

AUGUST 6, 2020

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



Oh yes! Winter has well and truly arrived with our cold snap this week!

But it was plenty warm and heartening last Sunday, August 2, as many of our churches participated in the statewide *Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer*. The day was intentionally planned to champion our state leaders as they protect LIFE, especially during these COVID-19 pandemic months.

The Day of Prayer was a unique moment to engage with some of our leaders in a positive missional context. Along with other church leaders, Tasmanian Baptists participated in a video of thanks, shown to the Premier in Launceston. **Watch the video on the NEWS page, below.**

As well, **Liam Conway** wraps up his series of reflections, this time on *The Kings*; and **Paw Nay**, Pastor of our Hobart Karen community, is featured as he challenges stereotypes by becoming a brickie's labourer!

So while it may be cold outside, there is much to warm the cockles of your heart.

Be blessed!

Jenny



Jenny Baxter
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profile:

Building Bridges with Bricks

Paw Nay is Pastor of the Karen Fellowship, which operates under the umbrella of Hobart Baptist Church.



*This interview describes how **Kelvin Smith** (Hobart Baptist) helped Paw Nay to get a job as a brickie's labourer. Paw Nay took refuge in Tasmania as one of the first Karen Refugees from Myanmar in 2009. Kelvin originally shared his building industry experiences with Diverse Tassie – a new monthly community newspaper which was the brainchild of our Glenorchy IC Church Pastor, Raj Chopra.*

As a worker yourself, what do you think, Kelvin, about the local building industry?

Tasmania's building industry is almost completely Caucasian. I was flabbergasted by the lack of diversity. Having worked in the industry for about six months now as a brickies labourer, I've only encountered three non-Caucasian people – one Nigerian electrician, a Malaysian labourer, and Paw Nay an ex-refugee from Myanmar who has a job as a brickies labourer.

There are people in community who due to language barriers are unable to get into jobs and connect with local employers.

I was flabbergasted by the lack of diversity.

Tell us bit about Paw Nay?

About three years ago, I met Paw Nay. Even as we shook hands, I immediately felt that there was more to this unassuming man than meets the eye.

He couldn't speak English, and communication was a little awkward, but there was no doubting his capacity. In mid-2019, when a brickies labourer job was made available, Paw Nay accepted it gratefully and took on the challenge wholeheartedly and is now working as regular brickies labour in Hobart and surroundings.

All the while, he knew that many difficulties would arise, particularly from communication. The workplace can seem rough for some, perhaps even a culture shock.

Paw Nay, who is now 58 years old is, however, accustomed to challenges. He grew up in Myanmar within the Karen tribe, who are politically and militarily ostracised. His town became the target of an ethnic cleansing raid. He and his family ran for their lives, they were shot at, forcing them to live in the forests for four months. Eventually, he made his way to one of the refugee camps in Thailand.

In Myanmar, Paw Nay and his family ran for their lives



Paw Nay and his family were among the first Karen refugees in Hobart in 2009. Since then, Paw Nay has helped more than 400 Karen refugees - all with similar stories to his - to settle in Australia.

His leadership and compassion are demonstrated by the stability of the Karen community in Hobart. After getting his own driver's license three years ago, he has helped many Karen refugees to get their driver's license.

He is currently studying a Bachelor of Ministries with Hobart Baptist Church which requires him to speak English - this has helped him to improve his English and break the communication barrier.

Did you get any support from any community organisation or person?

Hobart Lord Mayor Anna Reynolds showed her support with a letter of gratitude for employers, which enabled people in industry to realise how valuable this opportunity was for Paw Nay.

How did Paw Nay adjust to local working culture?

A strong personality like Paw Nay took the challenge to learn another language - 'tradie-slang'! Paw Nay has learnt to understand phrases and terms such as "chuck other mixes in", "beer o'clock", "grab us some mud", "get a scurry on", "jointin' up" - not referring to drugs!

Along with this, he had to remember the English name for all those familiar work tools, and Western worksites function differently to Asian ones. Even after six months, the problems are not all solved, there is always more to learn! Paw Nay is proving himself and doing great!

We hope that now the building industry door is open, many more Karen will enter the industry in years to come

It's our hope that, now the building industry door has been cracked open, the relationships he has developed, and the things that he has learned, will result in many more Karen entering that same industry in years to come.

This article was originally published in the March 2020 edition of [Diverse Tassie](#), and is republished with their permission.



Brief update from Kelvin Smith, 4 August 2020:

Paw Nay hasn't worked since the beginning of the virus as the work has been haphazard and insufficient for the regular work team. The job is still there once the work picks back up.

news:

Stand Sunday

Sunday September 13

As Tasmanian Baptists we collaborate with [Fostering Hope](#) and [BaptCare](#) to provide foster care to the vulnerable children of our state.

Your church is invited to participate in **Stand Sunday**, to raise awareness and bring support to foster children, families and kinship carers.

[You can download your Stand Sunday Kit HERE >>>](#)

WATCH VIDEO: <https://vimeo.com/431142460/b7586c698d>



FIND OUT MORE:



Contact **Mary Dickins** of Fostering Hope (mary@fosteringhope.community)

- [Fostering Hope on Facebook >>>](#)
- [Fostering Hope Website >>>](#)
- [BaptCare Foster Services >>>](#)

Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer

Thanking the Premier and the Minister of Health

On Sunday August 2, Tasmanian churches of all denominations joined as one to thank the Premier, Peter Gutwein, and Minister for Health, Sarah Courtney, for their leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. On

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that day, the Premier was a special guest at Legana Christian Church, where the following video from church leaders was shown . . . <https://vimeo.com/44377783>

Tasmanian Christian Leaders Thanks Premier Gutwein

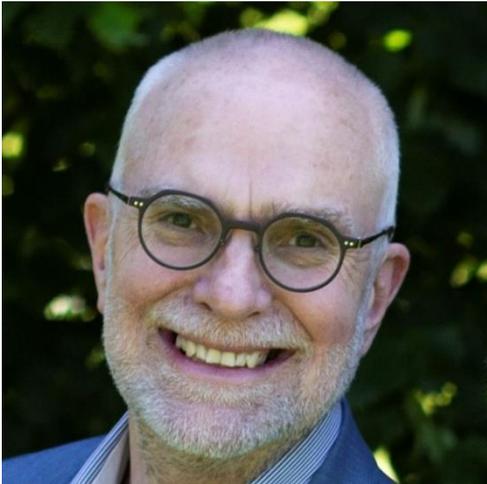


Official Plaque

A plaque was presented to the Premier Peter Gutwein, and he responded. You can watch! <https://vimeo.com/444133112>



Mission Director - On Leave



Our Mission Director, Stephen Baxter, is taking leave from Thursday August 13 to 27, 2020

This is a delayed break, after failing to go on leave back in March when the European borders were suddenly closed due to the COVID-19 emergency!

We are grateful he stayed and oversaw the transition of our Baptist churches during this unexpected pandemic era.

Please pray that he (and Jenny) has a great rest!

training:

REPORT: Mission Leadership Summit

Led by Michael Henderson



ABOVE: Those present at Riverlands - socially isolated of course!

The Tasmanian Baptists Mission Leadership Summit for pastors and leaders took place at Riverlands, Longford, on Tuesday July 28, 2020.

The Summit was titled **imagine.** and focused on innovation around discipleship and mission in a local church context. During the day there were workshops, inspirational presentations, brainstorm sessions and panel discussions.

WATCH Michael Henderson's overview of the day:

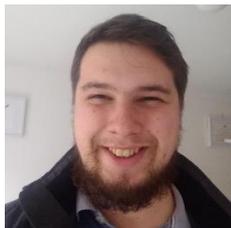
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jhPKwPwBDng>



Mission Leadership Summits are held twice a year, and are invitation-only events for Tasmanian Baptist pastors, staff, and church leadership team members as recommended by their pastors. Leaders of churches who do not have a pastor are also invited to attend. Costs for the day (excluding travel) are covered by the Tasmanian Baptist Union.

To make sure your pastor/leader is on the invitation list for the next Summit, scheduled for February 2021, please contact Michael Henderson (michael@tasbaptists.org.au).

theological reflection:



Liam Conway is studying a Masters of Divinity by distance through Malyon College, Queensland. The two most impactful units so far are Old Testament Overview and a Catechism unit. In studying these, the question of what it meant for Jesus to hold these offices of Prophet, Priest and King; and for our adoption to God to extend those offices to the Church. This has led to asking about the lengths of Adoption, and how God sees us if we are his children.

Christ exists in three offices: Prophet, Priest, and King. As Co-heirs and benefactors of Christ's actions I wonder, to what extent do these offices pass on to us? What are the offices to start with? And how can knowing about the offices improve our knowledge of ourselves, and Christ? This article looks the Kings, God's Servant Leaders.

READ Part One: [Prophets - the Haunted Advocates >>>](#) | Part Two: [Priests - the Interceding Nation >>>](#)

Who were the Kings?

The human office of kings was unnatural to Israel when the people asked Samuel for it in [1 Samuel 8](#).

Israel was intended to be a nation where their king was YHWH and YHWH alone. Israel had leaders, but their office was temporary, but a King was to be a person who stood between them and the leadership of God.

The first King was Saul, who was later succeeded by David, whose line was that of the nation of Judah. When Solomon, son of David, died a succession crisis took place and the tribes were divided between the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah ([1 Kings 11-12](#)).

What did the Kings do?

The Kings wielded ultimate worldly authority over the subjects of their respective kingdoms, maintaining taxes, an army, and diplomatic power. They were also the spiritual barometer of their respective kingdoms. The Books of Kings likens many of the reigns of the Kings to either David, the righteous King of Israel, or Jeroboam, the wicked king of Judah.

They guided the people and were the role model of proper worship to God. A good king was one that pointed Israel back to God and worshipped in their heart and at the temple, like David and Hezekiah.

How does Jesus become our King?

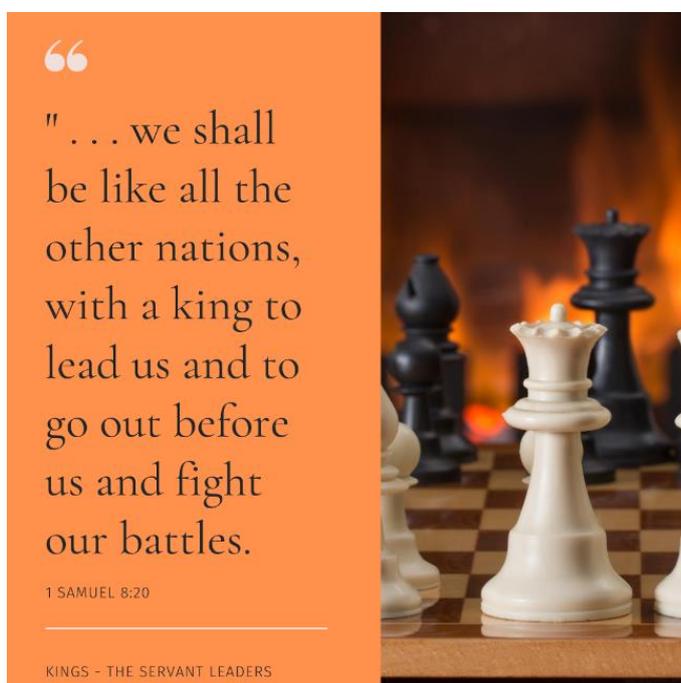
"1693 Baptist Catechism, Q29: 'Christ executes the Office of a king in subduing us to himself in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our Enemies'."

From the smallest point to the largest, Jesus is of a human royal lineage.

Jesus' position as our King comes from three places:

- His Godly line, as king and ruler of creation;
- His line of David
- God's Covenant with David ([2 Samuel 7](#))

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From the smallest point to the largest, Jesus is of a human royal lineage.

There are many of those in the world, and to be honest, it's not particularly special. What *is* special is that it is the royal lineage of God's covenant People, the Israelites. And this royal lineage was given a covenant to establish an unending kingship in [2 Samuel 7](#). Jesus is the King of the Jews as he fulfils that covenant, and is of the inherited line of David.

Not only that, but as *Emmanuel*, God with us, Jesus is the head of all creation fully incarnate on the earth. He has the job description of being God, the sustainer, creator, and final authority of all the universe.

Jesus is our King

What does this mean for us?

Jesus is established as King of all states and nations of the world and gathers those who are faithful to that idea into a new nation. As a King he gathers his nation, the Church, together and seeks to unify them towards the end goal of bringing the Kingdom of Heaven to earth.

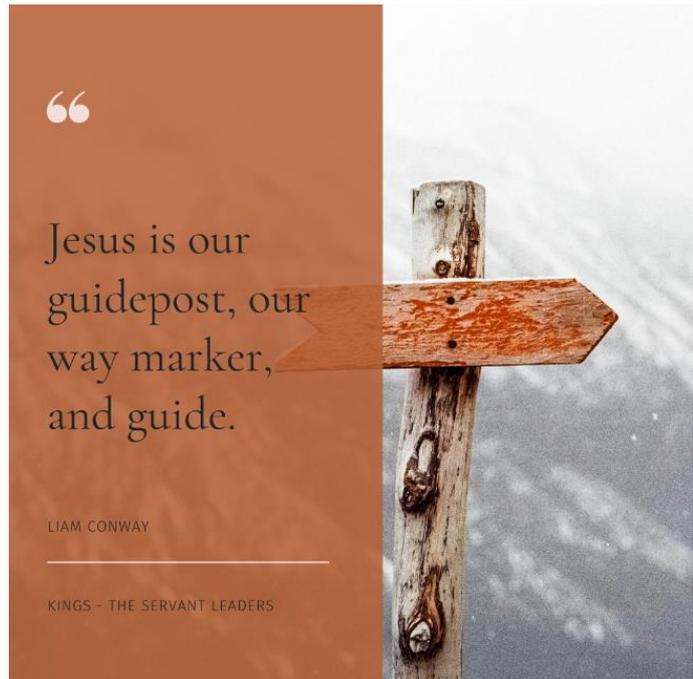
As the spiritual barometer for the Kingdom, Jesus is consistently pointing towards the standards and principles of God. He is our guidepost, our way marker, and guide. As Jesus is fully realised as King over all creation, he calls his nation to follow him and to seek God.

In our baptism we accept him as our Leader, following his pattern, symbolising death and resurrection in the ritual. In taking communion, we affiliate ourselves and ally ourselves to the work of this Kingdom, as citizens of this nation. This means that unity is of utmost importance, because to create civil war in a Kingdom of peace is a way for our enemy to slip in and cause disaster.

This means that upholding, encouraging and working through disagreements is of utmost importance within the Church. Finding someone difficult to get along with is reasonable, but badmouthing them, pitting ourselves against them, and not seeking either reconciliation or a polite distance, is to cause damage to the Nation of God.

The world judges us and discredits the Gospel based on our distance from each other and our distrust of other churches, but whilst we were enemies Christ died for us.

What would happen in our Family, in our Church, in our State and nation if we were to seek our enemies and sacrifice for their well-being?



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guidepost, our
way marker,
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LIAM CONWAY

KINGS - THE SERVANT LEADERS

Blessings, and thank you for reading.

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