

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2021

# TOGETHER IN MISSION



*In this edition:*

IMAGINATION.

HOW BCSA & BAPTIST  
CARE SA WORK TOGETHER

SACRED AGENTS RETURNS

BAPTIST WORLD AID'S  
2021 ETHICAL FASHION  
REPORT

NEWS FROM KING'S,  
BAPTIST CARE SA, AND  
MORE!

## Investing in our Future

Baptist Churches of SA's Leadership Internship has been a fascinating and fulfilling experience in 2021, as participants from all walks of life spend quality time growing in their leadership.

This Christ-centred leadership journey calls interns to engage with each other, interact with guest speakers from across our movement, and build relationship with leaders from their own community, an all-encompassing experience that stretches participants in several ways.

"I absolutely love sharing the learning journey with our interns," says Leadership & Mission Facilitator, Rev Elliot Keane.

"It is such a joy to watch them stretch and grow as disciples and leaders. Each intern has unique gifts and passions, and we have a lot of fun discerning and developing them alongside their local Leadership Coach and Spiritual Mentor, and in our conversations and content when we're together.

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“We have a great team of leaders and Pastors from across our movement who come and share ideas, skill development and wisdom as they tell their stories and offer advice for our interns’ development.”

Nearing the end of the year, Jess Bartel from Rostrevor Baptist Church has seen each module as equipping her with the necessary tools to conquer obstacles that previously seemed insurmountable.

“I feel like each of the sessions have challenged us to do something in some way, but the way that they’ve presented it, it always comes across like its achievable; like we can [actually] do it, breaking down things like evangelism that seem hard.”

Jess’ husband Mitch has seen similar growth, taking in a special appreciation for the speakers who have taken the time to inspire this year’s crop of interns.

“I’ve loved the teaching and passion

[from] pretty much everyone who’s shared with us.”, described Mitch, who also attends Rostrevor.

“The experience of being able to do stuff, do new things in my own church space, learn, receive one-on-one coaching, everything has been really valuable.”

“These sessions, they’ve been a good mix of informative but also applicable,” says Isaac McDonald, an intern from Kings Baptist Church.

“We’re not just getting head knowledge but we’re getting knowledge to apply to our own context. And the passion, being able to learn not just from what guest speakers say, but also who they are.”

The general sentiment from the interns – of which there are 15 – is one of fulfilment; that making the decision to jump in and commit to a year-long internship with the Baptist movement was well worth their time.

Mitch puts it aptly, “If I spoke to myself before I started internship, I would just say ‘you’re on the right track’. This is the thing I’ve felt most right about in a long time.”

*As a movement we are committed to supporting our local churches, as we together raise up vocational and church leaders as well as future pastors.*

*There are lots of great opportunities to serve God’s kingdom and His church and we are looking forward to investing in the next cohort of interns from across our movement.*

*If you, or someone you know, are keen to find out more about our 2022 Leadership Internship please get in touch with Elliot at [ekeane@sabaptist.asn.au](mailto:ekeane@sabaptist.asn.au) or 0408180284.*



**Benito Carbone**  
Editor

## King's celebrates opening of new Community Centre

On September 12, King's Baptist Church and King's Baptist Grammar School celebrated the official opening of their new Community Centre!

Of course, King's is the only Baptist school in SA, at least until their second campus opens in the Hills in 2023.

A new multi-purpose facility that will cater to both church and school, this space looks a wonderful investment for years to come.

As a movement we are thankful, prayerful and expectant for what God will do through King's Community in this new season for them. Here are some photos.



**ISSUED BY**

Baptist Churches of  
South Australia  
35 King William Rd,  
Unley SA 5061

(08) 8357 1755

[tim.sabaptist.asn.au](mailto:tim.sabaptist.asn.au)  
[info@sabaptist.asn.au](mailto:info@sabaptist.asn.au)

Mailing Address  
Baptist Churches of SA  
PO Box 432  
UNLEY SA 5061

**EDITOR**

Benito Carbone  
[bcarbone@sabaptist.asn.au](mailto:bcarbone@sabaptist.asn.au)

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# Showing we care through Baptist Care

One of my roles as President of the Association is to sit on the board of Baptist Care SA.

This is a real privilege as I get to hear about and be involved in a myriad of projects seeking to assist the most disadvantaged in our communities.

For those of you who don't know, Baptist Care SA is an expression of Baptist Churches SA. Originally *West End Baptist Mission*, it was founded in 1913 to help people who were homeless in Adelaide.

Over the years, *Baptist Homes for Aged*, *Mylor Baptist Camp* and *Baptist Community Services* have all been initiated by Baptist Churches of South Australia.

And in 2008, Baptist Care SA was formed, encompassing all these entities.

The objectives of Baptist Care SA are as follows:

To express and provide the love of God on behalf of Baptist Churches of South Australia Inc to people who are aged, in poverty, sick,

suffering, distressed, subject to misfortune, disabled, helpless or otherwise disadvantaged or marginalised; and,

To work with local member Baptist Churches, Baptist Churches of South Australia Inc, Baptist Care Australia Inc and Australian Baptist Ministries for the outworking of community services.

To maintain Baptist DNA in Baptist Care SA, all the board members – and the CEO – need to be a member in good standing of a church that is part of Baptist Churches of SA.

These are challenging roles as Baptist Care SA now employs around 1000 people, has a multi-million-dollar turnover and together with the bureaucracy and legislation surrounding the government contracts it holds, there is a high level of expertise required in governance.

You will probably be aware that Graham Brown, the current CEO of Baptist Care SA, has announced his decision to step aside from the role at the end of the year.

Can I ask you all to be in prayer as the process continues to find a successor to this key role.

As we move into a new season with our own newly appointed Director of Ministries and a new CEO of Baptist Care SA, both organisations are eager to take the opportunity to strengthen the existing relationship we have.

The question we are continuing to ask is: with over 70 churches present in local communities around South Australia partnering with a highly skilled and knowledgeable organisation – whose vision is, “*helping every South Australian achieve their full potential*” – how can we best demonstrate that Baptists really do care?



**Daniel Gardiner-**  
President

## South Australian Baptist Historical Group

### ‘Silas Mead: an Australian Apostle’

The meeting will be based on a forthcoming book on Mead.

The presenters will be three of the contributors to the book, Ros Gooden, Frank Tucker, and John Walker.

All are welcome and we will have a light tea. A donation towards the cost will be appreciated.

Any enquiries to Marie Lines phone **8332 4887** or email [linesmb@internode.on.net](mailto:linesmb@internode.on.net)

**FRIDAY 22nd OCTOBER, 4:30pm  
RAWS ROOM, FLINDERS STREET  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

## 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.

FINAL RETREAT FOR 2021

**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](http://gtimsa.org) for details and registration.

## Inmates 'Breaking Free' through the pandemic



*Nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:39*

The pandemic has had an enormous impact on every area of our lives; the way we socialise, live, learn, work and interact with each other.

Residents from almost every state and territory have experienced lockdowns, and we have relied heavily on technology to enable us to continue to work and stay connected to loved ones.

For the 260+ inmates at the Adelaide Remand Centre, the lockdown is ongoing.

Men arrive from all over the country and complete their mandatory two weeks quarantine within their cells, where they remain for 23.75 hours per day. It's difficult to imagine such isolation.

For Baptist Care SA Prison Chaplain, Richard Hawke, this has proven to be a significant challenge.

"I can bend down and look through the trap door wearing a mask (to speak to prisoners), but that's obviously problematic," he explains.

To help combat prisoner boredom and reach out to those in isolation, Richard has developed a regular activity brochure which is circulated to every cell in the Centre, as well as to all staff.

The brochure includes puzzles, crosswords, quizzes, quotes, and inspirational true stories about famous Christians, such as John Newton and Nick Vujicic.

The reception to his simple activity pages has been incredibly positive from both staff and inmates. Despite the constraints of the pandemic, this year has seen a steady number of inmates turn to Christianity and seek help in reforming through Baptist Care SA's Breaking Free Program.

"The Holy Spirit is really at work," says Richard. "We're on track to have eight people in the program this year, which is the most we've ever had at any one time."

Breaking Free is a special support program which connects newly-released prisoners with a mentor at a local church to help break the cycle of reoffending. Participants have either had a faith experience or are strongly open to Christianity.

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## Inspiring Hope in Lives and Communities



Working with vulnerable people often leads me to reflect upon the scripture reminding us that:

*"...faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible." Hebrews 11:1-3 (NIV)*

My mind connects this text with the African saying that 'it takes a village to raise a child' and leads me to contemplate what it takes to raise vulnerable people out of poverty.

In reality, we just do not see all the connections and moments of significance that impact on the lives of others. Whilst often invisible to the onlooker, most of us can all recall wise and affirming words spoken into critical moments in our lives.

People struggling to endure anxiety, grief, loss or hardship in their lives – and their children's – also value these pivot points that inspire hope and affirm dignity, whilst developing capacity and resilience.

I hope you are encouraged to know that each day Baptist Care SA has over 1000 staff and volunteers who are establishing and maintaining supportive relationships and inspiring hope with thousands of vulnerable children, disengaged youth and parents struggling to raise their children whilst living under layers of adversity.

We appreciate your ongoing prayerful, practical, and financial support as we seek to raise people up from the depths of adversity toward a life of opportunity and connection to trusted people and faithful communities.

I was recently delighted to meet with a group of about 60 women of all ages who have been supporters of Baptist Care SA's transformational services at the WestCare Centre.

This event yielded a unique opportunity for our Board Chair (Julie Lawrie), Senior Advisor - Aboriginal Service Development (Debra Francis) and long-term donor/supporters to 'lift the veil' and gain insights into things often unseen, but deeply significant to fragile lives.

I extend sincere thanks to all those who continue to uphold the restorative work of Baptist Care SA in their prayers and with their time and financial capacity.

Together, inspired by the servant heart of Jesus Christ, we shine beams of light into the darkness of despair. There is room for all in the Lord's village!



**Graham Brown**  
CEO  
Baptist Care SA





# IRREPRESSIBLE INSPIRE CONFERENCE

EVANGELISM • NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGAGEMENT  
CHURCH PLANTING • INTERCULTURAL MISSION

12-13 OCTOBER 2021 • WEST BEACH COMMUNITY CHURCH

## BAPTISMS



The baptisms keep rolling through, and it's wonderful to see!

Featured in this month's edition, two people were baptised at the beach in Aldinga. Pictured (from left) are Tristan and Steve, next to Ps Andrew Downes.

Being a beachside region, baptisms happen in the ocean at Aldinga Beach after a Sunday morning church service.

We also celebrate baptisms that have taken place at Hills Aldgate, The Port Church, and other churches across our movement.

Congratulations to all involved! Don't forget to send baptism photos and information to Benito at [bcarbone@sabaptist.asn.au](mailto:bcarbone@sabaptist.asn.au)



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With a long history of addiction and addiction-related crime, Liam\* has been in and out of prison his entire adult life.

“It’s hard, it’s really hard breaking the habits and patterns of a lifetime, and Liam has definitely had his struggles, but he’s absolutely determined to change,” says Richard.

Please pray for Liam and the other men in the program as they seek to transform their lives with the help of the Holy Spirit. We thank God that He never gives up on any one of us!

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15*

\*not his real name

### 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.



# OUTLOOK REMAINS BLEAK FOR GARMENT WORKERS EVEN AS FASHION COMPANIES IMPROVE

Baptist World Aid's 2021 Ethical Fashion Report finds lingering gaps in ethical sourcing and sustainability.



Fashion companies might be investing more in ethical sourcing, but they still have a long way to go. That's according to the 2021 Ethical Fashion Report, set to launch by Baptist World Aid Australia this month.

As part of its vision to end poverty and help all people enjoy the fullness of life God intends, Baptist World Aid's latest fashion report helps consumers take action around their shopping choices.

Published annually since 2013, this year's scorecard includes 100 Australian fashion companies representing over 400 brands and uses A+ to F grades on various attributes.

"Consumers have influenced hugely positive progress in encouraging the fashion industry to become more ethical and sustainable," said

Peter Keegan, Baptist World Aid's Director of Advocacy.

"But we know we're not there yet."

Several companies improved their score in 2021 compared to 2019, and eight new companies have been assessed for the first time in 2021.

Because Baptist World Aid is committed to caring for the world's most vulnerable, this year's report examines some of the biggest ongoing risks to garment worker wellbeing, including climate change and modern slavery.

While there has been some improvement, many garment workers continue to experience severe economic impacts from the COVID-19 crisis.

In 2020, garment workers in countries where Baptist World Aid works, like Bangladesh, lost more

than US\$16 billion dollars in wages.

Keegan says that although the industry is moving in the right direction, further improvement is needed.

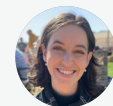
"We want to encourage people to continue to choose more ethical brands to buy from," he said.

"And to keep encouraging their favourite brands to do better for garment workers."

For more on the Ethical Fashion Report and Guide, visit

[www.baptistworldaid.org.au/resources/ethical-fashion-guide/](http://www.baptistworldaid.org.au/resources/ethical-fashion-guide/)

after its official launch on 19 Oct.



**Chantelle Mayo**  
Communications Specialist  
Baptist World Aid Australia

# STILL SACRED, SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT AGENCY



**crossover**

Helping Australian Baptists Share Jesus

The life of a sacred agent can take many twists and turns. Meeting Jesus is the best thing that's ever happened to me, and following Him the most challenging and exhilarating.

Anyone who thinks Christianity is boring – well, they might just be on the steady, slow climb which begins all rollercoasters.

Many of you know I have now taken up a new role as Director of Crossover for Australian Baptist Ministries. In short, I've joined the Feds.

It's been a rush, and I'd love to give you an update. (Don't worry, Sacred Agents will return to its usual format and not become a newsletter. This is a one-off.)

### What even is Crossover?

We're a national Baptist ministry focused on 'Helping Australian Baptists Share Jesus'. We provide encouragement, training and resources for outreach and evangelism.

### Crossover needs an urgent boost.

Crossover relies entirely on donations from churches and individuals, which in the past has centred on an annual Easter Offering. COVID-19 has massively interrupted the last two Easters and we find ourselves \$90,000 behind budget.

So, we're having a Spring Appeal, and if you weren't able to support us at Easter we'd love some support now. See [crossover.org.au](http://crossover.org.au) to give - and promoting this in your local church would be awesome.

Please help outreach and evangelism have the level of priority and importance in our movement that it has in God's heart.

A special Christmas resource: **Good News for a Change** is a whole Advent and Christmas series for churches that includes sermon outlines, service elements, themed artwork for promotion and invitation, and more.

It's all designed especially to be highly invite-able and graspable for guests and visitors (Jason Hoet & Miranda Dixon from Unley Park have put a lot of heart and brains into this so you know it'll be good!).

We hope it's a real gift for hardworking pastors and leaders who might not have the time and energy right now to plan a big creative Christmas.

We also offer evangelism training resource **Plan A**, a great short course that churches can run to upskill on outreach and evangelism.

Developed and presented by Belinda Lakelin in Wollongong, it's been really well received by pilot churches and we're quite excited about it.

And really, that just scratches the surface. We're always on the hunt for creative and useful resources to serve our movement well.

**PRAC** magazine will continue for pastors and leaders and **Sacred Agents** will be for anyone and everyone who's jumping on the ultimate rollercoaster and saying to God, 'Here am I, send me.'

As ever, I find you inspiring and am so keen to bless and boost you along.



**Andrew Turner**  
Church Development  
Facilitator

SACRED AGENTS

## THE 2020/21 ANNUAL REPORT IS HERE



The Baptist Churches of SA Annual Report is a collection of summaries from each member of the Ministry Team regarding their respective roles.

The report opens with our values and a statement from Committee President, Daniel Gardiner, and Director of Ministries, Rev Dr Melinda Cousins.

Check out where we're at as a movement, and grab a copy at your church or online at [www.sabaptist.asn.au/annual-reports/](http://www.sabaptist.asn.au/annual-reports/)



INTERESTED IN  
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COLUMN?

email the editor!  
[bcarbhone@sabaptist.asn.au](mailto:bcarbhone@sabaptist.asn.au)



# Imagination.

Imagination is vital to the human experience.

Imagination is not just the play space of children and the child-like. Imagination is not solely a realm of the creatives, designers, and innovators.

You might not think you have an imagination, but you do.

We use our imaginations when we read, when we hear someone tell a story, and when we consider what we might have for dinner tomorrow night.

When you recall memories from your past, when you anticipate the future; that's imagination.

Imagination is the place where possibility resides, where potential arises, where new horizons emerge, and where adventures await the courageous.

But fed with a steady diet of hypnotic distraction and the daily grind, our imaginations are dulled.

We stop noticing, stop wondering, stop anticipating. We stop imagining. Without the imagination, we stop fully living.

A story from the Gospels that has always captured my imagination is when Jesus answers the question, what is the kingdom of God like? [Matthew 13, Mark 4, and Luke 13].

According to Luke (NIV), Jesus says,

*"It is like a mustard seed, when a gardener took it and planted it in his garden, it grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches."*

This story inspires me to imagine something more than I see. The kingdom of God is more than we expect.

When Jesus sows the seeds of the kingdom, the result is more than we anticipate, more than we can imagine.

All through the story of King Jesus, He invites his followers into the story of His new world.

We are included in the imagination of the kingdom of God. We see what the world does not yet see.

We shouldn't be surprised. We have been imagined by a creative God who made us in His image.

We are beautifully designed as God's carefully curated centrepieces of creation.

We aren't meant to passively adorn the walls of His world; we are invited to participate in God's cosmic re-creation project as artists and creators of His renewed world.

We are invited to enter into God's story of renewal and restoration. And we are invited to live with a kingdom imagination.

What does it look like for your local church community to live imaginatively?

To breathe imagination in the way that we love God, love one another, and love our neighbour?

Not being boring is a start.

The kingdom of God is the inbreaking of colour and light and life and beauty and justice and freedom and a whole new story to live by!

We live now in a way that points to a new world that is not less, but more than the best of life now.

We live now as vocal, living witnesses of the world to come. It means living as proactive authors of God's imagined future.

We practice this by noticing more, wondering more, celebrating more of what we hear and see of God at work in and around us.

We live it out by each one of us stepping into the opportunities that God invites us into in our vocations, neighbourhoods, and relationships.

We collectively live now as people inspired with an imagination of a new life. **So, what is God inspiring in your imagination?**



**Rev Elliot Keane**

Leadership & Mission Facilitator

## BAPTIST 40+ SINGLES

Our final events for 2021!

**WHEN:** 12:30pm Saturday, 16th of October

**WHERE:** Grand North (737 Grand Junction Road, Northfield)

**COST:** Reasonable

**Our final function of 2021 will be THREE functions!**

**WHEN:** Saturday, 20th of November

**Late Lunch/Afternoon Tea @ 2:00pm**

**WHERE:** Pancakes at the Port (1 Mercantile Dock, Port Adelaide)

**COST:** Reasonable

and/or

**Afternoon Tea/Hang Out @ 4:00pm**

**WHERE:** Brian & Helen's Home

and/or

**Tea @ 6:00pm**

**WHERE:** Birkenhead Tavern (3-7 Riverview Street, Birkenhead)

**COST:** Very Reasonable.

RSVP by Tuesday 16th of November

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



# Where are you serving this summer?

## SU Family Missions

Victor Harbor - 27 December 2021 to 5 January 2022

Moonta - 1 to 8 January 2022

Port Vincent - 1 to 8 January 2022

Tumby Bay - 4 to 7 January 2022

Mannum - 9 to 14 January 2022

for more information: email [julie.calvert@su.org.au](mailto:julie.calvert@su.org.au)  
OR visit <https://www.susa.org.au/beach-missions/>