

## VIDEO 3

# MISSION



We know who we follow, and we understand who we are as a community. Now we turn our attention to the task we've been called to. As followers of Jesus, we are invited into his mission of making disciples... who make disciples, **extending God's Kingdom**. This is our core business and our reason for being.

This mission has been part of our DNA since the very beginning of our movement. The early Baptists didn't assume that people were automatically Christians by birth, and they responded to Jesus' command to be his witnesses, **extending to others the invitation** for a personal relationship with Jesus.

Historically, one of the initial reasons that Baptists worked together was the desire to coordinate and be effective in their mission efforts. In the 1700s, an impoverished English shoemaker, William Carey, inspired like-minded people to work together to establish the first Baptist Mission Society. Here in Australia, five single women, all in their 20s, banded together to go to East Bengal. This unlikely group stimulated Baptists to work together, and as a movement, our cross-cultural mission enterprise began...

This part of our story reminds us that **mission is our priority**, not just maintenance of our organisations and structures. We seek to be those who continue to work together to see the gospel proclaimed to the whole world.

We believe that the message of Jesus and his kingdom's reign is good news for everyone. We want to both speak and live out this good news. This must include love and advocacy for the marginalised and vulnerable, reflecting **God's heart for justice and mercy**. We long to see God's kingdom come and God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Baptists believe that each local church is best placed to practice mission within its local community, as it seeks to understand its context and share the good news in word and deed within that setting.

This means we practice contextualisation in our mission, demonstrated by our cross-cultural mission teams who seek to empower communities to find their own **distinctive way of following Jesus**. We can adopt a learning posture towards our own culture, seeking to understand it well so that we might share the gospel in ways that make sense within our particular context.

Because of this, we know that our expressions of mission will look different in different places and different times, but we hold fast to our core value of making Jesus known in everything we say and do, seeing **lives transformed by him**.