

AUGUST 2023

TOGETHER IN MISSION



South Australian Baptist pioneer celebrated in new book



From L - R:
Gertrude, Silas, Blanche, Cecil & Lillian

A leading figure in the history of our movement and mission, the name Silas Mead is recognisable to many South Australian Baptists. But the scope of his story is far less known.

Most would be unaware of how his faith shaped the next generation

and bore fruit in the lives of his descendants.

In particular, his advocacy and desire to make space for women in the life of the church is embodied in the remarkable lives of his daughters and granddaughters.



Baptist Churches
of South Australia

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Silas was instrumental in the foundation of our Association, as well as in founding what is now Baptist Mission Australia.

He served as President of the Association four separate times and was then General Secretary for eight years.

He was a significant figure in the planting of dozens of our churches across Adelaide and in rural areas.

The Mead children included Lilian, an author and leading figure in Christian Endeavour (CE); Cecil, a doctor and early Baptist missionary; Gertrude, one of the first women to undertake a Bachelor of Medicine at the University of Adelaide and an early proponent of both child protection and aged care (Mead St in Canberra is actually named after Gertrude, rather than Silas); and Blanche, who was the daughter, wife, mother, and grandmother of Baptist pastors.

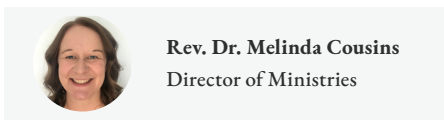
A new book celebrating the lives of Silas Mead and his family, and their impact on our wider Baptist family, has just been

published.

It is edited by Rosalind Gooden, Ken Manley and Stefanie Pearce. This has been a labour of love for Ros, who had the vision for such a book for many years, and gathered much of the research, as well as an impressive group of co-contributors, to bring it to fruition. It includes chapters from South Australian Baptist pastors Frank Tucker, John Walker, and Torrey Wilson.

An official launch of the book will be held at Flinders St Baptist on Sunday 3 September, after which copies will be available for \$30. Copies will then be available for purchase through the Baptist Churches office.

We trust that this study of the Mead family might inspire all those who seek to faithfully follow Jesus in ways that unfold for generations to come (Psalm 78:4-6).



Rev. Dr. Melinda Cousins
Director of Ministries



Dr Rosalind M Gooden holding the first printed copy!

Silas Mead (1834-1909) and his Baptist Family

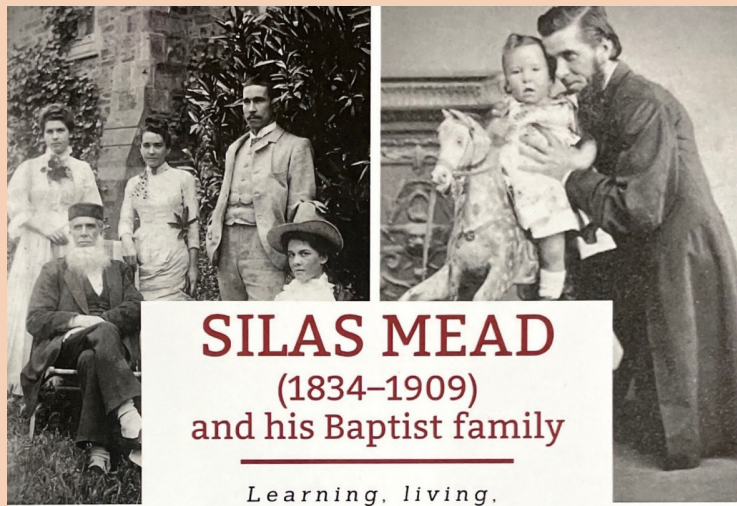
BAPTIST HISTORICAL GROUP

On Friday 1 September, the Baptist History group is planning to attend the South Australian Historical Meeting at 7:30pm at Burnside City Uniting Church, Portrush Road, Burnside (donation \$5). Rosalind Gooden is speaking on the topic "Flinders St Baptists – Facilities for a new Community".

The book **Silas Mead (1834-1909) and his Baptist family: Learning, living, giving Christ**, edited by Rosalind

M Gooden, Ken R Manley, & Stefanie Pearce will be launched at Flinders Street Baptist Church on Sunday morning 3 September. The SA writers Torrey Wilson, Frank Tucker, John Walker and Ros Gooden plan to be present. \$30 per copy.

The book will also be available at the Victorian Baptist Historical Society on 2 September. Copies will then be available for purchase through the Baptist Churches office.



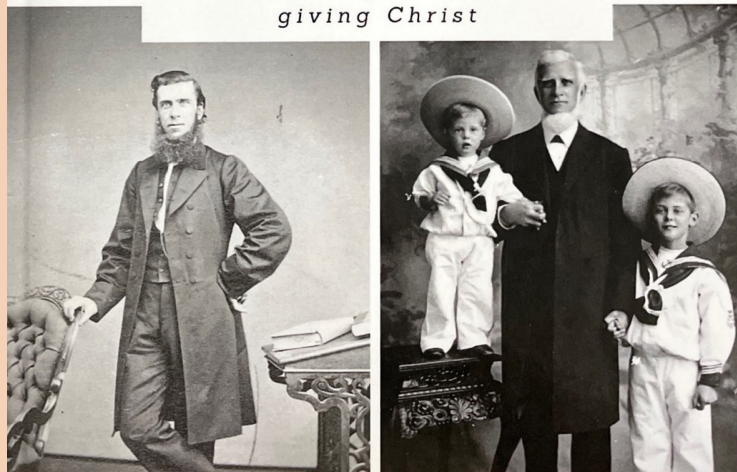
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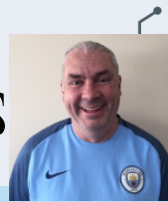
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EDITED BY ROSALIND M GOODEN,
KEN R MANLEY, STEFANIE C PEARCE

President's Address



with Rev.
Scott Cadman

A few weeks ago, I returned from a holiday in New Zealand having celebrated my father's 90th birthday. One simple question our wider family faced, "what do you give someone who's turning 90?"

The story of Abraham and Sarah did come to mind, though I was secretly pleased my parents didn't surprise me and my sisters with news we were soon to have a new sibling.

What do you give a 90-year-old? Most people at that age are downsizing, deciding what they will leave to others, not what they will receive.

In the end, the family gathering for a party we had over two days turned out to be the perfect gift. A gift that echoed a Māori proverb I had stumbled on earlier in our holiday.

He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata he tangata he tangata!

What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people!

Often people's names come up in conversation when holidaying in

New Zealand. Some, as we reminisce about the past. Others, we enquire in the present.

My younger sister lives just down the road from the Auckland maximum-security prison, where I worked fulltime for a year alongside Bob Grinder, who was chaplain as part of my ministry training.

As we drove past it for old times' sake, I thought of Bob who personified kindness, gentleness, and patience.

In a place built to lock away those responsible for some of the worst things a human being can do, those deserving of absolutely nothing, Bob taught me the most important thing in the world.

People. Yes, even these people. For God so loved the world. Not just the ones we get on with.

Another time we talked about Graeme Murray, the church secretary when I wanted to attend theological college.

Now, I had left this to the very last minute. At the last Diaconate meeting before applications were

due, I summonsed up the courage to ask Graeme mid-meeting if I could have a word outside.

He told me I should also tell my parents, and by the time I returned into the room Graeme had already done everything necessary to go.

He did it with grace, skill, and with a warmth I have never forgotten. For he set me on my life's path, for which I have been far more blessed than I could ever imagine.

Though he completed all the procedural requirements, what I remember is that he treated me like the most important person to have ever crossed his path.

On this holiday it struck me again that – whether we are 19 or 90 – the greatest gift we can give and receive is to welcome, encourage, forgive, embrace, include, and love the people we are given and the people we meet.

These people are God's gift to us all, so let us be thankful for them all.

In case you missed it...



Cam Buchanan was ordained at Mt Gambier Baptist Church on Sun 9 July



Abbasali Ghalehjooghi, Fatemeh Jafari, and Seyedehbahereh Jaladati were all baptised at Unley Park on Sat 27 May!

AUSTRALIA'S
BAPTISTIST
QUIZ
NIGHT

Sat Sep 2 on Zoom

6pm West | 7.30pm Central | 8pm East

A thousand churches. Six associations.
One big family games night.



From L - R:
Anushka, Kyran, Lisa, Susie & David.

**Baptist
Mission
Australia**



Workers on the Harvest Field

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” (Matthew 9:36-38)

On June 4, I took part in the commissioning service of Mal and Chris Good at Casuarina Baptist Church in Darwin. Mal and Chris have sensed God’s call on their lives to serve with the Outback Australia Team in the northern community of Lajamanu.

They will do this on a part time basis while continuing to lead Casuarina Baptist. The service was a joyous occasion capped off with laying of hands and prayer which was, in part, spoken in the Warlpiri language of the people of the Lajamanu community.

On June 18, I participated in the re-commissioning service of David, Susie, and Kyran Haydon at Camden Baptist (pictured above). The Haydons are now back in Malawi for their second term of service.

We celebrated the time they had already spent in Malawi and prayed for the opportunities awaiting them over the next few years. The church also recognised Anushka who will be staying in Adelaide to continue her studies.

In both services the role of the church at home, supporting through prayer, written and financial support was highlighted. This partnership is vital for the practical work of reaching out to an unknowing world in love.

There are ongoing opportunities for support for both families in the work they are doing on the harvest field. If you are interested in supporting them through prayer, receiving their newsletters, or financially please check them out on the Baptist Mission Australia website or contact me (lcornish@baptistmissionaustralia.org).



Lisa Cornish
State Director SA/NT
Baptist Mission Australia



The Scandal and Wonder



crossover

Helping Australian Baptists Share Jesus

I have been working on baptism resources lately, and it is mainly straightforward – don't forget to bring them up again! But there are curly issues too – when is a person ready to be baptised?

There are extreme answers to this. Some denominations say - at birth! Others, concerned about post-baptism sin, have concluded - just before death! You have likely found some sort of middle ground, but the question remains.

If we baptise people on their first interest in Jesus, how do we know it is not merely a crush? Six weeks later they might be into Buddha or basket-weaving.

This is not a new phenomenon – the Parable of the Sower (Matt 13) speaks of flash-in-the-pan believers as one of four main types of people who hear the gospel.

But if we delay, for how long? Other believers may be like seed sown on thorny ground, hanging around much longer yet finding a similarly unfortunate end. And Jesus' next Parable – The Wheat and Weeds – speaks to the difficulty of discerning which is which anyway.

In the 3rd to 5th centuries, churches enrolled new believers into several years of instruction in faith and morals. Their way of life was closely observed. The final hurdle was to learn the creed and recite it by heart. Then, baptism.

There is something admirable about the commitment to intentional discipleship. But there is something troubling too.

The scandal and wonder of the gospel is our instantaneous reconciliation to God. The returning prodigal is not required to spend years in the workers' quarters to prove his reformation.

He gets the ring of family belonging immediately after turning up in rags.

Discipleship is certainly a process. But it is at our peril that we shape it or allow its perception as an ascending staircase to acceptance with God and inclusion with his people.

So what is the choice? Shall we be casual or die-hard? Lax or strict? It need not be so binary. Why not keep the rigorous system for strengthening new believers, but place baptism at the start rather than the end?

There is a new life to learn, but it is not something we earn. Dallas Willard aptly put it, "grace is not opposed to effort, it's opposed to earning." (The Great Omission)

When the Ethiopian eunuch says, "there's a pool of water – what's to stop me being baptised?" (Acts 8), we do not see Philip answering, "well you've only passed the Isaiah exam."

But the New Testament does not see disciple-making as dipped-and-done either. Baptism has always been an initiation – a start line.

Some will start and then stumble. But the danger of baptising someone who may fall away is vastly outweighed by the danger of withholding baptism because they might.

Best, I think, is to baptise all who are willing to follow Jesus ... straight into a supportive and disciplined community.



Rev Andrew Turner
Director
Crossover Australia

What I learned from living in Kolkata's red-light district

What happens when a pastor from New Zealand and his family move to Kolkata's red-light district? Baptist World Aid's Better World Ambassador, Kerry Hilton, shares the lessons God taught him over his twenty years in India.

Why did you start living alongside people in poverty?

I started discovering God's incredible heart for the poor through scripture when I was studying to become a pastor in New Zealand. It hit home that this was a strong agenda of God's. That led my wife Annie and I to ask ourselves, "What does this mean for our lives? How do we live out God's agenda for those who are poor?"

Then in the late-1990s, we heard an opportunity to move to Kolkata, India, to live amongst vulnerable people in the city. At that stage of my life, I hadn't been past Australia. I'd never been in a low-income country; I'd never seen poverty. But Annie and I had a really strong conviction that this was where God wanted us.

We had four kids; they were four, five, ten and eleven. When I went to Kolkata beforehand to prepare, one thing went round my head: "You can't bring your kids here!" But I felt God say to me, "Yeah you can. Rely on me".

Now that our kids are adults, we can see that moving to Kolkata has been the most amazing gift. They have world views shaped by their experiences, and now we have children and grandkids who are working amongst communities in poverty.

How did you start getting to know people when you first moved to Kolkata?

When we arrived, we didn't know the culture or the language. On our first night, after the kids settled into bed in our rented apartment, I went for a walk to meet our neighbours. I discovered that we had inadvertently moved into the city's largest red-light district, and just down the road

were women trapped in prostitution. These were the neighbours God put around us.

Annie and I started to meet them and listen to their stories. We had lots of cups of tea. I was ignorant as anything, but these women took us by the hand and opened their lives to us. They trusted us, which was an incredible thing.

During that time, what did you learn about God and poverty?

God was already working in people's hearts and minds; we were just joining in. Some of the women had already encountered Jesus, and together, we discovered more of who he is.

There's something about the gospel that people in poverty understand, and I had a lot to learn from the way they reflect God's love and hospitality.

One of the most amazing gifts is to sit in a brothel room and have a cup of tea and a biscuit with a woman that hasn't got anything else to offer. It's the best tea that I've ever tasted. While the world says the poor need the rich, I learned that we need each other.

What did you learn about suffering?

In the early days, hearing the most painful stories of young girls being exploited, I screamed at God to click his fingers and make it go away. I've had to work through that and understand the consequences of human free will.

But I know that God is very much with these women. He's in the pain, not standing separate from it all. Understanding the heart of God, who suffers and grieves with us, has been part of my journey.

After you got to know your neighbours, you began working together to find a way out of exploitation. What did that look like?

Many of our neighbours had never been to school, couldn't read or write, and experienced health challenges—but wanted a way out of the life they had been forced into. We came up with a business idea of making and selling jute bags so these women could earn an income.

After a few weeks of training on pedal machines, we received our first order of 1000 bags from a shop in New Zealand. We made these bags again and again, working incredibly hard. Slowly but surely, our business of freedom (which is what they called it) emerged. They had been told by their community and religion that they're dirty and untouchable, but the gospel message of freedom is different from that. It speaks of Jesus' love, and it really is good news.

Today, you're leading Baptist World Aid's Better World Ambassador movement. How can Christians everywhere engage with poverty, even when we live in different places?

Being reconciled to Jesus changes the whole trajectory of our lives, including how we relate to people in poverty. In Christ, we become ambassadors of reconciliation for a better world. We uphold generosity to those in need, making sure everyone has a seat at the table and mutually sharing what we have—even if it means having less.



Sophia Russell



Supported Independent Living



Baptist Care SA has some great houses for people with NDIS funding who want to live as independently as possible, but with some support for daily tasks.

Best suited for people living with a disability who have high support needs, participants are supported with everyday tasks such as cooking and cleaning, managing their budgets, developing their social, relational and communication skills and participating in sport and recreational activities. Support Workers can even stay overnight, if needed.

Croydon Park

A shared living arrangement is available at a spacious single-story home in Croydon Park with a man in his 30's who loves Batman, The Wiggles, plushies and going to the zoo with his support worker.

Suitable for a male or female housemate, this safe, secure, and comfortable three-bedroom home features ducted heating and cooling, a backyard, and an abundance of storage space.

Seaford Rise

Two men, in their 20s and 40s, are looking for a housemate who loves movies, music and going to the beach to share their five-bedroom home in Seaford Rise.

Tranquil living close to the beach and shops, this house has all the modern amenities for comfortable living including two bathrooms, a study, and a backyard with lawn as well as an outdoor entertaining area. For longer walks, a beautiful reserve is located across the road.

If you would like to know more about these Supported Independent Living options, please call Baptist Care SA on 8273 7190.



FROM OUR CHURCHES

Camden Baptist Church's POMEGRANATE PLACE turns 10!

On May 17 our Op Shop/Café, Pomegranate Place, had a special celebration.

A ministry that began in 2013 (while we were a campus of Holdfast BC), it was with great rejoicing that we marked our 10th birthday celebrating a decade of very fruitful years of friendship and connection with the local community.

Many friends of Pomegranate Place were present to help us celebrate, and we give thanks that we were able to bless them with barista-made coffee and decorated sponge cake proudly proclaiming the purpose of the event.

Much more than just an opportunity to share free food and drink, many in the community stood up and expressed their appreciation for Pomegranate Place and to state how important it has become in their lives.

Friendships have been formed through this community. People often share tables as it is so well patronised. "Be careful," they are warned, "you might make a friend!"



And this is exactly what has happened!

Come and visit us and our staff of 25 volunteers on **Saturdays and Wednesdays between 10am and 2pm**, and peruse the op shop while enjoying delicious, affordable food served by our staff of about 25 volunteers.

Photo: Sally Davis (former Café co-ordinator and Café worker for 10

years till present); Barbara Higgins (First Café co-ordinator); Richard Higgins (Building project manager); Tricia Bishop (Pastor and Outreach Co-ordinator).



Tricia Bishop
Pastor
Camden Baptist

Growing Together in Marriage

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 gtimsa.org for details and registration.

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Ph: +44 2086946538 Mob: +44 7970 024 995

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.