

September/October 2021¹



9th September 2021

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

- **Church Profile** City Baptist Launceston moves ahead hope-fully
- **Brave New World** Reading the signs of the times – Stephen Baxter
- **Engaging with your Community** – Michael Henderson, Case Study Luminous Festival, Hobart
- **NEED TO KNOW (news)**
 - EmpowHer Walk – Saturday 18th September, Gravelly Beach
 - Stand Sunday – during September. Video now available
 - Calling All Artists – Gateway put out the call to fundraise for Haiti
 - BWA Ethical Fashion Report – QUIZ: What's Your Shopping Type?

The next instalment of **ADVANCE | step by step** will be released on Thursday 23rd September 2021.



Jenny Baxter

Communications Manager, Tasmanian Baptists

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CORRECTION: In the July/August 2021 Regional RoundUp Michael Ritchie (Westbury) was noted to be retiring at the end of 2021. In fact, he is not retiring and will still be available for pastoral appointments around Tasmania for the foreseeable future.

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

our church:

Planning for the Unseen

Change is in the wind for City Baptist as they work on their "Makeover Vision"

City Baptist Church, in the centre of Launceston, is preparing to undergo profound change. You may have heard that the Frederick Street property is on the market. You may not have heard that the church has also just called two younger women onto staff. So what's going on?

Hard decisions and a faithful response



Sunday Morning at City Baptist

Last November the church faced the necessity of some hard decisions. The congregation's response once again has proved its courage and boldness. For some years they had sought to be a community of disciples based on the scriptures.

Serious discipleship led them to befriend those in greatest need - especially the street community and the refugee community. Mission, in turn, took the church into active advocacy for social justice. Local mission is now in the DNA of the church.

But how was this vital ministry to continue into the future, in a changing world? The Church Council prepared a vision in February, The Makeover Vision: *Our role is to be a welcoming Christian presence in the centre of Launceston, befriending those on the margins. To establish this on a firm footing for the future, with God's help we intend to become an intergenerational faith community, culturally relevant to younger adults, whilst remaining a Baptist Church with our particular values and priorities.*

Discernment about property . . .



Thus began a further four-month discernment process. From November 2020 to June this year, the church met no less than six times to pray, discuss and eventually decide.

So with sadness, the decision was made to place the current property on the market. The 180-year building is full of historical significance and beauty. There is a strong sense of grief in moving on. Yet for the future, we believe the gospel will be better served by a direct street frontage, more flexibility and lower maintenance.

ABOUT US

We seek to be a welcoming presence and people to whom one can turn in tough times in the city centre.

~

Our desire is to follow Jesus in ministering to those on the margins of society.

~

We believe Jesus is relevant to all of life.

~

Our heart is to work cooperatively with other local Baptists to see God's kingdom extended

~

CONTACT

11 Frederick St
LAUNCESTON 7250
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citybaptistchurch.net

The Pastor, Jeff McKinnon, and his Advisory Group - Kay Hunter, Garry Billing and Ivan James - were asked to oversee the 'makeover process'.

The property was listed for sale in July. Tenders were due on 1 September. It may be then a further twelve months before City vacates the property, because of the potential for a lease-back arrangement.

... and discernment about staff

The Church also appointed a Pastoral Search Committee, convened by Pastor Maddy Svoboda, who eventually brought two names to the church in August.

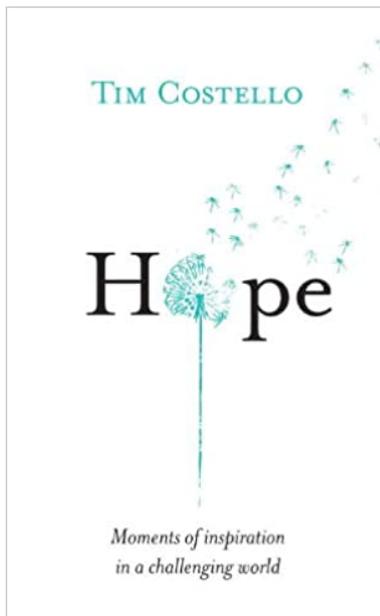


Pictured, are Anthea Maynard (Team Leader) and Jenna Blackwell (Leadership Development) who were commissioned on Sunday 5th September. Until December 2022, City Baptist will undertake a period of transition, as the new Ministry Team is formed and prepares to take over from Jeff's leadership.

Jeff will meet regularly with Anthea and Jenna (and eventually a third team member), until Jeff retires. It will be this new Ministry Team who will lead the church into its unseen future.

Unless a grain of wheat falls in the ground and dies, it remains a single seed. But if it dies it produces many seeds. John 12:24

Hope found in the smallest of moments



The seed head of a dandelion substitutes the "O" in HOPE on the dust jacket of Tim Costello's book of that title ([Hardie Grant Books 2012](#)²). From the beautifully formed orb of the dandelion, seeds are shown drifting off in the breeze to scatter new life abroad. Tim's compiled stories arise from his years of work as CEO of [World Vision Australia](#). They depict the hope that can arise within confronting settings of challenge and disruptive change.

Our circumstances are obviously different, but for me, as a member of City Baptist, this dandelion image has become evocative of both relinquishment and possibility as we anticipate a re-envisioned mission within Launceston CBD.

With fellow members, I value many aspects of our current church life - our traditions of corporate worship, patterns of community ministry, the beauty of historic architecture, and so on. The dandelion image stands as a metaphor for all of this, and there's a part of me that would like to keep it intact as it is. However, I realise that this is a transitory beauty, and that

we must now allow life to be disseminated in fresh ways. Current form will thus be yielded to life's wider potential.

² hardiegrant.com/au/publishing/bookfinder/book/hope-by-tim-costello/9781742703756

An Invitation

I sense God now inviting us to surrender the conventional comforts of our current congregational life. But in inviting his Spirit to "blow where he will", we offer our "seeds" to his breeze, confident of their germination in fresh earth. We open ourselves to strategic relocation, the formation of an enhanced leadership team and the seeking of more user-friendly facilities tailored to our distinctive city mission. We call this a "makeover vision".

God's gentle Spirit-breeze is evident in this new vision He is giving us, and in the harmonious decisions arising from our shared prayer and discussion. I've found that our legitimate sense of loss in relinquishing a conventional model dim as we anticipate with hope the possibilities of something excitingly new. I expect that the core values of our mission will be novel, life-giving expression in ways we cannot yet see, but for which we can confidently trust God.

This fills us with well-grounded hope, and encourages us to remain radically open to God's future.



Garry Billing

Advisory Group and Community Music Liaison
Officer
City Baptist Church

CITY'S HISTORY

*By Tas Baptist's Historian
Laurie Rowston*

City Baptist Launceston is the continuation of the Baptists of 1883, who were given the Launceston Tabernacle in Cimitiere Street in 1884.

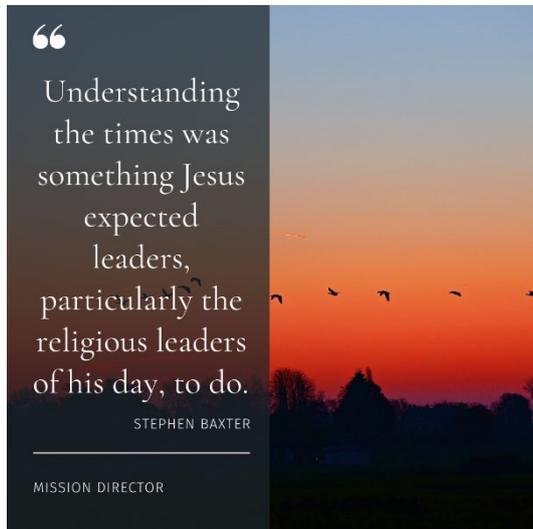
In about 1954, they moved to Central Church, and then to the Congregational Christ Church in Frederick Street with its Milton Hall next door. The Cimitiere Street church has been one of the leading churches of the Baptist Union of Tasmania. A steady work which has enjoyed many fine preachers.

comment:

Interpreting the Signs of the Times

Our future is unclear with the potential of a COVID outbreak only intensifying the uncertainty. But we need not be afraid.

By Stephen Baxter



We know we live in chaotic times, that's obvious. Interpreting and understanding our times, well that's a different matter. There are so many voices in media and social media. Some are calm, some are far from calm, and all are trying madly to make sense of it all.

Understanding the times was something Jesus expected leaders, particularly the religious leaders of his day, to do. Although they could predict the weather, he was critical when they could not "interpret the signs of the times" (Matthew 16:3) and so missed their historical moment (Matthew 16:1-4). God's Messiah was among them but they "did not recognise the time of God's coming" (Luke 19:44).

'When evening comes, you say, "It will be fair weather, for the sky is red," and in the morning, "Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast." You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.'
Jesus Christ, Matthew 16:1-3 (NIV)

A Very Long Cycle

So how are we to understand our moment in human history? While on leave recently, I read a couple of books exploring our context and the Church's place within it³.

One suggested that roughly every 500 years the Church, and the culture around it, undergoes a time of reformation and change. Jesus lived and ministered in such a moment, and so do we.

Yes, we live amid one of these 500-year shifts.

This change is a process taking about 100 years to settle. During that time, the Church engages in something akin to a "giant rummage sale". It's a process of deciding what to keep and what to dispose from the past, before it moves into a new period of renewal and new growth.

Change, change, change

September this year marks 20 years since the terrorist attacks on 9/11 by al-Qaeda against the United States. Much has changed in the years since--smartphones, social media, online streaming such as Netflix and even online churches. Today, nations and people contend with a surge in militant Islam; the threat of changing climate; the loss of faith in Western institutions, including the Church; and the rise of 'cancel culture'. Added to this is the increasing numbers of deaths due to the Covid-19 virus.

Putting all these together we can begin to appreciate the significance and chaos of our times.

Jesus wept over the people of Jerusalem because they did not recognise him as God's chosen Messenger (Luke 19:41). They were not bad people. In fact, the majority of the Jewish leaders Jesus criticised were

³ Quietly Courageous: Leading the Church in a Changing World by Gilbert R. Rendle (Rowman and Littlefield 2018); and Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why by Phyllis Tickle (Baker Books 2008)

good people – both God-fearing and God loving. People like Nicodemus, Barnabas and eventually Saul of Tarsus were among many of them who received the message and believed. (see Acts 6:7)

The majority of the Jewish leaders Jesus criticised were good people – both God-fearing and God loving.

Survival in this Climate

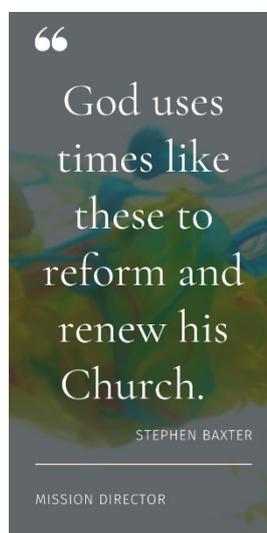
It's the same in our churches today. Every church includes people and leaders with good hearts, minds and hands, who work tirelessly and diligently. Yet, for all our hard work, often we see little fruit. There is a wide gap between our aspirations and reality.

Although we've tried innovation and creativity, toiled harder and longer, we've discovered that difference and efficiency are just not enough.

Is that a sign of the times? Is God trying to get our attention? Could it be that the gap between aspirations and reality is widening because of changing times, not because we've got it wrong?

One author made the bold claim that it is impossible for our inherited congregational and denominational structures to thrive in this current environment. Times have so changed as much as that. The challenges facing churches are not due to the Church gone wrong, but a world grown different.

Navigating the Waters



Troubling and challenging times are not new to God's people. We have been in similar, even worse, situations in the past and God has brought us through. Key to navigating these difficult times is the ability and willingness to "interpret the signs of the times" and be alert to what God is up to. This is what the religious leaders of Jesus' time failed to do. Within a generation Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed.

There is a job ahead of us as our Tasmanian communities and churches live amid this moment of profound change. Our future is unclear with the potential of a Tasmanian Covid-19 outbreak only intensifying the uncertainty. But we need not be afraid.

God uses times like these to reform and renew his Church.

Jesus Christ continues to build his Church. The march of history is towards the day when the nations will bow and acknowledge as Jesus Lord of all.

Our Tasmanian Baptist theme for this year is **Reengage, Reimagine and Realign**. It is a call for each church, and every person within, to reengage with God's mission in the world; reimagine God's call of what it means to be the Church in this hour; and realign our resources, structures, time and finances with that call.

May God enable us to be those who can interpret the times, to hear what God is saying to the churches, and allow God to do a new work within us.



Stephen Baxter Mission Director, Tasmanian Baptists
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community engagement:

Supporting churches to follow their call

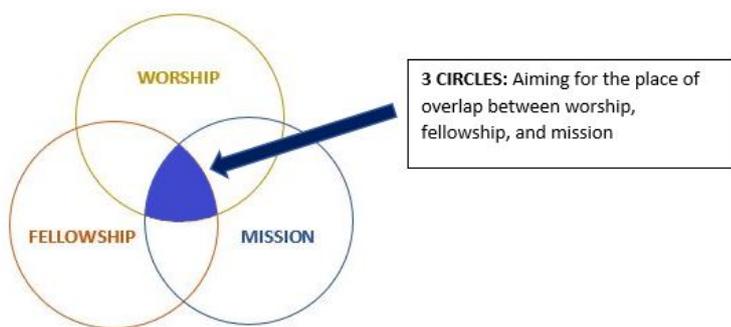
Do you want help with community engagement? Here's some ideas about where to start

By Michael Henderson

My role with Tasmanian Baptists can seem broad, but it really boils down to helping churches and leaders to be everything they are being called to be. Not what I think they should be, but me helping them to be what God is calling them to be. I support them to follow that call.

The sweet spot: Worship, Fellowship, Mission

Hobart Baptist Church and their [Luminous Festival](#)⁴ is a great case study. The Festival ran during June this year, and had very specific purposes. The leadership team wanted a mixture of events, targeting a range of ages and cultures, that could provide the three circles Tasmanian Baptists recently adopted in their strategic plan. The three circles represent *worship*, *fellowship* and *mission*.



Some of the events focused more on worship and fellowship, like the "Christmas in Winter" Carols, and Sunday Services. The measures against these events were about bringing people together, worship, and how people inside and outside the church responded.

Other events were targeted at fellowship and mission, like the panel hosted one

evening on the topic: "Does religion and spirituality have a part in Tasmania's future?" This was a conversation between Cassy O'Connor MP, Jacquie Petrusma MP, Paul Dare (as an indigenous Christian), Snr Pastor Stephen Baxter and hosted by Director of Citizen Tasmania, Grace Williams.



Another event brought people together to hear Ruth Burgess share her testimony, "From Hindu Guru to Follower of Jesus". Yet, another was my art installation, *Breathe, Shine and Seek to Mend*, connected to

⁴ hobartbaptist.org.au/luminous-2021

Dark Mofo. The measures here focused on the conversations we had with people during and after the events, the quality of the faith conversations, and on people who came to follow Jesus.

The Festival taken as a whole, brought together the three circles in a variety of ways over a two-week period, and helped to tell the story of Hobart Baptist Church.

Supporting by listening and amplifying

My role in the Luminous Festival, as it would be if I was supporting your church or leaders, was two things.

- I listen to what is on the heart of the leaders, where they think God is leading them in this moment, and what they want to get out of it. I help them clarify those thoughts.
- I help them to amplify what is on their heart, to work through what is involved in running the event, and what is needed to engage the community.

I am not the knower of all things, and I don't need to be. Most of the time, like with HBC, the church and its leaders know what they want to do and how to do it. They just want some support in thinking it through, discovering what it is, gaining some confidence to do it; and then some support to work through the best way to execute the plan.



Want some help?

If you would like to have a chat with me about how I can support your church and its leaders to connect with your community, then don't hesitate to be in contact with me via email.



Michael Henderson

Leadership Development, Tasmanian Baptists

michael@tasbaptists.org.au

news – what's going on:

EmpowHer Walk (North)

Saturday 18th September

ALL WOMEN WELCOME!



9.30am: Meet at Singapore Baker's Cafe Gravelly Beach for brunch/cuppa.

11am: Walk loop track to Paper Beach along the West Tamar, return. Total walk: 9km/2hours. Bring money for Cafe.

Invite your friends!

RSVP required. For more info or to register, contact Wendy Marston 0407 675 414 or Jenna Blackwell 0488 330 390

Pictured: Walkers at the last northern EmpowHer Walk, on their way to Badger Head

Stand Sunday during September

Supporting foster carers in Tasmania

Stand Sunday 2021 is on Sunday 12th September - although your church could focus on foster care any Sunday this month.

[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT STAND SUNDAY >>>⁵](#)

CONTACT MARY AT FOSTERING HOPE: mary@fosteringhope.community

[READ ABOUT FOSTER CARE - June 2021 ADVANCE | step by step >>>⁶](#)

The 2021 Stand Sunday video is now available. You can use it during your church service one Sunday in September, whether you host Stand Sunday, or not.



[Download video on YouTube >>>⁷](#)

⁵ standsunday.com

⁶ tasbaptists.org.au/june-2021/all-about-foster-care

⁷ youtube.com/watch?v=WztXn44U_6I

Calling All Artists!

Gateway Baptist Fundraiser for Haiti

Gateway Baptist Church in Launceston are holding a Fundraiser for the children in Haiti who live in the desperately poor district of Despuzeau in Haiti. All monies raised will be sent to Haiti, no expenses will be deducted.

They are **calling on all artists** who would like to consider being part of this exciting fund raiser by donating a small A5 (1/2 A4) unframed, unmounted drawing, painting, digital art or other which will be sold to the public at their Artway Gallery on 16th October.

If you are able to contribute, or know someone who may be able to, there are a few details to be aware of. The artwork needs to be something someone would love, all are being sold for \$100 each, please sign the back, not the front, and provide a little story about yourself. Artwork needs to be received before 24th September.

For more details, please contact *Ian or Lee Campbell*:

EMAIL imcampbell@bigpond.com | SMS Ian 0408 128 871 OR Lee 0477 039 771

Calling All Artists

We are looking for Artists who would be willing to donate a small A5 (1/2 A4 paper) size original piece of artwork in the medium of their choice (Paint, pastel, pencil, digital or other medium) that could be sold to raise money for the children who live in the desperately poor community of Despuzeau in Haiti.

If you are willing to be part of this exciting fund raiser artwork needs to be in by end of September, Art sale is on 16/10/21
For more info
Email: imcampbell@bigpond.com
Facebook/ Messenger Lee Campbell

Thank you on behalf of PAC Haiti & Artway Gallery, Launceston

Ethical Fashion Report

Australians value ethical fashion but struggle to take action

New consumer report reveals majority of consumers want to improve purchasing behaviour

Australian consumers believe ethical purchasing is important, but are failing to follow through on their own beliefs. While 87% want to change their fashion consumption habits to consume more ethically, just 46% indicate they regularly purchase from ethical/sustainable fashion brands.



The findings come from the new Australian Ethical Consumer Report, released by Christian aid and development organisation Baptist World Aid Australia (BWAA) in collaboration with social research company [McCrindle](#)⁸. The report, which draws from national data, seeks to understand the attitudes and beliefs of Australian consumers towards ethical fashion consumption, and uncovers the key motivations for Australians when making purchases. It reveals that most Australians feel a sense of global responsibility and want to change their consumption habits, but cite awareness of ethical brands and expense as the two greatest barriers to doing so.

Accompanying the report is an online quiz which enables Aussie shoppers to identify their own consumer type from

Practical Purchasers, Intentional Individualists, Socially-Minded Shoppers, and Conscious Consumers. Those wanting to go one step further can score themselves on the Ethical Consumer Index, which measures their behaviour against the 5 A's of ethical fashion: attitude, agency, awareness, action and advocacy. The 5-minute quiz examines whether Australian consumers are more driven by their personal benefit or the benefit of others, and whether they buy thinking about current needs or future impacts.

'Aussies pride themselves on supporting a 'fair go for all,' and this couldn't be more applicable when examining the issues of injustice surrounding ethical fashion. We see younger generations, and women, more open to changing their habits to align with this value,' said Ashley Fell from McCrindle. 'The 'My Shopping Type' online quiz gives consumers a chance to see how they compare against their peers on this important issue, as well as being empowered with steps towards aligning their purchases with their values,'

'This report reveals we have a long way to go when it comes to ethical consumption and understanding the impacts that our purchases have on the environment and people around the world,' said Peter Keegan of BWAA. 'But with tools like the Ethical Fashion Guide and My Shopping Type Quiz, we can take those next steps towards becoming more ethical consumers.'

The Australian Ethical Consumer Report is available for download [here](#)⁹.

The Ethical Fashion Report and Guide has been published by Baptist World Aid since 2013, and can be ordered [here](#)¹⁰.

My Shopping Type Quiz [here](#)¹¹.

About Baptist World Aid Australia

[BWAA](#)¹² is a Christian international aid and development organisation that publishes the annual Ethical Fashion Report, which grades clothing brands for their efforts to address worker exploitation and environmental degradation.

⁸ mccrindle.com.au

⁹ baptistworldaid.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/BWA-Australian-Ethical-Consumer-Visualised-Report_McCrindle.pdf

¹⁰ baptistworldaid.org.au/resources/ethical-fashion-guide

¹¹ myshoppingtype.com.au

¹² baptistworldaid.org.au

[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.



Jenny Baxter

Communications Manager, Tasmanian Baptists

jenny@tasbaptists.org.au

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?

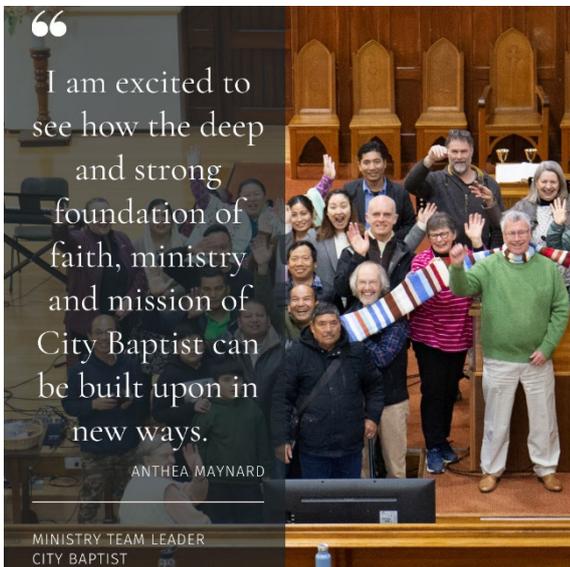
As a person who loves new ideas or activities, the best piece of advice has been to complete one task before I move onto the next. This is a spiritual discipline for me!

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



L to
R:

*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)

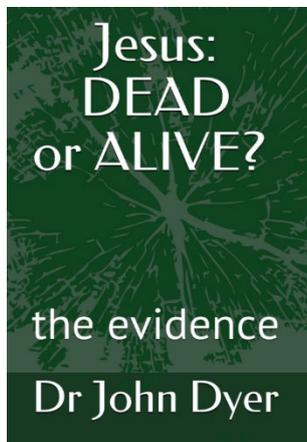
what's going on:

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.

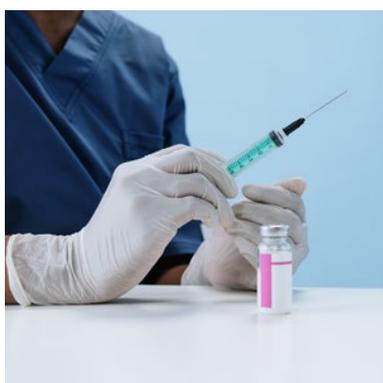
John Dyer wrote in page 72, 'Christian faith is founded on a past event but lived as a contemporary experience of the Living One, who though He was dead is alive forevermore. (Revelation 1:18)'

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

[September/October 2021](#)¹



7th October 2021

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

- **Food for Thought:** *Our Divine Purpose* Bob Goolsby, George Town Baptist
- **Disaster Zones!** Haiti, Myanmar, Afghanistan
- **Crossover Australia** – Baptist sharing Jesus
- **NEED TO KNOW**
 - **Annual Assembly speaker**, Patrick Parkinson
 - **Tasmania Celebration 2022**, Launch events
 - **Winner:** Australian Christian Book of the Year Award

The next instalment of **ADVANCE | step by step** will be released on Thursday 21st October 2021.



Jenny Baxter

Communications Manager, Tasmanian Baptists

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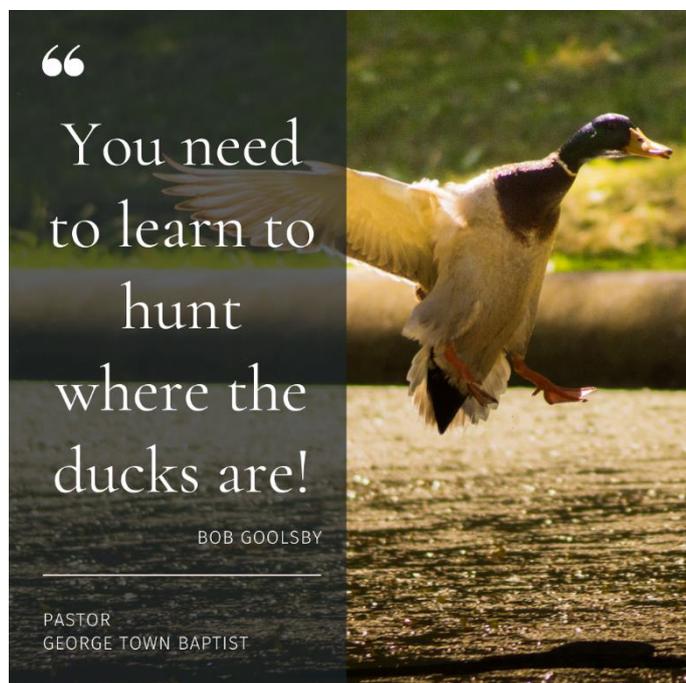
¹ tasbaptists.org.au/september-october-2021

food for thought:

Our Divine Purpose

Providing a place for heaven to speak

Pastor Bob Goolsby contemplates an age-old question:
Who is it who convicts people of their sin?



Years ago, a young preacher said to me, “Brother Bob, it’s getting so you can’t preach against sin anymore”.

I said “You preach against sin? Why do you do that? Do you have a lot of people guilty of the sins you are naming in your church?”

He said “No, come to think of it”.

I said, “You need to learn to hunt where the ducks are”.

I know he did not coin that statement. I have heard it many times. In some churches, the “amen corner” will approve with gusto so we satisfy the few, and lose the many.

Just as I Am

I was born-again when I was eight years old. (It might have been earlier, but we tend to look for some event to identify as “coming to Christ”).

In a tiny chapel in a part of the U.S. that is now a national forest, very remote, I first sensed the Lord in experiences currently less available, as families drop from church. At eight years of age, the 28-year-old preacher spoke on a Sunday night. I don’t exactly remember the sermon, but I remember they sang “Just as I Am” for what seemed to be an eternity.

The presence of the Holy Spirit, and an opportunity to respond made the difference. He did not preach on sin. He presented the Saviour. Even at eight-years-old, I was able to experience conviction. It does not matter whether sin is great or small. The Holy Spirit shines His own spotlight on the heart.

“It is the Holy Spirit’s job to bring it to life, once declared.”

The preacher presents the Word. Paul said “Faith comes by hearing” it ([Romans 10:17](#)). He also said, “I am free from the blood of all men, for I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God” ([Acts 20:26-27](#)), not one part, not two parts, but all of it. It is the Holy Spirit’s job to bring it to life, once declared.

Offering a Solution

“

God saves sinners, but it might take a while to practically expunge all the sin from the saved one.

BOB GOOLSBY

PASTOR
GEORGE TOWN BAPTIST



I learned something else subsequent to that night. God saves sinners, but it might take a while to practically expunge all the sin from the saved one.

That's why the church should not major on the problem. We need to offer the solution. Granted, on occasion the preacher needs to define the problems we face, but by isolating one sin to rail against, all we do is alienate the guilty, and telegraph the message to the rank and file that they should not bring those people to your church.

Rarely did Jesus rail against adultery, for example, except in the most general of terms. But he always forgave it (adding a fatherly "go and sin no more" as He did so). Rather, it was the attitudes of the religious against the sinner that invigorated His sternest warnings.

It has been said, "The Church is not a sanctuary for the saintly but a hospital for the sick". Overcoming Christians need to be staff, administering healing medicine and care, not mere lifestyle criticism.

We are relevant, not because we are an echo, but because we provide place for heaven to speak.



Bob Goolsby is the pastor at George Town Baptist church
crosswise.tas@outlook.com

need to know:

NEWS for Tasmanian Baptists

7th October 2021

Tasmanian Baptists Annual Assembly 2021

7pm Friday to 3:30pm Saturday, 22nd and 23rd October



Above: Delegates at the May Assembly 2021

The next Assembly of the Baptist Union of Tasmania will be held on Friday, 22nd October 2021 at Riverlands, 159 Wellington Street, Longford commencing with a dinner at 7pm. It will reconvene on Saturday, 23rd October 2021 at the same location commencing at 9.30am.

Churches are requested to send delegates to Assembly and Pastors on the Accredited and Recognised Pastors list are invited to attend.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL! Friday Dinner - \$30 person. Saturday lunch - \$25 per person. Please contact Karen Buckney to book meals and indicate dietary requests: karen@riverlands.org.au | 6391 2202

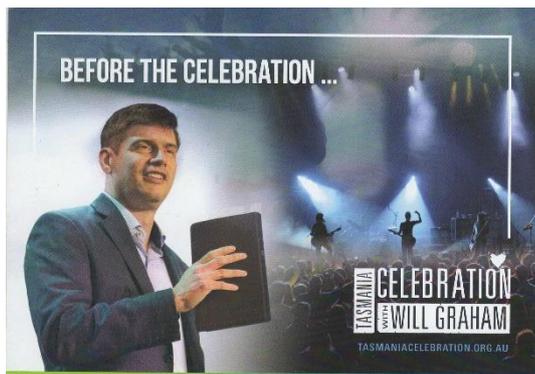
Friday night speaker: Professor Patrick Parkinson, pictured.



Professor Parkinson is a specialist in family law, child protection, law and religion and the law of equity and trusts. He is also well-known for his community work concerning child protection. He has been a member of the NSW Child Protection Council and was Chairperson of a major review of the state law concerning child protection which led to the enactment of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998. He also works with churches on child protection and religious freedom issues.

Patrick and his wife Martha now live in Tasmania.

Before the Celebration ... Launch of the 2022 Tasmania Celebration



Launceston Launch Event: 6:30-8pm, 19th November (Door of Hope) | Hobart Launch Event: 6:30-8pm, 20th November (C3 Centre)

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association extends an invitation to all churches to join the November launch of the **Tasmania Celebration 2022 with Will Graham**.

These will be evenings for the collective church to unite together for prayer and worship and to share the vision for the upcoming Tasmania Celebration events in May 2022. We look forward to seeing you there.

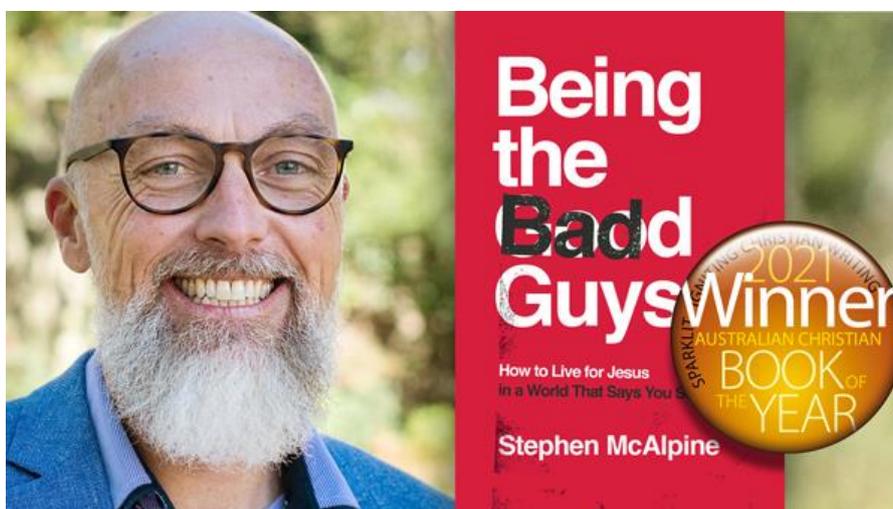
There are also regular Prayer Meetings for the Celebration taking place at [Gateway Baptist](#)², 7am Thursday mornings.

Find out more about these and other events: <https://tasmania.billygraham.org/events/>

SparkLit Awards

Australian Christian Book of the Year 2021

***Being the Bad Guys*, by Stephen McAlpine**



No longer just quaint or irrelevant, Christians in Western society are once again regarded as "haters of humankind".

Being the Bad Guys calls on Christians to admit our failures and embrace life as a creative minority. As a community on the margins, we can welcome the actual victims of contemporary culture as they look for grace and solace from its bruising brutality. This book is an overdue reset for Christians who have not yet realised that they are more like Daniel in Babylon than Solomon in the land of milk and honey.

[Read more >>>](#) ³[The 2021 Australian Christian Book of the Year Shortlist](#)

[Purchase from Koorong >>>](#)⁴

² gatewaybaptistchurch.com.au

³ sparklit.org

⁴ koorong.com (Search for **Being the Bad Guys**)

world affairs:

Acts of God, Terrorism and Trauma

Haiti, Myanmar, Afghanistan

Haiti - Earthquake and Tropical Cyclone

Double disaster slams Haiti. Believers coordinate aid and broadcast hope

By Katey Hearth, [Mission Network News](#)⁵

Haiti (MNN) - Haiti is reeling from back-to-back disasters. A 7.2-magnitude earthquake rocked southwest Haiti [on Saturday 14th August](#)⁶. Then, Tropical Depression Grace swept through the same region, deluging survivors and hampering rescue efforts.

"The heavy rains, landslides, flooding, (are) a nightmare for disaster relief," says Kate Michel, Global Communications and Fundraising Director at Radio 4VEH, a Trans World Radio (TWR) partner in Haiti.



Photo courtesy of Radio 4VEH

As of 1 September 2021, at least 2,200 people were casualties, and above 12,200 injured. An estimated 650,000 people are in need of assistance.

REF: Wikipedia

Prayer needed!

"We urge people to be praying for Haiti; for those who are trying to help; and for God's hand of protection to be on the most vulnerable, today and in the days ahead," Michel says.

"We know we're often asking for prayer for Haiti, and sometimes it can seem like it's never-ending. But trust me, we see God working miracles every day in Haiti. The earthquake occurred along the same fault lines as a [7.0-magnitude 2010 earthquake](#)⁷ that left Port-au-Prince in shambles. That quake claimed [more than 200,000 casualties](#)⁸, and estimated losses totalled \$7.8 billion.

Trauma and flashbacks

The fallout from this recent disaster could rise to similar heights. "Nearly every Haitian, and Haitians living abroad, are going through some of those traumatic reminders of the terrible earthquake in 2010." Pray for endurance as believers broadcast critical updates and the hope of Christ.

A special trauma counselling program broadcast regularly by 4VEH helps Haitians deal with psychological fallout. "We spent a lot of time after the 2010 earthquake on helping people understand what trauma is, how people may react, and what kind of healing is possible," Michel says, describing the program. It's an essential tool when difficult seasons like these stir painful flashbacks.

[Send tangible help to Haiti through Radio 4VEH here >>>](#)⁹ | [Baptist World Aid disaster fund for Haiti >>>](#)¹⁰

TWR INTERNATIONAL is broadcasting HOPE to the world in 300 languages. In 2020 TWR received 34.4 MILLION connections and responses on all media broadcast platforms. Go to www.twr.org for more details. Your partnership with TWR - AUSTRALIA will be most appreciated.

⁵ mnnonline.org

⁶ nbcnews.com/news/world/drone-video-shows-devastation-left-wake-7-2-magnitude-earthquake-n1276903

⁷ mnnonline.org/news/haiti-reels-from-strongest-quake-in-200-years

⁸ <https://reliefweb.int/disaster/eq-2010-000009-hti>

⁹ 4veh.org/en/donate/earthquake-send-help-hope

¹⁰ baptistworldaid.org.au/appeals/disaster-action-fund

Call for Justice in Myanmar

Australian Baptist Ministries (ABM) joins with Baptist World Alliance (BWA), Asia Pacific Baptist Federation (APBF), Baptist World Alliance Women (BWAU) and Asian Baptist Women's Union (ABWU) with regard to the ongoing situation in Myanmar that needs our immediate attention. Two events in Chin State of Myanmar that demands our strongest condemnation and determined prayer.



Over the weekend 19 and 20th September 2021, a young Baptist Pastor, Cung Biak Hum was shot and killed while attempting to help a church member whose home had been set on fire by military forces. He leaves behind his wife who is pregnant with their third child and two boys.

Baptist Pastor Thian Lian Sang was robbed and arrested at around 11 am on September 16th. He was arrested in front of his house by armed men in plain clothes. At the time of the arrest, three military vehicles and about 20 armed men on three motorcycles were involved. After that, members of the State Administration Council (SAC) entered the house and checked the phones. Five phones were confiscated, including his mother's as well as his wife's. They also took 400,000 kyats.

"That 400,000 kyats was the money they received for the funeral of his father (in August)," said a family member. The family members said he has just recovered from Covid-19 and still not well yet. It is not yet known why he was arrested and but people close to him say the pastor is politically neutral.

We call for the immediate release of Rev. Thian Lian Sang.

We also call for those who killed Rev. Cung Biak Hum to be held legally responsible, and we ask for restoration of the homes burned by the military.

We call upon the military regime to restore religious freedom, human rights, and peace through dialogue across Chin State and Myanmar as a whole.

Please use the image (above) and the following hashtags to help us create awareness via social media and call for justice against the atrocities of the Military regime.

#StandingwithMyanmar | #WhatsHappeningInMyanmar

We are stronger when we stand together,

Rev. Mark Wilson

National Ministries Director
Australian Baptist Ministries
(Baptist Union of Australia Inc)

Afghanistan Trauma

The US withdrew all their troops from Afghanistan about a month ago. The evacuation operation was a disaster after the collapse of the Afghan government, and Kabul was seized by the Taliban.



And now, the unfolding situation with the Taliban across Afghanistan remains a pressing and dangerous one, imposing fear on families and threatening the safety of hundreds of thousands of women, men and children.

We believe that now is a moment for all Australian Christians to come together in solidarity.

Therefore, I am asking you to join Christians across Australia and sign the *Christians United for Afghanistan* call.

As the crisis continues, Christians from across the Australian church, alongside a wider public movement, are being moved to speak boldly to our national leaders to provide urgent action for the wellbeing of Afghan people.

The call is simple:

WE, THE AUSTRALIAN CHURCH, ARE CALLING ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO WELCOME AN ADDITIONAL 20,000 AFGHAN REFUGEES AND SUPPORT THE ONGOING WELLBEING OF ALL AFGHAN REFUGEES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

[Sign the urgent call](#)¹¹

This is an urgent call for Christians from all walks of life and perspectives, united in concern for the wellbeing of the Afghan community. Our hope at Baptist World Aid is that Christians united across Australia will show our government that we are called to care for the vulnerable. And as we do, we pray that the government will respond with a just and compassionate commitment to helping the most vulnerable Afghan refugees.

As a united Australian Church, I believe we *can* make a difference. Thank you for standing with us as we stand for the people of Afghanistan.

Grace and peace,

Peter Keegan

Director of Advocacy

Baptist World Aid Australia

¹¹ unitedforafghanistan.com/?partner=BWAA

Baptists sharing Jesus:

New training resource . . . and a big challenge

Christmas resource including sermon outlines, service ideas, customisable artwork and more

A new website launching soon, a new training resource, and a big challenge!

Here's a quick update on all that's going on behind the scenes at Crossover Australia.

1. New Crossover Website launching early October

We're re-organising our storehouse of resources and ideas and making it easier to browse and access them, at the same address crossover.org.au



2. Christmas Resource 2021 - 'Good News for a Change'

A free Christmas series for churches that's inevitable and accessible. Includes sermon outlines, service ideas, customisable artwork and more. Available early October

We'll be launching our Christmas Resource for 2021 with our new website in mid-October! Make sure you're [signed up for our eNews to be notified](#)¹².

3. Evangelism Training Resource - 'Plan A'

'Plan A' is a wonderful training resource featuring a sermon series, small group resources and more. Developed and presented by Belinda Lakelin. Pilot churches loved it - full version coming soon.

4. PRAC and Sacred Agents

PRAC magazine (for pastors and other leading thinkers) and the 'Sacred Agents' blog (for everyone) will continue - stay tuned!

Spring Appeal 2021 - A \$90,000 Challenge

With COVID disrupting our last 2 Easter Offerings, Crossover is \$90,000 behind budget for support - just when we're gearing up with a tonne of ideas and projects we're ready to invest in. Please actively support and promote our Spring Appeal in October. And please pray with us - Jesus invites us to ask for whatever we need, as we serve and represent him together.

[And if you're able to give now, thank you! >>>](#)¹³



Andrew Turner,

Director of Crossover for ABM

www.crossover.org.au | facebook.com/crossoveroz

If your church has produced something that worked well and could bless other churches in their outreach, let us know! We're always looking for helpful ways to encourage, train and resource our movement for outreach and evangelism. Use ideas@crossover.org.au

¹² crossover.org.au/newsletter

¹³ crossover.org.au/support-give

[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.



Jenny Baxter

Communications Manager, Tasmanian Baptists

jenny@tasbaptists.org.au

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.



Stephen Baxter
Mission Director, Tasmanian Baptists
stephen@tasbaptists.org.au

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

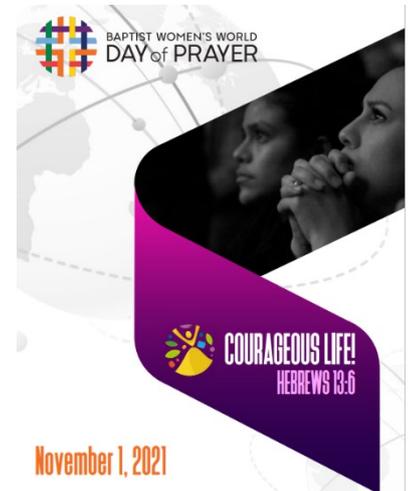
Pray and raise funds for Baptist women around the world who are working on many projects to help disadvantaged communities. Funds for Frog farming (Thailand); Lighters of Hope in Darkness (mental health support, Philippines); Educational Library (Cameroon). More: bwawd.org/day-of-prayer

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>

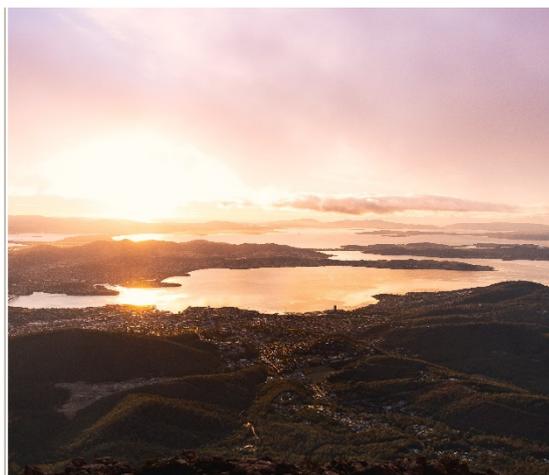


**TASMANIAN
PARLIAMENTARY
PRAYER BREAKFAST**

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

PLATINUM SPONSORS
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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/>



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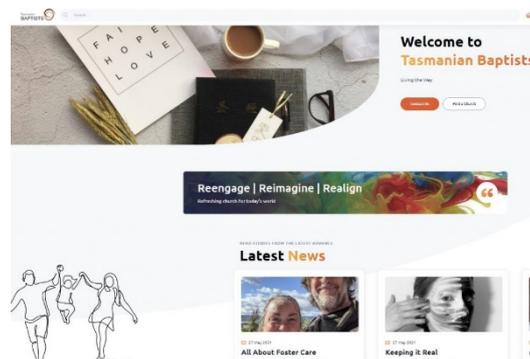


NEED TO KNOW ~ NEWS

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

