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ANNUAL REPORT



Baptist Churches
of South Australia

A movement of local churches thriving in Jesus transforming the world

Our vision

We see a movement of local churches thriving in Jesus transforming the world.

Through our churches we see:



Worship

People's lives being transformed as they receive and celebrate God's presence



Prayer

People growing as a people of prayer



Community

Where people matter, choose to belong and actively serve others as they receive and share God's love



Formation

People's lives transformed so they become more like Jesus



Service

People showing God's love as they generously serve others and prepare God's people for ministry



Mission

Through God's reconciliation bringing justice, mercy, and proclamation, increasing numbers of people led to Jesus and leading others to Jesus

Our objectives

In keeping with this purpose and vision the ministry team and ministries of Baptist Churches SA will, with godly stewardship, support, encourage, influence and extend the life and mission of the Churches by:

- inspiring imagination
- advocating mission
- facilitating connections
- cultivating leaders
- resourcing churches





**We exist
for Christ
reconciling
all things
to God.**

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From the President

Mark Foley



It is an honour and privilege to serve our movement and to work with the Assembly Board. Their commitment to provide good governance in a spirit of service and humility, and with the wonderful support of the other officers (Jason Hoet, immediate past President and Karen Walker, vice President) makes being President easy. Together we are grateful for and honour Mike Mills as he brings stability, Godly wisdom and pastoral leadership to our Baptist family along with the Centre staff who tirelessly serve our Lord.

Over the course of the year I have visited a number of Churches and participated in many ordinations. Since last November we have had 9 Ordinations:

- Jeremy Jaques, Gateway Baptist Church
- Darren Loechel, West Croydon United Church
- Daniel Gardiner, Christies Beach Baptist Church
- Julie Gardiner, Christies Beach Baptist Church
- Richard Jansen, Whyalla Baptist Church
- Nona Gregory, Blackwood Hills Baptist Church
- Cung Hnin, Adelaide Chin Christian Church
- Geoff Loymeyer, Peake Baptist Church
- Ross Fairbank, Hackham Baptist Family Church

These have helped me experience firsthand how wonderful, diverse and God honouring our movement is. It is inspiring to meet with newly ordained pastors as they share their journey of faithful obedience into paid vocational ministry, or to share with 15 folks who worship together each Sunday, encouraging one another as followers of Jesus to continue to exercise the ministry of God into the community in which they are sent. To experience the passion and vitality of Churches as they pray together for one another and the lost in their neighbourhood, and to listen to individuals who have found life and hope because of the loving embrace of God's people who call themselves a Baptist Church speaks volumes about our health.

As a movement, while we don't always get it right, we are unswerving in our commitment to listening to God as He reveals His will to us through His Word bringing us into right relationship with Him and being His agents in the world bringing hope and transformation now. This dance between responding to the Living Lord among us and the Powerful God at work around us is what characterises our local Churches, and the wider movement. This dance is also represented in our deepening relationship with Baptist Care SA under the new leadership of CEO Graham Brown.

With all the challenges, complexities and opportunities of modern life I believe our movement is well placed. We believe that God is all powerful and can be trusted and we seek to act obediently to His call, however hard or countercultural that may be. So, like Joshua from old, let us take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord".

From the State Executive Minister

Mike Mills



If there is one constant in our world, it seems to be the presence of change. The moral and ethical frameworks of our society have changed, the nature and influence of media has changes, the place of the church has changed and even the way we relate to one another has changed. Yet in the midst of all that swirls around us, the one true constant is our God who remains the same yesterday and today and forever (Heb 13:8). So the challenge for the church, for the follower of Jesus, is centred around the question “what does it mean to be faithful in times such as these?”

Of course part of this changing landscape has been the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse and the National Redress Scheme. As a movement of churches seeking to demonstrate Kingdom values, we are working through our appropriate responses to and engagement with these expressed expectations of the society in which we live.

While our context changes, the mission and purposes of God do not and so we continue to strive to proclaim and demonstrate the good news of the Kingdom of God. The ever strengthening collaboration between our churches and our community service agency, Baptist Care SA, and the continued emphasis and resourcing of church planting/revitalisation are great examples of this focus. This past financial year, a full 50% of church contributions have been invested in or set aside for church planting and revitalisation.

True to form, these last 12 months we have seen further changes to the team here at Unley as we farewellled David Smith from the Rural Regional Minister role, Sana Schulz from Events and Camila Cardenas from Media and Comms. However, we have also welcomed Ruth Grace to Media, Comms and Events, David Turnbull as Global Interaction State Manager, Leigh Philp as Rural Regional Minister and Mark Foley in the Pastoral Services role.

The team here at Unley and the Assembly Board continue to strive to support, encourage, influence and extend our local churches as they give expression to the mission of God. I thank God for each one for their generous service and diligent contribution to this end. As you read through the following pages you will discover more of what this looks like – may you be encouraged as you read.

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in [Jesus], and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Colossians 1:19-20

Church development

Andrew Turner



I'm so grateful for the opportunity to serve in my role and see how God is working in, on, and through our churches. This year my priorities have been:

- **Consulting with churches:** This year I've consulted with Aboriginal Berean, Holdfast/Camden/H2One, Le Fevre, Mannum, Soul Food, Andrews Farm, SoulSpace Pennington and others who have sought me out.
- **Fostering Church Planting:** It's been encouraging to see both Andrews Farm and SoulSpace Pennington launch publicly in the last year. Both are working hard to strengthen and grow. There are a few other plant possibilities on the horizon, particularly in the southern suburbs.
- **Resourcing churches:** I continually keep an eye out for effective mission resources. The 'Baptastic' team are working on a new approach for attractive and informative 'default' website for churches that don't have such a one.
- **Facilitating Ministry Networks:** The Evangelism Equippers network has been largely dormant this year but is re-sparking into life as I write.
- **Writing and Speaking:** Apart from my Sacred Agents blog, this year I have completed a manuscript for a new book "Taking the Plunge: Baptism and Becoming a Christian". I'm now figuring out how best to publish it.
- **Study Tour:** I am especially thankful for the opportunity to recently visit the USA, attend Amplify Conference and visit some key thinkers.

Thank you for the privilege of serving our churches as part of a terrific team and exciting movement.

Leadership development

Elliot Keane



Our investment in Pastors' and their teams continued across the last 12 months as we gathered for Journey Seminars covering Evangelism, Preaching, Mentoring and Social Media. In May our Pastors' gathered at McCracken in Victor Harbor for Pastors' Conference with Dave Benson who helpfully gave us frameworks for Theological Reflection to explore the intersection of church and culture. As well quality input, Pastors' Conference was an excellent time of community for Pastors and their teams from across SA and NT.

In the same week as Pastors' Conference over 280 leaders from across our movement of churches came to our 4D Leadership Conference held at Edwardstown Baptist. We were thankful to have Craig Bailey and Tim Hein from Uniting College step in with one week's notice as our keynote speakers. They inspired us to reconsider strategic leadership and what it means to 'cross the lake' for those that we lead. The conference included electives and workshops led by leaders from across our own churches.

This year we have 5 fantastic Ministry Apprentices. We are excited to see the ongoing formation of these emerging leaders as they learn and practice. This past year we have also gathered together emerging ministry and marketplace leaders for peer support, input in their preaching, exploring development pathways and imagining together churches, neighbourhoods, new initiatives, and social issues for the future.

One of our great joys is to see emerging leaders discover a new horizon, explore a new experience or reflect on a deep learning. It is a privilege to walk with a diverse collective of leaders from across our movement. If you have emerging leaders in your local church that you would like to see connected into a wider network of development please introduce me!

Accredited Ministry Formation

Melinda Cousins



God in His faithfulness continues to call, equip, and sustain pastors and leaders for our movement, and we continue to be blessed by many faithful people who serve and make possible the pathways for this to happen well.

Over the past 12 months we have been pleased to accredit and ordain nine new pastor-leaders serving among our churches: Lynette Aungiers, Geoff Bondor, Ross Fairbank, Daniel Gardiner, Nona Gregory, Cung Hnin, Rod Holmes, Darren Loechel, and Geoff Lohmeyer. We have another seven candidates currently undergoing our Accredited Ministry Formation process: Mang Cung, Jarrod Flack, James Foley, Beth Hoy, Nathan Randall, Riley Smith, and Michael Thompson. Please pray for them as they work with supervisors and together as a Peer Group to discern, reflect, and grow. I am so grateful for each of their supervisors who give their time and experience to speak into their lives and into the future of our movement in this way.

Each of our accredited pastors has a Professional Development Plan and Mentor as we seek to continue growing in ministry skills and knowledge, and ensuring that Jesus' work to make us more like Him is front and centre in all we do. We recently invited those who mentor our pastors to join us for a day of training and support, and again are so grateful for all they give of themselves to support our pastoral leaders.

This year we have been working on a new process to recognise a wider range of people who serve in local church pastoral roles so that they can be affirmed, supported, and equipped in their ministry development. We look forward to gathering together for a training intensive later this year as part of this, and will again be looking for people to serve as ongoing mentors to them.

The Accreditation and Ordination Committee, chaired by Gaynor Johnson, oversees all these processes. The members of this team give of their time, wisdom, and energy in many unseen ways. I give thanks to God for each of them and the way He works through us as we work together.

Next Gen Ministry

Beth Hoy



This past year has been another exciting season of seeing God at work in our state.

In January we ran our first Next Gen Leaders Spiritual Retreat, with great success. This initiative was designed to give space to our young leaders to spend time with God and in fellowship as they prepared to step into the year. It was fantastic to see a lot of our volunteer leaders attend this and feel supported and built up by the movement.

In March we saw another successful Easter Camp with 320 young people attending. Our new camp director, Abe Johnson, did a great job leading the team, particularly because we were on a new site at Unity Collage in Murray Bridge. The whole of our core team performed amazingly well and we saw many young people make first time commitments to God, as well as others committing to baptism.

Missions and Me camp moved the date of the camp for the first time since its initiation. This proved to be a great decision from the executive team, as it opened up the camp to new leaders and even some young people from our rural congregations. The camp run beautifully under our director Maxine Mostert.

Recently we ran our first Next Gen leadership training event. We wanted to design an event where our Children, Youth and Young Adult ministry workers could be equipped and encouraged together. In partnership with Uniting Churches, Lutheran Churches and Veta Youth we brought out renowned social researcher Claire Madden to look at life and faith for Generation Z in Australia. This event was well attended and well received by our networks.

Child Protection and Professional Standards

Carl Collins



Consistent with last year's report it has been another busy and productive year in the areas of Child Protection and Professional Standards within the BCSA's Office of Professional Standards.

I previously reported that a number of new initiatives were presented to the BCSA Assembly Board, which were designed to build on and enhance existing systems and structures.

I am delighted to announce that each of these initiatives have been fully implemented within the proposed timelines and are now fully operational.

These initiatives included:

- The appointment of Child Protection Contact Officers (CPCO's) in every BCSA associated church.
- A child protection audit, designed to assist churches in meeting BCSA policies and State Government Legislative standards.
- The formal establishment of the First Steps Ministry Program, a program designed to provide essential information to victims of past/historic abuse.
- Additional training and support programs to pastors and key leaders around the Baptist Insurance Services and Australian Baptist Ministries Known Offender 'Person of Concern' Policy.
- The establishment of an inter-denominational Child Protection Network Group designed to share important information in relation to the safety and protection of all people within churches. This group is also responsible for tracking and sharing information in relation to known sex offenders who move from church to church.

We now have Child Protection Contact Officers (CPCO's) in every BCSA affiliated church, and I want to particularly acknowledge and thank the CPCO's for their incredible commitment. To say that this initiative has exceeded my expectations would be a massive understatement!

I am also pleased to report that we have worked our way into a very healthy position when we line our child protection systems and structures up against the recommendations arising out of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Whilst there are some areas that we need to examine, the fact is that BCSA have met the vast majority of the recommendations, in some cases a number of years ago. This however, does not provide a basis for us to relax or become complacent for one minute!

Whilst the child protection portfolio is of the utmost importance, I also continue to provide consultancy and support to churches in relation to all aspects of professional and ethical standards in line with the BCSA Code of Conduct.

I again want to thank the Mike Mills the State Executive Minister, and the Board for the opportunity to continue to journey with BCSA. I count it a privilege and am more committed than ever to continue to provide support, guidance and assistance within churches in order to keep our kids and churches safe!

I look forward to my next annual report where I will be able to reflect on a number of new and very exciting initiatives implemented throughout 2018/19.

Baptists of the NT and SA working together

Mike Mills



Visits

I have continued to generally travel to Darwin 3 times a year, aiming to be present at times when Assembly Board meet and keep in touch with the workings of the Assembly Board through emails and the papers/minutes. On all visits I seek to maximise my availability to pastors and other Baptist leaders and am pleased to affirm that the times spent “pastoring the pastors” continue to be valued and provide a ‘value add’ in the sense of connecting them with wider networks and resources

Memorandum of Understanding

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BUNT and the Baptist Churches of South Australia (BCSA) was once again reviewed this year and it was pleasing to see the BCSA Assembly Board enthusiastically and generously endorsing it.

An addition to the outworking of the MOU has recently included the full outsourcing of Accreditation processes to BCSA’s Accreditation and Ordination Committee (AOC).

Activity under the MOU have included:

- Continued support and resourcing of pastors and church administrators
- Provision of Child Protection training and Professional Standards services through Child Protection Solutions (Carl Collins)
- Navigating opting into the National Redress Scheme
- Implications of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
- Provision of insurance scheme management
- Church and pastoral review
- Moderating services in pastoral search
- Connection with, representation and advocacy within the national Baptist movement contexts
- Ministry Accreditation formation and ongoing accountability



Rural Regional Minister

We were saddened by the resignation of David Smith in early 2018 and thank David for his support and pastoral care of and to our rural pastors over the last 5 years. Looking to the future, we welcome Leigh Philp into this role when he returns from long service leave in late September.

Pastoral Services Facilitator

This position (formally Pastoral Care and Spiritual Formation Facilitator) has been vacant for 12 months but we are pleased to be welcoming Mark Foley to the role in September, when he returns from leave.

Business and Systems

Glenn Dixon



Hello and greetings from the Baptist Centre.

This year, the larger projects that the office has been working on include:

- Installation of the NBN to the Baptist Office,
- Transitioning to a new accounting package,
- A refresh of some of the Baptist Centre facilities,
- A review of church Constitutions, and
- An update to our internal Policy & Procedures documentation.

For the coming year, some of the projects listed above will now move into Phase 2, where we can provide your church with even more help. Specifically in the areas of a new Model Constitution, an updated church Policy & Procedure template, and a book keeping service for churches. Stay tuned for more information throughout 2018 - 19.

This year we have farewelled Sana Schulz (Events) and Camila Cardenas (Media and Communications Officer). We welcome Ruth Grace to the team who has come on board in a combination of both these roles, and has hit the ground running with managing a lot of events in the first half of 2108.

I would especially like to thank the team of volunteers who come into the office throughout the week and help us in a number of ways – Chris Butler and Steve Noolan.

If there is anything that you think we could do better to support our churches in the areas of finance and administration, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me for a chat.

Accounting

Bridget Townsend



The Finance and Administration Section provides accounting, banking, payroll, insurance and reception services to Company of Grace, Global Interaction, Child Protection Solutions and other areas of ministry which includes the local churches. In summary the financial statements for Baptist Churches of SA shows a healthy surplus for 2017/18.

Contributions by the churches to Baptist Churches of South Australia are invaluable and our thanks to the churches for accepting their part in ensuring that we are able to sustain and maintain the level of services provided. This year contributions were below what was budgeted by 5.01% bringing the contribution for the year to \$246,962, compared to 8.33% below budgeted last financial year. The exciting news is that \$120,872 (48.94%) of church contributions has gone towards church planting.

Facts and figures of interest:

- HoodSweeney continues to be our Investment Advisors in 2017/18.
- Healthcare Australia renewed their tenancy at the Baptist Centre. These benefits the Baptist Churches of SA as the income generated from this tenancy ensures cash flow availability.
- Donations received, Baptist Financial Services (BFS) Distribution and Capital Contribution Grant were greatly appreciated and contributed vital support to the ministries of Baptist Churches of SA.
- The Ministers Long Service Leave Fund set up to provide continuity of long service leave for church staff has continued to meet its goals.
- Ministers Relocation Fund is available for pastors moving to a new church (refer to Ministers Relocation Fund T&C)

I would like to extend my grateful thanks for the dedication and ability of the Finance and Admin team; Glenn Dixon, Jenny van Tienen, Tam Battersby, Ruth Grace, and Cameron Hawke. Sadly we have had to say farewell to Camila Cardenas and Sana Schulz. Well done team!



Baptist Financial Services

Cameron Hawke

As I write, it is now just over 3 years since I commenced as the Relationship Manager for SA/NT with Baptist Financial Services (BFS). In that time, I have not only learned a lot but have found it a privilege to walk together with the wider Baptist family of churches. As I reflect on last year I would firstly like to extend thanks from everyone at BFS to all the church treasurers and leaders who have embraced BFS as their financial services provider. It is your continued support that helps us resource the entire Baptist family of churches to extend the Kingdom of God in their local community.

During this last year we saw two member churches complete their journey towards new premises, with both Springpark Baptist Church and Cornerstone Christian Fellowship (Northern Territory) completing construction of their new facilities. Both are now enjoying the benefits of their new facilities and are in a better position to support their local communities. We have continued to see a significant increase in loan applications from Non-Baptist churches whom we also support (but at a slightly higher interest rate). Also, as anticipated more churches did utilise our Giveway electronic payments portal due to \$0 merchant fees for tithes and offerings.

The coming 12 months will continue to be busy due to interest rates at an all-time low for financing projects and returns greater than the banks for term investments. Please remember all investments go into resourcing Christian ministry so your investments not only deliver a great return but as an individual you are also contributing to resourcing the Kingdom of God.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge and extend thanks to Allan Priest and Darren McDonald for the great work they do as the SA/NT representatives on the BFS board.



Celebrating the completion of the new facilities at Cornerstone Christian Fellowship (NT)



Baptist Insurance Services

Glenn Dixon

2017-18 has been a steady year in the number of Building & Contents claims. Thank you for being careful with your property and people.

“Does this mean our insurance premiums go down next year?”, I hear you ask.

The number of claims for the year is only one component discussed with the insurance companies. The BIS Board and senior management are always very determined in their renewal negotiations with the underwriters to keep your premiums as low as. But there are always “other factors” that can influence the final decisions.

Helping churches with their claims is just one aspect of the services we provide. Our website – baptistinsurance.com.au – hosts a number of useful resources including training for Work Health and Safety, Frequently Asked Questions and guidelines around managing risks in our churches, schools and care agencies.

This year, we were pleased to provide support to the Inspire SA and LifeWell conferences to help our church leaders and members. We also hosted a Lunch & Learn seminar for some of our pastors and administrators.

Baptist Care SA

Graham Brown

Our vision

Baptist Care SA, motivated by Christ's servant heart, aspires to be a leading, life-transforming agency, founded in a faith community that is engaged in client focused care.

Our mission

Baptist Care SA expresses God's love and compassion for people, especially those at risk or marginalised, by journeying with them toward the attainment of their full potential.

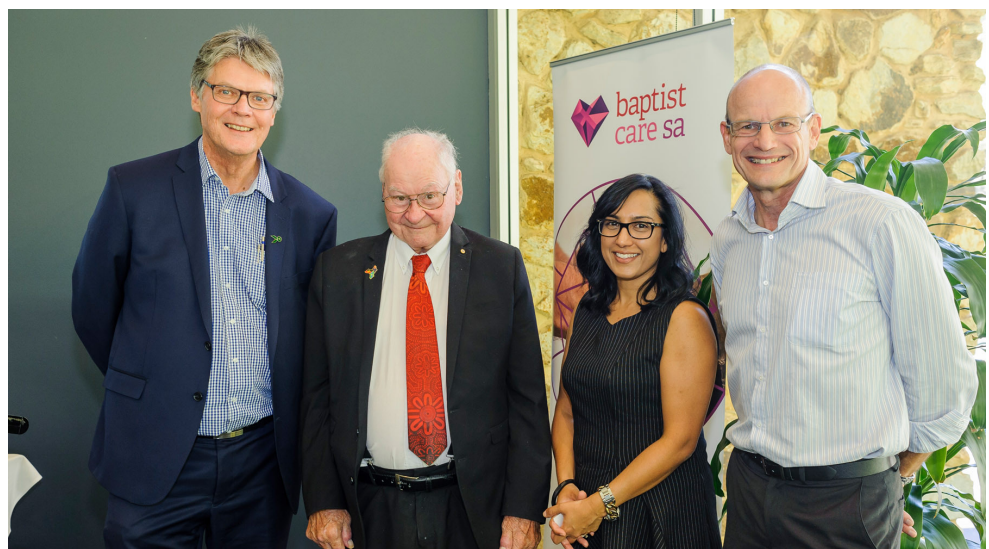
A Building on a proud heritage of faithful service to South Australia's disadvantaged people, groups and communities that spans over 100 years, Baptist Care SA is uniquely placed to have significant influence on the social justice of our State and beyond.

The new CEO Graham Brown is actively engaging with Board and Senior Management to develop a strategic plan that boldly aspires to forge new horizons in the provision of quality service in a rapidly changing operation environment which demands commercial effectiveness.

Highlights and areas of transformational change include:

- The 60th Anniversary of the Mylor Baptist Campsite was marked by the Board's commitment of \$2.7M toward the development of a new dormitory and kitchen, and upgraded utilities that will enable further expansion of our Adventure Services;
- Securing a Future Jobs Fund grant of \$1.3M from the State Government which is enabling us to build organisational capacity as a provider of quality disability support services under the new National Disability Support Scheme;
- Allocation of \$250K from the Baptist Care SA Foundation to support Collaborative Community Projects that are being developed in partnership with local Baptist churches. These projects have served to enlivened dialogue about how Baptist Care SA and local churches can work together to strengthen lives and communities
- Substantial funds from the estate of Mr Frederic Fricker have been passed to Baptist Care SA as Trustee for the establishment of health and wellbeing facilities
- New community advocacy initiatives include provision of support for people in Aboriginal Communities, Baptist churches and their communities to gain access to NDIS resources.

Our churches have been supported in their engagement with local communities through production of resources on Biblical Justice and death and dying, and also by conducting workshops on topics such as domestic violence, single parenting, mental health and 'One Another Care' our foundation course in pastoral health and care. Members of 33 Baptist Churches in SA have been represented during the year and more than 450 members have participated in one or more of the activities provided by our dedicated Church Support Team.



Graham Brown, Uncle Lewis O'Brien, Julie Lawrie, Mike Mills



**BAPTIST
WORLD AID
AUSTRALIA**

Be love. End poverty.

Baptist World Aid Australia

Mark Purser

Our vision

A world where poverty has ended and all people enjoy the fullness of life God intends.

Our mission

We partner with like-minded agencies overseas to empower communities to lift themselves out of poverty, challenge injustice and build resilience.

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Prov 31:8-9

At Baptist World Aid, we believe that God loved the world so radically that He gave His Only Son for our salvation. He teaches us that to love means to act. Our response to poverty is essential to our identity. With love, we can end poverty.

It has been encouraging to see many people and churches in our Baptist family respond to this call over the past 12 months and see our response to global poverty as crucial component of our discipleship.

We can recite many stories of transformation as families and communities have been lifted out of poverty because of the generosity of SA Baptists. Stepping into an incredible journey and sponsoring a child through our Be Love campaign. The Be Hope Christmas appeal coupled with the Big-Hearted Gift cards. Churches choosing to partner in our community development work and others responding to unexpected disasters through our disaster fund.

SA churches and individuals gave \$730,000 to BWAA in the last financial year. Thank you!

Earlier this year we hosted a Catalyst event at Parkside Baptist Church. Several churches were represented as we look to mobilise our congregations in various forms of advocacy. It is so encouraging to see several Catalyst groups actively involved across our movement, leading the charge and advocating for the poor on a number of fronts.

In April, the 5th edition of our Ethical Fashion Guide was launched and is proving to be a powerful tool in the hands of consumers. The guide is a companion to the 2018 Ethical Fashion report and seeks to empower people to purchase from companies that treat workers ethically and are eradicating all forms of abuse and exploitation.

Last January; we hosted a trip to Kenya which included 3 pastors from SA. Dan Beasy (Rostrevor), Mike Stevens (Clovercrest) and Mark Sanders (Aldgate). This was an inspiring time as we saw first-hand the transformational outcomes resulting from the work we are doing alongside our Christian partners.

Thank you again for your ongoing support and we look forward to engaging with you as we continue to be the hands and the feet of Christ in needy communities around the world.



Dan Beasy, Mike Stevens and Mark Sanders joined pastors from around Australia on a visit to Kenya



Global Interaction

David Turnbull
and Jane Norman



What we do

Global Interaction partners with Australian Baptists to see growing, vibrant faith communities emerge among least-reached people groups.

Our mission

Empowering communities to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus

The Global Interaction SA/NT team acknowledges God's activity and presence in the past 12 months despite many challenges.

We celebrate the long term commitment of cross-cultural workers amongst the nine least reached people groups to bridge building, learning language and culture and engaging with people's spiritual needs. Highlights include Ian Dicks' published English-Ciyawo Learner's Dictionary; Rob and Deb Griffiths building relationships through environmental and medical opportunities in their village context; and Catherine Rogers returning to Cambodia.

We celebrate the SA/NT Baptist churches and individuals who are contributing educationally, prayerfully and financially to realize this vision. The 100People in 100Days campaign proved successful with over 40 new supporters.

We see God raising up new workers from SA/NT. Luke and Rachel Hutchinson (with Isaac, Tahlia and Michaela) will depart soon for Cambodia to be team leaders. During the past 12 months David and Susie Haydon (with Anushka and Kyran) were accepted to serve in Malawi. They join the Stevens (currently on leave) as candidates. Sadly, Marc and Rachel Jericho and family decided not to continue their candidature. However, resourcing these new cross-cultural workers remains the challenge.

We celebrate the establishment of a new staff team in 2018. David Turnbull became State Director in August to replace Luke Hutchinson who concluded his service in March. Jane Norman replaced Anne-Maree Huggett in February as the Executive Assistant. Thanks to Jane for the excellent job in maintaining the office in the absence of the State Director and the service provided by Luke and Anne-Maree.

Let us not lose sight of the bigger picture as we head towards 2019.



David, Susie, Anushka and Kyran were accepted to serve in Malawi



Company of Grace

John Beasy

**I will save the
lame and gather
the outcast,
and I will turn
their shame
into praise and
renown in all the
earth.**

Zephaniah 3:19

COG continues to operate under full local control. BCSA makes a supportive contribution by means of managing financial support, offering strategic guidance, child protection and oversight of ministry accreditation.

A main focus for this past year has been towards acquiring land and preparing for the development of an aligned service to COG. This will be a Family Group Home service for children who are displaced from their parents and have special needs. This facility will be under the full authority of the COG ministry, and will be known as House of Grace.

Many will recognise this as the original name for COG. It is important for supporters to clearly understand not to refer or term this as an 'orphanage'. It is a far cry from the nature of many orphanages in Vietnam. In contrast it has a genuine family care intention and will ensure that children can access the developmental services of COG which is directly adjacent.

A team of dedicated supporters have worked diligently over the past year to help raise financial support for this new venture.

Over the past year there has been a new intake of young disabled adults has for vocational preparation.

Additional services over the past year have included: Bakery & Baking classes, Art & Drawing classes and Piano classes.

As we move towards 2020, (where 10 years of COG presence will be celebrated), COG will continue to outwork the goal of forging a meaningful relationship with a local church ministry so that COG has a clear present and future identity within context of local church mission.

Be in prayer for discernment and guidance for all aspects relating to planning and delivery of COG service over the next several years.



The land for the House of Grace facility for displaced children



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