

JUNE - JULY 2021

TOGETHER IN MISSION



In this edition:

**PUTTING OUR MONEY
WHERE OUR MOUTH IS**

**PRAYER WARRIOR
AUDREY FOREMAN**

**WHAT HAPPENED AT
AUTUMN ASSEMBLY?**

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



Baptist Churches
of South Australia

On a Mission

Our annual Autumn Assembly saw over 90 delegates and pastors from over 40 churches gather at Rostrevor Baptist Church for a night of worship, thanks, and discernment.

The evening began with robust fellowship over a cuppa and some beautiful treats made by the crew at Rostrevor Café.

Melinda Cousins, in her first Assembly as Director of Ministries, inspired delegates with a poem called 'Saved, Called, Sent,' highlighting a people so reshaped by their redemption that it moulded their identity and purpose in every part of their lives.

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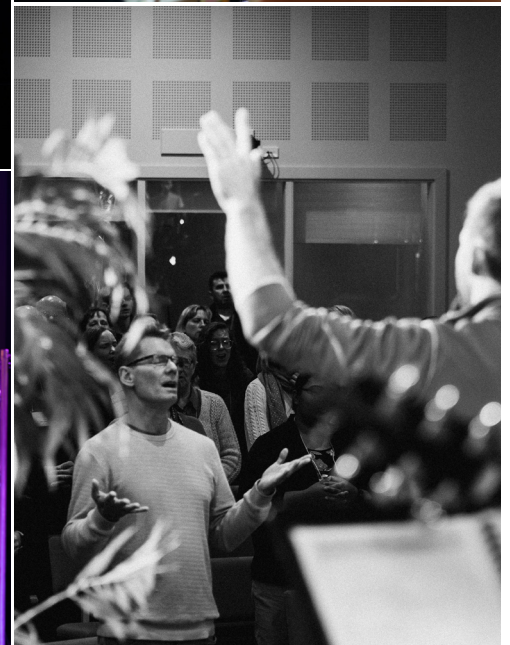
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Putting Our Money Where Our Mouth Is

Being one of those strange people who actually enjoy the process of governance, it was great to see many of you at the Autumn Assembly recently.

I really appreciated not just the fact we made some important decisions but also the spirit in which we made them.

I am constantly aware that the role of the Assembly Board is to serve our membership.

Therefore, it is always satisfying when after all the discussion, prayer and consideration that goes into the proposals we put to the assembly, the assembly then affirms we are on the right track.

This Autumn, the big decisions regarded the potential purchase of new offices for our Ministry Team and approving the annual budget.

Of course, there are many people who would prefer to have a lobotomy with a spoon than involve themselves with these decisions, but if you bear with me here I will explain why they are important.

Aside from the obvious legal requirements and accountability to membership, I see these decisions as deeply spiritual. You see, administration and finances is quite literally putting our money where our mouth is.

Personally, I can look at any budget and see what the church or organisation's true values are, despite what they might say are their values.

In the case of the Assembly Board, we attempt to balance wise investment and stewardship of the resources we are entrusted with against the mission of our movement.

Our dilemma is always whether we should invest the capital accumulated to give us regular income or whether to spend that capital on major projects. Both choices have their merits, neither is ethically right or wrong.

We desire our finances to be closely aligned with our stated mission, that our spending shows both faith and wise

stewardship, that anyone looking at our budget or balance sheet can clearly see what our values are.

Broadly speaking, there appears to be a sense around the board table that the Lord has blessed us financially as a movement over the past decade or so, hence an appetite to ask the question, now what?

With the appointment of Melinda and the staff changes that have followed, new conversations are being had that are likely to impact our financial direction in due course.

My prayer – and hopefully yours too – is for wisdom to get the balance right; that we will put the resources that the Lord has given us into the work He asks us to do, ultimately putting His money where His mouth is!



Daniel Gardiner
President

What Happened at Autumn Assembly?



Celebrating the retirement of Rev Abel Rillera from Springpark BC



Thanking Rev Andrew Turner for his decades of service at BCSA

CONTINUED FROM COVER

When we got down to the business of Assembly, retirements and new pastoral positions were celebrated, updates were given on staffing at the Baptist Centre and churches currently seeking new pastors.

The budget for 2021/22 was also accepted and approval was given for Baptist Churches of SA to look for new office premises.

David Turnbull from Global Interaction introduced us to the newest candidates from South Australia who will be heading to South East Asia next year (unable to be named for security reasons).

Rev Dan Beasy shared some of the ways God is helping Rostrevor to reach those doing it tough in their wider local community, and we saw a video from Rev Cung Hnin at Adelaide Chin Christian Church encouraging us to pray and be a voice for those in Myanmar.

Delegates then had the chance to gather into small groups and pray before the night was closed with a final song of worship.

We sincerely thank Rostrevor for their hospitality and give glory to God for continuing to bless, inspire and give wisdom as a movement of Baptist Churches.

Easter message brings hope to inmates in Adelaide Remand Centre



For more than three decades, Chaplains from Baptist Care SA have been holding chapel services for inmates at the Adelaide Remand Centre (ARC).

The services are interactive, not just lengthy sermons, and those who come along take part in bible studies or discussions. Many of these men have never attended church before and it is a world far removed from what they have known.

Regardless, “the guys” really enjoy chapel, says Chaplain Richard Hawke. They come for many reasons; curiosity, for reprieve from prison politics, and to be in a setting where people are having constructive conversations.

Two services are held each week and, on average, one quarter of the men from each unit choose to come along.

However, like almost every area of society, chaplaincy services to prisoners were greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic last year. As the team leader, Richard became the only Chaplain allowed to enter the strictly quarantined environment.

As COVID-19 restrictions began to ease, efforts were made to reinvigorate the ministry team. This included reaching out to the churches across the city to form worship

teams to help run the chapel services.

Three churches have come on board, allowing the services to continue with a dynamic team of musicians, as well as pastors and elders who can help lead. This has been an absolute blessing and we thank everyone who has volunteered to be a part of this outreach ministry.

Over the Easter weekend the chapel service at the ARC was once again well attended. The men heard that Mary Magdalene had been the first person to discover Jesus’s empty tomb. They were astonished to learn that she had been a prostitute.

Many of the men burst out laughing at the thought that one of Jesus’s closest followers could have such a background. There was a discussion about how Mary was transformed by the love and grace that Jesus showed her, but most of the men seemed to struggle to understand this.

“I came away thinking I wished I’d never mentioned her background at all,” said Richard. “It seemed like a big distraction.”

The following week one of the inmates who had been at the service asked Richard if he could have a chat.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Toward Home A new approach to homelessness

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”
Matthew 9:36, NIV



Baptist Care SA is delighted to partner with Lutheran Care, The Salvation Army, Mission Australia, Aboriginal Community Services and Sonder, to establish an innovative, new integrated response to homelessness called the Toward Home Alliance.

This dedicated group of organisations has been selected by the SA Housing Authority to provide Homelessness Services across the Adelaide CBD and the southern metropolitan and hills areas.

This announcement heralds the dawn of a new era of skilled and compassionate social support and intervention services, focused on making a collective impact on the complex situations of homelessness and the desperate need of support to restore health, shelter, stability and connection.

Under the new model, our dedicated Westcare Centre personnel will be working with our Alliance partners to increase the range of prevention and early intervention services available to people who are **“harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”**

Baptist Care SA will also be managing and overseeing four (increased from one) youth crisis accommodation services, providing skilled case management services for young people disconnected from their birth families, due to trauma, abuse neglect and broken relationships.

It is a sad reality that life in our fast-moving society can become overwhelming for children and young people. Tragically, these circumstances leave young people exposed to unsavoury influences that lead them to feel lost and alone.

When young people become homeless, they very often fall out of school and their life trajectory quickly spirals downward.

Inspired by the gracious servant heart of Jesus, Baptist Care SA and our strong new Alliance will walk alongside those who need to know that support is at hand, offering compassionate support workers to help them take steps toward better life opportunities.

Please pray with us that through this innovative new Alliance, those feeling harassed, helpless and homeless receive timely and appropriate support that inspires hope and develops knowledge, confidence and skills; support that builds resilience to help overcome barriers and take strides toward the lives they want.

As our dedicated team embarks upon this venture, we:

- Highly value the prayerful support of those sharing our desire to see people live to the fullest.
- Appreciate the ongoing support of our donors of both food and funds to sustain our emergency relief and services in the WestCare Day Centre.
- Respectfully request that people and businesses with a heart for vulnerable people and capacity to be generous to please consider making living gifts and bequests as we plan for a major upgrade of the WestCare Centre. Please contact Hugh Ballantyne, Manager, Fundraising on M: 0418 483 087 or e: hballantyne@baptistcaresa.org.au



Graham Brown
CEO

Baptist Care SA

Be Part of an Historic Moment!

The Australian Baptist movement is spread all over the place, and that's a good thing! But it's always made coming together tricky.

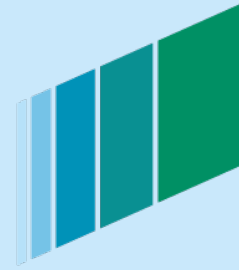
In July, for the first time ever, Aussie Baptists from every state and beyond (for Global Interaction workers on location) will connect together for three days to share and learn and pray as one.

It's called Baptists in Mission Conference, but unlike other conferences it's completely decentralised. It won't be broadcast from some central location. Instead, we'll gather in hubs all over the place (or even zoom in as individuals), and the presenters (quite a line-up!) will present from wherever they are.

We Croweaters will gather at Broadview Baptist and dial in together, as well as separate streams in separate rooms for elective sessions. In fact, we'll be the first to broadcast with our very own Rev Dr Melinda Cousins leading off the first session.

She'll be followed by the likes of Mike Frost, Belinda Lakelin, Mark Holt, Ian Dicks & many more. As we said, it's quite a line-up!

If you can, come and be a part of it, it's going to be quite a moment. Your grandkids might not ask 'where were you when our movement first connected live online?' but hey, you can tell them anyway!



Baptists in Mission CONFERENCE 2021

ONE MOVEMENT, EVERY PLACE

5-7 JULY 2021

BAPTISTSINMISSION.ORG.AU



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Helping Australian Baptists Share Jesus

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Nobody Chooses Homelessness



"I didn't choose to be homeless. I found myself there. It was the only escape from the alcohol-fuelled violence I experienced as a child."

Nobody chooses to be homeless. People like Jess didn't. She fled violence. She fled fear. So she found herself alone. She found herself scared and vulnerable. She needed help.

With winter upon us, there are many more people like Jess living without the things you and I take for granted, like somewhere to sleep or knowing where our next meal is coming from.

You can give hope and comfort this winter to South Australians with nowhere safe to live.

To make a donation visit: <https://baptistcaresa.org.au/nobody-chooses-homelessness>

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Aaron* is a large man and heavily tattooed. He was so grateful for the chapel service, and shared that his partner is a prostitute and that it breaks his heart that she should be living that lifestyle while he is in prison.

He was incredibly touched by the story of Mary and had been thinking about it ever since. He felt certain that God was speaking just to him.

"At that point, without any encouragement from me, he said he wanted God in his life and he wanted God to touch his partner. I can tell Aaron is absolutely committed to change and wants to come on to Baptist Care SA's

"Breaking Free" post release support program.

"He now has a Bible and we continue to meet. I'm in awe of the Holy Spirit and how he orchestrated things in such an amazing way – especially when I thought the service was a failure," says Richard.

This is a poignant reminder that nothing is impossible for our God who loves each of his children equally and longs to bring each and every one of us into his loving grace.

Please pray for Richard and the church teams who are serving the men of the ARC in this important ministry.

**not his real name*

COVID-19 SURGE LEADS TO TWO URGENT APPEALS

Highlighted by the surge of COVID-19 in PNG and South Asia, emergencies around the world underline the scale of global need, requiring immediate responses from relief and development organisations like Baptist World Aid Australia



Unloading in Hagen Office, PNG



Dr Taiye demonstrates a face shield at Tinsley Hospital, PNG



Overalls for hospital staff at Tinsley, PNG

When Baptist-run hospitals were set to close in PNG and India, Baptist World Aid launched two urgent appeals to offer immediate help. Both were in addition to our general COVID-19 Global appeal.

And when Tropical Cyclone Seroja's devastated Indonesia and Timor-Leste, our continuing work as part of Micah Australia's #EndCOVIDforAll has been essential in assisting those in need.

"God's heart must be breaking for the world right now, but his people have reflected his generosity in amazing ways," said John Hickey, CEO of Baptist World Aid.

"It's hard having to keep asking people to help, but we always see God's people respond to caring for the vulnerable."

In early April, Baptist World Aid received an urgent request from Baptist Union PNG. Three Baptist-run hospitals—Tinsley Rural Hospital, Telefomin District Hospital, and Kompiam Rural Hospital—had exhausted their personal protection equipment (PPE), alongside crucial equipment and operational costs.

Staff were eager to keep helping patients, but could not do so without risk to themselves and their own families.

After the emergency appeal from Baptist

World Aid Australia, 95 churches and 1664 individuals from every state and territory offered donations as small as \$6.85 and as large as \$12,000.

The funds raised have exceeded the organisation's goal and were immediately put to use to help with hospital operating costs such as fuel and utilities, hospital staff salaries, PPE, sanitizers and other emergency equipment. The funds are also being used for an information campaign across PNG to reduce the likelihood of the virus spreading.

Then the dramatic spike of COVID-19 in India surfaced.

The sheer numbers of those infected and dying (currently more than 300,000 and 4,000 per day respectively), saw Baptist World Aid launch its *End COVID-19 in India* appeal to help provide life-saving medicine and oxygen, and support general needs through our Christian partners Asia-Pacific Baptist Aid and Emmanuel Hospital Association.

The increase in COVID-19 cases in other South Asian countries—including Bangladesh and Nepal—and news from our partners indicates more support for some time to come.

A recent communication from Welfare Association for Children Tikapur, our

Christian partner in Nepal, reflected the situation,

"Nepal is now going through a second wave of COVID-19. The cases are on the rise . . . This is a very difficult situation. All our staff are now working from home. Please pray for our staff, the communities and Nepal."

The worldwide impact of COVID-19, increasing poverty and unfolding disasters require much needed funds for the 13 projects we support in six countries.

Until 30 June, the Australian Government will combine an allocation of funds to each donation given through Baptist World Aid's annual Matching Grant appeal, greatly impacting the effectiveness of each donation.

"The single most effective way to make the most of your donation at this time of year is to have your gift combined with government funding in our Matching Grant appeal," said Hickey.

"It will reach more people and have a greater impact in caring for the vulnerable."



Matthew Smeal
Baptist World Aid Australia

GOD IS THE WAY MAKER



Thank you to all who have participated in May Mission Month through prayer, giving and raising awareness of what God is achieving through Global Interaction's intercultural workers.

I trust that your vision for Vibrant Communities has been enhanced as you reflect on our core values of sharing God's love, contextualizing the good news, and partnering together.

A highlight of my month came with hosting intercultural workers from South-East Asia (not named for security reasons aligned with South Australia). Their story is encouraging on several fronts, acknowledging God as our way maker.

Firstly, they reflect the changing face of global mission. God is building a global workforce. Over 50% of intercultural workers are now from the majority world – Asia, Africa, and Latin America. This development aids sustainability and reduces the cultural divide in the gospel communication process.

Their lives illustrate God's action over many years relationally and professionally. Both came to Adelaide

for postgraduate study on separate pathways but ended up meeting in their people group's faith community when rostered onto washing the dishes.

They married in 2014 and decided to migrate permanently to Australia. They returned to Adelaide to help a family set up a restaurant and worked there for over three years, even planting a faith community in that very restaurant.

God was also throughout the way they were invited into the work by intercultural workers and saw the model for coming alongside followers of the dominant religion.

Individually, they were also involved in an education foundation staff team and felt a call through the existing team in the country to leave a lucrative job with an international organization.

The attraction was the unique contextual approach to empower local people to worship Isa Al Masih (Jesus). It was something that they had never seen growing up as a believer in South-East Asia, and yet it was effective.

They will be studying for the next 12 months in Sydney to further prepare for their community development roles in South-East Asia but will have visits to South Australia.

Please pray for them in this preparation phase, especially as we protect their identity. For more information about them or how to partner with them, please contact dturnbull@globalinteraction.org.au.

Hoping to see many of you online or at the Broadview Baptist Church hub for our inaugural Baptists in Mission Conference, 5-7 July 2021.



Dr David Turnbull
State Director
Global Interaction SA/NT

BAPTIST 40+ SINGLES

Our upcoming events for 2021

WHEN: 12:30pm Saturday, 19th of June

WHERE: The Nor East Bistro (583 North East Road, Gilles Plains)

COST: Reasonable!

WHEN: 12:30pm Saturday, 17th of July

WHERE: Schnitz (Shop SP-04, Tea Tree Plaza Shopping Centre, Modbury)

COST: Reasonable!

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

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

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.



Audrey Foreman steps away from column after 42 years



Prayer is more than words for Audrey Foreman; it's a lifestyle.

The writer of Baptist Churches of South Australia's prayer column, wherever it could be found, since 1979, Audrey let us know in March that she would be finishing up in her efforts this year. It was a fair innings for Audrey, who started working for the Baptist Union of South Australia in the 70s, when Bill McFarlane was the General Superintendent!

Now 93 years of age, Audrey regularly attends Rostrevor Baptist Church, where she continues to serve on Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays, when she leads an inspiring seniors group.

"I go to the early service. Sometimes I'm on the welcoming committee, and I have to be there at half past eight!

"Tuesdays we have a lunch and a service,

which is really for the older type of people. And I play the keyboard. I've played the piano since I was nine. I always lower the pitch, because sometimes the hymn will go up to F, and that's a bit much, even E's a bit much.

"The other day we had to meet in the hall, and I had a different keyboard, and I couldn't lower the pitch, so we didn't have many high hymns!"

An academic dux at Adelaide Technical High School in the 1940s, Audrey was baptised after she left school, but experienced God in a new way at about 30, when she was born again – "a most wonderful experience! I knew Jesus died for me and I was forgiven."

Audrey came in to visit the Baptist Centre in March, and all enjoyed her polite and cheerful nature. Her favourite hymn, How Deep the Father's Love, deeply reflects her awe of God, and in speaking to Audrey it's evident that the Father sits stoic on the throne of her heart.

"I often have something to thank God for. The other day I was washing up and there was a black mark on the wall. I washed it off, and then up further there was another one, so I thought, 'oh gosh, I'll wash that off too'.

"So I got a chair and thought "I'll climb on this", and I only [went and] fell off this chair!

"It hurts me a little bit to sit down, and my leg's bruised, but I thank God that many times that nothing worse happened, I should have got my steps, shouldn't I have?"

Absolutely committed to daily prayer routines, Audrey talks of prayer as a necessary part of her day.

"How [would I] encourage others to pray more? I'd tell them what I do.

"Every morning I read the Bible and have daily devotions every morning using a booklet of Bible readings.

"Then I've got a heap of papers that thick that I pray about! They're in a little cloth bag, I get them out and do one each day. Then I've got people I pray for every day. I just pray the same things each day."

"I've been a Christian for a long time, I think it's my duty – I want to be close to Jesus."

Together in Mission and Baptist Churches of South Australia are deeply thankful for Audrey Foreman's contributions over the years, and her faithful servant heart in everything she has done and still does.



Benito Carbone
Editor

INTERESTED IN
SENDING THROUGH
A MONTHLY PRAYER
COLUMN?



email the editor!
bcarbone@sabaptist.asn.au

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.