

April/May 2021, No. 4

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



**MAY 6, 2021**

Thank you for checking out the April/May **ADVANCE | step by step**.  
It's been a busy few months, and it is always encouraging to read what's going on.

In this instalment:

**Regional RoundUp:** Our churches are making an impact across the length and breadth of the state

**Fostering and Your Kids:** Mary Dickins of Fostering Hope discusses

**The Values Project:** Video resources from Australian Baptist Ministries

**News for You:** *Jeff McKinnon*, Keynote at Assembly | HOW-TO: Participate in *May Mission Month* | *New Crossover Director* | *United by Faith Blood Drive*

Who encourages you? And who can you encourage?

Be a blessing!

*Jenny*



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**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.

around the grounds:

What's Going on?

## Northern Churches

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### Perth

Bi-Centenary



The town of Perth is 200 years old this year and is having a celebration. As part of the celebration a Thanksgiving Service will be held at the church on 28<sup>th</sup> May – the church has been an important part of the history of Perth, and we will talk about the purpose of the church: to provide a place to worship and as an outreach for the Gospel.

[More Activities](#)

We commenced a Playgroup in late April, and have commenced a Men's Get together on a Tuesday nights. The initial meeting, which included an

evening BBQ, was encouraging.

Our annual Garage Sale to support the Cancer Council was a great success with over \$1,000 being raised.

We distributed invitations to our Easter Service to the community, and will do the same for Mothers' Day next Sunday.

[Painters and winners!](#)

We have had a long-term partnership with Mobile Mission Maintenance whose Tasmanian base is in Perth, We recently discussed with MMM the painting of our Hall.

MMM have a supplier arrangement with Haines Paint who undertook a promotion to provide free paint to community projects that were deserving of the paint. MMM were a winner and as a result we have our paint (\$3,800 in value). Haines then undertook another promotion, listing the 4 winners, with one to receive the painters to paint the Hall as well. It was voted on by the community. We were advised that MMM are the winner for our Hall project!

We are truly blessed by a God who is good!

## Northwest Churches

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### Sassafras

[Harvest Service](#)

At Sassafras Church we held our annual Harvest Service on the 21<sup>st</sup> March.

This event is a timely reminder that the Almighty never forgets us for a moment as witnessed by the overabundance of His supply of food.

It was, as always, hosted by our Sunday School Class and Leadership, as pictured below.

It was a delightful presentation, which the children enjoyed as much as the adults. There was an abundant display of infectious joy and laughter, as well as a hush of wonder among the parishioners. All had their heart and soul in it.

All the adults noticed how the children had grown since last year and ignored that they too had grown another year older. (Ignorance can be bliss!)

There was a new sense of unity and belonging in the Church. Many had participated in filling the “Harvest Boxes” with fruit, goodies and vegetables, to be distributed after the Service to those who were thought might have need of them.

A memorable occasion indeed!



Here is a poem written by Rachele Long for the occasion:

*We thank the Lord for Harvest now  
with grateful hearts to Him we bow.*

*And in the garden, girls & boys,  
The vegetables and plants rejoice.*

*There was a pumpkin, round and fat.  
The Lord had made him fat like that.  
The ‘tatoes looked with jealous eyes  
Upon the pumpkin’s robust size.*

*The spuds were small and starchy and crisp.  
The Lord had made them crisp like this.*

*The ‘tatoes said “Lord, why is he  
so large while we are small & sparse?”*

*And pumpkin, hearing this, then replied,  
“Friends, though I am large and you are sparse.  
The harvest comes each year, we know.*

*Like lettuces, you have big hearts  
And you are the apples of my eyes.  
The Lord who made you is very wise.  
He said to them “Don’t go astray,  
be thankful to God on this Harvest Day.”*

*But garden fun aside, we know  
It is the Lord who makes things grow.  
The sun shines down to swell the grains  
The garden loves the summer rains  
The harvest comes each year, we know.*

*We thank the Lord who made it so.*

Rachele Long, 2021

## Burnie

### Guest Speakers

With our Pastor Tim on leave currently, the church has enjoyed guest speakers who have focused particularly on their interest and passion for God's work: Marg Parry from Oasis Life Care Ministries in Zambia, and James Todd from Scripture Union Tasmania.

### Partnership

Our partnership with Launceston City Mission continues to bring a 'buzz' of people to the premises with many clients seeking assistance from the Mission or a meal from City Kitchen which operates four days a week providing a low cost, nutritious lunch.

### Harvest Thanksgiving

We recently held our Harvest Thanksgiving Service with all funds raised directed to 'Warrawee', a shelter for women affected by domestic violence.

## Ulverstone

Ulverstone Baptist is certainly stepping into a busy and yet exciting season.

### Easter



Easter weekend was a wonderful time together of reflection and celebration. It was such a joy to be able to gather for morning tea/coffee and hot cross buns after the service. This is the first time we have been able to continue church over morning tea since Covid-19 lockdown in March last year.

### Craft Group

Our craft group continue to meet on Tuesday mornings and have knitted blankets, scarves, jumpers, and beanies for an organisation called "Knitting for your neighbour". As the weather continues to get colder, some of these items have already been given out to those in need.

### Bible Studies

UB Youth is pumped and enjoying term 2. A Chill Night, Clan Clash, Bonfire, Back to the Future 80's Night, and a Youth Take Over night has the youth team excited. Their G1 (God first youth Bible study) runs before youth, and is journeying through Jesus' words from the Sermon on the Mount. Our pursuit is to be genuine and authentic disciples of Jesus.

At the end of April, we began the Alpha series, and will spend the coming weeks with great company and great conversations about life, faith and meaning.

### Sundays to Celebrate

The Church has very generously been gifted a steer! Yes, a steer ... in the form of packaged meat. Last Sunday, 2 May, we gathered for Celebration Sunday. This was a morning of thankfulness and appreciation and included morning tea and a BBQ lunch. Packaged meat was available for each household to take home with the opportunity to take a portion of that meat to give to our neighbours too. This was an opportunity to love like Jesus and bless those around us.

We look forward to Mother's Day, honouring the women in our midst and welcoming Bronwyn Waterhouse as our guest. A special morning tea is also planned.

## Yolla

### Chaplaincy at Yolla School

We have been involved with the chaplaincy program at Yolla School. Lynnese the chaplain recently spoke at one of our services, which was very informative and interesting. It's always good to hear the about the wonderful work Lynnese does, but in particular, the effects from COVID 19.

We also regularly donate to the school breakfast club which is run two mornings per week.

## Southern Churches

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### Citywide



#### New Elders

Citywide recently held its AGM when four new elders were voted into the role, two of these are from our Nepalese congregation which is indicative of the growing integration between our cultures. The new eldership spent a full day together at Levendale for induction purposes and encouragement from the retiring elders.

#### Easter Picnic

On Easter Sunday we joined together for a church picnic and meditative walk around Risdon Brook Dam. Many in the church were involved in the community Clean Up Australia and Neighbour Days with some encouraging reports of neighbourhood ventures.

#### Walks and ANZAC Day

The monthly Blue Gum Pilgrim walks into nature are drawing people into God's creation – some walks are quite challenging, and others suiting families.

Again, we have run an ANZAC Day community and family event at Lenah Valley in conjunction with the Lenah Valley RSL. This is a great time of community engagement which is well received by all. Being a Sunday this year we forewent our normal services in order to serve our community, finishing with a brief time of praise and worship at its completion.

### Claremont



#### Church Growth

Claremont Baptist welcomed four people into membership on Easter Sunday, April 4. We praise God for the growth in our church.

#### May Mission Month

We are embracing Global Interaction with a May Mission Munch with a Cambodian/Thai theme in support of our missionaries in those countries.

### Hobart

#### Sanctuary Sunday/Harmony Day



On Sunday 28 March we celebrated our annual Harmony Day, which this year coincided with our very special "Sanctuary Sunday". There were contributions on the day from many of our multicultural congregations. It is always special to celebrate with people of many nationalities who have made Tasmania their home. At last count we had people attending from 28 different countries!

#### Good Friday Play Reading

This Easter, a play reading was presented on Good Friday: *Who Really Killed Jesus?* Written by our own Fiona Bradley, the play featured a talk show host who grilled a Pontius Pilate, a Roman centurion, a Jewish priest, and a disciple of Jesus about who was really responsible for the death of an innocent man.

The response to the play reading was great, with many from churches in Hobart attending.

You can listen to a recording [HERE >>>](https://soundcloud.com/user-487850112/good-friday-play-sermon-2021-04-02)<sup>1</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> <https://soundcloud.com/user-487850112/good-friday-play-sermon-2021-04-02>



news:

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

Friday evening and Saturday conference-style gathering for Tasmanian Baptists



- Hear about the [Tasmanian Baptists' Theme, 2021 >>>](#)<sup>2</sup>  
*Reengage | Reimagine | Realign*
  - Read up: [New Assembly focus >>>](#)<sup>3</sup>
  - **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:** Email Karen Buckney [karen@tasbaptists.org.au](mailto:karen@tasbaptists.org.au)

## May Mission Month

For nearly 140 years, [Global Interaction](#) - as the Australian Baptist mission - has been sending people to share the Good News with communities who may never hear it otherwise.

Your generosity enables the Global Interaction workers to play their part in God's life-changing mission. Looking ahead, they hope to go deeper and wider in the mission.

Partner in Global Interaction's work, knowing you and your church's investment will make an eternal difference.

Watch the "Who We Are" Animation<sup>4</sup>



[You can find more May Mission Month resources here >>>](#)<sup>5</sup>

<sup>2</sup> [tasbaptists.org.au/april-may-2021\\_1064/reengage-reimagine-realign](https://tasbaptists.org.au/april-may-2021_1064/reengage-reimagine-realign)

<sup>3</sup> [tasbaptists.org.au/april-may-2021\\_1064/mid-year-assembly-2021](https://tasbaptists.org.au/april-may-2021_1064/mid-year-assembly-2021)

<sup>4</sup> [vimeo.com/533850984](https://vimeo.com/533850984)

<sup>5</sup> [globalinteraction.org.au/getdoc/2bc03393-c6f0-4d2c-b093-34b6bec693d4/nodealias](https://globalinteraction.org.au/getdoc/2bc03393-c6f0-4d2c-b093-34b6bec693d4/nodealias)

Global Interaction Workers Supported by Tasmanian Baptists

Craig and Kim Barnes and Family, Cambodia



FIND OUT MORE AND [SUPPORT CRAIG AND KIM >>>](#)<sup>6</sup>

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Andy and Cathie Staunton and Family, Cambodia



FIND OUT MORE AND [SUPPORT ANDY AND CATHIE >>>](#)<sup>7</sup>

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Jan and Jit Yawan, Thailand - Lanternlight Ministries



FIND OUT MORE AND [SUPPORT JIT AND JAN >>>](#)<sup>8</sup>

*It is possible there are Global Interaction workers supported by Tasmanian Baptist churches, who are not listed above. If so, please contact [info@tasbaptists.org.au](mailto:info@tasbaptists.org.au).*

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<sup>6</sup> [globalinteraction.org.au/who-we-are/people-groups/khmer/craig-and-kim](http://globalinteraction.org.au/who-we-are/people-groups/khmer/craig-and-kim)

<sup>7</sup> [globalinteraction.org.au/who-we-are/people-groups/khmer/andy-and-cathie](http://globalinteraction.org.au/who-we-are/people-groups/khmer/andy-and-cathie)

<sup>8</sup> [globalinteraction.org.au/support/workers/people-groups/ongoing-relationships/thailand](http://globalinteraction.org.au/support/workers/people-groups/ongoing-relationships/thailand)

## New Crossover Director appointed

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[Australian Baptist Ministries](#)<sup>9</sup> (ABM) is pleased to announce the appointment of Rev. Andrew Turner, pictured, as the new Crossover Director, starting in May 2021. For the first time ABM has moved to a full-time appointment for this role in acknowledgement of the importance of supporting our churches in this area.

Crossover is a focused ministry of ABM charged with encouraging, equipping and resourcing Baptist Churches for evangelism, church planting and revitalisation.

Andrew will step down from his current role as Church Development Facilitator for Baptist Churches of South Australia (BCSA) to take up the role. Andrew has served BCSA since 2007 and has been a member of the Crossover Taskforce for over 10 years.

National Ministries Director for Australian Baptist Ministries, Rev. Mark Wilson, expressed enthusiasm saying, "Andrew has been a committed, creative and innovative leader in South Australia whose ministry has already been influencing our movement nationally. His passion for Helping Australian Baptists Share Jesus is infectious."

Mark also expressed deep gratitude for the long and very significant contributions of the outgoing Crossover Director, Rev. Keith Jobberns, and Operations Manager Rev. Stan Fetting, into whose combined shoes Andrew will step.

## United by Faith Blood Drive

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**1 April - 31 May 2021**

Tasmanian Baptist Blood Donors Needed!



The [Red Cross in Tasmania](#)<sup>10</sup> is in urgent need of new blood donors. Tasmanian Baptists are being challenged to form a Lifeblood Team of existing and new donors.

Read how LifeWay (Devonport) participated in a similar scheme over Easter [HERE >>>](#)<sup>11</sup>

Contact Jeff ([jeff@citybaptistchurch.net](mailto:jeff@citybaptistchurch.net)) if you would like to coordinate this. Assistance with promotion is available.

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<sup>9</sup> [baptist.org.au](http://baptist.org.au)

<sup>10</sup> [donateblood.com.au](http://donateblood.com.au)

<sup>11</sup> [tasbaptists.org.au/february-march-2021/regional-roundup-feb-mar-2021](http://tasbaptists.org.au/february-march-2021/regional-roundup-feb-mar-2021)



foster care:

## Trusting God with Your Family

*Mary Dickins of Fostering Hope discusses the ins and outs of adding foster kids to your family life*

The two most common reasons people give for not fostering are, "I could never give them back, I would get too attached." And, "I am worried about the impact on my own children."

Both are valid reasons, and also great to explore.

**This discussion will explore the concern about your own children.**

## Fostering is one of the oddest things in our community

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First that we have a whole system set up to remove children from their families of birth, keep them safe, and put them into formal care arrangements. Taking time to think about this makes you realise how odd it is ... and why it is such a broken system.

### **We have a whole system set up to remove children from their families of birth**

So, stepping into this system needs to be done with eyes wide open and being willing to rely on God and ask help from your church family and others. It will have an impact on every part of your life, your home, your choices, your work, your extended family and of course your own children.

## Trust God with the process

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Saying, "We should trust God in this process, and trust God to protect our kids," is what I want to say. But it is also scary, because we know of birth children who have been negatively impacted in devastating ways by the fostering journey, and this of course is not God's plan.

Just like any journey when you step out in faith in response to God, you need to trust God with the process and the outcome. And just like any process, you need to seek wisdom and prayer from other Christians around you. Pray over your family, pray over your children, pray for the children who enter your home, and continue this prayer throughout your fostering journey.

## Positives for your own kids

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Fostering can also have an incredibly positive impact on your biological children, in ways far more unexpected than we could imagine. Children who do feel loved and safe often assume all children grow up this way, so when they find out there are children who don't, they want to help.

Your children are sheltered from the messiness of the system and can simply open their home, and their family, because they can feel the injustice of a child not having what they take for granted. Their hearts can break for the children who enter their world and they, just like us as Christian carers, pray powerful prayers for the children and their families. One night in our home, one biological son prayed for our youngest foster sons to stay with us for ever, and our other biological son prayed for their birth parents to get better so they could go home!

In our journey, so far, fostering has been a powerful testimony of our biological sons' faith, reliance on God, and desire to open their homes and lives to God's plans for them.

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**Mary Dickins, and her husband Allan, are passionate about foster care.** Their five boys are a mix of their own, and fostered children.

To help Christians engage with fostering, they founded *Fostering Hope*. It was only when they began fostering that God revealed what a powerful means it is to show His love in the community, transform lives for eternity, be forced to rely on Him, and ultimately live out the call as Christians to love the orphan and vulnerable in our community.

Tasmanian Baptists have engaged Fostering Hope to encourage Baptist churches to take on the care of foster children.

*If you are interested in talking through the possibility of foster care, please contact Mary:*  
*mary@fosteringhope.community*

**Website:** [fosteringhope.community](http://fosteringhope.community)<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> [www.fosteringhope.community](http://www.fosteringhope.community)

about us:

## What Baptists Believe

4 Discussion videos, FREE for your use

**The Values Project** is designed to help organisations, churches and groups reflect, talk and learn about our identity and values as communities of faith within the Australian Baptist movement.

As we are reminded of the values that underpin the historical and cultural backbone of our movement, we reflect on how these values impact our attitudes, practices and decisions in our unique contexts.

**The Values Project strengthens our sense of identity, encourages connectedness and community across our movement, and informs decision making and leadership.**

## Who? What? and Where?

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The four videos each discuss a central value.

Each value is critical to our understanding of us as Baptists:

- No. 1 [Jesus-Centred >>>](#)<sup>13</sup>
- No. 2 [Community >>>](#)<sup>14</sup>
- No. 3 [Mission >>>](#)<sup>15</sup>
- No. 4 [Freedom >>>](#)<sup>16</sup>

The short videos are ideal for showing in home groups, during church services, or to those new to the Baptist church.

Discussion guides, sermon starters, additional reading, and more, are available. [Find out more at Australian Baptist Ministries >>>](#)<sup>17</sup>



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<sup>13</sup> <https://vimeo.com/371270803>

<sup>14</sup> <https://vimeo.com/393816432>

<sup>15</sup> <https://vimeo.com/371270889>

<sup>16</sup> <https://vimeo.com/371270580>

<sup>17</sup> [baptist.org.au/about-us/the-values-project](http://baptist.org.au/about-us/the-values-project)

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