

## [September/October 2021](#)<sup>1</sup>



7<sup>th</sup> October 2021

In this week's ADVANCE | step by step . . .

- **Food for Thought:** *Our Divine Purpose* Bob Goolsby, George Town Baptist
- **Disaster Zones!** Haiti, Myanmar, Afghanistan
- **Crossover Australia** – Baptist sharing Jesus
- **NEED TO KNOW**
  - **Annual Assembly speaker**, Patrick Parkinson
  - **Tasmania Celebration 2022**, Launch events
  - **Winner:** Australian Christian Book of the Year Award

The next instalment of **ADVANCE | step by step** will be released on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021.



**Jenny Baxter**

Communications Manager, Tasmanian Baptists

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

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<sup>1</sup> [tasbaptists.org.au/september-october-2021](http://tasbaptists.org.au/september-october-2021)

food for thought:

## Our Divine Purpose

### Providing a place for heaven to speak

Pastor Bob Goolsby contemplates an age-old question:

Who is it who convicts people of their sin?



Years ago, a young preacher said to me, “Brother Bob, it’s getting so you can’t preach against sin anymore”.

I said “You preach against sin? Why do you do that? Do you have a lot of people guilty of the sins you are naming in your church?”

He said “No, come to think of it”.

I said, “You need to learn to hunt where the ducks are”.

I know he did not coin that statement. I have heard it many times. In some churches, the “amen corner” will approve with gusto so we satisfy the few, and lose the many.

### Just as I Am

I was born-again when I was eight years old. (It might have been earlier, but we tend to look for some event to identify as “coming to Christ”).

In a tiny chapel in a part of the U.S. that is now a national forest, very remote, I first sensed the Lord in experiences currently less available, as families drop from church. At eight years of age, the 28-year-old preacher spoke on a Sunday night. I don’t exactly remember the sermon, but I remember they sang “Just as I Am” for what seemed to be an eternity.

The presence of the Holy Spirit, and an opportunity to respond made the difference. He did not preach on sin. He presented the Saviour. Even at eight-years-old, I was able to experience conviction. It does not matter whether sin is great or small. The Holy Spirit shines His own spotlight on the heart.

*“It is the Holy Spirit’s job to bring it to life, once declared.”*

The preacher presents the Word. Paul said “Faith comes by hearing” it ([Romans 10:17](#)). He also said, “I am free from the blood of all men, for I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God” ([Acts 20:26-27](#)), not one part, not two parts, but all of it. It is the Holy Spirit’s job to bring it to life, once declared.

## Offering a Solution

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I learned something else subsequent to that night. God saves sinners, but it might take a while to practically expunge all the sin from the saved one.

That’s why the church should not major on the problem. We need to offer the solution. Granted, on occasion the preacher needs to define the problems we face, but by isolating one sin to rail against, all we do is alienate the guilty, and telegraph the message to the rank and file that they should not bring those people to your church.

Rarely did Jesus rail against adultery, for example, except in the most general of terms. But he always forgave it (adding a fatherly “go and sin no more” as He did so). Rather, it was the attitudes of the religious against the sinner that invigorated His sternest warnings.

It has been said, “The Church is not a sanctuary for the saintly but a hospital for the sick”. Overcoming Christians need to be staff, administering healing medicine and care, not mere lifestyle criticism.

*We are relevant, not because we are an echo, but because we provide place for heaven to speak.*



**Bob Goolsby** is the pastor at George Town Baptist church  
[crosswise.tas@outlook.com](mailto:crosswise.tas@outlook.com)

need to know:

## NEWS for Tasmanian Baptists

7th October 2021

### Tasmanian Baptists Annual Assembly 2021

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7pm Friday to 3:30pm Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October



Above: Delegates at the May Assembly 2021

The next Assembly of the Baptist Union of Tasmania will be held on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 at Riverlands, 159 Wellington Street, Longford commencing with a dinner at 7pm. It will reconvene on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021 at the same location commencing at 9.30am.

Churches are requested to send delegates to Assembly and Pastors on the Accredited and Recognised Pastors list are invited to attend.

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!** Friday Dinner - \$30 person. Saturday lunch - \$25 per person. Please contact Karen Buckney to book meals and indicate dietary requests: [karen@riverlands.org.au](mailto:karen@riverlands.org.au) | 6391 2202

**Friday night speaker:** Professor Patrick Parkinson, pictured.



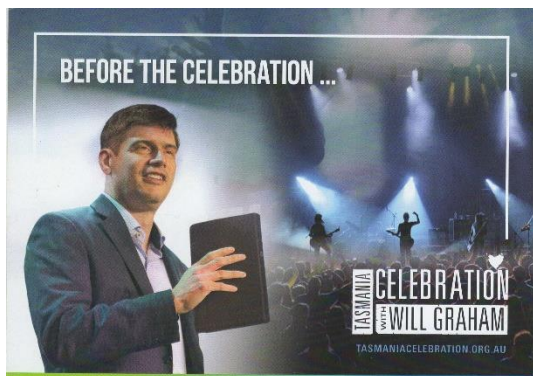
Professor Parkinson is a specialist in family law, child protection, law and religion and the law of equity and trusts. He is also well-known for his community work concerning child protection. He has been a member of the NSW Child Protection Council and was Chairperson of a major review of the state law concerning child protection which led to the enactment of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998. He also works with churches on child protection and religious freedom issues.

Patrick and his wife Martha now live in Tasmania.



## Before the Celebration ... Launch of the 2022 Tasmania Celebration

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Launceston Launch Event: 6:30-8pm, 19th November (Door of Hope) | Hobart Launch Event: 6:30-8pm, 20th November (C3 Centre)

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association extends an invitation to all churches to join the November launch of the **Tasmania Celebration 2022 with Will Graham**.

These will be evenings for the collective church to unite together for prayer and worship and to share the vision for the upcoming Tasmania Celebration events in May 2022. We look forward to seeing you there.

**There are also regular Prayer Meetings for the Celebration taking place at [Gateway Baptist](#)<sup>2</sup>, 7am Thursday mornings.**

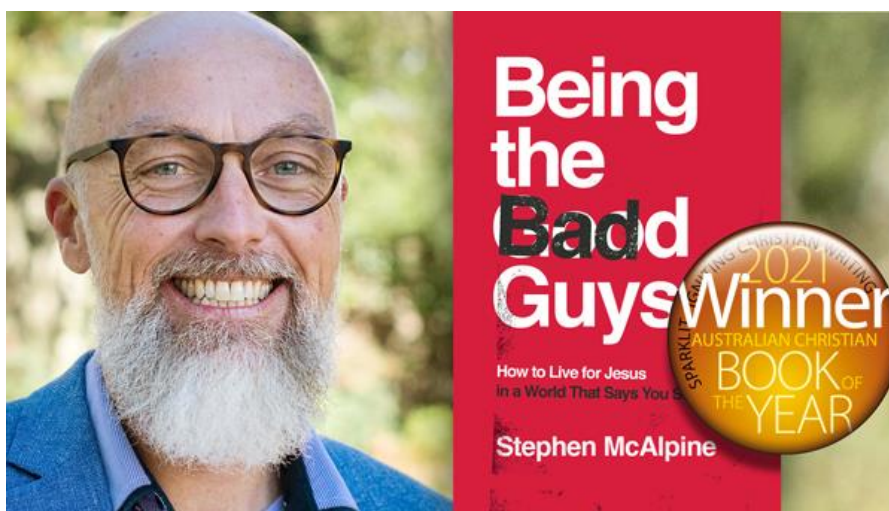
Find out more about these and other events: <https://tasmania.billygraham.org/events/>

## SparkLit Awards

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Australian Christian Book of the Year 2021

***Being the Bad Guys*, by Stephen McAlpine**



No longer just quaint or irrelevant, Christians in Western society are once again regarded as "haters of humankind".

*Being the Bad Guys* calls on Christians to admit our failures and embrace life as a creative minority. As a community on the margins, we can welcome the actual victims of contemporary culture as they look for grace and solace from its bruising brutality. This book is an overdue reset for Christians who have not yet realised that they are more like Daniel in Babylon than Solomon in the land of milk and honey.

[Read more >>>](#) <sup>3</sup>[The 2021 Australian Christian Book of the Year Shortlist](#)

[Purchase from Koorong >>>](#)<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> [gatewaybaptistchurch.com.au](http://gatewaybaptistchurch.com.au)

<sup>3</sup> [sparklit.org](http://sparklit.org)

<sup>4</sup> [koorong.com](http://koorong.com) (Search for **Being the Bad Guys**)

world affairs:

## Acts of God, Terrorism and Trauma

# Haiti, Myanmar, Afghanistan

## Haiti - Earthquake and Tropical Cyclone

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Double disaster slams Haiti. Believers coordinate aid and broadcast hope

By Katey Hearth, [Mission Network News](#)<sup>5</sup>

Haiti (MNN) - Haiti is reeling from back-to-back disasters. A 7.2-magnitude earthquake rocked southwest Haiti [on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August](#)<sup>6</sup>. Then, Tropical Depression Grace swept through the same region, deluging survivors and hampering rescue efforts.

"The heavy rains, landslides, flooding, (are) a nightmare for disaster relief," says Kate Michel, Global Communications and Fundraising Director at Radio 4VEH, a Trans World Radio (TWR) partner in Haiti.



Photo courtesy of Radio 4VEH

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*As of 1 September 2021, at least 2,200 people were casualties, and above 12,200 injured. An estimated 650,000 people are in need of assistance.*

*REF: Wikipedia*

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### Prayer needed!

"We urge people to be praying for Haiti; for those who are trying to help; and for God's hand of protection to be on the most vulnerable, today and in the days ahead," Michel says.

"We know we're often asking for prayer for Haiti, and sometimes it can seem like it's never-ending. But trust me, we see God working miracles every day in Haiti. The earthquake occurred along the same fault lines as a [7.0-magnitude 2010 earthquake](#)<sup>7</sup> that left Port-au-Prince in shambles. That quake claimed [more than 200,000 casualties](#)<sup>8</sup>, and estimated losses totalled \$7.8 billion.

### Trauma and flashbacks

The fallout from this recent disaster could rise to similar heights. "Nearly every Haitian, and Haitians living abroad, are going through some of those traumatic reminders of the terrible earthquake in 2010." Pray for endurance as believers broadcast critical updates and the hope of Christ.

A special trauma counselling program broadcast regularly by 4VEH helps Haitians deal with psychological fallout. "We spent a lot of time after the 2010 earthquake on helping people understand what trauma is, how people may react, and what kind of healing is possible," Michel says, describing the program. It's an essential tool when difficult seasons like these stir painful flashbacks.

[Send tangible help to Haiti through Radio 4VEH here >>>](#)<sup>9</sup> | [Baptist World Aid disaster fund for Haiti >>>](#)<sup>10</sup>

*TWR INTERNATIONAL is broadcasting HOPE to the world in 300 languages. In 2020 TWR received 34.4 MILLION connections and responses on all media broadcast platforms. Go to [www.twr.org](http://www.twr.org) for more details. Your partnership with TWR - AUSTRALIA will be most appreciated.*

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<sup>5</sup> [mnnonline.org](http://mnnonline.org)

<sup>6</sup> [nbcnews.com/news/world/drone-video-shows-devastation-left-wake-7-2-magnitude-earthquake-n1276903](http://nbcnews.com/news/world/drone-video-shows-devastation-left-wake-7-2-magnitude-earthquake-n1276903)

<sup>7</sup> [mnnonline.org/news/haiti-reels-from-strongest-quake-in-200-years](http://mnnonline.org/news/haiti-reels-from-strongest-quake-in-200-years)

<sup>8</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/disaster/eq-2010-000009-hti>

<sup>9</sup> [4veh.org/en/donate/earthquake-send-help-hope](http://4veh.org/en/donate/earthquake-send-help-hope)

<sup>10</sup> [baptistworldaid.org.au/appeals/disaster-action-fund](http://baptistworldaid.org.au/appeals/disaster-action-fund)

## Call for Justice in Myanmar

Australian Baptist Ministries (ABM) joins with Baptist World Alliance (BWA), Asia Pacific Baptist Federation (APBF), Baptist World Alliance Women (BWAU) and Asian Baptist Women's Union (ABWU) with regard to the ongoing situation in Myanmar that needs our immediate attention. Two events in Chin State of Myanmar that demands our strongest condemnation and determined prayer.



Over the weekend 19 and 20th September 2021, a young Baptist Pastor, Cung Biak Hum was shot and killed while attempting to help a church member whose home had been set on fire by military forces. He leaves behind his wife who is pregnant with their third child and two boys.

Baptist Pastor Thian Lian Sang was robbed and arrested at around 11 am on September 16<sup>th</sup>. He was arrested in front of his house by armed men in plain clothes. At the time of the arrest, three military vehicles and about 20 armed men on three motorcycles were involved. After that, members of the State Administration Council (SAC) entered the house and checked the phones. Five phones were confiscated, including his mother's as well as his wife's. They also took 400,000 kyats.

"That 400,000 kyats was the money they received for the funeral of his father (in August)," said a family member. The family members said he has just recovered from Covid-19 and still not well yet. It is not yet known why he was arrested and but people close to him say the pastor is politically neutral.

**We call for the immediate release of Rev. Thian Lian Sang.**

**We also call for those who killed Rev. Cung Biak Hum to be held legally responsible, and we ask for restoration of the homes burned by the military.**

**We call upon the military regime to restore religious freedom, human rights, and peace through dialogue across Chin State and Myanmar as a whole.**

Please use the image (above) and the following hashtags to help us create awareness via social media and call for justice against the atrocities of the Military regime.

#StandingwithMyanmar | #WhatsHappeningInMyanmar

We are stronger when we stand together,

**Rev. Mark Wilson**

National Ministries Director  
Australian Baptist Ministries  
(Baptist Union of Australia Inc)

## Afghanistan Trauma

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The US withdrew all their troops from Afghanistan about a month ago. The evacuation operation was a disaster after the collapse of the Afghan government, and Kabul was seized by the Taliban.



And now, the unfolding situation with the Taliban across Afghanistan remains a pressing and dangerous one, imposing fear on families and threatening the safety of hundreds of thousands of women, men and children.

We believe that now is a moment for all Australian Christians to come together in solidarity.

**Therefore, I am asking you to join Christians across Australia and sign the *Christians United for Afghanistan* call.**

As the crisis continues, Christians from across the Australian church, alongside a wider public movement, are being moved to speak boldly to our national leaders to provide urgent action for the wellbeing of Afghan people.

### **The call is simple:**

WE, THE AUSTRALIAN CHURCH, ARE CALLING ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO WELCOME AN ADDITIONAL 20,000 AFGHAN REFUGEES AND SUPPORT THE ONGOING WELLBEING OF ALL AFGHAN REFUGEES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

### **[Sign the urgent call](#)<sup>11</sup>**

This is an urgent call for Christians from all walks of life and perspectives, united in concern for the wellbeing of the Afghan community. Our hope at Baptist World Aid is that Christians united across Australia will show our government that we are called to care for the vulnerable. And as we do, we pray that the government will respond with a just and compassionate commitment to helping the most vulnerable Afghan refugees.

As a united Australian Church, I believe we *can* make a difference. Thank you for standing with us as we stand for the people of Afghanistan.

Grace and peace,

**Peter Keegan**

Director of Advocacy

Baptist World Aid Australia

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<sup>11</sup> [unitedforafghanistan.com/?partner=BWAA](https://unitedforafghanistan.com/?partner=BWAA)



Baptists sharing Jesus:

## New training resource . . . and a big challenge

Christmas resource including sermon outlines, service ideas, customisable artwork and more

*A new website launching soon, a new training resource, and a big challenge!*

Here's a quick update on all that's going on behind the scenes at Crossover Australia.

### 1. New Crossover Website launching early October

We're re-organising our storehouse of resources and ideas and making it easier to browse and access them, at the same address [crossover.org.au](http://crossover.org.au)



### 2. Christmas Resource 2021 - 'Good News for a Change'

A free Christmas series for churches that's inevitable and accessible. Includes sermon outlines, service ideas, customisable artwork and more. Available early October

We'll be launching our Christmas Resource for 2021 with our new website in mid-October! Make sure you're [signed up for our eNews to be notified](#)<sup>12</sup>.

### 3. Evangelism Training Resource - 'Plan A'

'Plan A' is a wonderful training resource featuring a sermon series, small group resources and more. Developed and presented by Belinda Lakelin. Pilot churches loved it - full version coming soon.

### 4. PRAC and Sacred Agents

PRAC magazine (for pastors and other leading thinkers) and the 'Sacred Agents' blog (for everyone) will continue - stay tuned!

## Spring Appeal 2021 - A \$90,000 Challenge

With COVID disrupting our last 2 Easter Offerings, Crossover is \$90,000 behind budget for support - just when we're gearing up with a tonne of ideas and projects we're ready to invest in. Please actively support and promote our Spring Appeal in October. And please pray with us - Jesus invites us to ask for whatever we need, as we serve and represent him together.

[And if you're able to give now, thank you! >>>](#)<sup>13</sup>



**Andrew Turner,**

Director of Crossover for ABM

[www.crossover.org.au](http://www.crossover.org.au) | [facebook.com/crossoveroz](https://facebook.com/crossoveroz)

If your church has produced something that worked well and could bless other churches in their outreach, let us know! We're always looking for helpful ways to encourage, train and resource our movement for outreach and evangelism. Use [ideas@crossover.org.au](mailto:ideas@crossover.org.au)

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<sup>12</sup> [crossover.org.au/newsletter](http://crossover.org.au/newsletter)

<sup>13</sup> [crossover.org.au/support-give](http://crossover.org.au/support-give)

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Comments and submissions to Advance can be sent to:  
Email: [jenny@tasbaptists.org.au](mailto:jenny@tasbaptists.org.au)

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

