



BFS news

July 2018

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Good News story Broome Baptist Church, WA

Article by Pastor Mako (Andrew) van der Moezel,
Crocodile Whisperer and Snake catcher



Broome Baptist Church have purchased an old minimart, in the heart of the Roebuck Estate community. Situated across the road from a Primary School, it comes complete with its own car park, more space than the existing facility, and requiring minimal work to be fit for purpose. Clearly an answer to prayer for the Broome Baptist congregation. For the first time in the Broome Baptist 28 year history they will be holding worship services in their own building. A time of celebration!

Broome Baptist is a small church found in the stunningly beautiful town of Broome, Western Australia, famous for its natural beauty, Cable Beach and the pearling industry. Broome town has a very transient culture, which sees a huge influx of visitors over the dry season. This is reflected in the Broome Baptist congregational ebb and flow. When the dry season is in full swing they find themselves with the lovely problem of being at full capacity. Space has become an increasing issue for

“ To whom much is given, much will be expected ”

them over the last 12 months as they have seen considerable growth in regular attendees.

The church has been meeting at the Lotteries House in Broome for over 20 years, a community office and hall rental space. Lotteries House has been a blessing and certainly served Broome Baptist well over these years, however, as Lotteries House is a community based rental place this has limited the opportunity for midweek and evening activities and other church ministries, as other community groups also require the space, not to mention the cost of its hire.

Over the last several years, Broome Baptist has been looking for a place of its own in which to worship and minister from. For years, championed by the preceding pastors and leaders of those years, the church has looked, prayed and waited.

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“ The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe. ”
Proverbs 18:10

Welcome to the July 2018 edition of BFSNews

God is continuing to bless the ministry and work of BFS.

In this edition we learn about some of Broome Baptist Church's journey as well as other ways BFS has been able to support ministry through sponsorships. We also feature the mission trip of one of our staff, Shanshan Hu, demonstrating the power of God at work.

Our team continues to grow and we welcome Karen James as a new Director and new staff members, Jason Lam and Amelia Higgins.

David Slinn
Chief Executive Officer

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CYBERSECURITY UPDATE

Mobile device security

More than ever, the escalation of mobile device use has increased productivity and flexibility. However, this also provides hackers with unprecedented opportunities to target your data.

Considering how much people rely on their mobile devices, surprisingly, security is still not at the forefront of their thinking. Case in point: when did you last think about security on one of your mobile devices?

We may think our devices are impenetrable, however they are really just small computers and can be more at risk of cyberattack than a desktop computer.

To ensure cybersecurity, here are some key ways you can protect your mobile devices:

- Make sure your devices lock automatically and can only be accessed with a PIN or password.
- Keep your operating systems up to date to ensure the latest security software is installed.
- Only use trusted sources when installing apps. Read the apps privacy policy.
- Invest in security software for your mobile device – The same companies that make security software for PC's can also help to secure your mobile device.
- Never leave mobile devices unattended in public. Lost and stolen devices continue to be the largest threat to mobile users.
- Turn off Bluetooth when you don't need it, to stop malicious users gaining access to your files.
- Only click on links or attachments from known and trusted people.
- Always log out of banking and shopping sites, don't just close the browser.
- Backup all data on a regular basis.
- Don't hack your device – this could potentially leave you open to security holes.
- Research the data encryption options for your devices.

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When a building in Roebuck Estate went up for sale it was looked at as a possible church site, but the price was well out of range for their modest little church.

Another building some years later was nearly bought only to have the local council re-zone the intended site as not applicable for a place of worship, just days before signing. This naturally led the church stepping out of that purchase and waiting for another opportunity.

Yet despite the large price tags on Broome property, and the setbacks and waiting, the core group of church members held firm to their belief that they would one day own their own building.

Early this year an old minimart, the expensive building once looked at in Roebuck Estate, had dropped significantly in price. The value had been dropping for a few years but now it seemed within reach. The new building came with a larger 'hall' space, kitchen, toilets, air conditioning (an essential requirement during the wet season), a room for children's ministry, space for a cry room and some outside space at the back with the intention of making it into a children's ministry area.

Pastor Mako recalls, "Carefully investigated and prayed over by the leadership team, this was going to require a great step of faith from the congregation. This decision was not only a financial challenge but also a

work challenge of set up then ongoing maintenance, something we've not had to worry about before. Then there is the spiritual challenge, "To whom much is given, much will be expected". The leadership team presented our congregation with the option and challenges that lay before us if we applied to purchase the building, and the church voted unanimously to proceed.

BFS has kindly supplied us with the loan required, helping our little church realise a decades old dream, and in so doing, we believe they were a part of God's answer to prayer."

This new building will not only allow Broome Baptist to grow numerically it also provides for all their dry season visitors, and more importantly further allows them to grow spiritually. The acquisition of this building now provides them with their own space to run discipleship programs such as bible studies, parenting classes, prayer meetings and children and youth activities.

Broome Baptist also finds themselves in the happy position of being placed in a part of town with many families, and no other local churches. That along with the responsibility of now having their own facility sets them a challenge as a church in terms of how they build God's kingdom specifically in this new community.

Pastor Maho explains, "At the time of writing this article the key hand over is



only a week away and the anticipation and excitement among the church family is high. Yet the most encouraging thing about all this is that we are now able to do more for God's kingdom and we wait to see how He now chooses to use us."



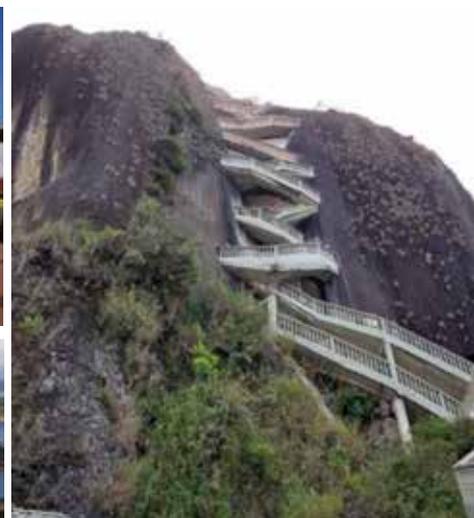
Invest with Purpose, Invest with BFS

Did you know?

AFCA to replace Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS)

The Australian Financial Complaints Authority or 'AFCA' is a new External Dispute Resolution (EDR) scheme to deal with complaints from consumers in the financial system. It will be operated by a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee authorised by the Minister for Revenue and Financial Services. AFCA will oversee the establishment and implementation of the new AFCA scheme to operate from 1 November 2018. AFCA replaces the existing schemes of the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS), and includes the Credit and Investments Ombudsman (CIO) and Superannuation Complaints Tribunal (SCT) so that consumers have access to a single EDR scheme.

As a member of the scheme, BFS will update any reference material to FOS to AFCA including contact information from the 1 November 2018. You will still be able to use FOS up until this date.



BFS Staff where their hearts are

Allan Priest, BFS Director expounds, "BFS's ministry flows from an underlying awareness that Christians are called to live in unity in purpose, practice and promise."

Not only is BFS involved in building God's Kingdom, but its staff also have hearts for Kingdom work.

Shanshan Hu – Colombia Mission Trip

Shanshan has previously focused her missionary zeal on her trips to the UK and Denmark and volunteer work with the Food Bank in Israel. This time Shanshan travelled to Colombia with a Global Awakening missionary team.

Shanshan Hu was interviewed by Beryl Notias (retiring BFS Chief Operations Officer) on her trip to Colombia.

B: You have recently been on a mission trip to Colombia. Why Colombia?

S: Last year, someone prayed for me and said I will go to Colombia. I wasn't sure if it would happen, as I don't speak Spanish and I didn't want to go there by myself for safety reasons. For three months I prayed and then an opportunity presented itself, to travel with an international team to Colombia.

B: What impressed you most about the country of Colombia?

S: The most impressive aspect of Colombia is the power of the Gospel. We went to Colombia's second largest city, Medellin. By the 1980's, this city became the cocaine centre. Gun battles were common, and the city's homicide rate was one of the highest in the world. In the early 1990's, the government was at the point of collapse as well as the economy. Pablo Escobar was hunted down and killed in 1993. Medellin worked very hard to rebuild its spirit.

Santo Flamingo is a slum city next to a natural reserve. A pastor couple moved into this place 14 years ago and started their street ministry. They worshiped

God, preached the gospel and healed the sick in an outdoor plaza. They prayed for thousands of people and saw many miracles. This area is now totally transformed into a tourist attraction. Similar transformation also happened in their prisons and other places.

B: What opportunities did you have for ministry?

S: We had the opportunity to visit a prison (Bellavista; as the Gospel takes hold in this prison, the murder rate has dropped), a girl's shelter, and a children's foundation centre who also train single mothers in life skills. We prayed for local family and business.

B: What was the highlight of the trip?

S: There are many highlights. One of the churches we visited could seat two thousand people and it hosts five services each weekend. It was amazing to worship God with in a different language and with a thousand people.

God has no limitation with language. There were times we didn't have enough interpreters, but we laid hands on people and prayed what God put on our hearts. People were touched by God's power.

B: Are you planning further mission trips?

S: There is no plan for the next mission trip yet. I feel overseas mission trips help me to step out by faith to pray for people, meet Christians from different countries, and bring that experience back to my local ministry.



BFS is all about supporting Christian ministry!

BFS primarily exists to resource Christian ministry. Many of our churches across Australia would be familiar with the churches, schools and ministries we have helped finance, but perhaps what might not be as well known is the variety of grants and sponsorships given to further enable the growth of God's Kingdom.

For example, Anina Findling, new BFS National Networking Manager (pictured above with Stephanie Dobbin, Baptist World Aid Australia's National Partnerships Lead), recently reported on her visit to Darwin, NT, where BFS helped Sponsor the "Together" Women's Conference in May, 2018.

We are excited that Anina's new national role will help coordinate partnering opportunities to collaborate more effectively.

BFS welcomes



New Director Karen James!

BFS welcomes Director Karen James to serve on the BFS Board of Directors. Karen joined the BFS Board in February 2018.

With over 30 years of engineering and business experience, Karen's portfolio career has moved her from New Jersey to Europe to Asia to Australia. From innovation to transformation to community building, Karen's global career brings abundant specialities to the BFS table. More recently Karen held senior management roles with a major banking organisation.

Karen wears many mantles in roles such as CEO, Purpose Expert, Author, Public Speaker, Engineer, Consultant, Leader and Advocate for Women.

Karen enjoys building communities of interest and bringing compassion into the business world through contagious leadership. Coupling tenacity with humour has proven to achieve what seems like the unachievable.

Karen comments, "It is an honour and privilege to be on the BFS Board. I am looking forward to serving both BFS and our clients."



Jason Lam and Amelia Higgins!

BFS welcomes Jason Lam and Amelia Higgins to the BFS team.

Jason joins the Finance Team in the newly created role of Finance Manager. Jason has over 15 years' experience in financial services working with executive teams and brings with him a proven track record in streamlining business processes.

Jason and his wife worship at Metropolitan Baptist Church and in his spare time enjoys spending time with family, cooking, and playing tennis.

Amelia joined the Client Services Team in May 2018. Amelia brings customer service experience to the role and looks forward to assisting BFS clients.

Amelia enjoys reading, movies, TV shows, drawing and fashion and volunteers in creche at her Baptist church.

“ God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. ”
Psalm 46:1

“ He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. ”
Isaiah 40:29

New Projects enabled by your support of BFS

Karen Baptist Church	NSW	Purchase of Property
Living Alternatives Ltd	WA	Property purchase (community purpose)
Restoration Hour Ministries Inc	SA	Land Purchase for future Place of Worship
Resonate Ministries	NSW	Purchase of Property in Bega
Italian Assembly of God Pentecostal Inc	VIC	Renovation work on Church
Lighthouse Church Central Coast Inc	NSW	Purchase of Property
Morling College	NSW	Bridging Facility
St Gregorios Indian Orthodox Church	SA	Church building purchase
iSEE Church	QLD	Construction Project
Broome Baptist Church	WA	Property purchase
The Bridge Organisation Inc	WA	Refinance
Tabor College Incorporated	SA	Restructure and Construction Project
Arabic Baptist Church	NSW	Purchase of Property
Lifepace Church Ltd	QLD	Overdraft Facility
Immanuel Marthoma	VIC	Refinance
Beverly Hills Baptist Church	NSW	Purchase of Property
Field of Dreams	SA	Purchase of Property
Cornerstone Church Inc	WA	Refinance
Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahdo Church	WA	Purchase of Property
Hobart Baptist Church	TAS	Construction Facility
St George Indian Orthodox Church	WA	Purchase of Church to use as place of worship



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