in different churches.

“I hope Baptist churches can open their doors to the multicultural church.”



**Benito Carbone**  
Editor

