

**edwardstownbaptistchurch**

*Ministry*

**UPDATES  
2025**

LIVING GOD'S STORY TOGETHER

# MINISTRY UPDATES

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Dear Friend,

In your hands, you hold many stories. Each ministry area outlined in this report has witnessed thousands of conversations, thousands of prayers, and numerous acts of generosity. What you have here is a brief overview of the many wonderful things that God has done in our midst, and a testament to the faithfulness of our dedicated volunteers.

We pray to our heavenly Father that He would accept our ministry service as worship to Him, as a blessing to others, and as a heartfelt expression of our gratitude for what Jesus has done for us.

To you, our faithful partners in ministry, THANK YOU!  
We wouldn't be EBC without you.

Sincerely yours,

Dale Green

Lead Pastor, EBC

## **CREATIVE MINISTRIES – Damian Larcombe**

The purpose of Creative Ministries is to lead our EBC worshipping community in expressing love and devotion to God—on Sundays and whenever opportunities arise during the week. Our team includes musicians, sound, lighting, and video technicians of all ages who work together to create meaningful worship experiences.

The Creative Ministries Team supports the vision of the church and encourages the use of creative expression in worship. We aim to honour God not only through music, but through every technical and artistic element that shapes our worship gatherings.

Some highlights from the past year include our Christmas and Easter services, which were joyful and reflective times of celebration. A standout moment was our Next Gen Service, led by our Youth Band. This service showcased the passion, talent, and potential of our emerging worship leaders, and it was a powerful expression of multi-generational worship.

Looking ahead, we are excited by the prospect of starting a Monday Worship Night. This space will give team members a chance to deepen their faith, explore the heart of worship, and develop their skills as musicians and worship facilitators.

### **Please pray for:**

- Greater commitment among team members to their personal faith journey and spiritual disciplines, including worship
- Continued growth and skill development, especially for younger and emerging musicians
- Inspiration and unity as we seek to write our own ‘home-grown’ worship songs for Sunday services

## **YOUTH – Sarah Wilson**

EBC Youth exists to help high schoolers meet Jesus and grow in their faith—all while having a seriously good time on Friday nights. We run weekly hangouts full of fun, worship, teaching, and real conversations about life and faith. Our incredible youth team shows up every week to lead, disciple, and just do life with our teens.

This past year has been full of moments worth celebrating—two baptisms, heaps of recommitments at Easter Camp, and Sarah Wilson stepping in as our new Youth Director! God has been moving powerfully in our young people, and we're excited for what's ahead.

Looking forward, our heart is to see deeper spiritual growth, stronger connections between youth and leaders, and more volunteers stepping up to serve.

### **Please pray for:**

- More youth leaders to join and serve alongside our team
- Deeper spiritual connections between our young people and God
- Strong, trusting relationships between youth and leaders
- God's continued favour as He keeps showing up and changing lives

## **YOUNG ADULTS – Sarah Wilson**

Our Young Adults Ministry is all about helping 18–30ish-year-olds live out what it really means to follow Jesus in this season of life. We meet fortnightly for Bible studies, gather monthly for Word & Worship (Canvas and Clay), and enjoy relaxed monthly social hangouts.

Led by Sarah, Damian, and Kirstin, this past year has brought some great changes: we launched a regular Bible study, moved Canvas and Clay to a new venue, and started Sunday Suppers. A special thank you to Annette Henning, who has generously catered many of our events!

As we continue to grow, our focus is on building a strong, supportive community where lasting friendships and spiritual maturity can flourish.

### **Please pray for:**

- God's guidance as we shape the future of this ministry
- Deep and lasting friendships among our young adults
- Opportunities to disciple and equip this generation for lifelong faith
- Wisdom and clarity in how best to reach and impact young adults

## **GROW KIDS – Dan McGee**

Grow Kids Ministry exists to partner with families in the discipleship of their children. Our vision is to see kids grow in wonder, know Jesus, and show His love to all people.

Our main focus is our Sunday morning program, where kids enjoy a Christ-centred, age-appropriate experience that's fun, engaging, and rooted in faith. The ministry is made up of a Ministry Leader, Core Team, Team Leaders, Team Members, Welcome Team, and Curriculum and Decorations Team. In the past, we've also run an Additional Needs Team and a Family Discipleship Team. Both were valuable parts of our ministry, but due to a shortage of volunteers, we've had to pause them. Our hope is to relaunch both as soon as we are able.

This year has brought some exciting milestones. After breaking the 100-kids-per-week mark last year, we're now averaging just over 100 kids each Sunday in 2025. We've also seen the completion of our new playgrounds and outdoor areas. These have been a wonderful addition to our facilities—welcoming spaces where families gather after services and kids can play and connect.

Looking forward, we're focusing on training up new Team Leaders and finding passionate people to help relaunch the Additional Needs and Family Discipleship Teams. These are vital components of our ministry, and we want them thriving before we shift our focus outward to engage more with our wider community. We've also been encouraged to see teens getting baptised—young people who began their faith journey through Grow Kids and EB Kidz. It's an incredible encouragement for our teams and families to know that the seeds sown early are bearing fruit.

### **Please pray for:**

- Gratitude to God for the provision of the playground and the spiritual and numerical growth we are seeing
- Passionate leaders to step into key roles and use the gifts God has given them
- Wisdom and strength as we seek to relaunch our Additional Needs and Family Discipleship teams

### **GLOBAL MISSIONS – David Turnbull**

The Global Missions Team exists to support and care for the missionaries we partner with and to help the church grow in its awareness and involvement in God's global mission. Our work includes providing pastoral care to missionaries, educating our church about global mission issues, encouraging prayer and giving, and overseeing the missions budget and Heartbeat of Hope.

Our current team includes David Turnbull (Chair), James McCracken, Janine Sporne, Julian Sporne, and Luzcel Camacho. Over the past year, we've had the privilege of training, sending, and supporting a short-term mission team to Southeast Asia in October 2024. They partnered with Garry and Haniar, providing valuable help and encouragement. We also hosted mission-focused lunches with Phil and Robyn, Garry and Haniar, and James and Samantha. Another major event was Missions Month, held from 15 September to 20 October, which helped us renew our focus and commitment to global outreach.

Looking ahead, we want to continue raising the profile of our missionaries within the life of EBC—through Sunday services, prayer nights, and events. We also hope to bring a global perspective into our life groups and ministries, while building stronger connections between our church and the missionaries we support.

**Please pray for:**

- New team members to join the Global Missions Team
- Our 20 adult missionaries and 12 children, that they would be wise, effective, and spiritually nourished
- Ongoing prayer and financial support from the EBC community
- A powerful and inspiring Missions Month this October, and for new global workers to be raised up

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY – Yasmin Potts & Liz Loveday**

The Women's Ministry at EBC continues to be a place of connection, encouragement, and support for women of all ages and stages. We've met regularly throughout the year, with most months including a CCC (Coffee, Connection, and Conversation) gathering on either a Friday evening or Saturday morning. These events have featured a variety of speakers—some sharing personal testimonies, others speaking about their ministry or mission work. Prayer remains a significant and valued part of our time together.

We've also hosted a TTT Evening (Tea, Talk, and Testimonies) late in 2024, and a half-day retreat featuring Melinda Cousins as our speaker. It was wonderful to be joined by women from sister churches for this event, which was a rich time of teaching and fellowship. This year we also introduced cooking days, giving women a chance to connect in the kitchen as they prepared food for church events and cooked meals to support those in need.

Communication and support continue throughout the week via our EBC Women's WhatsApp group, where we share prayer needs, encouragement, and details about upcoming events. If you'd like to be part of that group, please don't hesitate to reach out.

If you're a woman looking to get more involved, serve, or simply connect more deeply, we'd love to hear from you.

### **EBC Ladies Bible Study – Anne Jusaitis**

Our Ladies Bible Study exists to help women grow in their faith and draw closer to God through the study of His Word. We warmly welcome any woman who has a hunger for God, offering a supportive environment to learn from the Bible and from one another.

We use the Australian KYB (Know Your Bible) curriculum, which includes questions and Scripture passages for personal study during the week. On Thursdays, we gather to discuss what we've learned. Even if someone hasn't had time to complete the questions, they're always welcome to join. During school holidays, we usually meet for coffee and fellowship.

We currently have about 10 women in the group, with 6–8 attending regularly. This past year we've grown both spiritually and relationally. In Term 1, we studied the Tabernacle and experienced powerful 'light bulb' moments as God revealed His truth. Many of us have faced personal trials, and the prayer, encouragement, and support we receive from one another has been a true blessing. We've seen answers to prayer and God's timing unfold in miraculous ways.

Looking ahead, we're thankful for the KYB leaders' guides, which are proving especially helpful as assistant leaders step in when needed. As God leads, we may explore the possibility of expanding into two Thursday morning groups, depending on availability of leaders and interest from new women.

**Please pray for:**

- Ongoing connection and spiritual growth among the women of EBC
- Women who are new to the church to feel welcomed, supported, and included
- Continued creativity and energy for our events and gatherings
- More leaders for the Bible study, if expansion is needed

## **MEN'S MINISTRY – David Reedman**

Our Men's Ministry is focused on connecting men—both within and outside our church community—and encouraging them to grow in their relationships with one another and with God. We create opportunities for connection and spiritual growth through quarterly men's breakfasts, monthly fellowship dinners and ministry nights, and our annual men's retreat.

Spending time together in these spaces allows us to form new friendships, support one another, and grow in our faith. As we become more like Christ, we're also being equipped to lead well in our own lives, marriages, and families. Two highlights from the past year include our first Men's Retreat in May 2024 at Yankalilla, and the two combined men's and women's dinners—beautiful moments of shared fellowship and ministry from God's Word.

Looking ahead, we're excited about and committed to reaching more men across the generations, both inside and beyond our church walls. Our hope is that through these connections, we might have opportunities to share the gospel with those who don't yet know Jesus.

### **Please pray for:**

- A deeper knowledge of Christ for the men in our community
- Spiritual transformation and growth in the lives of the men at EBC
- Boldness and wisdom as we share the gospel through this ministry

## HOSPITALITY – Liz Loveday & Judy Nowak

Food continues to be a powerful way of connecting people, especially in a large and diverse church like EBC. Throughout the past year, we've had a faithful team who have sourced ingredients and prepared cheese toasties for most Sunday services. However, this has become increasingly difficult due to the rising cost of supplies and the limited access we now have to donated bread.

As a result, we're transitioning to a "purchase on the day" model for our Sunday morning food. Morning tea-style options will still be available most weeks for purchase. From time to time, we will also have luncheon-style meals available as part of fundraising efforts. If you're interested in running a fundraiser lunch, please contact the office.

Our joint morning teas with the Chinese Church have been a great opportunity to foster connections. Now that those relationships are more established, we'll be moving to a once-per-term rhythm for these shared events.

We're incredibly grateful for the faithful group of people who provide catering for funerals. This is a deeply valuable ministry, offering comfort and practical support to grieving families. Additionally, catering teams have supported a range of events throughout the year, including men's and women's gatherings, retreats, Alpha courses, and more.

There are many roles in this ministry—shopping, cooking, serving, and cleaning—and we're always looking for more hands. If you'd like to get involved, even in a small way, we'd love to help you find a spot where you can serve.

### **Please pray for:**

- Continued provision and creativity as we adapt to new food service models
- Strength and encouragement for our volunteers
- New people to step into this ministry and help carry the load

### **RESTORATIVE GARDEN – Alan Millhouse**

The Restorative Garden is a peaceful space designed to offer friendship, healing, and community to people who are walking through difficult seasons. While the garden initially focused on supporting people from refugee backgrounds who have experienced trauma, it has become a place of rest and restoration for individuals facing all kinds of life challenges.

Each term, we run various activities in the garden such as cooking sessions and working bees. We also gather for occasional barbecues at people's homes and work together on gardening projects at participants' houses. When there's a surplus, we provide fresh herbs and vegetables to Gwen's Pantry.

The garden is sustained by the generosity of volunteers—many from different churches—and through the sale of honey from our two beehives. We're also supported by Across Ministries. Above all, we acknowledge that God, our Father, is the head gardener. It is our prayer that this space continues to grow in impact and bear fruit for His glory.

## **Please pray for:**

- Healing and restoration for those who come to the garden
- Continued provision for the garden and its volunteers
- Ongoing impact as a space where people experience God's peace and presence

## **GRUMPIES – Neil Berry**

Let me begin by emphasizing that God is at the centre of the Grumpies Ministry.

Grumpies is part of the Australian Men's Shed Association and plays a valuable role in today's society by fostering connection and support among men. The Grumpies Blokes Shed at Edwardstown Baptist Church primarily serves retired men aged 60 to 90, offering a space for meaningful friendships and conversations that are grounded in the Christian gospel.

This past year brought some real encouragement. Through a connection on the Men's Shed website, we were unexpectedly gifted a twin-cab, 6-cylinder Nissan ute—an incredible blessing! We also continue to serve as a drop-off point for old tools. This has allowed us to donate around \$8,000 worth of quality second-hand tools and power tools to a ministry that ships them to Africa. It's a joy to know that what's being given to us is blessing others across the world.

Looking forward, we're praying that more men will find their way to the Shed, seeking support and connection. We also want to extend our thanks to the leadership teams who keep things running so well:

**Wednesday team:** Neil Berry, Colin Warn, Boyce Vogel

**Thursday team:** Phil Loveday, Trevor Sharpe, David Reedman

**Please pray for:**

- More men to be drawn to the Shed and find support and friendship
- God's continued guidance as we share His love through practical service

### **LITTLE LEAVES PLAYGROUP – Dan McGee**

Little Leaves Playgroup exists as a bridge between our local community and young families at EBC. Our vision focuses on three key goals:

1. Helping families connect while children play and have fun
2. Creating space for younger parents to learn from more experienced ones
3. Building genuine relationships that can lead to Gospel conversations

Some weeks we've had a great turnout, with valuable conversations taking place between parents and carers. This year we added a craft organiser and two new helpers from the local community to assist with set-up—an improvement that's strengthened our program. However, we did have to cancel one session due to a lack of volunteers. LLP still needs an occasional helper for set-up, and we're

hoping to involve more experienced parents willing to share their wisdom with younger families.

We're grateful for the amazing facilities God has provided through EBC—the indoor playground, Grow Kids rooms, toys, gym, coffee machine, and new outdoor areas have all helped create a welcoming space.

We long for the day someone from our Playgroup community steps into a relationship with Jesus. In the meantime, we'll keep showing up with good company, conversation, and coffee.

**Please pray for:**

- Creative and effective ways to engage with our community
- Opportunities to build deep relationships and share the Gospel
- More EBC members to get involved and support this vital outreach

**ENGLISH CONVERSATIONS – Jeanette Noolan**

English Conversations meets every Thursday during school terms from 5:30–7:00pm in the Youth Centre. Our goal is to offer a relaxed, friendly space where people from our local community can come and practice conversational English. Everything we do is motivated by the love of Jesus, but we take a non-proselytising approach—faith is welcomed when it naturally comes up in conversation, especially around cultural topics, but everyone is welcome to join, regardless of their beliefs.

Because of this inclusive approach, we've been able to promote English Conversations in local schools and community centres like St Mary's. This has helped us connect with new participants—some even came along after spotting one of our flyers!

Our sessions are casual and conversation-based, suitable for all levels of English. We use simple materials to spark discussion—no formal worksheets. We believe everyone is learning: some are improving their English, while others are discovering new cultures and perspectives. At the end of each session, we take a moment to go around the group and share one thing we've learned.

Right now, our group includes a large number of Spanish-speaking beginners, as well as students from China and Indonesia—many of whom are Muslim. Some have been coming for over 18 months, and just recently, we welcomed four new learners!

We also run special sessions for Christmas and Easter, where we explain the stories behind these holidays. This Easter, one of our fluent speakers even shared their personal testimony, which was warmly received. These moments help us gently show the heart of the Christian faith while also explaining parts of Australian culture.

One of the biggest highlights has been the friendships forming in and outside the group. Some participants now meet socially beyond our sessions. Many have told us how welcoming and well-organised the group feels—some have even called it “the best English class in Adelaide” they've attended.

### **Please pray for:**

- More fluent English speakers to join the team
- Opportunities to share God's love in meaningful, understandable ways
- Deeper connections and increased awareness of the program in our community

### **LEISURE FELLOWSHIP – Doug and Sandy Castle**

Leisure Fellowship is a ministry for retired individuals—both from EBC and the wider community. Attendance typically ranges from 25 to 40 people. At the heart of the ministry is fellowship, providing a space to connect and express God's love to one another.

Each gathering includes a short devotion and a hymn or worship song, followed by an engaging guest speaker and a relaxed afternoon tea. Our speakers come from both within EBC and the broader community. A standout moment this year was hearing from Amanda Tuohy of Sanctuary Gallery in Hahndorf, who shared how she uses art as a ministry. We also appreciated hearing personal faith stories from EBC staff—Eliud, Yasmin, and Paul—who offered deep insights into their lives and walks with the Lord.

We're pleased to share that the Leisure Fellowship program is scheduled through to May 2026, thanks to the wealth of people willing to share their stories and wisdom.

## **Please pray for:**

- Growing friendships that offer support in hard times and joy in the good
- New retirees to join and be welcomed into this community of fellowship

## **PASTORAL MINISTRIES – Paul Hunter**

### **Inspire - Lea Berry**

Inspire runs every Tuesday morning with Lea Berry and is open to anyone in the community. For just \$5, attendees enjoy a two-course meal (lunch and dessert), fun activities like quizzes, games, and bingo, and plenty of meaningful conversation. We begin each session in prayer and have seen God move powerfully—several attendees have even been baptised in recent years. Many come with different abilities and are supported by carers. Inspire continues to be a joyful and welcoming space, drawing 50–60 people each week.

### **Café Craft - Helen Bowman**

Our Thursday morning Craft Group continues to grow. It's a mix of church and non-church women gathering for craft, coffee, cake, and connection. Each week we hold a "show and tell" to highlight everyone's creative work, followed by a short devotion during our "Think Spot" at 10:30am. It's a space of creativity, joy, and encouragement.

## **Gwen's Pantry – Gwen Spiero**

The purpose of Gwen's Pantry is to provide food assistance and create a warm, welcoming atmosphere—offering not only practical help but also a listening ear to those in need. This ministry serves our local community with the heart of Jesus at the centre.

Gwen coordinates regular food deliveries from SecondBite and OzHarvest, who collect surplus groceries from local supermarkets. Gwen's Pantry also receives a monthly donation of food supplies from the Lions Club of Marion, for which the team is incredibly grateful.

One of the highlights from the past year was when a group of ladies from the church came together to create hampers. These were distributed to families in need, and the response was one of deep appreciation. Another special moment was when Gwen and the team visited the OzHarvest store in Hindmarsh. It was a valuable learning experience, sparking new ideas that they hope to trial in the future.

Although Gwen had originally planned to retire this year, that plan has shifted. She is now sharing the role with Jacinta , alternating weeks since June—a change that has been working well for both.

Looking ahead, Gwen's hope is that food supplies will continue to increase so that no one is ever turned away. She also desires more time to engage in deeper conversations with those who visit, offering not just food but encouragement and care.

## **Seek And Save Op Shop – Raelene Hull**

Seek and Save has been operating for over three years, and in that time, we've seen God use it in powerful ways. It's not just a shop—it's

a ministry that connects people, forms lasting friendships, and creates space for God's love to be shared in everyday moments.

We've prayed with people, comforted those in hardship, and celebrated joyful times. We've also provided free clothing to those in need. Many community members have heard the Gospel simply by stepping through our doors. A regular visitor recently said, "Coming to the op shop is the highlight of my week. You talk to me, laugh with me, cry with me, and never judge me."

On top of the ministry impact, we've raised funds to support Gwen's Pantry.

### **Meals Ministry – Samantha McCracken**

The EBC Meals Ministry has been running for two years and has proven to be a vital support for people experiencing illness, hospitalisation, or other challenges. A wonderful team of volunteers, led by Samantha McCracken, prepares and delivers home-cooked meals to those in need. I (Paul Hunter) act as the main contact and coordinator for referrals.

This quiet but powerful ministry continues to show Christ's love in practical ways and reminds people they are not alone.

### **Please pray for:**

- A consistent food supply so we never have to turn anyone away
- Opportunities to have deeper conversations with those we serve
- Volunteers to join and support the current team, young and old welcome.

- God's continued favour and provision for these essential ministries

## **LIGHT Community – Steph & Tim Reedman**

LIGHT Community is a ministry created to support Christian Foster Carers, Kinship Carers, and their families. Our heart is to create safe and welcoming spaces where these families can connect with one another, be encouraged in their journeys, and strengthened in their faith. Caring for vulnerable children can be both a beautiful and challenging calling, and so we aim to walk alongside each other in both practical and spiritual ways. We host monthly Saturday morning teas where families can gather and share life together. In addition, we facilitate monthly dessert nights for the mums and monthly dinners for the dads.

We're incredibly thankful for the hands-on help we receive on Saturday mornings from members of our church community. We are also thankful for a small group of people who have come alongside us as a support team.

A highlight from this past year has been watching God at work in the lives of families within our community. We have seven families involved who don't currently have a relationship with Jesus, but who are deeply committed to being part of the community and living out the values we share. They are hungry for connection and willing to explore faith through our devotional times, honest conversations, and prayer. We praise God for the seeds being planted and for the opportunity to love and support each of these families.

Looking ahead, we'd love to host some information nights focused on topics relevant to foster care, approached through the lens of the gospel. We also hope to facilitate family retreats or fun days that allow families to build deeper relationships within their own households and with others in the LIGHT community.

**Please pray for:**

- The families with single mums. Please pray that our community can provide strong father figures to mentor, support, and love the children in these families.
- Direction and guidance for us as we grow in number. We pray for strength, increased capacity, and grace to care for all our families.
- The families going through court to determine case direction for their children in care. Please pray that the Department for Child Protection would remain child-focused and that God would strengthen our families as they walk through these difficult spaces.

**House of Refuge – Vera Crane**

House of Refuge is a ministry supported and facilitated by Love Australia, in affiliation with Love Life America—the original initiators of the House of Refuge movement. Edwardstown Baptist Church has partnered with Love Australia in its mission to unite and mobilise the Church to create a culture of love and life, with the goal of making abortion unthinkable.

House of Refuge exists to support those facing unplanned or crisis pregnancies, guide individuals hurting from past abortions toward healing, and advocate for the protection of the unborn within our

community. Over the past year, we've begun the training process and have been equipping ourselves with the knowledge and tools needed to make a meaningful impact.

Our hope for the coming year is to welcome more people into the ministry—a place where they can encounter God's love and grace. We long to see lives transformed: babies saved, women who have experienced abortion find healing, and hearts restored through the hope and forgiveness found in Christ.

**Please pray for:**

- For more people to step up and get involved, especially as mentors
- For God's protection and guidance over the ministry

**VENTURE OF LOVE – Lyn McKnight & Elizabeth Pearse**

Venture of Love exists to create clothing and bless those in need—both locally and around the world. We aim to serve anyone who crosses our path, and we do so through a variety of partnerships and projects.

Currently, we're working with OAC to send clothing to a tribal group in the Philippines, where the tribe requires appropriate attire to access education, as requested by their government. We also provide fillers for Operation Christmas Child boxes through Samaritan's Purse, and send clothing through Containers of Hope—primarily to African nations, but also to other regions where needs arise. Locally, we support Anglicare with clothing for families in need, and we sew clothing, mittens, beanies, and more for premature babies at the Women's and Children's Hospital.

We're incredibly grateful for our talented team of volunteers—skilled seamstresses who generously use their gifts to bless others. Venture of Love has also become a hub for crafty people across different disciplines, including knitting and quilting. We've seen new connections form between groups, and the spirit of collaboration has been a real joy. Just recently, one volunteer made over 100 scrunchies, and we've sewn more than 100 backpacks ready for distribution. This year, we are celebrating our 210th project—a testament to God's faithfulness and the generosity of our volunteers. We truly are blessed to be a blessing.

Looking ahead, our hope is simply to continue this ministry for as long as possible. Our volunteers give so much of their time and energy to this work, and we couldn't do it without them.

**Please pray for:**

- The health and strength of our volunteers, many of whom are elderly
- Provision of a solution—such as a chair lift—for those who struggle with stairs but want to participate
- Continued opportunities to meet needs both locally and globally, and to reflect God's love in all we do

**FUTSAL – Nas**

The Futsal Ministry exists to build community and share the good news of Jesus through the common language of sport. Our goal is to connect people from outside the church with those inside it by

creating a space where friendships can grow naturally—through games, activities, and shared moments rather than formal preaching.

This ministry especially serves those who may have limited family or social networks, offering them a place to belong, connect, and be part of a supportive community. We run soccer matches for both children and adults, creating opportunities for families to engage together.

We've been encouraged to see people from all sorts of backgrounds—Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, and others—join us. The focus is on building genuine relationships, fostering a culture of inclusion, and offering a sense of belonging to everyone, no matter where they're from.

Some highlights from this past year include seeing several families visit during our Good Friday service and others who first came through Futsal now attending EBC regularly. Even more significantly, we've witnessed people come to faith through this ministry, and we give all glory to God for those moments.

**Please pray for:**

- More volunteers with a heart for sports, connection, and community
- Continued opportunities to share God's love through relationships
- Wisdom and vision as we build a welcoming space for all who come

## **STRONGER TOGETHER WOMEN'S FITNESS GROUP – Alyssa Ackland**

The Stronger Together Women's Fitness Group exists to create a space for women from Edwardstown Baptist Church and the local community to come together and move our bodies! Exercise can be hard when motivation is low—but when we do it together, it becomes something we genuinely look forward to.

Over the past year, we've maintained a steady group of regular attendees. Each week we not only exercise, but we also share our highs and lows, supporting one another through life's ups and downs. This group has become a space to bear each other's burdens—physically, mentally, and emotionally—as we build strength in more ways than one.

Looking ahead, our hope is that this community continues to grow. We know there are many women seeking encouragement, connection, and a healthier lifestyle, and we pray they'll find that here.

### **Please pray for:**

- God to bring along new women who are seeking this kind of community
- Continued encouragement, consistency, and connection within the group
- Physical, emotional, and spiritual strength for each woman who attends

## **SWEAT MEN'S FITNESS – Sam Doecke**

SWEAT Men's Fitness exists to strengthen men physically, spiritually, and mentally. It's designed to be a space where men from all walks of life—including those not connected to church—can explore holistic health and begin engaging with the spiritual side of life. Open to adult men of all ages, SWEAT meets weekly on Thursday nights at 7:30pm in the Youth Centre.

Each session begins with a warm-up, followed by a 20–25 minute workout designed by personal trainer Brad Strydom. We then gather for a 'campfire chat'—a time to discuss the podcast of the week, usually centred around mental health from a Christian perspective. After this, we break into small groups of two or three to share what we're working on—whether physically, spiritually, or mentally—giving one another permission to check in, encourage, and pray. It's a time of genuine support and accountability that often builds deep connections.

A major highlight from this past year has been seeing a few men, previously not connected to church, join SWEAT and thrive in the community. One even described it as the highlight of his week. Both are now attending Alpha, and we're excited to see what God continues to do in their lives. It's been powerful to witness how this group provides a safe space for men to be real, support each other, and grow together.

Looking ahead, our hope is to see more men—especially those who aren't yet Christians—join the group. In the long term, we'd love to create resources so other churches can start their own SWEAT groups, and potentially launch our own podcast aimed at seekers, providing a Christian perspective without assuming a Christian background.

**Please pray for:**

- More leaders to join the SWEAT team
- More men—especially those outside the church—to come along
- Wisdom for the leadership team as they consider future resources and direction