

Glasshouse Country Baptist Church Profile

November 2024



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Who we are

Beerwah is a growing country town of around 8000 people, in the Sunshine Coast, one hour drive north of Brisbane. It is the regional hub for the Glasshouse Mountains Hinterland towns [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beerwah, Queensland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beerwah,_Queensland). Glasshouse Country Baptist Church (GCBC) has deep roots in the local Beerwah community, starting from 1913, when a small group of believers first gathered to worship together in the local primary school.

From the beginning, we have been part of the Baptist Union of Queensland, united by a shared faith and commitment to serving others. Over the years, we've grown from meeting in modest spaces to becoming a church family with a vision for both spiritual and educational growth.

Vision for a Christian School: In 1993, our leaders went on a retreat to pray and ask God how they could reach the community for Jesus. At the end the leaders came away with a vision to establish a Christian school right here in Beerwah. They wanted the school to be a shining light to the community and be one that honoured God in all that it did. Back then

Beerwah was a small country community, so the dream seemed a little crazy to some. There was no Woolworths or Aldi and IGA was just a tiny store. Where were all the students to come from? But God gave them Psalm 78 to follow. In it, the psalmist instructs the Israelites to tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord his power, and the wonders he has done (v4). This should be done so the next generation will put their trust in God and not forget his deeds like their ancestors, a stubborn and rebellious generation whose hearts were not loyal to God. (v7-8).

Vision Realised: A few miracles later (see <https://glasshouse.qld.edu.au/beerwah-history> for the back story!), we were blessed with the means to purchase property on Roberts Road. Though it required selling our original church property, this move reflected the unity and purpose within our congregation—always willing to put God’s plan first. For a time, we held Sunday services in rented spaces, while an army of volunteers from the congregation and from Mobile Mission Maintenance built the first demountable classroom of the new school.



Figure 1 Clearing the land, 1998



Figure 2 Building the first demountable classroom, 1999

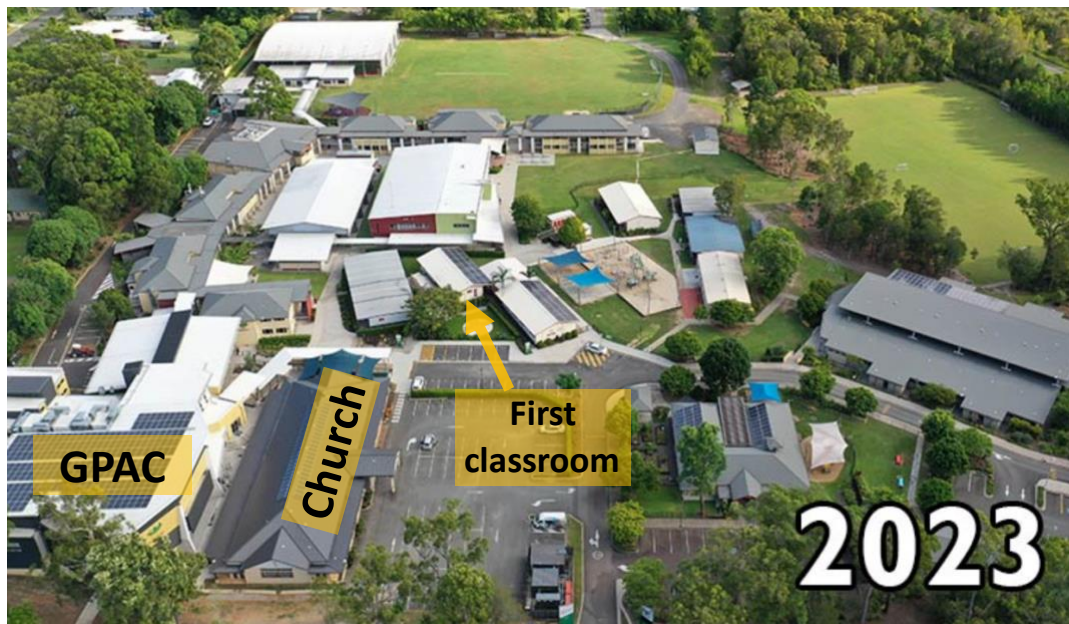
Glasshouse Christian College (GCC) opened in 2000 with 16 students and a small but passionate group of staff. God’s provision was very evident in the early days when money was limited, and by 2003 God led us to complete a new 200-seat church building on the same property, reuniting our church with a physical home.

The school has now been operating for 24 years. It has grown from its humble beginnings of 16 students to over 1100 students, from prep to Grade 12. However, the most exciting part of this ministry is that many of the next generation have come to a saving knowledge of Christ as a result of the schools' ministry.

Our Church Today: As the College continued to grow, it recently built a performing arts centre (GPAC: Glasshouse Performing Arts Centre) on land adjacent to the church, which was earmarked for church building expansion. We now hold our Sunday morning services (140-190 attendees) in GPAC, creating a seamless connection between the church and school communities.



Our original church building remains a vibrant hub for ministry, serving as office space and a gathering place for our prayer meetings, youth programs, craft groups, Kids Church, and Playgroup. More details are available on our church website: <https://gcbcq.org>



Our congregation is a diverse and multigenerational family, welcoming people of all ages and walks of life. Whether you're a parent with young children, a teen in search of belonging, or someone seeking community and spiritual growth later in life, you will find a place here. We are more than just a church—we are a family, committed to supporting one another, sharing life's joys and challenges, and walking together in faith. We currently have around 90 official GCBC members. We endeavour to take the Bible seriously, but appreciate humour and informality as we live life together. Ps Chris Johnson has been our senior pastor for the last 18 years and is now retiring. Throughout his ministry we have enjoyed strong exegetical preaching through both Old Testament and New Testament books, all culminating in Jesus.

Glasshouse Country Baptist Church has always been mission-minded. We have joyfully funded initiatives like the Lisu Bible project in Thailand, helping to fund the translation, printing and re-printing of thousands of Bibles for distribution to communities in need. Our heart for mission extends locally and globally, as we strive to be the hands and feet of Christ, bringing His love to the world.

This is a place where faith, family, and community are woven together, where you can grow, serve, and find your spiritual home.

What we believe

The Statement of Faith of the Baptist Union of Queensland (also known as Queensland Baptists) outlines core beliefs that align with the general principles of Baptist theology. These core beliefs can be found at <https://qb.org.au/beliefs/#Our-Beliefs>.

Where is God Leading?

Mission: Knowing Christ and making him known

As we reflect on our rich history and deep connection with the school and community, we feel God leading Glasshouse Country Baptist Church into a future where we continue to grow in both faith and impact. Our past demonstrates that we have been responsive to God's calling, whether it was establishing Glasshouse Christian College or adapting to new spaces for worship and ministry. Looking ahead, we sense God inviting us to build on these foundations in exciting ways.

1. Contemporary Sunday Morning Service:

- continue our history of strong exegetical preaching focused on Jesus, with helpful real-life applications.
- modernise our church services to better appeal to all ages, including young families and teens (such as GCC families and children).

2. Building on the Strong Partnership with Glasshouse Christian College:

- Youth Pastor Connections with College students, acting as a conduit between church and school.
- The church reaching out to GCC families through activities, groups, events.

3. Expanding Community Outreach:

1. Supporting our current ministries in reaching those they see and minister to.
2. Continuing our strong culture of participating in community events such as ANZAC day, Christmas carols, street fairs.

4. Building a Culture of Discipleship: encouraging people to be a part of home groups and other discipleship groups.

5. Nurturing a Spirit of Unity and Diversity: Our multigenerational congregation is one of our greatest strengths. As we move forward, we feel God is calling us to cultivate an even deeper sense of unity, where every person—regardless of background or age—feels valued, heard, and empowered to contribute to the life of the church.

In all these areas, we trust in God's leading. Just as He has faithfully guided us in the past, we believe He will continue to shape our church's future, using Glasshouse Country Baptist Church to shine His light in our community and beyond.

How we manage membership, governance, communications and finance

Membership

The church is governed on congregational principles through the meetings of its members, generally held quarterly. Membership is open to followers of Jesus who have been baptised by full immersion. Members must also agree with the church constitution, statement of faith, and members' covenant.

Leadership

The leadership team works together to guide the church in fulfilling its vision and purpose. This includes the following roles:

- Senior Pastor – currently the church is searching for a Senior Pastor.
- Youth Pastor – working three days/week for the church and two days as a GCC pastor.
- Elders – the Eldership consists of elected Elders together with the Pastor(s) and is responsible for the spiritual life of the church.
 - The elders are nominated and elected at the church AGM, held in November each year. Once elected, each elder stands for re-election every 2 years.
 - There are currently four elected male Elders.
- Deacons – the Diaconate consists of elected Deacons, Church Secretary, Church Treasurer and Pastor(s), and is responsible for the business and functions of the church.
 - The Deacons (including Church Secretary and Church Treasurer) are nominated and elected at the church AGM, held in November each year. Once elected, each Deacon stands for re-election every 2 years.
 - There are currently seven deacons, comprising both males and females.
- Ministry leaders appointed by the church work alongside the Pastor, Elders and Deacons.
 - Ministry Leaders are nominated and elected at the church AGM, held in November each year. Once elected, each ministry leader stands for re-election each year.

Communications

- Weekly Church Newsletter – Church attendees can be added to the Weekly Newsletter email group. This is distributed by email and contains fellowship news, church information, ministry activities and important communications from Queensland Baptists.
- Prayer Chain – Church attendees can be added to the Prayer Chain email group. Anyone seeking prayer support can ask that their request be emailed out on the Prayer Chain.
- YouTube: Sunday services are streamed live on our YouTube channel: [GCBC Events](#).
- Facebook – the church has a presence on Facebook to promote activities of the church and serve as a sharing platform: <https://www.facebook.com/gcbcq>
- Website – the church has a website with basic information about church service and ministry meeting times, plus videos of previous sermons: <https://gcbcq.org>
- Church Rosters - Email and an app (currently Planning Centre) is used for distributing rosters prepared by the church office.
- Members Email – church members meeting notices and papers are distributed by email as well as being available in printed form.

Finance and staff

- The Church is currently debt free and has the capacity to support a full-time Pastor, part time Youth Pastor (3 days at church + 2 days at GCC) and part time administrator/book keeper (10 hours/week administration and average four hours/week as bookkeeper).

- An up-to-date financial report is tabled by the Treasurer at each Deacon's meeting as well as at quarterly Church Member's Meetings.
- An independent auditor audits the Church financial records at the conclusion of each financial year and the audit report is presented at the following AGM.

Current Ministries

Prayer Meetings

- Our main prayer meeting is on Wednesday mornings, 6.30am in the Ministry Centre.
- Those involved in Sunday church service gather for pre-service prayer at 8.50am.

Home Groups

- Small groups are generally an important part of life for attendees at Glasshouse Country Baptist Church. They provide opportunities for fellowship and to share and grow their faith. There are currently about eight home groups meeting weekly. Groups vary in size from a few to about 15 people. Meeting times are spread throughout the week providing good options for people to join a group. The small groups function autonomously and their oversight is the responsibility of the Elders.

Kids Church

- **Kids Church** runs during the sermon time at GCBC. It caters for children aged 3 through to grade 6. A team of about 15 people are rostered to cover 3 separate age group classes. Teaching, craft and games are all part of Kids church.

GCC (Glasshouse Christian College)

- GCC operates independently from the church, with its own principal and leadership team, but is a ministry of the church. This is achieved via a dedicated 'Glasshouse Christian College Company' that is made up of church members who wish to join it. These members appoint people to the College Board, who give direction to the GCC principal and management team. The GCBC senior pastor is an ex-officio member of the College Board to maintain close connection and spiritual accountability between church and school. The college has five pastors who work in the school. Their role is to encourage and mentor students, run chapel meetings and bible studies. The GCC principal, Mike Curtis, is also one of the song leaders and musicians in our church.

Playgroup

- **Happy Hive** meets on Thursday mornings with about 30-40 mums and infants attending from the community. They hear a short gospel reflection, do play activities, and share morning tea.

Youth Group

- **Collision Youth Group** caters for grade 7-12 teens on a Friday night with 30-60 attending, mostly from non-church backgrounds. They get to hear a short gospel

message in a safe, fun environment. There is also a Wednesday night **Youth Bible Study** operating out of the church for those interested in going deeper in their faith.

Aspire Women's Ministry

- Their focus is to help women connect with one another, to grow more deeply in their love of God's word, live out God's mission to make disciples of Jesus.
- From walking groups and book clubs, to clothes swaps and bible studies, they have a range of different events that are perfect for local Christian women of all ages.

Craft Group

- The **Busy Fingers** Craft group meets each Thursday morning in the church.

Music Team

- We are blessed with about six worship leaders and 30-50 singers and musicians who are rostered on to lead Sunday praise times. We usually have drums, bass, guitars, keyboard, and sometimes brass or strings. Our music groups often help out at community events such as ANZAC day, street fairs and Christmas events.

Pastoral Care

- A team of willing helpers stand ready to support those in need via cooking of Meals, transport, cleaning, and general help. This is done on a needs basis and supports anyone from new parents, to the elderly, to even those outside of the church family if/when the need arises.

Religious Instruction

- We have two volunteer RI teachers who teach in two local state schools each week. They are given an honorarium by the church to support them in this mission.

Supported Missions

Missionary support is overseen by the Missionary Committee. The committee is currently made up of 14 Church members. Their role is to:

- Keep in touch with the missionaries we support.
- Keep the church advised of any needs or specific prayer support required.
- Bring recommendations to the members for potential new missionary support avenues.

Financial support for missions is catered for via separate and designated giving from church members and attendees.

Once a month, we have a 'Mission Spot' as part of our Sunday service. This is a chance for the congregation to hear about a particular mission, or hear from various organisations, or hear from people who are looking to travel overseas and are looking to generate support.

- Currently GCBC support seven local and overseas missionaries.

Helpful Links:

- GCBC church website: <https://gcbcq.org>
- GCBC on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gcbcq>
- YouTube Channel ('GCBC Events'): <https://www.youtube.com/@gbccevents1941>
- GCC school website: <https://glasshouse.qld.edu.au>
- Beerwah town: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beerwah,_Queensland
- GCC school history: <https://glasshouse.qld.edu.au/beerwah-history>

