



# Monthly NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the HBC Newsletter!



We're so glad you're here. Whether you've been part of our church family for years or are just getting connected, this newsletter is a way to stay encouraged, informed, and inspired as we journey together as a family on mission. Inside, you'll find stories of God at work in our community, updates on upcoming events, and opportunities to grow and serve. We're excited for what God is doing in and through HBC this month!

To get in touch, please contact [08 8339 1243](tel:0883391243) or [office@hillsbaptist.com](mailto:office@hillsbaptist.com)

# *From Pastor Dave*

Hello HBC family,

I'm writing to inform you that, starting **June 1** this year, I will be taking **long service leave** from my role as Senior Pastor of HBC, returning on **August 17**.

Someone once told me the best time to take extended leave is not when you're exhausted and the fire has dimmed, but when the fire is still hot and the passion for the mission burns bright. That's very much where I find myself. I feel deeply called to HBC and genuinely excited about the season ahead, and have discerned that this is a good time to step back, rest, and be renewed so I can continue to serve with energy and clarity. I truly believe we are only just scratching the surface of all that God desires to do in and through us for his kingdom's glory, and I can't wait to see what the future holds!

As many of you know, over the past two years we have been waiting for our new home in Mt Barker to be built. I'm also looking forward to using this time to settle in, get outside and turn what is currently a big pile of dirt into a hospitable and liveable yard. I'm praying this will also be a season to hear from God in fresh ways and to enjoy more time with my family as we readjust to life in the Hills.

In my absence, **Nick van Ruth** will serve as **Acting Senior Pastor**, supported by our governing and pastoral elders, along with the staff team. I have full confidence in their leadership and in the way they will continue to guide and care for our church.

I would really value your prayers for Nick and the team, that they would be strengthened and led by God; for our church family, for unity and protection; and that God would do immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine in our midst. Please also pray for me and my family, that we would rest well and return with fresh perspective and joy.

May God bless us as we keep our eyes on him.

If you have any questions, please contact Nick van Ruth (Acting Senior Pastor) or Angela Jolly (Chair of HBC Governing Council).

Much love,  
Dave



# *God's* VISION

FOR YOUR LIFE

This Sunday marks the final week of our Acts 2 sermon series where we'll have the opportunity to respond to God's invitation to invest our time, talent and treasure in His vision for our lives.

We'll also be celebrating baptisms across our campuses.

Dave's sermon will be streamed from Aldgate so this will be the only HBC livestream this week.

IF YOU'RE NOT ABLE TO BE IN THE ROOM  
THIS SUNDAY, YOU CAN STILL SUBMIT  
YOUR RESPONSE AT THE BUTTON BELOW



[Respond Online](#)

a series in the book of 1 Peter

# CONSECRATED disciples

GATHERED SCATTERED SET APART

## New sermon series beginning Sunday May 31

As we continue our year-long exploration and application of what it means to be consecrated for God, we find ourselves in the New Testament letter of 1 Peter.

Peter writes to a persecuted church: scattered, afraid, and trying to work out what it means to act out their Christianity in hostile environments.

The letter is deeply spiritual and powerfully practical.

Peter's audience are those familiar with the Law, and he leans heavily on Old Testament imagery and practice to teach: a new covenant, a new temple, a new priesthood, a new people of God.

Peter addresses the practicalities of what it meant to be a Christian servant in a hostile household, a Christian wife in a pagan marriage, and encourages all of us to consider our witness, wherever we are sent.

To Peter, suffering is not foreign to the Christian life, but a given.

Consecration is costly.

Suffering is not strange.

Suffering produces glory.

So, hold fast to the truth, the living hope that is of more worth than gold, and learn what it means to be a consecrated people, wherever you find yourself.

# *Bollen Road* SLAB PARTY

Around 300 people gathered for our Bollen Road Slab Party, marking a significant milestone together. God blessed us with glorious sunshine, holding back the rain and making it a perfect day to celebrate.

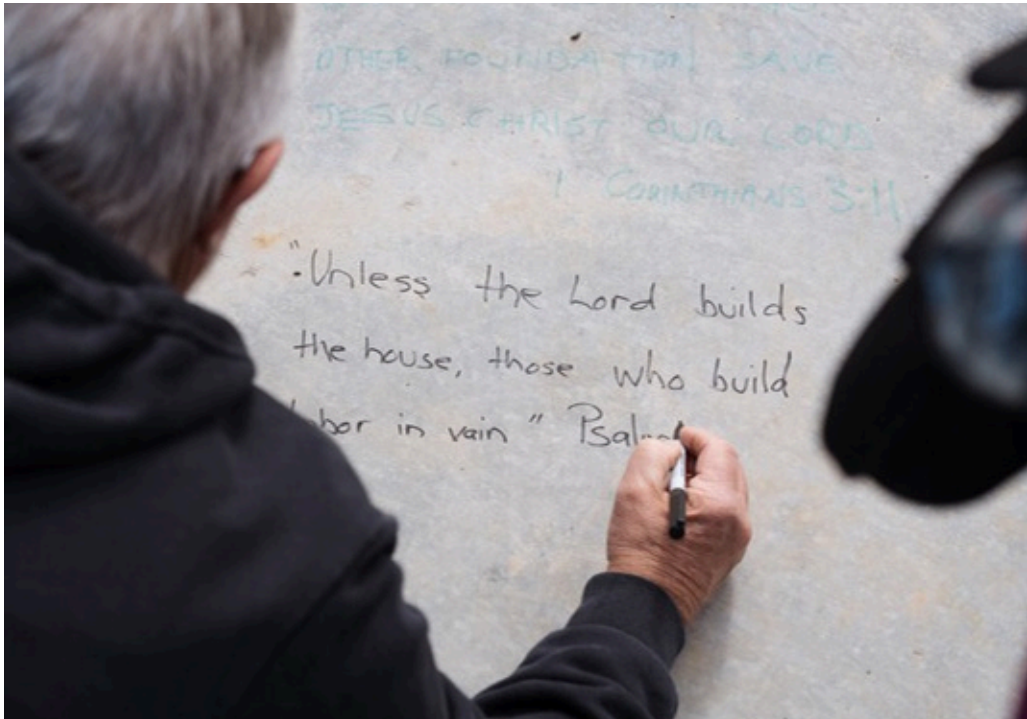
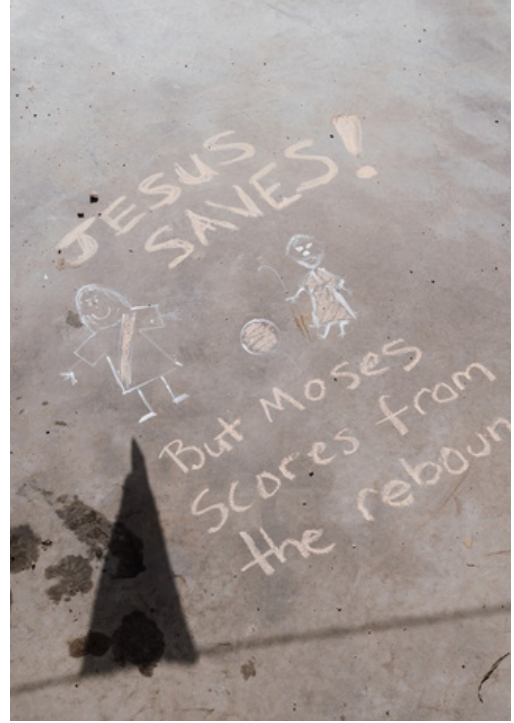
It was especially meaningful to bring together both our HBC and KBGS families. Cathy's reading of Psalm 133 reminded us of the importance of unity as we move forward together on this land.

We enjoyed reconnecting with friends from all HBC campuses over a shared BBQ lunch, and many loved the opportunity to write on the slab, symbolically laying a foundation for all that God will do in this space in the years to come.

A huge thank you to our Mount Barker congregation for hosting and serving so generously. Be sure to check the website for building updates as work progresses!

## Building Updates







# *Missions May*

Missions May has been such a gift to our church community. It's been inspiring to hear firsthand from our partner missionaries and cross-cultural organisations, and we're so grateful to stand alongside people who are courageously stepping out in faith to follow God's call to the nations.

Our hope and prayer is that each of us have been encouraged and stirred to respond and to faithfully live on mission wherever God has placed us.

## **Save the date!**

Our **Journey Into Mission** event is coming up on Saturday August 22, 4–8pm at HBC Aldgate. Come and see, hear, and explore what cross cultural mission can be like, and enjoy a time of fellowship over a meal together. More info to come!

If you'd like to find out more about what HBC is doing in the space of cross-cultural mission, please click the button below.

[Read The Booklet Here](#)



# \$5516 raised!

## Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

A BIG thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to making our Mothers Day Stall our most successful ever campus-wide fundraiser! The first Sunday in May is surely consolidating itself as a special day in our church's yearly calendar.

Our current six serving single/couple/family missionaries (whose updates were recently featured on a film clip shown during services on the day of the stall), will be greatly encouraged by the personal blessing coming to them.

Thank you to all who donated baked goods, flowers and floral arrangements, gift-ready plants, cards, jewellery, exquisite crafted gifts and practical sewn goods. Thank you to those who bought from the stalls to bless their mums and special people in their lives; and a special thank you to the engaged and enthusiastic convenors and their helpers at each campus.

**Chris Malhburg**



PRESENTING HILLS BAPTIST'S

# SALSA SOCIAL



*Hills Baptist's first-ever Salsa Social was such a fun night, with close to 100 young adults coming along for dancing and making new connections. A lot of people came who aren't usually part of church, and the feedback was super positive with many asking when the next one will be. Well done to Chloe and the team for hosting a great event!*





Kairos Prison Ministry programs offer to prison residents, their families, and those who work with them the opportunity to receive God's forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ, and to grow in their faith and servanthood in Christian community.

The next short-course (KM38) is nearly upon us and we're seeking your support to help show God's love and care from our wider HBC family. The main ways you can do that are to join the prayer vigil and bake biscuits and slices (which are needed by Sunday June 14).

Find all the details at the button below or speak to one of the Kairos team!

Rory Sweeney (Verdun, Mt Barker), Jeremiah Doecke (Verdun), Josh Sanders (Verdun), Curtis Richards (Aldgate), Cam Dimech (Aldgate), Val Petering (Aldgate), Grant Badesso (Lobethal)

[Kairos Support Details](#)



*Our Aldgate Campus Pastor  
& Acting Senior Pastor*

# Meet NICK VAN RUTH

**Can you tell us a little about yourself and your family, and what led you into pastoral ministry?**

I'm married to Emily and we have 2 boys - Josh and Noah - and 2 dogs - Micah and Wesley. They all keep us running around like crazy!

I first felt called to pastoral ministry when I was 16. Even so, I studied chemical engineering at university and worked as an engineer for 5 years before working with the team at Engage Work Faith in workplace mission. In 2019 I got a call from Mark Sanders (the previous senior minister for HBC) who asked if I would come up to the hills to be the Young Adults pastor at Aldgate. Long story short - I accepted the call and have been serving at HBC ever since and loving it.

Last year I took a dive into more learning - I'm studying a Doctor of Ministry through Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. You can find out more about that [here](#). I've been loving it, and excited for how it is shaping me and those around me in ministry. I will put this on pause for the next three months as I step up into Acting Senior Pastor so I can focus on the needs here at HBC.

**What excites you most about your role?**

As Campus Pastor of Aldgate I love the community. Aldgate is a deep well of maturity, Spirit and prayer that we are so blessed to be a part of. I also love being part of a wider team. HBC staff team is really fun to be a part of! It's also a privilege to serve alongside Gospel-minded servant hearted pastors and leaders across HBC. We come from such diverse backgrounds but all unite in God's mission across the Adelaide Hills and beyond.





## What's one hope or dream you have as you look ahead to the future of the Church?

I am so excited for the future of HBC. God is doing something powerful that transcends denominational barriers and personal ambitions. We have some amazing young leaders serving across all of our campuses and congregations, and there is an increasing hunger for God's presence and purposes in our congregations and communities. I'm excited to see these leaders leaning into new and surprising initiatives - things I would have never thought of as a means of spreading the Gospel and fulfilling God's mission!

## Outside of church life, what do you enjoy doing to rest, recharge, or have fun?

I love playing drums and woodwork - so I've combined those two things into a single hobby - making Cajons. I also love cooking and hospitality - so I've combined those two things into a passion for pizza making. I love making everything from scratch and enjoying it with friends, family and new people.

## How can we be praying for you?

I'm very keen to step up into the Acting Senior Pastor role, especially for how much work Dave has put into preparing me, the staff and the church for this time. I want to thank God for Dave and his leadership - things are going so well and are very stable for me to be able to pick up the reigns at this time.

Pray for Dave - that his leave would be renewing and refreshing. Pray for me and my family as I take on this extra responsibility. That I would be empowered by the Holy Spirit for this season, maintain healthy boundaries, and grow in my love of the Lord and His Church. Pray for ongoing unity in the church, for the vision and mission of the Church - that we would see it become a reality. That many people would come to know Jesus and grow as disciples of Him.

## Nick van Ruth

Campus Pastor (Aldgate)  
& Acting Senior Pastor



# *Prophetic* VOICE

We're excited to introduce a new section in our HBC newsletter dedicated to sharing words of encouragement and prophetic impressions from trusted members of our family. Our heart is simple: to create space to listen for what God may be saying to His people, and to provide a platform for those among us gifted in prophecy to faithfully exercise and share their gifts for the edification of the church.

Scripture reminds us that God still speaks and builds up His church through spiritual gifts. Paul writes, "Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy... the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort" (1 Corinthians 14:1,3). We also see in 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 the instruction to "not quench the Spirit... but test everything; hold fast what is good."

We celebrate the gift of prophecy as one of the ways God strengthens and encourages us, drawing us closer to Him. As we share these words, we do so with joy and expectancy, trusting that the Holy Spirit is at work among us, helping us see Jesus more clearly.

If you have something to contribute, please send it through to [office@hillsbaptist.com](mailto:office@hillsbaptist.com) and it will be shared with our pastoral leadership for discernment.

*With this in mind, we're glad to share this prophetic word shared by a member of our Verdun congregation:*

After today's sermon I thought I might share a picture God gave me a week ago. You'll have to excuse the artwork, I'm no artist!

Like you said today Dave, I believe God is wanting to do something amazing through His people. When I see a picture in my mind of these trees - like a forest across our city with the world feeding from its fruit, I know we will see His kingdom start to transform the earth.

My question to God was "Why don't we see more of the healing and the fruit we see in the New Testament Church?"

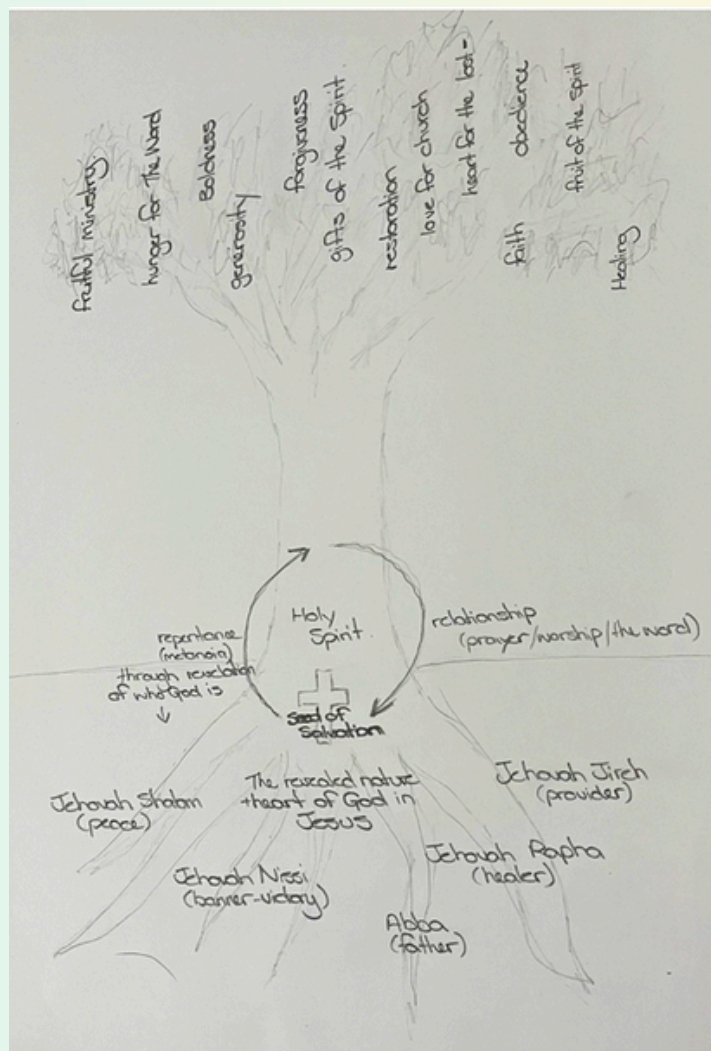
God gave me these words and a this picture.

Salvation is a seed planted by repentance (metanoia - to change one's mind). It is the first change of thinking required to be saved. To go from not believing in God to believing that He exists and that Jesus died for us to be in relationship with Him.

In Matthew 4:17 Jesus says repent for the kingdom of God is near. Was Jesus saying to change the way you think about God as I am He walking in the flesh??

He is the perfect example of how the kingdom can come to earth through the work of the Spirit in the surrendered life.

The seed of salvation is watered with repentance - changing the way we think and what we think about God through revelation (Holy Spirit birthed revelation).



The Holy Spirit reveals who God is throughout the word and reveals Jesus, who is the revealed nature and heart of God.

The seed is also watered through relationship with Him. The Holy Spirit brings us into constant relationship (through prayer, worship and The Word). This is a constant cycle of relationship and repentance bringing revelation and transformation.

This grows a fruit bearing tree.

The root system of this tree is so much more than what is in the picture as we can not even scratch the surface of who God is. There is always more to be revealed of Him.

The tree that grows from this brings the kingdom of God/heaven to the earth. It produces fruit that manifests the heart and nature of God.

Fruit of this tree:

- Healing (brokenness to completeness, sickness to wellness, anxiety to trust)
- Seeking of and love for community (church)
- Hunger for the Word
- Fruit of the Spirit
- Obedience
- Gifts of the Spirit
- Faith
- Boldness
- Fruitful ministry - hunger to minister
- Heart for the lost
- The restoration of anything perverted by sin
- And so much more

This is why Jesus said wait til I send you the Holy Spirit before you go and share me with the world. These people had the seed of salvation as they had seen Jesus raise from the dead but without the Holy Spirit infilling and overflowing they could not produce the fruit required to fulfil God's mission.

# *From the* GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Governing Council (GC) met in May, where several important matters in the life of HBC were discussed.

This included:

- Preparation for June's Members Meeting. As we continue to prepare for the transition to Bollen Road in the upcoming financial year, GC with Dave are continuing to ensure prudent budget management remains across all areas of HBC to support the investment and move to Bollen Road, while balancing other needs across HBC.
- Ongoing discussion around priorities and opportunities to grow further in mission and ministry next financial year.
- Policy development in a number of key areas for HBC, and the reformation of the Policy & Risk Subcommittee to renew and refresh HBC policies.

Also at GC in May, we welcomed new members to HBC across all campuses. Preparations are being made for Dave to go on long service leave shortly in June, Nick van Ruth will be acting as Senior Pastor during this time.

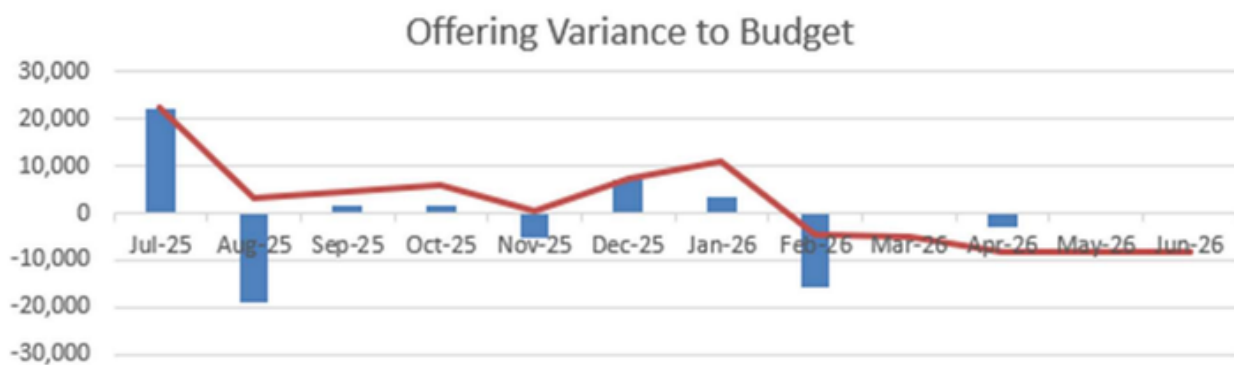
GC would also like to acknowledge Bek Dover will soon be ending her time on GC with a move interstate for work. Bek has played a critical role in many important decisions and will be missed. At May's meeting we celebrated Bek's contribution and also welcomed Ben Jarvis to the role of Secretary on the Board. GC is excited to have Ben taking on this role.

Finally, GC met in May before the recent cyber incident, however Dave and GC will continue to keep HBC updated on next steps over the coming weeks.

# Finance REPORT

Hills Baptist Church's finances are tracking along steadily, with overall income holding up well and a healthy cash position. While giving has been a little under budget so far this year, this has been balanced by encouraging contributions from areas like Lifewell, internships, and other income streams, helping deliver a positive overall result.

We're so grateful for the generosity of our HBC family. Your faithful giving continues to support the life and ministry of our church. This puts us in a good place to keep moving forward with our ministries and future plans, including progress on the building project and preparation for the year ahead.



Campus	YTD	YTD vs Budget
Aldgate	385,669	-2.1%
Mt Barker / Verdun	716,553	-3.1%
Lobethal	154,135	17.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,256,357</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>

## *Want To Give?*

Text: Text 'Give to 0437 883 102

Online: Credit Card or EFT at [hillsbaptist.com/give](https://hillsbaptist.com/give)

Cash: Drop in the box at a Sunday service

# *Local Mission Packing Days* **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Balhannah Uniting Church will host its annual Local Mission Packing Days on June 1–3. Together with volunteers, they'll pack and send 56 boxes of requested goods to op shops and community missions, plus prepare additional boxes for South Australian communities including Pt Augusta, Ceduna, and Arnhem Land.

Local schools (Oakbank and HCCS) are involved as part of their Rite Journey, making this a wonderful three-way mission:

- Connecting with students and teachers
- Strengthening church community
- Providing quality second-hand clothing to remote areas

Volunteers are especially needed to mentor students while sorting items - it's rewarding, social, and refreshments are provided!

If you can help, even for a short time, please contact Lauren Fleming at 0416 350 211



## PeaceWise

building peacemakers for life

PeaceWise is focused on helping people learn a biblically-based, fresh approach to navigating everyday conflict. HBC will be hosting an upcoming training on two Saturdays in July. More info and registrations via the link below.

[More Info Here](#)

# What's On

More info at  
[hillsbaptist.com/whats-on](https://hillsbaptist.com/whats-on)

## MAY

DATE	EVENT	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Saturday 23	Hills Kids Brite Training	All Campuses
Sunday 24	Baptism Sunday	All Campuses
Sunday 31	1 Peter Sermon Series Launch	All Campuses
Sunday 31	Ladies' Lunch	Aldgate

## JUNE

DATE	EVENT	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Wednesday 3	Seniors Walk & Talk	Verdun / Mt Barker
Thursday 4	Boomers	Aldgate
Thursday 4	Dwelling Place Evening	All Campuses
Wednesday 10	Seniors Wednesday Games	Verdun / Mt Barker
Thursday 11	Worship Team Night	Verdun / Mt Barker
Saturday 13	Alpha Retreat	Verdun / Mt Barker
Saturday 20	Quiet Place One Day Retreat	All Campuses
Saturday 20	JNR YTH - Bounce	All Campuses
Sunday 21	Members Meeting	All Campuses
Wednesday 24	Wednesday Worship	Verdun / Mt Barker

gathered.

9 - 11 OCT  
2026



We'd love your help in spreading the word about our HBC family!

Leaving us a quick Google review only takes a minute, and it really helps people who are searching for a Christian church to find a place to belong.

If you've been blessed by being part of our community, your few words could make a big difference.

[Review Aldgate](#)

[Review Lobethal](#)

[Review Verdun](#)

Mt Barker coming soon!

*Are You*  
FOLLOWING?





◆  
Hills  
Baptist  
Church

