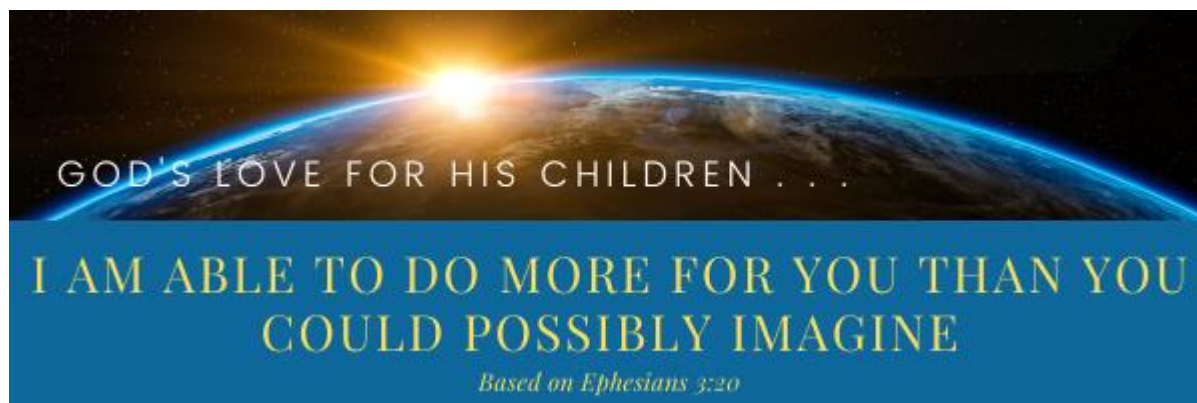


April/May 2021, No. 3

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



**APRIL 22, 2021**

**A trick question for you:** What's the biggest thing you can imagine?

Yes. Tricky, right?

And yet, God promises to do even more than you can imagine. Every new day is a new promise.

There's lots to imagine in this latest instalment of **ADVANCE | step by step**:

- **Citywide's Namaste Cafe** - Nepali church goes into business
- **Reengage, Reimagine, Realign** A new focus to be announced at **Midyear Assembly**
- **Myanmar on my mind** | Your call to prayer
- **Latest NEWS**
  - **Jeff McKinnon** Keynote speaker at **Midyear Assembly**
  - **Baptists in Mission** Online conference from Crossover
  - **Women's Bushwalk** EmpowHer - inaugural event!
  - **Rethinking retirement** Engaging Q4 course

So get reading ... and be inspired!

Blessings,

*Jenny*

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**Jenny Baxter**

Communications Manager, Tasmanian Baptists

[jennyb@tasbaptists.org.au](mailto:jennyb@tasbaptists.org.au)

**What good work has God done in your life lately?  
Or in the life of your church or community?**

If you have a great story to tell, please connect with me. I'd love to hear what's going on.

theme for 2021:

## Reengage | Reimagine | Realign

*"We acknowledge Tasmania is a mission field, and that should change the way we think about church and do church," writes Stephen Baxter, Tasmanian Baptist Mission Director, ahead of this year's mid-year Assembly.*

"Over the past half a century or more, Tasmania has changed dramatically. [In the 2016 Census](#)<sup>1</sup>, 38% of Tasmanians, and 40% of Hobartians, said they had "No Religion". This is the highest of any State or capital city in Australia. For the first time since white settlement, Christians are a minority in Tasmania with just under 50% of Tasmanians, and only 47.3% in Hobartians calling themselves Christians. Plus church attendance is at an all-time low.



"In the past it has been a bit of a habit for churches to outsource their mission and evangelism to "parachurch" organisation," [he wrote in this month's Advance](#)<sup>2</sup>, "but that is changing."

Back at the 2009 midyear Assembly, Superintendent Ivan James exhorted all Tasmanian Baptists to be "intentional, innovative, relational, caring and involved in the community and not isolated and aloof from the people around us."

## Moving on to 2021

In the 12 years since then, Tasmanian Baptists have endeavoured to take Ivan's challenge seriously, and listen to where God is leading. The result included looking for a "Mission Director" rather than a "Superintendent", and to trust God for pastors with a heart for mission.

At the upcoming midyear Assembly, Stephen will present a new strategic plan based around the words **Reengage, Reimagine, Realign**. These words "capture the need and our desire to be a movement of churches ready to adapt to the changing community and its needs," writes Stephen, so that we can be "salt and light" and our churches "centres of care, havens of hope, places of peace and beacons of light for all Tasmanians.

*Stephen will present a new strategic plan based around the words  
**Reengage, Reimagine, Realign***

## COME to Midyear Assembly!

ALL ARE WELCOME - [Here are the details](#)

- The 2021 midyear Assembly begins at 7pm on Friday, 7 May 2020 at Riverlands, 159 Wellington Street, Longford. It will commence with a dinner, featuring keynote speaker Jeff McKinnon.
- Assembly will reconvene at 9:30am on Saturday, 8 May 2021 at the same location, commencing with Morning Tea.
- Churches are requested to send delegates, and pastors on our Registered Pastors list are encouraged to attend.
- To register for the Friday night meal, please contact [Karen Buckney](#) for catering purposes.

**Stephen Baxter** is the Mission Director for Tasmanian Baptists  
[stephen@tasbaptists.org.au](mailto:stephen@tasbaptists.org.au)

<sup>1</sup> [abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/2071.0~2016~Main%20Features~Religion%20Article~80](https://abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/2071.0~2016~Main%20Features~Religion%20Article~80)

<sup>2</sup> [tasbaptists.org.au/april-may-2021\\_1064/from-the-mission-director-412](https://tasbaptists.org.au/april-may-2021_1064/from-the-mission-director-412)

news:

## Mid-Year Assembly: Friday/Saturday 7/8 May 2021

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Friday evening and Saturday conference-style gathering for Tasmanian Baptists



- Hear about the [Tasmanian Baptists' Theme, 2021 >>> Reengage | Reimagine | Realign](#)
- Read up: [New Assembly focus >>>](#)
- **Jeff McKinnon** will be the keynote speaker at the Friday night dinner. Jeff will speak on: *How the grace and victory of God can reshape our imagination of discipleship and mission*
- **When:** Friday (7pm dinner) and Saturday (9.30am start), May 7 and 8, at
- **Where:** Riverlands, 159 Wellington Street, Longford.
- **Register for catering purposes:** Karen Buckney [karen@tasbaptists.org.au](mailto:karen@tasbaptists.org.au)

What else are you missing out on? [Check the Tas Baptists calendar >>>](#)<sup>3</sup>

## Baptists in Mission Conference, 5-7 July 2021

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Online at regional hubs

A collaboration between Crossover Australia and Global Interaction

This conference is about the mission of God, and the mission of God is at the core of our Australian Baptist identity.

**Who is it for?** Pastors, leadership teams, and emerging leaders.



- [Program >>>](#)<sup>4</sup> Every afternoon, 2 to 6:30pm, 5-7 July
- [Register >>>](#)<sup>5</sup> \$75 (Earlybird before 10 May: \$67.50)

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<sup>3</sup> [tasbaptists.org.au](http://tasbaptists.org.au), and click on CALENDAR tab

<sup>4</sup> [baptistsinmission.org.au/program](http://baptistsinmission.org.au/program)

<sup>5</sup> [baptistsinmission.org.au/product/baptists-in-mission](http://baptistsinmission.org.au/product/baptists-in-mission)

- [Regional Hubs >>>](#)<sup>6</sup>  
**SOUTH** Citywide Mornington | **NORTH** Riverlands Longford | **NORTH WEST** LifeWay Devonport
- [Find out more >>>](#)<sup>7</sup> Great speakers - Be inspired!
- [Watch the video >>>](#)<sup>8</sup>

## Inaugural Event: EmpowHer Northern Coastal Walk

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A ministry of Tasmanian Baptist Women, EmpowHer plans to bring women of any age together to support, encourage and network.

The inaugural event is set for a northern adventure!

**WHEN:** 9:30am Saturday 22nd May 2021 | **WHO:** All women of any age - ask your friends!

**WHERE:** Greens Beach to Badger Head | **LENGTH:** 10.8 km return loop - roughly 3 hours.

**MEET:** Greens Beach Foreshore carpark at 9:30am | **FOOD:** BYO lunch snacks and drinks

**INFO:** Mary Baker 0407 335 618; Wendy Marston 0407 675 414; Jenna Blackwell 0488 330 390

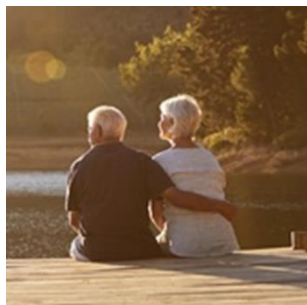
**ASK YOUR CHURCH!** POSTER: [Download here >>>](#)<sup>9</sup>

Watch out for details of similar Southern and Northwestern events planned soon.

## Engaging Q4 - Rethinking Retirement

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A Course for those who are Re-Imagining Life in their retirement years



If you're retired or have begun to plan your retirement years our course **Engaging Q4** has been designed for you. It's a seven-session online course, designed to help you navigate your way through a range of issues, with a Kingdom of God perspective.

There are two new **Engaging Q4** groups planned, one starting on *Monday 3 May 10.00am - 11.30am*; and the other on *Wednesday 5 May 5.00pm - 6.30pm*.

**Cost:** \$95 for the entire course, including Participant's Guide.

[Find out more >>>](#)<sup>10</sup>

[WATCH the introductory video >>>](#)<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> [baptistsinmission.org.au/states/tas](http://baptistsinmission.org.au/states/tas)

<sup>7</sup> [baptistsinmission.org.au](http://baptistsinmission.org.au)

<sup>8</sup> [vimeo.com/523655507](https://vimeo.com/523655507)

<sup>9</sup> [tasbaptists.org.au/clients/tasbaptists/images/north\\_bushwalk\\_\\_may\\_2021.gif](http://tasbaptists.org.au/clients/tasbaptists/images/north_bushwalk__may_2021.gif)

<sup>10</sup> [cma.net.au/q4/engaging.php](http://cma.net.au/q4/engaging.php)

<sup>11</sup> [vimeo.com/463290130](https://vimeo.com/463290130)



missional initiative/multiculturalism:

## Nepalese at Citywide, Work on Local Mission

*The word Namaste in Nepali is "hello" and with this warm greeting we would like to welcome everyone to our newly established cafe.*

By Dilip Jirel, Hobart Nepalese Church



**The Namaste Cafe** is run by the Nepalese who are the members of Citywide Baptist Church's Nepalese Congregation, along with the help of the Citywide Baptist church family.

Pictured: Some of the members of Hobart Nepali Church

In our routine monthly meeting, we have had discussions about how can we support our church to sustain it in the long run, as well as what should we do to support our mission work locally and beyond the borders. With many other options, we decided to run a Cafe, as we found this to be the best option. We decided to bring this plan to our senior leaders, seeking their valuable advice about whether it is feasible to do or not.

With the great pleasure our respected leaders not only opened the door wide for this opportunity, but also helped us beyond our expectations. Without that we could not have moved a single step to bring the cafe to this level.

## What Namaste offers



Namaste Cafe has been in operation since December 2020. It provides meal and coffee services to our valuable customers.

The current menu includes butter chicken, beef curry serving with rice and vegetables, sandwiches, and chow mein. And we plan to introduce dumplings, pasta, salads, and other items soon.

We provide barista-made coffee at a very reasonable price. It is our plan to distribute pamphlets to the local people, international students and the surrounding offices to promote the Cafe, and make this place the community hub. So, people can come and feel our hospitality, and welcoming love, in Christ.

## Prayer is the key!

**We would like to thank you all for your prayer,** encouragement and kind support. Your prayer is the key strength to this journey so, we would always humbly request to remember the Cafe in your prayer so we can achieve our set goals, and spread our love to the community people.

Current trading hours

**Monday:** 11.00AM - 6.30PM

**Tuesday:** 2.00PM - 6.30 PM

**Wednesday:** 2.00 PM - 6.30 PM

**Thursday:** 11.00 PM - 6.30 PM

**Friday:** 10.30 AM - 1.30 PM

Dilip and Annu Jirel welcomed baby Deana on April 2, 2021



our neighbourhood:

## Myanmar on my Mind

### Urgent Call for Prayer

Pray for Myanmar at 7:14am and 7:14pm,

**Heads Up!** There are many Karen Baptist ex-refugees from Myanmar living here in Tasmania. Please remember them also, as they have loved ones who are impacted by the unrest.



[Roshan Mendis](#)<sup>12</sup>, Director of [Asia Pacific Baptist Aid](#)<sup>13</sup>

**Dear Friends,**

It is now almost 23 days since we began our campaign of standing with Myanmar and 74 days since the people of Myanmar began their protest. We have seen harsher and harsher measures being brought against the people of Myanmar in an attempt to crush the defiance of the military rule by the people. This only reflects the increasing frustration and helplessness that the Junta is beginning to feel against the amazing unity and resilience been shown by the people - both as collectives and individuals - regardless of risk to life and limb. The creative genius of the people of Myanmar in the face of such an onslaught of physical oppression against non-violent protest is a model to the world of their determination and courage, in their desire for democracy and freedom.

We would request that you #standwithmyanmar and join your hearts in raising your prayers on behalf of this nation. It was Martin Luther King that said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that." We ask that even as the people of Myanmar continue to come forth with light to dispel this darkness, and with love instead to melt the hate levelled against them, that we join together in that prayer for peace and democracy in Myanmar.

## The cry of our heart

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Prayer 'Crys'

- Pray for renewed hope, courage and resilience amongst the people to continue to stand against injustice and for democracy.
- Pray that this time, perhaps one of the most darkest periods that will be written in their recent history will be brought to a swift end.
- Pray for sense to prevail among cadres in military to realise the violence they are committing against their own people.
- Pray that the military leadership will be restrained from their violence and bloodlust.
- Pray for a cessation of violence against unarmed, innocent civilians and for willingness to dialogue and humility to change.
- Pray for a return to democracy and the release of the elected representatives of govt now in custody as political prisoners.

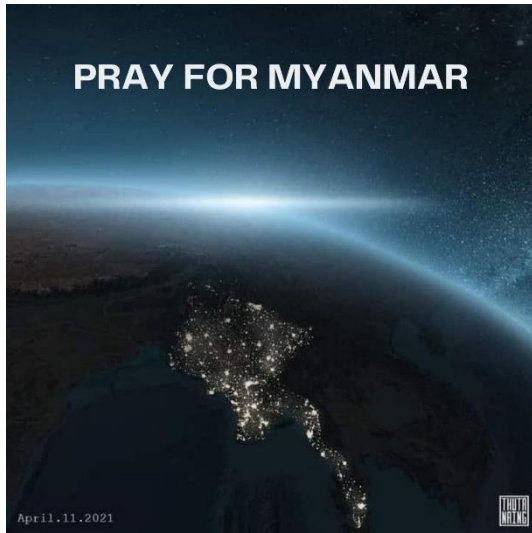
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<sup>12</sup> [apbf.org/blog/post/6106/Meet-Roshan-Mendis](https://apbf.org/blog/post/6106/Meet-Roshan-Mendis)

<sup>13</sup> [apbf.org/page/apbaid](https://apbf.org/page/apbaid)

- Pray for ability to provide humanitarian assistance to those affected inside Myanmar and on its borders.
- Pray that LIGHT, PEACE and FREEDOM may dawn once again on Myanmar

Please share these images to invite your networks to pray for Myanmar:



## Pray for Myanmar

Let's recall the words of the prophet in [2 Chronicles 7:14](#):

*"if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (NIV)*

Stand with Myanmar

And also, let's remember Anne Frank who said:

*Look at how a single candle can both defy and define the darkness.*

**We ask that you light a candle for Myanmar and set aside 7:14am and 7:14pm as focused moments to pray these prayers on behalf of Myanmar.**

*Join us also for a concerted show of support for Myanmar for Red Ribbon week, April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup>.*

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Website: [www.tasbaptists.org.au/news](http://www.tasbaptists.org.au/news)

