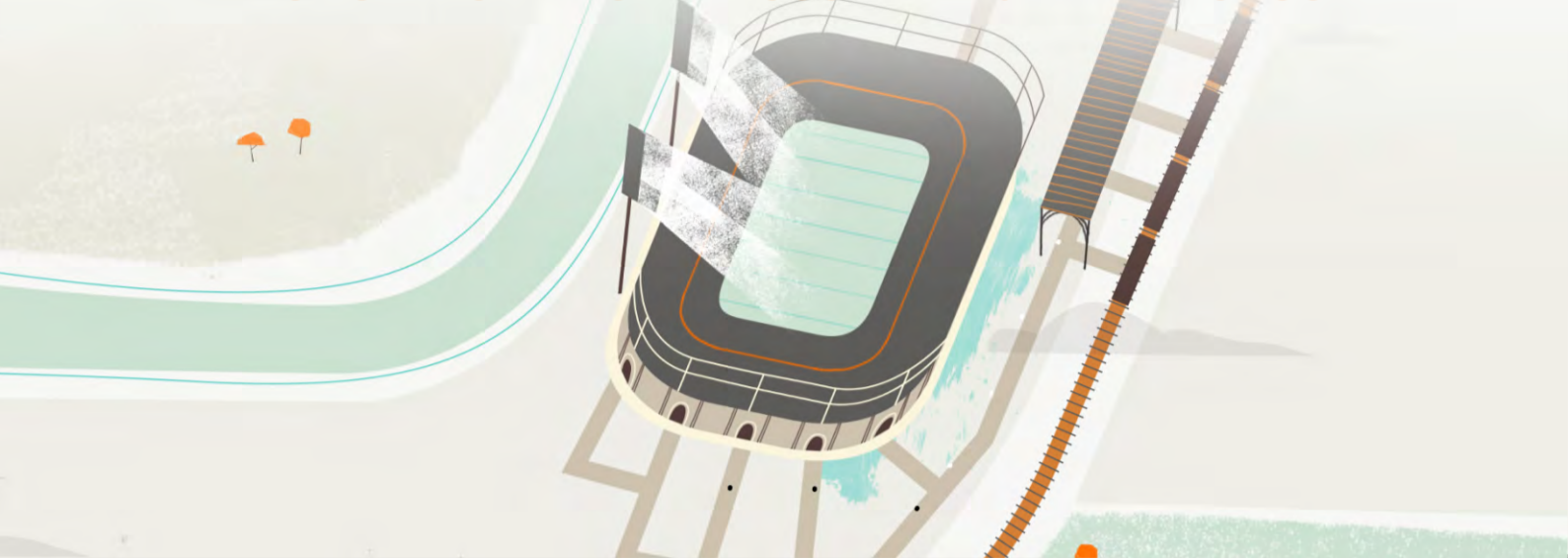


# THE AUSTRALIAN BAPTIST MOVEMENT BAPTIST'S PIVOTAL TO THE 1959 BILLY GRAHAM CRUSADE



*“Of all the religious groups who assisted in the Crusades, it was the Baptists who worked the hardest.”*

(Current Affairs Bulletin – 1959)

## 3 Million Hear the Gospel

If there has ever been a genuine revival in Australia, it was during the 1959 Billy Graham Crusade. Many see it to be the high point in Australian Christianity. There were 114 meetings in 106 days across Australia and New Zealand. Some 3 million people attended and many more heard via audio hook-ups in local churches. Some 150,000 of those who heard him preach made a confession of faith.



## Crusade Preparation

On top of all the crusade day organisation and lead up promotion there was incredible preparation. Baptists were heavily involved in the training of some 20,000 counsellors, mobilisation of thousands of event volunteers and participation in a prayer movement not before seen in Australia. Local cottage prayer meetings took place Australia-wide as well as large gatherings with one in Sydney attracting 5,000 people. By the crusade itself there were some 40,000 prayer partners – many of whom were Baptists.



## The Societal and Church Influence

- The Bureau of Statistics showed a 10% reduction in alcohol consumption for 1960-61.
- Australian Crime Statistics show a brief halt in the increase of crime for 1960-62.
- Baptist Churches experienced the largest increase ever in church attendance.
- The leadership and personnel of missionary organizations, like Global Interaction, Wycliffe Bible Translators and others are full of those impacted by the 1959 Crusade.

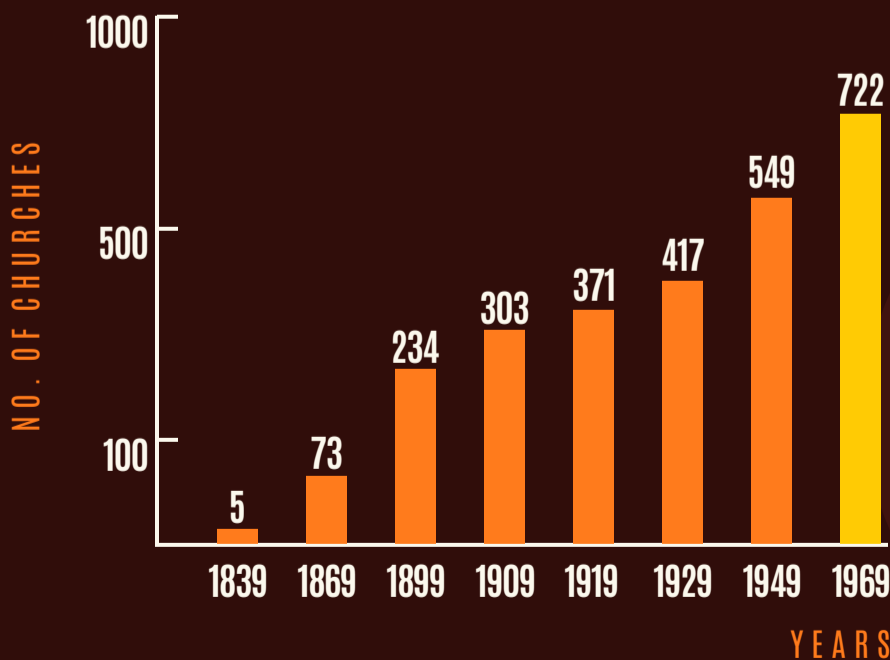
## Crossover Founded

The Board of Evangelism was established by ABM in 1938 and in the period after the Billy Graham Crusades it became 'Crossover'. Crossover has worked extensively with the State Unions and local churches to help Australian Baptists to share Jesus by:

- Resourcing churches in effective communication of the gospel
- Equipping pastors and leaders
- Facilitating mission.



## 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.