



BFSnews

January 2015

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GoodNews story



Welcome

to the January 2015 edition of BFS News

“And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: “Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”

And he replied:

“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”

(From God Knows by Minnie Louise Haskins)

I'm sure, like me, many of you grew up with the above quote. My mother recited it often and it's ringing in my ears in this little pause as Graeme Mitchell retires, and we are about to start a new era with our new CEO, David Slinn.

Thank you to all our loyal BFS supporters. We look forward to our 31st year.

Beryl Notias
Operations and
Loans Manager

Campbelltown Arabic Baptist Church

Operations and Loans Manager, Beryl Notias, was excited recently to have the honour of cutting the ribbon to officially open the newly renovated former warehouse property now the Campbelltown Arabic Baptist Church. Beryl shared with the congregation how moved that she had been by the sacrificial giving by the church people. She recalled a particular time when the church had requested a further loan of \$50,000 to fulfil council requirements to complete the renovation. A week later she was told that the loan wasn't needed after all as the brothers and sisters had been informed of the need and given the required funds!

During the service Pastor Henry Azer shared some of the church story: “I just would like to tell you how it all started....”

I arrived in Sydney in November 1987 and there was no Arabic meeting in Campbelltown and I needed to drive at least 45 minutes to attend one. At the time I had a neighbour and as we got to know each other I found that he was a Christian believer. He invited

me to attend his church - an Iraqi church in Randwick. I said to him “Are we just going to live on just one service - one meal - all week just on a Sunday? Why don't we start a meeting here with my family and yours during the week?”

“He took my hand and together we walked that land – up and down, back and forth, praying.”

This was the nucleus of how this church began. The Lord has expanded us as others came to join us. The home started to become a little bit too crowded and we decided to look for a church where we could meet. We found a church and the first official meeting for the Souls Salvation Assembly Campbelltown was in April 1991. The first

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We offer a range of financial services for Churches, Congregations and Christian Organisations

- Savings and cheque accounts
- Internet account access and BPAY
- BFS Visa Prepaid Cards
- Online savings accounts
- Term investments
- iGive online secure offerings

A delegated body of Australian Baptist Ministries.

ABN 56 002 861 789 | AFSL 311062



**Baptist
Financial
Services**

Baptist Financial Services

The continuing story from 2007

A new Strategic Plan 2008-2011 resulted in revised BFS Core Statements clarifying: Our Purpose, Our Vision and Our Values. The focus was on capital management, and growing relationships with stakeholders whilst seeking Baptists & Baptist organisations to identify with the values of our ministry.

The global financial crisis (GFC) hit late in 2008 and lending by many financial institutions virtually ceased. Over the following 1-2 years, BIF saw funds grow by over 4% pa, enabling lending to many Churches and Christian organisations to be maintained and grow.

In 2010 BIF became a Delegated Body of BUA, and thereby, an Australian Baptist Ministry. This recognition led to a number of significant changes including a change of name to Baptist Financial Services Australia Ltd; new logo; and new website. Also that year, the Sydney office was relocated from Glebe to Epping.

BFS Prepaid Visa Card was launched in 2011 and, in February 2013, BFS Visa Prepaid PayCard for exempt FBT benefits with an ATO ruling.

In 2011 BFS began sponsorship of the Treasurer's & GST Guides to assist Treasurers/Administrators in local congregations. In 2012, the electronic offerings service was re-launched as 'iGive', a secure online offerings facility.

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.

Over the past 30 years the Directors and staff have changed, but God has been faithful in providing the people with the necessary skills, experience and abilities to lead and grow BFS and to take His ministry forward.

This article has been condensed from the booklet "Celebrating 30 Years 1984-2014". A copy is available to any interested person without charge, through a BFS Office (Ph: 1300 650 542 or Email: clients@bfs.org.au). †

“Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

I say to myself,

“The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.”

Lamentations 3:22-24



'I gave through iGive'

iGive a ministry of BFS

In April 2013 BFS introduced the iGive system to offer our churches a convenient way of accepting offerings from members of their congregations, and for all costs to be sponsored by BFS.

This is consistent with a key value of BFS which is "To Support Local Churches".

If your church is not participating yet, please consider registering for iGive.

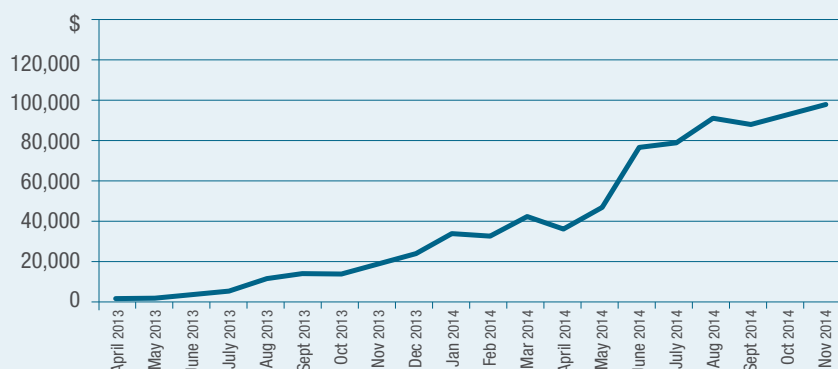
Some of the advantages for the church are

- Offerings can be accepted by credit or debit cards.
- No merchant facility necessary
- Simplified accounting for the Treasurer/Administrator
- Encouraging regular giving
- Minimising cash handling responsibilities for church officers

Advantages for the giver

- Manage your own giving
- Your personal information is confidential
- No fees and charges payable by the church or the giver
- Symbolic offering cards for your active participation in worship

iGive Monthly Giving April 2013 to November 2014



It's great to see iGive grow as more churches participate - 70% of this giving is via Credit Card and the remainder by Direct Debit from Financial Institution account. †

Go to www.bfs.org.au and follow "secure online offering" or call BFS on 1300 650 542 to be part of this picture.

Introducing.....

Our new CEO

David Slinn

David is married to Alison and they have 3 children, William, Victoria and Edward.

David was born in Armidale NSW and after the family spent 12 months in London where he started school the family settled in Sydney when he was six. From that time he has attended Gordon Baptist Church (formerly Pymble Baptist Church) and was baptised and became a member of the church at the age of 17. At 21 he was elected as a deacon of the Church and he has also served in various leadership roles at various times, including as a youth leader, Sunday School Teacher, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary and Chair of church meetings.

After completing the double degrees, Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Law at the University of NSW, David joined the Chartered Accounting firm, Coopers & Lybrand, in 1986.

1989 was a big year for David – he gained his professional Chartered Accountancy qualifications; married Alison and re-located to the London office. Here he specialised in corporate taxation and advising large companies with multinational operations as well as specialised insurance and financial services companies.

In 1993 he joined Midland Bank plc as part of the merged HSBC Banking Group as an investment banker in a financial engineering role working at the bank's London trading floor which covered foreign exchange, money market, government & corporate bond and derivative activities. In 1995 David successfully gained a further qualification with a Masters of Laws from Kings College, London University.

David and Alison attended the Winchmore Hill Baptist Church in London from 1989 to 1996, a church that had originally been established in the reformation times as part of the early Baptist movement. David served there as a deacon, Chair of the Diaconate and became a member of the church's

preaching team. He was also a member of the London Baptist Property Trust Board.

In 1996 David and Alison returned to Australia with their first 2 children William and Victoria. David was relocated as the Australian representative of the HSBC Capital Markets Global Structured Finance Group. Based in Sydney, his focus was on both Australasian and Asia related transactions. This role included major infrastructure financings as well as raising capital and finance for banks and insurance companies.

Since August 1998 David has been the CEO of DEM (Aust) Pty Limited, a multidisciplinary design consultancy group involved in a

David is excited to take up this new role and to lead Baptist Financial Services into the next phase

broad range of design and development consultancy services including, architecture, landscape architecture, interior design, planning & project management. David also served as the Treasurer of the NSW Branch of the Association of Consulting Architects from 2000 to 2010 as well as a number of industry taskforces liaising with government.

Somehow David has always found time for extra-curricular activities. In university days he: co-ordinated a pilot program for legal education for inner city secondary schools; was research assistant attached to the Redfern Legal Centre; represented UNSW at the Australasian Law Students Association and International Jessip Moot Competition; Co-Produced the Law Student Revue in 1984 & 1985; was on the University Ski Team; and directed a range of Crusader holiday camps and youth activities.



More recently, he has been more focused on his children's activities and has been involved as the Treasurer at both St Ives and Barker Rugby Clubs as well as a soccer coach, Scouts and skiing activities. David has been a co-organiser of the catering for the Blackmores Sydney Marathon Running Festival for the last 6 years raising funds to support Scouting and participated in a 2 week trip to help the development of Scouting in Vanuatu in 2009.

Apart from a significant involvement in the local church David has shown a keenness to serve at a denominational level and has advised a number of churches in property or financial related issues. He has been a member of the NSW & ACT Baptist Union Finance Board (now Finance Committee) and Insurance Board, originally joining those boards in 1987, and took up the Chair of the Finance Committee in 2010. David has also served as a member of the NSW & ACT Baptist Churches Assembly Council.

David joined the Board of Baptist Investments & Finance in 2007 and was appointed Chairman in November 2008. David has been a member of all the Board's sub committees including the Assets and Liabilities Committee, Audit Risk and Compliance Committee, Due Diligence Committee and HR Committee.

David is excited to take up this new role and to lead Baptist Financial Services into the next phase of its history building on the wonderful achievements of the former CEO, Graeme Mitchell who served the organisation so capably for nearly 14 years. †

“ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all his people – the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven...”

Colossians 1:3-5a



GoodNews story Campbelltown Arabic Baptist Church continued from page 1

Since the service a church leader shared the following story to explain the amazing giving by the church people:

In our culture it is the custom for women to keep some money in a shape of gold or diamond until she dies – to cover her funeral costs. (This is the same as Jewish ladies keeping very expensive perfumes – like Mary who poured it out over Jesus feet.)

One lady, about 60 years old, donated her valuable gold and jewels to the Church building needs. It would be normal for a woman not to give up her treasure even if her only son was in need. But the Lord Jesus Christ was more precious for her than anything in the world. Disregarding what will happen to her body when she will die – for her Jesus came first!

This lady is unemployed with no sources of support or money, but she trusted the Lord.

This very strong message preached without words by this lady inspired the church and many increased their home loans to give.

revival meeting we had in the Souls Salvation Assembly was in 1992. Subsequently we started to have more blessing and more meetings and we felt that eventually we would need our own meeting place because more and more people started attending. As the Souls Salvation Assembly was a non-denominational meeting we could not celebrate the Lord's Supper or Baptism. This led to the opening of the Arabic Baptist church in July 1993. From then we started thinking about how we were going to have our own building. In 2006 we started looking at the prices around us, loans, and how much the members of the congregation were able to contribute and we found it was too difficult for us.

Everything just stopped until 2009 when a brother Pastor came to minister to us and he encouraged us and gave us the first donation towards the church building. We started collecting donations from the members of our church so we might have a deposit for a place. After looking at so many places in so many areas we eventually found this place here in 2012. This used to

be a kitchen factory and we started working on it and the Lord has helped us through.

In 2013 the same Brother came again to visit us and he had a look at this place and he looked at that land next to us and he said "This land will be yours!" I said "How could that be possible we've too many loans - too much money to pay." He took my hand and together we walked that land – up and down, back and forth, praying. At the end of that prayer he gave me the first donation for that block of land and in 2013 we actually bought that land.

It's the Lords blessing – when I think about it – how could a small group of people have been able to purchase this place and renovate it and also purchase the land beside it. If anyone ever came and asked me about the amount that now we've borrowed, and we're paying, before we started, I would not have agreed – I would not have allowed it. We thank the Lord that we have never been in arrears in our payments – every time a payment is due the money just pours in and we bless the Lord for that. “



New Projects enabled by your support of BFS

Crossway Lifecare Ltd	VIC	Construct new Counselling Centre
Copper Coast Baptist Church	SA	Purchase Property
Aldgate Baptist Church	VIC	Building Renovations
Lakes Baptist Church	NSW	Building Repairs
Baptist Camping Victoria	VIC	Purchase resort property
New Vine Baptist Church	NSW	Church development projects
Parkerville Baptist Church	WA	Building additions

“ Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.

For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities.”

Isaiah 54:2-3



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