

OCTOBER 2023

# TOGETHER IN MISSION

**Baptist Mission Australia are seeking *your* stamp of approval!**

Exotic worlds, weird and wonderful flora and fauna, historic achievements, records of sporting prowess or scientific discovery - all winging their way to us on the corners of envelopes sent from around the corner or across the globe. Since the introduction of postage

stamps, people have been enamoured by the intriguing pictures and beautiful artwork decorating their mail. Even in today's era of emails and texts, the humble stamp still brings a twinkle to the eye of those interested enough to notice.

  
**Baptist Churches**  
of South Australia

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## CONTINUED FROM COVER

At Baptist Mission Australia, we love stamps, and we have many supporters who love stamps too. You may not know that Baptist Mission Australia has a strong stamp collecting support network.

Churches and individuals take the time to collect bags, boxes, and envelopes of stamps from all over Australia and around the world. We receive everything from stamps ripped from corners of envelopes to sorted collections that have obviously been a labour of love over the decades.

It may be of interest to you to know that once we receive the stamps, I pack them into boxes and send them to our stamp collection team in Queensland where they are sorted and sold either to collectors or to folks who continue to send mail through Australia Post.

Baptist Mission Australia is deeply grateful to all who donate, as funds raised from the stamp collecting effort is

significant and an important part of the work we do.

In 2023, this stamp fundraising effort has raised \$60,000 to date for the support of Baptist Mission Australia Intercultural Team members and projects in Australia and around the world.

If you would like to join the stamp fundraising effort, we would love to have you onboard. Encourage your church, small group, sports team, community group etc, to collect the stamps that come in the mail. When your bag or box is full or you have a collection that you no longer want, send it through to me at the Baptist Centre (35 King William Road, Unley or PO Box 432 Unley, SA, 5061).

The Baptist Mission Australia stamp team also has opportunities for you to be part of the fundraising effort. Buying your stamps or pre-stamped envelopes through the team helps raise funds for projects run by BMA teams around the world.

Or you might like to skip the queues to purchase your Christmas postage stamps. The Stamp Team has a supply of mint Australian postage stamps for sale. We can supply \$1.20 and 65c stamps (postage rate for Christmas, "card only", concession 60c), and almost any denomination, including higher values for parcels. If you are posting overseas you will need to ask us for international stamps (Christmas card rate: \$2.60 anywhere in the world).

To purchase or donate stamps, get in touch with **Bryan Laurens** at **07 3846 7212** or **laurens@bigpond.net.au**. Alternatively, contact BMA at **lcornish@baptistmissionaustralia.org**

Thanks for your support for the work of Baptist Mission Australia and happy stamp collecting!



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



# Enjoy reading Together in Mission? Complete our survey!



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Together in Mission takes place in a number of expressions, not least the humble print magazine you are holding today!

Baptist Churches of South Australia are seeking to understand the place and purpose of Together in Mission as we eagerly await our amalgamation with Baptist Union of Northern Territory.

To do this, we have created an online survey for readers and consumers to fill out. This survey

seeks to capture our audience across mediums, from print, to online, e-newsletter and on social media!

Enjoy the print edition? Rather see us focus on online? Want more multimedia content? Let us know!

Please access this survey by using the QR code to the left, or via the link, [www.surveymonkey.com/r/TiM2023Feedback](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TiM2023Feedback)

This survey will close in November. We appreciate your contribution!

# Finally comes the Poet



with Rev.  
Scott Cadman

With all the Qantas furore of late I was reminded of a poem I read many years ago by Keith St. Cartmail.

*Christ did not fly Qantas to Sydney.*

*Fly Pan Am to LA*

*Flick cigar ash on the carpet*

*At the Wentworth*

*Have women in the room*

*Or watch the latest garbage on the Box.*

*Christ knows he's not a hedonist*

*Although I saw him in Kings Cross*

*Downstairs in the pool room*

*Hobnobbing with the driftwood in the bar*

*Until the early hours.*

Whilst I love poetry I realise it may not be your thing. It is never quite in vogue or to be found on the best sellers list, but I would suggest

essential nonetheless.

One of the reasons why poetry is not always popular or appreciated is that it requires us to slow down. We must sit with poetry. Often one reading isn't enough. Poetry forces us to slow down and ponder the world around us more deeply.

As Walter Brueggemann says, "Poetry is bottomless in its significance. It cannot be exhausted at first hearing or confidently decoded at first glance. It is a gift that keeps on giving. Poetry is elusive. From it different listeners will receive different things, none of which can prevail, dominate, or grant certitude. Poetry appeals to the concrete everyday realities of ordinary life but allows the listener to imagine worlds other than the one immediately in front of them."

Poetry at its best subverts certainty and the desire that there is only one way of doing things, one way of seeing things, and one way of believing things.

It helps us to imagine a different way of living than the one the world

imposes on us. In our context one which has Christ's life at its centre.

Poetry is also an invitation to live with and live in the extremities of life. Poetry at its finest and most profound emerges in the extremities of life and in circumstances which challenge the reductionism, speed, and need for certainty which governs so much of how the world works.

If poetry isn't your thing, remember at least a third of the Bible is poetry: praise, love, psalms, prophetic utterances. If nothing else, why not be brave and at least give reading them a go.

My hope is in listening to these poets (and hopefully others) we might reclaim the missional witness of the church. A light to the nations. A voice in the wilderness.

A hope that creates new life in the midst of uncertainty and despair. Where justice will roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.



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SA

**LIFE-CHANGING**

HELPING PEOPLE  
ENCOUNTER  
JESUS

**OCTOBER 24-25**



**WEST BEACH**



## SA Church Basketball Bringing Women Together

The 2022 FIBA Basketball and 2023 FIFA Football Women's World Cups have shone a light on the rise of women's participation in sports. SA Church Basketball brings girls and women together to play basketball in a community that supports them.

Lighthouse Community Church Basketball has had a rich history in the competition. Member of Lighthouse and coach for the Holdfast Embers Ruth Purdie explains that connections are formed off the court in addition to the on-court basketball action provided by the Community Competition and Club throughout the week.

"Lighthouse has been incredibly supportive of growing the Holdfast Heat basketball family to provide outreach to women and girls across all our teams." Ruth said.

"As a junior coach and support to Tristan, my heart has been to see these girls and women changed through involvement in these teams. I've seen the supportive environment and competition this place is for women to participate."

Tristan Prentice manages and coaches women's teams in the community competition, including the SA Church Stars Women's Program, which had only one team before the

pandemic. It was necessary to regrow both participation and culture.

"I decided to pause playing for the club to focus on the mission of the Women's program – I desired to have more women involved in coaching, playing, managing and participating at all areas across church basketball." Tristan shared.

"Our women's community competition has NBL1 players, beginners and old scholar teams and offers a pathway to our representative club - you see women involved in one or the other or both for seasons of their lives."

"We care and provide a supportive, adaptive environment while still upholding our club values from the Bible verse 1 Timothy 4:8 – "Physical training is good, but training for godliness (character development) is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come."

As a result, many women who have come through this pathway who had expressed a lost interest in basketball, have been rejuvenated not only on-court but in their purpose, lives, and families.

We now have teams back in the Basketball SA district competition in Division Three and multiple teams in Division Four with room to grow

more junior girls, youth women's and senior women's teams."

SA Church Basketball Association is inviting interested women and girls to come and play for churches, schools and community groups within SA Church Basketball.

Commencing in 1950 and continuing today - SA Church Basketball values Community, Faith and Basketball and has an exciting future ahead playing a role in Basketball South Australia's Female Participation Strategy.

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 community competition.

The competition has multiple venue locations 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 [www.sachurchbasketball.com.au](http://www.sachurchbasketball.com.au).



COME AS YOU ARE

So *that's* what a bushel is!

  
**crossover**  
Helping Australian Baptists Share Jesus

There is an art to inviting without inviting. “We must have you over for a meal sometime!”

Just look at the sheer beauty of that sentence. It has all you want in warmth and friendliness, without ever having to actually eat with the person.

Australian Baptists are generally a warm and happy bunch. According to the National Church Life Survey results, Baptist churches are the place to be:

88% of us have a strong sense of belonging, 89% agree that our church is inclusive of different kinds of people, and 78% found it easy to make friends in our local church.

Considering the epidemic of loneliness in Australia, our communities are some sort of dream land. But are we really as inclusive as we say?

There is another, more troubling figure in our survey results. Those of us who “invited to a church service any friends/relatives who don’t currently attend a church” has fallen significantly – from 41% in 2006 to 27% now.

For the first time, the inclination of Baptists to invite an outsider has fallen below the inclination of outsiders to accept such an invitation!

29% of non-church Australians say they are ‘Extremely likely’ or ‘Very likely’ to attend a church service if invited by a friend or family member. A further 24%

are somewhat likely, according to McCrindle.

Friends, this raises serious questions that go deeper than our choices of outreach resources and evangelistic technique.

Let us search our hearts with the question, do we really want people to be included, like God wants them to be included?

I know there is more to mission than inviting people to church, but there is not less to mission than that.

If we still believe that well-worn myth that nobody’s interested in church, we are wrong!

And if we lower a bowl (that is what a bushel is) over our lamp (Matt 5:15) as though to keep the light and warmth to ourselves, we are very wrong! It does not just hide the flame, it smothers it.

Let us arrest the slide of Sunday gatherings becoming weekly quiet times, when we withdraw from the world – we need those daily.

No, when we gather, it should be our time to shine. What better way to show people Christ, than to show them the body of Christ?



**Rev Andrew Turner**  
Director  
Crossover Australia



# The Secret of Contentment

**In our Western world, it's so easy to get caught up in thinking about the things that we don't have, but here's how one woman in Nepal has mastered the secret of contentment.**



It was our last day in Nepal, seeing the life-changing work our Partners were doing in local communities.

After a week of meeting so many wonderful people and hearing their stories, my heart was happy—full. Little did I know that we were about to be welcomed into the home of the most joyful couple I have ever met.

Enter Shiva and his wife, Gita. Affected by a physical disability, Shiva found it difficult to undertake work. There was no lack of trying on Shiva's behalf—his body just couldn't work as fast as everyone else, despite how hard he tried.

I watched as Shiva showed us his three-year-old shop, attached to the front of his home. He was limping with the biggest ear-to-ear grin. His wife, quiet in the corner, watched on.

I was struck by her soft-natured presence. Reserved, but not shy, her radiant and close-lipped smile captivated me. She wore a sari, a traditional Nepalese and Indian outfit worn by most women in these rural communities. It's what I imagine Joseph's coat of many colours would look like, splashed with yellows, red, blues and green.

Shiva told us how the small funding grant from our Partners he had received had changed his life. He was able to establish a small shop and grow it into a successful business from the profits. As he spoke Gita sat next to him, taking the moment in.

I quickly learned that Gita is a woman of character and integrity. She's proud of how her relationship with Shiva is a 'love marriage'! Even though Gita knew married life would be difficult without Shiva's ability to earn an income easily,

she convinced her father to let them marry anyway. 27 years, five children and a grandchild later, they owned a small but thriving family business, and were putting aside savings each week.

Once ostracised, Shiva had gained status in the community as a successful businessman and disability advocate. He and Gita's home is open for people with disabilities to connect and receive free help to successfully apply for a concession card from the government—they've helped over 125 people living with a disability so far!

This isn't just a blockbuster love story; it's a picture of a family working hard for success, then giving back to their community. We talked, laughed, and the family made us milk masala tea and snacks to share. I watched as their daughter and daughter-in-law shared in the same joy I had seen in Shiva and Gita.

Gita was so proud of her husband for all he had overcome, and she had supported him through good and bad over the years. I wanted to know more about her life, so when Shiva had finished sharing his story with us, we asked Gita what the shop meant for her family. The business had changed their lives, but what struck me most was a side comment she made.

"I used to own one sari, but now I have four," Gita said, touching her sari and smiling gently.

From Gita's perspective, four saris represented options. Choice. Wealth. It meant that as a family, they weren't struggling and scraping by; they were no longer living on the bare minimum.

How many outfits do I own? Far more than four. I had bought two kurtas (traditional Nepalese outfits) to wear in

the community during this visit—half of Gita's wardrobe. My guess is that you may own more than four outfits too.

And months later, I can't stop reflecting on these saris—all four of them. I try not to own an excessive amount of clothing. But to own four outfits? Dare I say impossible.

By our Western standards, Shiva's family is still living in what we'd consider as material poverty—despite the wardrobe with four saris.

The Bible tells us not to get caught up in materialism. Matthew 6:25-27 says we are not to worry, as God will provide. But we do—or at least I do, and I don't think I'm alone.

As we continue to face rising mortgage rates, rental hikes and a cost-of-living crisis, it's so easy to think about ourselves and ignore the needs of others—to look inside. To feel like we won't have enough, or that we'll have to go without something we really want.

But I think of Gita and the example she set for me without even knowing—she has mastered the secret of being content and joyful with what she has. Gita was proud to be married to Shiva, even before she had four saris. It's a challenge to us in the West, who have so much and are caught up in wanting more.

Such contentment is a constant, daily battle. I ask God to convict and challenge me—to help me be generous, even in the hard times. And to help me be more like Gita, facing challenges with bravery, and growing in joy and contentment.



**Ellyse McCallum**  
Baptist World Aid



# Shining a light on the WestCare Health Centre



The issues our community faces are varied and complex. They span homelessness, domestic violence, social isolation, probation and parole, emergency food relief and health. Often these issues are so confronting, those affected choose to avoid seeking medical care.

Baptist Care SA provides the WestCare Health Service so our community can have equal access to free, culturally safe and trauma-informed care. In partnership with several health services, we can connect our community with vital, life-changing, services.

Clinics located at the WestCare Centre include the services of nurses and dentists and physiotherapists who can work with our community in our small gym. These services are provided by staff, volunteers, and students, and we are extremely grateful for their support.

Recently we celebrated one year of partnership with Flinders University and Sight For All who provide an eye clinic to our community, many of whom are Indigenous and three times more likely to experience vision loss or

blindness than non-Indigenous people.

Ninety per cent of vision loss and blindness among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is preventable or treatable. Early intervention initiatives are vitally important in helping to save sight. Eye health initiatives, such as this are a positive step towards closing the vision gap.

A member of our community has low vision and was gently coaxed into seeing Jose, an optometrist, at the eye clinic. On learning that the community member had Type 1 Diabetes and had received bilateral cataract surgery, Jose diagnosed severe non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy in both eyes, which if left untreated could lead to blindness within 12 months.

Baptist Care SA arranged to the community member to be seen by an eye specialist. His Case Manager accompanied him to his appointment where he was given help to prevent further damage to his retina— and prevent blindness.

For that community member to go to hospital shows the huge amount of trust

they have placed in us. Trust that was built by every person interacted with at Baptist Care SA's WestCare Centre, which helped them feel they could come to us for help and support.

At Baptist Care SA's WestCare Centre, our door is open for all our neighbours regardless of their circumstances. It can be a busy place; full of people using the shower and laundry facilities and grabbing a meal while catching up with friends.

In the rush of a typical day, when people in need come to us and there are meals to be served and support to be given, it is important to realise that amid the noise there are many gifts; both given and received.

In taking a moment to reflect, it is important to remember that it is these gifts of compassion and unconditional love that unite us and remind us that there is no greater purpose than to use our gifts in the service of others.



**Shane Austin**  
CEO, Baptist Care SA





**SOLID ROCK FELLOWSHIP**  
**5PM EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY OF THE MONTH**  
**CHRISTIAN MINISTRY SUPPORTING THOSE STRUGGLING WITH MENTAL HEALTH**

**FROM OUR CHURCHES**

# Solid Rock Fellowship - a Christian Ministry For Those Struggling With Mental Health



Solid Rock Fellowship is a Christian ministry for people struggling with their mental health which began ten years ago at All Saints Anglican Church in Seacliff Park.

The origins of Solid Rock Fellowship grew not only out of an awareness that many Christians suffer with mental illness but also a concern that mental illness is all too often viewed as a hindrance to Christian ministry and fellowship.

Thus in 2013, the Reverend Kym Smith and a small team started Solid Rock Fellowship with the sense that rather than being a hindrance to ministry, these illnesses and experiences could be seen as a gift for ministry. **“Not a gift one would choose, perhaps, but a gift nevertheless”.**

After the closing of All Saints Anglican Church, we were welcomed with open arms by Lighthouse Community Church. Since the move to Lighthouse in May last year, the Fellowship has grown to 30 people, though there are many who can only make it when they are up to it.

Mental illness is incredibly dark and isolating and can often make it difficult for Christians experiencing it to meet regularly as part of the body of Christ. One beautiful part of the ministry has been seeing people in the Fellowship grow in their love and care for one other, serving, meeting together, and praying for one another during the week.

Solid Rock Fellowship is a ministry of Lighthouse Community Church which meets on the second and fourth Saturday of each month at Lighthouse at 5pm.

We gather together for a gentle gospel-centred service followed by dinner. An important part of the service is the sharing time where people have the opportunity to share how God has been working in their lives and to ask for prayer.

Please pray with us that that God would continue to use Solid Rock Fellowship to minister the gospel of Jesus Christ and equip those struggling with mental health to stand firm through their trials.

## BAPTIST HISTORICAL GROUP

Our next meeting will be held on Friday 10th November at 4.30pm at Flinders Street Baptist in the Raws Room.

The Speaker will be Rev. Dr John Walker. His topic will be **‘The extraordinary life of Eliza Davies.**

A young member of South Australia’s first Baptist Church, a servant of Captain Charles Sturt and his family, an explorer, a survivor of domestic abuse

and an educator of Adelaide’s poor children’.

There will be a light tea following the talk and a donation for the food would be appreciated.

If you have any queries please contact

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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.