

[September/October 2021](#)¹



23rd September 2021

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

- Get to know **Anthea Maynard** QandA Interview
- Baptist **World Day of Prayer** for Women
- **Pastors and Leaders Muster** Report
- **NEED TO KNOW** Book Review | Covid Vaccinations | Operation Christmas Child

The next instalment of **ADVANCE | step by step** will be released on Thursday 7th October 2021.



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

interview:

Getting to know Anthea Maynard



Anthea has recently begun working with Jenna Blackwell at City Baptist Launceston

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

My father, Bruce French, was working as a lecturer in the Agricultural college. Our time was cut short due to me being born with a heart condition. We returned to Sheffield for a few years before my mother, Helen French, felt challenged by the book "Rich Christians in a World of Hunger" and we responded practically by moving back to Papua New Guinea. We spent time in different locations over the subsequent years (Sheffield, Brisbane and Burnie) and I especially loved the warm, relaxed climates.

When and why did you leave Tasmania, and what prompted you to return?



My family of origin moved back and forth from Tasmania to PNG and Brisbane. My husband and I have travelled and lived in East Africa and Scotland before having children. As a family we have lived in Townsville to allow me to study for my Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine (2010) and God provided us with the opportunity to live in a cross-cultural hostel. We subsequently went to work alongside people in the Methodist Church in Harare, Zimbabwe for a year (2012/13), focussing on health promotion, food security, Methodist circuit ministry, and education.

What do you enjoy most about living in Tasmania? And what do you enjoy least?

I have found it easy to encourage people in other locations to value the uniqueness of their place/location in the world. It has taken me years to accept living in Tasmania and enjoy the obvious richness that surrounds us. Tasmania is one of the most unique and beautiful Islands in the world (rich soils, clean air, beautiful rivers, resilient people, beaches, ecological diversity etc). I do not enjoy the familiar cold weather - the tropics/subtropics is the environment where I feel most alive.

Tell us about your family?

I am married to the amazing Grant Maynard. If you have had the pleasure of encountering Grant, you know what I mean. We have three young ladies in our family who are fun and full of faith. They all live in Tasmania at the moment.

I also grew up under the nurture, love and care of my parents Bruce and Helen French. And now have a special step-relationship with the delightful Deb French (nee Larkins). Bruce and Deb have been pastors at Penguin Baptist, and currently attend Romaine Park Christian Centre in Burnie.



How did you become a Christian?

I became a Christian through the ministry of Rev. Chris Aulich [now at Lower Barrington Baptist], along with supportive faith formation in my home. Mrs Collins faithfully disciplined me but as I transitioned to Brisbane,

I encountered struggles and challenges in my early teen years. In seeking God's forgiveness, I went on to reaffirm my faith and be baptised at Ashgrove Baptist in Brisbane.

What is the best piece of advice you have received?

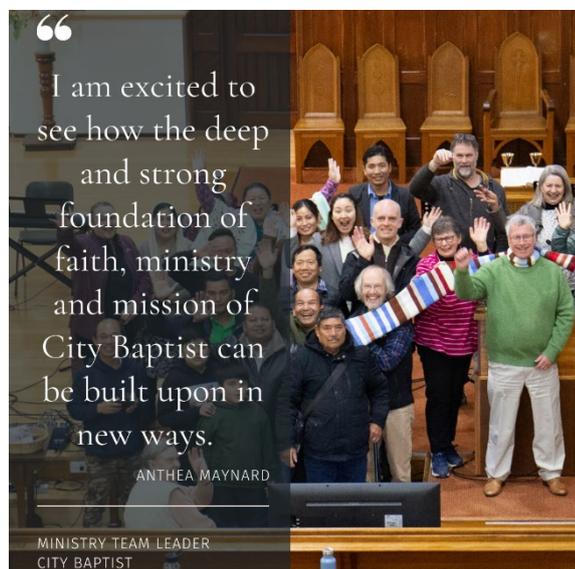
As a person who loves new ideas or activities, the best piece of advice has been to complete one task before I move onto the next. This is a spiritual discipline for me!

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

I begin by saying I have a diversity of interests. Depending on who I am chatting with, I may mention doing life with my family and community/faith community, working in community nutrition and food security (Food Plants International), encouraging intergenerational faith formation (City Baptist) and promoting health (Primary Health Consultant - Primary Health Tasmania).

What is your role in the Baptist Church?

My role is team leader of the new ministry team at City Baptist, Launceston. The role, team members, mission and ministry are still developing and growing with the gracious prayers, love and support of the awesome City Baptist congregation and City Baptist community.



What excites you most about what you do?

I am excited to see how the deep and strong foundation of faith, ministry and mission of City Baptist can be built upon in new ways. There is a calling to foster a stronger intergenerational faith community, and this is something that excites me.

What challenges do you have as you do this work?

The challenge is to maintain focus on where Christ is working in the world and to be sent as a church/congregation/faith community in the Holy Spirit's power to join His mission. This may lead to spaces and places that are unexpected.

How can we pray for you and your work?

I would appreciate prayer to live into Christ's calling, and for the breadth of community connected with City Baptist

to feel God's love, acceptance, invitation, and challenge as communities.

Short and Sweet

I am looking forward to ... creating a safe place to explore what Jesus is inviting us into next

I am worried about the ... connections and community that may not move with us

I am confident that ... the City Baptist community is strong, faithful and open to transformation

I am joyful about ... the team that I am working with

I would like to change ... the way we celebrate children, youth and young adults

I am at my best when ... I am part of a positive, diverse team

prayer:

Baptist World Day of Prayer for Women



Participate in an Annual Global Event

Every November, Baptists from all over the planet come together to pray for women

From cities far and wide across the world, women and men join the World Day of Prayer. They pray from Cameroon, to Cambodia, to Croatia, and Canberra. They are united in one cry for women: "Lord, help the women of the world, sisters facing persecution, civil war, natural disaster, and poverty."

Reuniting women in desperate times

The World Day of Prayer began in 1948, in response to the devastation and division created by WWII. To facilitate healing, the Baptist women of Europe organised the first Day of Prayer, aiming to reunite Baptists alienated by war.



The movement gathered momentum, and now Baptists globally gather in groups of five, 20 and 100s. They represent over 200 Baptist women organizations, and pray in more than 80 languages. They are united in prayer under the banner of Baptist World Alliance Women ([BWA¹](https://bwaw.org/)). This is a global collective representing Baptist women from 145 countries. They have networks and projects across the world, but this is the one day they focus on the most important activity of all: PRAYER!

Above: Colombian Women at a Day of Prayer event

Just like the devastation of WWII, our world is once again in a global crisis with the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic. At the same time, there are Baptist women bravely giving free medical care amid the coup in Myanmar; leaders dealing with devastation caused by earthquake in Haiti; Baptist sisters volunteering as midwives in remote villages in PNG; and yet others providing a 24-hour helpline for women feeling distressed by unplanned pregnancy in Argentina.

Inspire HOPE



Being a light to the world is integral to the call of BWA. Consequently, as part of the Day of Prayer, an offering is taken to finance the ministry and support global projects. This year's financial gifts will be used for a frog farm in Thailand, sewing clubs in Vanuatu, a library in Cameroon and a resource kit addressing mental health issues in the Philippines. These projects are designed to inspire hope and enable women to flourish.

Left: Leading prayer in Nigeria

You are invited to be part of this day. Why not gather a group to pray, and let the voices of Tasmania join the global movement?

¹ <https://bwawd.org/>

For a complete guide to running your own World Day of Prayer go to [BWA World Day of Prayer >>>](#)²

Elissa Macpherson

President, Baptist Women of the Pacific



What to do next

The World Day of Prayer can be held on any day in November.

- Please contact **Jenny Baxter** (jenny@tasbaptists.org.au), the Tasmanian Director of Baptist Women to run a local event or participate.
- Additionally, contact **Elissa Macpherson** (president@bwpacific.org), your continental representative for the Baptist Women of the Pacific, for more information and support.
- [READ THE 2021 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER PROGRAM >>>](#)³



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*Baptist women in Cambodia; Baptist women in Papua,
Indonesia at a Day of Prayer gathering, 2021*

² <https://www.bwawd.org/Day-of-Prayer>

³ https://faithconnector.s3.amazonaws.com/bwawd/files/2021_Day_of_Prayer/bwa_women_2021_hd_8_5x11.pdf

report:

Tas Baptists Pastors and Leaders Muster Creating Healthy Leadership

WHEN Tuesday and Wednesday, 14th and 15th September 2021

FACILITATORS Mission and Leadership Development team, *Michael Henderson* and *Jenna Blackwell* (pictured)

ATTENDEES Tasmanian Baptist pastors, leaders and their spouses.

VENUE Gateway Baptist and Silo Hotel Launceston



The Premise

Who you are is what you create in the leaders around you

During the Muster, those gathered looked at three different areas of leadership. It was 28 hours of personal investment in leadership, and listening to what God had to say. As well, it was a rich time of content, reflection and discussion. As you can read from the comments below, it was refreshing, challenging and pivotal moving forward.

The Setup

Initially meeting at Gateway Baptist hall for a reflective session, Michael Henderson led an inspiring warm-up to enter the retreat. As a 'safe' and welcoming community, attendees enjoyed one another's company, listened to some inspiring music, wrote about where they thought God was leading them personally, and encouraged others with those very same words.

After a BYO lunch at Gateway, the Muster moved to Peppers Silo Hotel Launceston for the remainder of the time.

Michael Henderson, Jenna Blackwell and Mission Director Stephen Baxter, all lead a couple of sessions each. Various aspects of leadership were discussed, and challenges were offered and accepted. As well, there was plenty of time for connecting with other leaders, eating good food, and sleeping in the comfortable hotel rooms.

On Tuesday evening, the entire cohort ate out, and were joined by others who were unable to attend during the day.



The Outcomes

Maddy Svoboda



The surroundings this year were incredible,” says Summerhill’s Pastor, Maddy Svoboda. “It was very professional and comfortable, and helped to have good conversations throughout the sessions. I’ve been impacted by how I am leading, myself, and what’s the story I am acting out of. To be continually checking in with that, and what is God’s story within me. That’s been the big takeaway.”

In regard to leadership, Maddy says, “I feel as though the Muster helped me to consider where I’m at. And to take it to my leadership team, and see how they are tracking, not just in a leadership capacity, but what stories are they living out of as well, and that’s been very helpful.”

Tracy Ortiz



Hobart’s Kids’ Church Coordinator, Tracy Ortiz, was similarly impacted. She says, “It really felt like a retreat atmosphere, and we also felt a little bit pampered, because we wouldn’t normally stay in a hotel, and spend time in those special surroundings.”

In particular, Tracy enjoyed Michael’s opening session – the challenge to listen to God speak into your life. She recalls, “The affirmations that Michael definitely pointed me in a good direction. I was thinking much more practically, but God was saying, “No, it’s me first, then all the practical stuff”. He was saying, “Don’t forget to rely on me!”

Nicholas Alexander



From LifeWay Devonport, Nicholas Alexander was enthusiastic, “I really enjoyed sitting together with the other community leaders, sharing wisdom and fellowship. I always enjoy being exposed to a new concept or way of doing things. I also love meeting in a non-church space. Nothing against churches but I find meeting in a different setting puts me in a different frame of mind.

“I also found the walks to cafe and extended coffee/tea breaks were excellent at extending the conversation.”

Paul Dare



Paul Dare oversees the new Baptist Fellowship at Levendale under Citywide’s banner. He responded saying he really appreciated the time together in a great venue.

He also suggested that the Muster was the best one ever!

The Future

Planning ahead for 2022

Next year, a Pastors and Leaders Muster will again be held. The overwhelming response was that this time away is definitely valuable. It helps leaders look at things in a different light, and give a new perspective. Relationally, it is also incredibly valuable to gather together. There is no doubt that pastors and leaders need each other, and the Muster is a great way to strengthen those connections.

For more information, questions or suggestions about the Muster for 2022, please contact Jenna Blackwell (jenna@tasbaptists.org.au) or Michael Henderson (michael@tasbaptists.org.au)

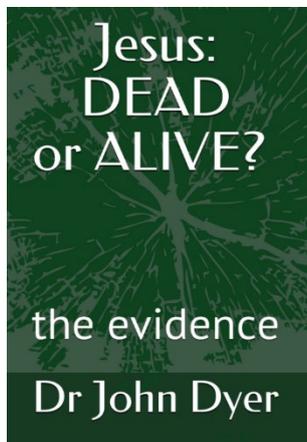
what's going on:

Book Review by Ray Hawkins, Beauty Point

TITLE: *Jesus, Dead or Alive? the evidence*, Published September 2019

AUTHOR: Dr John Dyer.

Dr Dyer is a retired Baptist minister in the UK, who served for 33 years with [BMS World Mission](http://bmsworldmission.org/)¹ in Brazil.



'How do the pieces of the puzzle fit together?' the author asks. What puzzle? The various strands of information about the resurrection of Jesus according to the four gospels. 'The answer to this question is the reason for writing this book' according to Dr Dyer.

He takes each gospel's account and compares, contrasts and then cements them into a single unit. He also included the martyrdom of Stephen in Acts, and Paul's testimony to his encounter with the risen Christ. These are challenged by various objections to their credibility, which the author systematically answers, biblically, historically and logically.

This is a well written and clear presentation presenting why the Church believes and proclaims, 'Christ is risen!' It is especially helpful for new-comers to the

Faith, and a helpful reference to share with sceptics.

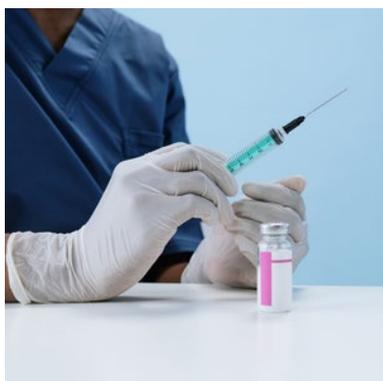
John Dyer wrote in page 72, 'Christian faith is founded on a past event but lived as a contemporary experience of the Living One, who though He was dead is alive forevermore. (Revelation 1:18)'

Our faith is far from blind. In fact, it is 'wide-eyed' and 'crystal clear.' For it is formed out of biblical prophecy, eye-witness testimonies, and an unbroken line of transformed lives. Surely, we can echo the conviction of the Apostle Paul, "I know in whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day". 2 Timothy 1:12.

Ray Hawkins

* Available to order from Koorong bookstores or online at koorong.com.au²; and also amazon.com.au³

Covid Vaccinations and the Common Good



[Find out what you need to know](#)

The vaccination issue seems to be causing difficulties in some of our Baptist community nationwide, as well as other denominations.

Professor Patrick Parkinson (Law faculty, University of Queensland) wrote an article to explain the legal and public policy issues, and what is and is not a proper conscientious objection.

[Read the article in Eternity magazine >> >](#)⁴

¹ bmsworldmission.org/

² koorong.com/c/john-dyer

³ [amazon.com.au/s?i=books-single-](http://amazon.com.au/s?i=books-single-index&rh=p_27%3ADr+John+Barry+Dyer&s=relevancerank&text=Dr+John+Barry+Dyer&ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1)

[index&rh=p_27%3ADr+John+Barry+Dyer&s=relevancerank&text=Dr+John+Barry+Dyer&ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1](http://amazon.com.au/s?i=books-single-index&rh=p_27%3ADr+John+Barry+Dyer&s=relevancerank&text=Dr+John+Barry+Dyer&ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1)

⁴ eternitynews.com.au/opinion/covid-vaccination-and-the-common-good/

Operation Christmas Child

Pack a Shoebox Online

Samaritan's Purse sends millions of gifts packed in humble shoeboxes every year to children in need. Everywhere these boxes go, the Gospel goes too! It is a powerful life-changing ministry.

NEW this year is the opportunity to pack a box online.

- [Find out more about packing a box online >>>](#)⁵
- [Download the 2021 info guide >>>](#)⁶
- [Download the Pack a Box Online poster >>>](#)⁷

WATCH video, below - How to Pack a Shoebox⁸:



⁵ occdonations.samaritanspurse.org.au/product/pack-a-shoebox-online/?utm_source=PABO-Button&utm_medium=Web-OCCHomePage&utm_campaign=2021-PABO

² tasbaptists.org.au/clients/tasbaptists/downloads/guide_to_occ_-_info_pack.pdf

⁷ tasbaptists.org.au/clients/tasbaptists/downloads/pabo_poster_2021_002.pdf

⁸ youtu.be/aRxEOCb4O58

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