

[November/December 2021](#)¹



4th November 2021

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

- [Man \(or Woman\) in the Mirror](#) Engaging young people in the 21st Century
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The next instalment of **ADVANCE | step by step** will be released on Thursday 2nd December 2021. This will be the final release for 2021!



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¹ <https://www.tasbaptists.org.au/advance-november-december-2021/>

youth and young adults:

Looking at the Man (or Woman) in the Mirror

Reengaging Youth and Young Adults

By Jenna Blackwell

Do you listen to Michael Jackson? It can be difficult not to sing along to songs like *Beat It*, *I Want You Back*, or *Man in the Mirror*. A friend recently played a Jackson song as a trivia night question, and while it didn't create an uproar, it certainly started discussion!



Not sure what I'm talking about? Welcome to cancel culture – the culture that 'cancels' a person, group or organisation due to a conflict in values. It is now at work in our community today. Predominantly, it happens when there is a perception of immoral or unethical production, content, or in Jackson's case, inappropriate behaviour with young people.

A Growing Awareness

People in today's society, especially younger adults, have been affected by mistrust, abuse and non-transparency. It may be because of their own experiences or learnt second-hand from the experiences of their parents. It includes the unbridled use of the planet's resources, often fuelled by greed and unsustainable practices. Young people have an awareness in their hearts of the need for justice, equality, and fairness.

People in today's society, especially younger adults, have been affected by mistrust, abuse and non-transparency.

The rise of clothing companies who value ethical practices and sustainability is a response to the is a concern of many, including the younger generation. This is because consumers boycott companies due to unethical treatment of workers. And, more younger adults switch to ethical banks and superannuation funds.

Recently, our Mission Director, Stephen Baxter wrote, "The challenges facing churches are not due to the Church gone wrong, but a world grown different . . . God uses times like these to reform and renew his Church."

Actions Speak Louder

So, what does this have to do with ministry for children, youth, and young adults?

These days, character speaks more than competency, and trust must be built and maintained. We have a message that needs to be heard by those who have never heard it, and by those who have heard a different variation of it. It is a message of hope in Jesus Christ – not just for eternal life, but for transformation, change and love – here and now.



In these days of cancel culture, when character, integrity and aligning actions speak volumes (and the lack of such speaks even louder), we have a message that needs to be heard.

If younger people are willing to pay more for something that has a greater impact, what's stopping them connecting with the cost of following Jesus?

Since I started working for Tas Baptists a few years ago, several youth groups have shut down. Two new ones started, but overall, the youth scene has significantly decreased. This is sad and frustrating. And, while I am prone to take responsibility upon myself, we all have a part to play.

Ponder these Points

As we imagine how to re-engage with younger generations (or any of society), let me present you with some points to ponder:

- Following Jesus is costly. If younger people are willing to pay more for something that has a greater impact, what's stopping them connecting with the cost of following Jesus?
 - Is it purely a lack of knowing or hearing? Is it not being exemplified?
 - Is it a lack of trust based on history – how we've treated people and the planet?
- How well do speak of, and example, our Jesus of compassion, mercy, truth and forgiveness?
- Do we value their voice? Are we too caught up in our well-known and well-loved songs?
- Quite practically, is our tea and coffee ethically produced and traded? In other words, do we care more about Kingdom values or dollar values?

Individual and Corporate Actions

So, I have two questions for you to consider as you go about your work today, your church meetings, and your Bible study. Let me challenge you to check yourself in the mirror.

1. What are you doing with Jesus' message of hope?
2. How can you (and your church) share it, and example it, with the young people in your life?

Maybe today, you can take one small step towards sharing that message of hope with our young people.



Jenna Blackwell was, until recently, overseeing the Baptist youth and young adults' ministry in Tasmania. She is the **Tasmanian Baptists' Leadership Development Coach**, and a member of the **AB¹ Next Generations** taskforce.

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¹ <https://www.baptist.org.au/state-ministries/>

our church:

Church Profile: Latrobe Baptist

Latrobe's Community Ministries

Making an impact on hundreds of people

Following the ministry of Ken and Gae Preece (1998 - 2011), Rev. Ralph Terry, and his wife Nelleka, took on oversight of the church. Yes, Latrobe Baptist is excellently located in the town centre, but ministry in this century is not easy.

With a largely ageing congregation, we have been blessed in having new people come amongst us, with some joining with us in membership.

Chat 'n' Choose

Outreach at Latrobe Baptist is in good health. Thanks to the hard work of Glenis Smith, Fay Horne, Peter Creeley and Glad Purdy over many years a strong craft group, Chat 'n' Choose, has developed.

Glenis and Glad, retired from leading CnC in February this year, and now both reside in nursing homes. So Nelleka, and our new Church Secretary Lorraine Sheppard, took on running the ministry, with 40-60 attending each week. They do various crafts including hardanger embroidery, knitting, crochet, smocking, macramé and woodturning.



Men's Shed

In 2012 the church applied to the Latrobe Council for permission and help in establishing a [Men's Shed](#). The council said, "Yes", and provided over \$30,000 to move existing sewage

Latrobe Men's Shed receiving grant funding



Farewell to Glenis and Glad: L-R Glad, Sandra (Glad's daughter), Glenis, Fay. Latrobe pastor, Rev. Ralph Terry is at the lectern

LATROBE BAPTIST

Worship

10am Sunday

Chat 'n' Choose

10am-12pm Wednesday

Men's Shed

9am-1pm Friday

Community Playgroup

10am-12pm Friday
(school terms)



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Rev. Ralph Terry

lines prior to the construction of a \$40,000 shed. Funds also came from the Tasmanian Government Community fund.

As time went on, the church obtained many more grants for equipment and extensions, including two from [Baptcare](#). Over the past eight years, over 60 men joined the shed, and together have now completed over 460 community projects. This ministry provides much goodwill and great contact with the people of Latrobe.

Community Playgroup



In 2019 (just prior to Covid), the Latrobe Council and the local Primary School approached the church to consider starting a Community Playgroup. We were grateful to the Lord for opening yet another avenue for witness, and hence Council provided us with a \$2000 grant to help get it started.

Since commencing (despite the challenges of Covid) we have made contact with over 40 families and some 60 children. Between 6 and 20 children attending Playgroup each week, with a team of helpers headed by Lorraine and Nelleka, enjoying much new fellowship each week.

It is our prayer that the Lord will continue to bring in new people, so that Latrobe Baptist will remain as a vibrant witness for our Lord and Saviour to the community.

A Generational Legacy

By Latrobe Secretary, Lorraine Sheppard

The Latrobe Baptist Church was opened in 1892 and stands in the middle of the town of Latrobe as a witness of God's love to the people of the town.

There have been hundreds of faithful people who have called Latrobe Baptist their spiritual home over all those years. The Walker family have been at the church since 1968 and three generations continue to play an active part in our fellowship.



Iris Walker turns 90

Iris Walker reached the wonderful milestone of her 90th birthday during 2021 and here is some of her story.

Iris and Reg

Iris was born in Ulverstone and as a young girl went to the Methodist church. Her family moved to Wilmot, where she met her future husband, Reg. Reg was working at this time as a Home Missionary with the Methodist Church. After the couple were married, they moved around the state where Reg farmed. They raised eight children and when, in 1968, the older ones needed more schooling, they moved from Frankford to Latrobe.

Latrobe Baptist became their home church and Iris and Reg became very active members. Reg was a deacon, elder, and Church Secretary for many years. Iris was very involved in the women's

work as Secretary, President and involved in the kitchen. She says that the church was a wonderful, friendly, family church. Reg retired early, and the two spent about 20 years travelling around Australia, but Latrobe was still home.

Continuing to share God's love

Now, Iris has 26 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren, with more on the way! Her love for her Lord has been a witness to all the family. This is evident in the fact that so many of the family are followers of Christ. What a wonderful Christian legacy.

Greg was a young boy at the time the family settled in Latrobe, and did his schooling in Latrobe. He now works in the building industry. He met Jill at a Youth Banquet while attending the Ulverstone Baptist Church. Ever since, the couple has been involved in the life of the Latrobe Church.

In the days of Boy's Brigade, Youth Groups and Sunday School, Greg and Jill were there, sharing the love of the Lord. Greg followed his father's example, and is now a Deacon of the church.

The next generation sees Kiran, son of Greg and Jill, as a Deacon and the Church Treasurer, as well as running the Bible Study and working in the youth activities. Kiran is still studying, as well as doing computer programming. Kiran's sister, Naomi, and brother, Caleb, are very much an active part of the church and the whole family are very valued members of the Latrobe Baptist Church.



Back: Kiran Walker, Jill Walker
Front: Naomi Walker, Iris Walker and Greg Walker

LATROBE'S HISTORY

*By Tas Baptist's Historian
Laurie Rowston*

By the late 1880s Baptists in Latrobe were holding services in the Oddfellow's Hall with a Sunday school formed the year before.

Baptist baptisms in the Mersey River drew hundreds of onlookers. In 1892 the Latrobe Tabernacle was opened. For many years it was Home Mission Church with an outreach at Sassafras. It has remained a steady work and its building is an historical feature in the town's historical main street. Today, the building complex is well looked after.

food for thought:

What about Moses?

It's time to challenge ADVANCE readers with the story of Moses and how God prepared him for a huge task.

By Frans Ammerlaan

Being Useful

I have often wondered about the relationship Moses had with the Lord, "whom the Lord knew face to face" ([Deuteronomy 34:10](#)). It took 80 odd years to fashion his character to make him useful for His purposes.

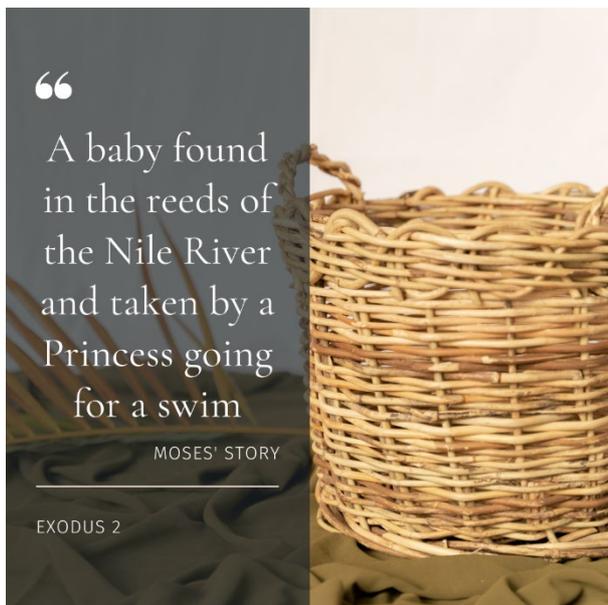
As marvelous as God's management was of Moses' birth, young adulthood, and his education. Remember, that since Jesus saved us, we all have this close relationship with God – if we choose!

Since Jesus saved us, we all have this close relationship with God if we choose!

In the old days, before Jesus, any time God needed a Leader or Messenger, He had to grow him from scratch, and then be able to relate to him. Here I think of Jonah who did not really want the job, but reluctantly did it anyway, after first running away and hiding ([Jonah 1:3](#)).

Trained . . . and Humbled

Just think, for God to develop leadership among the Jews in Egypt was almost an impossibility. To start with



the Hebrews were illiterate and ignorant slaves. God had to pick a gifted baby and have him nurtured, educated, and trained, state-of-the-art, as it were. As God tells the story in His word, so well-known now, it appeals to our imagination.

You know the story, found in [Exodus 2](#). A baby found in the reeds of the Nile River and taken, by a Princess going for a swim, into Pharaoh's Palace. So begins Moses' upbringing as a Prince of Egypt. He was educated and developed as the leader of the Jews, with the best education money could buy. What a break!

After developing into manhood as a prince of the realm, and no doubt with the arrogance that came with it, now came the time to be fashioned into

a **humble** useful leader.

This finely educated prince now spent 40 years in the desert to humble him. So humble, that he said to God he could 'not speak'! [Exodus 4:10](#) (With the great education he had? What a 'come down'!)

Lives in Parallel

I also think our lives are often parallel with Moses' story.

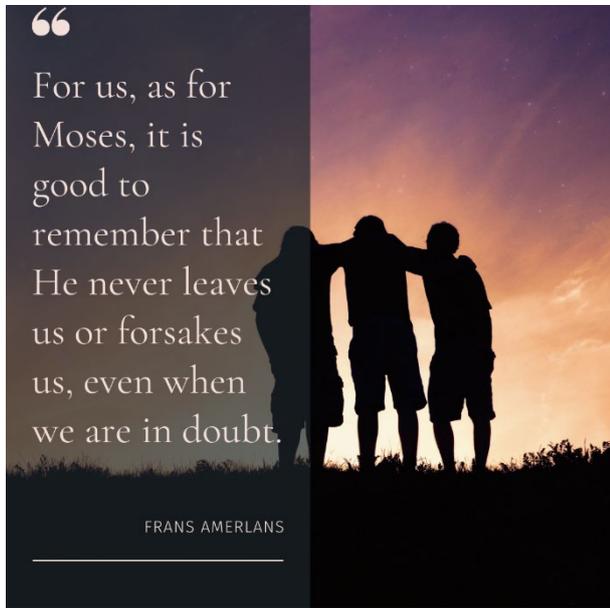
When I was 19, I thought I was God's gift to mankind. A God I did not even know. Fortunately, He grabbed me later – and all my kids.

It was not until he was 80 years old that God considered Moses ready.

So much of this story applies to many of us who, in the first flush of our youth, think we can do it by ourselves. Then discover the Lord's purposes for our lives.

The relationship Moses had with the Lord is of course now available to every saved believer in the world. (I think that is really magic).

I also used to think, as a kid, that the Old Testament was boring, but I now realise that every recorded word



of God is truly full of treasure. When I read it closely and ask, "Why would He say that?" *I can almost see His thoughts!*

For us, for me, as for Moses, it is good to remember that He never leaves us or forsakes us, even when we are in doubt.

Often, in my youth, did I despair into hopelessness and came close to ending it all. It was then that He carried me.

He then saved me and my whole house! By so doing, He demonstrated His love, and that He occupies the centre of our hearts carrying us in the palm of His hands. Can you beat that! Can you beat that!

What a treasure we have in Jesus.



Frans Ammerlaan is a member of Sassafraas Baptist Church.

need to know:

18th November 2021

Big Hearted Gifts

Gifts that end poverty

[Baptist World Aid](https://baptistworldaid.org.au/)¹ (BWA) Big Hearted Gifts do much more than meet immediate needs like clean water, food, health and income. At their heart, these gifts are an expression of God's extraordinary love at work in the world. They allow people to live with dignity, and they end poverty. Not just for individuals, but for whole communities. These are gifts that give hope.

Each gift you give supports the community driven work run by BWA's Christian partners. It's about making a bigger, lasting difference by helping individuals and families develop long-term livelihoods, health, education and leadership skills.

Thanks to the lasting impact of your Big Hearted Gifts, along with the wonderful work of people on the ground, you help end poverty.

When you select a gift card for a family member or a loved one, you're also making a donation to a community development project. Your tax-deductible donation will fund vital community development projects that include the activity featured on your card.

- You can give an eCard, Gift Card (which is mailed to you for your use), or do a last-minute-dash and print your own as a PDF file.
- But perhaps you need help working out what sort of gift to give? Use the [Gift Generator](#)² to help you pick the perfect gift card, and make a difference on behalf of your loved one.



Tasmania Celebration Launch Events

Launceston and Hobart moments to dedicate the outreach events with Will Graham, in 2022

- LAUNCESTON: **6:30-8pm Friday 19th November** Door of Hope Christian Church South Launceston
- HOBART: **6:30-8pm Saturday 20th November** C3 Convention Centre South Hobart
- More info: tasmaniacelibration.org.au



YOU'RE INVITED TO LAUNCH THIS OUTREACH WITH PRAYER.

Join Christians from Hobart and Launceston and surrounding areas for the launch event of the Tasmania Celebration with Will Graham. Hear about the vision for the May 2022 Celebration event and discover what the Lord will do when His people join together for the sake of the Gospel.

LAUNCESTON LAUNCH EVENT
FRIDAY, 19 NOVEMBER, 2021

6:30–8:00 p.m.
Door of Hope Christian Church
50 Glen Dhu St,
South Launceston, TAS 7249

HOBART LAUNCH EVENT
SATURDAY, 20 NOVEMBER, 2021

6:30–8:00 p.m.
C3 Convention Centre
64 Anglesea St,
South Hobart, TAS 7004

"Prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." —1 PETER 1:13, NASB

For information, contact our office on 1300 799 727 or email tasmaniacelibration@billygraham.org.au

[f](#) @anzBGEA
[i](#) @BGEA_ANZ
[#TassieCelebration](#)

BILLY GRAHAM
Baptist World Aid Australia
Always Called News

¹ <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/>

² <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/faith-in-action/big-hearted-gifts/>

Converge Tasmania 2021

On the 17th August, 23 Tasmanian Baptist leaders from around the state met in Longford to prepare to speak out for the needs of the global poor, refugees and survivors of domestic violence. Afterwards, Pastor Matt Garvin (Citywide) reflected:

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 when Baptist churches work together in areas like these, we're much more effective.

The work the different Baptist agencies have done in putting together the [JUSTICE 2021](#)³ report gives us a credibility and tangible way forward we simply could not do on our own.

Since then, Tasmanian Baptist teams have visited the local member in each of our five federal electorates, and to as many of our 12 senators as possible as part of Converge 2021. At each meeting they have discussed big issues, and presented each one with a copy of the Australian Baptist *Justice 2021* report.

Here's a gallery of some of the meetings that took place

22nd September – Mr Brian Mitchell, (ALP) Member for Lyons



Rodney Marshall, Jacinta Sinclair (BaptCare), Brian Mitchell, and Jeff McKinnon.

29th September – Mrs Bridget Archer MP, (Liberal) Member for Bass



Ed Love, Kay Hunter, Bridget Archer (wearing a climate scarf), Maddy Svoboda, Jenna Blackwell, Karlin Love

³ <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/2021/08/16/baptist-coalition-launches-new-publication/>

11th October – Sen. Jonathon Duniam, (Liberal) Clark



Jono Duniam, Stephen Baxter, Matt Henderson, Liam Conway. With Michael Henderson (photographer)

13th October – Sen. Peter Whish Wilson, (Greens) Bass



Receiving the Australian Baptist *Justice 2021* report in Launceston with Jeff McKinnon, Kay Hunter and Stephen Avery

28th October – Sen. Helen Polley, (ALP) Bass



Kay Hunter, Ed Love, Sen. Helen Polley, Karlin Love, Jeff McKinnon.

In addition, meetings with the following politicians took place:

- **Mr Andrew Wilkie MP, (Independent) Member for Clark**
Michael Henderson, Stephen Baxter, Liam Conway
- **Sen. Anne Urquhart, (ALP) Franklin**
Michael Henderson and team
- **Hon. Julie Collins MP, (ALP) Member for Franklin**
Matt Garvin and team
- **Mr Gavin Pearce MP, (Liberal) Member for Braddon**
Nicholas Alexander and team
- **Sen. Anne Urquhart, (ALP) Braddon**
Nicholas Alexander and team

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