

Walk The World

Walk the World is coming up on November 8-10th - or whenever it works for your church. This is a fun way to get out and about in your local community as a church, small group, kids or youth group to walk and pray.

Get out and walk your street, neighbourhood or local area and pray for your community, communities around Australia and around the world, that they would know the love of God.

You can register for free here: https://www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/

Support/Pray/Register-Walk-the-World

Visit our website for great resources: https://

www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/Be-Involved/Walk-the-World



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A Word In Season.....

As believers we know that all things are in God's hands, and that therefore all things are working together for good. It's hard to work it all out though, with our world suffering hardship of every sort in almost every country.

Countries are attacking one another. People are attacking one another. Sickness continues to afflict people. Floods, fires and cyclones seem to be increasing in number. People keep polluting the earth.

The daily news is almost all about things we'd rather didn't happen, and that produces feelings of depression and frustration. No wonder our young people find life daunting. No wonder people turn to other things, some of them unhelpful, to distract them from life's trials. As always, we can look to Jesus. How did he handle life? As we read the gospel stories we find that he walked steadily through life, never losing his inner peace and his commitment to the task he had been given. He looked ahead to the time when it would all be made right.

"For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

Hebrews 12.2-3.

Jesus was totally convinced that God had His hand on everything that happened, and that joy would follow the horror and trauma of the cross. Knowing this, He could face every situation, even death. In a similar way, we, his followers, will see the day come when all sadness and sin will be gone, and we will be in God's presence forever.

Good news!

Rev. John Whitbourn



Katherine Churches Working Together

Behold, how good and how pleasant Katherine Anglican Church and Katheit is For brethren to dwell together in unity! Psalm 133:1 NKJV

atherine Baptist Church is one of many churches here in Katherine who share a common goal of reaching Katherine for Jesus. The pastors support one another by meeting regularly together, praying for each other and joining together in ministry. Every Wednesday the pastors meet over lunch and monthly, meet for prayer together. See Photo below.

There are many outreach activities in Katherine where the Churches are working together. The Kids Club that Katherine Baptist Church runs weekly at Clyde Fenton Primary School has leaders from Katherine Baptist Church,

rine Christian Outreach Centre.

Church Services are conducted weekly on a Wednesday at 10am at two Aged Care facilities- Katherine Hostel and Kalano Flexible Aged Care Centre. A roster has been set up involving the Salvos, Anglicans, ACC and Baptists so that these Services can be held.

Monthly, Men's and Ladies Breakfasts are held where people of all ages, from all Churches gather together to encourage one another. After a scrumptious breakfast, we worship together and often have a guest speaker. The Men's Breakfast is held on the first Saturday of the month and proceeds go to 'Chaplaincy'.



Recently, NT Disaster Chaplaincy Train- Birth Kits are a valuable resource in ing was held here in Katherine and the emergency and humanitarian settings to trainees came from the many churches help prevent infection for mothers and here, including our very own Cynthia newborns. We are looking forward to Prime. Cynthia is one of the Katherine hearing where the kits that we assem-Hospital Chaplains who is now trained to bled will be used. In the past, they have respond to 'Disasters'.

The Ladies Breakfast is held on the second Saturday of the month. Proceeds from this Breakfast go towards purchasing the resources to assemble clean birthing kits from the Birthing Kit Foundation Australia. At the August Breakfast, 200 kits were assembled. Clean

Katherine Baptist meets each Sunday at the SDA Church

Assembling Birthing Kits

been used in Papua New Guinea and Africa. For more information go to:

Birthing Kit Foundation (bkfa.org.au)

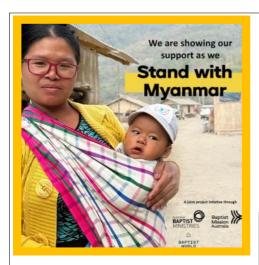
When all the Churches in Katherine 'dwell together in unity', it is such a blessing for us all.

The Katherine Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Church provides a venue for our Sunday Worship Services.

We worship each Sunday at 10am in the SDA Community Centre. If you are ever in Katherine, please come and worship with us or worship at any of the other Christian Churches.

Christina Young & Cynthia Prime





s Australian Baptists, let's join together in prayer to support our brothers and sisters in Myanmar who are experiencing atrocities every day at the hand of the military. Despite disappearing from our daily news reports, the situation has worsened in recent months and there are approximately 2,650,000 internally displaced people living or hiding in the jungle in Myanmar and a further 1,133,000 seeking asylum or in refugee camps in the countries surrounding Myanmar, according to the UN.

Will you join us to continue advocating for justice and peace in Myanmar? Go to: https://baptistworldaid.org.au/appeals/myanmar-humanitarian-response/



Join us in prayer
These prayer points have been
provided by Chin, Kachin, Karen
pastors and leaders from Australian
Baptist churches.

We pray:

- For those who are particularly vulnerable, that they might receive the essential help they need for survival.
- For churches, leaders and the diaspora to courageously step up, stand strong and serve the people in these difficult times.
- For the refugees in Thailand, India and Malaysia to find safety and hope.
 We pray, Lord have mercy.
- For family members in Australia and for PEACE in Myanmar



CASUARINA BAPTIST STANDS WITH MYANMAR

asuarina Church welcomed the opportunity to **Stand With Myanmar** on Sunday 15th September in a campaign which saw Baptist World Aid and Baptist Mission Australia partner with local Baptist churches. The church family at Casuarina wanted to show their support for our Karen friends, their families still in Myanmar and for all Myanmar people who are suffering trauma and deprivation under an unjust military regime.

Casuarina church has many Karen people from Myanmar in our congregation most of whom came as refugees and are now settled in Darwin. They contribute to the life of our church in many valuable ways and also hold their own Karen Language service each Sunday at midday in the church.

Strong bonds of friendship and support have developed over the years with the Karen folk at Casuarina Baptist.

We were privileged to have Rev. Steve Woods of Baptist World Aid and his wife with us for the Stand with Myanmar Sunday service. Steve shared how we can stand with the people of Myanmar by Praying, Advocating to the Australian Government and Giving Financially.

Wah Eh, a respected leader in the NT Karen community, spoke movingly about the despair felt by Myanmar people in Australia, with the dire situation their loved ones are experiencing back home, with villages, schools and churches bombed and many lives lost.

Andrea Adams



Changes, Challenges and Connections for the Outback Team

t has been a year of challenges and changes for the Outback Team as they serve with Baptist Mission Australia (BMA) in remote regions of our Territory. They are Mat and Shannon Anderson, Mal and Chris Good, Danny and Beth Hunt.



During June in Kalkarindji, the team came together for the Bush Training weekend, but due to Sorry Business involving many people this was postponed until next year.

However it was a great opportunity for the team to have some quality time together, a rare event.

Elliot Keane join them during this time. Elliot is the First Nations Facilitator for BCSANT and is also on the staff for BMA.

Vivian Grice, the Outback Team Leader for the past several years, has travelled regularly from NSW to encourage and support the Team. This year marked a change in leadership as Vivian stepped down and Mat Anderson took up the mantle of Team Leader.

The Outback Team expressed their deep thanks to Viv for his faithful leadership, his wisdom and insights over the years and for the way he has nurtured the growing team. As the sun set over the outback location, they thanked the Lord for Viv and prayed a blessing over him. *(Photo above)*

The following morning the Team prayed for Mat and Shannon and the children, Beth, Peter, Caleb and Samuel, on a hill overlooking Kalkarindji.

Town and Country

Mal and Chris Good are greatly encouraged by the welcome they receive each time they visit Lajamanu and the way relationships continue to grow a little deeper. The connections made on community are often carried over to the Darwin context when people from community come to town for medical treatment or to visit family in hospital and make contact with them. Some visit Casuarina Baptist on Sunday, where Mal and Chris pastor, and are happy to see their familiar faces. Recently three Warlpiri men studying at Nungalinya College in Darwin, shared their testimony in word and song at Casuarina Baptist, a great encouragement to the multi-cultural congregation there.

Making Connections

In the Red Centre, **Danny and Beth Hunt** based at Yuendumu, have made visits to Willowra and Ali Curung with opportunities to share and support in groups and one-on-one.

At Yuendumu connections are being maintained and new ones made as Danny and Beth are invited into people's lives and receive questions about their faith or are asked to pray.

Beth is a valued volunteer at the school, helping out and making good connections with staff and kids. Praise God for stronger connections developing between Yuendumu and Alice Springs Baptist community.

Photo: Elliot, Mat, Danny and Viv catching up over lunch



The Outback Team cont:



Lismore Baptist Work Party take a moment to relax with Kalkarindji locals

Sunday School Renovations

Mat and Shannon were thrilled and thankful to have the Sunday School room at Kalkarindji back in use. It has suffered significant damage in recent years due to white ants and flood/moisture damage. A team from Lismore Baptist church drove the thousands of kilometres to get the room up and running again. They were able to work together with some local men in a work program to strip the room.

Then they worked on everything from electrical, to steelwork, to wall lining incredible effort making the room ready for the Wet Season and providing a cool and fresh space to hold Sunday school and Bible study meetings. Keep praying that God's blessing will be on the space as He builds his kingdom in Kalkarindji.

Please Pray for the Outback Team and Mat in his role as Team Leader!

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

1 John 5:14

Between Ali Curung and Nungalinya



Arana Rice, church Leader from Ali Curung has been back in Darwin attending Numgalinya College along with **Eddie Robertson** of Yuendumu. They are pictured above with Certificate 4 fellow students and a visitor from Shepparton who brought 22 new Bible bags for students to use to protect and carry their Bibles. *Arana is 5th from L and Eddie is far L*.



Arana with Patty and friend at Nungalinya



Clara Ollerenshaw , past NT missionary, visiting with Jerry, Arana and Valerie at Ali Curung.



Passing on the Baton at Darwin Baptist Church

fter over 22 years of pastoring the Darwin church, Mal Sercombe has retired and 'passed the Baton' on to Ox Roberts. Ox is a familiar figure around Darwin churches having first come to the Territory to serve as Director of Scripture Union NT. He later took on the role of Partnership/Fundraising Manager at Nungalinya College. Ox and wife, Karen have been an active part of the DBC Family since June 2019.

Ox Roberts was appointed Senior Pastor in late May at the DBC AGM – to commence in August. Between mid-April and August, many lay folk from Darwin Baptist stepped up to share God's Word during the period without a formal pastor.

The Commissioning Service for Ox took place on August 18th 2024, with many friends present from Baptist and other churches in the Darwin region.

Mark Sanders (Church Development Facilitator), who has also been moderator and supporter of the DBC Pastoral Search team conducted the service and the commissioning.

Ox shared his journey, and how he believed that God had equipped and called him to the role of Senior Pastor at DBC.

Mal Sercombe, gave affirmation to Ox and handed over three batons – a relay baton (representing the changeover), a large wooden baton (for the protection of the flock), and the conductor's baton (to use in leading the congregation).



Mal passes the baton to Ox



Ox's wife, Karen, was also welcomed, affirmed, and prayed for by Pastoral Search Team member, Anja Zimmerman, while several church leaders also prayed for Ox and Karen.

Rev. Dr. Melinda Cousins (Director of Ministries BCSANT) gave the message on "God's calling of a leader" from 1 Samuel 10.



Please hold Ox and Karen in prayer before the Lord, for wisdom and joy on the journey, as they step into this new area of service.



Highlights from the **BAPTIST FAMILY GATHERING 2024**

t was a packed program at Cornerstone Christian Church on Friday and Saturday 23-24 August when the Baptist Family Gathering took place. Director of Ministries BCSANT. Guest Speakers from SA and NSW gave inspiring messages and led a number of informative workshops. There were also abundant opportunities for fellowship and socialising over morning and afternoon teas, lunch and a Friday night Resources for Ministry dinner, all wonderfully catered for by Cornerstone's hospitality team.

The Cornerstone Worship Team headed by Matt Kernick led the assembled gathering in enthusiastic music and praise in the main auditorium.

Keynote Speakers were Steve Bartlett, **Director of Ministries NSW&ACT Bap**tist Association and Melinda Cousins.

Elective Speakers and Topics were **Lisa** Cornish on the story of the Baptist Mission in the Territory **Glen Thornley and Rob Ellis** – Building Louise Bartlett (NSW/ACT Children and Family Ministries - Resilient Faithfostering a lifelong faith in children and young people

Elliot Keane BCSANT – Intentional

Leadership Development.

Guest Speakers: L-R: Melinda Cousins Elliot Keane

Steve & Louise Bartlett



Leaders Interviewed

A real highlight of the Saturday program were Elliot Keane's interviews of some of our local NT Baptist leaders. These opened up personalities with both humour and sensitivity. In these revealing interviews, Elliot shone a light on each individual and prayed for each one.



Interviewed were:

Kevin Young (above with wife, Christina)
Pastor of Katherine Baptist Church who told how the leaders of Katherine
Churches get together each week for prayer and fellowship. Kevin said there is lots of room for God to work in
Katherine and spoke about the outreach ministry at the Rehab Centre where 25 men are doing a 12 week Bible Study.
On Sunday evening a service is held under a tree outside the Indigenous
Hostel with a number of people attending.

Elliot prayed for Kevin , KBC and the work in Katherine.

Ox Roberts, recently inducted as Senior Pastor at Darwin Baptist, was asked 'What are you excited about?'

His reply, "The Outreach happening through Mainly Music and the weekly Food for Life program." He also spoke of the Youth Team's visits to Kalkaringi to encourage the kids and teenagers there Also, DBC has a developing partnership with a church in Timor Leste.

The Prayer of Ox's heart is that people can catch God's vision and know that being part of God's mission is for all followers. Elliot prayed for Ox 'standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before'.





Chris Good, who with husband, Mal, pastors Casuarina Baptist and also serves with BMA visiting Lajamanu Community regularly through the year 'to sit with the church, pray, encourage and walk beside them.'

Chris related how Casuarina Baptist is comprised of a multi-ethnic congregation with 26 different language groups represented. The Prayer of Chris' heart is 'for justice for First Nations People and for Refugees that they will be heard and freed from trauma, pain and persecution'.

Ron Wright, founding member of Cornerstone Church told how the Food for Life program on Tuesdays is one of the best outreaches of the church with the Café area being a welcoming venue for people dropping in to shop and have free coffee and sandwiches.

Ron spoke of wonderful opportunities to pray for people many of whom have no church affiliation.

Elliot also interviewed **Karen Haines** (DBC), a Defence Forces Chaplain.

More photos of The Baptist Family Gathering on the back page **Rev. Dr Melinda Cousins** closed the Gathering on Saturday afternoon with a thoughtful meditation on Psalms 133 and 135. *See below.*

The Cornerstone Community was thanked for their generous hospitality over the two day Gathering. Volunteers worked behind the scenes to provide mouth-watering snacks and meals as well as setting up different areas around the church – not forgetting all the inevitable cleaning up that goes with hosting such an event.

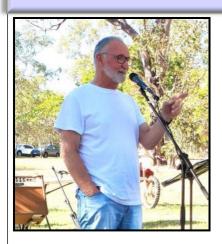
Andrea Adams

Psalm 133

A song of ascents. Of David

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!
 It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe.
 It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.
 For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

Darwin Baptist BATS—'Blokes At The Station'



The annual DBC BATS camp took place at Ebenezer Waters in the Daly river region on the weekend of the 14th of June. Over 100 men and boys from churches around Darwin attended the weekend with others coming from as far as Alice Springs and Katherine. The work requirements for the camp this year, as with every year, were to assist the local community around Ebenezer Waters with any odd jobs that needed hands to complete. Several teams went out on Saturday to assist with gardening and clean-up work.

This work lined up nicely with a Working Bee at Fleming, apparently the newest town in the Territory, and so a bunch of the BATS boys went off to lend a welcome hand there. Some men stayed at the farm and did handy work around the house and grounds. Several of the men were also working on a wooden and metal flower sculpture, a gift for a special family at DBC.

The speaker for this year's camp was a former pastor of DBC, **Neil Ryan**, (*left*) who came up from Adelaide to enjoy some fellowship and to share the Word. The theme of the message focused around "Building" and included building relationships together as men, building the church and building on our relationship with God.

Several of us took on the task of being chefs and making the Saturday night shared meal, which was once again South African Boerewors (farmers sausage) with jacket potatoes and salads. This went down a treat and as usual there was more than enough left over for a shared Sunday morning breakfast as well.

A Sunday service was held on the farm with Neil sharing his final message on 'Building' with the group. This service concluded the formal side of the camp, but many campers stayed on for a few more days. Again, we extend a thanks to the Farrell family for offering their property so that we could gather together.

Kevin Tiplady



CYCLONE TRACY Remembered 50th Anniversary

his Christmas, many people in Darwin and interstate will be remembering the events of 50 years ago when Cyclone Tracy tore through this northern city leaving a trail of death and destruction behind.

66 people lost their lives in the cyclone although there were many unaccounted for. Many more were injured as houses and buildings were torn apart. Cyclone Tracy completely destroyed more than half of Darwin's 12,000 houses and left more than 25,000 of the 47,000 residents homeless. The largest evacuation in Australian history followed, At Casuarina, the Church and the manse with 30,000 people leaving, some never to return.

In the months and years that followed a massive reconstruction period occurred and the city was rebuilt 'to cyclone code' and residents in Darwin now live in relative safety.

At that time, there were two Baptist Churches in Darwin, Darwin Baptist near the city and Casuarina Baptist in the Northern suburbs. Both suffered considerable damage. One end of the Darwin Church buildings, the office and the nursery areas suffered extensive damage. The main church hall however was hardly damaged.



next door were destroyed.

Speaking at the National Baptist Convention in Queensland shortly afterwards in January 1975, Reverend Lloyd Kent of Darwin said, "You have heard much of the physical damage wrought by Cyclone Tracy and the damage to Baptist property.

We are strongly reminded, however, that the real church does not consist of battered boards but of people redeemed and that the unseen things are the things that cannot be shaken and are eternal. The winds have blown but I want to assure you that it will take more than a puff of wind to blow out the work of the Spirit (of God) in Darwin."

when the blow had eased, families checked up on families. 'There was little talk about Christmas presents or possessions but again and again the exclamation "Praise the Lord you're alive!" And there was a ready sharing of remaining possessions—clothing, food and cash. It took the cyclone blow to make us a New Testament people with all things in common.'

For those survivors in Darwin and around Australia, this Christmas will be a poignant reminder of the miracle that happened, that despite the widespread destruction of the city. so many lives were spared and the city was rebuilt.

Lloyd shared how on Christmas morning At dawn on Christmas Day 2024 survivors and families will gather at East Point where Cyclone Tracy first crossed land, and hold a memorial service for those who died in the cyclone. Praise God, that both Darwin and Casuarina Baptist Churches have been rebuilt and 50 years on are thriving witnesses in the Top End as well as the two more Baptist Churches which have been established and flourish to the glory of God,- CrossRoads Christian Church and Cornerstone Christian Fellowship.

> (Reference: Keith Cole, Winds of Fury, 1977, and Wikipedia)

Three Survivors of Cyclone Tracy Remember

Jim Carlill, a member at Darwin Baptist in 1974 writes:

Our house at Howard Springs was not subjected to the same wind force as those in town but virtually all our trees on our 10 acres were blown over or stripped of branches.

As the Horne family were supposed to come to our home for Christmas lunch and they had not turned up by about 12.00, I drove to see if all was OK with them. By the time I reached as close as I could to their ex-home in Casuarina. the full impact of the cyclone was

apparent. They then came to our place and stayed for the next 2 years. As we had our own water bore and electricity generator, we had at the beginning 14 people with us, including the Horne family, Lenore McNee and Warren McKewen, plus others. It was a time of great fellowship when every night we had worship, singing, prayer and Bible study. Both Alwyn and Vivienne Horne are musicians. The three month period after the cyclone is one of our most memorable times.

Cyclone Tracy Stories



Sue Wright of Cornerstone Church:



The advice given was to shelter under the beds, but that was no use with glass louvres being smashed sending shards all over the rooms, so we headed for the least exposed room, the small bathroom. We put the children's large toybox against the door and I sat on it with the girls, while Ron sat on the edge of the bath with Neil. I had been a bit half-hearted about coming to Darwin initially,however during the height of Tracy I had prayed "God, if you spare us all I will stop complaining about being here". I was certainly not the only one praying that night!

I would sum up the experience of Tracy as surreal, but 50 years later it is good to look back and be thankful to God for keeping us safe. I am looking forward to catching up with some of our ex-neighbours at the coming commemorations!

Andrea Adams of Casuarina Baptist:

We sheltered in the bathroom, covering our three year old son with our bodies. At some point the roof and ceiling above us were torn open and in the flashes of lightning, we could see pieces of clothing flapping eerily into the roofless room.

There was a feeling of finality to this ordeal, a sense that we were not going to survive and a surrendering to what we felt was to come. Fear gradually gave way to acceptance and a strange peace came upon us. We felt we were not alone. As Christians, we firmly believed that when our earthly lives were over we would spend eternity with our Father God and it is probably this that sustained us. To keep our spirits up and to comfort our little boy we sang hymns and prayed aloud. I remember feeling calm and resigned to what I believed was our imminent death. Was this the Peace of God which passes all understanding?

We survived and the bathroom was the only room of the house left after the cyclone!

These are excerpts from longer accounts. If you would like to read the full versions please contact the Editor!

Remote Indigenous Ministries (T-TRIM)

Missions Interlink's Transition Training for Remote Indigenous Ministries (T-TRIM) has just run the second section of this year's course in the October school holidays. Pictured are some of the participants and facilitators involved Facilitators leading the course come from various missions and ministries including, Wycliffe, YWAM, Coordinate, Pioneers, World Outreach, Local Leaders and Nungalinya College.

Rachel Borneman



2025 Course Dates

First section: 20 - 24 January

Units covered - Working with Aboriginal Australians (3 days)

- Health & Security (+2 days)

Second section: 29 September - 3 October *Units covered* - Living in Two Worlds (2 days)

Christian Spirituality in Aboriginal Australian Context (2 days)
 - Aboriginal Languages (1 day)

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For more information go to:

https://missionsinterlink.org.au/events/training/t-trim

BELONGING PEOPLE ONLINE

This issue of Belonging People can be found, with previous issues, on the BCSANT website at https://bcsant.org.au/belonging-people/





We have again just come through a Renewal period, and Baptist Insurance Services CEO Bronson Justus was keen to let you know about the key changes this year...

I'm excited to share some important updates from Baptist Insurance Services.

This year, we've made great progress with our Mutual Fund that will benefit the entire Baptist community. One of the key achievements has been taking Public Liability and abuse protection out of Insurance Policies and adding them to Baptist Mutual, ensuring your church is well-covered.

We've also worked hard to keep costs as low as we can, while making sure your protection is still as broad as possible.

Thank you for your continued support, which allows us to work together in protecting our Churches and furthering God's Kingdom. Bronson Justus

As always, the best claim is the one you never need to make. If we all help to prevent things going wrong where we can, it will help limit costs for everyone.

But please remember, if anything happens that might turn into a claim, make sure your Church leadership know about it so they can fill out an Incident Report as a permanent record, and tell us about it right away. It is important that we know about all potential claims as soon as possible.

Glen Thornley BIS State Insurance Manager SA & NT 0412 055 832 glen.thornley@baptistinsurance.com.au

Introducing Cate and KimLean—Cambodia

Baptist Mission Australia



would like to introduce you to Cate and KimLean who are in South Australia on Home Assignment.

Cate and KimLean serve in Cambodia. Cate has served the people there since 2009. She met KimLean in Cambodia where he was serving as a language helper for Baptist Mission Australia. They married in 2022.

Cate and KimLean are involved in many ways in their local community sharing the gospel of Jesus. This is the great delight of their hearts. Cate works in an education centre for children with disabilities.

KimLean walks alongside young men sharing the gospel with them.

If you are interested to learn more about Cate and KimLean you can visit their page on the Baptist Mission Australia website:

https:/ www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/ Who-we-are/People-Groups/Khmer/ CatherineKimLean

You might like to have them take part in your small group meeting or church service via zoom or you might be interested in partnering with Cate and KimLean and the important work they are doing for God's Kingdom in Cambodia If so, please get in touch and I can help arrange that for you. Icornish@baptistmissionaustralia.org

Lisa Cornish State Director SA/NT Baptist Mission Australia

The Baptist Family Gathering



A time of sharing and fellowship around the table and in meetings at Cornerstone Christian Fellowship on August 23-24 2024

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Belonging People

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