

July/August 2021, No. 3¹



AUGUST 26, 2021



HOPE. Across the globe this Covid-19 season, we hope like birds in cages.

Hope the virus will dissipate. Hope vaccinations will help. Hope we don't catch it. Hope loved ones are kept safe.

How important to remember Jeremiah's words: "God has plans to give us a HOPE and a FUTURE".

You can take hold of hope by joining the *National Prayer Gathering for the Covid Situation* on Tuesday 31 August. Find out more below.

This instalment includes . . .

REGIONAL ROUNDUP: News from City, Latrobe, Westbury, Claremont, Citywide and Hobart

NATIONAL PRAYER GATHERING: Australian Baptist Ministries' nationwide prayer

CONVERGE CONFERENCE: Advocating for those who cannot speak for themselves

NEWS: Baptist Basketball Grand Final | Stand Sunday | Farewell PETER CUTHBERTSON / Ray Hawkins' Poem

Be hope-filled!

Jenny



Jenny Baxter
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¹ tasbaptists.org.au/july-august-2021

around the grounds:

Tasmanian Baptists in Action

The next Regional RoundUp is due by 15th October.

Please send contributions to jenny@tasbaptists.org.au

North

City, Launceston

Climate Awareness



At the Combined Service on 8th August, City Baptist Church congregation took a photo (pictured) with Jeff McKinnon 'wearing' a climate scarf. The scarf shows the average global surface temperature rises over the past 100 years - white and blues represent cooler temperatures; browns and reds show warmer temperatures.

[City's Plans for the Future](#)

Excerpts from Media Release, 15th July 2021

In a changing world City Baptist is now seeking to entirely reshape itself to provide a sure footing for compassionate ministry on into the 21st century.

The church is selling their building which is a major historical and cultural asset in Launceston. However, City Baptist Church is not closing. In fact, we are expanding. Amongst a suite of changes, we will be, in time, relocating to another inner-city venue. This will set us up more sustainably for ministry in the twenty first century.

City Baptist has become well known for its work amongst those with special needs. The fellowship comes alongside the street community. A home cooked meal and a listening ear is available every Saturday night, extensive work is carried out supporting vulnerable women and a volunteer street chaplain comes alongside those most in need. The Church is currently exploring ways to assist women and children fleeing domestic violence. The church has befriended the Hazara community, originally from Afghanistan. A Men's Group teaches conversational English and builds relationships, and a network of vegetable gardens assist family budgets. An agency of the church, Northern Refugee Support, quietly provides other services.

Northwest

Latrobe

Latrobe Baptist is currently going through some challenging changes. Our long serving Church Secretary Glenis Smith, who has undertaken the role since 1998 is now in the Strathdevon Nursing home. Hence, a new leadership team will commence in late August.

Community activities continue and include Chat n Choose, where 96 people have registered and attended so far this year. They are involved in crafts including Hardanger, Knitting and Crochet, Macrame, Smocking, Beadwork, Card making and woodturning in the Men's Shed.



Our Men's Shed has recently received a grant from Baptcare enabling a new heavy duty Thicknesser and Biscuit Cutter to be added to the shed's equipment (pictured). Already over 440 community projects have been completed by men in the shed.

Following a grant from the Latrobe Council last year which enabled a fence and gates to be erected, our Playgroup continues on with many mothers bringing along their children aged 0-4.

Westbury



Like many churches in Tasmania, Westbury Baptist Church has an aging demographic and is facing the very real prospect of further decline in the coming years. Over the past seven years, there has been a focus on solid biblical teaching led by Pastor Michael Ritchie, who is a gifted and knowledgeable speaker. Michael is retiring at the end of this year, and the Westbury Baptist Church has been wrestling with what we might do in the future, to build on the strong historical foundations of outreach, that is bone, marrow and sinew to our collective heritage.

Planning has been ongoing for many months now. On Sunday 11th July 2021, Church members supported the proposition that the Westbury

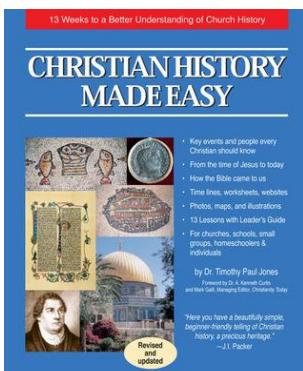
Baptist Church would reaffirm our focus on outreach, with a view to 'making Him better known' in the Westbury community. In practical terms, this means that we intend to commit a significant proportion of our resources to employing a full time Pastor, who has the ability to develop strong relationships into the community and who primarily, has a gift and a passion for mission.

We are looking for a person with a young family, who will live in Westbury and commit to at least four years. It is our very prayerful ambition to build a church that is relevant, outward looking and willing to become the 'hands and feet' of Christ.

This 'way forward' is challenging, and we welcome the prayerful support of our Christian brothers/sisters across Tasmania for what is clearly a vision dependent on God and the desire of our Church to fulfil what we are all called to do.

Sassafras

Christian History Made Easy



We have found a Bible Study course which has blown us away. It answers many questions we (I) have all always wanted to know and gives all the historical data. You experience the tremendous struggle God's Church has had to endure, and the people who paid the price with their lives.

It reports the eyewitness accounts of those who were there to clarify what they saw and observed. After that lesson you get a sense of belonging to a Christ and a God who personally laid down the rules for our salvation and the precious heritage we now have.

There were many attempts to steal the church for their self-aggrandizement. There was a Pope who issued a Papal Bull, a decree (I always thought it was a lot of B.), to say he was the

ultimate authority of the Church. When a man by the name of Jan Hus dared to say that Jesus was the head of the Church and not the Pope, he had him burned at the stake.

Then there was an Ulrich Zwingli who dared to publicly disagree with the Pope, and the local hierarchy bound him head and foot and threw him into the freezing Rhine while he sang hymns.

Now, we are at the bit where the Bible is translated into local languages for everyone to read instead of just Latin. Martin Luther translated the Bible into German, and Wycliffe into English. Printing presses were invented at the same time and so allowing mass distribution of God's Word. How lucky are we!

I cannot tell you anymore because we are only halfway, but I can say we should all get involved and learn quickly and easily, in just 12 weeks, you learn many of the key events every Christian should know.

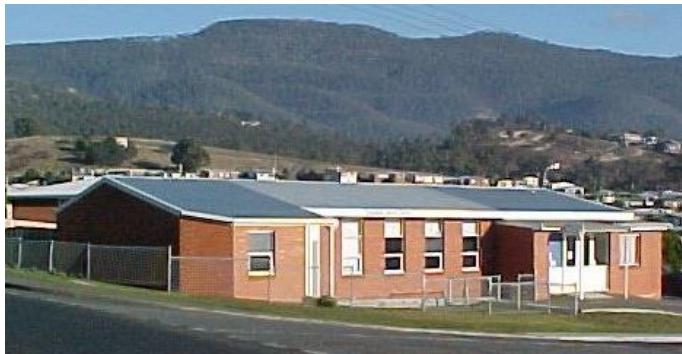
When I know all the facts and finished the course, I will tell you the rest.

Christian History made easy. People and Events every Christian Should Know. 2005 [Hendrickson Rose Publishers >>](#)

Frans Ammerlaan

South Claremont

At the AGM Claremont Baptist was delighted to welcome two new deacons to our diaconate.



With the loss of our *Kidz Klub* program we are seeking God's guidance in redefining our mission statement and looking to the future. To this end we are engaging in *Listening and Waiting on the Lord* prayer meetings.

The Northern Suburbs pastors and ministers are now meeting regularly, and we look forward to more combined activities and shared fellowship.

Citywide, Mornington/Lenah Valley

We've recently held a Church Survey, the first since COVID hit, so it has been a helpful tool in assessing how people are feeling about the many changes and adjustments that have happened in the last 18 months.

Results have been encouraging and interesting. Most are happy with the newly shaped worship services and direction of the church. Assessing the demographic and generational differences has also helped us

gain a better appreciation for where to put our focus.



We have recently commissioned an external review for our Senior Pastor, Matt Garvin, in consideration of Matt's term of office coming to an end next June. A Church Meeting in August voted to extend Matt's role as Senior Pastor for a further five years, to 2027. Matt and Leeanne have eagerly accepted the offer, and he already has direction and ideas for the next stages of Citywide's growth and development.

Pastor Dan Hutchison and Maria have welcomed their new baby, Boaz, into their family (pictured). Skylah and Octavia are proud sisters.

Our buildings are undergoing constant maintenance and adjustments, the latest being the installation of four skylights into our cafe area - and what a difference it has made!

Our sermon series working through 1 Corinthians will conclude at end of August. It has been a journey of looking realistically at ourselves and discerning Paul's heart and intent in his cultural setting for us today. There's been lots of tough issues that our teaching team have faced full on and the challenges for us have been many.

Hobart

Congratulations to Georgette Ambrose, and also to Sean Priest, as they made public their commitment to Jesus at their baptisms on Sunday 4th July.



We recently concluded a sermon series on the Story of Ruth, about a foreign woman who found redemption due to her kinsman-redeemer advocating on her behalf. The challenge: to offer news of the Kinsman-Redeemer to all cultures in our city.

Now our building upgrades are complete, we are looking forward to welcoming more people into our spaces for hire, and better facilities for our groups to use. This includes a Movie Night planned for Saturday 11th September. [All welcome, registrations essential >>>](#)

Stephen Baxter and Liam Conway have begun leading a series of Sunday afternoon Bible studies, working through the Letter to the Hebrews.

These will take place over the coming weeks in two five-week blocks. Guests are very welcome to attend.

[More info Hebrew Bible studies >>>](#)

need to know:

Tasmanian Baptist NEWS

NBBL Grand Final

Saturday 28th August

You are invited to the 2021 Northern Baptist Basketball League Grand Final next Saturday, the 28th of September at 6pm at the Elphin Sports Centre, Launceston.



We have game slots at 6pm (A Men-Gateway); 7pm (A Women-Summerhill); 8:15pm (B Men); and 9:15pm (B Women-Gateway).

It is exciting to announce that at 8pm our devotion will be given by Daniel Ritchie – son of Michael Ritchie (Westbury).

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jess or myself.

Roger Radford (Summerhill) baptist@launcestonbasketball.com.au

Stand Sunday

FOSTERING HOPE

During September - You church can host a STAND SUNDAY event in your church or community

Stand Sunday is an international movement of Christians standing with foster and kinship carers and the children in their families. It is a day to celebrate and encourage them, and also to raise awareness about the need for more carers.



This year, the theme for Stand Sunday is 'Carry the Hope', as we acknowledge how hard the fostering journey can be and as we ask more Christians to step into this space.

Stand Sunday 2021 is on 12th September, but you can host your event on any Sunday in September.

Stand with us on September 2021 to STAND with those STANDING for others. A toolkit with resources, prayers and other ideas [is available here >>>²](#)

Peter Cuthbertson 1942-2021

Gateway Fellowship are saddened to report the sudden passing of Peter Cuthbertson at home on Wednesday 11th August 2021.

Peter loved God, his family, his friends and the church. He had a passion to share God's goodness and love with all. His teaching background came to the fore when he spoke about his love for Israel and the Jewish people, and he loved nothing



² tasbaptists.org.au/clients/tasbaptists/downloads/stand_sunday_2021_toolkit.pdf

better than to organise and teach about some of the biblical feasts and Jewish customs according to God's word.

An active member of Gateway for about 20 years, he was always willing to help out in whatever way he could with a listening ear and a smile. He served on the Diaconate, was Church Treasurer, and got involved in various other Church ministries. His encouragement and help with the Nepalese and Burmese churches will not be forgotten.

Our love and sympathy is extended to his wife Sandra, his children Nicola (Jane), Mary and Harry and their families (pictured). Peter is now at rest with his Lord and Saviour and we as a church are so grateful to have had the privilege to know and work with him.

By Lee Campbell



A reflection on Peter's life

Losing Peter is like losing a favourite reference book that you depend on being there for when you have questions that need answers. Peter was knowledgeable and insightful about the Scriptures, world affairs and the ways of people. He thought deeply about life issues and applied a biblical perspective to the way he lived. Peter conducted himself with a moral authority and wisdom that made him a reliable and trusted church member and mentor.

Church Council often looked to Peter when addressing problems and concerns, and he would reflect first before giving a carefully considered opinion. With Peter, there was always acceptance, kindness, and a readiness to laugh which put people at ease and lifted spirits.

His love for the Scriptures and his encouragement of corporate prayer over many years have been hugely influential in Gateway's progress. Sandra and Peter together have championed the cause of the persecuted church, supported missionary efforts in various countries and encouraged those around them to be faithful and persevere through life's challenges.

Peter will be lovingly remembered for his wise counsel and the tender light in his eyes as he spoke with people.

By Linda Guy

The service to celebrate Peter's life was held at the Tailrace Centre on Thursday 19th August. Pastor Steve Nicholson officiated, and approximately 300 people attended. The service is still available for viewing by visiting [T.M. Foley Funeral Directors >>>³](#)

³ tmfoley.com.au/live (scroll down)

— WHEN CHRIST SAYS "COME"! —

*The man, obviously curious
With fascination, not spurious
Contemplated this Man Jesus.
He from Nazareth, beckoned
With gracious sincerity
"Come and see
Share with me
Where I am,
Who I Am,
Why I'm here
Then decide,
follow
Or hide!"*

*The man, completely intrigued
Went, and there he was confronted
By this Man from Galilee
To join in His life changing ministry.
But the 'joining fee', an impossibility
For discipleship meant a loss of liberty,
As he heard those words once more,
"Come, follow
Take your cross
Deny self
Serve me
Faithfully,
By your side
I'll always
Abide!"*

*The man, challenged, now infused
By Christ with His mission to pursue.
That seemed to collapse at Calvary,
But then came, resurrection's victory
Giving ministry a deeper intensity.
Come, worship
Have fellowship
And remember
Who I Am,
Why I came,
Then Go
My story
Tell.*

© RAY HAWKINS 2014

advocacy:

Answering the Cry

By Jeff McKinnon

The Bible says, "Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered." ([Proverbs 21:13](#)).

What is Converge?

On the 17th August, 23 Tasmanian Baptist leaders from around the state met in Longford to prepare to speak out for the needs of those most in need of help - the global poor, refugees and survivors of domestic violence.

In August and September, Tasmanian Baptist teams will visit the local member in each of our five federal electorates, and to as many of our twelve senators as possible as part of Converge 2021.

Previously, Converge has been a gathering of Baptist leaders in Canberra. It is organised by [Australian Baptist Ministries](#)⁴ utilising the resources of [A Just Cause](#)⁵, [Baptist World Aid Australia](#)⁶, [BaptistCare](#)⁷ and the each state's Baptist Union.



Pictured: Attendees at Riverlands, Longford

Covid Changes

In the past, just three representatives have been involved from Tasmania each year. Due to Covid-19, participation in 2021 has been expanded and training was conducted online. As well as gaining valuable information on the global poor, refugees and domestic violence, the training provided excellent guidance on how to set up and conduct visits to politicians.

⁴ baptistwa.asn.au

⁵ ajustcause.com.au

⁶ baptistworldaid.org.au

⁷ baptistcare.org.au

Australian Baptist Ministries has produced a great report, *Social Justice 2021*, offering information on eight key topics. It is anticipated that this will be updated every couple of years. A copy of the Report will be presented to each of our political representatives.

In Tasmania, a coordinator has been appointed in each electorate. Converge 2021 is being rolled out by our Social Justice Taskforce in liaison with the Mission Director.

Participant Feedback

Rodney Marshall - Riverlands, Longford



As the Tasmanian Baptists Administrator, I wanted to take the chance to learn the process used in Converge, and to understand the types of topics being discussed. As a Pastor, I wanted to express my desire to see change in the way vulnerable people (women/refugees/poor) are treated, and to increase my understanding of domestic violence.

Louis Fife - Ulverstone



The purpose and reason behind my decision to join the Converge 21 for this time, is the stir in my heart is to see the church take its rightful place of influence in care and witness. The church is a very powerful body and represents a wonderful opportunity to engage and be seen to be the answer.

As someone once said, "the church is the hope of the world." May we find our voice once again, not so much political voice, but a kingdom voice.

Matt Garvin - Citywide, Mornington/Lenah Valley



Our church has been talking for some time about what it means to actively engage in issues of justice in the broader community. Ten of us made it to the Converge conference because we saw that when the Baptist churches work together in areas like these we are much more effective. The work the different Baptist agencies have done in putting together the JUSTICE 2021 report gives us a credibility and tangible way forward that we simply could not do on our own. We are looking forward to presenting all our federal politicians with the report, and the opportunity it gives us for proactive engagement with our representatives.

Michael Henderson - Mission and Leadership Development



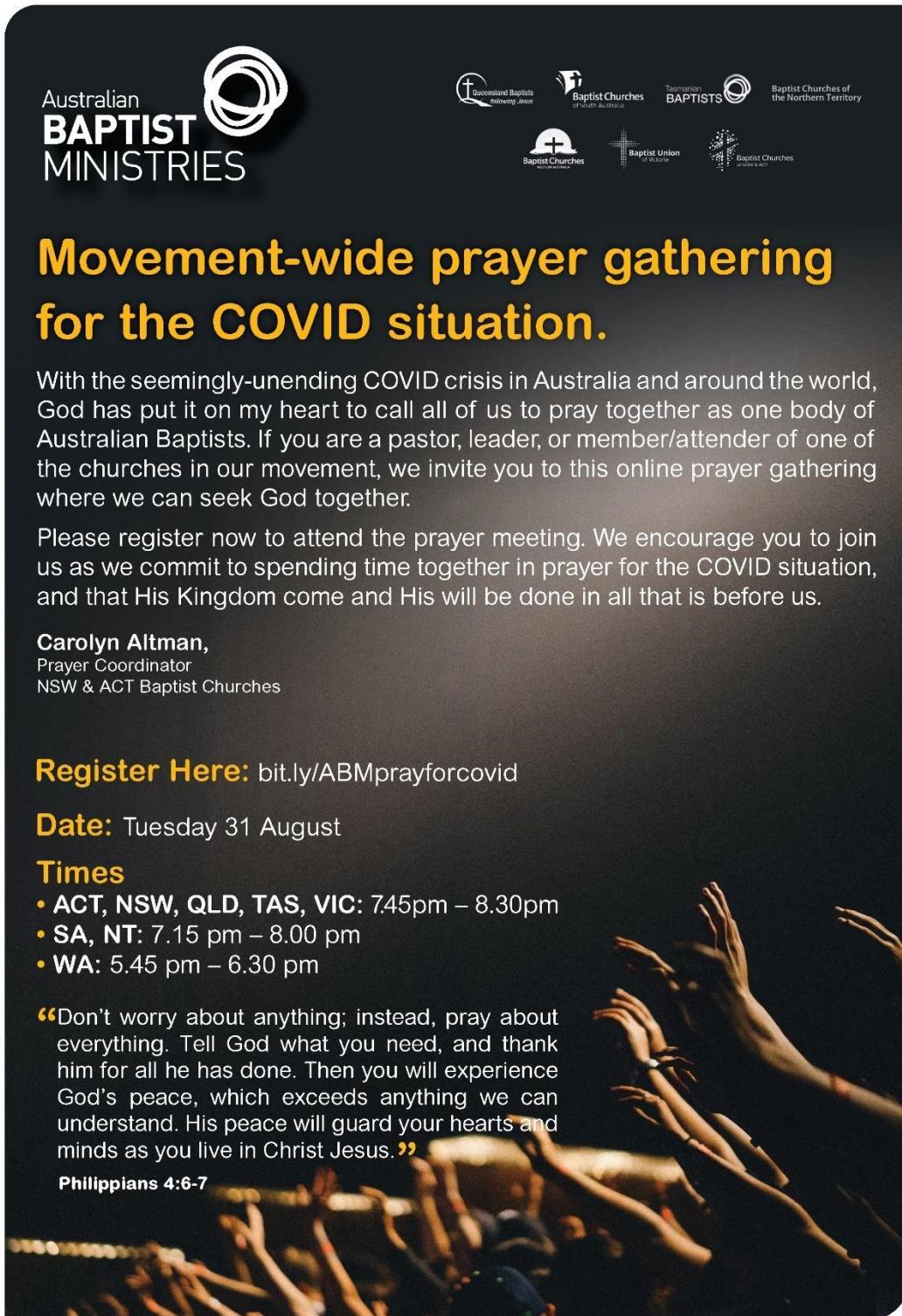
I am involved in Converge because I believe our government can make a difference, especially when the community is clear with them about where we would like to see changed.

prayer power:

Movement-wide Prayer for Covid Situation

National Prayer Gathering on Zoom, 7:45 - 8:30pm Tuesday 31 August

REGISTER: [>>>⁸](https://bit.ly/ABMprayforcovid) **DOWNLOAD:** [Prayer Points >>>⁹](#)



The poster features the Australian Baptist Ministries logo at the top left. To the right are logos for Queensland Baptists, Baptist Churches of South Australia, Tasmanian Baptists, and Baptist Churches of the Northern Territory. Below these, the main title "Movement-wide prayer gathering for the COVID situation." is displayed in large, bold, yellow text. A paragraph of text follows, followed by a quote from Carolyn Altman. At the bottom, there are registration details and a quote from Philippians 4:6-7, set against a background of hands raised in prayer.

Australian
BAPTIST
MINISTRIES

Queensland Baptists
Baptist Churches
of South Australia
Tasmanian
BAPTISTS
Baptist Churches
of the Northern Territory

Baptist Churches
of New South Wales
Baptist Union
of Victoria
Baptist Churches
of Western Australia

Movement-wide prayer gathering for the COVID situation.

With the seemingly-unending COVID crisis in Australia and around the world, God has put it on my heart to call all of us to pray together as one body of Australian Baptists. If you are a pastor, leader, or member/attender of one of the churches in our movement, we invite you to this online prayer gathering where we can seek God together.

Please register now to attend the prayer meeting. We encourage you to join us as we commit to spending time together in prayer for the COVID situation, and that His Kingdom come and His will be done in all that is before us.

Carolyn Altman,
Prayer Coordinator
NSW & ACT Baptist Churches

Register Here: bit.ly/ABMprayforcovid

Date: Tuesday 31 August

Times

- ACT, NSW, QLD, TAS, VIC: 7:45pm – 8.30pm
- SA, NT: 7.15 pm – 8.00 pm
- WA: 5.45 pm – 6.30 pm

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:6-7

⁸ bit.ly/ABMprayforcovid

⁹ tasbaptists.org.au/clients/tasbaptists/downloads/a_call_to_prayer_for_the_covid_situation.pdf

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Website: www.tasbaptists.org.au/news

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