



# BFSnews

January 2019

## IN THIS ISSUE



## Good News story



Article by  
Rev Japheth Lian, Lead Pastor

### Victorian Chin BC, Vic

**The Victorian Chin Baptist Church (VCBC) was established on 23 March 2003 by 13 Chin refugees with the support of Rev Darrell McKerlie at Mooroolbark Baptist Church. Today VCBC is the largest non-English-speaking church in the Baptist Union of Victoria.**

Chin people are persecuted for their faith in their mother-land of Myanmar and often flee to either Malaysia or India seeking refugee status. Consequently, most of the VCBC members have arrived in Australia on refugee visas.

By the Grace of God and the welcome of the Australian Government they have become a larger community year by year. "Our faith is central to our lives and we dream of building a home and place to worship here as part of Christian Community", Rev Japheth Lian said.

Initially they had Sunday afternoon services at Mooroolbark Baptist Church but as their numbers and ministry grew they used neighbouring churches and schools as well for extra services and events. Over the years they

“

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”

looked at 11 different properties in Croydon, Kilsyth, Mt Evelyn, Lilydale and Mooroolbark.

Initially VCBC purchased a 4 acre property in Chirnside Park, but then had to sell it when they could not gain council permission to build. In 2014 a 4.5 acre vacant property became available in Croydon, which they were able to purchase with the help of a loan from BFS. This was a suitable site as it was accessible by public transport and was central to their congregation who come from surrounding suburbs. They applied for and were granted a permit to build as 'Owner Builders'.

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## Welcome

to the January 2019 edition of BFSNews and welcome to 2019!

We welcome in another new year as BFS continues to see substantial growth; in our funds, loans lent to churches and in our team. Our total assets now exceed \$400M and our loans to churches and ministries now exceed \$245million.

Our Good News Story features the Victorian Chin Baptist Church and their remarkable story over the last 15 years. The church started with just 13 people and is now the largest cross cultural church within the Baptist Union of Victoria. In the last year we have been able to partner with many churches and ministries and are proud to be founding sponsor of Healthy Vibrant Communities, a new initiative of Australian Baptists to develop new churches in new urban growth areas.

As we move into the new year let's remember the hope we have because of the gift of our Lord Jesus. May God continue to bless you.

Yours in Christ,

David Slinn  
Chief Executive Officer

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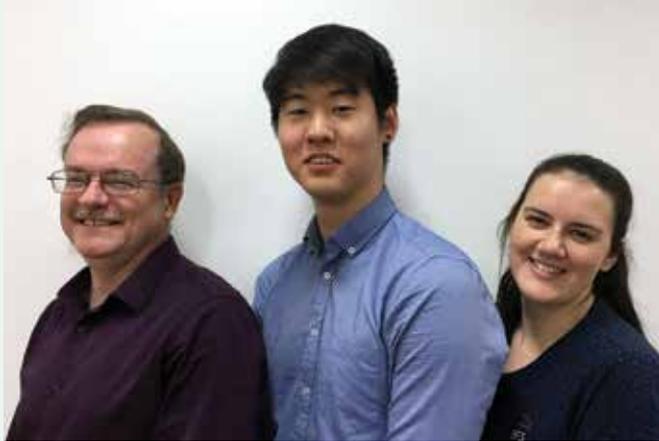
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# BFS welcomes Paul Badman, Dennis Kim and Stephanie Elliott



**The BFS team continues to grow, and we are pleased to introduce our three new BFS staff members Stephanie Elliott, Dennis Kim and Paul Badman.**

**Paul Badman** comes to us with 18 years experience in the banking sector, including financial market documentation and collateral management operations. Paul and his wife Kathleen have two grown daughters, a nurse and a domestic engineer, and a 3-year-old granddaughter. Paul enjoys attending Riverstone Baptist Church, preaching, teaching, the gym and cycling. His main passion is to study the Word of God, having almost completed his Master of Arts (Theology) degree.

**Dennis Kim** joined the BFS team in August 2018 as a Finance Trainee, he will spend 3 months training with our Client Services Team before moving across to gain some experience with the Finance team. Dennis has some incredible achievements for his age, including Dux of his school in 2016 and many awards for academic achievements. He enjoys sports too including swimming and cross country running. He has attended Sydney Cheil Church in Concord since he was young. He also has an older brother and a younger sister.

**Stephanie Elliott** has joined our Client Services Team and with exceptional communication and people skills she is excelling in the role. Stephanie has previously been in administration, Church & Youth Ministry work, a high school music teacher, Café owner and most recently conducting private music lessons. Stephanie married 1 year ago and attends Toongabbie Anglican Church with her husband. Together they enjoy hiking, dancing and music.

“ But Jesus looked at them and said to them, ‘With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’ ”

Matthew 19:26

*continued from page 1*



VCBC received a further loan from BFS and Jeremy Peet, BFS Victoria and Tasmania Relationship Manager, partnered with the church on their journey from the initial project idea stage until its fulfilment. Rev Japheth explains, retired Baptist Minister Rev John Billingham was their Site Manager. “He brings the building project management skills needed, as well as a deep understanding of the functionality and heart needed for such a project.”

The construction stage has taken more than 2 years with volunteer labour arranged wherever possible, and regular working bees with people contributing their skills and resources.

The Victorian Chin Baptist Church finally received their Certificate of Occupancy on 16th July 2018.

**Jeremy Peet, BFS Vic / Tas Relationship Manager reflects:**

*VCBC are a strong and growing church community. It was so disappointing when their plans for the first building failed to proceed because the council wouldn't give a permit, and they had to sell it. They have had to be so patient. God, as always, has been good to lead them to this great new site. John's (Billingham) direction, assistance and contribution has been invaluable! The Owner Builder nature of construction has allowed them to not only construct this huge worship and ministry centre, but has allowed a massive volunteer contribution with the side benefit of practical skills gained by the 20 or so members that were involved on a daily basis. And their financial generosity and fundraising is a constant inspiration to me. It's a privilege to be a small part of this great endeavour.*



*Invest with Purpose,  
Invest with BFS*



## CYBERSECURITY UPDATE

# Why should Cybersecurity matter to me?

**While you may not always be aware of the risks you face regarding cybersecurity, there are simple steps you can take to ensure you do not fall prey to scams.**

Australians lost over \$229 million to scams in 2015, in reality this is a much larger number because many people do not report personal scams.

Scamwatch reports "The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's (ACCC) Targeting Scams Report reveals that investment scams and dating and romance scams resulted in the largest financial losses. There are many other scams which affect older members of the community but these two scams account for half of the money reported lost by over 55's in 2015."

Scammers often reach out to people through social media, email or over the internet.

### Investment scams:

- When making decisions about your money or investments, never allow anyone to pressure you.
- When an attractive or professional investment offer comes out of the blue, be suspicious, research it vigorously.
- Check "Scamwatch" at [www.scamwatch.gov.au](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au). Scamwatch is run by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC). This is a good site to learn about new tricks scammers come up with.

“ For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. ”

2 Timothy 1:7

## 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.

### ALLY - SOUTH EAST ASIA MISSION

**Ally's call to mission started as a whisper.**

In 2014 as a volunteer, with some local language experience, Ally travelled to South East Asia to visit the Global Interaction Australia (GIA) team. She was able to assist with basic computer software, accounting training and build the capacity of the local people.

The area where Ally worked is home to a people group of more than 40 million, referred to as the 'SI' People Group. The area is some of the most heavily populated regions on earth. Many migrate to the growing mega-cities, while the great numbers live in rural farming areas. The SI people are almost universally Muslims and their communal solidarity and strict social codes have long served as barriers to the Gospel.

"The SI team has established a variety of creative and productive ways to live and work among the SI people, including an education foundation."

**Whilst in South East Asia, Ally built a rapport with both the locals and mission workers and God grew her heart for mission.**

The whisper grew louder.

Upon her return to Australia, Ally was asked to consider joining the South East Asia team long-term, which led to two years of prayerfully seeking God's confirmation with her Church and Global Interaction.

The whisper became a ROAR and Ally's fervour grew to work in the mission field.

Ally will use her skills in IT and accounting to help train local SI people at the Education Foundation, she will learn local language and culture, she will serve the current team of Cross Cultural workers and she will develop relationships in order to be able to share the good news in ways that make sense to the local people.

Ally is currently studying, training and building a partnership support team to assist with financial and prayer support, so that she can become a full-time Cross Cultural worker.

Please consider supporting Ally by praying for the following:

- For God to open the hearts of the SI people to receive the Gospel
- Financial support for Ally for service in South East Asia
- Encouragement for Ally as she prepares and studies

**To find out more or to financially support Ally you can visit [www.globalinteraction.org.au/who-we-are/people-groups/si/ally](http://www.globalinteraction.org.au/who-we-are/people-groups/si/ally)**



# Did you know?

ESTABLISHED  
**1984**



**300**  
CHURCHES

Financed over 300 churches



**18**  
SCHOOLS

Supported more than 18 Christian schools



INDIGENOUS AND  
MULTICULTURAL  
MINISTRIES

Supported indigenous and multicultural ministries



**\$3M**

Over \$3M paid to churches and ministries through GiveWay



**1100+**  
PASTOR+  
PAYCARDS

Provided over 1100 Pastor PayCards



**\$15M**  
IN GRANTS

Provided more than \$15M in grants to Baptist Associations and ministries

This is all enabled by the support of our clients. You are a highly valued partner on this stewardship journey.

*Thank you!*

[www.bfs.org.au](http://www.bfs.org.au)

## Going further together

*"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go further, go together"* (African proverb)

This is what motivates Anina Findling, to continually look for new ways that Christian ministries can support one another.

Anina has spent her first year as National Networking Manager helping strengthen ties within our Baptist "family", including our State-based ministry teams and agencies like BaptistCare, Baptist World Aid (Transform Aid International) and Global Interaction. Anina stated that: "There are exponential benefits to be gained for all of us by prayerfully investigating who might also be working in similar ministry areas and collaboratively discussing what resources we could share with one another". She added: "Resources could include people skills,

training resources, relationship networks, finances, prayer support, and much more".

To this end, further relationships have been pursued and strengthened with like-minded Christian organisations like Christian Ministry Advancement Ltd (CMA), Global Leadership Summit (GLS), Healthy Vibrant Communities Inc. (HVC), Wealth with Purpose, Compassion and many others. Anina concluded: "It is always a privilege to be able to resource Christian ministry in every way that we can".



Anina Findling, BFS National Networking Manager, alongside leaders supporting Healthy Vibrant Communities Inc. at their launch in Perth, Nov. 2018



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## New Projects enabled by your support of BFS

<b>Christian Impact Center</b>	WA	Purchase property
<b>Gordon Baptist Church</b>	NSW	Purchase property
<b>Ashfield Baptist Homes</b>	NSW	Purchase property
<b>Hunter District</b>	NSW	Purchase an existing church
<b>Coastlands International Christian Center Inc.</b>	SA	Purchase property

“ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. ”

Philippians 4:13

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