



Autumn  
Edition  
2026

What the young  
people in your  
church want you  
to know

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Easter themes hidden in  
Bluey

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New resource to help keep  
children and the church safe

# Together *in Mission*

Baptist Churches SA & NT



## What the young people in your church want you to know

In July 2025, we invited young people, from Year 4 to young adult age, to share openly about their experiences of church. We heard from 96 young people from Baptist Churches in SA & NT. Their answers were thoughtful, hopeful, and clear.

Here's what they want you to know.

### They long for connection

Young people want meaningful relationships across generations. Many feel disconnected from older adults and would value mentorship, but aren't sure how to build those relationships.

They want leaders to notice them. To ask about their week. To speak directly to them, not just to their parents.

Friendships within church can be tricky, especially when trying

to enter established social circles. And for many, church isn't somewhere they've chosen to attend; it's simply where their family goes.

### They struggle to engage

Many respondents shared that sermons don't always feel relevant or relatable. Services are often geared towards older people, while young people want fresh, interactive, visual services.

They're looking for real-life application. Space to ask questions. Teaching that connects faith with everyday issues for them; think dating, relationships, mental health, identity, and culture.

### They want to understand God

Encouragingly, many expressed a genuine desire to learn more about God. However, church language can feel complex or assumed.

They're asking for clarity. Simpler explanations. Respectful communication.

Tone matters. Speaking down to young people or preaching in a way that feels patronising quickly disengages them.

Interestingly, several wished youth group included more intentional teaching about God, not just activities.

### They want to be heard

Young people want their voices welcomed and their ideas valued. Some feel held back from volunteering due to confidence or lack of opportunity. They want to be contributors, not just attendees.

### They are grateful

Throughout the survey, one theme stood out: gratitude.

They repeatedly mentioned that they notice and appreciate when effort is made to make church more accessible to them.

This wasn't a critique. It was an invitation to listen, to connect, and to build churches where young people truly belong.

words by  
**Ruth Grace**  
Editor, *Together in Mission*



Visit [bcsant.org.au/for-churches/intergenerational](https://bcsant.org.au/for-churches/intergenerational) for intergenerational ministry resources



## Easter themes hidden in *Bluey*

I have recently had the joy of publishing an academic article and piece for *The Conversation* analysing the religious imagination of *Bluey*. The bone-dry Aussie humour, colourful animation, superb music, and charming writing accompany some of the most reflective and smart storytelling in contemporary children's TV. One episode in particular has something to say to us as Christians during this Easter season.

Series 2 episode "Easter" parallels the Easter narrative to tell us a moving story about how God sees his people. Throughout the episode *Bluey* and *Bingo* are worried that the Easter Bunny has forgotten them. *Chilli* and *Bandit* point out that the Easter Bunny has already explained that he would come back on Easter Sunday. That morning, the girls find empty egg buckets and must follow a trail of clues but become worried when they can't find the chocolate eggs quickly. Especially when they need to be brave or suffer (going into Dad's toilet). They worry that they might be too forgettable, or even too

naughty, for the Easter Bunny to like them. This parallels how Jesus' disciples thought that God had forgotten them after the crucifixion, despite the promise that Jesus had given them that he would come back after three days. It reflects the worry that many folks feel that they are maybe too insignificant for God to care about, or even too sinful.

The episode ends with the girls rolling an exercise ball (stone) away from a desk cavity (tomb) to find that the Easter Bunny had remembered and cared about them, and came back to give them a wonderful gift of chocolate eggs (eternal life). Through the slant telling of the Easter story from the disciples' perspective, children are encouraged to trust that they are loved in the promises made to them, even when it seems like they're small, forgettable, or naughty. In God's eyes, everyone is "rememberable" and loved.



words by **Dr Sarah Lawson**  
Adjunct Lecturer, Tabor

## 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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Got an idea for a story? Submit it in seconds via our Story Submission Form at [bcsant.org.au/together-in-mission](http://bcsant.org.au/together-in-mission)





## Zo Baptist Church sharing in community with Melbourne counterpart

**“The Church is not merely a building; it is the best place to deepen our relationship with God and share His love with others”.**  
**Pastor Thang Tungnung, Zo Baptist Church Adelaide**

In December last year, the Zo Baptist Church Adelaide welcomed almost 80 visitors from Zo Baptist Church Melbourne. The visitors were billeted out to host families from the church in Adelaide, who opened their doors, offered beds, meals, and genuine hospitality.

Zo Baptist hosted a number of events over this time, including an ‘Opening Celebration’, combined services, youth events, and a New Year’s Day picnic, giving everyone ample opportunity to connect as one family.

Having previously moved from Melbourne themselves in 2016, Pastor Thang Tungnung and his family started Zo Baptist Church Adelaide, alongside three other families.

With a shared heritage from Chin State and Sagaing Division in Myanmar, the name ‘Zo’ was chosen for the church to honour their ancestors, the Zo people.

Zo Baptist Church Adelaide was welcomed into membership at Baptist Churches SA & NT as an affiliate in 2023, then as a full member church in November 2024.

## New resource to help keep children and the church safe

Baptist Insurance Services, in collaboration with Carl Collins and Child Protection Solutions, have released a new training video for churches and parents. With a strong focus on making children and the church safe, the video provides a basic introduction into child protection. Though only 30 minutes long, you’ll gain a basic understanding of how to be vigilant

as a parent, and what churches can do to be proactive in protecting children.

Carl Collins, who is the Independent Director of Professional Standards for Baptist Churches SA & NT, is highly experienced in this field. For over 17 years, Carl worked as a Senior Investigator and Children’s Court Prosecutor. He has provided child

protection training and consultancy both nationally and internationally for over 30 years.

To access this free training, visit [baptistinsurance.com.au/presentation\\_for\\_dmf/](http://baptistinsurance.com.au/presentation_for_dmf/)

*Warning: This video contains content/images that may be distressing to some viewers. Viewer discretion is strongly advised.*



# Ev-evangelism and Dys-evangelism



Just hearing the word evangelism often sparks a visceral reaction — the instinctive feeling that comes before we’ve thought it through. What’s yours? It’s usually shaped by past experiences, good or bad. But as we mature in Christ, we’re invited to move beyond gut reactions so we can learn and grow.

It’s a passion of mine to help people see evangelism more clearly, which helped inspire our new video series *The Middle Sister Project*.

We need better language for mature conversations. If you say “evangelism” meaning something positive, but I hear it as negative, we’re already talking past each other. Apples and oranges. So let’s coin two new words, keeping their Greek roots:

Evevangelism – good sharing of good news

Dysevangelism – bad sharing of good news

Now we can talk.

People often ask, “Is evangelism ethical?” Australian culture tends to say no — it’s taboo to interfere with someone’s deep convictions unless they ask first.

But if you know something that could save a life and don’t share it, is that ethical? If smoke is coming from your neighbour’s house, do you wait for permission to help?

This isn’t really a paradox once we have our two new words.

Evevangelism is driven by genuine love and concern for the good of the other. It seeks to do the most good with the least harm. Evevangelism shares Christ’s message in a Christlike way, bearing the fruit of the Spirit. (Gal 5) (Here’s a great sermon or small group series: *Loving Evangelism, Joyful Evangelism, Peaceful Evangelism, Patient Evangelism ... Self-controlled Evangelism!*)

While some will always resist even evevangelism, dysevangelism is

what our neighbours and wider culture are allergic to: pushy, arrogant, results-driven, pressured, guilt-inducing. Dysevangelism is dysfunctional — it does more harm than good.

But it’s not what we’re about. As Paul wrote: “We have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God.” (2 Cor 4) He also reminds us that we carry treasure in jars of clay — we won’t always get it right. Still, we know evevangelism from dysevangelism.

So the answer to dysevangelism is not silence. Silence is its own form of dysevangelism. The answer is to pursue evevangelism.



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



## Building confidence, character and community through adventure



There's something powerful about the great outdoors. Away from distractions, people discover strengths they didn't know they had. When being outdoors is part of a shared group experience, they also have the opportunity to tackle challenges together and connect –with nature, faith, each other, and themselves.

For many years, Baptist Churches SA & NT has chosen BaptistCare's adventure campsites in the Adelaide Hills for its high school Easter Camps –Mylor Adventure Camp for students in Years 7-10, and Wirraway Homestead for those in Years 11-12. Across these camps, students have the opportunity to play, worship, laugh and learn together, forming long-lasting friendships and memories.

### **Mylor Adventure Camp & Wirraway Homestead**

Set among towering gums and rolling hills, Mylor Adventure Camp and Wirraway Homestead offer a

balance of comfort, adventure and natural beauty.

Mylor Adventure Camp features high ropes, flying foxes, and wide-open spaces for team-building and outdoor activities. Its riverside location also makes it ideal for water-based adventures such as canoeing.

With its rustic country charm, Wirraway Homestead offers a hands-on farm experience, including horse riding, horse clinics and adventures of a slightly different kind.

Both venues also provide spacious dormitory-style and private accommodation, camping grounds and catering facilities, making them ideal for large group stays.

### **From fully-facilitated school camps to choose-your-own adventures**

BaptistCare has a long history of delivering fully-facilitated adventure programs for schools,

creating experiences that help young people grow in confidence, character and community beyond the classroom.

But the great news is that Mylor Adventure Camp and Wirraway Homestead are also available for private hire and are well-suited to retreats, conferences, team-building adventures and community gatherings.

Whether facilitated or self-led, time spent at Mylor or Wirraway invites you to step away from the everyday, strengthen relationships and reconnect with faith, creation and what matters most.

BaptistCare offers all Baptist churches a 30% discount on accommodation and venue hire. To plan your next camp, retreat or group adventure, contact us on (08) 8388 5234 or visit <https://baptistcaresa.org.au/book-now>

words by **Ville Zhen**  
BaptistCare



## Report back: Six months since Afghanistan Earthquakes



When Afghanistan was struck by deadly earthquakes in August, our Partners responded by helping provide 2,000 families in rural regions with essentials such as hygiene kits, cookware, temporary shelters, and blankets.

Since the Taliban came into power for a second time in 2021, providing humanitarian aid has been a difficult and complex task. Afghanistan is highly prone to events like earthquakes, which can lead to landslides and isolation for many. After an earthquake strikes, blocked roads and damaged infrastructure make it difficult for people to access aid.

Under Taliban rule, around 22.9 million people in Afghanistan

rely on aid to survive. Even before the earthquakes, years of conflict, disaster, and economic collapse had driven families into extreme poverty. The situation only worsened after the withdrawal of US foreign aid.

When the earthquakes struck, women and girls were amongst the most vulnerable. Unable to access employment or education, women are more susceptible to poverty, financial destitution, early marriage, and poor health outcomes.

The Taliban have also restricted women from training in healthcare, and have banned female aid workers, making it difficult for women and girls to access aid.

This impacts their ability to recover after a disaster occurs.

While the situation remains grim, we trust that God will continue to enable good work to happen, through the love and care of his people. Please pray for those who are vulnerable including women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly. Pray that families would be able to rebuild their lives in the wake of these devastating earthquakes



words by **Sophia Russell**  
Baptist World Aid



# God at work at Darwin Baptist

On Sunday 25th January, Darwin Baptist Church celebrated with five people who had chosen to be baptised and publicly declare their faith in Jesus. It was truly exciting to witness Jeanne, Madeline, Tiarni, CJ and Tony take this significant step, each sharing their desire to be fair dinkum about living their lives for Christ.

What made the moment even more special was the diversity represented. Those baptised

ranged in age from 18 years old through to mid-80s, and was a powerful reminder that God is at work in every season of life. Each person's story was different, yet all shared the same heartbeat: a commitment to follow Jesus wholeheartedly.

words by **Ox Roberts**  
Lead Pastor  
Darwin Baptist Church



## In other news

*Max Flavel recently celebrated his 100th birthday at Hackham Family Baptist Church! Max served as a pilot with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) for nearly 20 years, flying to and from remote communities in Papua New Guinea and Australia. Max then became a Baptist pastor in our movement, where he pastored churches in Alberton, Orroroo, Gawler, Lyndoch and Alice Springs, before retiring in 1985. During his celebration service at Hackham, Max reflected on his life and shared passionately about his love for Jesus. Happy birthday Max!*



**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.

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