

FEBRUARY 2023

TOGETHER IN MISSION



The long-standing tradition of Easter Camp continues

Every year, teens from across our state gather in anticipation for a weekend of worship, fun and games, exceptional food, and a chance to hear about God's big story. The long-standing tradition of our Easter Camp highlights the uniqueness the SA Baptist movement and unifying our diverse community

of churches for this moment each year is a blessing and a privilege. It is this aspect of camp that so many parents, youth, leaders, and pastors recognize as the heart of it all.

The Easter Camp model has seen

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Clear vision for Easter Camps

many changes over the years! In my time we met at school sites and camp sites, in one location and in two, worshipped and shared meals together in gyms and chapels, in tents and halls, and have seen an ever-changing group of remarkable leaders! Through all this, the vision to see the next generation transformed by an encounter with God, through a community which seeks to encourage discipleship in Jesus' kingdom in order to better our world, remains.

This year we again look forward to gathering Year 7-10s at Mylor Adventure Camp and Year 11-12s at Wirraway Homestead. It is a privilege to facilitate camps that are both accessible and meaningful to a diverse range of young people. We see the impact of energetic and joyful camps that also create space for deep reflection and relationship with God and each other and we plan in hopeful expectation that this continues.

Many of you have your own memories of Baptist camps! I am beyond grateful for the legacy that has been created by those who have faithfully served over the years and who continue to be involved as courageous leaders, loving parents, generous church communities, and who cover this camp in prayer each year.

"Easter Camp highlights the uniqueness of our movement and unifies our diverse community of churches"

There are several ways you can continue to be involved. We are always looking for camp leaders – particularly those with some experience and maturity to offer! And this year we are also looking for kitchen volunteers to help with mealtime logistics. Please contact Mary Ackers (Youth Ministry Facilitator) mackers@sabaptist.asn.au for more information.

Thank you, and please continue to pray for us as we prepare for another weekend of community, discipleship, and transformation in our young people.



Mary Ackers
Youth Ministry
Facilitator



Registrations for 2023 are opening soon!

In recent years we have sold out - please register early to avoid disappointment.

Scan or visit sabaptist.asn.au/ec

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ARTICLES &
ADVERTISING
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CORRECTION
In the article 'Laura Baptist
is reborn as House of Hope
opens' (December 2022), we
published that Laura Christian
Community has a 'purpose-
built cafe'. The cafe facilities
are currently used for ministry
purposes and hospitality for
special events, with the hope
to one day have a ministry in
hospitality.





In praise of wisdom

Every Monday morning, we begin the working week in the BCSA office by reading a passage from the bible and then praying together, using the themes of the passage as the basis for our prayers. This week we chose Proverbs 4, a passage that in my bible is titled ‘Get wisdom at any cost’. As we reflected on this passage, we prayed that we and the pastors, leaders and people of our Baptist movement would make wise decisions throughout 2023. We prayed not for worldly wisdom, or wisdom based on the latest fad of popular psychology, but Godly wisdom, biblical wisdom, Christ-like wisdom.

It seems to me that wisdom is an under-appreciated thing. Church decisions are sometimes influenced more than we like to admit by the opinions of a few people, or by culture, or society, or by wanting to do things the way things have always been done. Sometimes churches rush into a new thing because someone is excited about it or refuse to do anything new because we fear the consequences of change. None of these are wise ways to lead.

Wisdom requires us to take a different path. It calls us to deep prayer, careful consideration. To listen to the spirit and to one another, to engage with biblical truth, to consider practical implications. Out of all of this we hope to make a well informed, wise decision (the Framework for Discernment and Conversation on the BCSA website is an excellent resource to assist with this). As we live out our faith in a culture that is often apathetic to the gospel and sometimes hostile to it, we need wisdom more than ever.

So as you start 2023, may you take to heart the words of Proverbs 4:7 “Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do! And whatever else you do, develop good judgment”.



Mark Sanders
Church Development
Facilitator

What happened at the Annual Assembly

Despite a rainy morning, over 100 people from 35 churches met for our Annual Spring Assembly at Christies Beach Baptist Church. A long drive for some, but a morning full of enjoyment and encouragement for all.

On his last day as President, Rev Daniel Gardiner reflected on the history of Christies Beach Baptist and its growing presence in the local community. Acknowledging that each church is on a different journey, he encouraged us that it's our interaction with one another that convinces the world that Jesus is the answer, our unity that invites others in, and our hospitality and welcome that makes an impact.

We headed into the business side of the gathering and enthusiastically welcomed Bethel Mission Church into full membership and Adelaide Mizo Christian Church and Stansbury Community Church into affiliate membership; we gave thanks to Neil Ryan and Lynette Aungiers for their faithful service over many years as they move into retirement and acknowledged Russ Bates for his 33 years of service at Semaphore Park Baptist; we celebrated with 3 newly accredited pastors – Ray Bell, James Foley and Nate Vawser; we heard the results of board elections and welcomed Liz Moncrieff-Philp as our new vice-president; and we recognised and thanked Julie Lawrie for over 5 years of service as Chair of the Baptist Care Board, and Gaynor Johnson for her years of service as Chair of the Accreditation and Ordination Committee.

Melinda updated those gathered on the potential

amalgamation with the Northern Territory, and we were introduced to their twelve churches via a video. She also encouraged all churches to engage in the conversation around the Uluru Statement and the need to listen to and learn from our indigenous sisters and brothers as we participate in our nation's referendum and model reconciled relationships as churches.

After a short morning tea break and the Baptist Care AGM, those gathered were heartened by stories from Christies Beach Baptist, encouraged by the feedback of some of our young Zo leaders who led on M&M camp and enlightened by hearing from Melissa Lipsett, CEO of Baptist World Aid. In our usual custom, delegates then gathered into small groups to pray and thank God for His never-ending goodness.

To finish off the morning, Daniel Gardiner was thanked for his time as President and we inducted and welcomed Rev Scott Cadman into the President role for the next 2 years.

The whole morning was an informative, encouraging and wonderful time of blessing and unity as we gathered and shared together. We hope you can join us next time, at our Spring Assembly in May 2023.



Tam Battersby
Executive Assistant to
Director of Ministries
Office Manager

 **BAPTIST WORLD AID**

Managing Leadership Anxiety Masterclass

WITH STEVE CUSS

9.00am – 12.00pm
Thursday 2 March 2023

Grange Baptist Church
47 Beach St, Grange,
Adelaide SA 5022

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Having a Heard Mentality



Within two seconds of starting to speak, our hearers have figured out a lot of our message. They've identified the genre. If I showed you one second of a video clip, you'd instantly know whether it was an advert, TED-talk, news item, stand-up comedy, public-service announcement, influencer plug, propaganda piece or ransom demand. Then, having categorised the message, you listen in a particular way. If it's propaganda, with eyes ready to roll. If it's comedy, anticipating a punchline.

So how do people hear us talk about Jesus? What are they already thinking when we've barely started? Here are some common forms:

We can talk about Jesus in TED-talk form, preachers and devotion-givers often do. This format packs in plenty of information, which is a plus. On the other hand, listeners are directing it straight to the 'Interesting-to-know' part of their brain for trivia and the trivial. Effective preaching needs to be more and go further than the back of people's minds.

We can talk about Jesus like a sales pitch. When the hearer picks up (instantly) that we're saying rehearsed lines, what we say goes straight to the 'Highly Doubtful' section of their brains and their 'How-soon-can-this-be-over' part is activated. In our minds, we have a very important message and don't want to get it wrong. But in their minds, truth-tellers don't worry about their lines, only liars and actors do.

We can talk about Jesus like a public service announcement: Please mind the gap between heaven and hell. If this is heard at all, beyond being background noise, it is usually thought of as health and safety overkill. Yeah, yeah, be kind to others, love God, don't go to hell, yeah, yeah.

We can talk about Jesus like a ransom demand: Accept the wonderful love of God, or else. Demands are heard and received in a particular way too.

Even not talking at all about Jesus is saying something

about him - that he's unimportant, exclusive or shameful. Our non-hearers interpret this too - that he is outdated and irrelevant.

So what are some good ways of talking about Jesus? What genres will help us be heard well, and what do they look like? That's a great discussion question for your home-group. Here's a couple worth considering:

Recommendation - how do we talk when we've come across a brilliant TV show or book or activity that we love and want to share with others?

Invitation - there is so much for us to gain by considering the invitational nature of the gospel (and indeed of God). Invitations are announcements with a personal aspect, and they respect the invitee's freedom and agency. On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jn7 when Jesus stands up and speaks out, he chose this genre. It could have been pronouncement: 'You've all got this all wrong!' Instead, he cried out If anyone is thirsty, let them come to me and drink.

Recommendation and Invitation come together in John 1 -

Philip: We've found the one Moses and the prophets wrote about - Jesus of Nazareth!

Nathanael: Nazareth, can anything good come from there?

Philip: Come and see!

So, sacred agent, when you started to read this - back in the very first line - how were you categorising it? What signals gave away its genre? In the same way, how do people read your signals and hear what you have to share?



Rev Andrew Turner
Director
Crossover Australia



2023 is off and running

Happy New Year folks, I pray 2023 has started well for you and you are refreshed in the Spirit, eager to follow where God is leading you this year.

Welcome back to SA to the Haydon family, currently on Home Assignment until April. If you would like to have them visit your church or small group and share their experiences, please contact me (lcornish@baptistmissionaustralia.org).

I am thrilled to let you know that there are plenty of exciting things happening throughout the year on the Baptist Mission Australia front with many ways for you to pray, support, hear from and be involved with our Intercultural Team Members as well as the work happening here and around Australia. These opportunities include:

- May Mission Month, our theme for 2023 is, Alongsiders. Being an Alongsider means sharing God's love in genuine, active and relevant ways. It means partnering with each other and with God; sending and being sent, giving and receiving. Working together as partners in God's mission. Watch the website for resources - baptistmissionaustralia.org
- The Unite Prayer events and Stamp collecting initiatives.

- Walk the World, the brand-new prayer weekend will feature again in November 2023.
- South Australia's very own monthly prayer gathering on zoom, first Thursday of each month at 7pm. If you would like to join in, please send me an email (lcornish@baptistmissionaustralia.org).

SA will be welcoming a number of Intercultural Team Members on Home Assignment during 2023 as well as having the immense privilege of sending Intercultural Team Members out to the field on their first Term assignment. Please continue to support and pray for all these Team Members as they serve where God has called them.

I'm looking forward to working with you all this year whether for the first time or again.



Lisa Cornish
State Director SA/NT
Baptist Mission Australia



Baptist Care SA client Tristian with his Support Workers Yadvinder and Papi.

Supported Independent Living helps people with disabilities to thrive



Recently, I overheard a colleague describing the challenges and triumphs she witnessed growing up alongside her sibling living with disability.

She shared the challenges related to self-image, the need to conform, and mental health issues her sibling experiences daily. I was reminded that while we are all equal in the eyes of God, people living with disability experience social exclusion and may struggle to live independently as adults.

As a NDIS provider, Baptist Care SA journeys alongside people with a disability by providing vital in-home and community services and support to hundreds of South Australians.

One of the ways we do this is through Supported Independent Living (SIL).

Supported independent living is for people with higher support needs, who need some level of help at home all the time. It provides people living with a disability with support to undertake daily tasks so they can retain, and grow, their independence.

The type of support we provide is decided on by the person living with a disability. It is based on the way that person wants to live, the goals they want to achieve and how they want to strengthen their life skills.

Baptist Care SA Support Workers visit the houses of people living with disability to support them with cooking and cleaning, personal care, managing their budgets and developing their communication skills. They help people to connect and reconnect with their communities by participating in sport, recreational and social activities, which helps build self-esteem and reduce social isolation. They can even stay overnight, if needed.

When people living with disability want to move out of home, their move into Supported Independent Living is arranged sensitively between themselves, their families and Baptist Care SA. This ensures that when they are ready and able to live away from their parents' home their move towards

independence is smooth, positive and easily achieved.

People wanting Supported Independent Living can choose to live alone, with friends or with other people living with disability- depending on their budget and personal preferences.

Baptist Care SA has some great houses across South Australia for people wanting Supported Independent Living, which can be viewed on our website. If you know anyone who could benefit from a Supported Independent Living arrangement, please feel free to contact us at Baptist Care SA to see how we can be of assistance.



Shane Austin
CEO
Baptist Care SA



A bright future for SA Church Basketball

SA Church Basketball Association is inviting interested churches, schools, community groups, families, players and officials to participate in a longstanding organisation that values community, faith and basketball. Commencing in 1950 and continuing today - SA Church Basketball has a rich history and an exciting future ahead.

Newly elected President, Leighton Boyd, shared that he is "honoured to have been elected as President of SA Church Basketball Association Inc and to be serving alongside the Board and with Darren Humphry's who was elected as Vice President. "I am looking forward to this expanded role in the organisation and working with Basketball South

Australia, plus the wider basketball community-to grow the sport together."

Ways to get involved include introductory basketball programs and camps, the opportunity to become an official and playing juniors or seniors in the SA Church Basketball competition. The competition has multiple venue locations available across metropolitan Adelaide on Saturday afternoons and Tuesday nights. There is also the opportunity to become a player or coach for SA Church Basketball's district club, the Stars, who participate in the Basketball SA district competition.

SA Church Basketball is about 'more than basketball' and encourages the spirit of community and teamwork. For more information and to get involved, visit sachurchbasketball.com.au.

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:

- March 24 - 26
- 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 gtimos.org for details and registration.



Offices for rent at Hallett Cove Baptist

Three individual Offices for Rent at the Hallett Cove Baptist Church. Rental is \$110 per week (plus GST) per office. Each Office comes with serviced cleaning and unlimited Wi-Fi. Ph: Bruce on 0439 449 015 Email: chenowethbr@gmail.com



London B&B

A lovely home, self-catering facilities, spacious rooms, easy city access, reasonable rates. Email: rachelallen1234@gmail.com 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.