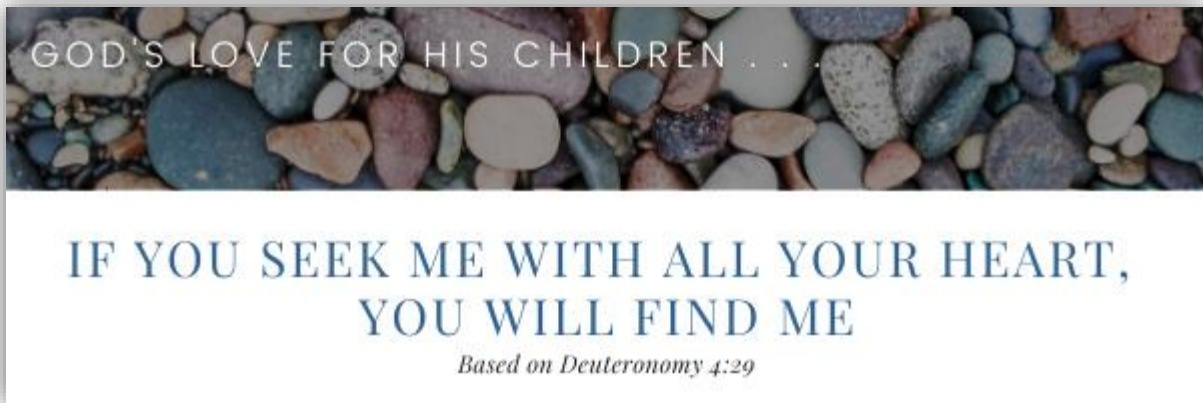


June 2021, No.¹ 1

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



MAY 20, 2021

WELCOME to the first instalment of the June 2021 edition of ADVANCE | step by step

There's so much good reading to catch up on this time . . .

- *Q&A Interview with Paul Manning* - the new Baptist Word Aid Tas/Vic rep
- *An overview of the May Assembly* from a first-timer, Stephen Avery (City Baptist)
- *How your church can benefit* from running Alpha.
- NEWS - There's lots going on!
Religious Freedom Weekend | Training Day for TaCCs | TWO Online Baptist Conferences

Be blessed this week,

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.

¹ tasbaptists.org.au/june-2021/tas-baptist-news-june-2021

report:

Bringing Heaven to Earth

By Stephen Avery



Entering the Baptist Assembly for the first time I had no expectation. I had heard it was full of politics and arguments, but it's different now. How different wasn't clear.

Booking in was easy, just a phone call to friendly staff. My wife, Tracey, is gluten free, dairy free, soy free, egg free and peanut free but that didn't seem to faze them. We booked for the dinner, why not, and the Saturday session.

Friday night came. Tracey and I drove out to Riverlands Church to find a smaller gathering of people than I expected for the opening of Assembly. Later, I realised people were coming from all over the state, so finding accommodation, or the cost of it, was a thing to consider.

That said, the dinner was amazing, and the caterers had all Tracey's food exceptions catered for. (Thanks heaps if you are reading this.)



Pictured: The people gathered on Saturday

Jeff McKinnon gave the opening speech, which as always was straight from the heart, full of vision and hope (I'm biased!) Although we were not known by most, Tracey and I felt we belonged.

Saturday Assembly also felt welcoming. We got to talk face-to-face with others we had only spoken to on the phone or emailed, and Tracey caught up with brothers and sisters she hadn't seen forever.

The formal aspect of Assembly that morning was short and to the point.

Then there was a section of grand vision, which had something to do with community, worship and mission being required for us to be God's church, and *Reengage | Reimagine | Realign*. These are elements which I'm sure will be fleshed out in the coming year.

What really stood out were the individual stories of what's already taking place. A number from different churches shared their journey of listening to God and change.

These stories were of hope that we can listen, God does speak, and He hasn't left us to remain the same. That when we set our focus as a community on Him, he is faithful. He maybe not as quick to respond as we would like (no real fleece moments), but he gives gradual guidance, enough for each step of the way, without over-loading us with heaps of detail.

Other highlights were hearing how *Michael Henderson* and *Jenna Blackwell* would love to support church members in reaching their full potential of what God would like to do in their neighbourhood.

Overall, our first Baptist Assembly was interesting, a great way for us to meet new brothers and sisters and catch up with others, and find out how God is slowly bringing heaven to earth.

Stephen and Tracey Avery attend City Baptist Church, Launceston

news:

Save the Date!



EmpowHer (Tasmanian Baptist Women) Southern Walk

Saturday Morning, June 19, South Arm

More details coming soon.

Religious Freedom Weekend, 11-13 June 2021

Resources are available for churches to use!

Conducted by [Freedom for Faith](#)²

Join with Churches and Faith Communities across Australia to Pray for and Protect Religious Freedom

Faith groups across the nation will be praying for the globally persecuted and the protection of religious freedoms in Australia. Religious Freedom is only weakly protected in Australian law, and those protections are rapidly eroding.

Download: [Resources Pack](#)³ for Churches

Visit: [Religious Freedom Weekend >>>](#)⁴

Let your Light Shine

Free training day for leadership teams of our Town and Country Churches

*An important message from our **Mission Director, Stephen Baxter***



There is a special training day planned to support and encourage our Town and Country Churches (TaCCs). These are a special and unique set of churches in our Union who serve in rural settings across our State. TaCC leadership teams are invited to another special time together.

This is an opportunity to meet with leaders of churches facing similar challenges and needs. TaCC teams will be able to communicate, and be heard by, myself and Jeff McKinnon.

The Training Day is open to all, pastors, church leaders, and those in your TaCC who would like to attend. It would be great if every TaCC is represented.

It will be a great day together!

DETAILS: [Let Your Light Shine Training Day](#)

WHERE: Latrobe Baptist Church, 123 Gilbert Street, Latrobe

WHEN: 10am-2.30pm Saturday 26 June

THEME: Let Your Light Shine: Taking the Gospel to your community

TRAINERS: Stephen Baxter and Jeff McKinnon

WHO: This event is open to all leaders of Town and Country Churches

COST: Free, including refreshments and lunch

RSVP: Karen Buckney karen@riverlands.org.au by Friday 18 June, 2021

² freedomforfaith.org.au

³ tasbaptists.org.au/clients/tasbaptists/downloads/religious_freedom_weekend_resources_pack.pdf

⁴ religiousfreedomweekend.com.au

Baptists in Mission Conference, 5-7 July 2021

Online at [regional hubs](#)

This will be a great event and you are encouraged to attend!

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 >>>](#)⁵ Every afternoon, 2 to 6:30pm each day, 5-7 July

[Register >>>](#)⁶ \$75 (Earlybird before 10 May: \$67.50)

[Regional Hubs >>>](#)⁷

SOUTH Citywide Mornington | NORTH Riverlands Longford | NORTH WEST LifeWay Devonport

[Find out more >>>](#)⁸ Great speakers - Be inspired!

[Watch the Video >>>](#)⁹ vimeo.com/523655507



"Together" Online Conference, 7-10 July 2021

The Baptist World Alliance invites you to attend the 22nd Baptist World Congress.

Held every five years, the 2020 Baptist World Congress, originally planned to take place in Rio de Janeiro Brazil, had to be postponed due to COVID-19.

The big news is that the postponed Congress will be available for online for Baptists to attend globally, with free entry for Australians!

⁵ baptistsinmission.org.au/program

⁶ baptistsinmission.org.au/product/baptists-in-mission

⁷ baptistsinmission.org.au/states/tas

⁸ baptistsinmission.org.au

⁹ vimeo.com/523655507

[WATCH:](#)¹⁰

A Special Update for Australian Baptists from the General Secretary Dr Elijah Brown, Baptist World Alliance, with news for Aussies about attending.



"We are called **together** to God's global mission."

Elijah Brown

FIND OUT MORE:

TOGETHER, [22nd Baptist World Congress](#)¹¹, July 7-10

Free For Aussies! [REGISTER HERE >>>](#)¹² A code is available to access the freebie.

Please contact Karen Buckney to get the code: karen@riverlands.org.au ... Or 6391 2202 9am-1pm Mon-Fri.

The US\$70 registration is being made available to Australians, which includes:

- Access to the entire 2021 Virtual Congress Experience
- 1 Pre-Conference (Wed July 7) Registration for either [Global Conference of Baptist Women](#)¹³ or [Religious Freedom Summit](#)¹⁴
- 7 Days of on-demand Congress content access to enhance your ministry engagement and ministry collaboration.

¹⁰ vimeo.com/523655507

¹¹ bwa2021.org

¹² bwa2021.org/register

¹³ bwa2021.org/global-conference-of-baptist-women

¹⁴ bwa2021.org/together-with-the-persecuted

interview:

Get to Know Paul Manning

Baptist World Aid, Tas/Vic



Rev. Paul Manning is the new face in Tasmania for [Baptist World Aid](#).

Who is he? Where is he from? What makes him tick?

Read on!

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

I was born in Sydney, and grew up on the north beaches. It was a 'typical' suburban childhood, which included what seemed like long summer school holidays playing in the backyard pool, or down at the beach; as well as being part of a church community and all activities which come with that.

When and why did you move to Victoria?

We moved to Melbourne in 2009 for me to begin pastoral ministry at [Sydenham Baptist Church](#).

What do you enjoy most about living there?

Well, all family are now living nearby It takes 25-minutes to get into the city to enjoy all that Melbourne offers. Or 10-minutes, and we're in the country to enjoy all that country Victoria offers. Win-win!

Tell us about your family?

I am married to Liz - 32 years in May 2021 - and we have four adult children. James who is a Secondary School Teacher. Jonathan married to Sarah. Micaela who is studying a Master of Psychology. And Joel who is studying a Master of Physiotherapy. We have two grandsons Malachi and John.



The Manning family are pictured, minus eldest son, James.

How did you become a Christian?

I grew up in a Christian family and community, so I was always aware of God which included who Jesus was, and what He did. I made the decision to follow Jesus in December 1979 and got Baptised in March 1982. From early on I realised that we need Jesus to be Saviour and Lord. He's not just 'a ticket to heaven', which is why I say I'm a follower of Jesus.

What is the best piece of advice you have received?

It was from the Bible - Hebrews 13:8 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, and forever' - such reassurance in a world of consent change and insecurity. I also screen shot lots of sayings here's an example "A day without coffee is like... just kidding - I have no idea".

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, and forever
Hebrews 13:8

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

I spend time with family, often cooking them lunch or dinner. I spend time doing work for Baptist World Aid Australia. I spend time with friends, often involving eating, drinking and laughing a lot. And I should spend time exercising!

Tell us about your role with BWA?

I began at Baptist World Aid Australia in May 2020 as Church Relationship Manager for Tasmania and Victoria.

A primary focus is to work with Tasmanian Baptist Pastors and Churches within the ministry area of responding to international injustice. In particular, the injustice of poverty, the vulnerable and marginalized. It was great to finally be able to visit Tasmania, to meet face to face at the May Assembly.

It was great to finally visit Tasmania, to meet face to face at the May Assembly.

I look forward to partnering in ministry and facilitating transforming partnerships between Tasmanian Baptists and poor, vulnerable communities throughout the world.

What excites you most about what you do?

The most exciting thing about being involved in the work of Baptist World Aid Australia is positively impacting the lives of many people as they experience wholistic transformation within their lives and the communities in which they live.

How can we pray for you and your work?

Pray for connections and opportunities which will allow me to facilitate transforming partnerships.

Pray, too, for the communities where Baptist World Aid Australia are ministering.

Short and Sweet

I am looking forward to ... continuing to be able to travel within Tasmania, Victoria and NSW

I am worried about ... being locked away again

I am confident that ... Baptist World Aid Australia will increasingly impact the lives of the poor and vulnerable.

I am joyful about ... being able to meet face to face with family and friends

I am at my best when ... I'm with people drinking coffee.

Support the work of BWA

[End COVID-19 in India >>>¹⁵](#) | [Order the COVID-edition Ethical Fashion Guide >>>¹⁶](#)

¹⁵ baptistworldaid.org.au/appeals/india-covid-emergency-appeal

¹⁶ baptistworldaid.org.au/resources/ethical-fashion-guide

discipleship and evangelism:

Engaging your Community

Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone had the opportunity to ask questions about life, faith and meaning in a non-threatening friendly environment?

Alpha Australia has a vision to see 1-million people in Australia do just that!



What is Alpha?

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions over several weeks which involve connecting with others, whether that be over a meal or an icebreaker, watching a video about a different aspect of the Christian faith and having time for open discussion. Alpha is for everyone, young and not so young.

It runs in churches, cafes, pubs, schools and prisons all over the world and even online. Alpha Online has made it possible for all people to have the opportunity to hear the Good News of Jesus.



Tasmanian Baptist experience

Dan Hutchison, at Citywide Baptist Church in Mornington, has run the **Alpha Youth Series**.



He says "We have used the Alpha Youth series a number of times each having a profound impact on our young people ...The Alpha Youth content has been presented in a very helpful way with our young adults finding it their 'go-to' for wanting to go over the foundations of faith. The first time we went away for the weekend element, we prayed for the Spirit to turn up and one of our young people had an overwhelming sense of joy. At another weekend retreat everyone in the room felt a sense of peace".

He continues, "One time when we did the session on healing we then found out that one of the youth had a brain tumour. The timing of the session, and the content, helped the leaders and youth through that time in praying and seeing a miracle of healing".

Dan also ran **The Marriage Course**

"...we ran the marriage course online with 15 couples. We were one of the first in Tassie to run the new format and it was very well received. This was a great time together during COVID, being able to meet in our own homes really created a safe place for couples to discuss the content in private.

"Delivering the content online really did strengthen peoples' marriages in our church and cultivated community between our couples in this shared experience."

Have questions?



To find out more about running **Alpha** or **The Marriage Course** head to our website:

alpha.org.au.

Or, contact Anita Booker, one of our local Alpha Church Engagement Team members:

anita.booker@alpha.org.au

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