

[September/October 2021](#)¹



21st October 2021

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

- **Regional RoundUp:** Wynyard, Latrobe, Sassafras, Gateway, Newstead, Perth, Riverlands, Citywide, Hobart
- **Reengage, Reimagine, Realign** Stephen Baxter explains how the new strategic plan impacts Tasmanian Baptists
- **November Prayer Events** – Sharpen your prayer life by attending one or more of these events
- **NEED TO KNOW**
 - **New Tas Baptist Website** Now LIVE!
 - **EmpowHer Walks** North and South Adventures coming soon
 - **Poetry: Behold the Conqueror** By Ray Hawkins, Beauty Point Australian Christian Book of the Year Award

The next instalment of **ADVANCE | step by step** will be released on Thursday 4th November 2021.



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¹ tasbaptists.org.au/september-october-2021

Regional RoundUp Sept/Oct 2021

Northwest

Wynyard

- **CHAT N CHOOSE** Many ladies are pleased to be meeting again with their friends after a long break due to COVID. **Wednesday Get Together** is now on the 1st and 3rd Week of the month for fun and fellowship.
- **JUST GIRLS. SPRING REVIVAL.** The ladies' ministry organised an enjoyable afternoon with people asked to wear an item from their favourite Op Shop. Irene Godman spoke on *Healing, Trauma and PTSD*, a biblical way of ministering healing those suffering from the effects of trauma. Aileen also spoke of her work, and the beginnings of *Grow Gather Give*, an outreach and support providing food to those who need it.
- **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD.** 226 shoe boxes were packed from our church and Chat n Choose this year.
- **Sarah** raised \$644.30 for the **Cancer Council** through the sale of daffodils.

Penguin

- **News from Penguin:** we are small in number, in good heart and varied health. This month we began a preaching series on Isaiah 1-39. We have joined the solar age with a substantial array on the roof, and have a new container for the ministry Library Aid International to fill and send to Africa for distribution. This will be the tenth (and likely the last) container to go.

Latrobe

- **Chat n Choose** continues at the Latrobe Baptist Hall every Wednesday from 10am to 12pm. Ladies bring along their knitting/crochet/hardanger work or any other craft to join with up to 50 others and enjoy chatting together. Morning Tea is served at 10.30am, Cost is just \$2.
- **The Woodturning Group** meets in the Men's Shed. Latrobe Men's Shed continues every Friday from 9am to 12pm with a BBQ at 12. We are always looking for community projects and new members to join in. A toolbox meeting guarantees a great time of great fellowship, with morning tea at 10am.
- **Latrobe Community Playgroup** continues every Friday morning from 10am. All mothers/carers are welcome to bring their little ones up to age 4 and join with up to 20 others for a fun time of activities. A story time and singing finishes each morning around 11.30am.

Sassafras

- **This Spring seems to have arrived so quickly!** Again, the Sunday School greatly blessed us with a presentation. Even more impressive were the volume and beauty of the flower arrangements. It is a reminder of the grace and kindness of the Lord so obvious for all to see in this blessed Island. The various talents of the children were all on display this year often to the wonder of the Congregation. (Doting parents and teachers opening and closing their lips in tune with the script the kids spoke). One talent which came to prominence last year was in poetry, and again this year we heard from Rochele Long.



Spring is here and the flowers are vibrant
And the birds chirp happily singing God's great song
The lambs have grown up so much like the plants that grow too
God planned all this and we should thank Him.
Spring sunshine beams, the days lengthen
Swallows spiral up to heaven, the Larks sing praise to their Creator
Lambs gambol in the spring grass
Hidden bulbs and seeds burst from the soil to worship their Creator
New life comes from our God let us praise and worship Him.

Rochele Long, Sassafras

North

Gateway Launceston

- We want to say a HUGE THANK YOU to all the artists and Churches who supported and helped with our **Mystery Art Sale Fundraiser** for the children of Haiti.

Newstead



- Newstead Baptist Church are pleased to be welcoming Dan Hutchison as Pastor beginning in January 2022. Dan and his wife Maria and 3 children will be moving north from Hobart where Dan is currently working at Citywide. We are looking forward to Dan's ministry with us and would value prayer for a smooth transition for the whole family into life in Launceston including a suitable family home and schools for the girls.
- We are holding our Annual Celebration meeting on Sunday and give thanks to God for a good year as a fellowship, for the many people who have come to preach throughout the year and the many ways that God has blessed us.
- Our Seniors Drop-in Centre has been going well with new people from the community joining. Praise God for this opportunity to share his word over a game and a cuppa.

Perth

- Many from around Tasmania would have known **Wyn Gurr** in her ministry over many years. Wyn passed away in September following a long battle with her health. She has gone to join her husband Allan in glory.
- We are thankful and blessed by the four people who recently came into Membership.
- Our Wednesday night '**Better Men's**' group is starting to attract a number of men with needs and a willingness to share.
- **The craft group** continues to attract new ladies.
- We hosted a very successful **Community afternoon tea** for the wise and elderly of the town which attracted a full Hall. We pray that we will see many of them again
- **The relationship with the school** enabled us to sponsor two children to attend camp as their parents were not able to pay for them to go. This will provide us contact with those two families.
- This year a **Children's picnic and family BBQ** will precede our **Carol Service** – the whole town will be invited.
- As the **only Christian Church** left in Perth, we take our responsibility to be Christ's representatives in the growing town seriously. Please pray that what we do will be God's will and will bear fruit.

Riverlands Longford



Alan and Meg Roberts | Ann and Steve Cloudsdale



- **On 29th August, Riverlands** made space in our Sunday service to acknowledge and appreciate the commitment and contribution of two special couples. **Steve and Ann Cloudsdale** and **Meg and Alan Roberts** have served in various ministry roles and activities at Riverlands over many years.

It was a special moment as we prayed for each couple and released them from ministry responsibilities as they enter a time of sabbatical for rest and refreshment. As they continue to journey with their Riverlands family, they will be waiting on the Lord for his wisdom and guidance for this next chapter in their lives.

South Citywide



Citywide Converge team meets with Sen. Eric Abetz

- During September, several of us visited State and Federal Politicians following the **Converge Justice Training Day** in August. They presented their cases for Domestic Violence, Global Poverty and Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

- One of us is involved in the local **Climate Change Action Group**. They facilitated an excellent Climate Change Expo for the public at Citywide premises. There were various speakers and booths demonstrating how they can recycle responsibly as well as other informative information.

- **Church Camp:** The first weekend in October saw us all heading to Poatina for our first church camp in many years. Poatina is an incredible site for such a gathering with various accommodation options, good food, and many interesting local activities. Our theme for the weekend was *Living in Community* and the staff at Poatina shared their experiences.

Our mix of congregations, including the Nepalese, were blessed and we have achieved a further development in our joining together. Everyone is already talking about our next camp next year!



Camp fun in Poatina

- During October we hosted a team of 6 from the **YWAM Discipleship Training School** in Perth WA. What a blessing they are! They for involved in Citywide groups, the wider body of churches in

Hobart, and our local community by door-knocking and street evangelism.

- We now produce a **weekly podcast**, each Wednesday, which involves a panel of four people discussing, and personally sharing about, the challenges from the previous Sunday's sermon. Find it on our YouTube channel or as an audio on Spotify and Apple Podcasts. Our current series is on 'Next Steps' and what it means to follow Jesus.
- Sunday 10th October was our **Shoe Box Sunday**. Our congregations packed 150 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child during the service! This is an activity people engage with eagerly and we pray heart-felt prayers for each box.

Hobart



Movie Night watching "Blue Miracle"

At Hobart we recently held a great **Movie Night** including games, a scavenger hunt and pizza!

- We have already had several **weddings** in our refurbished spaces, with more booked in.
- The **Mustard Seed coffee shop**, on Elizabeth Street, will soon open, creating more opportunities to connect with our neighbours, and Elizabeth College students next door.
- **Our youth** are raising funds to provide income for one teacher to teach youth in a Karen refugee camp in Thailand.

mission-shaped:

Bringing the Kingdom of God to Tasmania



Reengage | Reimagine | Realignment

What the newly adopted strategic plan might mean for us as Tasmanian Baptists

By Stephen Baxter

Seeing Tasmania infused with the salt and light

When Jesus taught about the kingdom of God (or kingdom of heaven in Matthew) it was more immediate and grander than just securing a place in heaven for people after death. The kingdom of God is the rule of God here on earth. It exists in part now and will exist in fullness when Jesus returns.

Jesus taught of something new entering into our broken world. His presence among us, along with his miracles and healings, was evidence of God's rule coming to this planet. After his resurrection he charged his disciples with the responsibility of keeping the project going. Ever since, when the Church has been at its best, it has been an agent of this kingdom.

What we hope for

We acknowledge it "is not the church of God that has a mission, but the God of mission who has a church"¹. God has a job for his church in Tasmania. As Tasmanian Baptists, we are committed to becoming a union of churches who willingly "lay aside our personal preferences for the sake of the community being served"².

It "is not the church of God that has a mission, but the God of mission who has a church" Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury

This is the heart of the new vision that we adopted at our May 2021 Assembly. It is to see "Tasmania infused with the salt and light of the kingdom of God." We believe this is God's hope for the state of Tasmania; it is our hope too.

The Church needs to adapt

The vision goes on to note that our contribution to the realisation of this vision will be through "facilitating and developing innovative, diverse, and transformative member churches and faith communities living out the Gospel."

By stating this, we acknowledge how many in our communities do not consider the Church a place to go to for assistance with the issues they face. Our inherited form of being and doing Church needs to adapt to the changing

¹ Former Archbishop Rowan Williams

² Church of England, charge for candidates for Pioneer Mission

world. This is not a something new for God’s Church. At many points during the past 2000 years, the Church has undergone renewal and reformation as the Spirit has remoulded it for successive generations.

Three key strategies

With that in mind, the newly adopted strategic plan outlines three key strategies: to assist our churches and members to *reengage* in God’s mission, to *reimagine* the church for our time and to *realign* our resources (time, finances, buildings, organisational structure) towards these ends.

REENGAGE | REIMAGINE | REALIGN

This is no mean feat and will not happen overnight. As I’ve said a bit lately, it took God weeks to get Israel out of Egypt, but 40 years to get Egypt out of Israel. Like Israel, we can fall into mourning the loss of the past, rather than embracing the opportunities God has before us. Yet this is the call of the journey of faith, to “run with perseverance the race marked out for us [by] fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith”³.

“run with perseverance the race marked out for us [by] fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith”. Hebrews 12:1b-2a

We live in a profound moment in the history of the world. In declaring Jesus is Lord, and praying that God’s kingdom may come, and that God’s will may be done in Tasmania as in heaven, we are not only aligning ourselves with God’s purposes in our world, but asking God to use us.

I trust you can say “Amen” to that.



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³ Hebrews 12:1b-2a

prayer:

Participate in One or More Prayer Events During November



At home, online, in groups, at church, with other denominations

Right now it's a BIG prayer season. Possibly this is to do with raised awareness of need, as a result of COVID-19. There are many ways to participate. Perhaps you could choose one or two of these prayer events that best suits you.

Local

BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR WOMEN

1st WEEK OF NOVEMBER

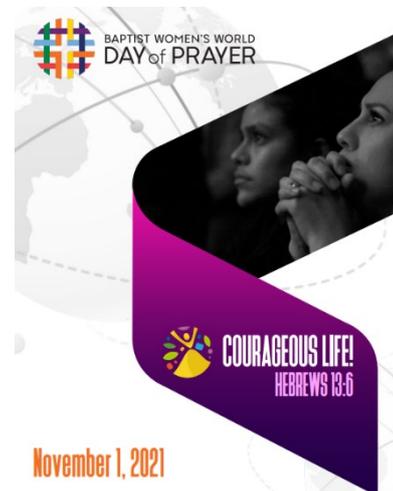
Pray and raise funds for Baptist women around the world who are working on many projects to help disadvantaged communities. Funds for Frog farming (Thailand); Lighters of Hope in Darkness (mental health support, Philippines); Educational Library (Cameroon). More: bwawd.org/day-of-prayer

North and Northwest

7:30-8:30pm Monday 1st Nov (or anytime that week). Alone, in groups, in homes, in churches. Info North: wendy.marston@iinet.net.au; Info NW: gabfife@gmail.com.

South

7:30-8:30pm Friday 5th Nov Dessert and coffee evening. Come and see the new Soundy Lounge, Hobart Baptist Church 284 Elizabeth St Hobart. RSVP 1st Nov: jenny@tasbaptists.org.au



TASMANIA CELEBRATION 2022

<https://tasmania.billygraham.org/events/>

North:

Gateway Baptist Church hosts weekly prayer meetings for Tasmania Celebration. 7am every Thursday morning. 22 Wellington St Launceston

North: Launceston Prayer Walks in City Park. 10am every Thursday. 45-55 Tamar St Launceston

South:

Hosted by Ps Dave Morse and the Executive Leadership Team Co-chairs Ps Matt Sharples and Rev Pete Adlem you will hear how the Tasmania Celebration is not just a single event next year but a series of collaborative events

designed to increase our prayer activity as a collective church; equip local believers through the intensive Christian Life & Witness Classes; increase our effectiveness for Christ through new outreach initiatives and offer opportunities to get involved.

Time of prayer and breakfast! 7-8.30 am Wednesday 27th October | **Your Church**, 29 Charles St Moonah RSVP **HERE** for the breakfast for catering purposes:

https://yourchurchtasmania.brushfire.com/events/518252?mc_cid=fc299e1dbd&mc_eid=0b457e688e.

Generally, these times of prayer are at 7.30am on the last Wednesday of each month for coffee, however next month it will be a gathering on **Wednesday 17th November**

Tasmania Celebration Launch

An invitation to the launch of *Tasmania Celebration 2022* with *Will Graham*. **Hobart Launch event:** 7-8:30pm Fri 19th November, C3 Convention Centre. **Launceston Launch event:** 7-8:30pm Sat 20th November, Door of Hope Conference Centre. Find out more: tasmaniacelibration.org.au



TASMANIAN PARLIAMENTARY PRAYER BREAKFAST

24th NOVEMBER

6:45am Wed 24th November. Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart. Guest speaker Patrick Parkinson. Find out more and Register: <https://tasmanianprayerbreakfast.com>

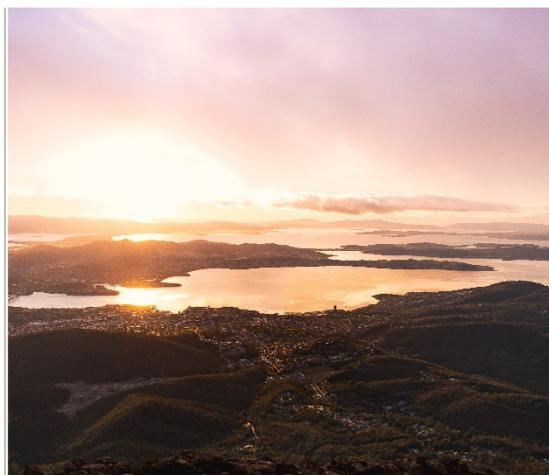


**TASMANIAN
PARLIAMENTARY
PRAYER BREAKFAST**

Join us for the
**16th ANNUAL
TASMANIAN PARLIAMENTARY PRAYER BREAKFAST**
6:45am Wednesday 24 November 2021
Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart

GUEST SPEAKER Professor Patrick Parkinson
tasmanianprayerbreakfast.com

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The Tasmanian Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast brings together like-minded people from across Tasmania to pray for our State, our leaders, parliamentarians, businesses, schools, communities, and community organisations; our families, youth, and children. In the name of Jesus, we ask God to grant us the will and wisdom, the creativity and strength we need to care well for each other and to see Tasmania flourish in every dimension. Join us for this special moment of unity and humility.

Guest Speaker, Prof. Patrick Parkinson



Professor at the TC Beirne School of Law, Patrick Parkinson is a specialist in family law, child protection, law and religion, and the law of equity and trusts.

Professor Parkinson served as Chairperson of the Family Law Council, an advisory body to the federal Attorney-General, and chaired a review of the Child Support Scheme in 2004 which resulted in major changes.

Online

MOVEMENT-WIDE PRAYER GATHERING

3 NOVEMBER

Australian Baptist Ministries invite you to join in a nationwide prayer gathering via Zoom at 7:45-8:30pm Wednesday 3rd November. Register here: bit.ly/ABMpraywithus



International

International Day Of Prayer For The Persecuted Church

7 NOVEMBER

Pray with persecuted Christians suffering for their faith. Your church can unite in prayer for the persecuted church, with Open Doors. Please take a moment during your service to pray for the persecuted church on 7 November. Find out more and SIGN UP: <https://www.opendoors.org.au/get-involved/the-power-of-prayer/>



news:

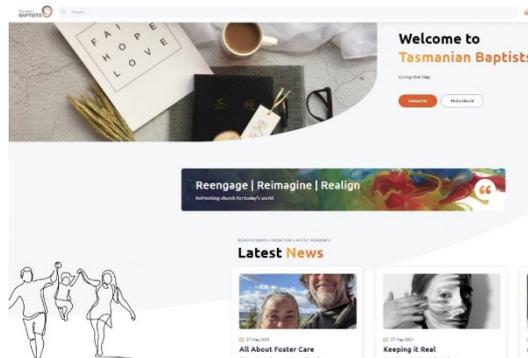


NEED TO KNOW ~ NEWS

September/October 2021

New Website

The new Tasmanian Baptists website was released on the 20th of October in time for the Annual Assembly.



Why not have a look around? tasbaptists.org.au

Please be aware it is a work in progress, and more will be available in the coming weeks.

If you have any problems accessing any part of the site, or have any feedback, please contact Jenny Baxter: jenny@tasbaptists.org.au

EmpowHer Walks

Southern and Northern Walks - on soon!



EmpowHer Southern Walk - Saturday 13th November



Claremont Windermere Bay Loop

10am-1pm Saturday 13th November

4km easy circuit. BYO picnic lunch or buy takeaway at end of walk.
All women and girls welcome!

Registrations essential to Jenny: jenny@tasbaptist.org.au



Hollybank Picnic Adventure

All women welcome to join a BYO picnic around the fire. Be sure to bring your own blanket and/or chair. Also, BYO bike (or ask to borrow a friend's) for those wanting to ride.

For more info or to register, contact:

Jenna 0488 330 390 OR Belinda 0408 267 188

Behold the Conqueror



Behold the conqueror!

He comes to gain His throne.
Behold the conqueror!
He comes for His own.
Who is He?

He is the Lord God of Hosts,
Heaven's warrior Lord.
His name is Jesus,
His word a sword.
He is the Christ,
His glory the cross.
Before Him I surrender,
He is my conqueror!

Behold the Conqueror!

His scars are from His cross.
Behold the conqueror!
Hear His triumph song.
Who is He?
He is the Saviour, Lord,
Son of God, Son of Man
Immanuel
Pre-eminent One.
He is the Christ.
His emblem the cross.
Before Him I surrender,
He is my conqueror.

Behold the conqueror!

The victory He has won.
Behold the conqueror!
His enemies undone.
Who is He?
The Lamb for sinners slain,
Risen victorious,
All glorious
His righteousness.
He is the Christ.
His power the cross.
Before Him I surrender,
He is my conqueror.

Raymond Hawkins © June 2011

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Comments and submissions to Advance can be sent to:
Email: jenny@tasbaptists.org.au

Website: www.tasbaptists.org.au/news

