

# THE AUSTRALIAN BAPTIST MOVEMENT GOES GLOBAL (1870)



## 01 Rev Silas Mead Inspires the Baptist Global Focus (1864)



As a leader Silas Mead inspired both a local and global mission focus. Flinders Street Baptist supported his vision for a medical and education mission in and around Furreedpore, India. This body in time became today's Global Interaction and Mead is remembered as the father of the mission work of Australian Baptists.

## 02 Women Lead the Way (1882)



In the 1870's Ellen Arnold (1858-1931) joined the Flinders Street Baptist Church and was greatly influenced by Silas Mead. She entered Adelaide Teachers' College in 1880, and later taught, briefly, in city and country schools. But her call was global. In 1882 Ellen Arnold and Marie Gilbert became the first Australian Baptist Missionaries. Their medical and education work began in Bengal at Faridpur.

In 1885 they were joined by others from South Australia, Victoria and Queensland. These women were dubbed the 'Five Barley Loaves'.

So began an 80 year holistic mission focus by Australian Baptists in North-East India and modern-day Bangladesh.

## 03 Enlarge Your Tent (1949 - 1969)



Following World War II, Australian Baptists were challenged by returning chaplains to extend their evangelistic passion to Papua New Guinea. What followed was revival among the Enga and Min peoples, bible translation and transformative health and educational services.

This mission of word and deed was soon extended to Papua, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi.

## 04 Enlarge Your Tent (1949 - 1969)



Deepening incarnational and contextualised approaches became the mainstay of the mission after the success of the 'New Towns' Muslim focused work in Bangladesh in the early 1970's. In outback Australia, the mission encouraged the emergence of an indigenous church with the first Christian corroborees and iconographs the order of the day.

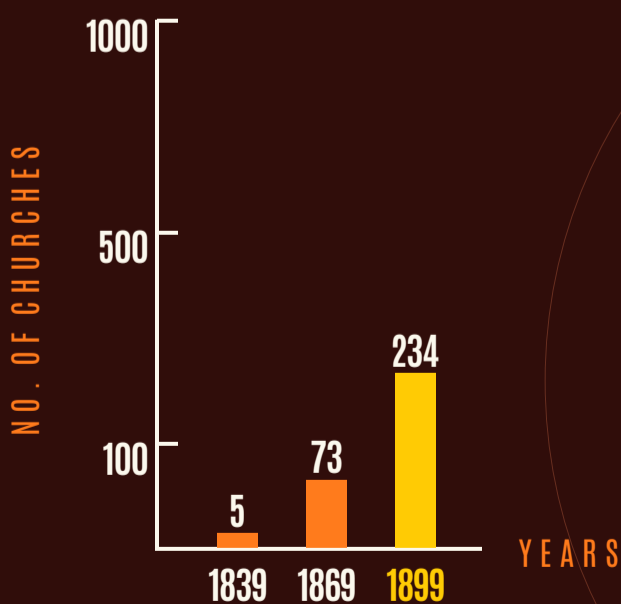
The lessons of this period were more widely applied to work among unreached people groups in Thailand, Cambodia, sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia and neighbouring Indonesia.



## 05 The Legacy

For more than 130 years, God has used the Australian Baptists to contribute to the transformation of the lives of many people groups. Around 1,800 active faith communities are operating with a formal membership of more than 150,000 believers and a wide range of medical, health and development initiatives are now led by national churches.

## Local Baptist Church Growth



## WHO IS AUSTRALIAN BAPTIST MINISTRIES?

Australian Baptist Ministries is an evangelical movement of churches, State Baptist Unions and national ministries committed to proclaiming and demonstrating the Gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Scriptures.