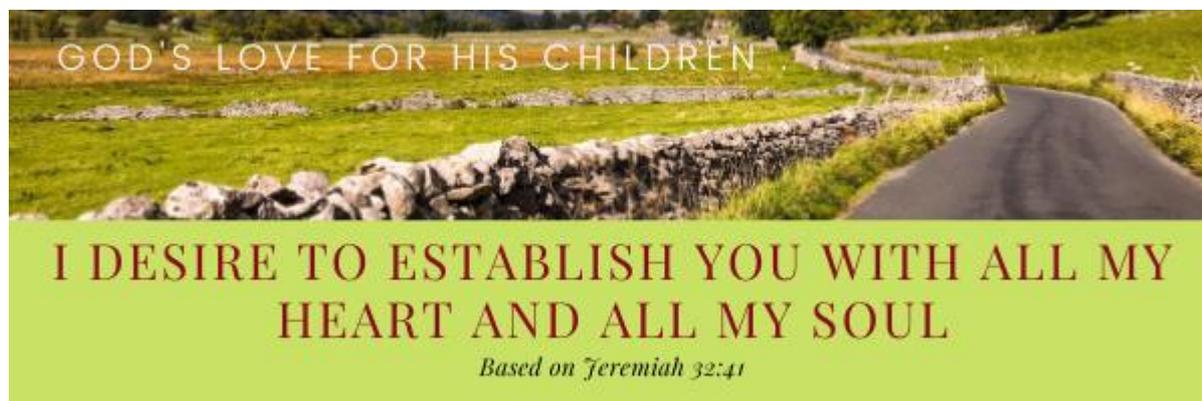


February/March 2021, No. 3

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



FEBRUARY 25, 2021

Here's what's cooking in this issue of *ADVANCE | step by step*

- The **InterCultural Cricket League** plays at Bellerive - but what's that to do with Tas Baptists?
- **HEARTLANDS is released**, the newsletter for Tasmanian Baptist Woman (maybe it's time to subscribe!)
- **5 Reasons Why You Should Care** About Open Doors' *World Watch List*
- **PLUS**, catch the **Tas Baptist News**

It's True: GOD DESIRES TO ESTABLISH YOU!

Jenny

Jenny Baxter
Communications Manager, Tasmanian Baptists
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.

missional initiative:

I.C. Church Hits a Six!

By Matt Garvin

The sound of the enthusiastic crowd of close to 1000 people echoed around Blundstone Arena as the ball flew off the bat and once again found its way over the fence of the Ricky Ponting Stand.



Pictured: John, Mohan and Raj with Manager of Community Cricket, Ben Smith and Cricket Tasmania CEO, Dominic Baker

The game between the KLM Kings and T.P.S. (Tasmanian Punjabi Brothers) was the culmination of five years of hard work by Raj Chopra, Mohan Mattala and John Paul Palissery, who form the core leadership group of both the Intercultural Sports League and I.C. Church, one of the most innovative Baptist churches in Tasmania.

I.C. Church, stands for InterCultural Church, which conveys a core conviction that drives Raj, Paul and Mohan. They have been tirelessly working to build bridges between people of different cultural backgrounds both through the church and through the community.

Every Sunday afternoon I.C. Church meet in the Glenorchy Uniting Church building with a mixture of Indian, Chinese and Australian members. The church is supported by Tasmanian Baptists state chair, Peter Clark who, with his family, attends each week in addition to his duties as pastor of Claremont Baptist church.

Tasmanian Attorney General, Elise Archer (pictured below with the KLM Kings and Raj, Mohan and John) says:

It's my absolute pleasure to support these players through [Glenorchy Cricket Club](#) in the Intercultural Sports League (ICSL) as well as Raj, Mohan and John for having the initiative and sheer determination to pursue their dream of socially integrating our culturally diverse communities through sport and cricket in particular! A dream come true today holding the Grand Final at Blundstone Arena too. Thanks to [Cricket Tasmania](#).



A measure of their commitment to their vision has been the way that Raj, Mohan and John have managed to build bridges across political lines with the match attended both by state and federal politicians from the liberal and greens parties.

Another measure of the significance of the ICSL is that a documentary that tells the story of one of the teams playing in the competition, called *Sidelines*, has been screened nationally on SBS and was recently [nominated for best short form documentary](#) at the [AIDC awards](#). You can watch the film on [SBS OnDemand](#) >>> sbs.com.au/topics/video/1596295747600/Sidelines

[See ISCL Hobart on Facebook](#) >>> facebook.com/icslhobart

news:

[NEED TO KNOW SOME DATES? Check the Tas Baptist Calendar >>>](#)

Farewell Norman Pell

13 June 1928 - 10 February 2021



Funeral details: 2:30pm Friday February 26, 2021. New Community Church at Maroondah Federation Estate, Ringwood, Victoria.

Streaming information:

bethel.tributes.com.au/tributes/reverendnorman-pell/

Our former Superintendent, the Rev Norman Pell, died on 10th February aged 91 years. He'd had failing health for some time.

In October 1992, the Tasmanian Baptist Annual Assembly welcomed him and his wife Dorothy from Melbourne. He began in February 1993. At the time he was 64 years of age. He concluded his time as Superintendent in Tasmania in March 1999.

When he was eight his father, the Rev. Fred Pell, was Pastor of the Devonport Baptist Church. In 1959 Norman was the Youth Chairman for the Billy Graham Crusade in Melbourne. He helped organize the Leighton Ford crusades in Tasmania in 1967-68. For 18 years he served on the staff of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in America and other countries.

He was also a former General Superintendent of the Baptist Union of Victoria (1971-75) and former National Director of Christian Endeavour (1958-64). In an interview in 1993 he said, "At the age of 13, I and four other youngsters came to Christ in the Kew Baptist Church, Melbourne. The next Sunday we met in the pastor's vestry and formed the "Fishermen's Club". From then until he became a Home Missionary.

He continued, "We saw 70 young people come to the Lord. About 40 of them went out into full-time home or overseas missionary service. In these six years the passion was formed to win the world for Christ. Christian Endeavour in those days did so much for me with its ultimate objective 'Evangelisation of the World for Christ'. That led me out into the pastoral ministry, to denominational ministry, to C.E. work and ultimately to work with Billy Graham."

Norman was the loving husband of Dorothy, father of Alan, father-in-law of Terri, grandfather of Jessica, Zachary and Darcy.

By Laurie Rowston

Tasmania Celebration Postponed

[Will Graham remains eager to visit](#)

We have now entered 2021, and the implications of COVID for this year are becoming clearer. Our BGEA team has been communicating with local leadership regarding the state travel restrictions, which have continued to impact preparations for the Will Graham Tasmania Celebration. In addition, the prospect of international travel in the first half of 2021 is slowly fading, and this impacts the travel itinerary of Will Graham and his team.

For this reason, in discussion with the local leadership team and other pastors, it has been decided to postpone the Celebration until **May 2022**.



[Please see this letter from Will Graham for a personal note about this change >>>](#)

The reality of this change is disappointing, but the mission of the BGEA is the same. We will take a step back, but continue to make preparations for the Tasmania Celebration. In the next few months, a new timeline for the Celebration will be released in consultation with the Hobart leadership team.

RODNEY TRINIDAD
Senior National Manager
Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

FREE Prayer Seminar - Hobart

[Come and discover more about powerful prayer](#)

WHEN: Saturday, March 6th - Seminar begins at 9 am - Doors open from 8:30 am to allow for COVID contact tracing.

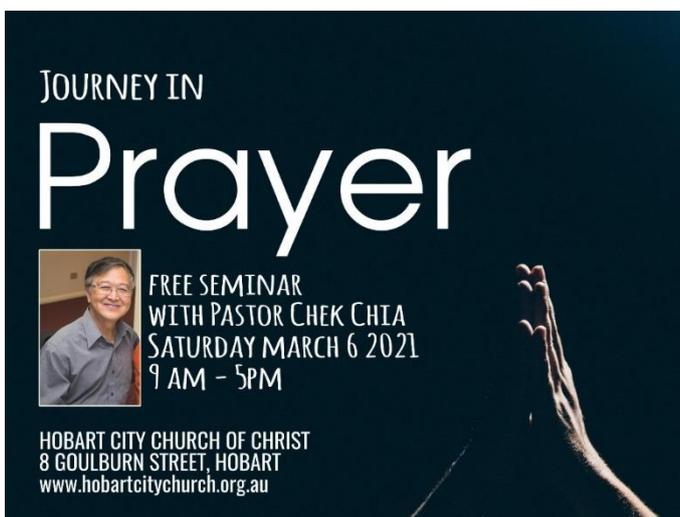
WHERE: Hobart City Church of Christ, 8 Goulburn Street, Hobart, Tasmania

COST: Free - Coffee and Tea will be provided. BYO Lunch, or purchase from nearby cafes

FOR: Anyone who is interested in prayer

Come and discover more about powerful prayer. You'll discover new things. You'll be refreshed. You'll be challenged to pray for revival in Hobart, Tasmania and in Australia. Revival can only come when Christians come together and pray.

In 2018, more than 90 Christians gathered at the Civic Centre in Nubeena where Pastor Chek presented his first "Journey in Prayer" Seminar in Tasmania, firmly believing that God is calling the Christian Churches of Australia to come together and pray for revival. Since taking this free seminar around Australia, he has been calling upon cities and towns to come together in prayer and seeing the wonderful fruit of Christian unity as a result.



Pastor Chek has been in pastoral ministry for more than 40 years. He has planted nine churches across Melbourne. He has served on state (Victoria & Tasmania) and national boards of the Churches of Christ in Australia. He was also the Overseer of the Intercessors For Melbourne Prayer Network for five years.

Praying for the persecuted church

Open Doors Australia | www.opendoors.org.au

Christians are being refused COVID-19 aid in countries across Asia, Middle East and Africa

The Open Doors World Watch List, 2021 AND The Open Doors World Watch List Report, 2021



Pictured: Khalid from Ethiopia

This year's list reveals the most dangerous countries to be a Christian across the globe; key findings this year include:

- North Korea is ranked as the most dangerous country for Christians for the 20th year in a row
- Human trafficking has become worse for Christian women during COVID-19.
- COVID-19 facilitates have increased surveillance and controls by authoritarian governments.
- One in eight Christians worldwide are persecuted for their faith

Specific findings: Christians are being refused COVID-19 aid in countries across Asia, Middle East and Africa.

- COVID-19 has been a catalyst for persecution and discrimination against

Christians, who in countries from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan to Yemen and Sudan were at times denied emergency relief; some were told it was because "your church or your God should feed you" or even "the virus was created and/or spread by the West."

- In India, 80% of those receiving emergency relief from Open Doors' partners were first excluded from official distribution.
- The violent Islamic extremist group al-Shabaab in Somalia blamed Christians for COVID-19, announcing it was spread "by the crusader forces who have invaded the country and the disbelieving countries that support them."

Open Doors 2021 World Watch List. [See a map or list >>>](http://www.opendoors.org.au/persecuted-christians/world-watch-list/)

FIND OUT MORE by reading the Report

The World Watch List 2021 Report includes:

- The full World Watch List 2021
- Trends in persecution all over the world,
- Year-on-year insights,
- The place where persecution is most on the rise,
- A glimpse into the persecuted church

[DOWNLOAD THE REPORT HERE >>>](https://clients.tasbaptists/downloads/opendoors_worldwatchlist-2021-report_jan2021.pdf) /clients/tasbaptists/downloads/opendoors_worldwatchlist-2021-report_jan2021.pdf

women:

Heartlands Summer Newsletter

Heartlands News is released every quarter by email.

Heartlands refers not just to our heart-shaped island, but also challenges readers to consider things of the heart.



The Summer issue features:

- **An encouragement to R-E-S-T** by State Director, Jenny Baxter
- **Get to Know Karen Buckney** - Tas Baptists' Assistant Administrator
- **It's a New Day** - 21st Century ministry, by Karen Wilson, President Baptist World Alliance Women
- **3 Tips to Beat Disillusionment** - By Mel Saward
- **Choose to Challenge** - International Women's Day, March 8

[READ Heartlands, Summer 2021 >>>](#)

tasbaptists.org.au/heartlands-news-summer-2021

[SUBSCRIBE to Heartlands >>>](#)

<http://eepurl.com/gGEAYT>

persecuted Christians:

5 Reasons Why You Should Care About The World Watch List

The World Watch List ranks the top 50 most dangerous places to be a Christian

BUT WHY DOES IT MATTER?



By Murray Noble, [Open Doors Australia](https://www.opendoors.org.au) [opendoors.org.au](https://www.opendoors.org.au)

Murray is a Communication Specialist and Researcher for Open Doors Australia.

Here are the top 5 reasons why you should care about the World Watch List

1. It Reveals the Reality of Following Jesus

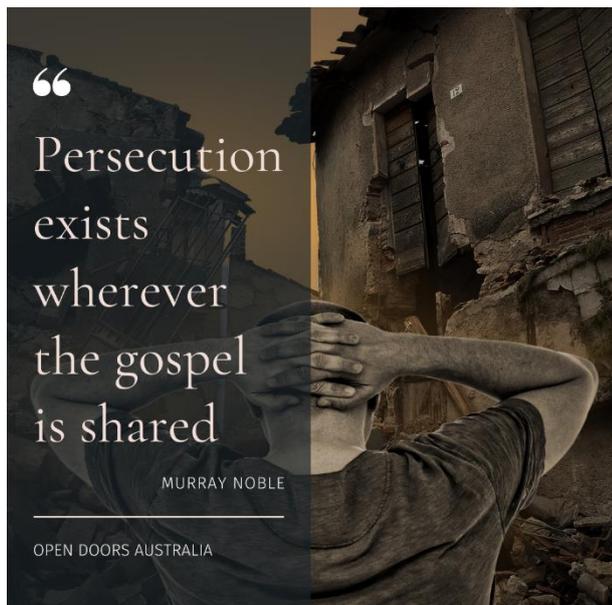
340 million Christians face persecution today.

That's 1 in 8 believers who choose to put their safety, their livelihoods, their privacy and even their lives on the line. All to follow Jesus.

The World Watch List exposes the true reality of following Jesus around the world and illustrates just what sacrifices are made by those who share our faith, but not our freedom.

2. It Shows Where God is at Work

Persecution exists wherever the gospel is shared.



In order to stop persecution, all we would have to do is tell people to stop sharing the gospel. But in accordance with Jesus' call for those who love Him (Matthew 28), together, we are working to strengthen the Church to continue sharing the transformational message of the gospel, even in the hardest places.

The World Watch List reveals to us where following Jesus is most dangerous. With this, we know God is at work in these nations and the message of the gospel is being shared, no matter the cost.

3. It Indicates Where Your Support Is Most Needed

As persecution in each country changes and the situation shifts, it's important that we adapt and consider how we can best serve our persecuted brothers and sisters. Whether it be prayer, discipleship, emergency

relief or community development, with your support we are working to meet the unique needs of the persecuted church.

Even the Bibles we deliver are requested by our local partners for a specific person, church or pastor. That means every Bible has a destination and a purpose. It is the World Watch List that helps us adjust to meet the needs of persecuted church.

4. It is the Most Authoritative List of its Kind

For 30 years, Open Doors has produced an annual [World Watch List](#).

It is compiled by a group of experts, one director and five persecution analysts, who focus on a particular region. Each are experts in their field of study with postgraduate or doctoral qualifications.

The list is then audited externally by the International Institute for Religious Freedom and is accepted as the most authoritative list of its' kind.

5. It Teaches Us to Follow Jesus, No Matter the Cost

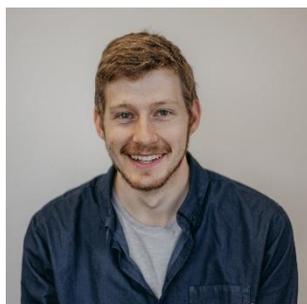
The persecuted church are the best mentors for our faith.



These are Christians who have truly learnt the cost of following Jesus. And yet, they continue to faithfully follow Him, no matter the cost.

While exposing the lived reality of millions of Christians around the world, the World Watch List reminds us that we shouldn't try to avoid persecution. Rather, we should be running towards it with courageous obedience, knowing that wherever the gospel is being shared, persecution exists.

[YOU CAN READ MORE ABOUT THE 2021 WORLD WATCH LIST IN ADVANCE | step by step NEWS >>>](#)



From years of travel and living overseas, Murray Noble has a heart for social justice and a passion for giving all people the opportunity to live free of persecution or discrimination, regardless of their location or situation.

Murray currently lives in Sydney, Australia and is an active member in his local community and church. He thinks deeply about our world and how we can use peaceful solutions to improve the quality of life for all people, through meaningful, sustainable change.

Tasmanian Baptist ADVANCE | step by step
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Website: www.tasbaptists.org.au/news

