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S T E P B Y S T E P
ADVANCE
Tasmanian
BAPTISTS



Within the pages of most issues of the regular ADVANCE, we've published a poem written by retired pastor Ray Hawkins. For more about the man behind the inspiration, Ray answers some timely questions.

COVID-19 caught everyone by surprise, including families. Are your Kids Church/Youth leaders up for some free training to help? Read more below for a great opportunity.

Another pandemic outcome is the postponement of the *Pastors' and Families Muster*. Usually held in July, it is re-scheduled until September. However, that means the *Mission Leadership Summit* has been brought forward! In this issue of the **ADVANCE | step by step**, you can catch up with the adjusted dates and programs.

Let's continue to love and serve one another during these uncertain times.
Blessings!

Jenny

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profile:

Ray Hawkins - The Point Christian Fellowship

Ray Hawkins, and wife Mary, attend The Point Christian Fellowship in Beauty Point, on the Tamar River.



Ray retired as Pastor of the Fellowship in 2018, and now his son Craig, and daughter-in-law Rachelle, assist with leadership. Craig and Rachelle run the popular tourist attraction [Seahorse World](#), also in Beauty Point.

Ray frequently writes beautiful poetry for the ADVANCE. You can read one of poems below.

When people ask you how you spend your time, what do you say?

Being retired for some years I have kept myself occupied the following ways:

- Cleaning seahorse and other fish tanks.
- Being a 'go-for' for the family business.
- I'm involved, now not as much, with the Beauty Point Church.
- I'm President of the local Probus club and
- I like to write devotionals.

What has been your role in the Baptist Church?

When I arrived in Tasmania our son Craig and daughter-in-law took us to Newstead Baptist Church. This fine congregation gave me the opportunity to preach. Over the following years I've had the privilege of speaking in probably 10-12 other churches. The Newstead leadership encouraged us in our thinking about beginning a Fellowship at Beauty Point came. It happened in 2006.

How long ago did you retire from being the pastor at The Point?

2018 took me into retirement from active pastoral and preaching work at the Beauty Point Church. This proved fortuitous as I was hospitalised from September to December 2018, and I have been out of action, but not fellowship/worship, ever since.

Tell us a little about your family.

Mary and I were married on 19 December, 1964. We met in the Churches of Christ, Woolwich, NSW Bible College. I was in fourth year when she came to do a two year course. We have two boys and one girl. The three of them are followers of Jesus.

You write a lot of poems, some of them published in the ADVANCE. What is it about writing poems that you most enjoy?

I disliked poetry in high school. However, the call to ministry can allow God to do strange and surprising things. I love the psalms and I enjoy words, their history and meaning. Then, in all honesty, marriage to Mary and then having our children caused me to create sentences, which grew. Whatever people think of my poems now, my early ones were terrible. But they were initially only for me so it didn't matter.

I like to write to honour my Lord, and testify to His faithfulness, over 50-plus years of ministry and marriage. Plus there are times when I enjoy writing about the non-serious aspects of life and relations.

What changes and / or opportunities might we see for the church in the coming years?

How do I see the Church in coming years? I think it will face persecution for standing true to the person and work of Christ at Calvary.

I think that as believers we will need to build ourselves up in our most holy faith, Jude 20: But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit.

We also need to know Him in whom we have believed 2Timothy 1:12: That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.

Where were you born and what was it like growing up there?

I grew up in Rockdale, approx. 11 kilometres south of Sydney. In my childhood it was a working-class suburb. As WWII had concluded, life was rather subdued. But as a child I had a happy growing up time, played sport and went to local Church of Christ Sunday School. I began work at 15 in a car engine repair shop, and then helped dad when he commenced a light steel fabrication business. I entered Bible College at 21.

What do you enjoy most about living in Tasmania?

Being retired in Tasmania with some of our family is great. We love history, of which this State has plenty. The environment and its diversity is a delight. As we mainly are involved with the church scene we have been enriched in spirit, in friendship and service by God's people.

I also enjoy Tasmania's history, its environment, its challenges to the Faith to tackle. And as with elsewhere. I enjoy God's servants and congregations.

What is your favourite winter / weekend activity?

My favourite Winter/ weekend activity is age related. Time with family and friends, and writing.

How have you spent your time during isolation?

Isolation would have driven me 'insane' if I was younger and fitter. However, as I'm now older (and wiser) I use cyberspace to keep in touch, discuss, share, enjoy YouTube and write.

What superpower do you wish you had?

if you would call it a 'super-powers I would like to have the ability to know, speak, understand languages, and translate the Scriptures into them.

What is the best piece of advice you ever received?

The best advice I've received? That's too broad a question!

In ministry John 15:3 - "You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you."

In marriage, 'love your wife'.

As a dad, 'Be godly'.

When I've let the side down and feel the frown of the Heavenly Father, 1 John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Short and Sweet

*I'm looking forward to . . . seeing Jesus face to face.

*I'm worried about . . . nothing much.

*I'm confident in . . . the integrity and inspiration of the Bible.

*I would like to change . . . my ignorance into knowledge. (Working on it).

*I am at my best . . . when relaxing and reminiscing with family and ministry friends.

— I LONG TO SEE HIM —

*For now we see in a mirror, dimly,
But then we shall see face to face.
Now I know only in part;
Then I will know fully,
Even as I have been fully known
1 Corinthians 13:12 (RSV)*

I long to see Him,
The One I view so dimly
In the Bible, the mirror,
Of Him who sees me
Clearly,
Constantly!

I long to see Him,
The One I serve so feebly
In Christian ministry
Through which He kept me
Daily,
Faithfully!

I long to see Him,
The One I call Saviour, Lord
By Calvary's cross
Where He redeemed me
Strongly,
Unreservedly!

I long to see Him,
His fame is above all others
In heaven or on earth
His name is Christ Jesus
Proudly,
Eternally!

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upskill:

Free Training for Educators, Kids Church and Youth Group Leaders

News from our Foster Care Partner



Our friends at [Fostering Hope](#) have let us know about some important online training, now available. Fostering Hope, assist Tasmanian Baptists with our foster care initiative.

Does your church run a great kids program? Or have a youth group who meet regularly?

If so, your educators and leaders could be interested in some special FREE training being offered.

From the Fostering Hope website:

As you would be aware, the children in our foster and kinship families, may be suffering more than most now (during COVID-19). They are children that thrive on routine, structure, and familiar people, all of which are not present right now. For carers, access to respite care, babysitting, allied health, and childcare are also not available, so carers are working doubly hard to support the children in their homes. We encourage you to reach out to these families at this time and check in on them, a friendly phone call, bunch of flowers, or encouraging note could make a huge difference.

To find out more about this free training, [check out this News on Fostering Hope >>>](#)
[www.fosteringhope.community/post/information-newsletter-for-educators >>>](http://www.fosteringhope.community/post/information-newsletter-for-educators)

update:

Pastors and Families Muster: Sept 28-Oct 1



Pastors' and Families Muster Camp Clayton 2018

All Change!

With the COVID-19 crisis, the Pastor's and Families Muster at Camp Clayton is now postponed until the September school holidays.

Camp Clayton is confident that if the current timeline for easing restrictions remains, the Muster will proceed as planned.

BUT, the annual *Mission Leadership Summit*, has been brought forward, and will take place on Tuesday July 28. Led by Michael Henderson, this rip-roaring Summit will be based on the title: INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP. [Read more about the July 28 MISSION LEADERSHIP SUMMIT >>>](https://tasbaptists.org.au/mission-leadership-summit---july-2020/article=277)
tasbaptists.org.au/mission-leadership-summit---july-2020/article=277

Pastors and Families Muster

New Details

- **Date:** 28 Sept - 1 Oct First week of September school holidays
- **Location:** Camp Clayton is booked, and expecting the crew!
- **Leading:** Stephen Baxter
- **Watch out** for information via personal email
- Kids/Youth program will be provided
- [More details and registration here >>>](https://tasbaptists.org.au/pastors-muster-sept-2020/article=223) tasbaptists.org.au/pastors-muster-sept-2020/article=223

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