



WELCOME!

Here is the print version of the
August/September 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



*Clockwise from top left: Maddy
Svoboda, John Kumara, Anthea
Maynard and Jenna Blackwell,
Lenah Valley's 75th*

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Blessings!
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Tasmanian Baptists
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ps To contribute, query or comment please
email info@tasbaptists.org.au



Michael Henderson



Ministry Profile

Skateboarder and Jesus-Chaser

Michael Henderson is known across Baptist churches in Tasmania for his skills in leadership development and creating edgy art installations. He's less well known for skateboarding and golfing! Find out more . . .

I was born in Surry Hills Women's Hospital in Sydney, which closed shortly afterwards. My mum had travelled from Bourke to have me there. Before I turned five, I lived in Bourke, Lismore, Ballina, and Hay. I grew up all over NSW, in many country towns, and loved it. I loved the freedoms I enjoyed in the country, and the sport all weekend, and always being outside doing something. Moving from one place to another was so normal growing up, it felt weird to then stay in Sydney for 20 years, before we moved to Tasmania.

I had touch points with church and God growing up, but committed to following Jesus when I was 20. Actually, I have never connected with the term or category of "Christian". Instead, from beginning I have needed and engaged with a present and active Jesus in my life, and as someone I follow, like a mentor.

From beginning I have engaged with a present and active Jesus in my life, and as someone I follow, like a mentor.

Michael Henderson

Tasmanian Life

I am married to Tiffany. We met over attaching wooden toilet tags to toilet keys at a Scripture Union Beach Mission where we were both serving. She was finishing her studies in Speech Therapy and had recently sailed from Sydney to Hobart on a tall ship. I was a skateboarder enrolled in art college. We have two young adult children Gabrielle and Sam, and we all live in Tasmania.

I moved to Tasmania to combine art and faith into the Dark Mofo Festival. Gabrielle moved to study Marine Biology at UTAS. Sam moved for the adventure. I am thankful that Tiff moved because the rest of us moved!

I love living here because of the great outdoors. Bush walking, playing golf, skateboarding (skate parks are everywhere in Tassie), and seeing new things. I also love the country town feel of Tassie, and I can visit Sydney and Melbourne without having to live there.

I attended the Lausanne Conference in March this year. The conference was good to attend from a representation point of view, and speak to other leaders who were present. The conference itself included talks about different churches and people doing amazing things, which was interesting but not necessarily helpful.

Ed Stetzer, though, was excellent. He spoke about the basic general principles of evangelism. The standout was Tim Piesse, from Crossway. He gave insight about his honest search for something his church could engage with around evangelism. This involved what he found to do about discipleship and evangelism. As well, he shared how to help introverted personalities get involved without having to be a part-time extrovert. (You can find out more here: bdc.org.au/about-us/)

Tim Piesse shared how to help introverted personalities get involved without having to be a part-time extrovert.



Michael at the launch of his recent art installation at Hobart; And his work: The Seed of Life Weighed Down

Michael's work life

My work with Tasmanian Baptists involves leadership development. And I also work with Hobart Baptist Church in a mission capacity. But when people ask me how I spend my time, I say I am a skateboarder! To be honest, I genuinely love working in leadership development, supporting leaders, and helping churches do new things.

My work can sometimes be challenging when trying to get Baptist Churches to talk to me, and trust I am worth speaking with. It is never easy to convey my task is to help them realise their vision for their church. Most people think I will come in and tell them what to do, which no one wants to hear.

I would value your prayer for energy, and for a love for people. That I will be quick to listen, and slow to speak. That I will continue to chase after Jesus with all my heart and strength.

The best piece of advice I have received is to have low expectations of Christians, they are just human. Have big expectations of Jesus and what He can do.



Short 'n' Sweet

I am looking forward to . . . getting to 50 years old

I am worried about . . . my ability to see where Jesus works in our world.

I am confident that . . . Jesus is always doing a new thing in our midst.

I am joyful about . . . my family.

I would like to change . . . my car to a Ferrari.

I am at my best . . . when I have had time to be bored.



Michael Henderson

Mission Leadership Development Tasmanian Baptists

michael@tasbaptists.org.au

Redeeming Redemption



Being a Missional Movement

By Stephen Baxter

Have you ever thought about the cultural context of the word REDEMPTION? For most people in Tassie, the word has little or no spiritual or religious meaning. Any association with God and his work in and through Jesus has been lost. But that does not mean it is unredeemable.

According to the latest census, most Tasmanians have no religion. Or so they say. The move away from religion, particularly among younger generations, has been observed for decades. For those still attending church it is clearly seen and felt every Sunday. Church attendance is no longer high on people's priorities, and that includes those who claim to be Christians. That's not to say people are not spiritual, they've just rejected institutional forms of religion.

Along with this rejection has come a significant loss of a biblical literacy, particularly among younger generations. The Bible stories and biblical words, once common knowledge in the community for believers and non-believers alike, are no longer familiar. This has set up a widening communications gap between the Church and the community, which the Church has seemed reluctant, or perhaps incapable of bridging. Notwithstanding a number of valiant attempts to bridge the gap with varying levels of success.

The Bible stories and biblical words, once common knowledge in the community, are no longer familiar.

Modern-day usage

Redemption is one of those words that has lost almost any of its biblical meaning. For most in our community, the words 'redemption' or 'redeem' are associated with 'gift cards' more than anything else. They can be spotted in the aisles of the checkout of any large retail store.

More than likely, you have used them as a gift when you can't think of anything else to give. And no doubt you have received one for the same reason. Many of them sit on our bedside tables, or take up room in our wallets, for months, until we get around to "redeeming" them.

A second, less common usage, has to do with making someone or something seem less bad. We talk of a

person “redeeming themselves” when they do something good after they had a failure. We also point out “redeeming qualities” in someone or something that would otherwise be considered dull or mediocre. So today, the words ‘redemption’ or ‘redeem’ have little association with God and his action through Jesus Christ. A quick search on Google reflects this, with very few mentions of God. And if it does, it is termed as if it is an antiquated use of the word.

But does this mean we should stop using the word ‘redemption’? Is it a lost cause? Or can we set about “redeeming redemption”? I believe so.

Biblical redemption

The first two chapters of Genesis give us a small glimpse of the world God first intended. A friend of mine describes living in Eden as living in “right relations”. It outlines a clear plan of how humanity is to relate to each other, the world around them, and to the God who made them. But things got messed up very quickly and relations – with God, with each other and with the earth – became strained and dysfunctional. God’s response to this brokenness was a patient drawn-out process to do whatever it costs to set things right again. It reached its highpoint in the life of Jesus Christ, and continues to this day. This is biblical redemption: God reclaims the broken and sets it on a course to a renewed and completed wholeness.

This is the story of hope, where a miraculous restoration follows deep despair and total loss. This theme of brokenness and renewal, or human breakthrough after failure, is powerful and uplifting. It is the plot line of any great narrative whether it be a novel or a movie or real life. Just think of your favourite movie. Good Will Hunting, Star Wars – Return of the Jedi, Gran Torino, Les Misérables, Cinderella Man, Rain Man, I can only imagine, the Marvel series and so on. The story of redemption, it seems, is hard wired into our psyche.

Given the theme of redemption is so much a part of who we are, surely the potential power of the word ‘redemption’ remains, it just needs to be repurposed for our contemporary world.



It's all about relationship

In the New Testament, ‘redemption’ basically has two aspects.

On the one hand we read of Christ’s atonement for the sins of the world, as in: “Christ died for our sins

according to the Scriptures" (1 Cor 15:3). On the other hand, we read of Christ's victory over the powers of evil, as in: "we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world. But ... God sent his Son ... to redeem those under the law" (Gal 4:3b, 5a, see also 2 Cor 4:3-5, Phil 2:8-11). The focus of the first is our relationship with God, while the focus of the second is our relationships in the world.

Both are critical for our understanding of redemption. However, historically, the church has emphasised redemption in terms of our relationship with God at the expense of our liberation into freedom as "sons of God". By paying more attention to making things right with God we have neglected making things right with our neighbours, and significantly for younger generations, making things right with the environment.

Perhaps it is here the word 'redemption' can find redemption! Perhaps redeeming redemption is a thing after all.

Despite the brokenness of our world and the despair people feel, Jesus reminds us that at the heart of this vast universe is love, and that the great Creator has always and has never stopped loving us. Humanity is God's great project and despite the havoc caused by sin, God's heart was never hardened against us.

Instead, it is our hearts that were hardened against God. Yet God, who is always ready to point out our "redeeming qualities" amid all that is dull, mediocre or severely broken, set about freeing us.

So, what is Redemption?

Redemption is God's gracious act of releasing us from all the things that cause our hearts to be hard. It is a liberation from the slavery of bitterness, shame, rage and anger, and the powers that locked us into mediocrity, harmful habits, undermining attitude. Through redemption, we are rescued so we might find our way back to life, to health and to living the way life was meant to be. It brings us back into right relations with God, with each other and with the world upon which we live.

Redemption is so powerful and wonderful that it can even redeem itself. At its heart, redemption is a gift. Jesus. He is God's great "gift card" available for everyone. All we need to do is redeem him.

Stephen Baxter

Mission Leadership

Director

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REDEEMING REDEMPTION

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Stephen Baxter
Mission Director

Tasmanian
BAPTISTS



We are a Royal Priesthood



Time to Think

Six Simple Questions

Crossover Director Andrew Turner considers the work of 'a royal priesthood' in his latest blog.

Sacred agents have a priestly duty – in fact *sacred agent* is just a fun way of saying *priest*. All of Jesus' people are called into one version or another of this ministry, and together we are being formed as "a royal priesthood" (1 Peter 2), which will never not be amazing.

Priests always face two ways – towards God and towards people. To be effective as sacred agents, let's not only think about how we talk to people, but also how we talk to God. So whether you're going brilliantly or feeling far from effective, here are some great questions/requests you could bring to him.

1. "WOULD YOU PLEASE FILL ME WITH YOUR SPIRIT?"

Jesus is the vine and we're the branches. We can only give to others what we ourselves have received, so all effective sacred agents have found ways to ask and to receive much from God. The good news is that God eager to give! Jesus couldn't have been more emphatic about this: We're not only allowed to ask for God's Spirit, we're urged to. (Luke 11) Amazing things happen when God pours his love into our hearts. And apart from this, not much really happens at all.

2. "PLEASE SHOW ME WHERE I'M BLOCKING YOUR FLOW."

Jesus was equally emphatic in teaching that God's blessings are not just for us but are to be through us. "If anyone is thirsty, let them come to me and drink ... streams of living water will flow from within them." (John 7) But there can be objects, attitudes, habits, fears or doubts that choke the ministry God wants us to have and reduce it down to a trickle. Asking God to bring such things to light is highly strategic and good us as well as others.

If anyone is thirsty, let them come to me and drink ... streams of living water will flow from within them. John 7:37-38 Berean Study Bible

3. “TO WHOM ARE YOU SENDING ME TO, TODAY?”

It's easy for us to look at our day and just see tasks, appointments and duties. God sees people. And if we're available to Him, there will be people he wants us to not just brush past, or even for us to go out of our way to meaningfully connect with on his behalf.

4. “PLEASE GIVE ME A REAL SENSE OF HOW MUCH YOU LOVE THEM.”

We're usually called to be more than messengers, who simply say 'God wants you to know XYZ'. Even if all we have for someone is a brief word, we'll be much more likely to share it (and share it well) if we have a sense of how deeply and powerfully God longs for them.

5. “WHO SHOULD I PARTNER WITH IN BLESSING THEM?”



This question moves us from seeing ourselves as solo superheroes. We may have individual assignments from God for sure, but often we're called to work as a body, which is wonderful and powerful and a witness in itself. If someone has a need and the solution is not in my hand, my hand may still have a role to play – pointing, connecting, or passing along.

6. “PLEASE GIVE ME WISDOM AND COURAGE TO KNOW AND PLAY MY PART TODAY.”

Along with God's Spirit, wisdom is the other thing that the Bible makes clear we're allowed to ask for with guaranteed results. A sacred agent is not called to do everything, nor to do nothing. We just need to know our part and be ready to play it.

Be transformed

It's possible that the simplicity of these questions could have disappointed you. They're not exactly rocket science, are they? But for those who dare to actually ask them, there's transforming power that leaves rocketry looking pretty boring by comparison.



Andrew Turner is Director of Crossover for Australian Baptist Ministries.
Crossover exists to Help Australian Baptists Share Jesus.
Browse all their resources on crossover.org.au

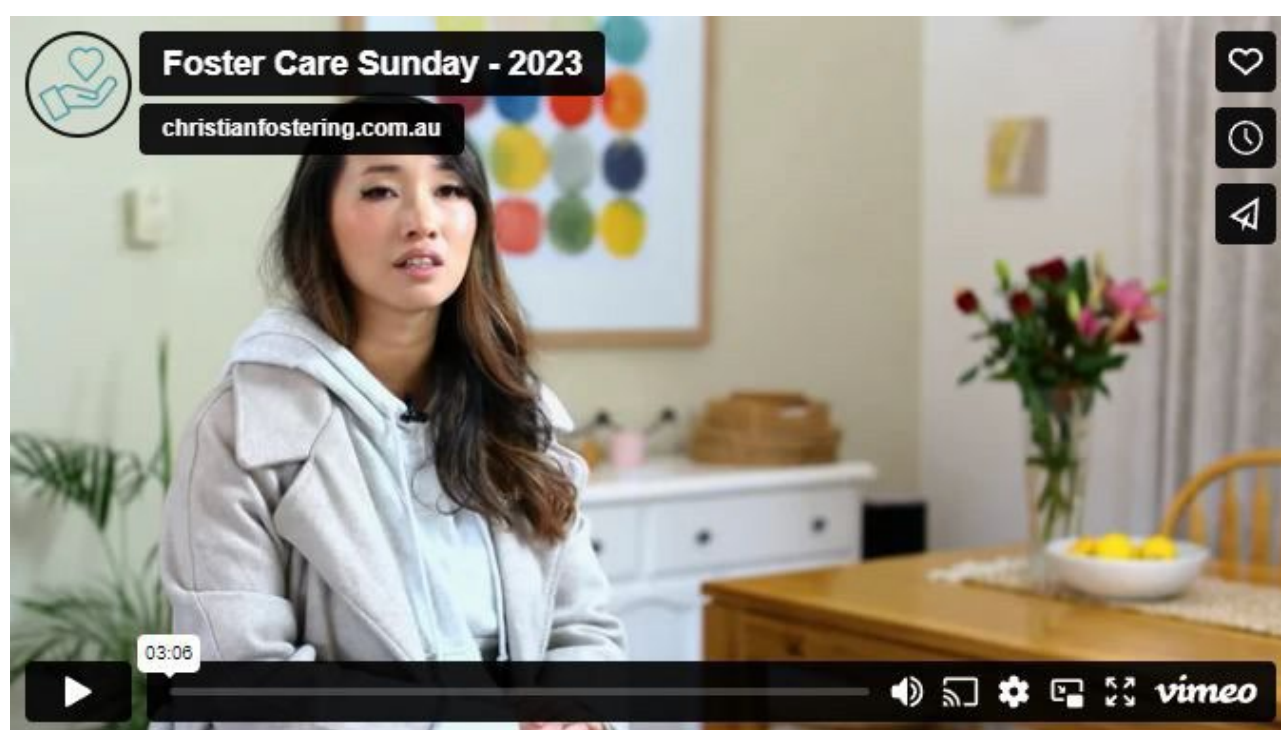
Foster Care Sunday



From 10 September 2023

Mary Blake of Fostering Hope writes: "Thank you to the Tasmanian Baptist churches for their support of foster and kinship carers and the children in their homes."

Today, over 46,200 children in Out-of-Home Care in Australia. Sadly, the number of children removed from their families each year is increasing. At the same time, the number of Foster Carers is decreasing. Nationally, governments are struggling to recruit and retain carers.



The Church is called to serve the most vulnerable members of our communities. Let's celebrate and support the Foster and Kinship Carers who are living on mission. These faithful people provide loving homes for children who are unable to live with their birth family.

We can all do something to create communities of welcome and support for carers and children with an experience of the Out-of-Home Care system.

What to do on Foster Care Sunday

Launching on September 10th 2023, we are inviting you participate in Foster Care Sunday.

This could take place on a date that works for you.

On the day, we encourage you to:

SHOW the *Foster Care Sunday* video – 3 minutes (<https://vimeo.com/855185166>):

CELEBRATE children in care and Foster or Kinship Carers in your congregations and communities.

RAISE AWARENESS of the children needing families and the important mission of Foster Care.

PLAY A ROLE in being a safe and supportive space for those involved in the Out-of-Home Care system.

INVITE a carer, worker, or someone who grew up in care or a fostering family to share their story. They could explain the sorts of things that were helpful to them.

Find Out More

This year for the first time, Foster Carer's Sunday is being organised by a national network of Christian fostering organisations. You can find more information here:

www.christianfostering.com.au



Mary Blake is the Executive Officer of Fostering Hope in Tasmania.
mary@fosteringhope.net.au

ReCharge NEWS August 2023

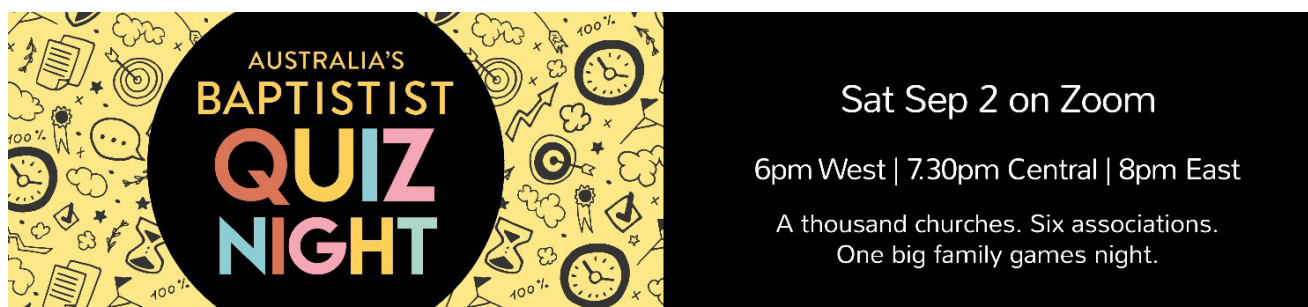


Crossover Fundraiser

Australia's Baptistist Quiz Night

8pm, Saturday 2nd September

Yes Baptistist is now a word!



What happens when 1000 churches and six associations go head-to-head? Let's find out!

Grab some friends and some nibbles and a laptop and a phone and make a team to represent your church!

Suggested donation of \$10/person to register.

The quiz will happen over Zoom, so you'll need a laptop (or other Zoom-able device) positioned so your team can see, hear and be seen.

FIND OUT MORE: <https://www.crossover.org.au/quiz/>

Sharing Hope in Crisis



Free seminar in Hobart

As the Church, we are representatives of Jesus, bringing compassion and comfort to our world. *Sharing Hope in Crisis* further equips us to do this well, allowing people to journey through a life-changing circumstance.

This seminar is to provide resource and equip you to help those going through crisis. Tea and coffee and light refreshments available. Bring your lunch, or choose from local cafes.
Let's learn more on how to journey with someone through crisis, grief and difficult life changing circumstances.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalms 46:)

Seminar Date: Saturday 23rd September 2023

Time: 8.30am for a 9.00am start – 4.00 pm finish

Venue: Your Church, (29 Charles Street, Moonah)

RSVP's required for venue and resource supplies.

APBF Sunday, 20th August

Save Manipur Day of Prayer

Join this important day of prayer for our Baptist family in India who are suffering.

Every year, on the 3rd Sunday in August, the Asia Pacific Baptist Federation¹ proclaims a Day of Prayer for a specific area in the region.

In 2023, the focus is on Manipur, India. Find out more²

Sadly, more than 120 people have been killed, 250 places of worship destroyed or damaged and up to 50,000 people displaced. More than 1,700 homes are now seriously damaged or destroyed as a result of the recent violence.

Rev. Prof. Akheto Sema, General Secretary, CBCNEI (Council of Baptist Churches, Northeast India) writes:

The State of Manipur requires unceasing and deepest concern. Due to recent unrest and violence which started from 3rd May 2023 thousands of men, women and children are displaced, rendered homeless and are made to suffer.

Several churches destroyed and burnt down, houses belonging to the victims burnt down; children and college/university going students had to seek admissions outside of Manipur since the institutions are closed.



RESOURCES

- APBF Prayer Points: tasbaptists.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/APBF-Sunday-2023.pdf
- APBF PowerPoint: tasbaptists.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/APBF-Sunday-2023-powerpoint.pptx

¹ <https://apbf.org/>

² <https://baptistworld.org/manipur/>

Where are All the New Atheists?

Olive Tree Media Webinar series with Karl Faase, Wednesday 6th September, 7.00pm AEST

Olive Tree Media's 2023 Webinar Series has been amazing and there have been some incredible guests share their expertise and wisdom.

In the next instalment, Karl Faase will host Justin Brierley for:

Why New Atheism Grew Old

Justin Brierley on his forthcoming book 'The Surprising Rebirth of Belief in God'

Book your spot here: olivetreemedia.com.au/webinar/



Office Administrator Position

Newstead Christian School

Established in 1996 to provide a distinctly Christian education, Newstead Christian School is a friendly and supportive school community comprising of 120 students from K-10, in stunning Launceston, Tasmania.

Committed to equipping and empowering our students to serve wherever God might call them, we focus on teaching the Australian Curriculum from a biblical perspective; supporting students to grow in character and faith, as well as academic and sporting excellence.

We are currently seeking a person with excellent interpersonal and communication skills to join our cohesive team here at NCS from the beginning of Term Three.

Position Overview As part of the school office team, this employee provides a broad range of general administrative support consisting of effective client (Children, Teachers, Other Staff, Parents, Suppliers, etc.) services and advice and operation of school-based systems.

POSITION DESCRIPTION/APPLICATION FORM: Visit the NCS website at ncs.tas.edu.au

SUBMIT BY: Friday 25th August 2023 to principal@ncs.tas.edu.au,



Crossover Baptism Week

15th to 21st October

National Baptism Week will be an opportunity for Baptist churches, youth groups, small groups and ministries across Australia to celebrate, explore and offer baptism.

Watch the explainer video and ideas pack. Joining in will be very simple – no need to register or report back – you can use Baptism Week in your own way.

Check out the new Baptism Hub which also includes new baptism resources and more to come:

BAPTISM HUB: crossover.org.au/baptism



Youth Alive ~ Undivided



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

In 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 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.

EmpowHer Day of Courage



Women's Gathering

Become Well-Grounded

Learn to live out your God-given potential at this special women's gathering

On Saturday 18th November, all women are invited to attend the EmpowHer Day of Courage gathering at Riverlands, 159 Wellington Street, Longford.

This is the first statewide event to be hosted by EmpowHer and promises to be a fantastic day of growth, challenge and connection.

The day will commence with morning tea at 9:30am, and conclude at 3:30pm.

Registration

Earlybird \$45 – finished on 5th September

Regular \$55 – 6th September to 31st October

Late \$65 – 1 November until maximum capacity reached



Major sponsor for the Day of Courage – Baptist Financial Services

What to expect

Here's what will happen on the day . . .

KEYNOTE SPEAKER SESSIONS



Karen Wilson, President Baptist World Alliance Women.

Karen lives in Perth WA, and has a long association with women from all walks of life in Australia and globally. See Karen's article *It's a New Day* on page 26

LOCAL CONTENT AND PARTICIPATION

Including . . .



- * **Kelsea Clingleffer** (pictured), Program Coordinator Baptist World Aid.
- * **Four Tasmanian women** will talk briefly, explaining their moments of courage.
- * **Beautiful, delicious** and thoughtfully prepared food during morning tea and lunch.
- * **Round table discussions** in small groups.

SUPPORTING WOMEN GLOBALLY

Pray for women overseas for World Day of Prayer.

Opportunity to attend the Tasmanian launch of the global Women's Leadership Network.

Opportunities to donate to Baptist World Aid through Transform Aid International &/or Baptist World Alliance

Why you should be there

To be encouraged and inspired.

To hear stories from other women of faith.

To make new friends with other like-minded women.

To be inspired and empowered to live out your God-given calling.

To take a day out for yourself to be nourished in body, soul and spirit.

To increase your global awareness of women's challenges in other countries.

To increase your faith as you pray for women and their work within their communities.

What women are saying

"All women welcome". I love that. Let's be united!

Ruth Hanlon, Ministry Development Officer for Women, Anglican Diocese Tasmania

"I can't wait to be there!"

Jing Priest, Hobart Baptist Church

"We're going to have such a good time."

Keynote speaker Karen Wilson, President Baptist World Alliance, Women

Registrations

BOOK EARLY, NUMBERS ARE LIMITED!

Once maximum capacity is reached there will be a wait-list system in place.

- **Earlybird rate (\$45)** Finished on Tuesday 5th September
- **Regular rate (\$55)** Available 6th September to 30th October
- **Late rate (\$65)** Available from 1st November until maximum capacity is reached.

The Day of Courage Team

The organising team are a dedicated group of women, representing each region in Tasmania. They are planning a fantastic women's gathering just for you!

Each one has special giftings and skills in enabling, gathering and administrating events, and they are all working hard to create an exceptional day for every attendee.

North



Jenna Blackwell *City Baptist Formation Pastor; Tasmanian Baptists Mission and Leadership Coach*

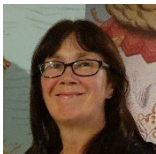
Jenna loves encouraging people to walk courageously in their God-given calling. She also loves tea, funny animal videos, the beach, and nature in general.



Marston *TasRail – Customer Service Officer; Tas Baptist Council; Marriage and Funeral Celebrant.*

Wendy is Tassie born and still loving it here. She is involved in the leadership team at Newstead Baptist church.

Northwest



Gabe Fife *Teacher's Aide, Leighlands Christian School*

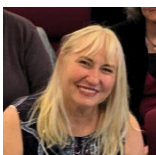
Down-to-earth and friendly, Gabe desires to see all women empowered and living their fullest lives in Christ. She is married to Louis, and serves alongside him at Ulverstone Baptist Church.

South



Jenny Baxter *State Coordinator EmpowHer; Communications Manager Tasmanian Baptists*

Jenny enjoys creating connections between women locally and nationally. She also serves on the Communications team at Hobart Baptist Church, and walks a lot, mostly at the beach or in the bush.



Ann Herbert* *Now retired*

Ann formerly managed a social policy team in the Tasmanian Government. She is now an elder and active member of the teaching team at Citywide Baptist Church.

*Unfortunately, Ann is unable to attend on the day.

FAQ for the EmpowHer Day of Courage

Will there be accommodation available?

We have secured Friday night accommodation (17th November) with the Poatina Chalet for attendees. This is a 20- minute drive from the venue. Please call or email the Chalet to book your motel room for \$125. Includes breakfast. 6397 8290 | poatina.chalet@fusion.org.au

I have dietary requirements, what should I do?

If you added your dietary requirements to your registration info, then you are good to go. But if you need to change or confirm anything, please get in touch: empowher@tasbaptists.org.au

Can I carpool?

There is no official Day of Courage carpool. However, do get in touch and we may be able to arrange transport for you with another attendee: empowher@tasbaptists.org.au

What's the parking like at Riverlands?

There is plenty of on-site parking available.

Will I need to bring anything?

Notebooks and pens will be provided. You may like to bring a Bible with you. Morning tea and lunch will be provided as part of the registration. While water will be available you may like to bring your own drink bottle.

Is Childcare provided?

Unfortunately, no. If you have children, we encourage you to find care for them. If this is not possible, you may bring your little one/s but you will be responsible for their care.

Is this event just for Christians?

All women are welcome at this event. However, if you are not happy to learn about your God-given potential, then this gathering may not be for you.

Is there a concession rate?

There is no official concession rate for this gathering. We have subsidised the costs by finding a sponsor to make this special day affordable for everyone. However, if the cost is stopping you from attending, please get in touch to discuss: empowher@tasbaptists.org.au

Refund Policy

If you find you are no longer able to use your ticket, our preference is that you find someone to pass the ticket onto. Please let us know, so we know who to expect. If you are unable to find someone, or if this is too difficult for you to arrange, given the circumstances, we can arrange a refund. Please note you will not be reimbursed your booking fee.

If you do need to request a refund, please email jenna@tasbaptists.org.au and state your name, account name, BSB and account number. Thank you.

If you have other questions . . .

Please email _empowher@tasbaptists.org.au. Our team will be happy to answer your enquiries.



The Point Baptist Church



The Point Baptist Church Profile

Hope on the Tamar River

The Point Baptist Church began in 2006 as a loosely organized church plant of Newstead Baptist. Members Craig and Rachelle Hawkins had already moved there, and Craig's father, retired Pastor Ray Hawkins and wife Mary shortly after. The lack of evangelical outreach in the immediate area was obvious. So a notice was put up in local businesses in late 2005 seeking interest in a new church for the area.

A small fellowship commenced with various members and visitors speaking but largely led by Pastor Ray. Size was no barrier to attempting outreach opportunities, and a kid's holiday program was one of the first efforts. A grandmother came to faith after attending a Christianity Explained course offered during the program.

Church leadership

The church initially met in the Beauty Point Uniting Church building of a Sunday evening. However, during the Covid period it moved to the upstairs café at Seahorse World, continuing to meet on Sunday evenings. Craig Hawkins took on church leadership from 2018. Then in 2022 Pastor Bob Goolsby of George Town Baptist began preaching and pastoring part-time. Elders in 2023 are Craig Ellem and Craig Hawkins.

A number of youth pastors have worked with the church over the years. These include David Low, Robin and Jekka Shearer, and more recently in June 2023, Dempsey Horton from Texas for a 12-month stint.

Outreaches

Over the years various other outreach programs have taken place. Most notably regular Texan team visits from the USA, resulting in quite a number of decisions to follow Christ and Baptisms. As well, after-church meals were a good outreach for a period to overseas fruit pickers.

Creation Discovery Centre

In 2021, the church partnered with several other churches in northern Tasmania to open the Creation Discovery Centre in Beauty Point. This is a powerful witness of God's creation and the truth of His word to many locals and tourists.

Texan Visit 2023

For the 11th time in 14 years The Point Baptist hosted a Texan mission trip. Chris and Heather Horton, from the Lake Fork district, east of Dallas, headed the visit.

This year Chris and Heather were accompanied by daughter Dempsey, and her good friend Heaven.

Dempsey has stayed on for 12 months to lead the youth work in the church.



The Texans at Launceston Gorge; Chris speaks at the Men's Night; Heaven (L) and Dempsey (R)

Over three weeks in July, numerous events were held for men, women and children all with the aim of sharing Jesus. A great family concert was held, after which the youth held an impromptu and very entertaining karaoke session. The school holiday basketball camp connected with local youth.

Reconnecting with people was a real focus of the trip. It was encouraging to see some on the fringe of the fellowship attending church again. No commitments to faith in Jesus were made during the trip, however, our experience is these often follow later.

Additionally, the encouragement and connection of the fellowship generally, and especially the youth, should not be under-estimated with these efforts. The launching of our new youth work, with Dempsey leading, is especially exciting.

We are thankful to the Lord Jesus for His patience with us and the blessings of seeing people saved through the sharing of His word.

The Point Baptist: A Short History

The Point Baptist Church

was loosely planted in 2006 by Newstead Baptist in Launceston. The church was originally constituted in 2009 as The Point Christian Fellowship.

THE POINT'S

In 2021, the congregation took on the new title: The Point Baptist Church.

BEGINNINGS

Interim pastor, Bob Goolsby was appointed during 2022. During their short history, the church has a large impact on the small community of Beauty Point and the people of the West Tamar.

Around the Churches, Aug- Sep 2023



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

North BEAUTY POINT

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CITY, Launceston

City is enjoying our new location for Sunday gatherings at the Boathouse Function Centre, overlooking the Tamar River and the Gorge.

Following our “Seeds” focus in July, we continue to consider what it means to be seeds of faith, hope, justice and love across our city. We also welcomed Sherry Maddock’s contribution about ‘flourishing gardens’ and how we can be habitats of God’s presence – encouraging and inspiring!



The Boathouse overlooks the Tamar; Pastors Anthea Maynard and Jenna Blackwell; Sherry Maddock (BMA)

Our usual commitments continue – the weekly drop in centre, Stephen Avery’s street chaplaincy, the community garden, supporting women, and more. There are so many opportunities to engage in our city and we look forward to partnering with God and the community more.

MATU

On Sunday 27th August, our Matu Church in Launceston celebrated their 10th Anniversary. Maddy Svoboda attended on behalf of Tasmanian Baptists.



WESTBURY

MAINLY MUSIC

9:45-11:30am Wednesdays

On Wednesday 16th August, Westbury began a *mainly music* program for the neighbourhood children.



When your child is moving

They’re learning about fast, slow, high, low and lots more



Here are some prayer points!

Please pray God would prepare and equip the *mainly music* team and for success and longevity of this ministry.

Pray He uses them as they connect with families in the area.

Also, please pray God brings families who are open to developing relationships which lead to meaningful discussions about faith and God.

Northwest

LIFEWAY

Lifeway has recently appointed two student pastors, Morgan Read and Stuart Crabtree.



LATROBE

At the annual *Chocolate Winterfest* on Sunday 13th August, Latrobe hosted the Choir of High Hopes.



WYNYARD

On **Fathers Day**, we had a time of fellowship with the church family over morning tea in the foyer.

Many of our ladies met for an afternoon with JUST GIRLS. Our guest speakers, Layla and her grandmother, spoke about their Charity project *Laylas Gifts*. They explained how they arrange for donated boxes of gifts to be presented to people in need in the community.

At our Just Blokes Pizza Night on Friday 1st September, Craig Hawkins from the Creation Discovery Centre in Beauty Point spoke about Noah's flood, and the questionable attempts of some contemporary scientific voices to explain the origin of birds as an evolutionary step from dinosaurs. We had a great night with good fellowship and valuable insights from what Craig shared with us.

South

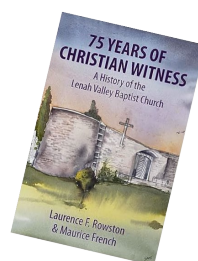
CITYWIDE

Special Services

Lenah Valley's 75th Anniversary on Sunday 6th August was a momentous occasion as we celebrated

the ministry and life of the Lenah Valley Baptist Church over 75 years.

With the help of Maurice French and Laurie Rowston we published a book full of anecdotes, colour pictures and history which is an interesting read. Copies are available from Citywide for \$20 – 6244 4333.



Baptism We held another baptism service on 20 August. Troy is another new convert to the Kingdom from his touches into our web page. Be encouraged – God moves and works on the hearts of people who have never been in his church before. Keep praying for those in the shadows who are seeking something to fulfil their lives.

Table Top Sale Our lively 30's group organized, promoted and ran a Table Top Sale on Saturday 1st July. More than half the participants who booked tables and attended were from outside the church. so this became a great way for other community members to come into the building where we could meet and serve them.

Proceeds went towards the vision of developing a youth space.

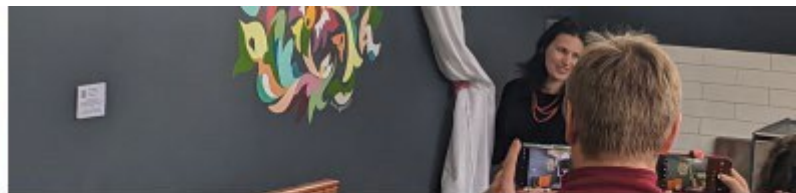
HOBART

Scott Darlow Visits

On Sunday 9th July Hobart Baptist hosted Scott Darlow (pictured) and his band during the 10am service. Scott is an indigenous singer from Melbourne. It was an amazing morning of encouragement, inspiration, and laughter!

On the same weekend a **Multicultural Bazaar** took over the building! Several new artists showcased their works, with special food from other cultures being prepared and served.

We even made the ABC News!¹



Clockwise from Top Left: John Kumara Tasmanian Australian of the year 2023, drumming; Anna opens her Ukrainian artwork; Ethnic food a-plenty!; Ren being filmed for ABC News

¹ abc.net.au/news/2023-07-09/esteem-cafe-migrant-business-startup-program/102576504

It's a New Day



Working Together in Ministry

Let's be catalysts to change and transformation.

*Karen Wilson is the President for Baptist World Alliance Women. She lives in Perth WA, and is the keynote speaker for the EmpowHer **Day of Courage** at Riverlands, Longford on Saturday 18th November.*

When I stepped into the position of President for Baptist World Alliance Women 2020-2025, I sensed God asking me to find and/or create spaces for women and men to flourish together.

This would mean creating ministries that are open to both, affirm both, have mutual respect, and give equal voice one to the other.

Silent contributors

For too long, women have been asked to be the silent contributors to the Kingdom. Their ministries and efforts have been greatly appreciated, yet their voices have been hushed. That time has now finished. It's a new day.

For too long, women have been asked to be the silent contributors to the Kingdom.

Back in July 2019, the Baptist International Conference on Theological Education met in Nassau, Bahamas. The decision was made to not only re affirm the resolution of the Baptist World Alliance entitled "Women", adopted in Nassau in 1988 but to take it further¹.

READ the resolution here: *Recognizing and Affirming the Calling of Women in the Church*².

There was a call for churches, and church leaders, to repent from the teachings and practices through which they have prevented women from flourishing as human beings created in the image of God and full members of the body of Christ.

¹ <https://www.baptist.org.au/bwa-affirming-women-in-ministry/>

² <https://baptistworld.org/ar/bwa-resolutions/recognizing-and-affirming-the-calling-of-women-in-the-church/>

The call went further – to be open to the Holy Spirit to bring conviction, inspire discussion, and provoke transformation in individual lives and communities by affirming the God-given call of women for service in the church, so their stories may take rightful place in the wider story of Christ's body in the world.

The All-encompassing Challenge

The challenge? For all of us to learn, and then use, language which is affirming to both women and men in worship, communications, and publications. In addition, to work intentionally to create equal space for women in all leadership roles in the church, Baptist conventions and unions, and across the entire Baptist World Alliance.

As I look at the place women have in our Baptist churches, and with this call being proclaimed globally, I believe there is a need for us to understand how to stand together and discuss issues together. As well, we all need to learn how to make room for one another, and how to avail each other of the others' gifts.

God has a Kingdom-purpose for the entire body of Christ to flourish – male and female alike – and we are being ushered into that era where we will see it come to pass. I, for one, am excited that we get to not only see it, but be catalysts of change to bring this transformation.



So, what do I see?

I see a global ministry where women and men . . .

- Champion one another and stand together (Zeph 3:9)
- Understand the responsibility in the Kingdom and encourage one another forward (1 Thess 5:11)
- Meet regularly (Heb 10:25) and are aware they are not alone (1 Cor 14:26)
- Gather and await the move of the Spirit of the living God. (Acts 2:1)
- Stand firmly alongside one another (Gal 3:28), in the one Spirit,
- Strive together as one for the sake of the gospel (Phil 1:27).

Men and women alike have a mandate to love God fully and love others with acceptance and dedication.

So let's do this! Let's:

STAND RESPECTFULLY and confidently together in the calling God has given us.

SEEK OUT spaces of commonality to work for the mutual benefit of all.

OPENLY SHARE tables of discussion for the strengthening of the Kingdom.

LET'S STAND alongside the Next Generation

TOGETHER SEEK the Kingdom first.

GO INTO ALL THE WORLD with a spirit of unity to proclaim the name of Jesus. It's a new day.



Karen and Mark Wilson live in Perth WA. In addition to being the President Baptist World Alliance Women, Karen is also the CEO of the Global Leadership Network Australia/NZ, and this year founded the Women Leaders Network. Karen is the keynote speaker at the EmpowHer Day of Courage in November.

ReCharge NEWS September 2023



Love your **Neighbour**

NAYBA Impact Audit



The **NAYBA Impact Audit of Tasmania** is due by **Friday 22nd September!**

As you may be aware, the audit will measure the collective social impact of the faith community in Tasmania and put a monetary value on the time and resources that are dedicated to serving those in need.

The survey is designed to be as easy as possible. It should only take about 15 minutes to complete, plus some time to gather the relevant information.

Before diving in, please visit the FAQ page¹ to ensure you have all the necessary details at your fingertips. This will also help you decide if there's someone who should complete the survey on your behalf.

The survey will remain **open until Friday 22nd September**, but it's best if you submit your response as soon as possible. Once you're ready, **get started here:**

https://nayba.my.salesforce-sites.com/r/nia_tasmania

Fostering **Hope**

Mentoring Program in Hobart

*The next Fostering Hope training day is in Hobart on **Saturday, October 14.***

Tasmanian Baptists and Fostering Hope partner in providing foster care to children in Tasmanian. Fostering Hope are a community organisation 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

¹ <https://www.nayba.org/auditfaqau>

love the fatherless, to care for children, and to love the neighbours in the communities.

Through their Mentoring Program, Fostering Hope seeks to provide a “friend with purpose” for kids in care.

If you are looking for a way to live out your faith in caring for those in need, you can make a difference for a child in care. Please get in touch to talk with about how to be equipped with training, connected with a child, and provided with ongoing support as you mentor. With just a few hours a month, you can significantly impact the life of a child in care for the better.

Find out more or apply online², or reach out to Ellie (ellie@fosteringhope.net.au).



Crossover Resource

Baptism Week Ideas Guide

NATIONAL BAPTISM WEEK

15-22 October 2023

National Baptism Week will be an opportunity for churches, youth groups, small groups and ministries across Australia to celebrate, explore and offer baptism. There are lots of ways to get involved.

Check out the short **explainer video** and **Ideas Guide**, as well as baptism resources on our new Baptism Hub³. Joining in is very simple – no need to register or report back – you can use Baptism Week in your own way.

You can also download the Ideas Guide⁴.

² <https://www.fosteringhope.net.au/mentoring>

³ <https://www.crossover.org.au/national-baptism-week/>

⁴ https://www.crossover.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/NBW-Ideas-Guide_v1.pdf

Next Steps Video series

With Karl Faase at Olive Tree Media

Olive Tree Media, want to resource and empower Christians to engage their friends and neighbours in conversations about faith. That's why they partnered with Crossover and Baptist churches to resource and equip churches for National Baptism Week, 15th – 22nd October 2023.

Especially designed for use in the lead-up to National Baptism Week, *Next Steps* is a quality resource suitable for churches, small groups and youth groups.

It is designed so anybody can run it at any time within your church to share stories of faith, invite discussion and give people an opportunity to consider their 'Next Steps' when it comes to faith and life with Jesus.

The Next Steps Baptism Week Pack is available here, and costs \$45:
https://www.crossover.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/NBW-Ideas-Guide_v1.pdf

Examples of use

- A 4-week small group series across the life of your church
- Mid-week church-wide course – where people can all come to watch and discuss together
- Run stand-alone groups facilitated specifically as a pointed discipleship tool readying people for baptism
- As a series your church works through in your Sunday services

WATCH: NEXT STEPS trailer here: <https://www.olivetreemedia.com.au/next-steps/>

Celebrate with Burnie

Induction at Burnie Baptist

Burnie Baptist Church congregation invites you to join with us for the induction service of Pastor Matty Coppin.

WHEN 2pm, Sunday 24th September, 2023

WHERE Burnie Baptist Church, 59 Mount Street Burnie

RSVP For seating and catering purposes by Friday 15th September. To Kathy Fogarty | 0408 340 110 | burniebaptist@bigpond.com

You are also invited to a time of fellowship and refreshments following the service.



Matty and Ashley Coppin with their girls

Fun_raiser!

Trivia Night at Gateway

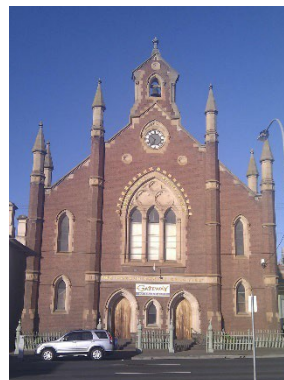
Gateway Baptist are hosting an evening fundraising event featuring trivia questions, fun, food and good company, and a silent auction with lots of goodies available!

You, your friends and family are all welcome to join in and raise funds for Operation Christmas Child. It will be \$10/person to participate.

WHEN: The Trivia Night will take place at 7pm on Friday 29th September 2023

WHERE: Artway Studio and Gallery, behind Gateway Church 22 Wellington Street

RSVP/MORE INFO: By 25th September to help with catering. Jill Ashdown 0439 354 849 | Christine 0409 632 641



Baptist Mission **Australia**

Jit and Jan Yawan

Lanternlight Ministries, Thailand

Several Tasmanian Baptist churches support Jit and Jan Yawan through Baptist Mission Australia. In the introduction to their latest newsletter, they write:

We are so thankful for all of you who continue this journey with us as we continue to seek to be hands, feet and voice of Jesus here in Sangklaburi in western Thailand.



We are in the wet season and the three-month period of Buddhist Lent. In our attached newsletter there's lots more information and links to a video and a booklet for special prayer for Thailand during this season. This season has similarities in every Buddhist country and community.

APBF Digest

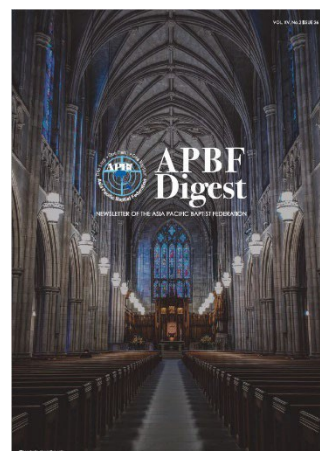
Staying Informed in the Asia Pacific

Published three times/year the Asia Pacific Baptist Federation Digest is full of interesting articles about the work and thinking of Baptists in our region.

The current issue is all about **RELEVANCE in our current culture**. The relevance of church, of youth ministry, of overseas missions, and of humanitarian aid.

READ IT HERE (18MB) <https://www.tasbaptists.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/APBF-Digest-Q2-FINAL.pdf>

SUBSCRIBE: <https://www.apbf.org/Resources/digest>





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