



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:08-8339-1243) or office@hillsbaptist.com

Pastors NOTE

"For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisors."

Proverbs 11:14

As we've journeyed with Israel in their Exodus and wilderness wanderings these past few weeks, I've found myself contemplating the significant role the silent leaders play in shaping so much of their story with God.

Consider Jochebed, Moses' mother, who defies the tyrannical rule of Pharaoh at the risk of her own life to save the life of her son, before surrendering him into God's hands by floating him down the Nile and trusting God to work a miracle in his life.

Consider the midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, who also risked their lives by refusing to kill the Hebrew baby boys. Instead, they feared God and showed themselves to be incredibly shrewd in standing their ground against Pharaoh. This powerful act of defiance ensured the birth of many young men, including, most likely, the birth of Aaron, Moses' older brother and the future high priest of Israel.

Two stories of three silent leaders, and by that I mean leaders who are rarely acknowledged, seen, or discussed, yet their actions drastically changed the course of human history by creating opportunities for God's glory to be displayed.

But then there are the leaders who were seen, yet remained silent when they should have spoken.

Consider Nadab, Abihu, and the 70 elders with Aaron when Israel asked for a god to lead them in Exodus 32. Where were they when Aaron asked for gold and began fashioning the golden calf? Hadn't they also just seen the glory of God in Exodus 24? Did any of them speak up? Surely someone said something. Surely the Levites who later drew swords in response to Moses' call said something. Unfortunately, Scripture is silent, but what we do know is that even if they did speak, Aaron wasn't listening, and he led Israel into sin.

As I've reflected on this, I've been reminded of that beautiful truth found in Proverbs 11:14: "For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisors."

How important it is for us to be a people hungry for accountability. We are Christ's body, His people, His treasured possession, and therefore we need to make sure that we seek the wisdom of godly counsel so that we do not find ourselves coming to ruin. Whether we carry the label of leader or not, as Christ's followers we have been invited into influence, and if we are to influence well, we need the wisdom of others to help us walk it out faithfully.

Regardless of our titles, whether you're a CEO, a tradie, a teacher, a manager, a student, a parent, or a friend, God has given us a mandate to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. So let's commit to being like Jochebed. God has given you a voice; never be afraid to use it. But never forget that God has also given you two ears, so don't be afraid to use them either. For victory is won through many advisors.

God bless,

Dave Shepherd

Senior Pastor



Easter at HBC

From the first garden of creation to the garden where the tomb stood empty, Easter tells a story of loss turned to life and sorrow turned to joy.

No matter what season you find yourself in - waiting, grieving, searching, or celebrating - you are invited to gather with us as we remember the cross and rejoice in the resurrection.

There is hope that still grows. There is life that still breaks through.

Return to the **GARDEN**

an invitation back to life

With ten gatherings across our four locations, there are plenty of opportunities to join us as we celebrate together.

PASSOVER MEAL

An immersive experience, exploring God's story of deliverance, shared over a roast lamb dinner and guided Seder meal.

- On Thursday April 2, 6pm - 8:30pm
- At HBC Verdun (HBC Combined Event)
- Parent Room available
- RSVP is required - \$35pp

'WHILE WE WAIT...' PRAYER & WORSHIP

An intentional prayer and worship gathering for the "Saturday" moments of life. Space to seek God and find hope in seasons of waiting.

- On Saturday April 4, 9:30am
- At HBC Aldgate (HBC Combined Event)

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

A reflective gathering to pause and consider the cross through Scripture, worship, and prayer, followed by hot cross buns and barista-made coffee.

- On Friday April 3, 9:30am
- At HBC Aldgate (Combined AM & PM), HBC Lobethal and HBC Verdun (Combined Verdun & Mount Barker)
- Parent Room available

RESURRECTION SUNDAY SERVICE

A joyful celebration of the risen Jesus, filled with hope, worship, and a message of new life. Coffee and chocolate eggs after the service.

- On Sunday April 5
- At:
 - HBC Aldgate, 9:30am & 5pm
 - HBC Lobethal, 9:30am
 - HBC Verdun, 9:30am
 - HBC Mount Barker, 4pm
- Parent Room, Creche and full Kids Program available

[Get All The Details & Register for Passover Here](#)



offer an invitation **BACK TO LIFE**

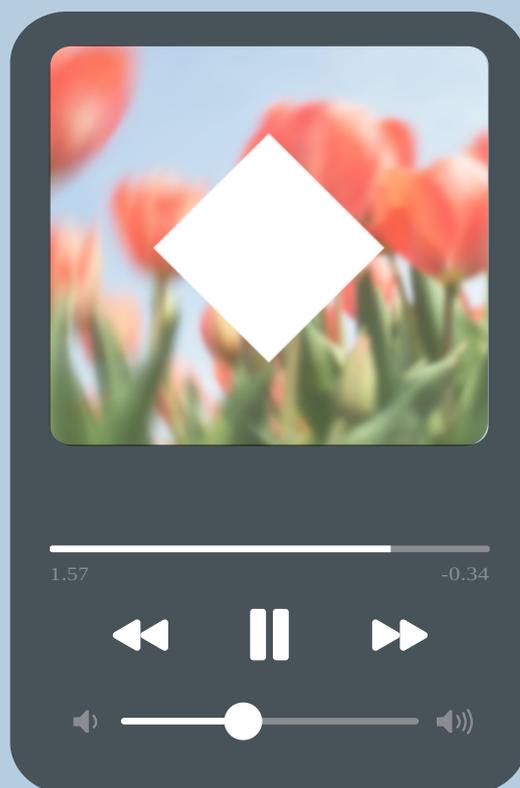
Ask God for the names of three people you could invite to Easter at HBC this year

Please collect your printed invites after the service this Sunday!

WORSHIP *with us*

As we move toward Easter, we've curated a playlist of songs to help you slow down, meet with God, and reflect on the story at the heart of this season.

[Listen Here](#)





HBC internship

Over the past few weeks, our interns have been stepping into a rich season of learning, reflection, and hands-on ministry. Together we've dug into The HBC Way, exploring what it looks like to live out our church's heart and values in practical, everyday ways. Each intern is now placed in their ministry area, and it's been exciting to see them begin serving, learning, and contributing within their teams.

We've also had meaningful conversations around hospitality, thinking about how we can extend the welcome of Jesus to others with intention and grace. Our Bible studies in 1 John have sparked great discussion around living in the light, loving one another, and holding firmly to the truth of the gospel.

Alongside this, we've been working through Nathan Finocchio's *Killer Church*, a book that challenges us to consider how church life can either harm or heal its people, and encourages us to recapture the spiritual vitality of the early Church.

It's been a full, stretching, and really encouraging start to the internship year, and we're excited to see how God continues shaping and growing each of our interns in the months ahead.



TOGETHER

Developing 'body of Christ' relationships with North African and Middle Eastern individuals, groups and churches.



HBC, through the Missions Committee, has decided to support Together (NAME) Incorporated (“Together”). NAME stands for North Africa and the Middle East - the key region where Together focuses its ministry.

Together exists to connect sisters and brothers across North Africa, the Middle East (NAME) and Australia, building “body of Christ” relationships marked by care, prayer, friendship, and practical support. Their vision is to see a global fellowship of churches, groups, and individuals united in friendship and faith.

Many believers in NAME walk their faith journey in isolation or with very limited local fellowship and resources. Through intentional partnership, Together helps build structures of encouragement, support, and love, empowering these believers to stand firm and to lead others to Christ. With today’s video-meeting and translation technology, these kinds of partnerships are now possible in ways that previous generations could never have imagined.

Australian partners often speak of being inspired by the deep faith, resilience, and prayerfulness of their sisters and brothers in NAME. As we connect more meaningfully with one another, we discover how much we share and how much we can learn from each other’s walk with Jesus.

Thank you, HBC, for your commitment to partnering with Together. We look forward to hearing many testimonies of people meeting Jesus through these relationships!

Craig & Kathy Schulz

Together came about through connections with Miracle Connect and HBC sponsorship will move from Miracle Connect to Together.





We're so thankful for this wonderful group of ladies (one of many teams) who have helped keep our Marriage Course participants well-fed during this intake. HBC is blessed with a rich meals ministry that serves across so many areas of church life, from Alpha to Kingdom Life, to crisis care, Home Groups, and beyond.

We're grateful for everyone who donates, cooks, delivers, and serves with such Christ-like hospitality. Your generosity makes a real difference!



Term 1 we have had 15 guests joining the Aldgate Alpha course. We have been delighted with amazing food, deep discussion and growing friendships. On March 14th we had our Holy Spirit Retreat - a relaxed day in a beautiful setting, exploring who is the Holy Spirit and what does He do. Holy Spirit was very present as the day ended with a powerful time of prayer to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and for many of our guests for the first time.

Please continue to pray for Alpha. We have 2 more weeks and our guests are engaging and expressing interest in coming to HBC, in getting baptised and expressing faith in Jesus. Praise the Lord!

If you know someone curious or even skeptical about faith - invite them along to the next Alpha course, starting in Mount Barker on the 5th May. They might even come, and might even meet Jesus!



GOT QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE?

ALPHA IS A
SAFE SPACE TO TALK ABOUT
LIFE, FAITH AND MEANING.

JOIN THE
NEXT COURSE
STARTING

TUES MAY 5
IN MT BARKER

[Find Out More Here](#)

Alpha

Meet DENBY TAMMS

*Aldgate's newly appointed
Associate Pastor!*

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

I'm married to Matt and we're the parents of three young adults (Asha, Shae and Ethan) and two Hong Kong street cats. Although we met and married in Adelaide, Matt's work as a pilot led us to spend many years living, working and raising our family in Hong Kong. In many ways we "grew up" there and, while living overseas wasn't always easy, we're so thankful for the incredible people and life-changing experiences this opportunity afforded us. Being part of the international church community in Hong Kong played a significant part in shaping who we are today.

Growing up in a Christian family, Jesus captivated my heart from a very young age. I can see now that He's been leading me toward and preparing me for pastoral ministry my whole life, but it wasn't until I took a step of faith and started studying ministry and theology in 2019 that I felt a clear call into this space. The preceding years of lay ministry, subsequent years of study, my work in school chaplaincy and the story He's been writing throughout my life have all served to affirm and prepare me for this next exciting step of faith.

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

That we, individually and corporately, would truly know, understand and experience what it is to be God's beloved, and consistently live from that place. It sounds simple, but I know how easily I forget and start striving to earn His and others' approval. I believe that as we live as His beloved, we, His bride, will become more and more what He designed us to be – and I dream of seeing and being that!



What has excited you most about your role?

Being able to talk about Jesus! While I love the school community I serve as a Pastoral Care Worker, there are very clear restrictions on what I'm allowed to talk about (particularly with students). Having the freedom to acknowledge Jesus as Lord in my workplace, worship and talk about Him with my colleagues and pray openly with people makes me very, very excited! I'm also really excited about getting to know our new church family at Aldgate and serving as part of such an incredible leadership team.

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

I know it's still church related, but one of my favourite places to rest, recharge and have fun is at Dwelling Place on Thursday mornings. I also love long walks (with family, friends or on my own = with God and a good playlist/podcast). As a creative outlet I enjoy doing my nails, and no holiday at home would be complete without conquering at least one 1,000+ piece puzzle.

How can we be praying for you?

It's on my heart to pray for increased faith. Also, as I step into this new role I'd love prayer that echoes Paul's in Colossians 1:9-12 - that God would give me complete knowledge of His will, along with spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that the way I live will always honour and please Him and that my life will produce every kind of good fruit (all the while, growing as I learn to know God better and better). That I would be strengthened by His glorious power, having all the endurance and patience I need; and that I would be filled with joy, always thanking the Father.

It's a pretty big and comprehensive ask! I pray the same for all of us.

Denby Tamms

Associate Pastor (Aldgate AM)





Aldgate BOOMERS

Our Aldgate Boomers (retirees) meet on the first Thursday of each month for morning tea. Sometimes we meet in a café and sometimes in members' homes.

Wherever we meet, we enjoy our morning tea, as well as lots of good conversation! It is a great opportunity to connect with others in a similar stage of life, making and strengthening friendships and supporting and caring for each other.

Bless our Missionaries



Mothers Day Gift & Produce Stall Sunday May 3, 2026

This fundraiser, which had its beginnings as a Fathers Day stall in 2021 at Verdun, was founded to provide a personal blessing to our supported missionaries.

Best sellers from previous stalls include:

- Any baked goods (include ingredients label and date baked)
- Jams, chutneys, pickles
- Fresh flowers and fresh produce
- Gift-ready potted plants
- Mothers Day cards
- Jewellery (especially earrings)
- Gifts (handcrafted/novelty/homewares)

Our convenors would love to hear from you if you're able to contribute anything. Please suggest a selling price, and let them know what you'd like done with unsold items.

Non-perishable items can be brought to church on **April 26** or on the day.

Contacts:

Verdun

- Chris Mahlburg (0431 476 269)
- Jenni Casey (0407 899 504)

Aldgate (AM & PM)

- Kathy Miller (0421 321 953)
- Brooke Derrington (0422 132 290)

Lobethal

- Grace Fatchen (0421 355 381)
- Eliza Fatchen (0456 623 143)

Mount Barker

- Eloise Schulz (0457 965 867)



GOD'S GARDENING GROUP

We're putting together a team of willing volunteers to help care for the church-owned land on Bollen Road.

God has blessed us with a fantastic block of land in Mount Barker, set aside for the future church building. For now, it's a vacant block that mainly needs mowing, but we'd love to keep it looking well cared for and valued, especially as it sits in a prime location at the entrance to one of the Newenham Estate areas.

We're looking for people who would be happy to share in upcoming working bees, join a mowing roster, or help establish and maintain simple garden areas. You don't need a "green thumb", just a willingness to pitch in and help with whatever is needed. While it's currently a large area to maintain, this will change over time as building begins and the site becomes more developed. Any help would be greatly appreciated!

If you'd like to be part of this team, please contact:

Paul Mudge 0423 440 471 or **Stephen Pollard** 0429 957 495



Bollen Road BUILDING PROJECT



Things are really starting to take shape now. We can clearly see where the building will sit and, to the right, where one of the car parks will be. Please be praying for good weather and no delays.

Our lease arrangement draft between HBC and KBGSMB is currently with the lawyers. Once this document is reviewed, signed off, and registered, it can be included in the Memorandum of Understanding as we continue to engage with Baptist Churches of South Australia and the Northern Territory. There are lots of moving parts, but great progress is being made.

Our five-year cashflow forecast is looking strong. Please continue to pray for God's blessing over HBC's finances.

Steve Edmonds

Business Manager



From the GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Governing Council have now met in February and March. With several important events across HBC and in the life of the church, both meetings have had a lot of positive items to discuss and challenges to address.

Salem Baptist Church Adoption Process Update

In February, the Governing Council met with Salem Baptist representatives at the Salem Baptist Church site in Gumeracha. A tour of the site was given, and discussion was held about ongoing adoption and welcoming of members of Salem Baptist to our HBC Lobethal campus. We were glad to hear Salem Baptist members who have moved to HBC Lobethal are already feeling welcome. Equally, both HBC and Salem Baptist are in agreement in a desire to use the Gumeracha site for continuing gospel ministry. Please pray for discernment, grace, and patience as both churches practically work through the adoption process with Baptist Churches SA/NT.

Around the Grounds

There are also a number of items Governing Council is working through across the campuses, including:

- The ongoing development of the Kings Baptist Grammar School / HBC Memorandum of Understanding.
- Initial scoping for an AI policy position, to investigate potential use cases at HBC.
- Ongoing negotiation with our neighbour at HBC's Aldgate property site regarding the shared fence.
- Developing and approving key policy decisions, such as an updated Emergency Management Plan for all HBC sites.

Revitalising Sub-Committees

Governing Council is revitalising a number of Sub-Committees to support projects and policies across HBC.

This includes our Policy & Risk Sub-Committee and Aldgate Property Sub-Committee, among others. Sub-Committees play an important role in sourcing expertise across HBC to input into Governing Council decision making.

Keep your eyes on the HBC Newsletter over the coming months, as there will be opportunities for HBC members to serve as Independent members on select Sub-Committees where we can align existing skills and expertise to bring greater collective wisdom to our decision making. Please pray for wisdom as GC seeks to fill these roles in the coming months.



Thanks & Celebration

Finally, Governing Council celebrates the appointment of Luke Austin to Verdun HBC Campus Pastor and Kate Jansen to support pastoral ministry at Verdun recently, in addition to Denby Tamms and Jesse Chamberlain joining Aldgate HBC in pastoral roles at the AM and PM services respectively.

We are thankful for God's provision of their leadership, and look forward to seeing their ministry bear fruit across HBC and the Adelaide Hills.

New Members endorsed this month:

- Craig Carter
- Miriam Carter
- Natalie Eaton
- Nigel Eaton
- Matthew Gray
- Lynne O'Sullivan
- Rob O'Sullivan
- Vanessa Ricks
- Steph Schulz

We warmly welcome
them into membership
at HBC.

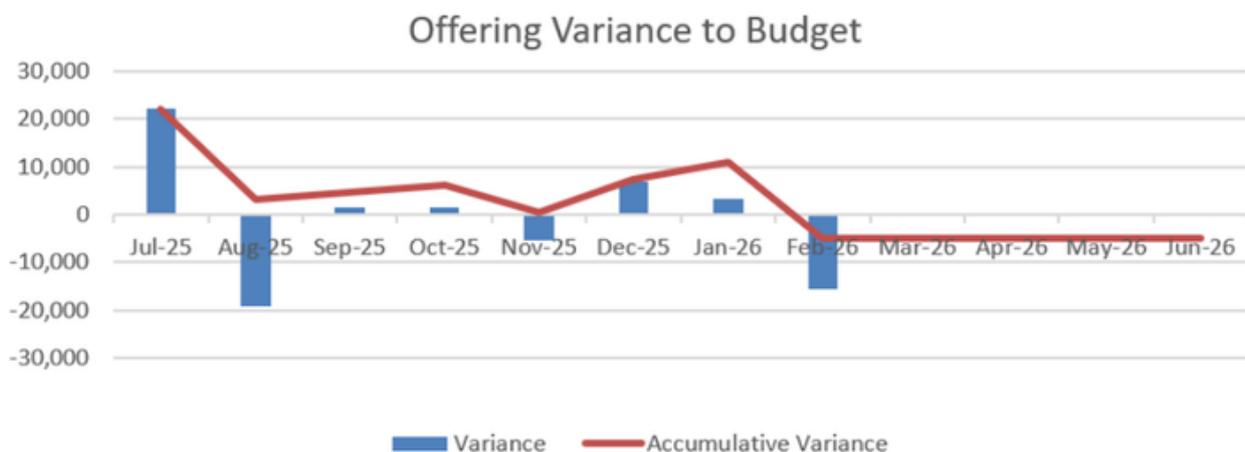
Finance UPDATE

God continues to be faithful, and we're grateful to report that our overall financial position remains strong. While February giving was a little lower, (much like the same time last year) we're only slightly under budget year-to-date, and remain thankful for the steady generosity of our church family.

Behind the scenes, good progress is being made on the paperwork needed for the loan and our building project. It's encouraging to see these pieces coming together.

Thank you for your ongoing support and faithfulness as we move forward.

Campus	YTD	YTD vs Budget
Aldgate	305,459	-3.0%
Mt Barker / Verdun	580,442	-1.9%
Lobethal	120,806	15.1%
Total	1,006,707	-0.5%



Want To Give?

Text: Text 'Give to 0437 883 102

Online: Credit Card or EFT at hillsbaptist.com/give

Cash: Drop in the box at a Sunday service

What's On

More info at
hillsbaptist.com/whats-on

MARCH

DATE	EVENT	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Saturday 21	JNR YTH - Warrawong	All Campuses
Saturday 21	Men's Burger Night	Aldgate
Sunday 22	Stay & Play	Aldgate
Wednesday 25	Wednesday Worship	All Campuses
Thursday 26	Mt Barker / Verdun Worship Team Night	Mt Barker / Verdun
Saturday 28	Quiet Place Day Retreat	All Campuses
Sunday 29	Teens Pool Day	Aldgate

APRIL

DATE	EVENT	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Thursday 2	Passover Meal	All Campuses
Friday 3	Good Friday Services	All Campuses
Friday 3 - Monday 6	BCSANT Youth Easter Camp	All Campuses
Saturday 4	While We Wait Prayer & Worship Gathering	All Campuses
Sunday 5	Resurrection Sunday Services	All Campuses

Quiet Place

ONE-DAY RETREAT

Saturday March 28th, 9am - 3:30pm
Norton Summit Baptist Church

[Find Out More Here](#)

Staff UPDATES

Hi church family,

I wanted to share a few important staffing updates as we continue to support our teams across our campuses.

Marion will be making our Mount Barker 4pm congregation her home congregation. As with many of our staff, she will still be visiting other congregations from time to time, but 4pm will be the community she attends weekly. This will both strengthen the team there alongside Jonty and align well with her ongoing work at KBGS. We're grateful for the way this transition supports ministry in both church and school spaces.

At Aldgate, **Jacqui** finished up at the beginning of the year and **Robin** will be concluding his time at the end of March. We're so thankful for all they've contributed during their time on staff and the way they've served our community so faithfully. We will celebrate their ministry amongst us more formally in the weeks to come, especially honouring the decades of ministry Robin has served BCSANT with as he heads into retirement.

Denby has now begun in her role at Aldgate AM, and we're pleased to see her settling in to the Aldgate family already. We're also looking forward to **Jesse** joining the team at Aldgate PM from Sunday March 29.

Across at Verdun, **Luke** has officially begun in his role and will be commissioned this Sunday. We're excited to see him step into this next chapter. **Kate** will also be joining the Verdun team from Monday March 30.

Thanks for praying for each of these leaders as they transition into new seasons of ministry.

Dave Shepherd

Senior Pastor

From the STAFF TEAM

Awaken Network Gathering – A Stirring Call to Revival

On Thursday, 12 March, members of our staff team attended the Awaken Network event, where we were deeply stirred to hunger for revival in our city and to contend for a fresh move of God.

We were strengthened by teaching from Jon Tyson (Church of the City, NYC), Sam Gibson (pray.nyc), and Zach Meerkreebs (Asbury Revival 2023). Their messages called us to deeper faith and renewed expectation. We were especially encouraged by the story of Caleb in Numbers, a reminder to cultivate a “different spirit” and trust in God’s wonder-working power.

We were also challenged to live as vessels set apart, willing to be fully poured out and prepared for the cost of revival, something that resonated strongly as we continue leaning into God’s call to consecration at HBC in 2026.

It was a gift to set aside time for prayer, corporate confession, and fellowship with leaders from across our state. Jon also reminded us that South Australia has one of the richest revival histories in the world and urged us to believe that God can do it again.

We left encouraged and full of fresh faith for what God is doing in our church and our city.



Pitjantjatjara Bible Translation Project

MARCH PRAYER UPDATE

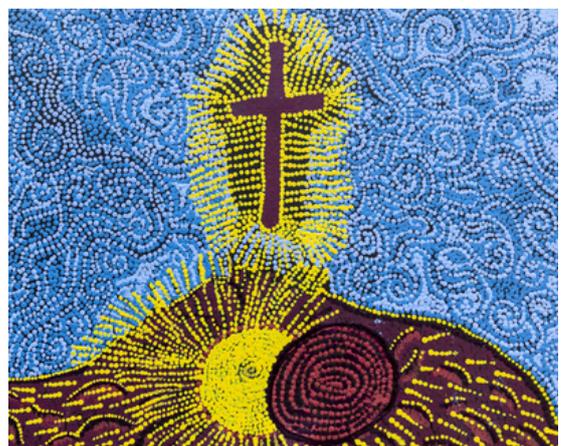
Dear prayer supporters,

Thank you for continuing to uphold our team in prayer this year. Here are a few key things to pray for in March:

- We're preparing for another Easter trip to Ernabella with a team of Emmaus Christian College old scholars. Please pray for safe travel, unity, wisdom in how best to serve anangu, and for the Easter message of Jesus' victory over sin and death to be received with open hearts.
- We plan to give out many Good Samaritan children's books (in Pitjantjatjara) and may act out the story as it's read. Please pray this will bless the kids and their families, along with the distribution of other Bible resources in language.
- On the translation front, please pray for Audrey, Umatji, Deborah, and Muna as they work on final drafts of Isaiah and 2 Kings, and for Tjulyata as she continues drafting Leviticus—especially for wisdom in handling sensitive wording. Pray also for Katrina as she drafts Micah, Amos, and Job, and for Dave as he prepares drafts of Numbers and Deuteronomy. We are thankful for the progress being made.
- Please also remember Lil and the kids as they navigate schooling and life, and as they look forward to reconnecting with their anangu family in Ernabella.

Thank you again for your faithful partnership in prayer. We are deeply grateful for each one of you. God bless you all,

**Dave, Lil, Henry
and Margot Barnett**



Power your
work with
Prayer



2orMore MOUNT BARKER



Our partner organisation Engage Work Faith is starting a new 2orMore prayer group in Mount Barker.

A 2orMore is a small group of Christian workers who meet to pray for each other, their workplace and the people in them. The concept is based on Jesus words from Matthew 18:20, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I will be among them."

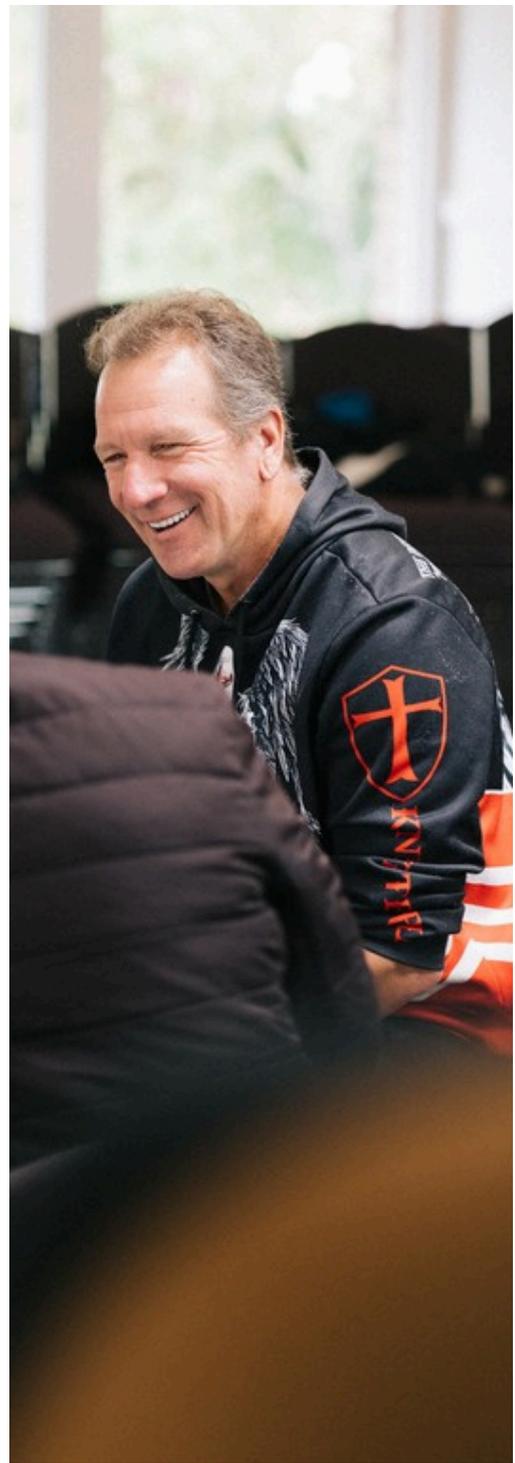
The groups are time flexible; meeting face-to-face or online and working around your schedule. Build support and community with other workers. Discover prayer as the engine room of your work-life.

If you are interested in getting involved, or want to connect to a 2orMore near your workplace, you can contact Cheryl at cheryl@engageworkfaith.org.au



*Prayer Newsletter
from the van Rossens*

[Read the Newsletter Here](#)



Hills 
Baptist
Church

