

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2021

TOGETHER IN MISSION



Baptist churches partner with Baptist Care SA to serve the community throughout COVID-19 emergency

2020 was the third year Baptist Care SA awarded funding to local Baptist churches to run unique, local Collaborative Community Projects (CCPs) to connect with, and empower, vulnerable people in their communities.

The COVID-19 emergency proved to be a formidable challenge to new and existing projects. However, funded projects from earlier rounds have shown remarkable resilience and

creativity in the ways they responded to the COVID-19 restrictions that limited and/or ceased activities. We celebrate this!

Clovercrest Baptist Church Kids COACH mentoring volunteers found creative ways to connect with their mentees while they were unable to meet together. This included care packages dropped to the school and

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ABERFOYLE PARK BAPTIST

NEWS FROM GLOBAL
INTERACTION, BAPTIST
CARE SA, BAPTIST WORLD
AID AUSTRALIA, GROWING
TOGETHER IN MARRIAGE


Baptist Churches
of South Australia

CONTINUED FROM COVER

phone calls arranged with mentees via their parents. Their mentor volunteers were also very encouraged and equipped by a trauma informed care workshop that featured the expertise of Rosalie Pace, Senior Manager Care Pathways at Baptist Care SA.

Enfield Baptist Church's English as a Second Language class moved online in the height of the lockdown, with great success and interaction from participants. Attendance was so great that the program co-ordinator is offering a second weekly class in 2021 to meet demand. Later in the year, the group was able to resume face to face classes, but in a larger space to enable appropriate social distancing.

Soul Food Café's Community Meals Training program was heavily impacted by the lockdown and restrictions, but was thrilled to be able to launch their program in October. They are engaging with participants, seeking to grow community referrals and are looking forward to seeing the program's impact in the lives of participants over coming months.

It has been a privilege to partner with South Australian Baptist churches, who have remained committed to serving their communities, even amidst these extraordinary times.

We're also excited to announce the successful applications from the 2020 funding round:

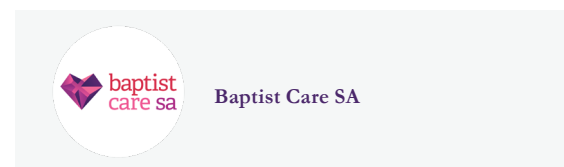
Whyalla Baptist Church was awarded funding to embark on a family COACH mentoring program that will link local Christians with families doing it tough. This intentional, friendship-based mentoring model will provide encouragement and support for participants to achieve their goals. Despite the COVID-19 pause to activities, they have trained some enthusiastic volunteers and are excited to

begin matching mentors with mentees in the coming months.

Port Pirie Baptist Church was awarded funding to initiate an outdoor arts program aimed at engaging with local Indigenous people. This program will celebrate and grow their gifts of art, and provide a safe place for expression, connection and support. After delays associated with COVID-19, the Port Pirie team look forward to commencing project activities in early 2021.

Blackwood Hills Baptist Church was awarded funding to begin a learner driver mentoring program. Vulnerable young people who are without the ability to find the required 75 hours of learner driver supervision, will be matched with volunteers who will teach them to drive. They will spend many hours practicing in a for-purpose vehicle maintained by the participants. This will see young people empowered to move out of unemployment and homelessness and grow in confidence and independence by achieving their provisional license. Many participants for this program will come from their original 2018 CCP youth mentoring and friendship program 'Get Out'. We love seeing the positive impact that friendship and community are having on young people facing homelessness who continue to thrive as they make strong community connections.

Congratulations to each of these very worthy projects!



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service planning
to when your
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in a heap



THE
WORSHIP LEADER'S POCKETBOOK
DON PURDEY

dontfretbook.com

The advertisement features a book titled "don't fret" by Don Purdey. The book cover is green with a white guitar illustration and the title in a white, handwritten-style font. The text "ORDER NOW" is in bold, dark blue, and the rest of the text is in a dark blue, sans-serif font. The book is shown at an angle, with the spine visible. The website "dontfretbook.com" is displayed at the bottom of the advertisement.

Whose voice?

One of the values that I have appreciated about our Baptist family is the autonomy of the local church. Everything the Association does has to be done out of relationship and collaboration rather than coercion and power.

Obviously, there are strengths and weaknesses in any value. At its worst, decisions can take a long time to work through, and we need to accept that some churches may take a very different path to other churches, sometimes an opposite one. Yet, at its best, this value forces us to listen to each other, and make room for voices that may otherwise get drowned out. It encourages tolerance and acts as a check and balance as we seek God's will on any corporate matter.

Aside from impacting our internal discussions, this value also means that our public voice is impacted too. Any statements the Association makes publically must take into consideration the wide and varied views of our

member churches on any given matter.

In Parliament recently, there was a motion put forward seeking to prevent lobbying, demonstrating, or protests of any kind around abortion clinics. This is, of course, a very emotive subject in church circles. So how should the Association speak into questions like this? The truth is, that even in our own Association there are differing perspectives. Yet, even if there was consensus, how do we communicate our thoughts with love and not alienate the very people who we are ultimately seeking to reach?

There are many other subjects that the world is grappling with: euthanasia, sexuality, gender, stem cell research, the environment, and racial inequality, to name a few; should we have a voice in these questions? If so, then whose voice?

One of the things I have noticed is the posture that the Association has taken in any public statements. First,

we are not quick to speak. Rather the approach is measured, wise counsel is sought and much prayer is entered into.

Second, the tone is as important as the message. Always gentle, non-combative, and conciliatory (by that I mean eager to listen).

As political tensions continue to rise around the world, and society is more and more intolerant of differing opinions, my hope is that we, the Baptist family, can model what it is to stay in relationship, while debating important matters. Listening to each other's views, together finding a way to move forward, where staying in relationship is more important than winning an argument, and ultimately allowing God's Spirit to guide us in all truth.



Daniel Gardiner-
President

News from Aberfoyle Park Baptist

2020 was a different but blessed year for Aberfoyle Park Baptist Church.

Looking back, 2020 had all the ingredients for a very difficult year, but I am grateful that our church family saw the opportunity to build stronger relationships and care for one another during COVID-19.

Connect and Care phone calls and prayer chains formed quickly and the pastoral care team rose to the occasion.

COVID restrictions meant we were unable to run our community carols in the local park. We rethought our usual approach, and the church put on an amazing display of Christmas lights with the theme; 'Jesus is the reason for the Season'.

We turned our pre-Christmas service into a family-friendly 'Cafe Church'. Attendees were served barista coffee, hot chocolate, and snacks as we worshipped cabaret-style. Two visitors were initially nervous but quickly felt



at home getting to know others at their table.

As the pastor, it was so special to drive around the local suburbs and pray for guidance about which homes to deliver

hampers of Christmas food to.

At one point, a woman turned up at church mid-week stating she was lonely and wanted to check if our church had anything to offer. We did. Two new seniors are now attending regularly and connecting.

Currently, we are searching for a new pastor, but we have come out of 2020 feeling blessed and hopeful for the future.

Steven Penley
Pastor, Aberfoyle Park Baptist



ANCHORED IN HOPE, BAPTIST WORLD AID AUSTRALIA PREPARES FOR 2021 CHALLENGES

When 2020 came to an end, many in humanitarian work were signalling Covid-19's ongoing impact on poorer communities for the year ahead. Those just emerging from poverty had fallen back into it when the pandemic hit, losing work, housing and food, and experts now warn of humanitarian crises not seen since World War II.

In response, Baptist World Aid Australia began preparing for a year of pandemic-related challenges with its Christian partners in countries such as Bangladesh, Nepal, Cambodia and Syria. And staff are digging deeper into God's word, knowing that 2021 will require constant reminders of the hope Christ offers.

"Hebrews 6:19 tells us we have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm

and secure," said John Hickey, CEO for Baptist World Aid Australia. "We know this isn't going to be an easy year, especially for those in already vulnerable situations. So we're wanting to look more to Jesus, the author of our faith, as we work together in caring for those in poverty."

That means Baptist World Aid Australia teams will be considering more how Christian formation shapes our responses to injustice in working toward a more compassionate world. With new resources for churches, prayer calendars and Bible study guides, the international organisation will also step up its advocacy efforts toward chocolate and fashion companies to ensure fair treatment of workers and suppliers. Plans for

deepening ongoing partnerships and opportunities for giving toward children and families in poverty as well as disaster relief assistance are underway.

"Together, as God's people, we want to respond to those in need throughout 2021," Hickey said. "It's going to require prayer and wisdom and sacrificial generosity in ways that might stretch us, but what a privilege it is to join in such work for God's kingdom."



BAPTIST WORLD AID AUSTRALIA
Be love. End poverty.



NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS

With 2021 commencing, expectations seem to focus on new beginnings, the hope of returning to some level of normality and moving on.

As I embark on another year, there is hope that draws me closer to God with a thankful heart as I know that the Lord of the Harvest is at work.

It was a privilege on Sunday 13 December for a packed but suitably distanced Camden Baptist Church to commission the Haydon family. David, Susie, Anushka and Kyran have been cleared to travel to Malawi on Friday 15 January and commence their culture and language learning. I look forward to seeing how God will use them amongst the Yawo as they begin their intercultural journey and settle into Mangochi. Please pray for them as they make new beginnings and become immersed in the community. This is a significant development for the Baptist movement in South Australia and Northern Territory. God has done great things through our SA Baptist Churches and the BCSA community. Thank you for your support, generosity and prayers that have made this possible.

This year sees Global Interaction commence its four-year Strategic Roadmap, after hundreds of people from across our movement shared in the discernment process, as we sought the Spirit's leading for our future. At the heart of the Roadmap is the vision of 'vibrant faith communities following Jesus in their own distinctive ways'. We pursue this compelling vision in Asia, Africa, and Outback Australia, celebrating our privilege of participating in God's mission. We do this together, in partnership with churches and supporters from across our movement.

The Roadmap will ensure a sustainable future as we practice good stewardship with the resources entrusted to us. More will be shared in coming months.

The State office has a new beginning. Staffing changes have occurred to align with the Roadmap, including Jane Norman concluding her role as the Executive Assistant in the State office and beginning a new role in the national office in a job share position as National Administration and Collaboration Co-ordinator, based in Adelaide. I would like to thank Jane for her wonderful contribution, her unending creativity, efficiency, faithfulness, and enthusiasm.



Your prayers are vital as we face these new beginnings. May you know God's presence in your life in whatever you face this year.

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@globalinteraction.org.au.



Dr David Turnbull
State Director
Global Interaction SA/NT



Marguerite Leggett and Lois Chesser were part of a team of volunteers who spent hours prayerfully selecting gifts for children with proceeds from the Limestone Coast Toy Run

Toy Run: Hundreds of Christmas presents gifted to children in the Limestone Coast

After a year filled with uncertainty and challenges, hundreds of children and young people across regional South Australia received an extra special gift at Christmas through Baptist Care SA's Limestone Coast Toy Run.

Businesses, community groups and individuals have been hurting due to the impact of the pandemic, but this did not prevent the community from rallying together to raise close to \$9,000 for families in need throughout the region.

Over several days, a team of seven volunteers from the Mount Gambier Baptist Church then spent hours thoughtfully purchasing gifts with the donations; praying over each gift and for each child who was to receive it.

"We're happy to work with Baptist Care SA and help out wherever we're needed," says Jen Buchanan, who oversees

Women's Ministry at the church, "It's such a good cause and a great way to support local kids and their families. These truly are gifts of love."

In total, 352 children and young people received gifts which were distributed through 12 schools and community organisations across the Limestone Coast region.

"We're grateful for the support of the Church – both for their assistance in purchasing the gifts, but also for erecting and dismantling a massive marquee for us on the day of the event.

And of course we'd like to thank the businesses, community groups, clubs and individuals who helped us deliver Christmas cheer and blessings to children and families in need," said Baptist Care SA Area Manager, John Merrett.

Dare to Dream: Let 2021 be a 'Plague-Buster'!

"Expect great things from God... Attempt great things for God"
(William Carey)

These bold words reflect the deep enduring faith of a man whose courage and influence continues to inspire hope and motivate many, including the leadership team of Baptist Care SA.

We have witnessed 'great things from God' - After staring down the challenges presented during 2020, Baptist Care SA's board, leaders and staff spent time praying together in December and reflecting on our Lord's triumphs of grace and endurance and the value of our emergent learning. With and on behalf of the Baptist churches of our great State, we

- were encouraged by the courage, endurance and resilience of vulnerable people
- celebrated the skills and dedication of our leaders, managers and staff
- reaffirmed the contribution of our valued volunteers
- witnessed the value-building benefits of interagency collaboration
- gratefully applauded the generosity of our donors and supporters whose faithful contributions continue to underpin our missional efforts to shed light into the darkness of poverty and loneliness.

Determined to attempt 'great things for God' - As Baptist Care SA's Executive Leadership reconvened during early January, we cast our eyes toward the many challenges and opportunities that we expect to face together in this year of global recovery, national recalibration and local restoration of confidence. We recognise the need to learn from the past and to draw deeply from the well of inspiration that flows from the servant heart of Jesus Christ, who came that all people might have the opportunity to live in hope.

In 2021, whilst we hope and pray that the rampant trauma inflicted by the Coronavirus on physical health will be subdued, we also expect to see our Lord's hand of grace and healing at work amongst us as we continue to work alongside all our supporters and collaborators to address the three social plagues of the 21st Century: Hopelessness, Helplessness and Disconnection.

In this year of global change, Baptist Care SA boldly recommits to its ongoing mission to convert dreams into lived experiences for the people we seek to serve. Please pray with us that

- SA's most vulnerable children and young people will learn to trust again and develop hope for a future in which they have opportunities to thrive
- Parents who are struggling under layers of adversity will experience life-giving encouragement and practical support that enables them to cherish and nurture their children
- People who are living with disabilities, those without a place to call home, those struggling with loneliness, mental illness and unhealthy dependencies will engage with positive people and skilled services that can assist them to take steps toward improved health, well-being and stability.



Graham Brown
CEO

Baptist Care SA

Let's pray that together we can develop and sustain Collaborative Missional Communities where people experience and witness the Kingdom of God on Earth. Let's dare to dream that 2021 will truly be a 'plague-busting' year!

VISION & VOCATION

Some years ago, I wrote about Vocational Discernment as a vital piece of intentional discipleship. This is the ongoing conversation focused on the question: What is God calling you to do? (And what steps are you taking?)

Without a tailored conversation around each individual disciple's unique shaping, gifting and calling by God, discipleship mentoring so often loses intensity in the following ways:

1. It gets lost climbing the asymptotic mountain of theoretical perfection. The trainee is measured up against a long list of ideals and spends huge energy trying to make 1% improvements towards an imagined 'ideal Christian' that God does not expect of any of us individually.
2. It wastes time and energy shaping the trainee into a body part they're not made to be – often the part that the mentor is.
3. It gives a false impression of non-urgency where the trainee has their whole life to plod towards general 'fitness', rather than training for an event (or events) that God has entered you for in his great Games.

Years later I still passionately believe this. But I've come to see that Vocational Discernment is just as important for churches as it is for individuals.

Typically churches use the term vision to describe the bigger and future direction for a church. But I think vocation is better. It asks the question "What is God's vision for this church?" "What has he put us here and called us together for?" It helps in the following ways:

1. It centres the process outside of ourselves, reminding ourselves that there can be a significant difference between what we'd like to do and what we ought to be doing.
2. It invites a uniqueness and contextualisation of ministry, rather than every church trying to be a replica of some other (often imagined) 'successful' church.
3. It lasts longer than the current leadership. Often in our churches there's a new era and a new focus with each new pastor. But where a church knows its vocation, it has a reference point for the appointment of pastors and other leaders.

So what's your vocation? And your church's? And how do they intersect?



Andrew Turner
Church Development Facilitator

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

- February 26-28
- 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 for details and registration.



The Movement Survey results are in!

We have created a snapshot of our Baptist Churches by-the-numbers. To download your copy, visit:

<http://sabaptist.asn.au/survey>



FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

8-20 FEBRUARY

- Pray for our nation's leaders wisdom and deep compassion in their decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Give thanks for Derek Langman (Enfield Baptist) and Melinda Cousins as they take up new roles on the Board of Baptist Care SA and Amanda Baldwin who will commence an advisory role on the Finance Audit and Risk Ctee
- Pray for Baptist Care SA Board as it resumes its governance functions

Continue to pray that the reform of the State's Homelessness sector results in improved outcomes for the vulnerable and homeless

21-28 FEBRUARY

- Pray for the return of volunteers to the WestCare Centre, for their engagement with vulnerable people
- Pray that marginalised young people will engage with Baptist Care SA's Flexible Learning Options program across Adelaide and beyond
- Pray for our missionaries to be free of COVID-19

1-6 MARCH

- Celebrate WestCare Centre's over 100 years of faithful service which provides a firm foundation for planning the future development of the Wright Street property
- Pray that vulnerable children will

respond to the care, encouragement and home-like places provided by Baptist Care SA

7-13 MARCH

- Pray that children and young people going to camps at the Mylor Adventure Camp will be blessed

14-20 MARCH

- Pray that disabled people will be included in our churches and communities

21-31 MARCH

- Give thanks that the Baptist Care SA's refreshed Innovate
- Reconciliation Action Plan will lead to increased capacity to walk alongside Aboriginal people and communities on their transition pathways

1-11 APRIL

- Give thanks that Baptist Care SA has been chosen as a trusted provider of support services for Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors (refugee children aged 5-14 years) whom the Federal Govt is seeking to settle in SA
- Pray for Baptist Churches as they address the needs of vulnerable/disadvantaged people in their local community in conjunction with Baptist Care SA
- Pray for our pastors and leaders of our churches

Dr John Beasy sharing at History Group meeting in March

The next meeting of the SA Baptist History Group to be held on Friday 5th March 2021. This will be at Enfield Baptist Church, 1 Francis Avenue, Broadview 5083, at 4.30pm.

Dr. John Beasy will be the speaker and he will share with us about his journey in ministry. There will be a simple meal to finish with and a small donation would be appreciated.

A warm welcome to anyone who may be interested.

If there are any enquiries please contact Marie Lines. Phone 8332 4887 or email linesmb@internode.on.net

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.