



Faith Lived Out Loud

PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

GBC

ISSUE 3



A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

It's that exciting time of year when we begin to dream about what ministry might look like in 2018. This year is more exciting than most as we are seeking to adopt several strategic priorities that will shape the expression of our mission for the next three to five years. The outcome will be a greater degree of clarity on where we will focus our energy and resources as we pursue our vision to see people changed as they begin to follow Jesus. Alongside our continuing emphasis to release ever more people into meaningful service and leadership, the impact of this increased clarity will be felt in every ministry of GBC as we really begin to pull in the same direction. The clarification process has been a long one and it's not done yet, but my sense of anticipation about the future is growing and I hope yours is too.

In the following pages you'll read about some of the exciting things that we are doing as a community of faith as well as some stories about what God has done in people's lives.

If you have a story of a changed life we'd love to hear it. You can contact me at:

Marc.Rader@gymeabaptist.org.au

I hope that you are encouraged and excited by what you read in this issue.

God bless.

Marc

SERVICES

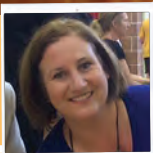
We are in the final weeks of sermon series 'Faith Lived Out Loud: Discipleship lessons from the letter of James' and it has been encouraging to hear stories of how the teaching has impacted people's lives.

Drew Harding (Section Leader: Music Team) has continued to build a great team of singers and musicians this year and we look forward to the new faces we have leading us in worship in the coming months. Pete Gillies (Creative Team Leader) has been bringing creative elements to our Sunday services and has exciting plans for upcoming events. There are still opportunities to contribute to our Sunday services

through the Creative, Music or Tech teams and we'd love to hear from you. Simply head to the 'Serve' page on GBC Links to submit an application form.

There is so much that we are excited about as a team and as a church. We have dedications, baptisms and special events in the coming months and we'd love to hear from you if you would like to be involved.

Our worship, our gathering, our prayer and our service all help shape us for the mission of inviting everyone to follow Jesus. Will you join us in being excited for Sunday?



Lanelle's story

During my 19 years at GBC I have served in a number of ways, but often come back to music. I had taken a break whilst my children were young but recently, I began to consider again how God wanted to use my gifts. I prayed, and God showed me a picture. I

was sitting on a mound of jewels, so I asked God what He wanted me to do with them. He said give them away. I felt challenged that gifts are to be given away, not held on to.

After hearing the call for musicians to join the team, I put

in an application on GBC Links. Despite being nervous to join in again, I've repeatedly been reminded of the picture God showed me and that has given me courage. Since stepping out in faith my soul has soared as I enjoy sharing what God has given me.



YOUTH & FAMILIES

At GBC we value the entire family and want our ministries for children and young people to support and encourage parents as well as children. One of the ways we are seeking to help families is by improving the process for checking children in. By creating a new entry and online check-in system, our Sunday morning programs will be more accessible for new families who come to our services.

Our annual holiday club, Winterfest was a huge success. We served and engaged with around 100 children during the three-day program, who all had the opportunity to hear the message of the gospel.

Around half of these children were not previously connected to GBC or any other church community. It's exciting to imagine what those seeds of faith will grow into.

GBC Youth has grown a great deal over the year both in size and depth of relationship with God and others. In part, the fruit we've seen in the lives of young people has been a direct result of the incredible team of leaders God has raised up. As a result, our youth ministry is starting to explore new ventures that will further grow and develop these young people. It is exciting to see God raise up the next generation of our church and His Kingdom.



Liam's Story

In the past twelve months I've seen my relationship with Jesus turn a complete 180. Last year I found that I was disengaged with church and had it in my head that Jesus wasn't for me. I was encouraged by my parents and leaders to return to youth group and not long after, I found myself

on a youth camp and having the most significant experience of God's presence.

Since then my relationship with God has been transformed by Him continuing to reveal His character to me. Now I'm surrounded by a community, not

just at youth but as a church, that supports and challenges me to grow in my faith, which led me to be baptised earlier in the year. Now I serve those younger than me so that they too can know the God that I know, the God that changes lives and changed mine.

CARE, CONNECT AND GROWING

Our mission is to see lives changed as we invite everyone to follow Jesus, but central to being ready for this, is training. Throughout our sermon series in James, 'Faith Lived Out Loud,' we have been challenged to open ourselves to the transformational work of God's Holy Spirit and to become a church that reflects internally, the kinds of characteristics essential for us to reach those currently outside it. At the heart of this training, are the ways we interact with others at GBC.

GBC Cares continues to help us practice loving one another, as we care for those in our community. When we choose to serve others, we grow, learning the life Jesus intended. Far from outsourcing our responsibility to care, GBC Cares helps us become the hands, feet and ears of Jesus. There is always room to serve on the team, and currently a vacancy for a Practical Care Team Leader.

Where GBC Cares helps us to practice caring for others, GBC Connect exists to help us welcome and serve others at our services. Whilst there are those who volunteer in our AM and PM Welcoming and Stewarding teams, our aim is to become a whole church that notices and welcomes all people, serving others such that they are best able to receive all God has for them. There are some key opportunities to be involved in shaping not only our Welcome, but our Hospitality as well. As with all opportunities to get involved at GBC, the Serve page on GBC Links is your destination.

As we grow in our understanding of what it means to live our faith increasingly out loud, LifeGroups provide an opportunity for deeper engagement with this training. Check out Katherin's story to see how God leads us beyond boundaries.



Katherin's Story

¡Hola! I am Katherin from Colombia. I have been in Australia for almost four years as an international student working part time in catering services. I started attending the 6:00pm service at GBC less than two months ago. When I was looking for a church, I asked God to lead me to the place where He wanted me to be, literally for Him "to run after me." On my third visit, I left quickly after the service, and when I was already outside the church, someone came running after me to welcome me. In that moment I knew God had listened.

I am still growing in my understanding of English, but I was keen to join a LifeGroup and so I got connected up with the group that Jo Bandi hosts. I arrived for the first evening with great anxiety because my communication with God is usually in Spanish, but that disappeared when I realised that the leaders of the group were originally from India, and another girl who attended was from Korea. Three weeks in, we have shared very special moments together including great food, and all praying in our own languages. I am very happy to be a part of this community!

THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Over the last eighteen months we have been engaged in the first stages of a significant restructure of our leadership. This was born out of a recognition that for us to grow we had to fundamentally change the way we were organised. At the heart of this change was a seismic shift of thinking about leadership. In the past, our focus has been on building teams to serve together with the leadership. What we have come to see is that we need to be building teams and releasing leaders.

Without raising up leaders, our ability to effectively release people into ministry limits our ability to achieve the mission we feel God has placed upon our hearts.

The metaphor we've begun to use to describe this is to say that our leadership structures were two sizes too small and we needed to upsize our structure. Our focus is now to release the gifts, abilities, time and resources of more people here at GBC and that has meant

increasing the number of key leaders beyond paid staff. Over the past year we have commissioned eight volunteer section leaders (leaders who oversee team leaders who oversee teams) into our leadership team which is a great start and has greatly increased our capacity as a leadership team. This team has begun to meet together every six weeks to share a meal, worship and be equipped to lead. This photo not only introduces you to our leadership team, but represents a bright

future for GBC as we seek to more effectively mobilise the church to partner with God in achieving his purposes through us. Continue to commit this group in prayer to the Lord, that we'd be unified in mind and heart, that we'd be given wisdom to lead, and that this restructure would release more people into significant ministry.

For a complete list of roles available go to [GBC Links](#) and the [Serve](#) tab.



Front Row: Jodene Watling (Associate Pastor), Roxane Lawler (Children), Karen Watkins (Office Manager/PA to Snr Pastor), Richard Dwyer (Cambodia), Vicki Sherry (CEO, SCW), Sheena Hind (GBC Cares), Neil Evans (GBC Connect).

Back Row: Nicolie Coleman (Prayer), Marc Rader (Senior Pastor), Shandri Brown (Services), Meddwyn Hinton (Playtime), Robert Boardman (Clinical Director, SCW), Mark Coleman (Associate Pastor), Matt Willis (Youth and Young Adults), Sarah Foxe (Mission Action Group), Martin Johnson (Communication), Brett Robinson (Student Pastor), Drew Harding (Music Team).

Not pictured: Pete Gillies (Creative), John Delezio (Operations Manager), Barb Higgins (Catalyst), Beryl Davenport (Book Keeper).

***SCW** - Southern Community Welfare

LOCAL MISSION

As we seek to live our faith out loud in our day-to-day lives we will have ever-increasing opportunities to invite people to follow Jesus. Much of this will be through informal conversations and acts of service, but some will be through specific ministries of GBC such as Playtime or Southern Community Welfare (see page 10 for more on SCW). Other opportunities to serve our wider community exist through mentoring programs like Kids Hope or COACH (which is getting ever closer to launch).

It's exciting to hear stories of people who are proactively preparing to serve. Earlier this year Baptist Care ran a Pastoral Care training course

and several people from our community of faith participated. One of the practical outcomes of this course was the opportunity to visit those in our wider community who are in need of a visit, and a few of the participants have begun to do this through Baptist Care. You can read Peter's story of how he's seen God's hand in this below.

Another way we'll be seeking to equip ourselves to participate in local mission will be through a six week sermon series picking up our theme for this year, "That All May Know". This series will help us think about how we might invite people to begin to follow Jesus everywhere we go and in everything we do.



Peter's Story

What if we run out of things to say? After emerging 50 minutes later from our elderly client's home chatting freely the whole time, God had clearly answered my first worried prayer in a very real way.

I have seen God at work regularly since beginning my

journey as a pastoral carer. The training was a life-changing experience for me, developing an understanding of aging as a spiritual journey and the role of a spiritual carer. We are in a unique position as Christians to share God's message of hope for those nearing the end of their earthly journey.

Inspired by the training, I volunteered for Baptist Care's pastoral visiting service, and am now visiting clients. It has been a privilege to meet with them, listen to their unique story, pray together and share God's love. One thing's for sure; I no longer worry about what I am going to say!

GLOBAL MISSION

May Mission Month (MMM) exceeded our expectations for the amounts raised, and its effects reverberate as these projects become a reality. Our planned five wells for the Water for Life project increased to eight, supporting over 8000 people. The Syrian Assist project, which helped 500 families, will cover an additional 37 families, plus 165 families will receive winter support packages. Daughters of Cambodia will support an additional 50 women exiting the sex industry. The African Enterprise Reaching Rwanda program in June has seen 62,987 people reached with the gospel, and 10,109 people made commitments for Christ.

Since MMM, the Mission Action Group are moving through a strategic review that will streamline our processes, team activities and enhance our theology of development. While

global concerns of poverty are complex, clarifying who we are and what God has called us to will allow us to seek sustainable and high impact partnerships.

The 2017 Cambodia Team have been preparing for their trip (28 Dec – 12 Jan) to work alongside our partners: Heart of Hope School, Daughters of Cambodia, HOME (House of Mission Encouragement), and Global Commission Fellowship. This is a great opportunity to see where God is already at work in Cambodia and support those he has called.

Catalyst is carrying out community consultation so that we will be more connected and effective in our heart for social justice. The 2017 Fair Trade Market is on Friday 3rd November and we look forward to announcing our areas of focus later in the year.

AFRICAN ENTERPRISE, RWANDA OUTREACH STORY – MARTIN



In one school, the team met Martin, a self-described hooligan, renowned for his wild ways.

"I've always been proud of being wild; being feared by the other students. I've never before felt remorse for my actions. That is until the AE missions team arrived at my school. When the mission team came this morning, I wasn't too interested, but when they began speaking about the Gospel and the love that Jesus has for me, I was immediately convicted of my sins and I knew that I needed Jesus in my life." Upon seeing his hand in the air, a gasp went up amongst the other students because they couldn't believe that the boy they had feared was responding to a call for salvation! Martin's humble response to the Gospel touched the hearts of many other students, who felt emboldened to raise their hands to receive salvation ... 300 of the 310 students at Martin's school responded.



SOUTHERN COMMUNITY WELFARE

SCW offers a breadth of services including counselling, psychology, speech therapy, case work, group programs and community education, all built on Christian values. It is uniquely positioned within GBC to reach our local community and act as a catalyst for hope and healing.

SCW seeks to help families that are struggling with their children, marriages in need of assistance, young people struggling in the areas of anxiety and anger, those overwhelmed with grief, and other serious issues like family violence and homelessness. SCW is able to offer structured therapeutic support, practical assistance and instil hope in seemingly hopeless situations.

'Alan' found himself unable to function due to

severe obsessive and compulsive behaviors. A ten minute walk would often take Alan more than two hours because of the many 'rituals' he had to incorporate into his day. 'Jenny' and her daughter were enslaved by abuse and isolation. 'Heather' had just moved into the area and was struggling with four children and a difficult marriage. In each of these situations, the team at SCW, not only provided practical and therapeutic support, but were also able to pray for specific needs. Because God is at the heart of all we do, we are seeing not only people's circumstances change, but their hearts change as they make steps towards following Jesus.

We remain continually thankful for God's faithfulness as He involves us in His plans and purposes.





FINANCES

Thank you to those of you who regularly and generously give to the work of God at GBC. Your commitment to the mission and vision of transformed and changed lives as people encounter Jesus is critical to all we do.

Finances are an essential part of facilitating the plans and purposes of God in our community. Your commitment to give, genuinely helps to change lives, and the best way to do this is electronically. Electronic giving not only helps us to stay consistent but also to remain faithful when other financial pressures arise. Instead of trying to work out what we might give on a particular week or in a particular month based on how we might be feeling about our financial position

at the time, we can prayerfully consider what we feel the Lord is calling us to give. This proactive approach to giving also means that we are freed from the guilt of forgetting to give week after week or of giving only what we might have in our wallet on the day.

If you would like to begin 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: GyMEA Baptist Church
BSB No: 704 922
Account No: 100 006 024



GBC

gymeabaptist.org.au