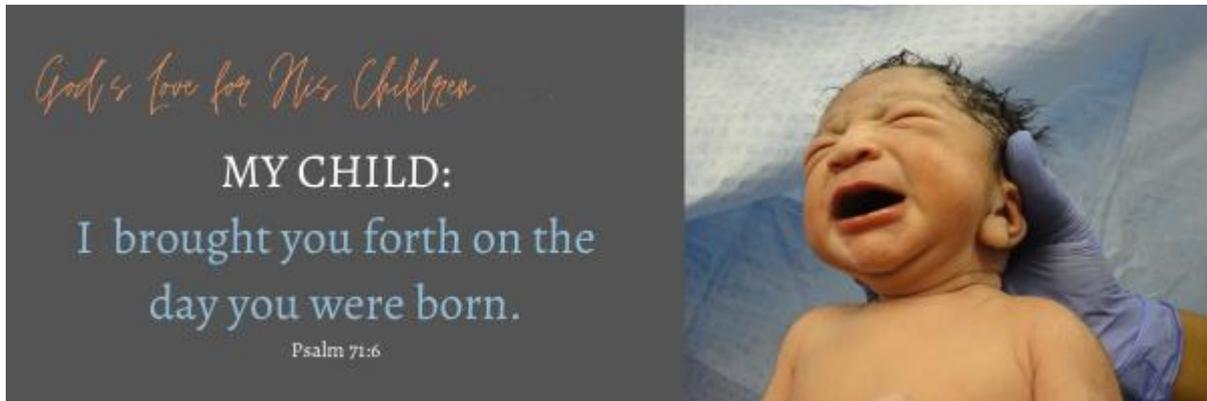


JULY 23, 2020

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



Special news this week as the churches across Tasmania plan to pray, praise and thank God for the way in which he has sustained the state over the past few months. AND to pray for the rest of our nation and the world.

The day of Thanksgiving and Prayer will take place on Sunday August 2. Please make sure your church can be involved.

This issue of **ADVANCE | step by step** we also have some updated News from around the state; information about new GIA candidates Ryan and Suzie Smith; and Part Two of Liam Conway's reflection, this time about the PRIESTS.

Happy Reading!

*Jenny*

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**Jenny Baxter**  
Communications Manager, Tasmanian Baptists  
[jennyb@tasbaptists.org.au](mailto:jennyb@tasbaptists.org.au)

Churches of Tasmania:

## Thanksgiving and Prayer Sunday

*Heads of Tasmanian churches, led by Anglican Bishop Richard Condie, have set Sunday August 2 to pray with thanksgiving for our state's current clean bill of health during this unsettled pandemic era.*

Tasmanian Baptists were represented by our Mission Director, Stephen Baxter, as the church leaders convened last week. Together they agreed to a unified response, and expression of gratefulness, to the Tasmanian government for their handling of the crisis.

Did you know **Premier Peter Gutwein** was the only state premier to offer an encouragement specifically to churches! His most recent message was released just before Easter.  
[<https://www.facebook.com/tasmanianbaptists/videos/616053062455160>]



*Below is the letter sent to churches by Bishop Condie last week.*

**Please carefully consider your response - can your church pray with thanksgiving during your service on Sunday August 2?**

### From Bishop Richard Condie

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16 July 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am writing to ask if you would set aside a part of your Sunday service (on-line or in person) for prayers of thanksgiving on Sunday 2 August 2020.

A group of church leaders met this week, and thought that it would be good if there was a united move of the churches in Tasmania to . . .

**1. Give thanks to God for:**

- protecting our state from a serious outbreak of Coronavirus
- our leaders and their advisors who have served us well in protecting the lives of Tasmanians
- and for limiting the loss of life;

**2. And to pray for:**

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- our leaders to persist in their wise leadership
- the ongoing protection of every person in Tasmania
- and for other states of Australia who continue to battle this pandemic.

We encourage you to invite your local Member of Parliament to join you for worship on that Sunday as an act of support.

We hope to invite the media to be present at some services, and to have Opinion Pieces giving thanks, published in the major newspapers.

Please join together across our denominations to unite in thanksgiving and prayer.

With warm wishes in Christ,

*The Right Reverend Dr Richard Condie*  
Bishop of Tasmania

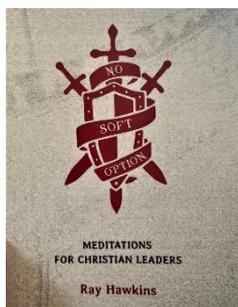


news:

## No Soft Option - Book Offer

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Meditations for Christian Leaders



*31-Day Devotional* By Ray Hawkins

Retired after 50 years of ministry, Ray wrote this devotional on the Bible's call to ministry. He was in the Churches of Christ Australia and was responsible for establishing two churches, and keeping another alive. Since settling in Beauty Point, he and Mary with son, Craig along with his wife Rachelle and children, began the Point Baptist Church.

*No Soft Option* will encourage all those in all the various forms of Christian service.

Price includes postage, \$15.00. Contact Ray to purchase: [ray.haw3819@bigpond.com](mailto:ray.haw3819@bigpond.com)

Ray frequently writes poetry for the ADVANCE | step by step, read *What Will I Wear?* at the end of this document.

## End COVID for All!

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*Baptist World Aid Australia special event*

An Evening of Prayer and Reflection, Wednesday August 19, 2020.



I am thrilled to announce a special event, an online *End COVID For All* service, hosted by Baptist World Aid and our Christian partners in the field.

**Your church's involvement lets the government and your community know that you're concerned for our global neighbours...** and that you want to see Australia reach out and

support those who are less equipped to deal with this pandemic. Thank you!

To help you have this discussion with your own church family, download your End COVID For All Toolkit!

[DOWNLOAD YOUR TOOLKIT >>>](https://baptistworldaid.org.au/churches-end-covid/) [https://baptistworldaid.org.au/churches-end-covid/]

The Toolkit has everything you'll need to help you promote the pledge and plan for the End COVID For All prayer and reflection service, and it's useful for everyone - from small groups, to big services.

See you on Wednesday 19 August!

God Bless,

**Peter Keegan**

Director of Advocacy, Baptist World Aid

## Need Help with Hearing/Audio at Your Church?

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Tahlia Sperling of [Hearing Australia](#) has been in touch recently as she is compiling a list of Tasmanian venues with audio induction loops. She was encouraged by our response, as nearly half of Baptist churches are already set up with this equipment to assist the hearing impaired.

Tahlia wrote:

"It is great to see your churches taking initiative as a lot of the time people who are hard of hearing choose not to talk about the fact as they might feel a bit embarrassed it. If any of your churches find they have issues with communication with the hearing impaired or would like some information, we do provide information packs to help with this. We only need a postal address."

If you would like some information sent to you, please contact Tahlia: [Tahlia.Sperling@hearing.com.au](mailto:Tahlia.Sperling@hearing.com.au)

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missions:

## Destination Asia - Supporting Ryan and Suzie Smith

Ryan and Suzie Smith prepare to join Global Interaction's South Asia team



*At Global Interaction, one of our privileges is introducing new candidates for cross-cultural work to our churches.*

Ryan and Suzie have had an ongoing interest in South Asia, which grew while serving in the pastoral ministry at *Kyneton Baptist Church* in Victoria. Over the last six years, Ryan has served as Global Interaction State Director for Vic/Tas.

Having facilitated numerous church-group visits to the Global Interaction team in South Asia, their connection with this work has deepened. Recently, their particular interest in South Asia has grown to become a sense of call.

Ryan's heart for discipleship, and Suzie's expertise as a disability physiotherapist, equip them well to support the Global Interaction team and their NGO platform in South Asia. They are beginning culture and language learning this year in preparation for joining the team.

**Before they commence, Ryan and Suzie would love to share their story and sense of call with others.**

Over the coming months, they are available to connect with your church, small group or individuals online, and would love the opportunity to visit with you in the future. This time before they depart is a valuable time of preparation, for both Ryan and Suzie, and for the people who will support their ministry.

It is a time to connect, exchange stories and build relationships that will become a source of inspiration and support for them into the future.

While Ryan and Suzie have been called, they cannot begin without a network supporting them from home. They are looking to build a team of individuals, small groups and churches who are committed to partnering with them in this ministry through prayer and/or finances.

I look forward to hearing from you to express interest in Ryan and Suzie sharing with your fellowship.

With much blessing,

Geoff Maddock | [victas@globalinteraction.org.au](mailto:victas@globalinteraction.org.au)

State Director

Global Interaction Vic/Tas

[Download Ryan and Suzie's introductory card >>>](#)

[[www.tasbaptists.org.au/clients/tasbaptists/downloads/supportercard\\_ryansuzie2020.pdf](http://www.tasbaptists.org.au/clients/tasbaptists/downloads/supportercard_ryansuzie2020.pdf)]

theological reflection:

## Priests - The Interceding Nation



*Liam Conway is studying a Masters of Divinity by distance through Malyon College, Queensland. The two most impactful units so far are Old Testament Overview and a Catechism unit. In studying these, the question of what it meant for Jesus to hold these offices of Prophet, Priest and King; and for our adoption to God to extend those offices to the Church. This has led to asking about the lengths of Adoption, and how God sees us if we are his children.*

Christ exists in three offices, Prophet, Priest, and King. As Co-heirs and benefactors of Christ's actions I wonder, to what extent do these offices pass on to us? What are the offices to start with? And can knowing about the offices improve our knowledge of ourselves and Christ? This article looks the Priestly office, God's interceding nation.

### Who were the Priests?

The most relevant priests are the Levitical Priests. The clans of Levi had roles to play in the care and maintenance of the Temple. They were the religious officials of the nation of Israel, charged with the care and maintenance of the Tabernacle and, eventually the Temple.

There are priests mentioned earlier in the Bible like Melchizedek ([Genesis 14:18](#)) and Jethro ([Exodus 18:1](#)), who organise and run their communities, as well as serve God either as a king or patriarch.

### What did they do?

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The key work of the priests was intercession between God and his people. They were the people who studied and taught the Law, and administered sacrifices to the nation of Israel.

Their office allowed people to come to God clean and renewed through the spilling of a blood sacrifice. This blood sacrifice washed away the past sins of a supplicant if they came with the correct heart, and would restore ceremonial relationship between God and the individual.

The end goal of these practices was a redemption of the heart, taught through actions, and eventually with words. The coming to a place to humble yourself, and be humbled before the Creator, in a hope of relationship with that Creator.

### How does Jesus become our Priest?

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1693 Baptist Catechism Q 28: 'Christ executes the Office of a Priest in his once offering up of himself a Sacrifice to satisfy Divine Justice and reconcile us to God and in making continual Intercession for us.'

Jesus takes it upon himself to act for our best interests before the Father. He intercedes for our sins completely, first by coming as a human and being God with his people, and secondly through his death, atoning for the sins of mankind every-when.

As Emanuel he shows humans who God is, sitting as the Way and Bread of life that invites people to know the Father. As Christ on the cross he disbands all the bonds of Sin upon us, and purchases for us redemption. To illustrate, imagine a sleep over.

Two kids get the idea to stay together for the night but they have to decide on whose house to stay. For one they come from a broken and difficult home, and they struggle to even have people around for an hour. The other comes from a loving family. So that child goes to their father and asks if they can have a sleep over.

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That's what Jesus does for us. He's constantly pestering the Father to have us over and stay the night so we can live a better life.

The father says "Of course, your friend is always welcome."

As these kids grow up together the first child's family becomes more difficult, and eventually they're forced onto the street. The other goes to their Dad again, and asks if their friend can stay with them permanently. Their father immediately goes to rescue the first child, cares for them, deals with the difficulties of their abuse and helps them to grow into being an excellent adult.

That's what Jesus does for us. He's constantly pestering the Father to have us over and stay the night so we can live a better life.

## What does that mean for us?

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For us we are called to be a nation of Priests in [1 Peter 2](#), we are called to do in part what Jesus does for us. Which I think for us means we should dispense with the language that removes this sacred purpose.

We are God's chosen people, here to invite, and intercede for our world before God. We won't see the fullness of this yet, but let us step towards that sacred nation, held to a high moral standard, but kind and welcoming as God is to us.

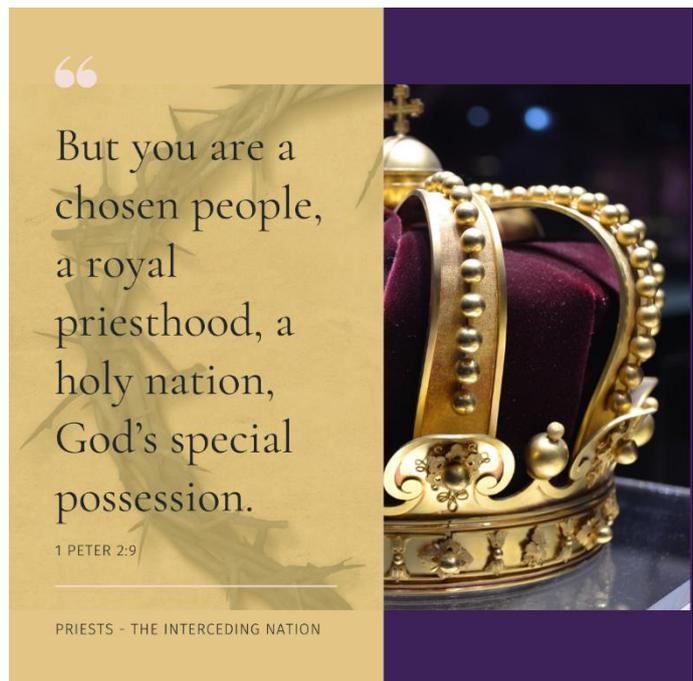
Practically this means developing our hospitality, being vulnerable enough to help others, praying, and upholding others in their life. Interceding for our loved ones in their times of need and being a sacred nation for this world.

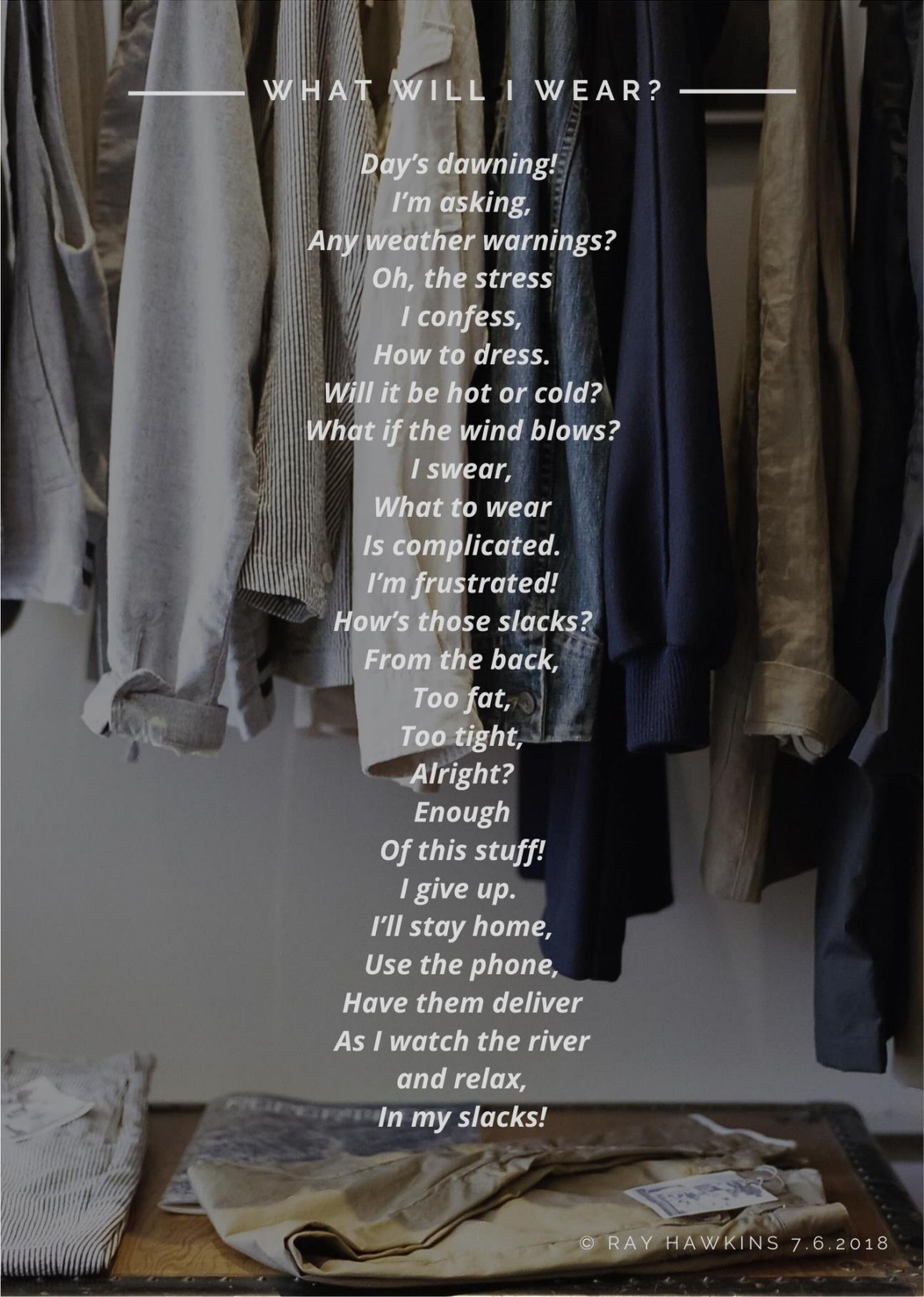
We are to others as Jesus was to us, and we are invited to grow in that way as often as possible.

Blessings and thank you for reading.

Liam Conway

*Liam Conway* is the under-25 ministry apprentice at Hobart Baptist church. Recently married and having grown up in the Baptist Church, Liam is presently studying his Masters of Divinity by distance, through Malyon Theological College in Queensland. He and his wife live in Mount Stuart with their cat, Lilly, who is an adorable terror with some very serious opinions on the comfort of laptops.





WHAT WILL I WEAR?

*Day's dawning!  
I'm asking,  
Any weather warnings?  
Oh, the stress  
I confess,  
How to dress.  
Will it be hot or cold?  
What if the wind blows?  
I swear,  
What to wear  
Is complicated.  
I'm frustrated!  
How's those slacks?  
From the back,  
Too fat,  
Too tight,  
Alright?  
Enough  
Of this stuff!  
I give up.  
I'll stay home,  
Use the phone,  
Have them deliver  
As I watch the river  
and relax,  
In my slacks!*

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