

ISSUE 4

# IN EVERYTHING WE DO

## STEWARDSHIP *as* MISSION

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PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

GBC





## SERVICES

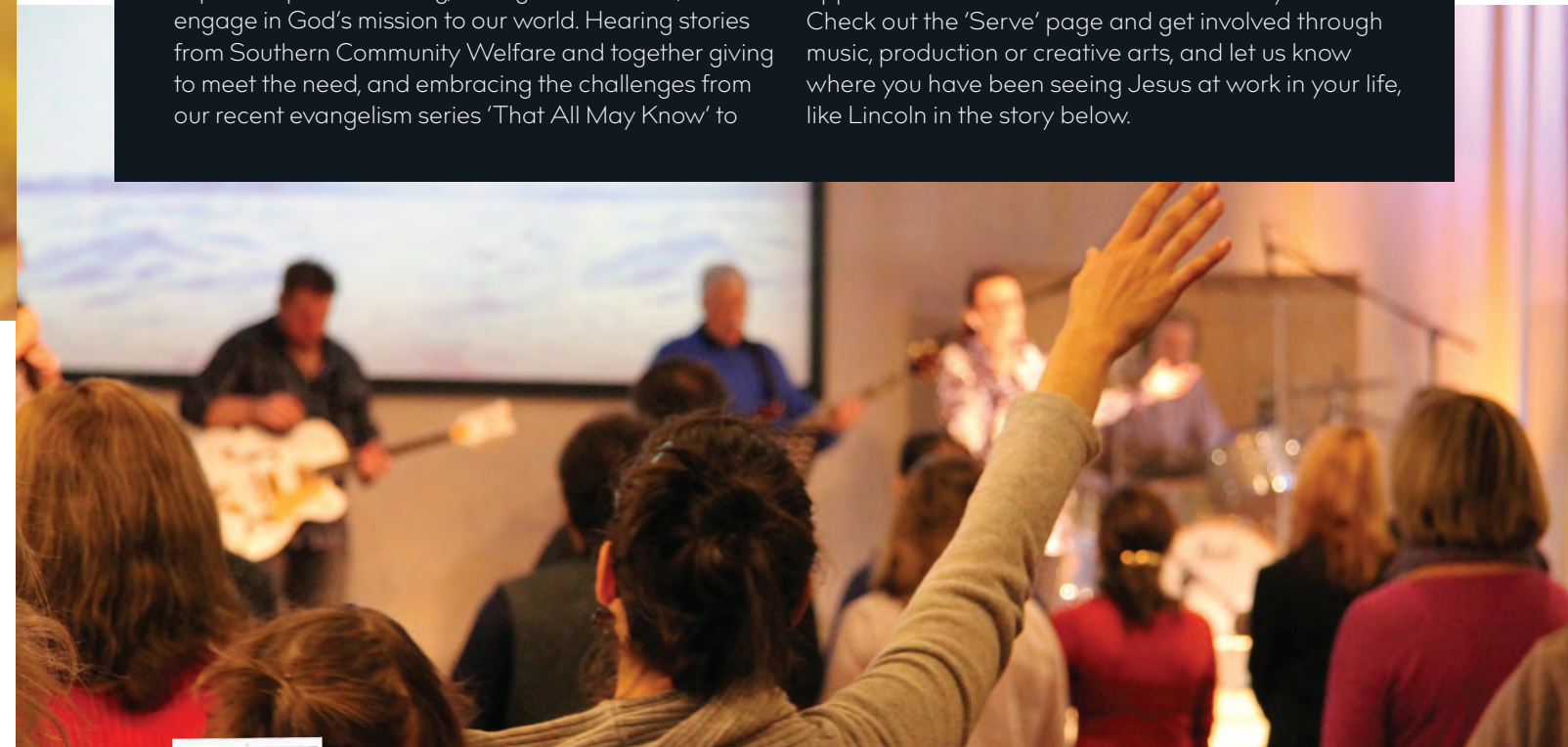
One of the best aspects of belonging to a Christian community is the act of gathering together. As we join together to worship, pray, connect and learn we are reminded that we are part of something greater than ourselves. We are part of a vibrant body of believers, part of God's kingdom, and participants in both an individual and corporate mission. Together, we have witnessed parents dedicate their children to God, people affirm their commitment of faith through Baptism, and shared testimonies of what God is doing within their ministry and community.

This theme of 'togetherness', has also been an important part of seeking, through our services, to engage in God's mission to our world. Hearing stories from Southern Community Welfare and together giving to meet the need, and embracing the challenges from our recent evangelism series 'That All May Know' to

talk more about Jesus together, have helped better equip us to invite others beyond our walls to follow Him.

This month we farewell Pete Gillies from his role as our creative team leader. He has brought a great wealth of creative energy and ministry experience and we will miss having him on the team. We look forward to encouraging him as his family grows again in the coming weeks and as he continues to seek God's next steps.

It has been wonderful to see new worship leaders on the platform and new faces leading us in prayer and reading the bible, and there are still many opportunities for involvement in our Sunday services. Check out the 'Serve' page and get involved through music, production or creative arts, and let us know where you have been seeing Jesus at work in your life, like Lincoln in the story below.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

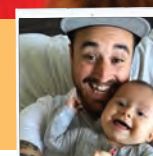
Welcome to the final issue of our Partnership Newsletter for 2017. Over the course of the year we have sought to share some of what we see God doing at GBC and what's in the pipeline for our five ministry areas. We do this to encourage you, our partners in the gospel (Phil 1:5) as we join in the mission that God has given to us, because we are not just better together, we are one in Christ. This unity is not a set of shared beliefs but a mysterious bond in the Spirit that incorporates us into the plans and purposes of God the Father. It is this unity that is expressed in the words of Jesus over our door, "As the Father sent me, I am sending you." (John 20:21).

We are partners in the work of inviting people to follow Jesus and seeing their lives transformed

by that encounter, even as our lives are being transformed by Him. This is exciting and essential work and I look forward to all that the Holy Spirit will do in our midst as we work together, using our skills, gifts, abilities, time, and resources.

As you read the updates and stories in this issue I encourage you to see yourself in them. This is not just a newsletter about a church you attend, but rather the life you have been invited into when you began to follow Jesus.

**God bless,  
Marc**



### *Lincoln's story*

My family and I have been at GBC for three or four years now. Having two young kids, it's hard to fit many opportunities to serve into what feels like a constantly busy life. I have always loved playing music, and playing in church has always been a blessing to me; it was a natural fit to join the GBC music team.

I can honestly say that every time I dedicate the time to serving in worship, I get back more than I put in. I feel the Spirit stirring when we play and my hope is that this encourages and unites our congregation.

The team is diverse, and a pleasure to serve with, and has

helped me get to know heaps of different people that I may never have met otherwise.

Being involved keeps me on track throughout the week with my own daily walk too; trying to be prepared as much as possible for each service and dedicating time to God each week.





## CARE, CONNECT AND GROWING

We have been learning over the course of the sermon series, 'In Everything We Do,' that God calls us to steward the resources He has given us, for His mission in the world. As well as our finances, our time and skills are vital for caring for, connecting with, and growing in, the community God has invited us to be a part of.

then return it to the freezer in the main kitchen store room. Or perhaps God is inviting you to take up the role of Practical Care Team Leader? For more information, check out the Serve page on GBC Links for a role description and application form.

Our GBC Connect team continue to welcome and serve our community on a Sunday. Neil Evans has been working hard alongside our Stewarding team, and we're pleased to announce that Nola Brooke has become our new Section Leader for Welcoming and Integration. See her story below.

Finally, we have also seen a considerable number of new people joining LifeGroups. It is wonderful to hear stories of how people have been growing alongside others, engaging with the sermon series study notes, and welcoming newcomers to join them on the journey.

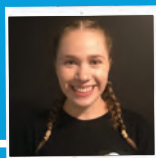
## YOUTH & FAMILIES

As this year comes to an end, and our ministries begin to wrap up their programs for 2017, we can look back over the past 12 months, confident that God has been moving mountains in the lives of our young people. We have also sought to serve and support our families more effectively, so our children's, youth and emerging young adults' ministries have been working more collaboratively to help people follow Jesus through life's transitions.

We have already seen the fruit of our new check-in system for young people during Sunday services. Not only does it ensure the safety and well-being of our children, it gives families a central space to engage with the leaders, and for newcomers to be welcomed into our community. Our aim is that GBC

would be a place where young people are valued, loved and invested in.

Our youth have had an incredible year of community and growth. Having attended the Baptist State Youth Camp for the third year in a row, we saw 47 young people from our community attend and experience the transformative message of the gospel. It has been immensely encouraging to see the youth standing up, declaring their faith through baptisms, and seeking to serve our wider community, whether it be in youth ministry, our Sunday services or the Fair Trade Market. It's exciting to see what God will do in the future as we continue to work towards prioritising our youth and families in order that we can continue growing younger together.



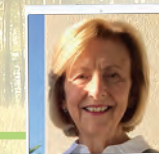
### Michaela's story

On the very first Sunday my family arrived at GBC six years ago, my Christian journey took an eye opening turn. Having been raised in a Christian home and school, I thought my walk with God was going ok. Then I met Heather Mullins. Heather was my younger sister's KidZone leader, and from that very first week, she showed my whole

family her moral code of 'do unto others what Jesus would do.' We all felt challenged to live our lives emulating Heather's love of Christ and love of everyone she met, and before I knew it, I became a KidZone leader!

Last year, when I finished school, I also became a leader at

Youth. The best part is, I'm now leading some of the kids I met during their time at KidZone. As other children go through our youth and children's ministries, my hope is that they would leave knowing Jesus' abundant love for them, go on showing His love to others, and possibly become leaders themselves, continuing Heather's great legacy.



### Nola's story

I am so privileged to call Gynea Baptist my church home, and you, my church family, and I continue to pray that we would be a light to our world. With this in mind, I have been asking God to show me how I can help our church to be that light, and I believe that helping our church grow a culture of welcoming is such an important part of the answer. When we welcome people into our homes, we offer a kind of 'embrace' to them, this embrace is just as important when we welcome people into our church community. My prayer is that as people come to GBC they will receive acceptance, friendship, and the joy of knowing Jesus Christ. I am looking forward to working together as a church, to welcome and embrace all who come through our doors.



# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Partnership in the gospel is based on our unity in Christ and the diversity of gifts, skills, abilities, and other resources that God has given to each of us. Not one of us is sufficient to complete on our own the mission that we have been invited to participate in. We need each other.

One of the strategic priorities for us as a church to begin to move into is leadership development. There are some exciting things happening in this space that you'll hear more about next year, including an opportunity to host a regional training day for the Baptist churches in the south of Sydney in March, and to host the Global Leadership Summit in partnership

with Willow Creek Australia in October.

Another project that we're very excited about is a leadership coaching program that will run during 2018. This program aims to develop leadership gifts and skills, but also to help facilitate a culture of coaching here at GBC. It will be flexibly delivered and we're hoping to start off with a cohort of 12-18 people who are involved in leadership and would like to grow in their capacity and ability. Keep your ears open for more on this opportunity.

Another critical area of partnership that we are hoping

to develop is in the number of people who are involved in significant leadership roles in our ministries. Over the course of 2017 we appointed several volunteer section leaders – those who oversee several team leaders – and have benefited greatly from having more people who are on board with all that we are doing as a church. We are looking for more section leaders in 2018 as well as many more team leaders. We want to release people's gifts and abilities into significant leadership in order that we might together be more effective in our mission to invite people to follow Jesus.

Do you have an area of passion? Do you have gifts

and abilities that you would love to use as part of our mission? Then we invite you to begin the conversation by looking at the roles that are available on GBC Links under the Serve tab. This will give you an idea of the sorts of roles that are available and, who knows, you might just find something that really inspires you! And if you don't find a specific role, talk to any of our staff and section leaders about how you can get involved.

There is so much more that we can do when we work together, and there is so much that God has in store for us as we learn to combine our resources for the extension of His Kingdom in the world.



**THE GLOBAL  
LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**



## LOCAL MISSION

Our annual Fair Trade Night Market was a fantastic success, with people coming from far and wide to experience this niche event. Our 20+ traders support vital projects in over 30 countries including Peru, India, Cambodia, Madagascar, Nepal, Uganda, Myanmar, Mexico and more. Our market allows traders to sell products that are ethical, sustainable and made by people who have been valued through a living wage and safe working conditions. An estimated 24.9 million people were victims of forced labour slavery in 2016 (International Labour Organisation). The production of many of our everyday food items, general products, electronics and clothes can be reliant on resources or processes which have used exploited labour. If we could see the true cost of these products, would we still buy them? This is why we continue to support Fair Trade, but more so, the communities of people whose lives are transformed by it.

At Playtime, the overriding theme is that more people keep coming! More than numbers though, everyone has a story, and spending time together during our sessions allows us to connect, listen and show God's love. We even had a number of Playtime families visit the Fair Trade Night Market too!

Recently a number of us participated in the Sutherland Shire White Ribbon Walk, joining with the community in raising awareness of domestic violence. Our annual GBC Carols extravaganza at Seymour Shaw oval will be part of our Christmas celebrations, and next year, in the lead up to Easter, we'll be taking part in the six-week national campaign "Jesus the Game Changer". Lots to love about our local mission!



## GLOBAL MISSION

We'll hear updates in December on how all our incredible May Mission Month 2017 projects are tracking. To collaborate as a church and partner with significant projects in Rwanda, Lebanon, Benin and Cambodia is such a privilege. It shows our heart for our global neighbours and our willingness to support opportunities for life transformation. As the crisis in Syria continues, one of our projects (Syria Assist) has been critical in not only offering emergency support, but the opportunity for many to embrace and experience Jesus.

The Mission Action Group are already in the process of finalising our May Mission Month projects to be presented in 2018. In exciting news, it was the first time our application process was managed online and we have also revised our

guidelines to reflect the changing face of global partnerships. We've enjoyed having Ben back in Australia, hearing him share of the transformative power of God through his work and life in our services, and even in KidZone.

The 2018 Cambodia Team (28 Dec - 12 Jan) are nearing completion of their preparation to see God at work through our partners: Heart of Hope School, Daughters of Cambodia, HOME (House of Mission Encouragement) and Global Commission Fellowship. Our supporting Cambodia committee have had an overwhelming sense to trust in the Lord with all our hearts (Proverbs 3:5-6), and to wait on God for His direction for the future. Whilst we are uncertain, we are assured by God's peace and infinite ability to go above and beyond our best laid plans.

## A STORY OF TWO NATIONS

Many Christians in Lebanon vividly remember their years of conflict with Syria. Just a few decades ago, many were living in bomb shelters as Syria attacked their homeland. Today, they are learning what it means to love your neighbour when they were once your enemy. With one in four people in Lebanon a refugee from Syria, the church is practicing love, compassion and forgiveness. "My God is the God for everyone. Syrians, Lebanese and Australians. I may not want to show compassion but my faith tells me that I must," says Nabil Costa, the head of Merath (Middle East Revive and Thrive), a ministry of the Baptist Church in Lebanon, and partner of Baptist World Aid Australia. Support from GBC through the Syria Assist program is now being used to give substantial healthcare, education and psychological support to refugee families and is providing emergency winter packs to many more.



### Barb's story

Ten years ago, the original vision for Catalyst was to advocate for the poor and oppressed (Proverbs 31:8-9). Visiting a Fairtrade market at another church, we saw how effective it was for helping eradicate poverty. Inspired by this, we set out to try doing our own. Now in our sixth year, it is exciting to see so many people come with a

passion to support it.

One trader said it is "the BEST Fairtrade event of the year! So well-run and with so much thought into how it can be enjoyable, informative and worthwhile for all attending, with such a wonderful team that go above and beyond the call of duty."

It was amazing to have our GBC Youth Roving Reporters learning about fair trade and having fun in the process. Our future vision for Catalyst is wild and exciting, and I'm looking forward to the church catching the vision for how we can "be the change," to help lift people out of poverty and restore them to the life that God longs for them to have.





## SOUTHERN COMMUNITY WELFARE

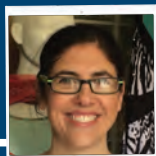
This year SCW has been blessed to have Judi Kelly support the organisation in a fundraising capacity. Judi has brought energy and excitement to the team and has been able to take on much of the work that would otherwise need to be carried by staff, or simply not get done. As a result of Judi's support, SCW was able to run a greater variety of fundraising activities including: a movie day; a fundraising dinner with another charity; and the garage sale. Judi now also supports the running of Southern Grace, our secondhand clothing store. All of the proceeds raised through these activities go towards supporting people in our community that would otherwise struggle to find services to assist them.

Having fundraising support has also freed up time to focus on completing many other much needed

activities. This has included attaining accreditation under the NSW Disability Standards, making SCW a registered provider of services under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), as well as working with government authorities to gain expanded tax deductibility status, so that any donation made to SCW is eligible for tax deductibility. These are significant milestones for us and, along with an updated constitution, form foundational building blocks for new opportunities and growth.

The most important outcome of all this is that SCW is able to deliver more services, more effectively and reach more people in the community. Praise God!

You can read more of Judi's story in her own words below.



### *Judi's story*

Around October last year, I found myself praying about how I could support an organisation that cared for women that were doing it tough. This is an issue I care deeply about and I wanted to give of my time and talents in some way. I found myself considering two organisations: International

Justice Mission (IJM) and the work they do around sex trafficking; and Southern Community Welfare (SCW) with the work they do around domestic and family violence. Craig and I prayed and discussed this and we decided to support our local community so I began

volunteering two days a week at SCW in a fundraising role.

The decision to do this required Craig and I to make a sacrifice as a family, and we had to learn to trust in God and the call that I felt to give my time as a volunteer, but I'm so glad we have.

## FINANCES

A key aspect of our partnership together in the gospel is financial. As we begin to look ahead to 2018 and the ministry opportunities that lie before us, it is important for us all to consider our financial commitment to the work of God at GBC. There are two commitments that we encourage all those who are part of GBC to make.

First, to commit to regularly give to the work at GBC. Charity, they say, begins at home and our giving ought to begin at our spiritual home regardless of other charities we might also choose to support. We encourage people to give electronically since this ensures regularity, even when our week-to-week schedule may not allow us to attend on a Sunday.

Our annual budget is based on a 2.2% increase in our giving and we'd love to encourage people to consider increasing their regular offerings by at least this amount heading into 2018. Our aim is to not only cover our expenses, but to have enough to be able to step into new ministry initiatives that God may open up for us.

Second, we ask people to commit to giving to our May Mission Month appeal. Our target of \$186,000 (22.5% of our offering budget) has been set and the Mission Action Group has begun the work of prayerfully selecting the projects that we will support. We are already praying that we will once again exceed our target as we faithfully respond to need around the globe. We encourage people not to wait until May to decide what they will give, but to prayerfully consider this earlier in the year, making this a matter of discipleship and generosity.

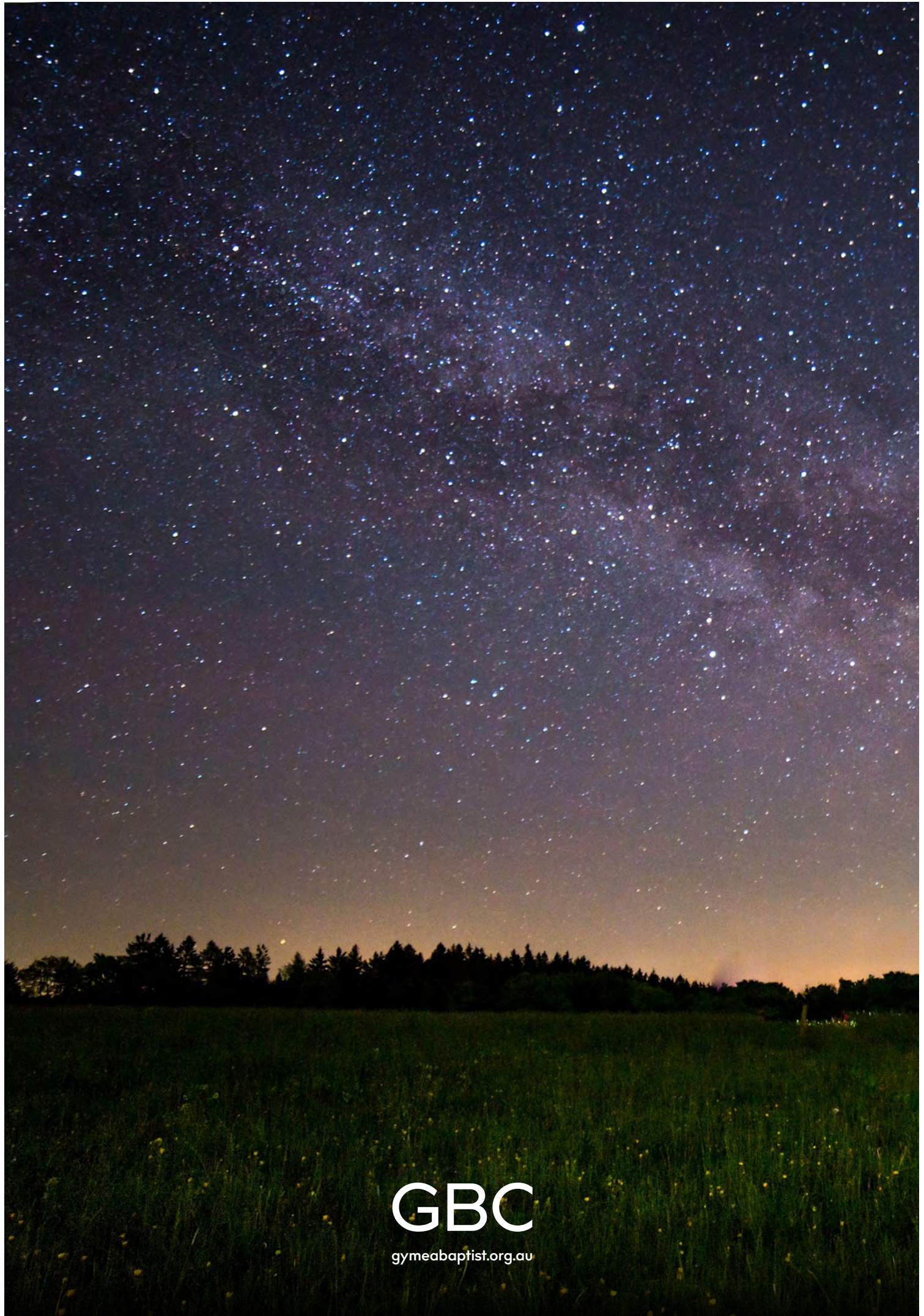
There is so much that we can look forward to as a church as we faithfully steward all that God has given us.

If you would like to give electronically you can download an EFT form from GBC Links under the Give tab or you can arrange for a regular transaction through your bank. Our bank details are:

**Bank:** Baptist Financial Services  
**Account:** Gynea Baptist Church  
**BSB No:** 704 922  
**Account No:** 100 006 024







**GBC**  
[gymebaptist.org.au](http://gymebaptist.org.au)