



together in **mission**

Ordination Service *Reuben Salagaras*



On Sunday 12 March Reuben Salagaras was ordained as the Baptist Chaplain to University of Adelaide. The service was conducted at Reuben's home church, Rostrevor Baptist with friends, family and members of the university community joining celebrating the occasion. President

Jason Hoet led the formal Act of Ordination on behalf of Baptist Churches of SA and Mike Mills spoke on behalf of Baptist Churches of SA.

Congratulations Reuben.

2

Induction Service

3

Lindsay Mayes to
lead church plant
in Andrew's Farm

6

Global Interaction

8

Mannum Baptist
Church - in the
move



A great place to start

Mike Mills,
State Executive Minister

I don't enjoy big parties and loads of people but I love dinner parties with a dozen or so gathered around the table chatting and eating good food. There is something about sharing meals together that is rich and meaningful and all the more so when they mark a significant occasion. Meals like this bind us together as family and a group of friends or as a cohort of colleagues, the meal saying more than we could express about who we are, our relationships and the hopes and joys we share together. These kinds of celebratory gatherings around food help us understand and embrace one of the most important feasts of our Judeo-Christian tradition, the Passover, which became the Lord's Supper.

As we approach Easter it is important we don't rush past the account of what has become known as the Last Supper. This was one of those highly meaningful gatherings

*Spend time this
Easter around
the table eating,
remembering and
giving expression
to the values of the
Kingdom of God*

around a meal with close family and friends. The accounts tell us that Jesus was looking forward to hosting it and had done some planning to help make it a special occasion for Him and His disciples. But this festive meal was to be far more significant and symbolic than many of ours! It was at this meal that Jesus decisively placed the coming Easter events into the grand narrative of God's story stretching right back to the exodus of His people from Egyptian slavery. We cannot fully understand Easter without the Passover, not because of symbolism and metaphor but because this meal explains more deeply than words what his action and suffering really meant. And more than explaining it, the meal has gone on to enable Jesus' followers to make it their own, drawing strength and life from it.

If we want to understand and be nourished by what happened that first Easter this meal is a great place to start. It is a Kingdom of God meal that declares and demonstrates how the Kingdom has come. Spend time this Easter around the table eating, remembering and giving expression to the values of the Kingdom of God – bless others as we have so richly been blessed, show grace as we have received such amazing grace and bring hope as we have been embraced by hope.

Jesus said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you..."
(Luke 22: 14)



together in
mission

Autumn Assembly

Saturday 20 May 2017
9.00 am - 1.00 pm

Enfield Baptist Church
1 Francis Avenue, Broadview

All Welcome

Induction Service

Mike Stevens

Clovercrest Baptist Church



On February 19 Rev. Mike Stevens was inducted as Senior Pastor of Clovercrest Baptist Church. He is the fifth Senior Pastor in its 49 year history. This special occasion was led by Rev Mike Mills from the BCSA.

Rev Mark Wilkinson was the guest speaker and this was special for Mike as he was his Youth Pastor back in the 1990's at Clovercrest Baptist Church



We teach good morals?

Jason Hoet,
President

A Youth Pastor shared of the time he reconnected with an old youth group attendee. The young man recounted encouraging memories of fun and community. In the midst of tall tales and laughter he threw out a haunting line, "It's really great how you teach young people good morals." This left the Pastor puzzled. How did this young man get the impression our core message is about rules to become a good person?

It is the most common summary I hear from people, the Church's primary message teaches people to be moral. In 2011 atheist A.C Grayling wrote 'The Good Book' intending it to be a secular bible. The purpose was to provide wisdom for people to live for our "chief and highest good". It is essentially a book exhorting moral living. The chapter titles have echoes of the Christian Scriptures structure and themes: "Genesis", "Lamentations", "Proverbs", "Acts".

There is a Chapter "Lawgiver" yet fascinatingly, there is no "Gospel". In mimicking our Good Book, Grayling misses its point.

Living by rules for being good enough, working hard enough to hopefully earn life's blessing is a dreadful deceit. It ignores our personal fragility in dealing with our own fractures. It ignores global and historical evidence that humanity excels at horror, not morality. It ignores our capricious universe picking off the just and unjust under its heavy hand of suffering. It ignores our damaged and distant relationship with our Creator. While Christian faith has teachings on obedience and how life works best, we need something far, far better than good morals. We are too deep in strife for that. We desperately need rescuing.

Thank God this is exactly what is offered to us in Jesus. Our Bible has Gospels with their tragic accounts of our Lord's sufferings by us and for us. We see at the Cross God offers His best in

exchange for our worst. The Gospels have the extraordinary account of Jesus' resurrection. Suffering, sin, death, is no match for God's loving, life-giving power. Through Jesus, this power and hope are fully on offer for us. Life no longer needs to be lived by our efforts alone, but with the presence and power of God. God is for us, just as the Apostle Paul writes in Romans 8,

He [God] who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

This is what we hope people in our pews and old youth group members hold in their hearts. This is our most vital truth. This is the point.

Jason

Lindsay Mayes to lead church plant in Andrew's Farm



The leaders of the 'Northern Gold' church planting collaboration are thrilled to announce that Lindsay Mayes will be the first Lead Pastor of a brand new church in Andrew's Farm. A strong core team, consisting of some remarkable leaders from Clovercrest and other churches, is already forming, and the church expects to launch publicly in the second half of this year. This will be the first of what is hoped to be many new missionary neighbourhood churches in the region built on strong collaboration between our northern plains churches and support from the wider Baptist Churches SA movement, particularly

Clovercrest Baptist which has intentionally partnered as a sending church.

Lindsay is a highly experienced and respected leader in the region, having been the Senior Pastor of Elizabeth Church of Christ for more than 22 years, during which time his church planted Northern Communities of Hope in Davoren Park. He is very passionate to introduce people to Christ, for Adelaide's north, for prayer and for unity among the churches. Andrews Farm has well over 6,000 inhabitants, and among the 10,000 people of that suburb and its immediate bordering neighbourhoods there is currently one African Pentecostal church and one Serbian Orthodox church.

All of the Northern Gold member churches are looking at remarkable gospel opportunities with limited workers for the harvest. If you are interested in supporting or joining the transforming work God is doing in Adelaide's north, please don't hesitate to contact Church Development Facilitator Andrew Turner at the Baptist Centre.

Please praise the Lord with us and continue to pray for this region, one of Australia's least-reached areas. Pray for Lindsay and his wife Erma and for all the dedicated leaders seeking to serve and represent Christ in the northern suburbs.

news from our **Churches**

Lyndoch Baptist Church to close

After 158 years of ministry and presence in the Barossa Valley the members of the Lyndoch Baptist Church have unanimously decided to close the church. "Now that the building is in such disrepair, and the congregation is shrinking in number and getting older, everyone saw the writing on the wall" said Deacon Michael Vawser. The final service will be held at 10 am on Sunday 30 April, led by Rev Dennis Triplett, their most recent pastor, with Rev Mike Mills from Baptist Churches of SA preaching. An open invitation is extended to all who would like to join in this celebration of God's faithfulness over all these years.

Invitation

Celebrating God's faithfulness

Lyndoch Baptist Church
9 Kauffman Avenue, Lyndoch

Sunday 30 April
10.00 am

Speaker: Rev Mike Mills,
State Executive Minister
Baptist Church

All welcome

Baptisms

Follow me...

Blackwood Hills Baptist
Church

19 February

Susan Davey by *Brandon
Chaplin*

Rostrevor Baptist Church
Luke Waldeck
(photo)



GROWING TOGETHER IN MARRIAGE 2017

*Take time out for a retreat weekend that allows
God to work in your marriage helping it become
the best it can be.*

May 19-21 | Weintal, Resort, Tanunda

June 23-25 | Weintal, Resort, Tanunda

Sept 1-3 | Weintal, Resort, Tanunda

Nov 3-5 | Weintal, Resort, Tanunda

For more information
Rob and Lee Allen (8331 7061 | 0438892 980)
Email: robleeallen@gmail.com
Lesley and Fred Vince, (0423 762 458)
Email: flvince@bigpond.com.au

Baptist 40+ Singles

Saturday 15 April, 6.30 pm

Hendon Hotel

110 Tapleys Hill Road,
Royal Park

Cost: very reasonable!

RSVP by 11 April 2017
Helen & Brian, 8341 8283
(in emergency only 0411 772 475)

All welcome to join us

2017

MTW now on sale @ Café 72

Music To The World (MTW) is a ministry of service and hope providing original Christian music to the world. Check out our new free MTW stickers and CDS at the Blackwood Hills Baptist Church. All MTW CDS are now on sale for \$15 each at Café 72.
Youth MTW CDS from LESSIE DOES

Lessie Does achieved State number 1 in the SAMIA music charts with 2 CDS. A limited edition CD from Lessie Does is now available on MTW records for \$15.

www.musictotheworld.org

Cooking, creating, painting, up-cycling: young people thrive in alternative learning

Young people struggling at school often slip through the cracks or disengage altogether. But for hundreds of young people in Adelaide's north, Baptist Care is offering an attractive alternative.

"We work with young people with severe mental health issues, young people experiencing homelessness who have little parental support, young people for whom mainstream schooling just isn't working for. So what we're trying to do is create a purposeful journey (for them) to extend themselves and meet their potential, however this may look," explains Baptist Care's ICAN Manager, Nerissa Tiss.

Each young person's journey looks unique. But as they create a brighter future for themselves, they are able to connect with flexible learning options through the Community Learning Centre (CLC), a cooking and healthy eating program, arts, cultural and sports programs, outdoor recreation activities and career mentoring. Many of these programs feed into the Duke of Edinburgh awards.

Through these different learning options, last year many young people who were not going to finish high school re-engaged with learning and completed their SACE. Six also achieved the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

For these young people, their success has been supported through a mixture of initiatives *directly connected* to work and educational achievement (such as education packs and clothing for interviews), but also those that address health and well-being.

Many of the young people connecting with these services are living on the poverty line. This means that helping them to achieve has required a broader interpretation of 'education support'. As many young people

were coming in to the office without having eaten, the Soul Good program was designed to teach young people to cook up healthy and affordable meals – even if the only cooking utensils available to them are a saucepan and a 'toastie' maker.

Another program, 'Upcycle' encourages students to consolidate their learning, unleash their creativity and develop problem solving skills to save money and create items from recycled materials.

Always abuzz with activity, the energy at the Salisbury office and the CLC is palpable. Young

people are drawing up menus, cooking, mosaicking pianos and building pallet gardens and furniture. They're learning about topics such as healthy body image and first aid and connecting into the community through excursions and visits to sports clubs. Recently, they even took part in a special clinic with the Adelaide 36'ers.

"We're really fortunate to have an amazing team here," says Nerissa. "We all have different roles to play and it's all equally important."

If you have, or are working towards, qualifications in youth work, social work, psychology or youth justice and would like to volunteer to be part of the Salisbury team, visit www.baptistcaresa.org.au or contact Volunteer Coordinator Bryan Hughes on 8273 7100.

Photo caption: Furniture and projects created through the Upcycled Program



Sacred Agents

Social focus is your frenemy

Many churches have two mission contexts: A local neighbourhood (mostly strangers who happen to live close to the church building) and a social network (friends, family and connections of church members, most of whom live a long way from the church). In my observation, churches have increasingly neglected the local and rested their hopes on the social.

Here are six reasons to pursue strong local connections – finding effective ways to be present with, partnering with and inviting in the local community.

It makes your church more Christian. If you love those who love you ... do not even pagans do that? If your church is a church just for you and people that you like, it's becoming a country club. Why pay a pastor when you could have a greens-keeper?

It keeps your gatherings public. If your church only meets in your suburb, and doesn't interact with it, it will be perceived by them as a private group, and Sunday content will drift towards sustaining long-term believers, reinforcing a 'members only' culture.

It diversifies and so strengthens your church. A church where everyone else is the same ethnicity/wealth/education/personality is not heaven, it's hell in disguise. God has something far better and far stronger in mind, but if you don't love strangers you'll keep Him out.

It builds local community. The church is meant to operate as one interdependent body, which is hard when you're spread all across the city, doing 'life' over here during the week and 'church' over there on Sundays. Facebook's OK, but we're called to more than just comment on our neighbours' meal or lawn. The Word became ~~flesh~~ electronic and ~~lived~~ liked among us?

It grows your church by conversion. Churches that deliberately reach out to, love and invite strangers grow by conversions. *And* transfers. *And* social invitations. Ironically, members are more likely to invite a *social* contact to a church that is focused on welcoming locals.

It sifts your leaders for you. You want your church leadership to be more of the pull-over-to-help Samaritan type and less of the swerve-to-avoid Levite type. When a church focuses locally, the difference between those who roll up their sleeves and those who turn up their noses becomes obvious!

Andrew Turner is our Church Development Facilitator. You can interact with this and other articles on his blog www.sacredagents.net

together in mission **On mission**



Together in Cross-Cultural Mission

As a family of churches, we currently have many exciting opportunities to join in God's mission to the least-reached peoples of the world! Below are profiles of our new South Australian candidates who are preparing to serve overseas, long-term, with Global Interaction.

Marc and Rachel Jericho



Marc, Rachel and their three boys, Lucas, Levi and Seth, are preparing to live and work among the Khmer of Cambodia. Marc, an engineer, has a heart for prayer, evangelism, and the discipling of new believers. Rachel is a primary school teacher, and is looking forward to using her gifts of teaching and mercy amidst the Khmer. Knowing personally the hope that Jesus gives, they want to share this Good News with those they meet.

Andy and Rachel Stevens



Andy and Rachel have long had a heart for cross-cultural mission. In exploring God's call upon their lives, they have participated in short-term mission trips, and have been studying at Bible College. They are passionate to see God's Kingdom realised in this world, especially amongst the poor and marginalised. Andy and Rachel are looking

forward to joining the Yawo team in Malawi, and to the opportunities this will bring to journey with the Yawo and share the Bible with them.

Luke and Rachel Hutchinson



Luke, Rachel and their three children, Isaac, Tahlia and Michaela, are also preparing for life in Cambodia. Luke has served as a pastor in SA, and as State Director with Global Interaction, and Rachel is a Speech Pathologist. They are looking very much forward to entering into the Khmer culture, to learn, and to be people that help reveal the presence, hope and transforming power of Jesus in Cambodia. Luke will also be serving as Team Leader.

Also: Catherine Rogers (Cambodia) is currently in SA on partnership development, and Dema and Carolyn Thangradema (Thailand) will be in SA on partnership development from June-August. In addition, just last December Rob and Deb Griffith began long-term service in Cambodia, and also Ian Dicks continues his cross-cultural work, part-time, in Malawi.

Thank you to the many, many people and churches who have partnered with our SA cross-cultural workers past and present. With so many new and existing South Australian cross-cultural workers, let's commit together to partner with, support and mobilise these people for the mission God has called them to, as a part of who we are, together in mission.

If you'd like to talk about what that might look like for you or your church, please give me a call at the Baptist Centre anytime.

Luke Hutchinson
State Director SA/NT



Company of Grace in Vietnam is planning to provide support and care for a group of 100 children who are without a permanent home, and in need of a loving home care environment.

These children are unable to live with their parents for a number of reasons and most of them will need to be cared for until they become adults.

The children are currently placed in a number of locations around Ho Chi Minh city and cared for by house parents and volunteers in temporary accommodation. All of the school aged children regularly attend local schools and churches.

The Company of Grace has purchased a block of land next door to the current property, and wants to provide a permanent home care experience for these 100 children. This project will be fully under the arm and authority of Hoa and Company of Grace.

You can find out more about the project on the website <http://companyofgrace.com.vn/en/childrens-shelter-project>

To raise funds for the project we are holding a charity ball called the



Lanterns of Saigon

5 August 2017

Fully catered for event with a 3 course meal, drinks & entertainment and a Vietnamese theme.

Early bird tickets are available until the end of June are \$100 each or \$950 for a table of ten.

Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=259699> or by email david@webcoders.com.au | phone 0434874252

Please consider coming or organise a group for a table and please share this information with people who are interested in the Company of Grace.

For prayer...

APRIL

M10 Pray for the Peer Group made up of those currently in Accredited Ministry Formation: Nona Gregory, Jarrod Flack, Cung Hnin, Geoff Lohmeyer, Beth Hoy & Riley Smith.

T11 BWAAust: Pray for wisdom for our Christian partner organizations as they make important decisions.

W12 Pray for Baptist Care disability services and staff.

T13 Pray for very ill friends.

F14 Pray for a successful and safe Easter camp, as well as for our speakers and leaders, that they would be guided by the Spirit.

S15 West Beach: Pray for our next children's holiday program (19-20). May the team be able to prepare and work together well and the children be drawn closer to Jesus.

S16 Pray for Mike Mills and staff, Andrew Turner (Church Development Facilitator), Melinda Cousins (Dir. Ministry Accreditation), Beth Hoy (Next Gen Ministry Facilitator) and Elliot Keane (Leadership Development Facilitator)

M17 Baptist Care: Pray for Paul Scully, Tim Johnson and the Board.

T18 Pray for the very young children Baptist Care looks after.

W19 Pray for Mylor campsite redevelopment.

T20 GIA: Pray that the Yawo team would continue to have encouraging conversations with Mr M.

F21 Hoa: Pray for the successful setting up of a bakery to train local young people with a disability.

S22 Pray for President Jason Hoet.

S23 Pray for the construction work at the hospital at Kompam PNG.

M24 GIA: Rob and Deb need prayer for energy, persistence and capacity as they learn how to communicate in Khmer.

T25 BWAAust: Thank God for the passionate staff employed by our partner organisations.

W26 Pray for our young people.

T27 Thank the Lord for Baptist Care staff working with the homeless.

F28 GIA: Pray that Dema and Carolyn will build good relationships with others in Thailand.

S29 Pray for the Baptist Care Church Ministry team.

S30 GIA: Pray for Cate Rogers' friends in Cambodia.

MAY

M1 SA Assembly Board and committees meet today. Pray.

T2 Pray for those baptized lately.

W3 GIA: Pray for candidates Andrew & Rachel and Marc, Rachel & family as they prepare for service.

T4 Salisbury: Pray for the church to grow and be effective in evangelism and making disciples.

F5 Pray for Chaplains.

S6 GIA: Pray for Board members Heather Coleman and David Bird.

S7 Thank God for Alpha groups.

M8 Pray for revival.

T9 Remember our youth leaders.

W10 Stamps raise a lot of money.

T11 Pray for churches seeking pastors.

F12 Pray for youth at risk.

S13 Pray for our government,

S14 Pray for our pastors.



Baptist Churches
of South Australia

Ministry Opportunity

Media and Communications Officer

Opportunity exist to serve on the Baptist Churches of SA team as Media and Communications Officer. This is a 0.4FTE (2 days per week) role and is responsible for building Baptist Churches of SA's profile among and beyond our churches. It includes developing and overseeing communication channels throughout our movement and oversight, production and promotion of resources for churches, leaders and events.

For a copy of the Position Description please contact us at info@sabaptist.asn.au.

Applications close 5pm Monday 10th April 2017.

Mannum Baptist Church On the move

Mannum Baptist Church was founded in 1888 when Rev Silas Mead came to Mannum and formed the church with 17 members. The church quickly flourished, and in 1890 the first chapel was opened in Randell Street.

This building served the church well for over seven decades. But in the 1960's the church building needed renovation, and it was considered more practical to move to a new location than to repair the building. Things fell into place for us to purchase the Zion Lutheran Church in William Street, next door to our Manse. On Sunday 12th March 1967, 120 people gathered to give thanks for the blessings received as we moved to our new home.

The building in Randell Street was demolished and the land excavated to street level. It is now the site of Male's Butchers.



As Mannum Baptist Church continues to look forward into the future, we are keen to update our facilities and develop a worship centre more in line with modern expectations. After considering all the options available to us, we have decided it is again time to move.

To commence this process, we are seeking expressions of interest for our current Chapel in William street. The Chapel is being offered on its own or in conjunction with the Tea Rooms next door.

Rev Nieass said, "This is an initial step in a positive plan to move forward and grow God's Kingdom through better connections with the community.

The next step in the process has not been determined. Should we sell the Chapel alone we can consider redeveloping on the Tea Room site. If both properties are sold there are many other options available to us within Mannum.

This is an exciting time to be part of Mannum Baptist Church as we look forward to what God has in mind for us."

If you would like more information please contact Pastor Colin Nieass.



river view from back of the church



Baptist Care

FOCUS GROUPS

'MY CHOICES' - Church Resource

Would you be interested in having input into the development of a new church resource called...

'MY CHOICES – an A-Z of living well at the end of life'?

Baptist Care is developing this resource for churches to use with people within their community to help them to document their personal care preferences and make practical preparations that will facilitate their preferred end of life support.

Please note, this is not an Advanced Care Directive, it is to help you document your personal choices about how you want to live at the end of your life so others can help you effectively in this final life stage.

Baptist Care is looking for volunteers to work with us in the development and review of 'My Choices'. We want your ideas and feedback about content, layout, and use of the resource as a tool for churches to engage with their community on this important topic.

The focus groups sessions will be held:

- **Tuesday 18 April, 11am - 1pm, Enfield Baptist Church, 1 Francis Avenue, Broadview. Lunch will be provided.**
- **Thursday 20 April, 11am - 1pm, Edwardstown Baptist Church, Cnr Rothersey Ave and Dorene St, St Marys. Lunch will be provided.**
- **Wednesday 26 April, 6 - 8pm, Baptist Care House (level 2) 130 Rose Terrace, Wayville. Tea will be provided.**

If you are interested, please RSVP and provide dietary requirements by Thursday 13 April to: Anne van Loon, 8273 7104 • 0409 921 337 • avanloon@baptistcaresa.org.au
Monday, Tuesday Wednesday

Or Vicky Legge 08 8273 7100 • 0427 784 745 • vlegge@baptistcaresa.org.au
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

www.baptistcaresa.org.au

CLASSIFIEDS

PORT DOUGLAS

Beautiful 3 bedroom villa in private tropical garden with pool. The perfect place to relax and refresh. Enquiries: www.20fronds.com.au

LONDON B&B

In lovely home, self-catering facilities, spacious rooms, easy city access, reasonable rates.
Email: rachelallen1234@gmail.com
Telephone: 0011 44 2086946538

Together in Mission Issued by
Baptist Churches of South Australia Inc
35-39 King William Road, Unley South Australia 5061
Telephone: (08) 8357 1755
Facsimile: (08) 8373 8000
Web: www.sabaptist.asn.au

Articles And Advertising in 'together in mission' are the opinions of the authors, not necessarily the editor or publisher. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement. The publishers reserve the right to accept or decline any advertising.

Mailing Address
together in mission
Baptist Churches of South Australia,
PO Box 432, Unley SA 5061
e-mail: info@sabaptist.asn.au

Deadlines
May edition - 14 April 2017
June edition - 12 May 2017