



Baptist Union
of Victoria

Your Gift in Will

Your legacy to advance
God's kingdom





Who we are

The Baptist Union of Victoria is a culturally diverse union of Baptist churches, communities of faith, agencies, and affiliates. Mission is at the heart of our Baptist faith – from local communities, right through to cross cultural mission.

Our Vision

Our vision is to be a union of flourishing churches with Christlike followers that redeems society

Our Mission

Our mission at the BUV Support Hub is to encourage, equip and empower our local churches to advance God's kingdom

Our Union

Our union is made up of over 250 communities of faith, ranging from traditional churches to new and innovative forms

Although churches operate autonomously, Baptists believe that as a Union, we are better 'Together on Mission'

As such, our BUV Support Hub is staffed and structured to support and equip local church leaders for mission

Our Union also includes 10 agencies and affiliates serving churches in secondary and tertiary theological education, financial and insurance services, aged care services, recreation services (camping), international aid and cross cultural mission

A lasting legacy – To advance God's kingdom

We all desire to see God's kingdom increase and that's why our vision at the Baptist Union of Victoria (BUV) is **to be a union of flourishing churches with Christlike followers that redeems society.**



Rev. Daniel Bullock
Director of
Mission and
Ministries

I'd love to see an expression of church in every corner of Victoria. That's why Baptists, in addition to operating traditional churches, continue to actively cultivate creative and thriving missional initiatives in non-traditional places and spaces – through the operation of cafes, community gardens, foodbanks, play centres, workplace training centres etc. All these different expressions of God's love impact the lives and hearts of many and make a difference in the communities in which we all live and work.

I want to thank you for considering a Gift in your Will. By providing this gift, you will be partnering in our vision to see flourishing churches, leaders, and communities. Your gift, no matter its size, will leave an important legacy, echoing across the boundaries of generation and culture. It will help ensure that innovative measures continue to give access to the good news of Jesus Christ throughout our State, from country Victoria, to new housing developments in outer suburbs, to high density housing blocks in inner-city Melbourne. It will help to see that expression of church in every corner of Victoria.

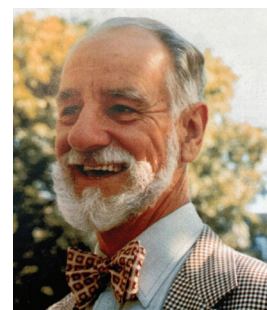
Through your generosity, you will join with many others who have been a part of God's plan for the church in this State for nearly two centuries, with the ongoing hope of transforming society. This is a legacy I desire – will you join with me?



"Only the living can praise you as I do today. Each generation tells of your faithfulness to the next."
— Isaiah 38:19

A will at work – Basil's ongoing legacy

"I will be forever grateful for Uncle Basil and his brothers and the example they have given us. It is now up to us to continue the journey that they began." — Basil's great niece



Basil Swanton

Basil Swanton lived a very simple life committed to saving his wealth for the work of missions and other organisations. This commitment to the kingdom of God and to church mission was remarkable. His niece reflects, "I realised that this unique man thought heaters were not a necessity, hot water services were wasteful and repairing upholstery or having highly polished furniture were not on the list of priorities."

Basil lived a generous life creating memories and stories wherever he went. He might just appear in the highlands of Ukarumpa in New Guinea or at a Belgrave Heights convention! He would often be found at events with his sleeves rolled up doing the dishes, whether it be a church function or a family luncheon. "Wherever he was, there was a throng around him listening to his stories..."

Basil's stories continue to be created, long after his passing. His bequest continues to play a significant role in the BUV's mission to see the kingdom of God flourish in all areas across Victoria, from the inner-city suburbs to the new housing estates.

He was described as someone whose 'presence made a difference to a situation'. Through his generosity, his presence will continue to make a difference for many years to come.

Thanks to Basil Swanton's generous donation, the BUV Support Hub has been able to continue church planting and community development projects in the growth corridors of Melbourne. New housing developments are not allowing for traditional places of religion in their estates and without new and innovative formats and partnerships, communities of faith will not be present in these areas. Thanks to Basil, the residents of these estates will now have a faith presence in their communities.

Our Story

- Together on Mission



1837
First Baptist church services in Victoria



1888
Victorian Baptist Fund to support Baptist work and training of ministers is established



1945
Strathalan Home for the Aged opens (marks beginning of Baptcare)



1905
Baptist Insurance begins



1945
Baptist Camping begins



1978
First woman ordained; Baptist Social Justice Group begins

1959
Baptist World Aid begins



1990
Baptist Financial Services begins

Baptcare

2008 -
Baptcare expands facilities in Vic/Tas, and establishes "Sanctuary" for asylum seekers and registers Affordable Housing Inc.

2020
BUV Support Hub plays key role in assisting churches and leaders through bushfire relief efforts and the global pandemic

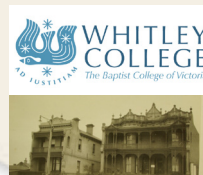
1870
Australian Baptist Missionary Society established (now Global Interaction)



1923 - 1947
Baptist Grammar Schools open (Carey, Strathcona, Kilvington)



1891
Baptist College of Victoria begins (now known as Whitley Theological College)



1948
BUV begins work among 'New Australians' (migrants)



1962
BUV forms New Settlers Association for migrant churches

1985-2000s
BUV embarks on church planting in growth corridors

1997
BUV apologizes to Australia's First Peoples



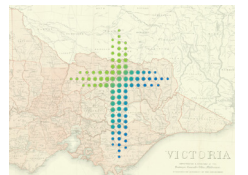
2004
The Refugee Airfare and Assistance Loan Scheme is created

2012
BUV celebrates 150th Anniversary

The Future

- New church plants •
- New leaders •
- Community Placemakers •
- Innovative community approaches •

"For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and His faithfulness continues to each generation." — Psalm 100:5



A cornerstone for a life of faith

“Throughout her life, my mother was a generous giver of both time and resources.” — Robert Iles



Mrs Jean Iles

“My parents, William and Lillian Beasley, moved from North Fitzroy to Ivanhoe in January 1923 when I was just a baby. Thus commenced a long, close family association with the Ivanhoe Baptist Church. Despite attending other churches during my married life, I have always felt a Baptist at heart!” — Mrs Jean Iles.

Having had foundations of faith established by a strong Baptist church community, Mrs Jean Iles lived a full life that she attributed to these early beginnings. From the church’s annual year highlights, baptism at 14 years of age, service through the years of WW2, she then went on to meet her husband who she married in 1945 at Ivanhoe Baptist Church. They enjoyed 64½ years of marriage.

Jean lived at Hedley Sutton Aged Home (Baptcare) for the last ten years of her life. She was delighted to have returned to her Baptist roots in this way and consequently left a Gift in her Will to the Baptist Union of Victoria.

No matter what size the donation, each Gift in Will can have a lasting impact. Jean Iles’ donation is being used in the training and equipping of a group of young culturally diverse emerging leaders from our EMERGE programme facilitated by BUV Pastoral Coach, Rev Dr Bill Brown. These leaders will be the next generation of leaders in Baptist churches, missional initiatives, and communities across our state.



*“Now I say this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,
and the one who sows generously will also reap generously.
Each one must do just as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly
or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”
— 2 Corinthians 9:6-7*

How will my gift be used?

Thank you for prayerfully considering a gift in your Will.

Your gift will be used to:

- Resource new church plants
- Train church planters
- Deploy pioneers and community Placemakers
- Train young emerging leaders
- Initiate innovative community approaches

Our commitment to you

In order to fulfil our vision of flourishing churches with Christlike followers redeeming society, we commit to:

Lead

... innovative missional work in established and new communities throughout Victoria

Develop

... tomorrow's leaders through mentoring and programmes

Build

... new communities of faith

Support

... pastors and leaders with all aspects of ongoing church life

Sustain

... the network of over 250 churches throughout Victoria

Proclaim

... the Good News of Jesus Christ through creative communication

Types of Gifts in Wills

There are several ways to leave a Gift in Will to BUV. It is important to have considered others in this process, particularly family, loved ones and your own local church. Here are some of the main types of Gifts in Wills:

Percentage

This is where you leave a percentage of your overall estate. Because it is not a specific amount, it is not influenced by inflation and maintains its value over time.

Residuary

This is where you leave what is left in your estate after all specific gifts are made and all estate debts and expenses are met. Because it is not a specific amount, a Residuary Bequest maintains its value over time, regardless of any economic changes.

Specific Gift

This is a gift of a specific item of value such as artwork, shares, a home, furniture, gifted for a specific purpose or to generate funds. (If a specific purpose were to be stated, it would be important to consult to ensure that it will be of benefit).

Pecuniary

A Pecuniary Gift is a gift of a set dollar amount determined at the time of writing the Will.

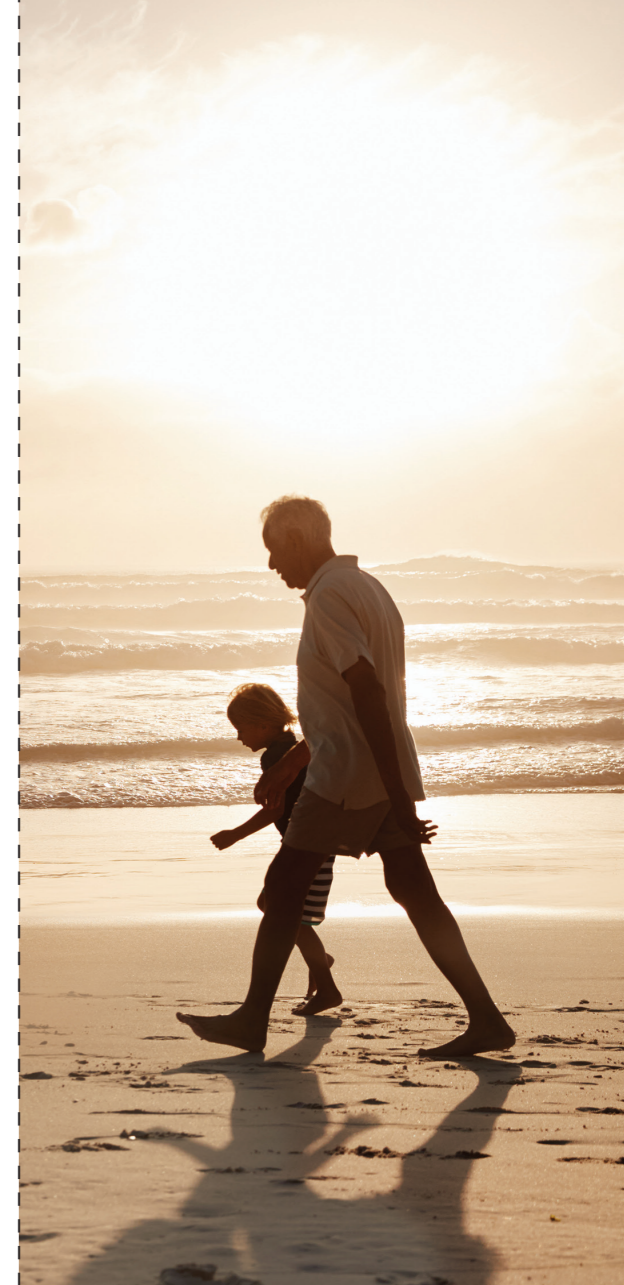
Frequently asked questions

How do I write a Will?

We suggest you seek legal advice when writing a Will. This ensures the wording is correct and that it is legally sound. We can talk this through with you and point you in the right direction to those who can assist at a generously reduced price. It is important to have considered others in this process, particularly family, loved ones and your own local church. A current and valid Will ensures you pass your assets on to those you love and care for. This means it is important for it to be well considered and up-to-date.

If I include the BUV in my Will do I need to let them know?

This is your personal choice. By letting us know of your bequest you will be helping us to better plan for the future. We would also appreciate the opportunity to connect you with our work of advancing God's kingdom on an ongoing basis and to thank you for the legacy that you will leave. Or, you may wish to remain anonymous. Whatever you decide, we are **'Together on Mission'**!



Yes. Please tell me more about how I can partner with the BUV through a gift in my Will.

Contact Details*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____

Postcode: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Church: _____

**Personal information will be treated with the strictest confidence in line with the BUV Privacy Policy.*

Please complete and detach the form, then return to:

PRIVATE and CONFIDENTIAL
Attn: Partnership Development Pastor
Baptist Union of Victoria
PO Box 377
Hawthorn VIC 3122

We have provided a Reply Paid envelope for your convenience.



*"Let this be written for a future generation,
that a people not yet created may praise
the Lord." — Psalm 102:18*

For any further information, including how to leave a Gift in your Will,
please contact us at:
give@buv.com.au or call 03 9880 6100
or write to:
Baptist Union of Victoria,
PO Box 377 Hawthorn VIC 3122

buv.com.au/give

