



Spring
Edition
2025

Celebrating
the global
church in
Brisbane

Remote leaders gather
together in Darwin

How wide is your net?

Joining in God's work around
the world

Together *in Mission*

Baptist Churches SA & NT



Celebrating the global church in Brisbane

It was my honour to photograph the 80+ delegates representing South Australia and the Northern Territory at the 23rd Baptist World Congress. After journeying to Brisbane, we met together on the first night to share dinner and catch up, before we dispersed among 3500 delegates from every corner of the world.

While you may imagine the highlight of a global gathering is meeting people from other countries, a number of those from our movement mentioned how special it was to spend time with each other, outside of the usual day-to-day. Perhaps the photo captured us just as we all defaulted to school-camp mode.

The Opening Celebration was electric. Representatives from 130 nations surrounded us, proudly waving their country's banner. We sang *Agnus Dei*, and I can still

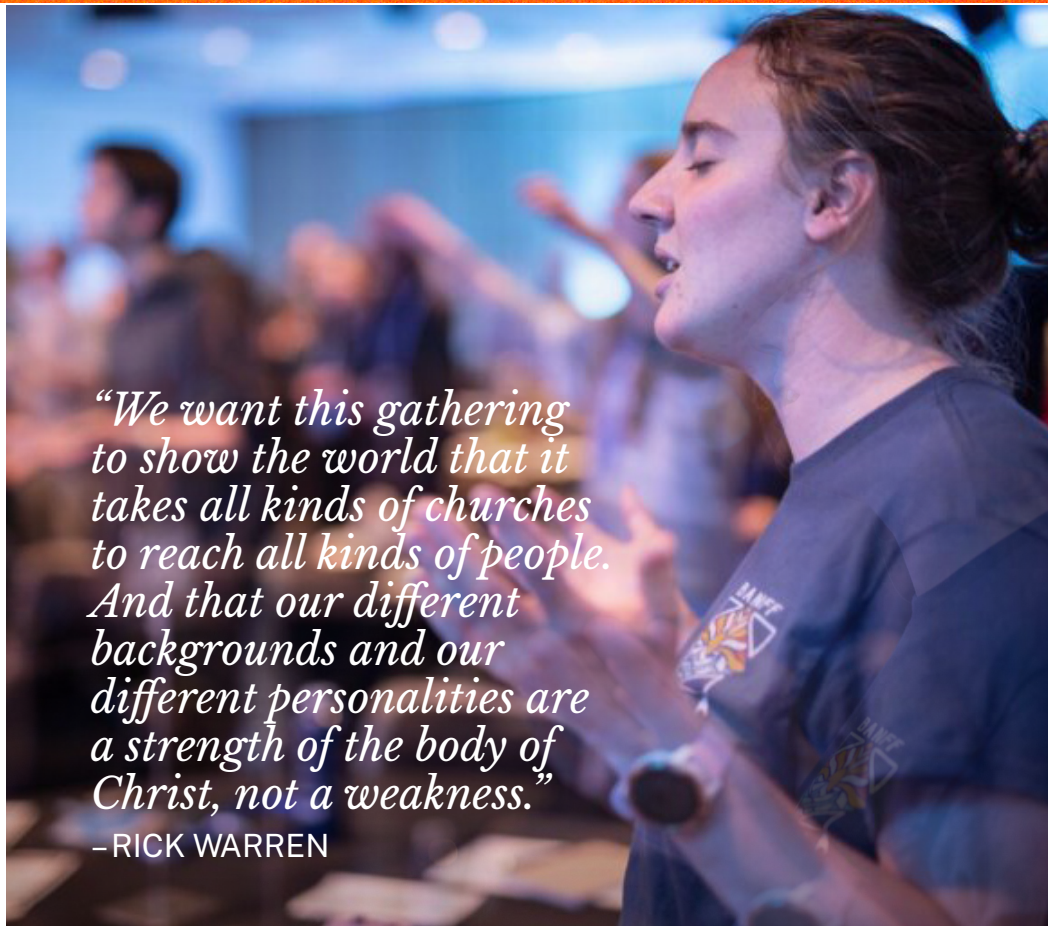
hear our voices belting it out as we worshipped with people from home and away. Elijah Brown, General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, shared an incredibly passionate call to action for our wider Baptist family. He spoke of 2033, and the significance that we will soon be marking 2000 years since Jesus died. He then invited us to take part in five different actionable paths to help spread the good news; the witness, Bible, freedom, care, and neighbour paths, all based on the church in Acts 2. We will undoubtedly hear more about these paths in the future as part of the Baptist World Alliance's 2033 Acts 2 Movement.

The 12-hour days packed a lot into the program, with electives, Bible talks, meetups and opportunities for everyone to carve out their own day. Many of us attended the preaching symposium, where we enjoyed listening to TaNikka

Shepherd (USA), Jason Elsmore (Queensland) and Rick Warren (USA). Others raved about hearing from Micheline Makkar, who had many stories to share from her ministry in Syria.

A highlight for many was the worship. We enjoyed the throwback songs such as *Ancient of Days*, *Here I Am to Worship*, and *Shout to the Lord*, sung in our own heart languages. The addition of the digeridoo, saxophones, and bagpipes to the band was incredibly special. Mark Wilson, National Director of Australian Baptist Ministries, shared that he "...found the worship just overwhelmingly, deeply spiritual and encouraging. I found myself on numerous occasions in tears as I've heard stories and been a part of the worship."

Another treat, and a personal favourite, were the performers on



“We want this gathering to show the world that it takes all kinds of churches to reach all kinds of people. And that our different backgrounds and our different personalities are a strength of the body of Christ, not a weakness.”

–RICK WARREN

the Global Stage. You can't help but dance to *Oh Happy Day* when performed by the Progressive Baptist Church Choir (Chicago). Or you might have preferred the colourful dancers from the Korean Children's Choir, twirling to *It Is Well With My Soul*.

There were somber and powerful moments too; we met and prayed for members of the persecuted church. We heard stories of heartbreak and suffering, all for the sake of the Gospel. We heard Kay Warren (USA) share her experiences with mental health ministry and the loss of her son. We grieved as we heard of countries at war whose churches had shattered. We clung together to our hope in Christ.

It would be remiss not to mention the incredible effort Queensland Baptists made towards making Congress happen. Over 300

volunteers came together to coordinate the sessions, registrations, airport welcomes, prayer times, kids and youth programs; the list goes on. We are grateful for those who shared their time and talents with us.

At the Closing Ceremony, we were asked to each light a candle, filling the room with glimmers of hope. Elijah Brown sent us off with these words: “Take what you've learned here; turn it on, and go live the good news”.

25 years have passed since the last Baptist World Congress was held in Australia. I hope we will not have to wait so long for the opportunity to meet together again with our wider Baptist family.

words by
Ruth Grace
Editor, *Together in Mission*

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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Our Journey with God.

We walk through suffering, on our journey there are floods and storms and all kinds of trouble.

As we walk, sometimes we lose our way, our feet get dirty, but Jesus washes our feet.

Ngaji, Wapirra, Ingkarte helps us on the path and guides our steps.

We walk together, family together, young and old together, Kardia and Yapa together, men and women together.

Many have walked faithfully in front of us, we want to be like that too. Some of us are just starting our journey.

We walk with courage trusting Jesus to walk with us and to show us the way.

We have a song to bring for the future.

John Mackinnon

Paul Martin

A. Sumner

Chris Good.

Sharon Robinson

Lynette Tasman

ANDREA TASMAN

John Wilson

MARY LEWIS JEANNIE PRESEY

HERBERT MOSQUITO

Melinda Cousins

Reony Jimmy

Ellie Keane

Lisa Cornish

Roger Jurech

Susan Brown

John Mackinnon

Paul Martin

A. Sumner

Chris Good.

Sharon Robinson

Lynette Tasman

ANDREA TASMAN

My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Psalms 121:2

Remote leaders gathering in Darwin

A wonderful coming together happened recently in Darwin. Indigenous leaders from remote communities such as Lajamanu, Willowra, Murray Downs, Katherine, Kalkarindji, Dagaragu, and Yuendumu, met alongside representatives from Baptist Mission Australia and Baptist Churches SA & NT. Those present shared times of story, naming challenges and opportunities for their church communities, and for themselves as church leaders.

There was the chance to pray with and for one another, and worship together in song in Warlpiri, Gurindji, Alyawarr, and English. There were shared meals

and opportunities to encourage one another through words of welcome and support. Melinda Cousins shared with us from the Psalms of Ascent and Psalm 121. This resonated strongly and tied together many conversations from our time together.

Everyone was excited to contribute to the gathering. From these contributions and discussions, a poetic summary was written called *Our Journey with God*. There was a sense as we met together of strengthening and deepening our connections as Family together, a part of the wider Baptist family. It fittingly culminated in the bigger family gathering of BCSANT.



words by **Elliot Keane**
Baptist Mission Australia

It was a wonderful privilege to witness God at work amongst the leaders of our most remote Baptist Churches. The inspiring, resilient faith of women and men who love King Jesus and are living out lives of faith and hope in their communities. Alongside the challenges, there were stories of hope to celebrate together. People are still talking about the great time together and looking forward to meeting again sometime soon.



For more stories from the Northern Territory, visit bcsant.org.au/belonging-people

In other news

Congratulations to Rev Ken Henderson who was ordained on the 10th August at Playford Baptist Church!





Joining in God's work around the world

Baptist
Mission
Australia



Baptist Mission Australia offers many ways for churches and individuals to partner together in the work of sharing God's life-giving hope of salvation around the world. Whether you partner through prayer, financial giving, visiting our teams or sensing God's call to serve as an Intercultural Team Member, we are all working together for God's glory.

One way both churches and individuals can support our ongoing work is through our projects. These are longer-term efforts to serve specific needs within a community, but they start with God moving the

"This is what the Lord requires. That you do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God."

– MICAH 6:8

hearts and minds of people to care for the spiritual and physical needs of the community.

Through the commitment of our partners and the ongoing work of our teams around the world, we are joining in God's restoring vision, as lives and communities experience transformation across the world.

Some ways our projects are making a difference now:

- We help people move out of poverty and learn life and employment skills
- We help people access the Bible in their own heart language
- We help people establish their own micro businesses
- We provide support in education and healthcare
- We invest in creation care and environmental initiatives

- We're discipling local people so they can follow Jesus in their own ways

While no two Baptist Mission Australia projects are alike, every single one exists to make a transforming difference, to serve and benefit local communities.

To find out more about our projects and how you can invest in this vital, ongoing work, check out our website: <https://baptistmissionaustralia.org/give/our-projects/>

We're excited about partnering with you, so that together we can make a difference! All of our projects are being used by God's Spirit to bring individual and community transformation.



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

How we're helping children feel safe in Myanmar



Together, we're helping our Partners provide 20,000 people affected by the earthquake and conflict in Myanmar with the essentials they need to survive, and 500 vulnerable children with safe spaces to play, learn, and heal.

Many of us have been following the escalating crisis in Myanmar since the military overthrew the government in February 2021.

Years of violence have devastated towns, closed services such as schools, and forced people to flee their homes.

Then in March 2025, an earthquake further endangered 2.1 million conflict-affected civilians.

As of May, around one third of Myanmar's population requires humanitarian assistance. Families are living in overcrowded shelters supported by churches and monasteries, where access to basic services is extremely limited.

Our Emergency Response

Thanks to the generosity of supporters who gave to our

Myanmar Humanitarian Response, our Christian Partner is providing emergency support and essential supplies to 20,000 people in need – including food, safe drinking water, hygiene kits, health services, and helping construct sanitary latrines and transitional shelters.

Priority has been given to children, women, people with disabilities, the elderly, and vulnerable families, to ensure that those who are at the highest risk are cared for.

Building A Child's Resilience

Children in Myanmar are at high risk of exploitation, abuse and trafficking.

The closure of schools has halted their education, while years of conflict and the recent earthquake have caused psychological trauma and distress.

To address this risk, our Partner has established nine Child-friendly Spaces in earthquake-affected communities to protect children and help them improve their resilience and well-being.

These safe spaces are managed by emergency response workers and trained community volunteers, with the aim of supporting 500 children aged 18 and under.

The Situation Is Still Critical

At this year's Baptist World Congress, the Australian delegates of the Baptist Myanmar diaspora gathered in person to pray for the country.

In the face of conflict, displacement, and instability, we know that God hears our prayers, and all things are possible in Him.

Baptist World Aid is proud to be participating again in the Stand With Myanmar campaign, starting in October, to raise much-needed funds for our brothers and sisters who are struggling to meet their needs amidst conflict in Myanmar. To find out more, visit: standwithmyanmar.com.au



words by **Sophia Russell**
Baptist World Aid

How wide is your net?



“And I always make sure I invite some people who I’m fairly sure will say no.” I heard this little off-the-cuff sentence from Melinda Dwight (former Director of Alpha Australia) two years ago, and it’s stayed with me ever since.

Inviting is an important part of being a sacred agent. We all have our different gifts, ministries and settings, but at the end of the day – in fact all day – we represent the One who is inviting people everywhere into his kingdom. The gospel is news – and it’s also an invitation.

As representatives of Jesus, we want to be as inviting as he is, whether that be inviting others to lunch, to youth group, home group, Alpha or a church service. Is our invitation as genuine, warm, strong, and gentle as his? And importantly, is it as wide?

When we think about inviting, or are encouraging others to invite,

so often our thought process goes like this: Can I think of one person among my contacts, who may be likely to be interested? And our minds are drawn to those most Christ-adjacent.

But Jesus’ kingdom doesn’t work like that. Surely we know that he doesn’t only invite those already closest to him. Saul of Tarsus certainly wasn’t. The kingdom is full of unlikelies. And even those who do indeed say no, No, or NO need to know that they are invited. The invitation itself plants a seed.

Imagine how things would change if we shifted the norm from ‘thinking of one person to invite’ to ‘putting the word out to all our contacts’:

We’d be almost certain to see a lot more people joining us

A great many Australians would be receiving multiple invitations, and what would they make of that?

We know that a lot Australians are interested in Jesus. Where their blockage is a sense that they don’t qualify or wouldn’t be welcome, what’s needed is an invitation. It needn’t be high-pressure, it could be as simple as a text message like this:

Hello everyone I know within cooe: Our church at West Beach is starting a new series through John’s gospel this week. Also an Alpha Course starting Aug 21. Let me know if you’d like to come along – or surprise me there! Just know you’re definitely invited.

In Jesus’ teaching, the Sower spreads the seed very broadly, and the fisher casts a wide net, not just a single line. How wide is the net you’re casting?



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

In other news

Renovations are underway at 35 King William Rd, Unley, which has been the home of the BCSANT Support Office for over 20 years.

We are thankful to Kings Community Church for hosting our support team office during this time.

Faculty Design have been engaged to design and manage the project, which officially kicked off on the 26th May 2025.

At the time of writing, the renovations are on track for us to move into our new space in November.



Celebrate 30 Years!

You are Invited! RSVP Now

Adelaide - 25 October
Burnside City Uniting Church

kairos.org.au/30-Years

Who is Kairos Prison Ministry Australia?

Kairos is a non denominational Christian ministry with two distinct programs:

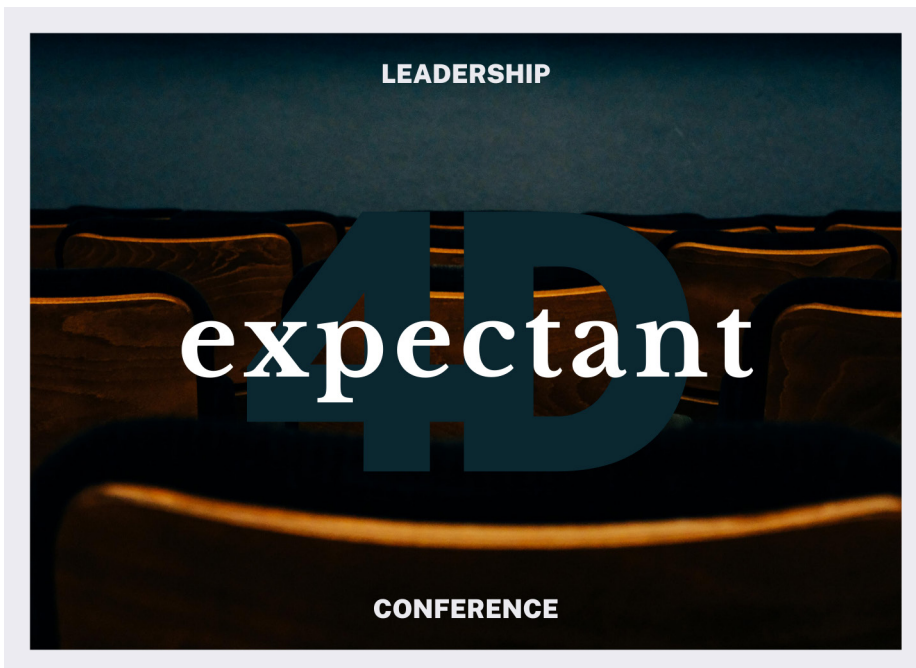
- **Kairos Inside** - Ministering to men and women in prison.
- **Kairos Outside** - For women impacted by the imprisonment of a family member or close friend.

“I was in prison and you visited me” (Matthew 25:36)

Come for testimonies of lives changed, fellowship and worship.

All Kairos events are open to those aged 18 years and over.





A gathering of leaders eager to see God move

4D Leadership Conference is our annual gathering for church volunteers & leaders to be equipped, encouraged, and inspired in ministry. This year's theme, Expectant, invites us to come ready to see how God will move, speak, and lead us into the future for our churches and communities.

We are looking forward to hearing from John Robertson and Petrea Taylor. John is the CEO of Global Leadership Network Australia and Chair of the National Council for Australian Baptist Ministries. He combines his strategic insights with a passion for developing both people and processes. Petrea is the Children's Pastor at Riverlife Baptist Church, Brisbane, and has a deep desire to see the next generation walk closely with Jesus. We're excited for them to bring fresh insights, biblical wisdom, and practical encouragement to help us lead with a renewed sense of passion and purpose.

We also have a great range of electives which will help to support

your teams in the areas of Next Gen, Creative/Worship, Governance, Cultural Intelligence, Reading the Bible, Next steps after running the Alpha course and more.

Something new at 4D is combining Assembly with 4D Conference. Assembly is a time for us to celebrate God's work among our churches, make key decisions, and seek God's direction for the future. It's a unique opportunity to come together as one movement, to worship, grow, and discern together. Formal Assembly business will happen after morning tea, and we are excited to have 4D delegates participate in this part of our movement.

We hope you will join us at 4D, expectant to see how God will lead, empower, and inspire us for what's ahead.



Saturday 25th October
Edwardstown Baptist Church

Learn more and RSVP:
bcsant.org.au/4D

Advertisement

Growing Together in Marriage

In 2025 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 2025:

- **October 31 - November 2**

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.



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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