

THE AUSTRALIAN BAPTIST MOVEMENT OUR MOVEMENT TODAY AND OUR BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE



Financial Support for Mission

In order to facilitate effective mission of the Baptist movement in today's world - the management of financial resources are critical. There are two keys ministries of ABM that have been established to this end.

1. Baptist Insurance

Key Mission – to protect the assets of the Baptist community in Australia so as to minimise the loss of critical funds away from mission.



Founded in 1984 initially in Victoria and then progressively to all other states and territories. It is now a national insurance scheme insuring property and other assets in excess of \$3.4 billion and on behalf of over 1200 constituents.

2. Baptist Financial Services

Many Christian ministries find it difficult to resource and fund their operations let alone develop and expand them. In 1984 BFS was founded with a mission to provide loans to Churches, schools, aged care and community services to develop their ministries



At the end of September 2014 BFS held total assets of \$285,994,550.76, had advanced loans of \$123,900,897.57, held a capital of \$20,935,329.29 – and had paid out \$10,752,823 by way of Grants to assist and develop Baptist work across Australia.

Modern-Day Ministries Supporting the Contemporary Church

Baptist Women

Through Australian Baptist Women, the National organisation for Baptist women in each State and Territory, ABM nurtures, networks and equips Baptist Women State Leaders.



A Just Cause

From 2005-2015 people within Australian Baptist and other Evangelical churches became very involved in campaigns around international justice issues such as global poverty, human trafficking, and fair trade. Yet many were not as involved in campaigns with a more local dimension, such as refugees and asylum seekers, indigenous disadvantage or homelessness. A Just Cause was established with the support of ABM as a vehicle by which Baptist Christians can reflect on and act on national justice issues.



Movement Today at a Glance

Australian Baptists are a multi-cultural and multi-generational movement of people serving communities in metropolitan, regional, coastal, rural and remote Australia through a network of almost 1000 churches.

**The 3rd Largest
Worshipping
Community in
Australia***



*attending at least once a month

Baptists have some particular strengths:

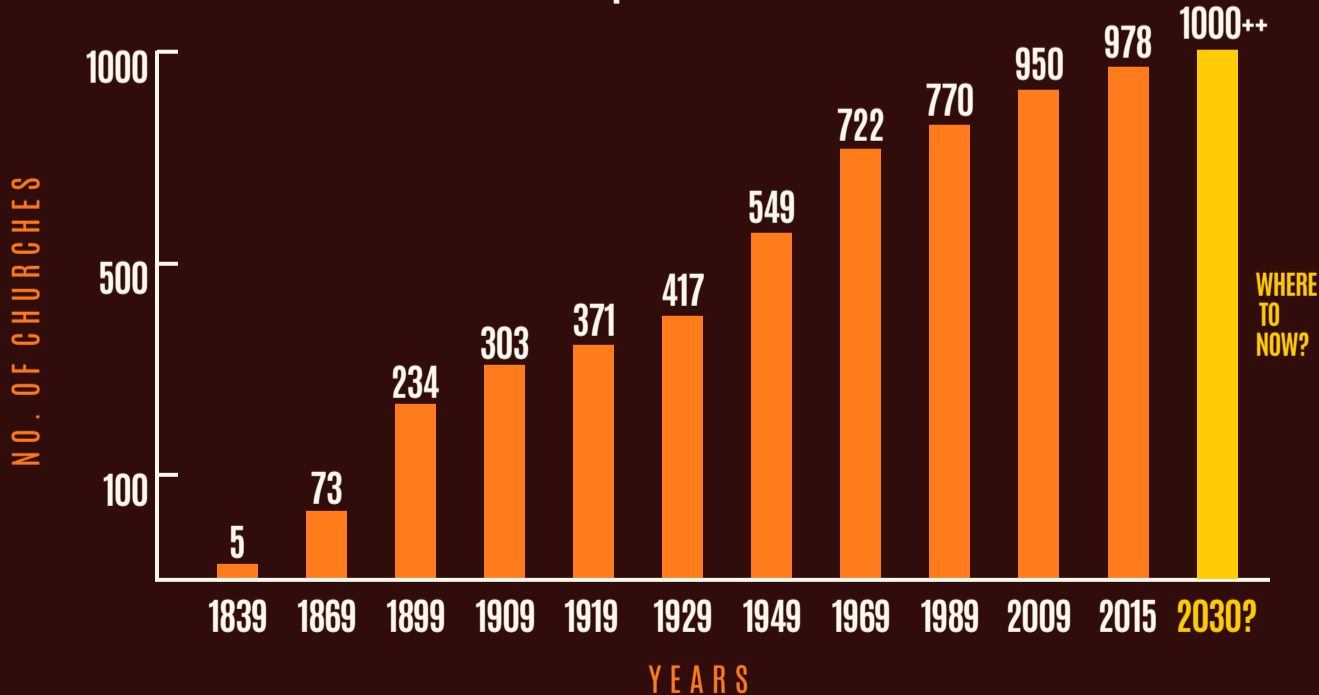
1. Christology the emphasis on personal commitment to faith – the Lordship of Jesus as expressed in baptism ensures that Baptists are highly committed. 63% of Baptists are at church once a month, compared with just 20% of Uniting, and 9% of Anglicans.

2. Ecclesiology flexibility due to the emphasis on the local church; flexibility to try different things, to be innovative, to adapt to the needs and interests of the local people; and be flexible in finding the right leadership for the local congregation.

3. Hospitality more importantly and recently, Baptists have been hospitable to people of all races and all backgrounds. Migrant communities have made a huge difference over the years. The number of Baptist immigrants in the last decade 2001-2011 was 42,000, which is equivalent to all Baptist immigrants in previous 30 years from 1971-2000. Baptists have made great efforts to accommodate them. They have been a major source of our growth ... and we have provided them a home.



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.