

JUNE - JULY 2022

# TOGETHER IN MISSION



*In this edition*

4D LEADERSHIP  
CONFERENCE +  
ASSEMBLY RECAPS

NEWS FROM OUR  
MISSION PARTNERS

## Full stops become commas

Turn your full stops into commas! You might be hearing that said around our movement from the volunteers and leaders who joined us at Unexpected: Unexpected leadership for unexpected times on Saturday May 14th. Rev Dr Brian Harris, joined us from Perth, and

started the day with an encouraging challenge. He asked us to consider the moments in our lives, or the seasons in our church life, that felt like full stops, as commas. How was God wanting to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



**Baptist Churches**  
of South Australia



Melinda Cousins and Elliot Keane hosted the event



Flying high in the Kids Ministry elective

invite us as leaders and church communities to move forward, despite the challenges we may have been through? He continued the first session with a useful ‘theological architecture’ for navigating the coming seasons.

Just as it was last year, a highlight of the day was our Godx session. We heard 5 short talks from local leaders, Mary Ackers (Salisbury Baptist and Baptist Churches), Mang Bawi (Adelaide Chin Christian Church), Sam Gharwami (Hills Baptist), Miranda Dixon (Unley Park Baptist), and Dale Green (Edwardstown Baptist). The talks ranged from insightful challenges to invest in the next generation, and the challenges of listening well to different cultural backgrounds, to creative expression through first-person narrative and spoken word. We have amazing talent across our movement!

Electives were a great opportunity to have conversations and hear thoughtful practitioners from across our movement speak about a wide range of topics, including two options for board members and governance teams to upskill and think about the changing climate of compliance and mission opportunity. There were also opportunities to discuss discipleship, evangelism, youth and kids ministry, digital communications, and advocacy on justice issues.

Brian Harris focussed the last session on taking ourselves seriously as leaders and developing a growth mindset ready for the challenges and changes in front of us. The kind of leaders that we need in the future are not only the heroic leaders we have celebrated in the past. As Brian quoted: After all, leading loudly and super confidently turns out to be a really bad idea if you are leading in the wrong direction. Leadership in the future requires a wider variety of leadership voices and shapes. Our churches need all types of leaders, we

need you. Brian finished by encouraging us to take our being Baptist seriously as a value system that will help us into the future. We thank Brian for his perceptive and encouraging talks.

Our day also included worship in song, led by a team from King’s Baptist. King’s were exceptional hosts, alongside Milk & Honey café who made all our coffee and food for the day. We are very thankful for the generous support from King’s to make their excellent facility available to us, as well as all their volunteers and staff who contributed in the lead up and on the day.

An important moment of the day was when we paused to pray together. We wrote down our unexpected prayers. We prayed big prayers for the people and hopes we have. We prayed for Gospel impact, for generational transformation and for peace in our world. What is your unexpected prayer? A prayer that if it happened you could say, ‘well that was unexpected’?

Already, we are hearing about transformational moments for leaders and encouragement for church leadership teams and ministry leaders as we figure out a way forward. Before us is a challenging but hopeful path to being the church we need to become for the future. Are we making the necessary changes in our own leadership practice, in our church cultures and in our missional engagement to lead into the unexpected times ahead?



**Elliot Keane**  
Leadership and Mission

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Encounter

Action



*Rev Dr Brian Harris shared a helpful framework to help shape our leadership in unexpected times*

## Autumn Assembly gives a green light towards talks with the Northern Territory

Trinity Baptist opened its doors for our Autumn Assembly, where over 90 delegates were welcomed from 31 churches across our movement. To kick off a night of worship, thanks, celebration, and discernment, we shared cheerful fellowship over coffee and treats made by the crew at Trinity Baptist.

Melinda Cousins shared a message from Mark 14, a story of unexpected faith and grace told in all four gospels to teach, model and inspire us. We were challenged to think about what stories would be told about us in the future – what would be our stories of generosity and abundant giving, our stories of faith where we stepped out and looked foolish.

In the business section, members celebrated Miranda Dixon's accreditation and noted new pastoral positions. We heard updates on churches currently seeking new pastors and staffing changes at the Baptist Centre. COVID-19, Child Protection, Redress, camps, conferences, and training and resource availability updates were also provided. The budget for 2022/23 was accepted, pre-approval of funds was approved for new office premises, and the go-ahead given to work towards amalgamation with the Baptist Union of Northern Territory.

Scott Berry shared an update from Trinity Baptist and



*Miranda Dixon was accredited*

the way God is bringing people to connect with them. Lisa Cornish (Baptist Mission Australia) encouraged churches to make use of the resources for May Mission Month, and introduced Suzanne from Port Pirie who is planning to travel to the Silk Road. Shane Austin (CEO, Baptist Care SA) highlighted the great work being done to support disadvantaged families, people with disabilities, and those experiencing homelessness.

The night ended with members gathering into small groups to pray. We sincerely thank Trinity Baptist for their hospitality.

Glory to God for continuing to bless us, inspire us, and give us wisdom as a movement of Baptist Churches.



## Naming that Nothingness

Most Australians find it hard to name what they believe about the biggest questions in life. Christians can find it hard to talk about Christianity – but at least we have a name to use. Australian culture, with its scepticism and anti-authoritarian bent, is much more comfortable talking about the things we don't believe than naming the things we do.

The major religions all have a name, but the world view that rejects all of them tends only to go by un-names. Atheism simply means not believing in any god. Secularism gets rolled out but really means that no religion should get to run the country.

This means that the 40% of Australians who don't subscribe to a 'branded' religion are often perceived, and often perceive themselves, as being in some kind of neutral territory. Sounds like a safe spot, doesn't it? Keeping your options open.

But the atheistic worldview is not neutral, it is just another worldview. It deserves to be named, because it's certainly an ordered, connected series of answers to the great mysterious questions of life (Where did we come from? What's life all about? How should we treat one another and why? What

happens when we die?). If this could be recognised as a worldview-like-all-the-others then one benefit would be a check on its domination of the public education and public media sectors. I'm certainly secularist in that regard.

But naming it also exposes its character. And the name we should use is Nihilism. The philosophy underpinning a culture of YOLO (You Only Live Once) claims that you came from nowhere, you're destined for nothingness, so eat and drink now for tomorrow you die. It rejects any external authority or accountability or truth-structure, leaving only a political struggle to dominate others before they get in and dominate you.

Need I spend a paragraph outlining the dangers of this ideology? Meaninglessness (nothing really matters), disorientation (no anchor to life), loneliness (no real belonging to anyone or anything) has disturbing and all-too-tangible effects on individual and collective mental health. People fall apart. It's high time we stopped giving this empty, poisonous – and false – view of the world a free pass as some kind of neutral space.

So when you're talking with friends, kids, family members about life's great questions, it's worth asking 'unbelievers'

how committed they really are in their belief in Nihilism - how it's working out for them now, and how it might in the future. And naturally, compare it to the positive vision and historic credibility of Christ and the life-giving view of the world He gives us. Real conversations can only take place when we can call things by their proper name.



**Rev Andrew Turner**  
Director  
Crossover Australia



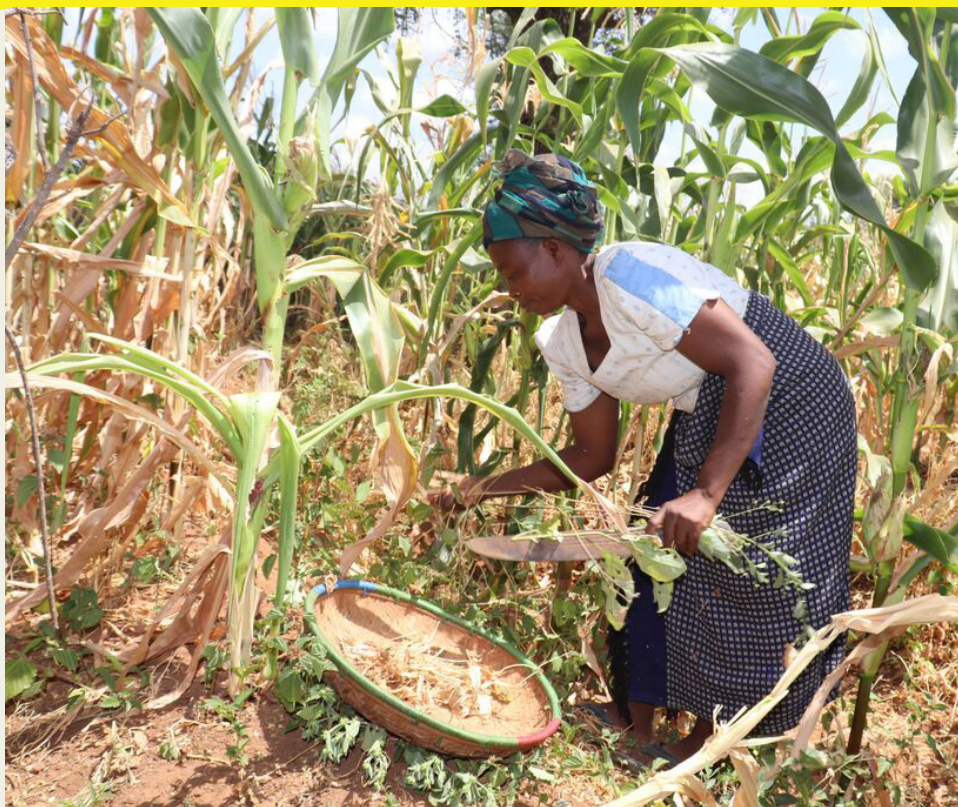
**Crossover exists to Help Australian Baptists Share Jesus.**

**We rely entirely on the grass-roots support of Australian Baptists – see [crossover.org.au](http://crossover.org.au) to help us make a world of difference!**

**Visit [crossover.org.au/](http://crossover.org.au/)**

# The Crisis of Food

## How Baptist World Aid's Matching Grant is Tackling Hunger



Walk into any supermarket across Australia and it's hard to believe people can go hungry today.

Imagine, though, each item on each shelf in each aisle, including the frozen sections, represents each person in the world who struggles to find even one meal a day. It still wouldn't add up to the disproportionate number of global neighbours for whom hunger is daily challenge.

Despite recent progress in combating global hunger, a perfect storm of circumstances now threatens humans' most essential survival tool: food. Between COVID-19's impact, military conflicts, environmental disasters and subsequent rising costs, the world is facing what the United Nations' World Food Program calls 'catastrophic hunger' for hundreds of millions of people, a food crisis 'beyond anything we've seen since World War II.'

During the pandemic of the past two years, for instance, hunger rose between 720 million and 811 million around the globe. Even before COVID, the world faced a malnutrition crisis, meaning that even if people were eating enough food, they weren't eating enough nutritious foods to keep

illness at bay.

A lack of nourishing foods contributes to nearly half of all preventable deaths among children under five, with 200 million children worldwide under five malnourished. In fact, every 11 seconds—about the time it takes to grab a jar of pasta sauce from the supermarket shelf—a child dies from malnutrition.

Global hunger means children in already vulnerable communities are behind in school, babies lack the nourishment they need to develop properly, and parents are limited in opportunities for work, income or well-being. It's what we call food insecurity. It's not just skipping a meal every now and then; it's a whole of life set back.

The war in Ukraine is having a ripple effect on the global food market, affecting farmers as far away as Somalia and Kenya, and experts say it could cause an additional 7.6 million to 13.1 million people to go hungry.

Now, staple foods such as wheat are becoming increasingly scarce and expensive as trade routes from Ukraine and Russia are disrupted.

Many countries import 60-80 per cent of their wheat from Ukraine. With these imports disrupted, the price of bread and other staple foods is rapidly rising, affecting the most economically vulnerable families most of all.

As a tenth of the global population now face hunger, it's estimated around 660 million may still face hunger in 2030 part due to lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on global food security. Soon, 'we'll be taking food from the hungry to give to the starving,' according to the WFP's executive director.

That's why Baptist World Aid's 2022 Matching Grant's emphasis on combatting hunger is so crucial. It helps our Christian Partners provide meals, seeds, training and opportunities to grow food for families across 18 countries. Because in a world of plenty, God's desire is that no one should be hungry.

For more on the global food crisis, visit: <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/2022/05/12/what-are-the-main-causes-of-food-insecurity/>



# God wants us to talk to him

## PRAYER MEETINGS HAVE RETURNED

In February of this year my Grandmother passed away. She was 98 years young and had lived a bold life for Jesus. Every time she sent me a card or letter, she finished by telling me she was praying for me. As a child that meant nothing as I eagerly searched the envelope or parcel for toys or lollies she might have included but as I grew older the knowledge that I had someone praying for me regularly was a source of great strength and encouragement.

There is so much to say on the topic of prayer but the tin tacks of it is that God wants us to pray to Him. Prayer offers support and encouragement as we bring our needs and those of others to our God who listens to and answers our deepest needs. Praying for our Intercultural Workers, Candidates and People Groups is a vital work in their support and partnership. Prayer holds the worker and the work before God, bringing all into alignment with His desires and the direction of the Holy Spirit. Also, how wonderful is it to know that someone cares so much that they are spending time in

prayer for you?

The Baptist Mission Australia prayer meeting has been on hiatus for a while but is starting up again soon. It will be an evening zoom prayer meeting held monthly for an hour and a half. This is a great opportunity to pray as a community for God's mission and those who serve him around the world, across Australia and here in our own backyards.

To register your interest in being part of the Baptist Mission Australia zoom prayer group send me an email at [lcornish@baptistmissionaustralia.org](mailto:lcornish@baptistmissionaustralia.org). I will send further information as it become available.



**Lisa Cornish**  
State Director SA/NT  
Baptist Mission Australia



## Families are going cold and hungry this Winter

Help support families in need by donating to our Winter Appeal.

There is an increasing number of people who have never before had to ask for help to put food on the table and a roof over their heads.

Families who up until recently were self-sufficient, are now struggling to make ends meet. Often due to the loss of work or loss of hours.

The cost of food is soaring, rents are increasing and bills can't be paid.

In an average week at WestCare we provide:

- 653 free meals
- 260 kilos of free fruit and vegetables
- 137 free loaves of bread

- 52 free food parcels
- 38 free food vouchers
- 305 customers with low-cost groceries

“The kindness and professionalism shown by Baptist Care SA staff and volunteers gives me the confidence to believe I can turn my life around.” – Maxine, aged 46

### Together we can give hope...

You will not only provide food and warmth to families but dignity and self-respect. Your generosity is a ‘gift’ that will provide a safe haven for those in need.

**\$45** Nutritious breakfast and lunch for 2 weeks

**\$60** Family food parcel

**\$180** Meat, fruit & vegetables for the WestCare Kitchen

**\$500** Year-round support by providing a family with a monthly box of groceries

Donate now at [baptistcaresa.org.au/winter-appeal](http://baptistcaresa.org.au/winter-appeal)

## Join Baptist Care SA in prayer this month

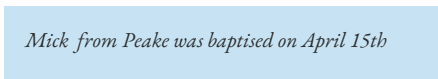
- Pray to bring warmth, safety, and nourishment to those experiencing homelessness on the cold winter nights
- Pray for families who are struggling every day of their lives they can find inner happiness through God
- Pray for the Lord's leading in further exploratory dialogue between local churches and Baptist Care SA as they seek to strengthen and align efforts to engage with and respond to the needs of disadvantaged people and strive for more 'connected communities'
- Pray that our words, relationships and nation will demonstrate respect for and facilitate reconciliation with our nation's Aboriginal people
- Pray for all those who have been forced to leave their homes so that they can find a welcoming place to rebuild their lives with dignity.



Luka from Westcare was baptised on January 30th



Pacifique from Semaphore Park was baptised on May 1st



Mick from Peake was baptised on April 15th



Associate Board Member Positions are now open!

# GET BOARD EXPERIENCE



Read the info pack

Are you under 30, active in your local church, and interested in seeing behind the scenes of our Baptist movement?

Send us an email  
info@sabaptist.asn.au



## An Easter Experience at Edwardstown Baptist

Andrew McDonough's book, 'The Way of the Cross', came to life at Edwardstown Baptist this Easter through an interactive experience. Centurions and soldiers guided participants through a series of stations that each represented a part of Jesus' journey to the cross.

The immersive experience included image projections, and multisensory displays such as sharp thorns to touch, heavy iron nails to hold, and vinegar to taste.

Children were given an empty egg carton and collected items at each station to fill each space. The church also organised treasure bags, sideshow games, pedal cars and food stalls to welcome their community.

## Growing Together in Marriage

### Your marriage matters!



#### UPCOMING RETREATS

Take time out for a retreat weekend that allows God to work in your marriage, helping it become the best it can be.

- June 24-26 at Regal Park Inn, Nth Adelaide
- August 12-14 at Weintal, Tanunda
- October 21-23 at Regal Park Inn, Nth Adelaide

For more details, contact:

Rob & Lee Allen, P: 0438 892 980

Fred & Lesley Vince, P: 0423 762 458

Steve & Val D'Arcy, P: 0402 983 154

Or visit [gtimsa.org](http://gtimsa.org)

## Baptist 40+ Singles invite you to lunch

Our next gathering for 2022 will be held at The Nor East (538 North East Road, Gilles Plains) at 12:30pm on the 18th July.

Please RSVP by the 14th July to Helen or Brian on 8341 8283 or Helen on 0411 772 475, or Brian on 0411 772 457.

### SHARE YOUR STORIES

We love sharing good news from our churches!  
Send news to [rgrace@sabaptist.asn.au](mailto:rgrace@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.