



Barnabas Ministries Inc
Soul Care
for the Journey

BARNABAS MINISTRIES INC

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016



Annual Report from the Chair



Barnabas Ministries Vision

People and communities encouraged and nourished to participate wholeheartedly in God's transforming life in the world.

Barnabas Ministries Mission

Barnabas Ministries embodies the mission of Jesus by promoting transformation, nurturing spiritual leadership, and is a catalyst for spiritual vitality in Australia

Barnabas Ministries' role includes:

Providing an ongoing spiritual formation resource by educating about and providing spiritual direction and supervision

Developing and implementing processes for training spiritual directors, retreat leaders and supervisors

Providing opportunities for spiritual formation and deepening through retreats and workshops

Sponsoring, solely or in partnership with others, one-off events, both local and national, which nurture spirituality in Australia.

Another year has come and gone for Barnabas Ministries Inc. It has been an exciting year full of the suite of programs we offer and encounters of spiritual vitality with many people across Australia.

Barnabas Ministries Director, Sue Dunbar, continues to be the key person in the programs offered. Sue's insightful leadership and willingness to journey with people is a huge blessing to all of us. I want to thank Sue for all her efforts and the way in which she brings her flair and imagination to invite us all into the journey of discovery of God in our lives. Sue's Director's report details the extent of the work of Barnabas Ministries Inc.

The main highlights this year for Barnabas Ministries Inc. have been the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Tabor College of Higher Education to offer recognition of prior learning for credit towards a Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction on completion of the Listen into Life Program offered through Barnabas Ministries. This now offers a pathway for any who seek formal academic qualifications in the area of Spiritual Direction and is an exciting move forward.

The Listen Into Life, Soul Companions, Mt Isa Training, Retreats & Quiet Days, Spiritual Direction & Supervision are all points of engagement for people exploring transformational and nurturing spiritual leadership. These programs continue to receive very positive feedback and encouragement from the participants. For more particulars about each of these programs see Sue Dunbar's report.

Barnabas Ministries Inc. would like to thank the Session Clerk: Sue Hogan, the Session, Board of Management, minister, staff and parishioners of the Presbyterian Church of St Andrew, Canberra, who generously provide us with office space in which the ministry is based.

Barnabas Ministries Inc. Committee

The Barnabas Ministries Inc. (BMI) Committee has experienced some change in membership this year with a committee of 9 people. Welcome to the committee Ms. Janet Kay and Ms. Kylie Burgess who have made a tremendous contribution this year.

The committee consists of:

Lay Pastor Geoff Wellington (Chair), Ms. Sue Dunbar (Director), Mr. Doug Smith (Deputy Chair), Mrs. Mandy Cox (Secretary), Mrs. Amanda MacKinnell (Treasurer), Mr. Stan Sismey (Public Officer), Ms. Kate Scholl, Ms. Kylie Burgess and Ms. Janet Kay.

Thank you to all members of the Committee who have given much time and creative energy during the past year. I particularly want to thank The Right Reverend Dr. Stephen Pickard who has resigned from the committee during the year and Mandy Cox who resigns at this AGM.

Our Goals and objectives 2015-2020

Barnabas Ministries is a small organisation that achieves significant impact and national reach with limited resources and with substantial reliance on donations, goodwill, volunteers and in-kind and other support from other organisations.

Barnabas Ministries has set its self three main goals along with objectives to continue to live out the mission and vision of wholeheartedly participating in God's transforming life in the world.

Goal 1: An effective and sustainable organisation

Goal 1 Objectives

To achieve this goal, Barnabas Ministries will focus on the following specific objectives.

- 1.1 Secure financial sustainability through increased donations, sponsorship and other funding sources, including new sources of funding.*
- 1.2 Ensure that programs and operations are supported with appropriate resources, including administrative support.*
- 1.3 Strengthen the governance of the organisation through the role and focus of the Barnabas Ministries Committee.*

The Barnabas Ministries committee wants to offer much thanks to our regular and one off donors without whose support Barnabas Ministries Inc. would find it very difficult to continue in its work.

Donations as a percentage of the income received remains low and places some stress on the long-term goal of financial sustainability. The committee continues to explore ways of increasing donations and sponsorship but this is proving to be a difficult task. A new possibility in this area seems to be opening for 2017 and we will continue to explore all possibilities.

Thank you once again to all who have so faithfully supported Barnabas Ministries Inc. in this last year and we look forward to your ongoing support.

Another area that has received much attention this year has been how Barnabas Ministries supports graduates of its programs. The Committee recognised that while Barnabas Ministries is not an accreditation body, graduating students need to be supported to access the professional support offered by the broader spiritual direction community. Future graduates will receive information outlining the professional expectations of spiritual directors, some support in accessing this and the programs will provide the first year's membership to ANSD.

We want to thank Janet Kay who volunteers time, as she is able, to give administrative support to Sue. This is an invaluable support and the committee has appreciated having Janet's skills and wisdom as a committee member.

Clear understanding and working arrangements for the oversight role of the BMI Committee in relation to the Listen Into Life program are now in place. Thanks also to Kylie Burgess for updating course documentation and process, its amazing how quickly things become out dated and in need of a change.

Thank you to Amanda MacKinnell for her hard work at keeping the finances in order. A copy of the financial report 2015/16 is part of this report.

Goal 2: Stronger engagement with stakeholders

Goal 2 Objective

To achieve this goal, Barnabas Ministries will focus on the following specific objective.

2.1 Develop and implement a stakeholder relationship engagement framework that identifies Barnabas Ministries' key stakeholders, common interests and stakeholder management and communication strategies.

The main area of focus in this goal in 2015/16 has been the establishment of the Memorandum of Understanding with Tabor College of Higher Education and the Listen into Life program (see above for details). Conversations with the Canberra Region Presbytery of the Uniting Church in Australia and other key "church" stakeholders have yet to progress and will provide for a focus in 2016/17. One other success in this area has been the joint Good Friday prayer walk event with Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture.

Goal 3: A diverse range of relevant and contemporary programs

Goal 3 Objectives

To achieve this goal, Barnabas Ministries will focus on the following specific objectives.

- 3.1 Ensure the quality and relevance of Barnabas Ministries' program offerings.*
- 3.2 Identify and develop additional capacity to support the delivery of programs.*
- 3.3 Respond to opportunities for specific events, collaborations and partnerships, nationally and internationally, that can support Barnabas Ministries' mission.*

In 2015 Barnabas Ministries Inc sponsored a visit by Lucy Abbott Tucker. Lucy lives and works in Chicago, USA and is internationally recognized as a leader in the field of spiritual direction and supervision. In this way Barnabas Ministries supports the wider spiritual direction community in Australia. For further details, see the Director's report.

BMI continues to offer a wide range of programs, training opportunities and capacity building for people and communities who seek to be encouraged and nourished to participate wholeheartedly in God's transforming life in the world.

These include:

Listen Into Life:

Soul Companions:

Mt Isa Training:

Retreats & Quiet Days:

Spiritual Direction & Supervision:

In 2017 BMI plans to add another program to its repertoire, Soul Space a formation program for Retreat Leaders

I commend the work of Barnabas Ministries Inc. and may you be people and communities who are encouraged and nourished to participate wholeheartedly in God's transforming life in the world.



Geoff Wellington
Chair Barnabas Ministries Inc.

Director's Report

Significant Events

Visit by Lucy Abbott Tucker

During August 2015, Barnabas Ministries sponsored another visit by Lucy Abbott Tucker. Several events in different cities were offered to provide soul care for the journey.

Melbourne Supervision Workshop



A four-day professional development workshop on supervision was offered for practicing spiritual directors in Melbourne. Twenty-eight people attended from various parts of Australia. This was a wonderful event with excellent feedback. Here's few comments:

"One of the best spiritual direction experiences I've had in 16 years."

"I found the experience nourishing, informative and opened me to more."

"The workshop has been good for me in terms of connecting with a group and learning more of the breadth of supervision and spiritual direction."

"One of the great things ... was learning in the company of such experienced and skilled supervisors and spiritual directors."



Canberra Focusing Workshop

This one day workshop "Focusing: A Way to Growth", attracted thirty people from Sydney and Canberra region who are involved in spiritual direction or pastoral care.

Again excellent feedback.



"Another very important day for my learning and growing. Lucy is a master and guide in teaching and giving many insights for the journey."

"Appreciated the clarity and interest of the presentation – whetted my appetite for more."

"I found this insightful, challenging and helpful."

"A very wonderful day exploring Focusing which has been a dream for many years."

Teaching in Training Programs

Lucy gave the main presentations in both the "Listen into Life" and Soul Companions spiritual direction training programs during August on the "Process of Transformation". She also presented on supervision at the "Listen into Life" program. Both team members and participants were highly appreciative of the material that Lucy presented as well as her warm personality.



It is wonderful to be able to offer participants such a rich experience, with an international presenter, during the course of the training. It adds more value to our already well regarded programs.

Credit towards Graduate Diploma

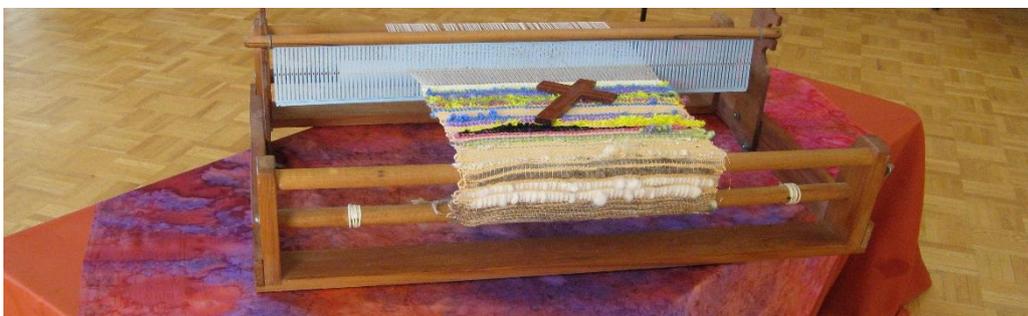
Barnabas Ministries has been in discussions with Tabor College in Adelaide. Tabor offers a Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction. We now have a MOU with Tabor College, which offers participants who have successfully completed the “Listen into Life” program a fifty percent credit towards Tabor’s Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction. “Listen into Life” graduates receive credit for their practicum work and so can complete the remaining subjects in the Grad Dip online with fee help. This represents other opportunity for “Listen into Life” graduates to complete further study and receive an academic qualification if they so desire.

The Barnabas Ministries Committee and the team of the “Listen into Life” program are proud of this achievement and believe it further demonstrates the high standard of training offered in our programs. The Committee also intends to negotiate a similar MOU with Tabor for the Soul Companions program.

Good Friday Contemplative Walk for Justice and Peace

Barnabas Ministries partnered with the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture in preparing and organising the Good Friday prayer walk around the Parliamentary Triangle. This year about 50 people from different denominations both participated and led the various prayer stations. The walk culminated at the foundation stone in front of Parliament House where, as evening descended, we each lit a candle as a symbol of hope for the world. In light of the many challenges our country faces, we believe our small and fragile statement has the power to effect change.

Regular Activities



I am now moving into my sixth year as director of Barnabas Ministries Inc. Each year has provided its own gifts and challenges, weaving together to shape the ethos of Barnabas Ministries and the ways in which we provide soul care for the journey. What has emerged is a greater emphasis on training and equipping others so that this small ministry has a ripple out effect that embraces and impacts many more people. It is a privilege to be involved in this exciting adventure.

Following is a summary of the major elements of my ministry in 2015-16.

Training and Formation

I feel a strong call to grow the ministry of spiritual direction through training others in this ministry. It is a privilege to train and inspire others in this work. In last year’s annual report, I covered these programs in some detail. Here’s just a brief outline of the training programs offered by Barnabas Ministries.

- **“Listen into Life”** Four-year residential program in spiritual direction training, four weekend per year. I am director of this program, which currently has 30 participants and 11 program team. We operate on a four year rolling cycle with an intake each February.
- **“Soul Journey Companions”** –Three-year program based in Canberra consisting of 8 Friday/Saturdays for 2 years and the intern year. Our second cohort began with 11 and has reduced to 8. We are now midway through the second year of training.
- **Mount Isa Spiritual Companions Program** This is a four-year program with 4 workshops per year run in Mount Isa at the invitation of the Good Shepherd Roman Catholic parish. We are well into the program and unfortunately a number of people have left. We now have 3 participants and 4 local mentors. We also open the main sessions to other members of the parish.

I receive many notes of appreciation related to this ministry. Here is one reflection from a presenter who came to the Mount Isa program.

“Thank you for the contemplative prayer and contemplative stance you bring to your little community at Mount Isa. It has been a joy to meet you and to see and experience the “unfolding of the bud” you facilitate with such sensitivity and skill.”

Individual Direction and Supervision



Although there have been some changes over the year, I am delighted to report that as of June 30, 2016, 14 people come to me for spiritual direction and 8 people for supervision of ministry plus I supervise 11 people in the three training programs. It is a privilege to journey with people in this way.

Other Ministry

Barnabas Ministries has offered a number of retreats, quiet days and workshops to various groups. This is a wonderful opportunity to provide “soul care for the journey”. These included:

- **Weekend Enneagram retreat** for Bundeena House Community, September 25-27, 2015
- **Kaltara retreat** for Mid North Coast UCA Presbytery Oct 28-30, 2015
- **Oasis Retreat** for individual minister led by Ross Kingham, April 10-13, 2016
- **Professional development workshop** for the **“Listen into Life”** team members, April 24-27, 2016.

Thank you to all those who regularly support Barnabas Ministries. Your generosity in giving of your time, money and prayers, sustains our ministry physically, emotionally and spiritually. Please continue to remember us from time to time in your prayers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue Dunbar'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sue Dunbar
Director