

# ReCharge

Tasmanian Baptists News | Prayer

November/December 2022



**WELCOME** to the print version of the. November/December 2022 **ReCharge**.

This PDF or printed made available to you so you can catch up with articles released over the past two months on the Tasmanian Baptist website – and you can also read them there:

**[www.tasbaptists.org.au](http://www.tasbaptists.org.au)**

To subscribe to ReCharge for your weekly email please visit:

<https://www.tasbaptists.org.au/subscribe/>

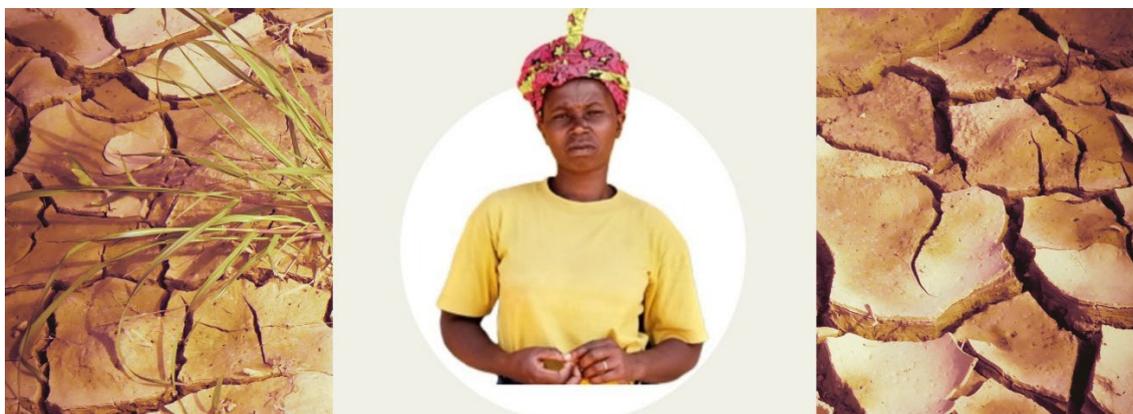
Please read and enjoy!

Blessings,

**Jenny Baxter**  
**Communications Manager**  
**Tasmanian Baptists**

*To contribute, query or comment please email me on [jenny@tasbaptists.org.au](mailto:jenny@tasbaptists.org.au)*

# Famine in the Horn of Africa



## Food Security

*Baptist World Aid CEO Melissa Lipsett warns of imminent devastation*

**R**egretfully, the hunger crisis in the Horn of Africa\* is reaching dire levels. Baptist World Aid is taking proactive steps in anticipation of an official declaration of famine.

The United Nations declares a famine in conjunction with the affected country. They use a metric called IPC<sup>1</sup> to monitor hunger through phases of severity from one to five. Famine (phase five) is triggered when:

- an area has a minimum of 20 per cent of households with an extreme lack of food;
- over 30 per cent of children are experiencing malnutrition; and
- two in 10,000 people are dying daily from starvation, malnutrition or disease.

With, 21 million people in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia experiencing acute food insecurity, we expect this declaration any day.

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*The United Nations declares a famine in conjunction with the affected country.*

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## God is Faithful

This is sobering and feels overwhelming. But I'm convicted, as always, of God's faithfulness.

To practically help address global crises, Baptist World Aid Australia has joined with 14 other Australian humanitarian aid organisations to respond in the Horn of Africa through our Hunger Crisis Appeal – you can donate<sup>2</sup>!

Working within this alliance allows us to share resources and skills so that, together, we maximise our impact during international emergencies. This means we will be able to access a joint pool of funding through the generosity of donors who may be unfamiliar with Baptist World Aid. It also means we can channel funds to where most needed, through a trusted, expanded network. But of course, we need the help of our Baptist family too as we respond to this global crisis.

## What Your Funds Will Do

Funds raised through the alliance and the Baptist family will help support the work of our local Christian partners in Kenya and Uganda—ensuring people can access:

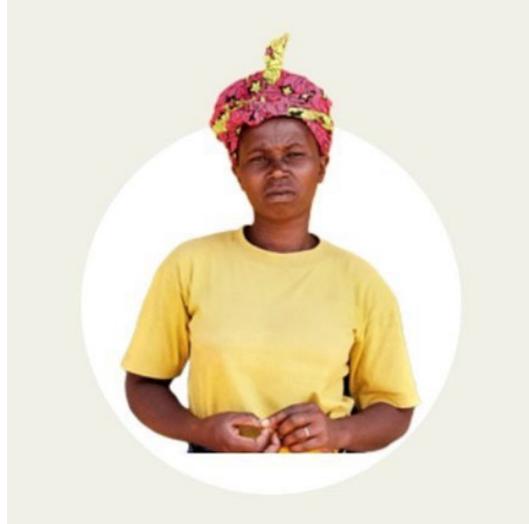
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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-website/resources-details/en/c/1129202/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/appeals/hunger-crisis/>

- emergency food rations to prevent malnutrition;
- vouchers and cash grants to purchase household and livelihood necessities; and
- training in innovative techniques that will help drought-affected farmers feed their families—now and into the future.

### What's causing the hunger crisis?




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*Please pray that food and water would flow through to the hungry and thirsty*

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Food and fuel prices have spiked worldwide in the wake of COVID. Four years of severe drought, and locust swarms have further compounded the situation in the Horn of Africa. Finally, the conflict in Ukraine has interrupted usual supply chains, making food even more scarce. Learn more about this hunger crisis on the BWA website<sup>3</sup>.

While this is a desperate situation, we're encouraged by the partnership we enjoy with the Australian Baptist family, and proud to represent Australian Baptist Ministries<sup>4</sup> within the Emergency Action Alliance<sup>5</sup>.

Please pray that food and water would flow through to the hungry and thirsty, and that God's people around the world would hear the call to give generously. Together, we continue to serve Jesus as we strive to make a better a world forall.



**Melissa Lipsett**  
CEO, Baptist World Aid

\* Definitions of The Horn of Africa vary, but at broadest include Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, Djibouti, Eritrea, and Ethiopia.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/2022/09/01/hunger-crisis-explained/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.baptist.org.au/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://emergencyaction.org.au/>

# Annual Assembly 2022



ABOVE Clockwise from top left: Sherry and Geoff Manning (BMA); Assembly attendees, Saturday; Friday dinner; Stephen Baxter prays for newly registered pastor Ben Cochrane (Somerset); Saturday lunch; Friday night.

## Tasmanian Baptists

### Reflection on Assembly

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 28TH AND 29TH OCTOBER 2022

By Anthea Maynard

Assembly was a humbling, inspiring and encouraging experience, as diverse representatives from across *lutruwita* (Tasmania) gathered to share food, stories, reflections, prayers, songs and questions together.

We had a range of presenters including Mission Director Stephen Baxter, Sherry and Geoff Maddock (Baptist Mission Australia), our historian Laurie Rowston, and Paul Manning (Baptist World Aid). Plus, a well-organised business session, led by Peter Clark on Saturday afternoon.

#### Friday night sessions

**Sherry and Geoff Maddock** spoke on “God’s placed love”, with examples from their lives as a family on mission. This resonated with me as I am deeply affected by place – geography, ecology, faith, history, culture, food and stories. Sherry also shared about her vocation of tending and keeping, cultivating and flourishing, which is embodied in her work as a gardener. I love the idea of creating spaces of hospitality for people to encounter one another and God, especially in living landscapes.

Our Mission Director, **Stephen Baxter**, gave a “State of the Union” address, outlining a current picture of the Baptists in the Tasmanian community.

He also summarised a consultancy report about Tasmanian Baptist churches by Andrew Turner of Crossover called “Ready to Really Move”. It highlights the need to transition from ideas of deconstruction to construction; closed to open faith communities; and theoretical to tangible faith-life engagement.



ABOVE: Sherry and Geoff Maddock  
BELOW: Stephen Baxter



### God's Mission – *Missio Dei*

On Saturday morning, **Laurie Rowston** spoke passionately about the history of Baptists in Tasmania. He has now completed comprehensive research and published eight associated books. This work is a gift to Baptists in Tasmania, with the hope to see people come to know Jesus.

**Geoff Maddock** spoke again, this time about world Christianity and how the church joins into God's bigger mission (*Missio Dei*) that goes beyond borders and boundaries.

He said we are invited to have an attitude of curiosity, offer hospitality, and open our lives to others. Smaller groups then identified and discussed what the major issues were in our world and society. We also discussed how our missiology, ecumenism and interfaith relations influence our response.

Geoff reminded us that there are no God-forsaken places or people.

### Resourcing churches

**Paul Manning** shared about Baptist World Aid's work of supporting communities to face challenges associated with poverty.

There is an opportunity to identify and challenge unjust systems within our society and beyond, as Jesus said he came to give life in fullness. The updated Ethical Fashion Guide has just been released and opens our eyes to the slavery and ecological destruction that our consumer actions have.

There are a diverse range of ways to connect and be involved in this impressive work. This

includes becoming a Better World ambassador; the Better World gift catalogue and the 2022 Christmas Appeal, to name just a few

### Summing up

The polity and relationships of the Baptist movement are refreshing, enabling and Spirit led. I found that attending the Tasmanian Baptist Annual Assembly this year was a privilege.



**Anthea Maynard**  
Ministry Team Leader  
City Baptist Church, Launceston



ABOVE: Laurie Rowston  
BELOW: Paul Manning



Find out about Better World Church resources on the BWA website <sup>6</sup>

Watch the Better World Ambassador Video! : <https://vimeo.com/714351942>

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<sup>6</sup> <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/?s=ambassador>

# Around the Churches

## October / November 2022



## North

### CITY BAPTST, Launceston

City's Sunday Gatherings are well settled in our temporary home at Worldview College, St Leonards. On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November, Sunday Jenna Blackwell coordinated a picnic in Princes Square and led a great devotion before we wandered the city centre on a prayer walk. Our Saturday ministry to street community is thriving in its partnership, and has a new home with Pilgrim Uniting Church.

Jeff McKinnon concludes 46 years of pastoral ministry on 31 December. A 'handover service' will take place on 9 January 2023.

Next year is looking like an exciting adventure under the pastoral leadership of Anthea Maynard and Jenna Blackwell.



*L to R: Jeff McKinnon, Anthea Maynard, Jenna Blackwell*

# Northwest

## ULVERSTONE

### Father's Day

Father's Day was a day of joy and as we honoured and celebrated our UBC men. An entertaining video presentation was created by some of our UBC family members re-enacting their own father's sayings and behaviours.

### Dr Kameel Majdali

We enjoyed the teaching and wisdom of Dr Kameel Majdali (pictured) who, with prophetic insight and practical spiritual encouragement brought Biblical clarity to the times that we are living in today.



### Church Anniversary

On the 25th September, our Sunday service celebrated 117 years of God's goodness and faithfulness to UBC. A video presentation took us back in time reflecting on all the pastors that have served with us up to present day. The choir presented an item they had recently prepared and performed for a Bible Society concert. Of course, it's not a celebration without food, so a BBQ lunch was enjoyed by all.

### Table Tennis

Our table tennis season came to an end with about 30 people participating this year. The grand final night concluded with a trophy presentation and pizza.

### T.U.C.K

Between the months of June to the end of September it has been a privilege to host a space for TUCK (The Ulverstone Community Kitchen) to operate. Partnering with businesses, organisations and members of our community, we were able to provide a safe space for those in need to enjoy a free meal.

We look forward to being part of the TUCK team with the hope of being a blessing and encouragement to whoever may be reached throughout the winter months of 2023.



*Gabe and Pastor Louis Fife at Ulverstone*

### FAREWELL: JOSEPHINE VINEY

26th September 1936 – 23rd August 2022

*By Glenys Preston*

After many months of failing health, we at Ulverstone Baptist Church were saddened when our dear friend Josie passed away.

Together with her husband Neville, they ministered on the African Continent for 19 years with service at a Leprosy Hospital in the Sudan, on a medically equipped vessel on Lake Chad, and finally house parents to missionaries' children in Nigeria. In 1979, the family returned to Tasmania and settled in Ulverstone where Josie's nursing expertise saw her employed at the Ulverstone Hospital, followed by assisting in the establishment of the Palliative Care Unit, based at the Mersey General Hospital in Latrobe.

Josie became a much loved and respected member of UBC with involvement including leading a ladies bible study group, a member of the missionary team, deaconesses and Sunday school teacher.

Hospitality was a prominent part of Josie and Neville's lives, providing meals and fellowship to many, as well as spiritual support to countless needy people in their home, while added hospital visitation of encouragement was administered during times of suffering.

We thank God for the blessing which has been ours in having Josie in our personal and Church lives, knowing that she is at peace and rejoicing in the presence of her Lord and Saviour who she loved and faithfully served.

## **MARRAWAH**

### **Marrawah Baptist To Close**

For several years now, the small fellowship who gather at Marrawah Baptist Church have been operating on Sundays on an irregular basis. More recently, most of the congregation have shifted in to Smithton, and are now attending the Baptist church there. Now, the membership has decided it is time to permanently close their doors.

### **Thanksgiving Service**

Marrawah Baptist will host a thanksgiving service early 2023. During the morning there will be time to say farewell and celebrate all the years and work and mission that has taken place through this fellowship.

### **Thanksgiving Service at Marrawah Baptist Church**

Marrawah Baptist Church, 826 Comeback Rd, Marrawah TAS 733

DATE: yet to be confirmed – stay posted!

9.45am Come for a cuppa

10:30am Worship Service

**All are welcome to attend.**



*The Marrawah leadership team recently met with Rodney Marshall and Michael Henderson (photographer) to plan the Thanksgiving Service*

# South

## CITYWIDE

### Church Camp

We had another successful family camp at Poatina at the end of September. Well over 100 attended with great interactions between our three congregations. Our focus for the weekend included some Psalms for teaching and reflection, including Psalm 23 alongside the riverbank. The highlight of the many activities was the soccer match between the Australian and Nepalese congregations – a cause of much fun and spectator delight. The Saturday night family concert also brought forth some special talent.



*L to R: Citywide Soccer teams; Saturday night concert; Walkers near the top of kunanyi*

### Mission Trip to Nepal

Pastors Paul Rai and Dan Evenhuis embarked on a two-week mission trip to Nepal at the end of October. The purpose of the trip was to visit the rural pastors and the children's home we support, and to firm up the registered local supports to ensure that our charity status is not compromised.

In addition, this is a fact-finding venture to ensure our support and ministry into Nepal can be focused where it is most needed. A climb from Lenah Valley to the summit of Mt. Wellington/*kunanyi* on Saturday 15 October in support of Nepali mission was well supported.

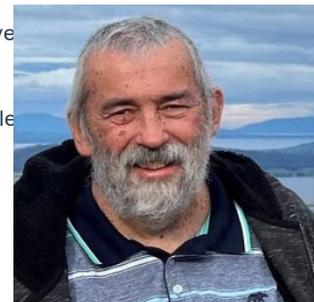
### Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes

On 16 October in our service, our congregations engaged in packing 200 shoe boxes for the Operation Christmas Child ministry. We have an active collection for the boxes throughout the year in which many engage generously to make and donate goods.

### FAREWELL SERVICE FOR PETER CLARKE

It was with much sadness that we celebrated the life of Peter Clarke on 12 October. Peter served many years as an Elder at Lenah Valley, and then at Citywide after our merger.

At the service, tributes to Peter acknowledged his life from as far away as Zambia. Many people's lives were blessed and impacted by Peter's ministry, all of which flowed from his close relationship with Jesus and his desire to serve him well. Peter has left a hole in our lives at Citywide, but we know that he is now excitedly fulfilling his faith and rejoicing with his Lord.



## HOBART

### Sanctuary Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> September

The first Sanctuary Sunday since Covid was a wonderful morning. For those who hadn't experienced one before, it was a great opportunity to celebrate the diversity and international nature of the HBC family – all together in the one place at the one time.

During the morning we welcomed the Korean Hobart Vision Church, now meeting in the Tab on Sunday afternoons. And also the Vietnamese Fellowship, who in September, became one of 'sanctuaries', along with the Karen church, Mabuhay (Filipino) and Anuak (Ethiopian) fellowships.

National costumes, visiting friends, and lots of encouragement enabled all to enjoy the blessings of being one in Christ. A splendid morning tea followed the service!

### Bella Lay

Beautiful 11-month-old Bella Lay has Leukemia, and her treatment is well underway. Bella, and parents Than Tun (Damo) and Lay Ber, have moved to Melbourne for treatment. This takes them away from their jobs/income and makes it expensive for family to visit.

Married for less than two years, both parents are part of our Karen community, having come to Tasmania from Myanmar via refugee camps in Thailand. You can support Bella and her parents by donating to a Go Fund Me fundraiser:

<https://gofund.me/160db5df>



From top: Mabuhay singers Children's talk; Vietnamese fellowship; Karen choir



# Crossover Christmas Resources

Ministry Ideas

## CHRISTMAS 2022



### CROSSOVER RESOURCES PROVIDED FOR BAPTIST CHURCHES

#### VIDEOS TO WATCH OR SHARE

1. **Santa vs Jesus – highly recommended**

**God is not a Santa in the Sky** A short, fun, poetic Christmas video (3m) by Glen Scrivener (<https://youtu.be/yFytqODSp7Q>)



2. **Peace, Hope and Joy at Christmas**

**Outreach Christmas** video (3m 18s) produced in conjunction with [Olive Tree Media](https://vimeo.com/650146260/62eeb4b871) (<https://vimeo.com/650146260/62eeb4b871>)



## SERMON/MESSAGE RESOURCES

### Missing Peace?



This Advent and Christmas series was developed by Crossover. It is adaptable for use in all kinds of churches, highly invitable, and full of the great news about Jesus.

The series title, *Missing Peace?* is, of course, a two-sided play on words. It calls to all who thirst for peace, and hints at a 'missing piece' which is Christ the cornerstone.

#### **Resource Includes**

**Five message outlines** can be used in any order, with each standing alone.

- a. Missing Global Peace
- b. Missing Relational Peace
- c. Missing Personal Peace
- d. Missing Everyday Peace
- e. Finding the Missing Peace

#### **Easy-to-edit artwork for invitations and promotions**

- High quality themed artwork
- Customise and edit using Microsoft Office apps
  - Social media posts
  - Postcards Posters PowerPoint
  - slides

To develop this resource, Crossover partnered with Pastors Miranda Dixon, Jason Hoet and Kerry Davies; and cross-cultural worker, Luke Hutchinson (Baptist Mission Australia).

# ReCharge NEWS November 2022



ABOVE: Assembly October 2022, L to R – Paul Manning (BWA); Sherry and Geoff Maddock (BMA); Stephen Baxter and Ben Cochrane; Worship time; Those Gathered!

## CHRISTIAN ART AND CREATIVITY

# Faith and the Arts Summer School

Returning to the Hive of Inspired Creativity

POATINA: Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023

W: [faithandthearts.org.au](http://faithandthearts.org.au) | [poatinaarts.org.au](http://poatinaarts.org.au) | E: [fata@poatinaarts.org.au](mailto:fata@poatinaarts.org.au) | M: 0425 275 013

**Registration and Pricing:** <https://www.faitandthearts.org.au/registration> (THIS could be a wonderful Christmas gift for a loved one!)

This year's theme: *Hive*.

After two years online, the annual *faith and the arts* school in Poatina will be held in-person! Whether discovering FATA for the first time or returning – you can explore how to infuse faith with art, and art with faith. The FATA team are praying for God's grace on the time of encouraging, up-skilling and living in community.

**Get ready to continue your creative journey ...**

The Gatherings Team are planning a spiritual and creative journey that will have attendees chewing on how, why and what we communicate, with our diverse creative languages.

**Keynote Speaker: Lucinda Coleman**



Dancer, academic and Christian Arts leader  
**Lucinda Coleman** is joining us in Poatina this year - all the way from her home in Perth, WA.

Lucinda was the founding Dance Maker of the Australian performing arts collective, Remnant Dance, 2010-2020, and has produced, directed, and choreographed diverse productions throughout Australia and internationally in the arts, education, church and community contexts.

She loves researching and is spending some of her time in 2022 co-writing in Italy. Her research interests include social justice arts engagement through dance, collaboration, site-specific performance-making, and cross-cultural performance work.



## SUMMER READING

# TOM and PAT

A new book by Ivan Jordan (Yolla Baptist)

Forward by Rev. Tim Costello AO

*Tom Fleming is one of my heroes; a man who suffered under the Japanese in WW2 but turned his suffering into service of the Warlpiri people at Yuendumu. I am proud a Baptist Minister because of the character and witness of this spiritual giant. Ivan Jordan has given us a jewel in providing understanding of one of the most chapters of Christian mission in this nation's history significant*

### ORDER DETAILS

RRP is \$35 less 40% for trade, plus freight. If Church groups order five or more copies, they will qualify for the 40% trade discount.

### ORDER DIRECT

**Phone:** 08 9362 5955 Tuesday and Friday 1pm to 5pm W.A. time

**Email:** [books@hesperianpress.com](mailto:books@hesperianpress.com)

Please ensure the following are included in your email or letter to Hesperian Press:

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- Postage
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## HELPING AUSTRALIAN BAPTISTS SHARE JESUS

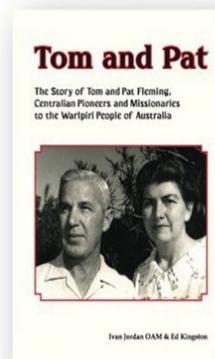
# News from Crossover

*Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them"*  
John 7:38 (NIV)

The recent Crossover Spring Appeal, *Streams of Living Water*, is a huge success! A big thank you to those who signed up to give to Crossover on an ongoing basis.

Ask questions about supporting: [crossover@baptist.org.au](mailto:crossover@baptist.org.au).

**Director of Crossover** Andrew Turner (who conducted Tas Baptists' recent leadership review) explains what the appeal is all about in this video: <https://subscribepage.io/TjAWZx>



The generosity of supporters gives Crossover the ability to:

- Create new resources (like the new Christmas resource, *Missing Peace?*)
- Run events (such as hosting the recent online Australian Baptist Prayer Gathering) Provide encouragement to Aussie Baptists (it's time to read [the new article](#) about young adults exploring church!)
- And offer invaluable training (more and more churches are using the *Plan A* resource).

**Every dollar given is a blessing. Each donation comes closer to Crossover's goal:**

*To see our Baptist movement baptising twice as many new believers each year by the end of the decade*

### FIND OUT ABOUT GOOD. TV

## Streaming GOOD. Television

Australian Christian Channel have a free streaming service to provide positive entertainment options.

In an ever-changing world it's great to know some things do not need to change. There is so much good to look forward to, which is why the people at GOOD. are committed to providing positive entertainment options so people can always watch something they can trust and rely on.

This is more than just a wide variety of programs. It includes a standard of viewing bringing more goodness into your life, with content to provide you with peace of mind. And will make you feel good at the same time.

GOOD. provide quality movies, TV series, documentaries and much more. You have the choice you want, without the stress of the not-so-good stuff that you do not want for your family.

As well, GOOD. is FREE, without any hidden costs or monthly bills.

Check GOOD. TV out here: <https://watchgood.com>



### WOMEN PRAY

## World Women's Day of Prayer

**On Saturday 22nd October**, women gathered at Claremont and Ulverstone Baptist churches to pray for women around the world. They also gave funds to assist with Baptist projects in our Pacific region.

In each location, small groups prayed for international regions about specific prayer requests. These included prayers such as:

- Nations recovering from COVID (Carribbean and Asia)
- Domestic abuse (Pacific and Caribbean) Unexpected pregnancy support programs (Latin America and Canada)
- Shelter for victims of human trafficking (Asia/Azerbaijan)
- Reconciliation for indigenous people (Australia and NZ) Peaceful elections (Africa)

Baptist women are doing astounding work across the globe!

**Tasmanian funds raised 2021: \$560**

**Tasmanian funds raised 2022: \$869** (updated)

*Day of Prayer* events in Tasmania were re-started in 2021 after an underwhelming Australian response to raising funds in 2020 of only \$365.



## FROM MICAH AUSTRALIA

# Australia's Aid Increases

In the recent budget, the Government announced **\$1.4 billion of additional aid** to our region over the next four years!

Micah Australia welcomes these increases while continuing to call strongly for further **urgent aid** to help fight famine in the Horn of Africa, Afghanistan, Yemen and Syria.

**WATCH:** Micah Australia's **Tim Costello** (Exec. Director) and **Matt Darvas** (National Director) respond to the Budget from Canberra



## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

# Fostering Hope

*Fostering Hope's vision is to find a family for every child who needs one.*

Tasmanian Baptists work with Fostering Hope to encourage churches and families to both provide, and support, foster carers.

Along with recruiting new carers, Fostering Hope supports people on the journey with connection, training, pastoral care, and mentors for children. As well, they offer **trauma-awareness training for churches** so they can be safe places for all children and adults.

**Currently, Fostering Hope are looking for more fostering families to offer homes for children who need them.**

**There is also a need for respite carers** to offer extended family and community around full-time foster and kinship families and we just don't have the families to ask.

Children without the protection of their parents are the most vulnerable in any community. These children need families and communities to offer them hope, healing, and a childhood free of adult stresses and full of fun.

*If you would like to know more about Fostering Hope's work, or have someone from the team talk at your church or run a trauma-awareness training, please get in touch.*



**Mary Dickins**  
Fostering Hope  
[mary@fosteringhope.community](mailto:mary@fosteringhope.community)

## CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

# Christian Book of the Year Award

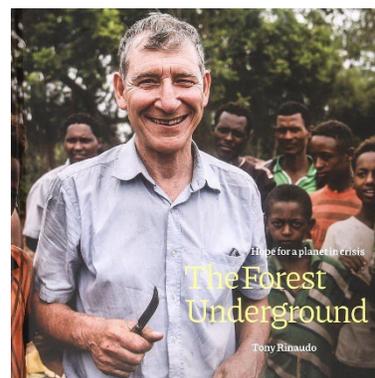
**The Forest Underground: Hope for a Planet in Crisis**

The winner of the Christian Book of the Year Award 2022 is *The Forest Underground: Hope for a Planet in Crisis*, by Tony Rinaudo.

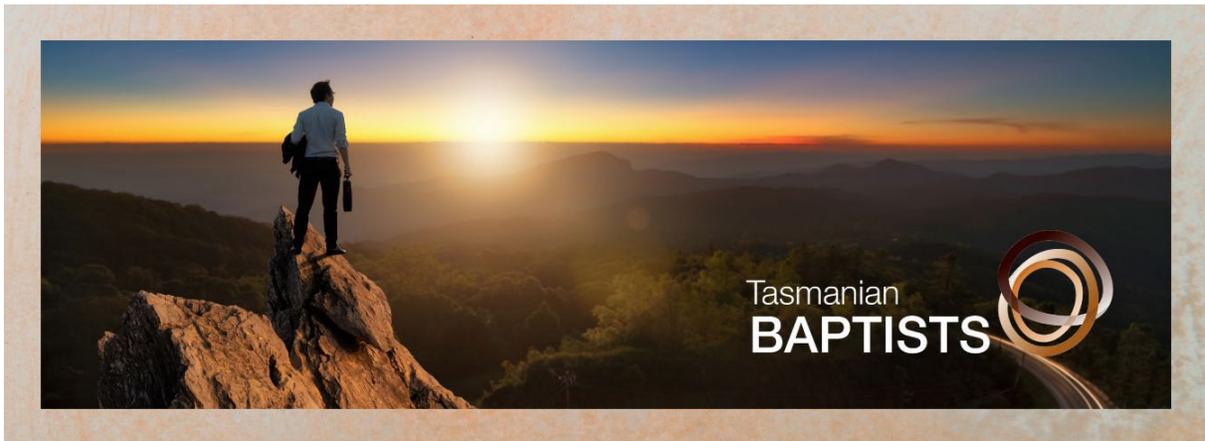
The book tells the story of a revolution in reforestation that is transforming the lives of subsistence farmers around the world. An inspiring and irresistible story of one man's obedience and God's faithfulness.

The awards are presented every year by SparkLit.org, who aim to advance God's Kingdom by empowering Christian writers, publishers and distributors.

FIND OUT MORE: <https://sparklit.org/acboy/>



# How Did We Do in 2022?



Leadership and Growth

## Wins for Tasmanian Baptists

During 2022, the **Mission and Leadership Development Team** were very busy, supporting Tasmanian Baptist churches. So ... how are Tas Baptists going? Read on to find out.

**MISSION DIRECTOR**  
**STEPHEN BAXTER**

## On the Front Foot

As I look forward to 2023 it is with great hope and with a deep sense that significant challenging times lie ahead of us. These challenges are reflected in the significant change to the religious landscape of Tasmania over the past 20 years.

- The latest Census figures<sup>7</sup> show how those nominating as “Christian” has dropped from 69.9% in 2001 to 38.4% in 2021; and over the same period, those nominating as “no religion/secular belief” has risen from 17.2% to 49.9%.
  - In the five years between the 2016 and the 2021 Census, those of “no religion/secular belief” overtook “Christian” as the largest religious grouping.

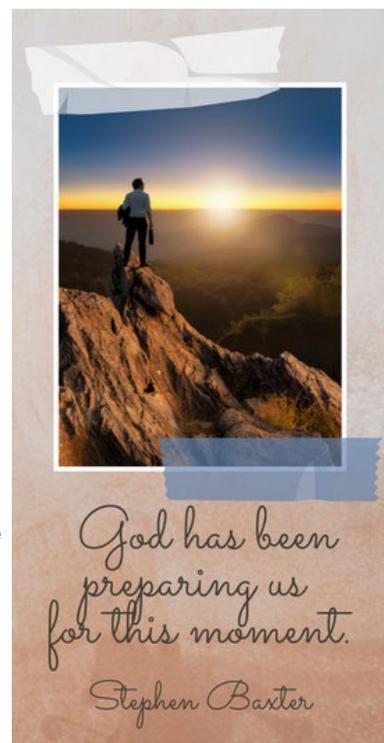
This is such a dramatic change, I'm sure I cannot fully appreciate what it means for our mission and ministry. Nevertheless, I'm convinced God has been preparing us for this moment.

### HOW TASMANIAN BAPTISTS ARE RESPONDING

These changes have not caught us by surprise. More than a decade ago we deliberately embarked on transitioning to become a mission-shaped movement. More recently, our focus has been on building a team of new generation pastoral leaders. Although there is still more to do, we are making significant gains.

### SO, WHERE TO FROM HERE?

The Tas Baptist Council is currently in the middle of a review. They want to listen to our churches in this moment, and hear from God, to clarify our next steps. It is hoped a report will be ready to present to next year's Mid-year Assembly in May.



<sup>7</sup> <https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/religious-affiliation-australia>

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*My encouragement to us all is the words God spoke to Joshua,  
"be bold and courageous".*

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Given the changing nature of society, complete with some significant economic challenges thrown in, I suspect the years ahead will be quite demanding and tough. Yet, God is with us, and this turns any threat into an opportunity. We are not caught on the backfoot, but are instead progressing with confidence.

So let us move ahead full of faith, hope and love.



**Stephen Baxter**  
[stephen@tasbaptists.org.au](mailto:stephen@tasbaptists.org.au)

## MISSION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

MICHAEL HENDERSON

# Focus on Joy

Every year feels big (and small) when thinking about church, community, and leadership. It's like thinking about family. There is no winner. Just the time-period of a year spent sustaining a community, growing leaders, deepening relationships, and dealing with setbacks.

I find it simultaneously rewarding, and challenging. As well, it is easy to let the setbacks dominate any discussion, because they are the easiest to remember. Which is why at the end of every year I focus on what brought me joy.

TAS BAPTIST PASTORS AND LEADERS' MUSTERS

### Courage | Presence | Proximity

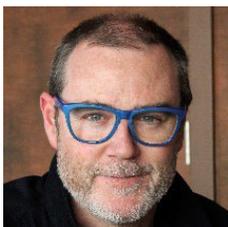
I loved our March get together in Hobart, and our discussions on **Courage**. They set me up for the year in so many ways. I particularly loved our end reflections, and conversations I had with many, as we mutually encouraged one and other. As the year has gone on, our conversations around **Presence** (Burnie) and **Proximity** (Launceston) have felt large. It feels like it is a constant conversation at the moment, where we are calling each other into presence and authenticity.



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*It brings me joy to spend time with you.*

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How we have carried *courage*, been *present*, and *responded to our calling* is something that gives me great hope as we head into 2023.

Blessings and Grace and Peace to you this Christmas.

**Michael Henderson**  
[michael@tasbaptists.org.au](mailto:michael@tasbaptists.org.au)

JENNA BLACKWELL

## God's Invitation to You

AS I REFLECT ON 2022 ...

There is a deep, quiet, and joyous sense of gratitude in my spirit about our Tasmanian Baptist community and what God is doing among us. This year I have had the privilege of noticing an increased sense of team among our pastors, and walking alongside people as

they courageously choose to follow God and his ways. I have seen an increase in bravery and vulnerability, understanding of self and of God, and a willingness to listen to and follow the promptings of Holy Spirit.

There is a stirring that God is doing something fresh, and we get to participate and co-create. No doubt there will be more challenges ahead, but what a privilege this is!

AS WE TURN TO 2023 ...

There is an invitation to find guidance for better ways of engaging. To find guidance to better engage with our communities and those around us with hospitable love and transformational grace.

I sense courage (bravery + vulnerability) and deep friendships will be integral to leaning into the kingdom of God, with patience and perseverance. I also sense an invitation to speak into younger generations lovingly and prophetically. To pull down the barriers in ourselves and our faith communities as we learn to know God and each other afresh.



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*I sense an invitation for us to know God better through the presence of Holy Spirit.*

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QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO PONDER ...

- What is God's invitation to you for 2023?
- What does it look like for you to carve out time to dwell in God's presence?
- Who are the safe people that you can increase vulnerability with?
- How can you build relationships with people of different generations?



**Jenna Blackwell**

jenna@tasbaptists.org.au

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**FIND OUT MORE** about the Mission and Leadership Development Team and how they can support you and your Tasmanian Baptist church: <https://www.tasbaptists.org.au/mission-and-leadership->

## The Change Makers



*Pictured Above: A self-help group meets*

### Deep Thought – A bi-monthly feature in ReCharge

*Melissa Lipsett, CEO Baptist World Aid, explains the impact of women empowered to change their world.*

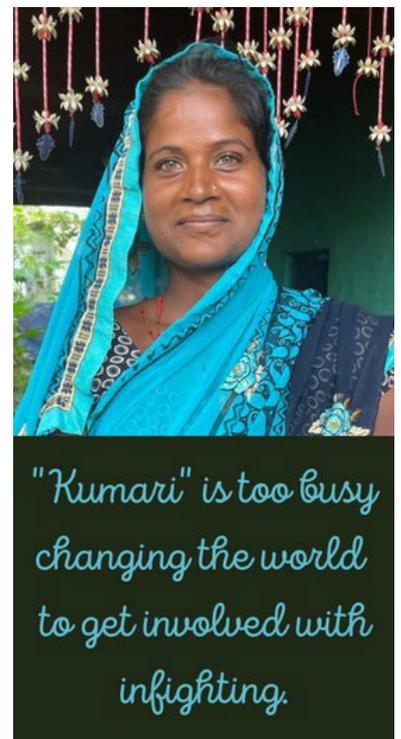
It's illegal, but 40 per cent of girls in Nepal are married before they turn 18, and seven per cent before they turn 15. The Nepalese government is hoping to eradicate child marriage by 2030, but is this even possible? Will this ever change?

#### **I believe it will. Here's why**

I recently returned from Kapilvastu in West Nepal. It's a region that has major development challenges and a general lack of adequate services. For example, there are no toilet facilities or running water in people's homes. There are few opportunities for people to generate income and, sadly, high levels of gender-based violence and child marriage.

The challenges are overwhelming, but here's the thing: communities ARE overcoming them. Baptist World Aid works with local Christian Partners who share our belief in the dignity, value and equality of all people ([Gen 1:26-27](#)).

Our Partners bring the locals together in community groups, and it's the locals who lead the transformation of their communities. Ninety per cent of these community leaders are women. They're known as self-help groups, and they're courageously changing their world.



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*Our Partners bring the locals together in community groups, and it's the locals who lead the transformation of their communities.*

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#### **What self-help groups do**

Working as a committee, with elected positions such a chairperson and treasurer, members collaborate to make the changes they want to see in their community. These women showed me how they had depolluted their pond and water source.

Some of them have started small businesses. And I heard stories of how they confronted perpetrators of domestic violence as a commanding group of 17! I saw leadership, determination and courage from the same people who were, until recently, considered less than their husbands, brothers and sons.

### **Emerging from poverty**

Every one of these women, these “change makers”, has a story. Many were married as children and didn’t have the opportunity to go to school. Quite a few are now mothers, surrounded by little people with constant needs that are hard to meet. In the past they might have given a daughter in marriage to ensure she—and her remaining siblings—would survive.

But the gains they’ve made in emerging from poverty means they now say, **‘No more! We will not allow our daughters to suffer as we did’**. And they mean it.

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*‘No more! We will not allow our daughters to suffer as we did’.*

---

As I travelled through the area, it was evident that wherever poverty was effectively diminished, girls were in school. One extraordinary facet of these self-help groups is that are made up of traditionally antagonistic social groupings, but there is no infighting. They are too busy changing the world.

I wonder if what would happen if we were too?



***Melissa Lipsett is the CEO of Baptist World Aid***

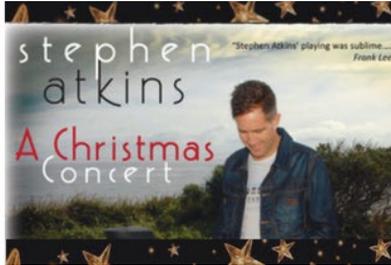
# Tasmanian Baptist Churches Christmas Events 2022

Your **Christmas**

Services and Events

*NB: Every effort has been made to list Christmas info about as many Tas Baptist churches as possible*

## Northern Tasmania



CHURCH	WHEN	EVENT
Beauty Point - "The Point"	7pm, Fri 16th Dec	<b>Stephen Atkins Christmas Concert</b>
	5pm, Sun 25th Dec	<b>Christmas Day Service</b>
George Town	6pm and 7:30pm, Wed 14th Dec	<b>Christmas Parade and Carols</b> George Town community event. The church will run a Christmas Quiz <i>en route</i> .
	10:30am, Sat 17th Dec	<b>Christmas Carols</b> with The George Town Combined Churches, <u>across the road from Woolworths</u>
	10:30am 25th Dec	<b>Christmas Day Service</b>
Launceston - "City"	Sat 24th Dec	<b>The Drop-In Centre</b> will be in operation at the <u>Red Dove Cafe</u>
	9:30am Sun 25th Dec	<b>Christmas Gathering</b> Theme: <i>Prince of Peace</i>
Launceston - "Gateway"	10am Sun 18th Dec	<b>A Christmas Concert</b> and Carols with Stephen Atkins. Morning Tea to follow
	9am Sun 25th Dec	<b>Christmas Day Service</b>
	Sun 1st Jan	No service today
Longford - "Riverlands"	6pm, Sat 17th Dec	<b>Community Carols</b> followed by Supper. Free family event
	10am Sun 25th Dec	<b>Christmas Day Service</b>

<b>Newstead</b>	5pm Sat 17th Dec	<b>Neighbourhood carol singing</b> in the streets of Newstead
	10am Sun 18th Dec	<b>Carol singing</b> in the church grounds, followed by a BBQ lunch. BYO Salad to share. Everything else supplied. <b>Giving Tree</b> envelopes supplied for giving to City Mission
	9:30am Sun 25th Dec	<b>Christmas Day Service</b> Christmas offering to Baptist World Aid
<b>Perth</b>	From 4:30pm Sat 17th Dec	<b>Community Picnic and BBQ</b> followed by <b>Community Carol Service</b> from 7pm
	10am Sun 25th Dec	<b>Christmas Day Family Service</b>
<b>Summerhill</b>	7:30pm Sun 18th Dec	<b>Blue Christmas Reflective Time</b> A space for people who struggle at Christmas, and a chance for the God of comfort to meet us in our grief and sadness.
	9:30am Sun 25th Dec	<b>Christmas Day Service</b>

## Northwest Tasmania



CHURCH	WHEN	EVENT
<b>Burnie</b>	10am Sun 18th Dec	<b>Church Christmas Lunch</b> (12pm) after the service - all welcome!
	10am Sun 25th Dec	<b>Christmas Day Service</b>
<b>Devonport - "LifeWay"</b>	10am Sun 18th Dec	<b>Family Christmas Service</b> led by the children followed by BBQ lunch, homemade donuts and Christmas stalls.
	6pm Sat 24th Dec	<b>Readings and Carols</b> service led by the Exhale Choir.
	10am Sun 25th Dec	<b>Christmas Day Service</b>
<b>Lower Barrington</b>	10am Sun 18th Dec	<b>Carol Service</b> celebrating the birth of Christ
	10am Sun 25th Dec	<b>Christmas Day Service</b>
<b>Penguin</b>	9:30am Sun 25th Dec	<b>Christmas Day Service</b> A short service so attendees can travel for lunch
	7pm Wed 4th Jan	<b>Combined Penguin Churches Prayer</b> Monthly meeting at <u>Penguin Uniting</u> , hosted by Baptists in January

<b>Ulverstone</b>	7pm Sat 24th Dec	<b>Christmas Eve Together</b>
	Sun 25th Dec	No service today
	Sun 1st Jan	No service today
<b>Wynyard</b>	Sat 24th Dec	<b>Carols in the Garden</b> will be in <u>Guttridge Gardens</u> after the street parade on Christmas Eve.
	10:30am Sun 25th Dec	<b>Christmas Day Service</b>
<b>Yolla</b>	9:30am Sun 25th Dec	<b>Christmas Day Service</b>

## Southern Tasmania



CHURCH	WHEN	EVENT
<b>Claremont</b>	6:30pm Sat 17th Dec	<b>A celebration of the Christmas Story</b> In scripture and song
	9:30am Sun 25th Dec	<b>Christmas Day Service</b>
<b>Hobart</b>	10am Sun 18th Dec	Featuring the <b>Empty Christmas Tree</b> . Bring an unwrapped gift for donation to City Mission
	9:30am Sun 25th Dec	<b>Christmas Day Service</b> , continuing the <i>Great Expectations</i> sermons series
<b>Lenah Valley - "Citywide"</b>	10am Sun 25th Dec	<b>Christmas Day Service</b>
<b>Mornington - "Citywide"</b>	10am Sun 18th Dec	<b>Christmas Carol Service</b>
	5:30pm Sat 24th Dec	<b>Christmas Eve in the Paddock</b> A family time of carols crafts and games in the paddock behind Citywide
	10am Sun 25th Dec	<b>Christmas Day Service</b>

# ReCharge NEWS December 2022



UPDATE YOUR DIARY!

## Tas Baptist Dates, 2023



*NB: The dates published in the TB Handbook 2022 have now been updated*

DATE	EVENT
10-11 February	<b>NO LIMITS</b> Women's Symposium. <b>See Below</b>
20 February	Pastors and Leaders Muster <sup>8</sup> , Hobart
25 March	Tas Baptist Council
17 April	Easter Sunday
5-6 May	Mid-Year Assembly, Newstead
17 June	Tas Baptist Council
11-13 July	Pastors and Leaders Muster, Northwest
23 Sept	Tas Baptist Council
12 Sept	Pastors and Leaders Muster, Launceston
20-21 Oct	Annual Assembly, Riverlands Longford
18 Nov	Tas Baptist Council

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.tasbaptists.org.au/upcoming-events/tas-baptist-musters/>

**A CAROL OF HOPE IN THE MIDST OF DESPAIR**  
**I Heard the Bells movie**

Christmas is not always merry. Indeed, the season's festivities can make some people's despair feel particularly bitter.

This was the case for Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, one of America's best-loved poets of the 19th century – and the subject of a new film *I Heard the Bells*, to be released in select Australian cinemas on 1 December.

**BOOK** tickets (Hobart and Launceston): [iheardthebellsmovie.com.au](http://iheardthebellsmovie.com.au)

**WATCH** the trailer: <https://youtu.be/lAhqegKx1oE>



**STEPHEN ATKINS – CHRISTMAS OUTREACH**

**A Christmas Concert**

Beauty Point, Launceston, Smithton, Devonport

Beauty Point @ The Cormorant Cafe 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec 7pm	Smithton @ Harvest Church 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec 6pm	Devonport @ Church of Christ 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec 7pm
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stephen atkins  
**A Christmas Concert**  
 singer songwriter keyboard player

“Stephen Atkins’ playing was sublime...”  
*Frank Lee*

www.stephenatkins.com.au

**FREE ENTRY**  
 CDs for sale

Featuring...  
 Stephen Atkins & Band  
 Rachele Hawkins, Erin Patel,  
 Fergus Shearer and Simon Deeth

A Blend of Old & New...  
 Your Favourite Christmas Carols  
 and some New Ones too

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 10am**  
**Launceston @**  
**Gateway Baptist Church**  
**22 Wellington Street**

sponsors

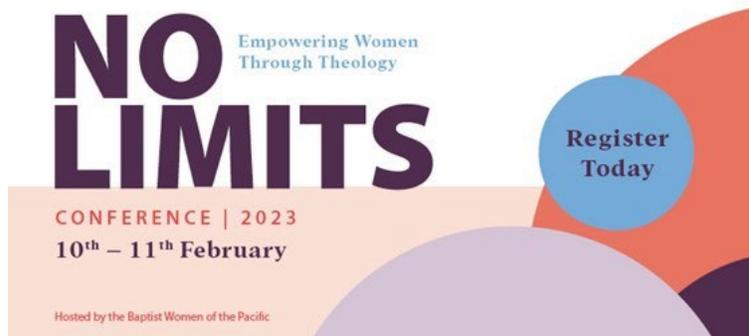


Enquiries: 0427 370768  
[www.stephenatkins.com.au](http://www.stephenatkins.com.au)

## EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH THEOLOGY

# Women's Conference

This symposium is for women who are interested in what the Bible teaches about women.



**HOSTED BY** Baptist Women of the Pacific

**WHEN** 10-11 February 2023, Friday evening and all-day Saturday.

**WHERE** Riverlife Baptist Church, 47 Jennifer St, Seventeen Miles Rocks, Qld

**COST** Early Bird AUD \$109. <https://bwpacific.org/bwp-theological-symposium-2023/>

**SPEAKERS** Dr Christa McKirland; Marg Mowcsko; Rev. Megan Powell du Toit; Rev. Sela Havili

## BETTER WORLD GIFTS

# Baptist World Aid

**Sick and tired of giving trinkets to people who already have everything? Why not give a Better World Gift instead!**

**Better World Gifts** do much more than meet immediate needs like clean water, food, health and income. They allow people to live with dignity. They can also 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 . . . and that's a big picture!

**You will help end poverty, thanks to the lasting impact of your Better World Gifts, along with the wonderful work of people on the ground.**

### NEED HELP?

**Visit the Gift Generator [HERE](#)** > Everything is supplied to help you pick the perfect gift card and make a difference on behalf of your loved one.

The range includes physical gift items for your friends and family (eg. tote bags, journals, colouring books). As well as gifts to give to communities who need your help (eg. chickens, blankets, emergency shelter)

**Help is supplied so you can select the perfect gift**

Filter for age group, passions/interests, global region and price range.



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

# Love Out Loud Kids' Videos

**Love Out Loud** is a Christian charity, established to produce Christian videos for kids everywhere!

Featuring 100 videos of 25 minutes duration on the Love Out Loud fresh new website. Lessons are designed to be streamed into a) School Scripture Lessons, b) Kid's Church, or c) for Parents at home to use with their family.

All content is available on the website and is 100% free for home and church use. YOU WILL ENJOY ...

**30 videos for 6-year-olds 30 videos for 9-year-olds**

**40 videos for 11-12-year-olds**

### HOW TO SIGN UP

- Visit the website [www.loveoutloudoz.com](http://www.loveoutloudoz.com)
- Click on the 'SIGN UP' button in the top bar to subscribe to a plan. Enter your details and follow the prompts to complete your registration.
- Click on the activation link in the confirmation email to verify your account.
- You are now logged in and can access the lessons by clicking on the 'lessons' button in the top bar.
- You can edit your profile and update or cancel your subscription by clicking on the 'My Account' button in the top bar, followed by the 'Edit Profile' button.

**The lessons are free for home and church use**

**WATCH A LESSON NOW:** [www.loveoutloudoz.com](http://www.loveoutloudoz.com)

