



## WELCOME!

Here is the print version of the June/July 2023 reCharge.

This is made available to you so you can catch up with articles released over the past two months on the Tasmanian Baptist website.

You could also read them there:  
[tasbaptists.org.au](http://tasbaptists.org.au)



*Some of those who attended the recent Pastors' and Families' Muster*

## SUBSCRIBE TO WEEKLY EMAILS

To subscribe to ReCharge for your weekly email please visit:

[tasbaptists.org.au/subscribe/](http://tasbaptists.org.au/subscribe/)

Blessings!

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

# Tasmanian Baptist Union 2023 CALENDAR

Pastors and Leaders Muster (Hobart)	20-21 February
<b>Tasmanian Baptist Council</b>	<b>25 March</b>
Easter Sunday	9 April
Mid-Year Assembly (Newstead)	5-6 May
<b>Tasmanian Baptist Council</b>	<b>17 June</b>
Pastors and Leaders Muster, family-friendly (Devonport)	11-13 July
Pastors and Leaders Muster (Launceston)	12-13 September
<b>Tasmanian Baptist Council</b>	<b>23 September</b>
Annual Assembly (Longford)	20-21 October
<i>EmpowHer Day of Courage</i>	<i>18 November</i>
<b>Tasmanian Baptist Council</b>	<b>2 December</b>



**REGISTER for the Day of Courage, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

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

Earlybird \$45 until 30<sup>th</sup> August | \$55 from 1<sup>st</sup> September

# Discovering Deep, Resilient Faith



## Faith Works

*Christian author Mel Saward contemplates what we can do to help our children and youth become strong Christians.*

## Discovering Deep, Resilient Faith

**M**any statistics have emerged over the last few years that have painted a jarring picture of the state of faith for Millennials and Gen Z. But none quite so shocking as a study completed by the Barna Group recently, finding that 75% of young Christians will leave church. But there is hope. Unlike other studies, this one listed common factors present in the 25% who stayed. These included:

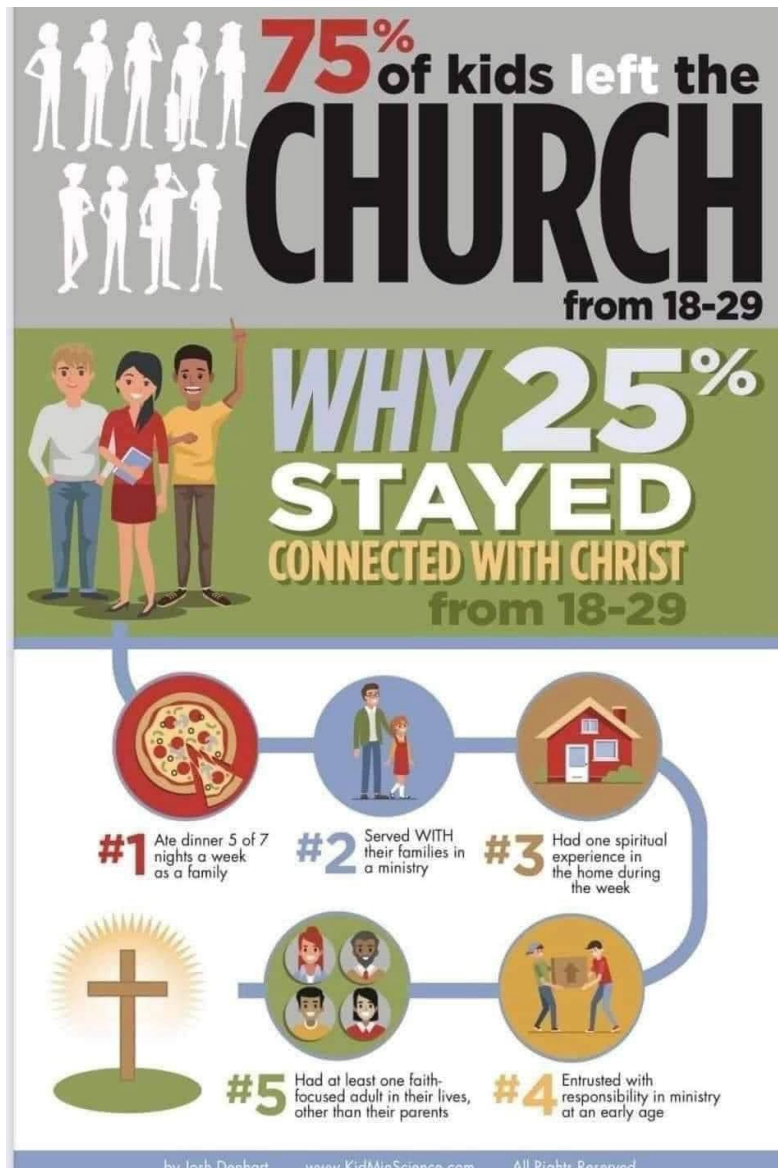
- Eating dinner five out of seven nights a week as a family
- Serving WITH their families in a ministry
- Having one spiritual experience in the home during the week
- Being entrusted with responsibility in ministry at an early age
- Having at least one faith-focused adult in their lives, other than their parents

### Extra questions

It must be noted that this was a rather helpful study! Finally, something constructive we might all be able to implement for our children. But despite the usefulness of this information the resounding questions still remain: How is this possible? 75%? Do these small habits really make such a significant difference? The habits seem so simple! There are at least three factors out of the five that have nothing to do with church itself! Were any of these factors present in the 75% too?

### There is something missing

Maybe it is this simple. Maybe there is more to this. But what can't be denied is that there is something missing in the Millennials' and Gen Zs' experience of faith, that is often observed through their relationship with the Church. Surely that is demonstrated rather clearly in these statistics.



In my latest book, *Deep Faith Resilient Faith*<sup>1</sup>, I examine what I believe to be the cause of this phenomenon. The missing piece is DEPTH. It has always been a temptation in our Christian culture to become preoccupied with external matters and not those of the heart. From the day the church began, there were smaller sections that concerned themselves with rituals. And in the generations just prior to Millennials, church attendance has been the universal sign of commitment to Christ. While I suspect such observable signs do matter, they have never completely expressed the true picture of a changed heart. Church attendance was not the goal of our faith, the goal was always to be a disciple: something that is clearly seen in the five factors above.

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*Church attendance was not the goal of our faith, the goal was always to be a disciple*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.meljsaward.com/store/p/deep-faith-resilient-faith>

## Signs of depth

These five factors are all signs of a whole community discipling a child: parents, church leaders, and the larger church community. Truly, they are signs of depth and the priority to instil a deep faith in the next generation.

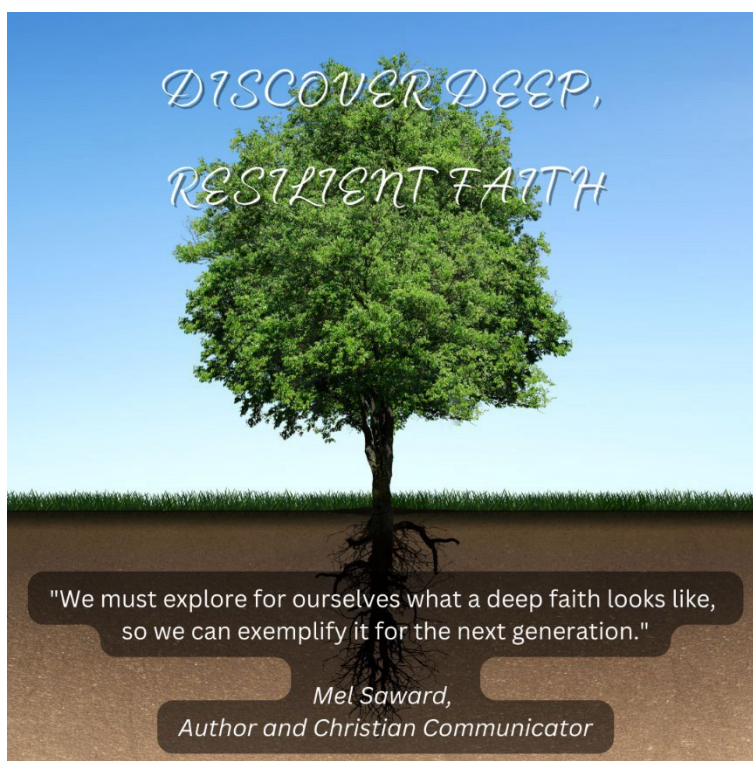
Depth of faith is critical, as scripture proposes many times: it was the depth of the soil that determined the response to the seed (Mark 4:5), it was deep digging that stabilised the house built on the rock (Luke 6:48). And so we must explore for ourselves what a deep faith looks like, so that we can exemplify it for the next generation.

This is the goal of my book. It meticulously unpacks depth in action, and how we can attain it. As you can imagine, the book is quite challenging. But confronting such truths also gives us the greatest hope we could ever have in our faith.

## What they need

The fact is: the next generations need us. They need those who come before them to demonstrate through the life we live, the kind of depth and meaning that a faith in Jesus can bring. Honestly, they don't need us to nag them, to judge them, to be frustrated by them.

They need us to be willing to take up our cross, forego our comforts and go deeper than we have ever gone before. Because the Gospel has always been enough to satisfy all of us, from generation to generation.



**Melanie J. Seward** is a Christian author and communicator.

# Safe Churches Update



## Safe Churches

### Protecting Our Children

ATTENTION ALL CHURCH SECRETARIES, DEACONS AND LEADERSHIP TEAMS!

*Tas Baptists' Administrator Rodney Marshall explains the new legislation our churches must engage with.*

**O**n the 30<sup>th</sup> of May the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act passed the houses of parliament, fulfilling the State's responsibility to enact the 10 Child Safe Principles and to establish an Independent Regulator.

The 10 standards mirror the recommendations from the Royal Commission and the principles developed by the Australia Human Rights Commission. Their scope encompasses all forms of harm to children and young people, in addition to child sexual abuse, requiring adherence to the following ...

#### The Ten Standards for Safe Churches

##### STANDARD 1

Requires organisations to ensure that child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organizational leadership, governance and culture.

##### STANDARD 2

Ensures that children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.

##### STANDARD 3

Ensures families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.

##### STANDARD 4

Guarantees that equity is upheld, and diverse needs respected in policy and in practice.

##### STANDARD 5

Requires that people working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.

##### STANDARD 6

Requires processes to respond to complaints and concerns to be child-focused.

##### STANDARD 7

Expects that staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.

#### STANDARD 8

Requires physical and online environments to promote safety and wellbeing, while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.

#### STANDARD 9

Sees regular review and improvement of the child and youth safe standards within the organisation

#### STANDARD 10

Ensures policies and procedures document how the entity is safe for children and young people.

#### IN ADDITION

As well, there is an additional overarching principle that embeds the right of Aboriginal children and young people to cultural safety which sits across all 10 Child and Youth Safe Standards.

### What churches need to do now

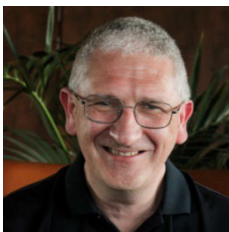
Several years back, at the request of our insurers, Tas Baptists churches updated their policies to incorporate these standards. The main task that remains is to appropriately train and support our workers and volunteers.

Training completion date: **1st January 2024.**

Matt Henderson (S), Owen Muskett (NW) and Linda Guy (N) have agreed to assist by providing training around the state,. In addition, online training will be available in the Safety Management Online system. Once the trainers are trained, Workshop details for each region will be made available.

So as to comply with the new laws we need to ensure that everyone 18 and over, who ministers (has direct care or gives spiritual direction) to a person under 18, understands the principles and their application.

I hope the workshops will answer most of your questions, but if you would like to check on something before then please contact me on 0407 903 620 or [rodney@tasbaptists.org.au](mailto:rodney@tasbaptists.org.au)



**Rodney Marshall**

Tas Baptists Administrator

# Possible Steps to Positive Shifts



Sacred **Agents**

## Diving Into Diversity

*In this **Sacred Agents** blog, Crossover Director Andrew Turner explores how we can shift demographics by diving Into diversity.*

**M**y father always enjoys belting out *Amazing Grace* in church, not least because he likes to tweak the second line to "...that saved a wretch like TREVOR SMITH" (or some other friend within earshot). God's grace for people like you and me (and Dad) is truly amazing. Amazing too is his grace for people who are *unlike* you and me.


Diving Into Diversity

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GOD'S SPIRIT OFTEN  
PROMPTS AND  
CHALLENGES US TO SEE A  
GREATER DIVERSITY IN  
OUR CHURCHES AND  
GROUPS

Tasmanian  
BAPTISTS

Andrew Turner  
Director, Crossover



As such, God's Spirit is often prompting and challenging us to see a greater diversity in our churches and groups. How often have you said or heard, 'It would be great to have more *[insert demographic]* people here', referring to a missing segment that might be generational, racial, economic, intellectual, or something else in nature.

It just doesn't seem right for God's family to be segregated, so we want to listen to those nudges of the Spirit. But what to do about them?

### Possible Steps

There's a whole range of possible steps, and let's put them along an imaginary spectrum:

Down one end would be practical and immediate actions, such as going straight to the people you'd love to have with you and simply inviting them. Thoughtful arrangements to make space for them would be down that end too.

At the other end of the spectrum are deep, underlying heart issues and systemic norms that may need to be addressed. These might include raising awareness, prayers of repentance, symbolic steps towards reconciliation, and contemplating your way through a heap of books and conferences.

The trouble is, where to start? If you start at the first end, you hope to solve the issue within a fortnight. But your efforts may quickly be stymied by the systemic and underlying stuff. "We saw that we were missing young people, so we invited them, they didn't come, so I guess we can say we tried."

But if you start at the other end, you can feel that any real progress will take 100 years. And you can take 100 years of talking and praying and thinking about the people you're missing, and wondering whether your group is even a thing that would be good for them, and even whether your group should exist at all.

It means well at first, but it can become busy work that is essentially procrastination which perpetuates the status quo. You are always inching closer to, but conveniently never achieving the aim. "We can always say that we're taking steps."

### So what do we do?

How can we make real progress to see the body of Christ actually come together more fully? I suggest starting at both ends at the same time. Each will serve the other. The practical end will bring to light what underlying work is (and what isn't) necessary, and the underlying work will shape the practical actions to be less and less clumsy and more and more wholehearted.

May the Spirit give us all the wisdom, humility and love we need – and also all the shrewdness, daring and energy of faith – to be effective agents of reconciliation as the body of Christ builds itself up in love.



**Andrew Turner** is Director of Crossover for Australian Baptist Ministries.

*Crossover exists to Help Australian Baptists Share Jesus. Browse all our resources on [crossover.org.au](http://crossover.org.au)*

# Tuning in to the Heart of God



Being **Transformed**

## For us. For everyone!

*Jenna Blackwell, a member of the Tasmanian Baptists' Mission and Leadership Development Team, gives insight into God's amazing heart of grace.*

*Inner Critic: Why don't you have everything together?*

*Jesus' gentle voice: Did you hear about the disciples I chose?*

**W**e are all too familiar with our inner critic. And in the midst of our humanness, Jesus whispers, "my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor 12:9). God's grace is not sufficient for just some people. It's sufficient for you.

This might seem like an odd transition to talk about hospitality, but if we can't accept God's hospitality toward us, I fear we have little hope to offer the world.



In my recent ponderings about hospitality, I have felt God's invitation to stretch and challenge my preconceived ideas. I am still learning a lot, but I offer to you a few key thoughts thus far:

### **Hospitality is a heart posture, not just an act or series of acts**

Proverbs 4:23 (NIV) says, "guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." Hospitality is not just having some friends over for a meal. It is welcoming the stranger with the love of God. It is listening to one another's burdens with the compassion of Jesus. And it is creating margin to be interrupted by Holy Spirit. All our human effort cannot make us do this with longevity. It must be an overflow of the heart of God.

### **Our God is the King of hospitality**

God's heart is for the stranger and the outcast (in other words, for everyone). We particularly see this in the life of Jesus.

I love Jesus' interaction with Peter in John 21. Peter, who boldly proclaimed that Jesus was the Messiah, also denied knowing Jesus in his time of betrayal. But here, resurrected Jesus meets Peter once more on the shore. Following a failed fishing trip, Jesus shares a meal with Peter, restores his identity and invites Peter into greater transformation. Jesus' heart is for Peter.

### **If we want to extend hospitality, we must learn how to receive.**

Like Peter, we must learn how to receive from God. Similarly, Martha's sister, Mary, gives us an example. Luke 10 invites us to wonder: What was so good about sitting at the feet of Jesus?

But we must also learn how to humbly receive from each other. When we learn what it is like to receive grace without merit, gifts without the ability to repay, and hospitality when we feel like we have nothing to offer, then we can learn to extend hospitality with humility, gentleness and radical love.

All of this has me wondering, if the people of God embraced 'radically ordinary hospitality,'<sup>1</sup> how might our wider communities be transformed with the love of God?

Radically ordinary hospitality can indeed be used by the Lord to grow his people in grace and sacrificial living, to preserve practices, ideas, and cultures... to change the world... but (it) must be rooted and steeped in grace. *Rosaria Butterfield*

When you think about it, we all often have opportunities to share radically ordinary hospitality – in a friend's home, for a colleague having a rough day, for the stranger on the street, for your neighbour ... for someone in need of God's radical grace.

### **God's gentle invitation**

I'm learning how to practice hospitality in community. But in a simple way, I see the hospitality of God in the people I mentor and coach. In my privilege of being present and creating space, people find invitation to show up courageously. And as they do, they experience God's gentle invitation to deeper transformation. They experience the whispering invitation, "my grace is sufficient for you, my child."

It's quite simple, quite every day, but it's far from ordinary. In fact, it ends up being quite radical.



**Jenna Blackwell**

Mission and Leadership Development Team

If you're interested in exploring coaching Jenna welcomes you to reach out: [jenna@tasbaptists.org.au](mailto:jenna@tasbaptists.org.au)

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<sup>1</sup> Termed by Rosaria Butterfield in her book *The Gospel Comes with a House Key*.

# ReCharge NEWS June 2023

## NEWS

Tasmanian  
BAPTISTS



## Last Daughter

*Arrange to watch at your church!*

**A**fter being raised by a white family, a young girl is taken away and returned to the Aboriginal family she didn't know. Decades later, she's on a journey to discover where she truly belongs.

Brenda's first memories were of growing up in a loving white foster family, before she was suddenly taken away and returned to her Aboriginal family. Decades later, she feels disconnected from both halves of her life. But the traumas of her past do not lie quietly buried. So, she goes searching for the foster family with whom she had lost all contact.

**INFO for Churches** [thelastdaughter.com.au/churches](https://thelastdaughter.com.au/churches)

**WATCH the trailer** [vimeo.com/gravityfilmsau/tldtrailer](https://vimeo.com/gravityfilmsau/tldtrailer)



## Our Baptist Values

**From Australian Baptist Ministries**

*As mentioned at the May Assembly*

**A** great resource for your church or small group, the Values Project<sup>1</sup> is designed to help individuals, churches and groups reflect, talk and learn about our identity and values as communities of faith within the Australian Baptist movement.

The Values Project strengthens our sense of identity, encourages connectedness and community across our movement, and informs decision making and leadership.

Four free episodes are available, along with corresponding Scripts, Facilitator's Guide, Discussion notes, and sermon ideas.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.baptist.org.au/about-us/the-values-project/>

They are a great basis for discussion and understanding Baptists, particularly for those new to the movement.

**The 4-5 minute videos each focus on one of our four values:** 1. Jesus-Centred; 2. Community; 3. Mission; 4. Freedom

**WATCH Value 1** *Being Jesus-Centred* – [vimeo.com/371270803](https://vimeo.com/371270803)



\* **The Values Project** was made possible by the support of *Baptist Insurance Services, Baptist Financial Services and Baplink.*

## Famine Relief Announcement

### News from Micah Australia

**A**s reported in **reCharge** in November 2022, the Horn of Africa is suffering a severe famine. So it is encouraging to learn that in the recent federal budget, the government announced Australia will contribute \$29 million from the Humanitarian Emergency Fund to partners in the Horn of Africa and the Middle East.

This includes:

- \$15 million to address increased humanitarian, displacement and protection needs of people in drought-affected areas in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.
- \$4 million to provide food and nutrition support to the most vulnerable in Yemen.
- \$10 million for food and monetary assistance to refugees and vulnerable populations in Lebanon and Jordan.



**READ the full story:** [micahaustralia.org/news/famine-relief-will-help-worlds-most-vulnerable](https://micahaustralia.org/news/famine-relief-will-help-worlds-most-vulnerable).

## On the Move

### City Baptist Launceston

**O**ur **Sunday Gatherings** will be held at The Boathouse, 55 Lindsay Street Invermay, for at least the next 12 months. The Boathouse is an attractive modern building in the Seaport precinct, overlooking the North Esk River and Trevallyn, and next to Riverbend Park. Our first Gathering there will be on 18 June.

**Our Drop in Centre** will remain operating on Saturday nights out of the Red Dove Café in the Pilgrim Uniting facilities in Paterson Street.



*City Baptist Launceston – some of our people*

# Events at Hobart and Perth

## Hobart Baptist's Luminous Festival

For more details visit [hobartbaptist.org.au/luminous](http://hobartbaptist.org.au/luminous)

**H**obart Baptist church is again running its mid-winter festival, **Luminous**. This is the third year for Luminous, which aims to shed light on important topics for the people of Hobart during Dark Mofo. The festival runs for two weeks from 8-25 June and hosts conversations around spirituality and hope, and showcases installation art.

### 6pm, Thursday 8th June, FESTIVAL LAUNCH AND ARTWORK

Michael Henderson's art installation opens. Michael is an artist based in *Iutruwita* / Tasmania and his work is entitled: *The Seed of Life, Weighed Down*. He uses symbols and metaphors to tell stories about identity, faith and longing.

Artwork open from 12pm-6pm until 16th June.

### 6pm, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June, LUMINOUS CONVERSATIONS



Over successive evenings with free refreshments, this year's topics ask, 'Is Tasmania A Place for Everyone?'; 'How can we help Tasmanian Children flourish?'; and 'How Do We Create Healthy Families?' Each of the conversations are a safe space for discussion, and not just for people of faith. We value the unique journey and point of view each of our panellists can contribute.

### CHRISTMAS IN WINTER – IN THE TAB

6pm Friday 23rd June Luminous Carols

10am Sunday 25th June A traditional Christmas Service

All are welcome to the festival and entry is free, but bookings for evening events (catering) are essential.

## Perth Tabernacle's Coming events

**AUTHENTIC  
INDIAN FOOD**  
Made for Australians!

*Free Dinner*

**COME TO THE COMMUNITY MEAL**

**Sunday June 4th @ 5pm**

In the church hall cnr Talisker & Clarence  
A ministry of Perth Baptist Church  
more info on 0488 107 707

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**  
**SATURDAY JUNE 17TH**  
8 am for 8:30 am start  
**ALL MEN WELCOME**



Dr Andrew Corbett will be our guest speaker. Pastor Andrew describes himself as a husband, father, grandpa, pastor, writer, former tennis player, and a guy with a camera. He and his wife Kim have pastored Legana Christian Church since 1995. Andrew is the author of numerous books, hundreds of Bible studies and president of ICI College Australia and a great guy.

Breakfast is a donation of \$5 or free

**Perth Baptist Church Hall,  
cnr of Clarence & Talisker St**  
more info on 0417 098 233

# Mentoring with Fostering Hope



Be a Mentor  
for a  
Foster Kid!

## Foster Care

*Fostering Hope* partners with Tasmanian Baptists to help Christians provide stable families and church communities for foster children.

## Grow your Faith as a Mentor

**A**re you looking for a way to live out your faith? Do you think about foster care and how you could be involved, but not sure how? Do you have time to mentor a child who needs a caring adult? One 15-year-old in care in Tasmania said (from *Ok, so a Nest is a Home*<sup>1</sup>):

“Having a supportive adult to be able to talk to [is important]. So being able to share if you’re upset, in trouble or whatever ... it doesn’t really matter who they are, just as long as they have someone who is there for them.”

This is what the Fostering Hope Mentoring Program is about. Christians voluntarily meet regularly (perhaps weekly, fortnightly or monthly) with their special mentee to do an activity together and build relationship.

### Here are two stories

Kylie<sup>2</sup> is a mentor to Rachel, an 11-year old girl in care, they meet once a month on a Saturday afternoon and do lots of different things together. Kylie is there for Rachel if she wants to talk about what’s going on for her or just to have fun! Kylie says:

“I just can’t thank you enough for this opportunity. It’s great for her to have the special time, it’s great for her carers to have a little break and it’s great for me to get out and do things I wouldn’t normally do!”

The second story is yours!

Compassion might look foolish to the world, but it is God’s way and the way we are called to live as well. Loving the orphan, the outcast and the widow may not be the usual way of the world, but we know it is God’s wisdom.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/Nest-book\\_final\\_web.pdf](https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/Nest-book_final_web.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> names changed for anonymity

*Learn to do right; seek justice.*

*Defend the oppressed.*

*Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.*

*Isaiah 1:17 (NIV)*

But sometimes we don't know what that looks like on a practical level. We may feel a disconnect between the faith we talk about with friends and we hear about at church, and the faith that we are living each day. We see injustice and know that God's way is compassion, but what does that mean for us?

### **Living out compassion**

At Fostering Hope we want to help you work out how you can show compassion to the often outcast kids in care. This might be through becoming a mentor or a respite carer. It doesn't need to be a burden, but like we heard in the first story, it could be an incredible joy. It also means you will no longer wonder how you can live out compassion.

***We are running a mentor training day in Launceston on Saturday the 29th of July.***

*If you are interested in becoming a mentor, or know someone else who you think would be interested, we'd love to connect and have you come along to the training.*

If you have questions or want to find out more, visit our website [www.fosteringhope.community](http://www.fosteringhope.community)

Or reach out to us! Ellie is in Hobart ([ellie@fosteringhope.net.au](mailto:ellie@fosteringhope.net.au)) and Anthea is in Launceston ([anthea@fosteringhope.net.au](mailto:anthea@fosteringhope.net.au)).

Fostering Hope is a charity whose work comes from the Bible and the teachings of Jesus to 'visit' and 'care for' orphans and widows, to put the lonely in families, to love the fatherless, to care for children, and to love the neighbours in the communities.

Our vision is to reflect Christ's love by supporting at-risk children and those who care for them. We work to raise awareness about this need, equip communities, and support foster, kinship and informal carers. One of the ways we provide wrap-around support for carers is through our mentoring program for their kids in care. We recruit, train, screen, match and support volunteer Christian mentors (like you!)



# Around the Churches, June-July 2023



Every two months you can catch up with the latest news in Tasmanian Baptist Churches.

## North

### RIVERLANDS, LONGFORD New Youth Group

Every third Friday during term, Riverlands has recently offered a youth group for those in and around the church. The youth group is focused around church-encultured teens and giving them activities through the week.

Our goal is to develop a thriving youth ministry, where the youth can share life and have Christian discipleship. It's had a strong reception as we've gathered together and enjoyed the company of one another whilst playing games, having snacks, and doing small devotions.



*Our most recent Riverlands Youth group was a (not very) messy night much to the chagrin and the disappointment of the youth!*

Whilst only small we are having a lot of fun and the group is developing well in line with our goals. We would appreciate your prayers and thoughts as we continue to develop the program and its structure.

The youth group has been running in co-operation with the other churches around Launceston where we have been gathering on the Fourth Fridays of the month for larger games, larger connections and better connections between churches and youth in the Launceston and Northern Midlands area.

## CITY BAPTIST, Launceston

### In the news

Our recent move to the Boathouse Centre received media attention, and, given events in the Southern Baptist<sup>1</sup> scene, they chose to focus on our female leadership. We are enjoying the wonder-inspiring views of the city of Launceston from within our new gathering space, and also creating a partnership with the owners. We are greatly appreciative to Worldview for accommodating us so well during our previous transition.



Formation pastor Jenno Blackwell and senior pastor Anthea Maynard. Picture by Craig George

### Female leadership for City Baptist

**Charmaine Manuel**  
LAUNCESTON'S City Baptist congregation has found a new home at the Boathouse after leaving their original home at Milton Hall last year.  
Former pastor Jeff McKinnon said that Milton Hall was not suitable for the church's new direction and that the property was becoming expensive to run.  
This Sunday will be the first gathering at the new venue for the small 30-member congregation.  
It's a fresh start for the congregation who are also welcoming a new leadership team with pastor Anthea Maynard and formation pastor Jenno Blackwell.  
Pastor Maynard is the first woman to serve as a senior pastor at City Baptist Church.  
She was previously a consultant with Primary Health Tasmania and has a background in public health, tropical medicine and theology.  
Pastor Maynard said that she had known some of the members for a while and that the church had an authentic, social justice, down-to-earth approach.  
"Climate change is an issue that the church has become associated with through Mr McKinnon, who has been arrested a number of times for his protests with Unionist Perfection.  
"The church also has a senior chaplain, team members who work with women fleeing domestic violence and another who works with refugees.  
Pastor Maynard said that it was "humbling" to be the first woman to serve as senior pastor.  
While the issue of women's ordination has been controversial in other denominations, it hasn't caused any waves at City Baptist.  
Congregating pastor Mr McKinnon said that the church "didn't blink an eyelid" on the ordination of a woman.  
"We've always had women speaking and praying in church, and chairing meetings," he said.  
"But it's nice that it's actually happened."

*In The Examiner, 18th June 2023*

## Radical Hospitality

Over the month of June, we focused on the theme of hospitality – the gift of giving and receiving hospitality, and how it can be as simple as a smile. We continue to explore this theme of 'radically ordinary hospitality' in practical and life-giving, everyday ways.

The Saturday night drop-in centre meal continues each week, nearing capacity in the new space at Pilgrim Uniting. Stephen Avery's presence in the street community furthers the connections.

Over June we will look at the theme of Seeds – seeds of faith, hope, justice and love – and how City can help germinate these seeds in the city of Launceston.

The City Seed Community Garden at St Leonards continues to welcome new members.

## Supporting others ... in Launceston and beyond

Members of our community hosted a fundraiser afternoon tea and raised \$2000 for Betel Ministries in India (Betel International: Break free from drug and alcohol addiction<sup>2</sup>).

Northern Refugee Support continues, with a recent long-awaited breakthrough.

We are also pleased to support outside ministries, such as SU's upcoming camps, allowing children and families to attend who would otherwise be unable to.

## NEWSTEAD

### Alpha Underway

We have had a great start to the Alpha course with 24 people attending. Alpha is an evangelistic course

<sup>1</sup> [www.npr.org/2023/06/14/1182141691/southern-baptist-convention-sbc-women-pastors-saddleback-megachurch](http://www.npr.org/2023/06/14/1182141691/southern-baptist-convention-sbc-women-pastors-saddleback-megachurch)

<sup>2</sup> <https://betel.org/>

which seeks to provide a space to ask questions through a series of talks and discussions. We will be running Alpha for the next three years, and although this year we planned to first become familiar as a congregation with the course, we are excited to already have cross-over from other ministries during the week.

### Week of Prayer and Fasting

It has been very encouraging to hear how many in our congregation during our week of prayer and fasting swapped- out something they loved for precious time in prayer. We had people go without food or a meal, coffee, alcohol, social media, and even the Chase (Aus. and British edition), and instead, spending time praying for our church's strategic goals, church family prayer points, and our other Baptist churches around Launceston.

### Friendship Lunch

We had a great turnout for the *Friendship Shortest Day Longest Lunch* with the Wentworth room filled with Friends. A delicious selection of BBQ meat and salads for mains, with sweet stuff to follow. Finally, a cake to top it off to celebrate a birthday. Geoff Marston shared on friendship and encouraged "to have a friend; be a friend". Thanks to the drop-in centre team for a great lunch. (2 Photos)



*Friendship Lunch; Birthday cake for all!*



## BEAUTY POINT

### New Youth and Children's Leader

The most exciting development for our little church is the induction of our new Youth and Children's Leader last Sunday. Dempsey Horton from Texas is our new youth and children's leader for the next 12 months.

### Texan Outreach

*Friday 23rd June to Wednesday 19th July*

We are midway through our regular Texan Mission, with four Texans visiting for almost four weeks.

Events include women's coffee and dessert night, Bible studies for women, men and youth, Primary school youth group, Hope Night and more youth events to come. There will be a holiday kids' club and five-day basketball skills clinic.

All events are free and designed to reach the North Tamar population with Hope found in Jesus Christ.



**HOLD FAST**



Partnership  
Texas/  
Tasmania



June 23- July 19, 2023

The Point Baptist Church

# Northwest

## LATROBE

### Volunteers Honoured

On Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> May, the Latrobe Council presented special awards to volunteers in their community.

Mayor Peter Freshney handed out over 30 awards, and amazingly Latrobe Baptist Church received seven of them!

1. Latrobe Baptist church for its many community programmes
2. Latrobe Baptist Chat 'n' Choose
3. Latrobe Men's Shed
4. Glenis Smith – 30 years of volunteer service, Chat 'n' Choose
5. John Langmaid – 30 years of volunteer service, Chat 'n' Choose
6. Glad Purdy– 20 years of volunteer service, Chat 'n' Choose
7. Fay Horne – 20 years of volunteer service, Chat 'n' Choose



*Awards recipients in Latrobe*

## SASSAFRAS

### Winter Service

This annual event is always a success because it is always so cold and the hot chocolate always so welcome.

The real reason is of course to bring to mind that Jesus is the light of the world John 8:10, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life".

A few Sunday School children play their part by reciting a relevant poem they wrote and sing a children's hymn. As always Cathy, Ruth and Max lead and inspire.

This event is always the simple reflection of children, though lead by adults, it is always a real blessing to us all, in the pews! Some of the hymns we sung were "Showers of blessing", "The Light of the World" and "Jesus bids us shine". The inspiring message was from Ben Hallam followed by the three "S's", Soup, Sandwiches and Savouries!

Everyone left the service fed in "Body, Mind, and Spirit!" It was great.



## SHEFFIELD

### Vale Mrs Beverly Duff

On 3rd June, the Lord called home to glory Mrs Beverly Duff who was a stalwart of the Sheffield Baptist church for over 75 years. Mrs. Duff (nee Irvine) was baptised in 1947, and from that time took an active part in the church.

In 1953 she married Bruce Duff, and together they played a major role in the Church. In the late 1970's Mrs Duff became church organist. She played for both the morning and evening services, as well as playing for funerals and weddings in the Sheffield Baptist church. As well, she often played for the West Kentish and Paradise churches.

When then church commenced our monthly fellowship teas and singing your favourite hymns in 2005, Beverly played until ill-health took its toll.

Mrs Duff was actively involved in the Ladies group, and was a keen supporter of the overseas missionary work of the church. She loved CWA and craft groups, and was a highly respected lady in the Kentish community.

Mrs Duff was truly a fine Christian lady who is now resting in the everlasting arms of her Saviour. The Sheffield Baptist church extends to Stephanie, Ashley, brother Desmond and their families our deepest sympathy.

## WYNYARD

### Supporting Others

Our church continues to support two children, Tithi and Rafin, through Baptist World Aid with the proceeds of our cappuccino sales on Sunday mornings.

### Just Blokes

This is a quarterly gathering of men from the community when they enjoy a pizza and an interesting speaker. Greg White who works in the engineering department at Caterpillar was the speaker in June.

### Just Girls

The girls met recently for fellowship where they were able to enjoy some Filipino food. The afternoon was spent making a fridge magnet with Beth and Kester.



## ULVERSTONE

### Mother's Day

Inviting our friends, mothers, daughters, sisters, and aunties, our UBC ladies enjoyed an evening out dining at Café RA. After our Mother's Day service, and to honour the women in our midst, our UBC men provided morning tea. This was a bake-off competition from which we have now discovered we have a number of very capable and talented cooks at UBC! Prizes were awarded to Matt Cox for his macarons, Robbie Cunningham for his savory toast and Andrew Gurr for his apple cakes.

### May Mission Month

May Mission Month was embraced as we listened and were challenged by guest speakers Paul Manning from Baptist World Aid, and Geoff Maddock from Baptist Mission Australia

## Table Tennis

Our winter table tennis competition has once again commenced on Monday evenings with 27 registered players. Table tennis at UBC has been running for about 40 years.

## Men's Events

Our recent Men's Events have included go-karting, indoor cricket, a men's breakfast, and an evening of carpet bowls and pizza. These events have been well attended by a variety of ages and has been a wonderful opportunity to reach out, encourage and strengthen relationships.

## Dylan Standridge

In June we were privileged to spend an evening with Dylan Standridge. Dylan partners with Iris Global Ministries<sup>3</sup>, he has a heart for Tasmania and has a prophetic call upon his life.

## Home to Glory

Our church family have mourned the passing of three dear ladies and sisters in Christ.

Nalda King passed away on 19<sup>th</sup> March aged 85.

Margaret McCall passed away on 18<sup>th</sup> June aged 94, and Pauline Beasley passed away on 22<sup>nd</sup> of June. Our thoughts and prayers continue for their families.

# South

## CITYWIDE

### Special Service

*On Sunday 11 June we had a special combined service which included several aspects:*

**Four Baptisms** – what a delight to hear the testimonies and share in the faith journey of four people. As a result, another person gave their life to the Lord that night.

**New Members** – four people were received into membership.

**Dedication of Nepalese Outreach Ministries** – Both the Community Bus and the Driver Mentor Car which were donated through BMA grants were in the auditorium and dedicated to the Lord's work among the Hindu community.

**Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal** – in support of our local Salvation Army Corps, everyone was encouraged to wear something red and bring a donation towards feeding children at our local schools as well as supporting families who are struggling. Almost \$1000 was raised.

**Healing Prayer** – At the close of the service 20 people came forward for anointing with oil.



*Citywide held an indoor Table Top Sale on Saturday 1st July*

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.irisglobal.org/>

## Future Proofing your Life: 14th June to 12th July

A new initiative from our Pastoral Care team has seen the development of a three-part program for people both in their senior years, as well as for the families of seniors. Over 40 people registered from both the community and local churches.

A dedicated week to draw closer to Jesus, to pray for our outreach into our local suburbs, and to pray for Hobart and people in need. A booklet with guidelines to aid our focus is provided for everyone to help engage us in praying together.

### CLAREMONT

#### Combined Pentecost Service

On the afternoon of the 28th May, Claremont Baptist hosted a combined Pentecost Prayer Meeting with Edge Anglican and Claremont Uniting to pray for unity and our community.

After sharing in reflective prayer, communion and corporate prayer we had some good chats over light refreshments. Good to meet and greet our brothers and sisters in Christ.

#### The Luthys Visit

Missionary family Chris and Amy Luthy and their family will be leading our service on 16th July. They serve with Pioneers and will share some of their experiences.

### HOBART

#### Esteem Coffee Shop

After a month or so of trials and waiting for final council approval, our coffee shop is now open! Volunteers will staff the coffee shop with a community focus and strong leaning towards supporting and training ex-refugees. Thanks to Kelvin Smith for his work in the final stages of getting the coffee shop up and running, well over a decade since the dream began.



*Esteem Coffee Shop*

#### Luminous Festival

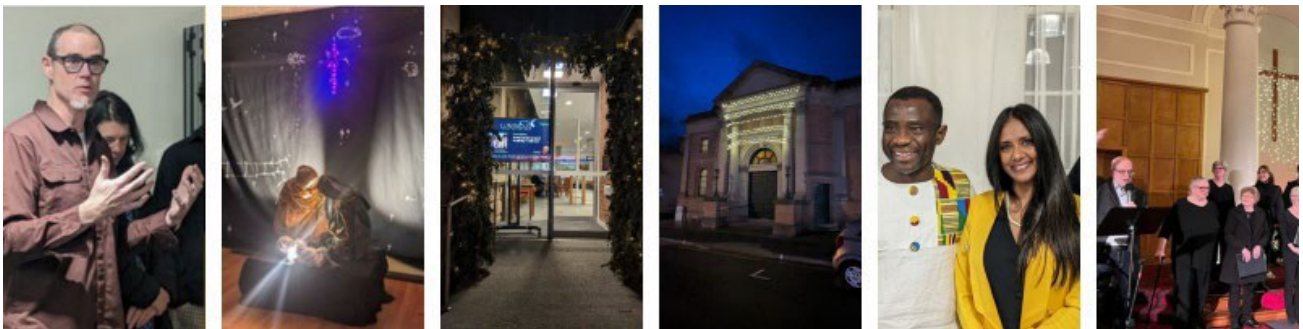
*Thursday 8th to Sunday 25th June*

Over two weeks, the Luminous Festival at Hobart Baptist hosted various activities, lined up to coincide with Hobart's mid-winter festival, Dark Mofo.

1. An art installation by Michael Henderson, *The Seed of Life Weighed Down*, on display in the foyer of The Tab. The display generated well over 100 faith-conversations with passers-by.
2. Three "Conversations", which provided a space for thought and discussion. Speakers in the Conversations panels brought expertise on topics asking:
  - Is Tasmania A Place for Everyone?

- How can we help Tasmanian Children flourish?
  - How Do We Create Healthy Families?
3. The festival culminated with *Christmas in Winter*, when we celebrated Christmas within its original context of the dark, cold mid-winter. Luminous Carols, were held on Friday 23rd June, followed by a Christmas Day service, Sunday 25th June

*Art by Michael Henderson questioned 'what the nativity scene represents, and whether it has an ability today to help us enter the mystery of God and faith'.*



*L to R: Michael Henderson opens his artwork; The art exhibit; Soundy building's lit-up entry; The Tab lights; Speakers John Kumara and Zelinda Sherlock; Stephen Baxter introduces the Hallelujah Chorus community choir at the Luminous Carols event*

### **Long Table event**

Members of the church, and many others, attended this wintry meal on the 25th June. Over 50 people enjoyed Eritrean food together. Thanks to Kelvin Smith and others for organising.

### **Farewell Margaret Baikie**

Our dear friend Margaret Baikie went to be with her Lord and Saviour on Wednesday 14 June 2023. Margaret was a member of HBC for 55 years, and until fairly recently, in a very active capacity.

Loved and loving wife of Albert, mother of Margaret (Luckman) and Gordon, mother-in-law of Greg and Angie (Read). Adored Granny of Gordon James, Alistair, Hamish, James and Sunday Clare.



# Scott Pilgrim



Baptists **Nationally**

## Ministry Profile

*In previous years, **Scott Pilgrim** was the Executive Pastor at Crossway Baptist Church (Vic), and had senior roles in BaptistCare NSW-ACT, and Baptist Churches of NSW/ACT.*

*But what does Scott do now, and why does that matter to Tasmanian Baptists?*

**I was born and grew up in Newcastle.** So, although I love living in Melbourne and it's home, I will always be a "Newy boy". It's one of those types of places.

Newcastle was a great place to grow up, close to family, and actively engaged in sporting teams as a child/youth. Newcastle is home to some great beaches and so we spent a lot of time at the beach, then heading back to my grandparent's home five minutes away. As a child, Newcastle was an industrial city – home to the BHP Steelworks, where my father and his father worked. These industrial roots kept the city grounded and authentic.

I lived in Newcastle through all my schooling days and then landed my dream job as a cadet journalist at The Newcastle Herald.

**I grew up in what I now understand** was a "God-fearing" home, rather than in a family that had a deep personal relationship with Jesus. In my teens, I started attending a Presbyterian Church. The ministers of the church – a young husband and wife ordained couple – influenced me greatly. They gave me opportunities to explore ministry at a young age and encouraged me in my journey with Jesus.

In my late teens I started attending a Baptist church and for the first time in my life met a male mentor figure, who clearly and passionately loved Jesus. He had a significant impact in my life, and during this period in the 1980s, Jesus became real to me!

### A national spread

**I am married to Megan, who is a nurse.** We are a blended family (*a Brady Bunch family for those old enough to know the show!*) All up, Megan and I have eight children.

We have five adult children who live in NSW and the Northern Territory, aged from 31 to 20. And we also

have three children with us in Melbourne, a 13-year-old daughter, a 12-year-old son, and a 10-year-old daughter. It's delightful to see how our younger kids engage so regularly with the benefit of technology in staying connected to their older siblings.



**After growing up in Newcastle,** I moved around in my young adult years living in a few different places in NSW, working as a journalist. I then spent most of my adult years back in Newcastle.

Megan and I with our three youngest children moved to Melbourne at the beginning of 2017 as I took up the role of Executive Pastor at Crossway Baptist Church.

**Melbourne is a great city to live in.** *[Better than Sydney, but don't tell them that!]* It has so many things you can do, and I love the culture and diversity of the city. Although it's not the beaches of Newcastle, I love relaxing and walking along the bay and in the eastern suburbs where we live. We are spoilt with so many beautiful green spaces. And yes, the food is great – so many good options to choose from.

It's also very much home for our younger kids. Melbourne is home for them and they all love playing basketball.

### Scott's work now

**I serve as the Executive Director of Baptist Mission Australia,** our movement's international intercultural mission agency. In my position, I head up our work across the world, and our National Team is spread across Australia. And yes, I do travel a lot! I am currently writing from Norway where I am attending the \_ Baptist World Alliance Gathering.

Most of my travel is to places well off the tourist maps, where our teams and partners serve in communities in Africa and Asia. And we're growing our ministry in Australia, including our partnership with Citywide in Hobart. It's good to see many different parts of the world – but it's always great to get home to my family.

I'm privileged to lead a team – that's the real joy of what I do. And I was invited to step into the position in a time of rapid change around the world and with Western mission agencies like ours needing to re-imagine and re-invent who we are and what we do. It's why I resonate with the journey that you're on as Tassie Baptists.

So, when people ask me to summarise what I do I like to use these images – team leader, pastor of global teams, cultural curator, Spirit-seeker and change agent. And I get to lead alongside a great team, including Suse and Caryn, two outstanding younger female leaders who serve with me on our Leadership Team.



## A global perspective

**I get excited when with others we can share in missional imagination** and look to the Spirit to lead us in new ways. As well, I get excited that God would graciously invite me to share in his mission, in the joy of pursuing shalom in our broken world.

There are also wonderful possibilities of partnership and innovative collaborations, which will be at the future of global mission. And one last thing which excites me – I get encouraged every day that the organisation I lead only exists because of the partnership we have with Baptist people across the country.

**The biggest challenge I have comes** because we live in a rapidly changing world, and the face of world Christianity and international mission is experiencing seismic shifts. The days of the “West to the rest” are behind us, but we can get trapped in this traditional paradigm.

By the year 2030, 70% of all followers of Jesus will live in the global south, and we have the opportunity to explore what new polycentric partnerships will look like as we move ahead. We must face up to these changes in our world, while also celebrating all that God is doing among our current inspiring and passionate team members, serving around the world.



## The wounded healer

My best piece of advice? Wow that's a hard one. How about the learning from a number of authors, including Henri Nouwen, that a theology of brokenness helps us best understand leadership.

I love Nouwen's image of the “wounded healer”. We can try to hide our wounds and scars, but I am so glad that I have come to see them as very much a part of who I am as a broken person, and that I am in absolute need for the Spirit to be at work in my life. And while he restores me, I am graced with the privilege of standing alongside other broken people, seeking to bring hope, love, acceptance and care.

**Please pray for wisdom** as we seek to discern the ways of the Spirit in this changing context. Pray for courage in the decisions we need to make. And I would value prayer for my on on-going health challenges as I navigate a pain management journey.

## Short ‘n’ Sweet

**I am looking forward to . . .** A holiday with my wife in Italy!

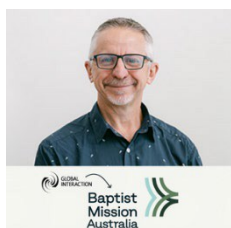
**I am worried about . . .** followers of Jesus who can't respect the views of others.

**I am confident that . . .** the Spirit is at work across the world!

**I am joyful about . . .** people passionately committed to missional re-imagination and justice!

**I would like to change . . .** where the Sydney Swans are on the table.

**I am at my best when . . .** I trust God, be myself and act courageously!



Scott Pilgrim Executive Director Baptist Mission Australia

# Missional Leadership

## Leadership For a Changing World



reImagine **Church**

*At the July 2023 Pastors and Families Muster guest speaker Bree Mills spoke about her work and research with micro churches, and what it means to be a missional leader.*

Leadership in churches is evolving in response to an increasingly complex world. Traditional leadership models, including corporate strategies, are revealing their limitations. While we might be growing resistant to the term “missional” from overuse, missional leadership is gaining traction in academic and practical ministry contexts, demonstrating it has some valuable insights to offer to our current circumstances.

## What is missional leadership?

Missional leadership reframes a leader's role by shifting from organizational leadership to participating in the broader mission of God.

It directs our attention away from budgets and buildings, and towards observing and engaging in God's work around us. According to Nelus Niemandt<sup>1</sup>, missional leadership involves the “the Spirit-led transformation of people and institutions by means of meaningful relationship to participate in the mission of God.”<sup>2</sup>

This approach not only models the leadership of Jesus, it resonates with the aspirations of young leaders who seek to make purposeful impacts in their world.

In my opinion, there are five elements of missional leadership:

### 1. **IT IS SPIRIT-LED**

**“Missional” often spurs images of something action-orientated.** Yet, missional leadership is primarily fuelled by a deep abiding in Jesus (John 15). This deep connection shapes, empowers, and directs the missional engagement. To participate in the mission of God we must first know him deeply, seek to discern where he is already at work, and then engage in ways he leads us to.

<sup>1</sup> <https://za.linkedin.com/in/nelus-niemandt-49a53a2a>

<sup>2</sup> C. J. P. Niemandt, “Discerning Spirituality for Missional Leaders,” in *Leading in a VUCA World: Integrating Leadership, Discernment and Spirituality* ed. J. Kok and S. C. van den Heuvel (Switzerland: Springer Open, 2019).

## 2. IT IS CHANGE- ORIENTATED

**It is all about transformation.** We are constantly desiring to change and to grow as disciples of Jesus, to be transformed into the likeness of Christ.

Not only should we desire this for ourselves, but for our churches and our communities. We are invited to be agents of His change in our community, working for His justice and mercy as we abide in Him (Micah 6:8).

## 3. IT IS BOTH INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNAL

**This style of leadership is not for the individual superhero** wanting to make a name for themselves.

Missional leadership thrives in collaborative teams, driving transformation in individuals and institutions.

It recognises that the church can change and has continued to change throughout the centuries. Missional leadership is concerned with the interplay of both people and institutions.

## 4. IT PRIORITISES PEOPLE OVER PROGRAM

**Programs do not bring about life change, people do.** Missional leadership prioritizes authentic relationships over mere programs. It acknowledges that people drive genuine life change rather than initiatives.

Programs support relationships but they don't take the place of them.



## 5. IT RESULTS IN PURPOSE-DRIVEN ACTION

Missional leadership **helps people to participate in the mission of God in tangible ways.** Not just by praying for or paying for someone else somewhere else, but by engaging in small ways in the here and now.

This style of leadership believes God calls every person to be a missionary where they live, work and play.

Every person is gifted and skilled for the work God has prepared for them to do (Eph 2:10), missional leadership release people into that purpose.

# A redefinition

Missional leadership helpfully redefines church leadership, emphasizing a Spirit-led approach, openness to change, the value of relationships, and the empowerment of individuals to fulfill their purpose in God's mission. By embracing these principles, we can navigate the complexities of our changing world and foster vibrant, impactful communities of faith.



**Bree Mills** is an ordained Anglican minister and doctoral student in the area of Missional Leadership, focusing on innovative leadership in the Australian context. Until the end of 2020, she was Senior Associate Minister at Glen Waverley Anglican Church, Melbourne. Now, along with her husband and kids, they are part of a new micro church network church plant and lead a community called *The Village*.

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# Deep Thought July 2023



Deep **Thought** – A bi-monthly feature in reCharge

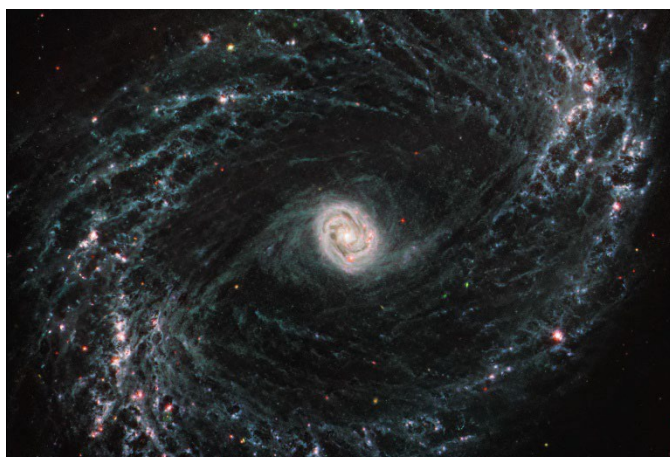
## Expanding Horizons

*Interpreting Genesis in this Era*

**By Tasmanian Baptists Mission Director Stephen Baxter**

**J**ust over a year ago, images from the James Webb Space Telescope were released with great fanfare. Orbiting around the sun<sup>1</sup>, the telescope began to peer deeply into outer space, capturing infrared glimpses of distant stars, clouds and galaxies formed billions of years ago.

With the Webb telescope we can probe the mysterious structures and origins of the universe in new and exciting ways.



*A barred spiral galaxy with a double ring structure, NGC 1433's spiral arms are littered with evidence of extremely young stars*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://webbtelescope.org/contents/media/videos/01F51C6VAPFHS6ZK5R29G2NDVG>

As its website declares<sup>2</sup>, “We wonder. It’s our nature. How did we get here? Are we alone in the universe? How does the universe work?”

These questions have been asked by generation after generation since the beginning of human life. And we continue to ask them in our day even as, and because of, the amazing images the Webb continues to provide.

Astronomers estimate there are some 100 billion stars in the Milky Way, the galaxy where earth is located. They also guess there is some 2-trillion galaxies across the known universe. That’s a lot of stars. Something like one septillion, or 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000. With a number like that, no wonder we continue to ask who on earth are we are.

### Genesis remains adequate

For millennia, the early chapters of Genesis have inspired millions. Its proposition that our existence came about through the action of a generous, wise, and benevolent Creator is literally awesome. Those introductory chapters of the Bible are a small and unique glimpse into the intentions and desires behind life as we know it.

Generation after generation have returned to those words for inspiration. Each has brought their own interpretation, borne out of their desires and the limits of their knowledge. Today, in the light of our increasing knowledge through instruments like the Webb telescope, it is time to do our own work of interpretation. It’s not that Genesis is inadequate, for it remains God’s revelation to us. However, previous interpretations can seem somewhat inadequate in the light of recent discoveries.

Is it possible to revisit these first few chapters of Genesis and retell the story of our beginnings in a way that captures and recaptures our imaginations, imaginations shaped by the images of the Webb telescope?

### Expanding horizons

The first hearers of the Genesis story of creation had little sense of the size, nature, and scope of our world. Let alone the Universe. Over the following centuries as human knowledge grew, each generation reimagined the story of life in the light of their expanded knowledge.

*When people did not travel far ... knowledge was limited to, and dependent upon, the place where one lived and ... from visitors.*

For example, when people did not travel far from their place of birth, knowledge was limited to, and dependent upon, the place where one lived and upon the information gleaned from visitors. When explorers returned with fascinating tales of distant lands, peoples and creatures, one’s appreciation of the world grew.

For those who wrote and compiled the Old Testament, their horizon was limited to the Middle East. By the time of the New Testament writers, it had expanded to the Roman Empire.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://webbtelescope.org/>



Expanding Horizons

“

**WE ARE THE FIRST  
GENERATIONS IN HUMAN  
HISTORY TO LOOK BACK AT  
EARTH FROM OUTER SPACE.**

Stephen Baxter  
Mission Director

Tasmanian  
BAPTISTS



Around the time of the Protestant Reformation, the horizon included Europe and parts of Asia and Africa. Then, there was the significant expansion through the nautical exploration of people like Columbus. And as well, through the proposal by Copernicus that the earth revolved around the Sun – not the other way around. The reformation/renaissance period became one of rapid discovery and change. This had a profound and transformative effect on every aspect of Western culture, including Christianity.

*Around the time of the Protestant Reformation, the horizon included Europe and parts of Asia and Africa.*

Our world today is amid a similar period of rapid change. Propelled by technology and space travel, today's horizon has literally moved out of this world. We are the first generations in human history to look back at earth from outer space. This change of perspective is having a profound and transformative effect on the life of every person living on our planet.

### **We are all interrelated**

This expanded horizon is perhaps best encapsulated the photograph by of the 'Blue Marble' taken by Apollo 17 astronauts in 1972<sup>3</sup>.

This picture of a fragile, vulnerable, and isolated Earth suspended amid the vast emptiness of space, changed the world. As historian Robert Poole<sup>4</sup> suggests,

*"The sight of the whole Earth, small, alive, and alone, caused scientific and philosophical thought to shift away from the assumption that the Earth was a fixed environment, unalterably given to humankind, and towards a model of the Earth as an evolving environment, conditioned by life and alterable by human activity, it was the defining moment of the twentieth century."*

The 'Pale Blue Dot' is a similar photo, and just as profound. The 1990 Voyager 1 spacecraft took it when 6.4 billion kilometres away from earth. This photo, together with the 'Blue Marble', signifies a defining moment in our expanding horizon.

In the light of this expansion, many old stories we told ourselves, about who we are, no longer seem adequate. The exploration of space, the insights of modern science, rapidly changing technology and the communication revolution, contribute to destabilising old metanarratives.

Today, for the first time in human history, and despite the remaining differences in language, customs, worldviews and religion, there is a collective "knowing" that we all share the one planet, with the one history and the one destiny. Everything is interrelated, everything is dependent. We need each other. The future is ours together. We can no longer operate in isolation.

### **A stark question for Christians**

Contemporary answers to the perennial questions of "Who am I?", "How did we get here?" and "What does the future hold?" must take the insights of this expanded horizon into account. Any spirituality or religion appearing indifferent or ignorant to our 'fragile' world, or displays a reluctance to work 'together' for the future, is quickly dismissed. It is seen as out-of-date, inadequate, irrelevant and even dangerous.



*"The blue marble" Apollo 17 Crew, Dec 1972*

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nasa.gov/content/blue-marble-image-of-the-earth-from-apollo-17>

<https://www.uclan.ac.uk/academics/professor-robert-poole>

*Any spirituality or religion that appears indifferent or ignorant to our 'fragile' world . . . is quickly dismissed as out-of-date.*



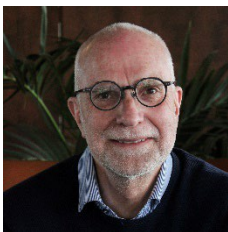
*The pale blue dot, Voyager 1*

Christians today face a stark question. Is the story of creation in Genesis capable of giving an answer that will satisfy the yearnings of those who ask them in the light of the Webb telescope? I believe the answer is yes. But we will need to do some deep reframing.

This is not a new enterprise. The Reformers had to do something similar when they encountered new discoveries and technological advances. They reimagined and reinterpreted the Genesis creation story of their day. Like them, we need to arrive at a narrative big enough and meaningful enough to recapture our imaginations. It will provide a new vision for what God is doing in our world.

This is the task before God's people who live in this moment.

I pray God will enable and equip us to develop a spirituality/theology aware of these expanded horizons which is attuned to the spiritual longings of contemporary Tasmanians. Wouldn't it be great if this new awareness enlivened searching hearts with the hope, love and joy found in Jesus Christ?



**Stephen Baxter** is the Senior Pastor at Hobart Baptist, and is Tasmanian Baptists Mission Director.

# ReCharge NEWS July 2023



## NCLS Webinar for Leaders

*Thriving and Resilient Leadership, 11am and 7.30pm Wednesday 2 August 2023*

**N**CLS Research<sup>1</sup> presents a webinar on “Thriving and Resilient Leadership: Latest findings and reflections on resilience, fulfilment and thriving in church leadership post-COVID”.

This webinar explores how Australian church leaders are coping, and what factors contribute to their resilience. Findings are based on the results from the 2021-22 NCLS Leader Survey by NCLS Research<sup>2</sup>.

### You will discover:

- What does thriving look like and what is burnout?
- How has it changed in Australian church leadership over the past five years? Are current practices sustainable?
- What are the personal foundations contributing to resilience and sustainable leadership?
- Practical ministry implications: Case studies and guiding principles for leaders.

### Speakers

- **Sam Sterland**, Senior Researcher of NCLS Research, will present research findings on leader wellbeing and resilience, and responses to COVID-19.
- **Guest speaker Tim Dyer** will provide his reflections on the implications of these findings for ministry and mission.

**FREE TICKET** [events.humanitix.com/ncls-thriving-and-resilient-leadership](https://events.humanitix.com/ncls-thriving-and-resilient-leadership)



## Youth Alive Undivided

**NORTH:** 6pm 18th August | **NW:** 6pm 19th August | **SOUTH:** 6pm 25th August

**I**n August, Youth Alive are running “Undivided” – three regional youth gatherings. They would love to invite your youth ministry and young people!

Youth Alive’s mission is to reach young people with the message of



<sup>1</sup> <https://ncls.org.au>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.2021ncls.org.au/run-the-survey/leader-survey/>

Jesus. They believe these events will see youth ministries united, faith ignited, momentum gained, and young people respond to the Gospel!

Outreach events are a great way to unite young people, reach youth, and share the truth of Jesus. At every one of these events attendees will be invited to a local church or youth ministry as a next step of faith. They would like to partner with you to help reach the next generation.

The Youth Alive team are building volunteer teams for each of these events. If you would like to volunteer, please click the button, below.

**BOOK** [youthalivetas.com.au/undivided](http://youthalivetas.com.au/undivided)

**VOLUNTEER** [youthalivetasma.elvanto.com.au/form/8256510c-5c83-4b05-9bae-711346a091f8](http://youthalivetasma.elvanto.com.au/form/8256510c-5c83-4b05-9bae-711346a091f8)

## Winter Heartlands

**Heartlands**, the quarterly e-news for women, was released on Friday 14th July.



**READ IT HERE** [tasbaptists.org.au/heartlands-winter-2023](http://tasbaptists.org.au/heartlands-winter-2023)

**SUBSCRIBE** Your quarterly update of inspiration and news for women: <http://eepurl.com/gGEAYT>

**INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES . . .**



### Day of Courage Registrations are OPEN

*Sat 18th November, ALL WOMEN WELCOME!*



### Australian Baptist Women ends

*Find out what happened, and what happens next*



### Being Transformed

*Tuning into the heart of God. By Jenna Blackwell*  
*Read on page 9 of this reCharge.*



### Villain-Origin Story

*Or testimony in-the-making? By Maddie Mandall*

# Pastors' and Families' Muster

11th-13th July, Devonport

The July 2023 Muster was held at Oldaker Christian Church in Devonport. Here, pastors and their families found a comfortable space which was suitable for music ministry, teaching, eating and a great children's program. During the Muster, guest speaker Bree Mills explained her work around the idea of "micro-church". This included how we might better disciple people, by adding small faith-based communities to our local church contexts. Read Bree's article about Missional Leadership on page 27 of this *June/July 2023 reCharge*. Wednesday afternoon free-time, brought several families together as they headed up to Leven Canyon to enjoy a bushwalk, and one another's company.

Thanks must go to Jenna Blackwell for organising the Muster; Bree Mills for coming from Melbourne to speak; Bryce Roberts and Nicole Mayall for caring for the children; and David Pearson and Oldaker Christian Church for their excellent hospitality!



Clockwise from top left: Bree Mills; Leven Canyon walk; Worship Team; Bryce and Nic are thanked.

## EmpowHer Day of Courage

Registrations now open!

On Saturday 18th November, all women are welcome to attend the Day of Courage at Riverlands Longford. The speaker is **Karen Wilson**, President Baptist World Alliance Women, and CEO of the Global Leadership Network Australia. She will explore the topic of being well-grounded.

Already there is interest across the state, from a broad cross-section of the community. This will be a special day – not to be missed! Postcards are now available to invite your friends and family. If you cannot see them at your church, contact [empowher@tasbaptist.org.au](mailto:empowher@tasbaptist.org.au). Registration covers morning tea, lunch and all materials.

**EARLYBIRD:** \$45/person – Until 30th August **FULL PRICE:** \$55/person – From 31st August

**REGISTER:** [tasbaptists.org.au/dayofcourage](https://tasbaptists.org.au/dayofcourage)



# SparkLit Awards Night

Thursday 31st August

The 2023 Australian Christian Book of the Year, Young Australian Christian Writer and Australian Christian Teen Writer Awards will be announced, and prizes presented during this year's SparkLit Awards Night on **Thursday 31 August**. Join in online to celebrate the courage and endeavour of Australian Christian writers!



Register now to receive the livestream link (free of charge) to watch the in-person event at St Alfred's Anglican Church, Blackburn North.

**REGISTER** [trybooking.com/CJJZP](https://trybooking.com/CJJZP)

The **Australian Christian Literature Awards** encourage Christian writing and publishing that helps people discover Jesus in a way that is authentic and culturally meaningful. The SparkLit Awards recognise and encourage excellence in Australian Christian writing and publishing.

## Intergenerate Conference 2023

9am-4:30pm, Friday 18th August

There is a great national conference coming to Hobart (via satellite). This year the theme is: A Gospel for all Ages<sup>3</sup>.

The conference comes highly recommended by Anthea Maynard (City Baptist, Launceston):

"I have been part of the national intergenerational resourcing group for a number of years. The speakers are excellent and have practical and thoughtful ways to explore intergenerational faith formation and community engagement. "

**FIND OUT MORE** Intergenerate Facebook page: [facebook.com/intergenerateaustralia](https://facebook.com/intergenerateaustralia)



<sup>3</sup> <https://www.intergenerate.com.au/event-details/a-gospel-for-all-ages-hobart-2023-08-18-09-00>

# NCLS Update

*Checking-in on your church's health*

**D**id you know you don't need to wait five years for the next National Church Life Survey to listen to your church?

The Church Life Survey, by NCLS Research<sup>4</sup>, is one of the church survey tools available to local churches and can be done anytime. It is an opportunity to check-in regularly and receive updated feedback and insights into church health and vitality, including your congregation's experience of church life, discernments for the future and willingness to be involved. Both paper and online survey options are offered, with a quick turnaround of results. After completion of the Survey, churches will receive a Church Life Profile that provides insights into the life and experiences of church attenders and provide indicators of church health and vitality which can inform and equip future directions for ministry and mission.

**MORE INFO** [ncls.org.au/churchlifesurveys](https://ncls.org.au/churchlifesurveys)



## School Chaplains

*Positions Vacant with Scripture Union Tas*

*Provide emotional, social, and spiritual support to school communities...*

**S**cripture Union has multiple chaplaincy positions available across Tasmania. Chaplains provide emotional, social, spiritual, and often practical support to school communities. They are in the prevention and support business: helping students find a better way to deal with issues ranging from family breakdown, loneliness, depression and anxiety.

SU Chaplaincy models the compassion and unconditional love demonstrated and taught by Jesus, as recorded in the Bible. Chaplains will be sensitive to, respectful of, and available to all regardless of beliefs or religious affiliations. All SU Chaplaincy staff and volunteers are champion a child-safe culture, and commit to the highest standards of safety and care in their work with children, young people and families.

**POSITIONS AVAILABLE** [www.apply.chappy.org.au/positions](https://www.apply.chappy.org.au/positions)

### SU CHAPLAINCY MODEL OF CARE



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

## **PAGE FOR YOUR NOTES**



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