



Winter
Edition
2024

YOUR GOODNESS IS RUNNING AFTER
IT'S RUNNING AFTER ME

4D Conference stirs Baptist leaders from across the movement

What happened at our
Autumn Assembly?

Glen Osmond celebrates 140 years!

Together *in Mission*

Baptist Churches SA & NT



Autumn Assembly

words by
Tam Battersby

Our inaugural Assembly as Baptist Churches of South Australia and the Northern Territory was held on Friday 17th May 2024, livestreamed between those present at Unley Park Baptist in SA and those gathering at Cornerstone Christian in NT.

Commemorative cakes were shared in both locations over fellowship before gathering for a wonderful time of singing and worship, of encouragement, as stories were shared, and unity, as business was attended to, and prayers were lifted up.

- » Neil Wright, Pastor of Cornerstone Christian, reflected on Psalm 24 and challenged our obedience in our hearts, thoughts, actions and intentions.
- » Minutes of Appreciation were given for the BUNT Board, Steve Polglase and Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue.
- » Sue Raw, new CEO of Baptist Care was introduced and shared some of her background and passion for this role.
- » Members approved expenditure to renovate and refurbish the BCSANT Office building to increase its value, functionality and future rental income.

- » Melinda Cousins, Director of Ministries, gave updates on our new logo and website, redress, policy reviews, National Council meeting, Aboriginal Ministry Support Fund and church contributions.
- » Mark Sanders, Church Development Facilitator, encouraged churches to make use of the Church Seed Planting Fund and heartened us with news that numbers within churches are growing and we are seeing significant increases in the number of people being baptised.
- » Updates, stories and prayer points were heard from Darwin Baptist Church and Baptist Mission Australia and an interview with Iris Lee about her time on SA Easter Camp showed us that God is at work and moving in our younger people as they seek to serve him passionately.

What a night! Special thanks to all involved across both SA and NT. For those who missed this time there will be another opportunity – put it in your diary to attend our Annual Assembly on Saturday 16th November. Anyone is welcome to come along and be encouraged by the happenings around our movement. We would love to see you there!

Below: our NT cohort at Cornerstone (L), our SA cohort at Unley Park (R).



4D Leadership Conference

words by
Rev Dr Melinda Cousins



We are a led people – led by God's Spirit and always led towards Jesus.

Our annual 4D Conference was held on 18 May at Clovie Modbury and online with the theme "Led". Hundreds of leaders and volunteers from across our churches gathered to listen, share, learn, and encourage.

In our keynote sessions, we were inspired in worship by a team from across our churches, and our speakers reflecting on biblical images of being led including pillars of fire and a lamp to our feet, seeing through a glass darkly or walking through the tunnel, and getting out of the boat to step out in faith with Jesus.

Alongside this, we read the Scriptures in multiple languages representing the diversity of our

movement, got to know our new Baptist Care CEO, and were led in prayer by pastors seeking to discern the Spirit's work among us on the day.

GODx talks were, as always, a major highlight of the day.

Charlotte Berry reminded us that being a Christian teenager is hard but worthwhile, Lindsay Mayes shared his pastoral heart with us, Eliud Kali'alaha expressed his unique voice and challenged us to find our own, Charity Mwangi gave us a window into working in her cultural context and how we can learn from others, and Erin Spavin called us to pray – however stumbling, fumbling or groaning.

Across our electives, leaders explored topics more deeply, ranging from how we are led by the Spirit, in our workplace

vocations, and into our communities, and how we might lead ourselves at a sustainable and sacred pace, be awesome members of teams, be formed and shaped by our enduring values, continue to prioritise discipleship, and consider what is needed for the future we are stepping into.

We hope that stories from the day are continuing to be shared across our churches as we reflect on our time together, and we look forward to more opportunities to gather together, including Baptist Family Gathering in Darwin in August, the Baptist World Congress in Brisbane in July 2025, and of course, next year's 4D!

Together in Mission
Baptist Churches SA & NT

Sharing the latest news and stories across our movement of Baptist churches in the SA and NT.

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All One in Christ at Katherine Christian Convention



words by **John Stennett**
KCC Committee Member

For over 50 years, Katherine Christian Convention has provided the opportunity for Christians from all over the NT and beyond to gather during the May Day long weekend for teaching, fellowship, sharing, and celebration.

This year the convention commenced with a celebration evening on Friday 3 May, followed by a variety of activities over the Saturday and Sunday. Scripture Union ran exciting activities for primary school age children, while everyone looks forward to the celebration evenings and the opportunity to share an item through music, song and testimony.

Ox Roberts of Darwin Baptist is the chair of the KCC Committee and is heavily involved in the planning and preparation of the

convention each year. Ben van Gelderen, who is the current Principal of Nungalinga College, began the talks around ‘Jesus is the Living Water’, preaching alongside Indigenous speakers James Woods, Darryn Farrell, Craig Rodgers, and Edwin Rami.

There was a large team of volunteers from Casuarina Baptist who helped greet people at the front gate. Among this team were former Karen refugees and international students studying at Charles Darwin University.

Brian Gawler, a defence force chef, coordinated and planned the canteen operation with a bevy of support, while other volunteers helped to interact with the children and make sure everyone enjoyed KCC.

It was wonderful to have four volunteers from Katherine Baptist church, including Pastor Kevin

and Christina Young, help greet people at the front gate, as well as register the people who came.

Mat and Shannon Anderson and their family, serving with Baptist Mission Australia, brought a large team of people from Kalkarindji. It was amazing that the bus made it to Katherine, giving Mat and others the opportunity to get some urgent repairs made to the bus.

Others came from Lajamanu – many of whom are studying at Nungalinga College in Darwin –and were able to join in the celebration with Christians from around the NT and other parts of Australia.

Katherine Christian Convention uses the tag line of “All One in Christ” and we look forward to people gathering as one again in 2025.

For more NT stories head to bcsant.org.au/belonging-people

Glen Osmond Baptist Church celebrates 140 years of worship!

On Sunday 18 May, Glen Osmond Baptist Church celebrated a remarkable milestone –140 years of worship!

In their historic building, constructed in 1883, the celebration provided a beautiful opportunity to reflect on the church’s rich history. Melinda Cousins, Director of Ministries at Baptist Churches SA & NT, shared inspiring words, encouraging everyone to look back at the church’s foundation, appreciate the vibrant community of today, and importantly, look toward the future and what lies ahead.

Thank you to all the familiar faces who returned, to those who helped make the service run, and mostly to an incredible God who has been faithful for 140 years to the community at Glen Osmond Baptist and who will continue to

A baptism and a farewell at Flinders Street

Nikita Premkumar was baptised by Rev Scott Cadman on Sunday 7th April.

She was welcomed into membership alongside Erica Badman and Elissa Stapleton during communion at the end of morning worship. The Premkumar family provided a celebratory cake for morning tea.



Glen Osmond has a fascinating connection to a Bangladeshi Baptist church in Pabna, which celebrated its 125th anniversary last year.

Read about it online at bcsant.org.au/news or scan the QR code!

Written by historian
Dr Ros Gooden

A fortnight later there was a farewell service for Scott and Louise Cadman after 17 years of ministry. During the service on Sunday 21st April the congregation thanked the Lord for such dedicated leadership. Speeches were made by Bill Grootenboer and Rosalind Gooden. The church treasurer Peter Chan presented Scott and Louise with appropriate gifts. Scott preached his final sermon at Flinders Street. A bountiful lunch was enjoyed in Mead Hall after the service.





words by **Lisa Cornish**
State Director SA/NT

Latest news & events from Baptist Mission Australia!

Elliot joins the team

Elliot Keane, alongside working as BCSANT's Leadership Development Facilitator, has joined Baptist Mission Australia two days per week in the newly established First Nations Engagement Facilitator role.

Elliot will be looking to connect with and learn from our First Nations communities and those that work closely with them around Australia. Please pray for Elliot as he establishes this role and engages the opportunities God sends to be a listening ear in this vital relationship space.

To chat to Elliot about his role, contact him at ekeane@baptistmissionaustralia.org.au

Hutchies returning to Australia

After nearly six years serving the Khmer in Cambodia, the Hutchinson family are finalising their service and returning to Australia in late July. This is a significant time of change and transition for the family, and I would ask you to hold them in prayer through this time.

Rachel will continue with Baptist Mission Australia, working with the 'Language of the Heart' project that she has developed in Siem Reap. She will return to Cambodia twice during the second half of 2024, for a month at a time, and will continue working with the project when in Australia. Her involvement, including more trips to Cambodia, will continue in 2025.

To see how you can support Rachel in this life-giving work: vimeo.com/941047665

Mending!

Thanks to everyone who has supported May Mission Month 2024. I have had the joy of visiting with ten churches in SA/NT over eight weeks.

It was a privilege to experience the support for the ongoing work of sharing the gospel and for local communities as they share that gospel in their own beautifully distinctive ways.

If May doesn't suit your church to focus on mission, our resources will remain on the website all year, I encourage you to take a look and make use of them: baptistmissionaustralia.org/Resources/May-Mission-Month

Our most popular resources remain the Intercultural Team Member update videos. Check them out to get the latest news from Australia and the world.



Morialta Charitable Trust

Through an annual grants program, we support charitable organisations working to bring lasting change to young South Australians in need. Your donation will contribute to achieving our vision for communities where all young South Australians reach their full potential.

morialtacharitabletrust.org.au
PO Box 113 Magill, SA 5072

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Strategic Ambition to make people's lives better

Baptist Care SA responds to disadvantage and suffering in our community on behalf of Baptist Churches SA & NT; outworking our mission of journeying with those we serve toward the attainment of their full potential.

As the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of Baptist Care SA, it is my honour to carry forward our mission of expressing God's love and compassion for all and our purpose to find ways to make people's lives better.

It is a responsibility that I embrace wholeheartedly. I am motivated by Christ's servant heart and feel truly privileged to work alongside a dedicated and compassionate team who are invested in all we do.

We recently launched our Strategic Ambition, a new plan that sets the direction for Baptist Care SA from now until 2027.

To develop the Strategic Ambition, we undertook a comprehensive consultation process to find out what people value about Baptist Care SA.

We consulted with staff, volunteers, clients, the Baptist Care SA Board, churches and other stakeholders. This information gave us the insight to reflect and focus on what we will be known for, where we will grow, our culture and behaviour, and measures for success.

This is an exciting time for Baptist Care SA.

On behalf of the Executive Team, I would like to thank all the people who continue to support our mission and purpose prayerfully, financially and practically.

Strategic Ambition

What we will be known for

- » Restorative relationships
- » Strong partnerships
- » Being client-centred
- » Making a difference
- » Great people

Where we will grow

- » Relationship-centred services
- » Homelessness
- » Working with Aboriginal people
- » Adventure camping
- » Organisational capability and capacity

Our culture and behaviour

- » Integrity
- » Compassion
- » Empowerment
- » Innovation

Measures for success

- » Improved client outcomes
- » Staff engagement
- » Closing the Gap targets
- » Adventure Partnership engagement
- » Financial sustainability

Further information can be found on baptistcaresa.org.au

words by **Sue Raw**
CEO, Baptist Care SA



Above: Sue pictured at 4D Conference in April.

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Growing Together in Marriage

In 2024 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 room.

Retreat weekends in 2024:

September 20-22

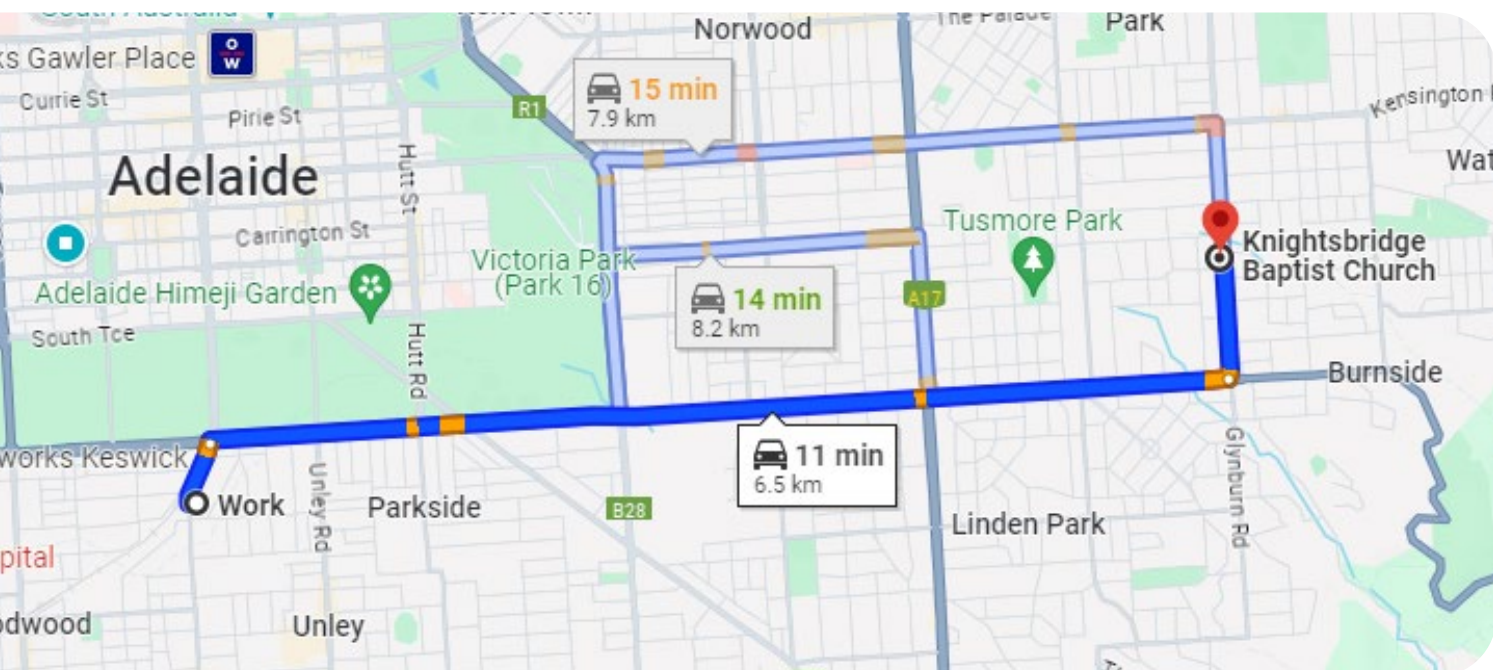
October 25-27

This year all weekends will be held at Abbotsford Country House, Lyndoch.

For more information contact Steve & Val D'Arcy (0402 983 154) or Rob & Lee Allen (0438 892 980) or see gtimsa.org for details and registration.



Top: Elliot (L) with Jerry Jangala Patrick OAM (R). Bottom: The Hutchinson family.



Route Options for Repenters

words by **Rev Andrew Turner**
Director, Crossover Australia



I find Jesus endlessly fascinating, so when opportunities arise to talk about him, I'm rarely at a loss for material. But yacking on about Jesus is only one part of evangelism. There's another part that comes less easily to me, and to many across our movement: inviting a response.

The gospel is news. But it's news-with-personal-implications. It's an invitation, it's a proposal. So we not only seek to make plain the goodness of God, but also to offer steps of faith in response. Sacred agents are guides for others—knowing the way to peace with God because we've taken it ourselves.

Inviting a response is not always about an altar call while Ira Sankey sings Beneath the Cross of Jesus. If a colleague is curious about why you go to church, try simply ending your answer with,

“Would you like to come along and see for yourself?”

One challenge with this, however, is figuring out what level of response your listener/s is ready to make. Is this person ready to repent and be baptised? Or is their next step simply to read a Bible or watch a clip online?

Thankfully, we can offer multiple options. When Google Maps gives me directions to reigning quiz champions Knightsbridge Baptist, it gives me several route options. There's the best and most direct way, in bright blue. And there are other options that ultimately get you there too.

We often cautiously assume that people aren't ready to go straight to the foot of the cross. But if we only offer incremental steps that result in a circuitous and not-so-scenic route to peace with God, it can suggest that getting to God

is like a long mountain climb, an unhelpful gospel image.

It's true many are not ready to go straight to Jesus, but they need to know that they can.

On the other hand, if we only offer giant steps, the only alternative to a big Yes is a No. So why not give options? “If you want peace with God, you can have it today, but if you just want to just check it out, why not come along to Alpha, or read John's gospel?”

We may be surprised at who are ready for a big step of faith. And we may also be surprised by those whose small steps turn into big ones.