

# THE AUSTRALIAN BAPTIST MOVEMENT (1870-1916)

## DEEPENING FOUNDATIONS - GREATER SOCIETAL INFLUENCE



### Further Structuring for Sustainable Mission

Towards the end of the 19th century it was full steam ahead for the Baptist movement as more states established State Unions. Their key purpose was to promote cooperation in advancing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.



In WA the first Baptist church was not commenced until 1895 under the leadership of Rev J H Cole. A notable pioneer was Rev William Kennedy who helped found many rural churches.

**1877**

Baptist Union of Queensland

**1884**

The Baptist Union of Tasmania

**1896**

Baptist Union of Western Australia

### Influence of C.H. Spurgeon (1832-1892)



Australian Baptists were deeply influenced by Spurgeon with his printed sermons widely distributed, often becoming the sermon in many a gathering.

*"There was a young man named Spurgie  
Who was not very keen on liturgy  
But his sermons were fine,  
I use them as mine,  
As do most of Australia's clergy."*

### Deeper into the Scriptures

The State Unions were also pivotal in the founding of various Baptist Theological Colleges. Spurgeon's influence was strong with the colleges committed to

*"Unashamed and Powerful Evangelistic Preaching".*



Whitley (Vic) 1891



Malyon (Qld) 1904



Morling (NSW) 1916

Each College developed its own emphasis arising from the particular State context and desired focus.

### A Key Victorian - J H Goble (1863-1932)



Goble exercised a remarkable ministry in Footscray for almost 36 years. His Sunday School with 845 members was the largest in Australia and he was an advocate for the poor - outspoken against unemployment and compulsory military training. He became the first President of the Baptist Union of Australia. After his death the citizens erected a life-sized statue on the Geelong Road, Footscray.

### Cecelia Downing (1858-1952)



Downing was lay leader at Collins Street Baptist in Melbourne who also served as a temperance worker, community activist and political organizer. She became very active on Baptist committees with a deep interest in national and international affairs. She served, for example, as long term member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (president, 1912-15) and of the Travellers' Aid Society.

### Wider Public Service

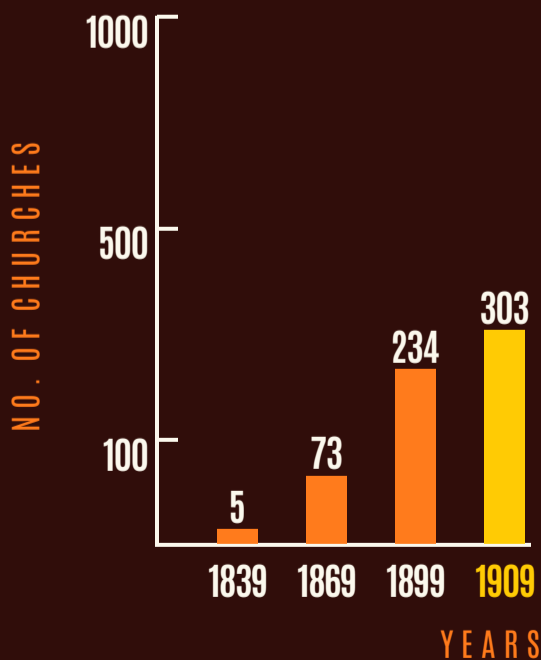
Fresh biblical studies motivated followers to move into business and political circles - to work and bear witness. 4 of the first 12 Mayors of Brisbane were Baptists.

Baptists were also leading merchants, farmers and bankers. In Adelaide, James Alexander Holden established a saddlery business which in time became Holden.



*Serve your nation  
- serve your  
community and  
immerse yourself  
in its life was the  
Baptist way.*

### 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.