



BaptistCare Stories

BaptistCare is transforming lives for seniors and those living with disadvantage across NSW and ACT. Here are some stories of the work we do, and how you can pray for our staff, organisation and customers.

STORY	PRAYER POINTS
AT HOME At 89, Betty's mind is still sharp, but a series of health issues meant living alone at home was difficult. Betty wanted to stay in her home, so BaptistCare At Home arranged for home modifications, cleaning and shopping support. Betty now enjoys life and says the changes to her home have made a big difference. "I've got lights everywhere now, and phones with large numbers in every room so I don't have to hurry. They're just little things, but they're important to me," said Betty.	Please pray: Pray for our elderly community members, particularly as they have heightened concerns about remaining COVID-19 free. Pray for the health and safety, both for our staff and customers and that as our staff visit customers, our elderly will feel valued and supported.
RESIDENTIAL SERVICES Harriett celebrated her 100th birthday in May at BaptistCare Orana Centre on the Central Coast. The staff hosted a party for Harriett with her fellow residents, decorating the dining room and serving cake. Harriet always thanks people for stopping to talk to her, and is grateful for God's many blessings in her life. She says "I have so much to be thankful for."	Please pray for: Staff, residents and their families, as they all seek to maintain meaningful connections in an environment of extra precautions, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our staff, who continue to deliver care to the highest possible standards and give of themselves tirelessly, during these challenging times.

RETIREMENT LIVING & COMMUNITY HOUSING

The Willandra Village in Macquarie Park hosted a Village Art Competition and Exhibition during COVID-19 to stop the residents feeling isolated. The tenants participated enthusiastically, entering their artworks in one, two or even three categories including photography, creative writing, quilting, colouring and craft.

The village tenants enjoyed it so much that it has become an annual event.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

When the BaptistCare HopeStreet team first met Natalie* she hadn't showered in a week, she was homeless, and living in a broken-down car with her abusive partner. The team came alongside Natalie to connect her with services for housing, household items and caseworker support.

"When you're in a place where you have no hope and you've hit rock bottom, it's important to have people around you," said Natalie about the BaptistCare HopeStreet team.

Please pray:

For a strengthening of community life in our villages and community housing - that there will be a shared sense of belonging and wellbeing.

For the new residents moving in to the final stage of Gracewood (Kellyville) and the newly completed Social & Affordable Housing units at two Sydney sites - Five Dock and Elderslie.

Please pray:

Pray for both our HopeStreet and Family Services teams as they seek to support and empower families impacted by Domestic and Family Violence.

Pray for people accessing our HopeStreet centres, that they will find renewed hope, friendship and experience a sense of God's deep love for them personally.



Collaboration Stories

BaptistCare partners with churches across NSW and ACT to help churches transform their local communities. Here are some stories of how we partner with churches and organisations, and how you can pray for our churches and partnerships.

STORY	PRAYER POINTS
CHAPLAINCY BaptistCare partners with churches and organisations to provide Community Chaplains in regions like Dubbo, Central Coast and Lismore. Our chaplains work with disadvantaged or isolated groups in the community (e.g. boarding houses), and provide emotional and spiritual support. Many of these connections are enhanced by Church volunteers joining the Chaplain, by hosting morning tea's or a BBQ at those locations.	Please pray: Please pray for the strengthening of these joint initiatives, so that lives will be transformed through the love of Christ being shown in very practical ways. Please pray for our seven Civil Chaplains working in prisons and hospitals, as they minister to the emotional and spiritual needs on behalf of the Baptist Denomination.
AGED CARE Churches partner with our aged care homes across NSW and the ACT, to provide Sunday services for the residents. Other churches host BaptistCare staff meetings, so that the mobile work force can meet at a central location.	Please pray: This has been a challenging year given restrictions on visitors to residential homes; so pray for wisdom for the timing of the safe return of these teams and the Chaplains who have found other creative solutions to providing these much needed and loved services.
VOLUNTEERS Churches provide volunteers to assist with our Pastoral Care program in places like Pennant Hills, Springwood and many other locations. Volunteers provide additional 1-1 pastoral support, particularly to those who are isolated or have few visitors.	Please pray: Praise God for the 155 pastoral care volunteers and for their vital support. Pray that together with Churches, we can extend this ministry out to many more people.

<h2>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</h2> <p>We support churches developing or enhancing their community engagement strategies through Connect Grants. Recent examples include West Ryde and Cootamundra Baptist.</p>	<p>Please pray:</p> <p>Thank God for the many churches serving the community, especially those that have initiated additional supports to those impacted by COVID-19. Pray that in these times, both churches and BaptistCare will reveal Christ's love.</p>
<h2>SHARED RESOURCES</h2> <p>We provide resources and training to churches in areas of pastoral care, navigating the aged care system and specific seminars related to communication, relationships and family safety.</p> <p>Churches provide office space for our staff/services on church property in regions like Wagga Wagga, Canberra, Dubbo, Wallsend and Grafton.</p>	<p>Please pray:</p> <p>For expanded opportunities to work together so that we can by word, sign and deed display God's goodness, love and mercy.</p> <p>Pray that we will see lives transformed, as together we seek God's Kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven.</p>
<h2>DENOMINATIONAL ENGAGEMENT</h2> <p>We support denominational activities such as partnering with the Baptist Churches of NSW/ACT in their events and the recent bushfire appeal.</p>	<p>Please pray:</p> <p>Please pray for those still suffering the impact of the devastating fires last summer. Also for Baptist Churches on the South Coast, Riverina & lower Blue Mountains still supporting their communities impacted by the fires.</p>

If you would like more information on any of our collaborative partnerships, please contact Trevor Wight twight@baptistcare.org.au