

JUNE 2023

TOGETHER IN MISSION

New and diverse voices at 4D Leadership Conference



4D Leadership Conference gathered leaders from across South Australia and the Northern Territory, representing a wide range of churches, backgrounds, and generations.

While the theme of the conference was Discipleship Matters, two common

threads weaved throughout the day.

The first, a strong sense of the importance of intergenerational discipleship emerged.

This was illustrated again and again,

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from keynote Jason Elsmore sharing about his daughter overcoming health issues and coming to know Christ, to Darryl Bishop and Rachael Foster hosting an elective in a unique father-daughter pairing. Sam Thomson inspired Next Gen leaders by sharing his unique perspective as a Youth Pastor with over 45 years experience, reminding us that age does not have to be a barrier when ministering to the younger generation.

Always a highlight, the GODx speakers delivered inspiring, practical, relatable, quick takes on discipleship in our society today. Samuel Beames, aged 9, spoke about

his favourite heroes of the faith who have given him an incredible and infectious passion for sharing the gospel. Tony Ling shared the pains and gains involved in successful succession planning at Victor Harbor Baptist. Andrew McDonough debuted a brand-new Lost Sheep story and gifted attendees with one of his books. Tash Pillay challenged churches to think about how they are supporting raising parents as well as children.

Finally, Leona Stewart shared some of her own experiences of God from travels around the world, highlighting the second key thread that was noticed throughout the day; the importance of listening to voices from around the world.

Dr Seble Daniel, in particular, reminded us of the valuable lessons we can learn from African and Asian voices. This global perspective expanded our understanding of discipleship and challenged us to broaden our horizons.

4D Leadership Conference 2023 encouraged intergenerational collaboration, highlighted the significance of diverse voices, and fostered a sense of unity among leaders. It reminded us that discipleship truly matters and that we have much to learn and offer one another.



Zo Baptist became affiliate members



President Scott Cadman with Rev Cam Buchanan



Rev Dave Shepherd with the team from Hills Baptist

Merging with the Northern Territory

AUTUMN ASSEMBLY UPDATE

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Grange Baptist generously hosted our Autumn Assembly with over 120 attendees on the 19th May. Our President, Rev Scott Cadman, shared a witty reflection on the story of Eutychus (Acts 20). He reminded us not to grow weary in our faith, as Jesus brings unexpected renewal and embraces us with life. Gathering and worshiping together renews, strengthens, and comforts us.

The evening included celebrations and updates. We welcomed Zo Baptist Church as an affiliate member and celebrated five pastoral appointments. Dave Shepherd and Cameron Buchanan were ordained as Reverends. Melinda, our Director of Ministries, shared staffing updates, engagement with the Uluru statement, and news from the National Council meeting.

Inspiring stories included a transformed former prisoner from Grange Baptist, the challenge of supporting first-generation Christians in Malawi, and the success of Easter Camps in connecting youth with God.

The major news of the night was the unanimous decision to merge with the Baptist Union of the Northern Territory. Our new name will be the Baptist Churches of South Australia and Northern Territory (BCSANT). Whilst there is still significant work required to make this a reality, we are seeing God's hand at work. Please pray that this will be mutually beneficial for both associations and that together we can grow and flourish as one.

Want to be part of the next Assembly? All are welcome. Speak to your church leadership about becoming a delegate!



Encountering God at Easter Camp

Hungry and expectant. These are the two words I have consistently heard to describe the posture of our young people as they entered Easter Camp one drizzly Friday in April. Each year we hope to create a space where young people encounter God, but for them to come desiring and expecting God to move is an incredible act of faith. It's encouraging (and a little bit daunting) to think that this is the legacy that we carry. Thankfully this legacy is supported by broader shoulders than our own – the shoulders of a God who shows up and does what none of us can hope to do without Him.

I can't speak of this camp without mentioning the incredible and tangible covering of prayer that we had this year. When pastors, peers, and parents told us they were praying for camp, our only response was, "we know," simply because we could feel the protection and power of prayer as we planned and prepared for the weekend. It was this intercession that solved problems, opened doors, softened hearts, and empowered young people to take their next step of faith. In every element of camp – from intense rounds of Gaga Ball and karaoke to heartfelt worship, servant leadership, and

vulnerable connection – the prayer of our incredible network of churches and leaders went before us. We felt the power of every single word uttered on our behalf, and we know it made a lifelong impact for our youth, so for this we say a resounding thank you!

Easter Camp is so much more than the numbers, but it is worth sharing that this year we had 21 young people indicate they made first-time commitments to Jesus, and around one quarter of campers are considering being baptised! As we listen to our young people articulate their experience, we hear them say, "I met Jesus for real. Holy Spirit spoke to me. I became a child of God!" May these be words that spur us all to be hungrier and more expectant for God to move in our lives, too.



Mary Ackers
Youth Ministry Facilitator



Deb and Rob Griffith



Suzanne



The Haydon Family



Daniel, Dema, Carolyn and Grace



Mal and Chris Good



Jason Hoet

**Baptist
Mission
Australia**



2023 Mid-Year Update

2023 has already been a big year for Baptist Mission Australia in SA/NT, here is a quick wrap up of the events so far.

May Mission Month 2023: Alongsiders has concluded. I have had a busy but joyful time visiting churches throughout SA and Darwin over May and beyond. A huge thank you to all who participated. I pray you were blessed as you focussed on God's great mission plan for all the world. The resources will remain on the website throughout the year so you may continue to use them at any time.

I'm thrilled to announce that Rev. Jason Hoet, Senior Pastor at Unley Park Baptist is SA's new Baptist Mission Australia board member. Please uphold Jason in prayer as he takes on this position.

We welcome Mal and Chris Good to the Outback Australia team. Mal is the Senior Pastor at Casuarina Baptist church in Darwin. They have served there since 2017 and have discerned a call from God to walk with and serve the Kalkarindji and Lajamanu communities. Mal and Chris have started their

partnership development journey and are keen to hear from churches and individuals who would like to partner with them.

After hearing God's call to overseas service and over two years of partnership development, training, trusting and prayer, Suzanne is heading to the Silk Road area. Her commissioning service will take place on June 11th at Port Pirie Baptist church.

We have a number of folks on home assignment through 2023. David and Susie Haydon and the kids are here from Malawi. They are hoping to return the second half of June. Dema and Carolyn, from Thailand, are visiting churches and groups around SA as well as other states. Rob and Deb Griffith will be returning from Cambodia in August.



Lisa Cornish
State Director SA/NT
Baptist Mission Australia

Six Simple Questions


crossover
Helping Australian Baptists Share Jesus

Sacred agents have a priestly duty – in fact sacred agent is just a fun way of saying priest. All of Jesus' people are called into one version or another of this ministry, and together we are being formed as “a royal priesthood” (1 Peter 2), which will never not be amazing.

Priests always face two ways – towards God and towards people. To be effective as sacred agents, let's not only think about how we talk to people, but also how we talk to God. So whether you're going brilliantly or feeling far from effective, here are some great questions/requests you could bring to him.

1. “Would you please fill me with your Spirit?”

Jesus is the vine and we're the branches. We can only give to others what we ourselves have received, so all effective sacred agents have found ways to ask and to receive much from God. The good news is that God eager to give! Jesus couldn't have been more emphatic about this: We're not only allowed to ask for God's Spirit, we're urged to (Luke 11). Amazing things happen when God pours his love into our hearts. And apart from this, not much really happens at all.

2. “Please show me where I'm blocking your flow.”

Jesus was equally emphatic in teaching that God's blessings are not just for us but are to be through us. “If anyone is thirsty, let them come to me and drink ... streams of living water will flow from within them.”(John 7) But there can be objects, attitudes, habits, fears or doubts that choke the ministry God wants us to have and reduce it down to a trickle. Asking God to bring such things to light is highly strategic and good us as well as others.

3. “To whom are you sending me to today?” It's easy for us to look at our day and just see tasks, appointments and duties. God sees people. And if we're available to Him, there will be people he wants

us to not just brush past, or even for us to go out of our way to meaningfully connect with on his behalf.

4. “Please give me a real sense of how much you love them.” We're usually called to be more than messengers, who simply say ‘God wants you to know XYZ’. Even if all we have for someone is a brief word, we'll be much more likely to share it (and share it well) if we have a sense of how deeply and powerfully God longs for them.

5. “Who should I partner with in blessing them?”

This question moves us from seeing ourselves as solo superheroes. We may have individual assignments from God for sure, but often we're called to work as a body, which is wonderful and powerful and a witness in itself. If someone has a need and the solution is not in my hand, my hand may still have a role to play – pointing, connecting, or passing along.

6. “Please give me wisdom and courage to know and play my part today.”

Along with God's Spirit, wisdom is the other thing that the Bible makes clear we're allowed to ask for with guaranteed results. A sacred agent is not called to do everything, nor to do nothing. We just need to know our part and be ready to play it.

It's possible that the simplicity of these questions could have disappointed you. They're not exactly rocket science, are they? But for those who dare to actually ask them, there's transforming power that leaves rocketry looking pretty boring by comparison.



Rev Andrew Turner
Director
Crossover Australia

Stitching A Future For Herself

How learning to sew changed a life.



Born into a loving but disadvantaged family in Lebanon, Fadia's earliest memories give insight into the life of a child living in poverty.

'My parents didn't have the means to buy us gifts,' she said. 'I used to follow another child around to play with her toys, but then she realised and began to hide them so I couldn't play with them anymore.'

Now a wife and mother, Fadia has continued to experience poverty and exclusion throughout her life. Additionally, she experiences discrimination as a member of the Dom community.

The Dom are an ethnic minority who have existed as a people group in the Middle East for over 1,000 years. Once travelling folks, they share ancestry with the Romani people of Europe. But changes to international borders and laws means that most Dom are now permanently living in camps of makeshift housing where they face extreme poverty and marginalisation. They are frequently the subject of taunts and discrimination, as many in the Middle East regard them as uncivilised.

Statelessness Limits Opportunities

Today, Fadia lives in a large camp on the outskirts of Beirut in Lebanon. Like most of her neighbours, she was born and raised Lebanon, but does not have Lebanese citizenship. This is because citizenship can only be passed from father to child in Lebanon. Neither Fadia nor her husband have paperwork and without this, they have limited access to gainful employment, healthcare, education, and humanitarian assistance.

For Fadia and her family, this meant they often did not have enough money to cover their most basic expenses, like meals.

'Each month, we found ourselves going into debt,' she said. 'We would take

food on credit from the local grocery shop.'

Additionally, the social stigma of being Dom made the children's primary school experience horrific. Cruel insults and physical abuse were a daily occurrence for Fadia's children, Khalil and Mahina.

'The situation eventually got so bad that Hala once even tried jumping off the bus out of fear of going to school and Samer was once pushed down the stairs,' said Fadia. 'I couldn't let them go through this any longer, so they dropped out and missed out on a number of years of schooling as a result.'

A Life-Changing New Skill

Life is very different now for Fadia, thanks to sewing.

Our local Christian Partner helps vulnerable people to gain the skills and experience needed to thrive. They place emphasis on empowering people through training, rather than seeking to solve problems for participants. After meeting our Partner, Fadia took up an offer of training and work in our Partner's sewing collective. It changed her life.

'Not only do my new skills earn me a vital income for my family, but also working as a seamstress has given me a sense of purpose and control,' she said.

Fadia has been able to pay of her debts, and patch holes in her roof and door to keep the rain and rats out of her home. And she's doing it with her own earnings. But what she's most happy about is the change in her children. Our local Partner runs their own school, and welcomed Samar and Hala, aged ten and eight, so they could experience a safe and joyful learning environment. Fadia is thrilled to see them happy and learning.

'Not only do my new skills earn me a vital income for my family, but also

working as a seamstress has given me a sense of purpose and control,' she said.

Currently, the family is working with our Partner on a legal case to gain their citizenship.

'If we can gain citizenship, then would we be eligible to work anywhere legally, move around the country without fear or even one day register a car in our name,' said Fadia. 'Most notably, we would have the right to civil registration of my children who would consequentially have a more secure future.'

Fadia is very grateful for the help she's received, and the way it has equipped her to improve life for herself and her family. But her concern for others living on the margins is never far from her mind.

'I worry for people who have less than we do,' she says. 'They are tired and few have access to work, so I really wish that the living conditions would pick up and go back to the way they used to be when we could make enough money to live a more decent life.'

If you would like to see people living on the margins equipped, trained and able to access opportunities, please consider donating to our Matching Grant Appeal.

Now is the perfect time to give because every donation you make to this appeal before 30 June will be combined with funding from the Australian Government. We will contribute \$1 for every \$5 we receive from the Australian government, with any funds raised in excess of the government grant used to support Baptist World Aid projects.



Heather Keith
Baptist World Aid



Somewhere safe to regenerate and grow



baptist
care sa

Oscar was found wandering on neighbouring land when 'Farmer Dave' picked him up and brought him to Tumbelin Farm. A newborn calf separated from his mother, he was scared and in need of a safe space and people to care for him.

Located in the Adelaide Hills, Tumbelin Farm is Baptist Care SA's residential adventure therapy program for young men recovering from drug and alcohol misuse. Residents will work as farm hands alongside counsellors and case managers and will bottle feed Oscar as part of a holistic program incorporating farm work, counselling and adventure therapy.

Like Oscar, residents will grow stronger and more independent while staying on the Farm, which can be anywhere up to six months, as they learn new

ways of seeing the world around them and discover new ways of reacting to it.

A working farm where residents experience daily farm life as farm hands, Tumbelin Farm's guiding philosophy is regeneration— both of the land and its eco systems, and of people and their beliefs.

Tumbelin Farm recognises the link between mending fences and mending lives, encouraging residents to believe that lives seemingly broken can be woven back together and made stronger.

Strength is also gained in showing gentleness for when caring for animals, especially ones who are vulnerable. Oscar now runs towards our residents when he sees them approach, knowing they carry feeding bottles and trusting he will be cared for as he learns to care

for himself.

Many of the young men who come to Tumbelin Farm are vulnerable upon arrival. Often just out of hospital, they too need somewhere safe so they can learn they are worth caring about while also learning how to care for themselves.

This is what Tumbelin Farm offers. A place where everyone is embraced without judgement— somewhere safe to regenerate and grow.



Shane Austin
CEO
Baptist Care SA



In case you missed it



Simon Lalich was inducted as the new pastor at Millicent Baptist on March 19th



The new Rev Foley

On March 12th, James Foley was ordained at Salisbury Baptist Church by BCSA President Scott Cadman. Joined by Director of Ministries Melinda Cousins, and Salisbury Baptist Chair Matthew Hubrechsen, who both made statements. Members of Zo Baptist Church laid hands, prayed, and dressed James and his wife Rachelle in traditional Zo shawls.

James thanked those who prayed for him and encouraged people to pray that God raises up more 'workers for his harvest'. Director of Accreditation Mike Bartlett preached from 1 Corinthians 13, and called us all to participate in the kind of love that anticipates our resurrection life, and ministers particularly to be prophetic visionaries of that love.

Growing Together in Marriage

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:

- 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 gtimsa.org for details and registration.

NEW BOOK

All You Need is Good News: Paul's letter to Rome

All You Need is Good News treats Paul's letter to Rome as tragedy, comedy, dilemma, and fairy tale. Paul has expounded the tragedy of our sinfulness, the comedy of God's grace, the dilemma of rejection and acceptance of the Messiah, and the fairy tale of the divine transformation of human life. The impact of Romans is noted on significant figures throughout history. This book is designed for personal and group study of Paul's greatest letter.

'In *All You Need is Good News: Paul's letter to Rome*, Doug Rowston has combined a great balance of the English text with analysis of the message for both then and now, providing both a prayer and searching questions for each section, plus plenty of references to further resources.' - Dr Rosalind Gooden

All You Need is Good News
Paul's letter to Rome



Doug Rowston

'Creatively employing a framework of Tragedy, Comedy, Dilemma and Fairy Tale, Doug Rowston succeeds in capturing something of the performative quality of a text that was written to be "performed" (read aloud) when presented to the original recipients.' - Dr Tim Harris

'Filled with details gathered from a lifetime of study, Doug Rowston is a well-informed guide who wants to encourage his readers – both individuals and small groups – towards a devotional (and life-shaping) encounter with the good news of Jesus found in Paul's letter to the Romans.' - Dr Stephen Spence



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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.