

DECEMBER 2022



TOGETHER IN MISSION



Laura Baptist is reborn as House of Hope opens

As you enter Laura Baptist Christian Community's new premises, you can't help but notice the quip; 'Dunking biscuits and believers since 1875'. This mix of ministry and hospitality perfectly sums up the renewed vision and direction for the church.

Early this year, the congregation and leadership at Laura made the courageous decision to sell their historic property and purchase an old restaurant, which they have since converted into the 'House of Hope'.

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Welcome and hospitality at Laura

Opening on the 16th October, the House of Hope is both a meeting place for the church, and a new community staple for coffee and conversation, with a purpose-built café designed and run by the church.

This call to welcome and hospitality has certainly been a journey, with the church spending 2021 discerning and deciding next steps, supported by Elliot Keane (Baptist Churches SA) and Andrew Turner (Crossover).

Once the building had been purchased, the readying and replanting phase began. Pastor Jenny Pryor notes how much they felt God's hand on them during this time, as they spent many a working bee preparing the property.

Currently, the church finds themselves in the 'exploring and experimenting' phase. Jenny says, '(We are) exploring where God is already at work, dusting for His fingerprints in our town and experimenting with our Sunday gatherings and other ministry opportunities.

'As we keep saying: 'We're building the bridge as we walk on it'. While we can't see much further along the bridge yet, we're sensing a call to generous hospitality, particularly for the 33% of the Laura population who live alone.

'Alongside that we know that God is moving among young people in the region, and we've begun partnering with

the newly formed Rocky River Youth Group.'

Their long-term goal? Flourishing and fruitfulness. Jenny puts it best; 'As we move into the future our desire is that our relationship with Jesus, and our life together as a church will bring both personal and community flourishing. Our prayer is that we will indeed bear fruit, fruit that will last.'

"We're building the bridge as we walk on it"

'We've named the building 'House of Hope'. As the song says: 'Hope has a name - His name is Jesus'. We are a people of hope and we long for all who come through our doors to meet the one who is the hope of the world.'

You can visit the House of Hope at 38 Herbert St, Laura. The church has a rich history in the region, founded in 1875 by HWA Walter (coincidentally the great-great grandfather of one of the church's current elders), and the church has been a presence in the community for 147 years.



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Panning for Gold

the gift of spiritual direction

In the middle of our hands-on parenting phase, one of our family holidays was in Victoria, including a day at Sovereign Hill in Ballarat. We all had a go at panning for gold. It was exciting, scanning the dish, searching for flecks of the precious metal. Having an experienced “panner” alongside helped us discern what we were seeing.

This image has come back to me recently as a vivid metaphor of what the ministry of spiritual direction is about. It's about being assisted to discover the gold in our lives. By this I mean the presence and purposes and action of God within, through and around us. It's about bringing what is generally unattended, beneath the surface, or perhaps taken for granted... and discovering it, bringing it into the light, letting it be seen, letting it sparkle, and treasuring it for ourselves. Things like our actual experiences of God, our longings for deeper spiritual reality, the sense that there's a calling to something not yet realised, the dynamics of our key relationships...

This ministry is being experienced by more and more people in our Baptist community. It involves a regular meeting (usually an hour once every 4 to 6 weeks) with a spiritual director where anything and everything can be discussed, but the heart of it is to look at how we are relating to God, following Jesus, noticing and attending to the Spirit's promptings in the context of

our personal day-to-day realities. Panning for the gold in the midst of the slurry.

It is possible, sadly, to be relating with various people in the different arenas of our lives and yet the important issues don't get expressed and explored. What could be more valuable than having a safe, hospitable space where we are competently accompanied as we delve into how we are experiencing God in our lives? Where the gold can be unearthed?

Let me know if you would like to know more about spiritual direction. Or about becoming formed as a spiritual director. (The course at Tabor in Spiritual Direction is one pathway).



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**Learn more about Spiritual
Direction at Tabor**

Scan or visit tabor.edu.au



Turn Hurt into Hope this Christmas

This Christmas, the spiraling cost of living is making things even more difficult for those already doing it tough.

Our WestCare Centre team are seeing first-hand the pressure and desperation that families and individuals are experiencing. Many are struggling to make it through each week with circumstances sadly beyond their control.

We invite you to bring hope to a family who is struggling to make ends meet through our Christmas Hope Appeal. Visit www.baptistcaresa.org.au/donate-now to make a donation.

Thank you for caring.

The act of giving all year round

Christmas is a time of celebration and the spirit of giving, a time of fellowship and togetherness.

With the sharp rise in the cost of living, Christmas may be a little leaner for some this year as people struggle to find the extra required to pay for housing, bills and petrol and cut back their gift giving.

Let's remember we give gifts at Christmas to remember the true 'Gift' from above – Jesus. The true spirit of giving is not simply reserved for the festive season – it is present all year round.

On behalf of Baptist Care SA, I would like to thank you, the Baptist Church movement, for your spiritual act of giving, this year. It's thanks to your

ongoing generosity that every week Baptist Care SA's WestCare Centre was able to provide:

- 650 free meals
- 260 kilos of free fruit and vegetables
- 140 free loaves of bread
- 55 free food parcels
- 40 free food vouchers
- 305 customers with low-cost groceries

I am truly humbled by the members of the movement who continue to support us. I would also like to extend my gratitude to our volunteers for the many hours of time spent standing alongside those doing it tough.

“Every good and perfect gift is from above...” James 1:17

To both those who have gifted time and those who have gifted financial support, we thank all of you for helping us undertake our mission of finding ways to make people's lives better. Your spirit of generosity inspires us, daily.

Thank you. I wish you and your loved ones a safe and blessed Christmas and New Year.



Shane Austin
CEO
Baptist Care SA





The Gift of Good News


crossover
Helping Australian Baptists Share Jesus

Here we go for another Christmas – it’s a weird season for sacred agents, isn’t it? On the one hand we soak in the richness and exquisite mystery of the incarnation, and on the other - a spiritual desert and ignorant blandness as our culture cheapens the season beyond recognition. How to cope and what to do!

We want to tell people about Jesus. But at the same time, the thought of evangelism can multiply all our feelings about public speaking with all our enthusiasm for conflict. That troubles me greatly, because evangelism is meant to be about sharing good news, and sharing good news is meant to feel great.

So let me offer two encouragements about the public-speaking side: Most of you are not called and shaped by God for it, and that’s OK. In fact it’s good, no offense. Connect with others who are. Serve alongside them; cook the BBQ at the event they’ll be speaking at. And invite others to hear them. Who do you know that has a great knack for talking about Jesus? They need you.

Secondly, sometimes the words do need to come from your lips, and that’s more than OK too. Don’t worry about getting the words all right. It’s the news itself which has the power. If you’re telling someone you’re having a baby, it’s the baby that matters. That’s the big factor. If you stumble around the words a bit, who will care, given the great news? So remember that it doesn’t rest on your performance. It rests on Jesus’ performance, and he’s done pretty well.


Now about conflict. I hate it too. The good news is God’s not a big fan either. He’s all about reconciliation. Swords into ploughshares. The Prince of Peace. But it gets better: Peace is not only the message, it’s also the method. Some rulers say ‘We have to have this

war in order to secure peace.’ But Jesus does not use violence, manipulation, trickery, argumentativeness, antagonism, guilt-tripping, bullying, belittling or gaslighting as means to his ends. None of those things win anyone over. Jesus came in peace, so do we.

So we just tell people that they are loved, wanted and invited by God. If they want to argue the toss or brush us aside in pursuit of their yoke of oxen, field or spouse, we can say we’re here if they ever change their mind – and move on to invite others. Evangelism is not about frog-marching anyone to God. The Father would rather let the prodigal go and wait for a free return.

It is a spiritual desert out there. But we’ve found the oasis of living water and get to point others to it. The exact words don’t matter. If some won’t come, that’s on them. But if we don’t even give them a chance to, that is on us.

Merry Christmas, sacred agents. Let’s relax about the message and relax about the method, and just freely give what we’ve freely received.



Rev Andrew Turner
Director
Crossover Australia



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Ethical Fashion Report Calls For Urgent Action To Protect Workers And Planet

Baptist World Aid (BWA) have released the latest Ethical Fashion Report, calling on fashion brands to escalate action to address modern slavery, worker exploitation and unsustainable environmental practices throughout their supply chains.

The ninth edition assessed 120 companies, representing 581 brands (161 more than 2021) and found an average score of just 29 out of 100.

The report shone the spotlight on six key issues in the supply chain: tracing materials beyond final-stage,

Footwear brands a step behind

New to the report in 2022, footwear brands performed well below industry average (23/100), including:

- None of the footwear companies pay a living wage at any stage of their supply chain.
- Only eight per cent of footwear brands had a process at final-stage factories to respond to child and forced labour human rights violations when uncovered.

Labour Exploitation Still Rife

The report found the fashion industry has a long road ahead to eliminate labour exploitation from supply chains with only one in seven companies able to demonstrate a corrective action plan.

‘With over 60 million garment workers worldwide, it’s time to move beyond policies to take tangible action to empower workers at every stage of the supply chain.’ said Sarah Knop.

A Gap In The Uptake Of Sustainable Practices

When it comes to climate action, only 15 per cent of companies assessed evidenced sufficient commitment and action for emissions reductions in line with the

TOP SCORING COMPANIES 2022:

- Mighty Good Basics
- Patagonia
- AS Colour
- Inditex
- Adidas
- Puma
- Hanes Brands
- Rodd & Gunn
- Nudie Jeans Co
- Kmart and Target Australia

MOST IMPROVED COMPANIES 2022:

- Forever New (+20.76)
- R.M. Williams (+20.69)
- Nobody Denim (+13.83)
- Rip Curl (+13.76)
- Lorna Jane (+12.25)
- Universal Store (+10.76)
- Kmart and Target Australia (+9.48)
- Princess Polly (+8.04)
- Boohoo (+8.04)
- Ralph Lauren (+7.97)

remediation of labour exploitation, payment of living wages, support for worker voice and empowerment, use of sustainable fibres and commitment to climate action.

Sarah Knop, Corporate Advocacy Lead at Baptist World Aid (BWA) said, ‘Cost of living is a concern for many Australians in 2022, but for most of the world’s garment workers, earning a living wage is a lifelong struggle. Only one in ten fashion companies assessed pay a living wage in the final stage of production—even less in the earlier stages of the supply chain.

‘While it’s positive to see progress among some brands committed to improving their ethical supply chains in the last year, overall, this year’s Ethical Fashion Report is sobering reading.’ It’s time for brands to prioritise action, and implement tangible outcomes that support vulnerable workers and our vulnerable planet.

United Nations Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action. Australian companies are lagging behind their international counterparts on this issue, with just one of these top 18 scorers based in Australia.

What can Global Citizens do?

While companies maintain primary responsibility for supply chain conditions, global citizens can also help shift industry practice by engaging with the ethical fashion movement and speaking out to companies.

Baptist World Aid are urging people to use this year’s report and the online Brand Finder as a tool to empower more ethical decisions.

Learn more at baptistworldaid.org.au



**Baptist
Mission
Australia**



2022 Wrap Up

As 2022 draws to a close it is timely to look back and celebrate the year that was.

THANK YOU to the Churches, Pastors, Mission Reps, Congregations and Intercultural Workers who have made my first year in this role a joy. I am looking forward to continuing to develop these relationships as well as starting new ones. Your support and encouragement, not only for me, but for the organisation and, more importantly, for the mission of God into all the world is inspiring. I am excited to see what 2023 brings.

Congratulations to Cate and KimLean in Cambodia who married recently. Pray for them as they begin their married life together. We are excited to welcome them back to South Australia on Home Assignment in 2023.

The Haydon family have successfully completed their first term on the field in Malawi. We are thrilled to be welcoming them back on Home Assignment from mid-January. If any mid-week fellowship groups would like to have them speak, please get in touch (lcornish@baptistmissionaustralia.org).

May Mission Month's Crossing the Street theme has had year long impact as our churches engaged with the resources at different times. I hope this simple, everyday act of going from here to there is a helpful reminder of God's missional heart. The announcement of the 2023 theme is coming soon.

Walk the World, our newest prayer event was well attended in both SA and NT. Congratulations to all who participated. I hope this is a helpful reminder to keep praying at all times, in all ways, for all people.

As we prepare to remember the time of our Saviour's birth, may you all be aware of His love, grace and presence. God bless you all as you celebrate Jesus, have a break and prepare for 2023.



Lisa Cornish
State Director SA/NT
Baptist Mission Australia





A new leadership team for Clare Baptist

It has been a time of change, over the last eighteen months at Clare Baptist, as God has raised up a new Leadership Team after the late Gus deJong retired, and more recently, was promoted to glory. After a time of mourning, the church family has been blessed to be able to come together on 18th September for the official commissioning of the elders, led and supported by Church Development Facilitator Mark Sanders with Rural Regional Minister Leigh Philp.

The elders, each having different gifts and strengths, together bring a blend of pastoral care,

spiritual overseeing, teaching and nurturing to the church family. Clare Baptist continues to be blessed in having a congregation of all ages, including some of the youth who are serving in the worship team and becoming skilled with sound and data. We continue to pray for the elders and leadership team, along with the whole church family, that we might continue to shine the light of Jesus in all we do.

From our churches
Clare Baptist Church



Internship Applications open for 2023!

Want to live out an adventurous faith, learn leadership skills, grow your discipleship and explore your spirituality? Have you ever thought that ministry might be in your future, but aren't sure what that would look like? Or you'd just love some direction?

The Leadership Internship is a leadership development pathway where emerging leaders of all ages explore their faith and future.

If you're interested or can think of someone to tap on the shoulder for this opportunity, please visit <http://sabaptist.asn.au/internship> to learn more and apply today!



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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.

