

ReCharge

Tasmanian Baptists News | Prayer

July/August 2022



WELCOME to the print version of the July/August 2022 **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 – and you can also read them there:

www.tasbaptists.org.au

To subscribe to ReCharge for your weekly email please visit:

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

Please read and enjoy!

Blessings,

Jenny Baxter

Communications Manager

Tasmanian Baptists

To contribute, query or comment please email me on jenny@tasbaptists.org.au

Tasmanian
BAPTISTS 

Matt Holloway – Westbury

Ministry Profile



Matt Holloway

Matt began as the new pastor at Westbury in April, moving from Shepparton Victoria when Tasmania called him back!

From TAS to NSW

I was born in Burnie, and lived there until I was about four and a half. Burnie was a wonderful place to live. I loved living on a hill and seeing the beach every time we went into town. It's so good that I have many great and funny memories of life in Burnie.

My dad trained for, and began ministry, as a Baptist Pastor in NSW, so I began and completed my primary school life there. This let me experience a wonderful mix of city life and outback living, as life as a pastor's kid moved us around. I didn't enjoy the busy city life, but I loved the life in the outback and all the adventures that came with it.

My dad was my inspiration for becoming a Christian. In his early life, my dad had been a chronic alcoholic. He didn't have much education, and couldn't really read or write, only enough basics to get through everyday life. He gave his life to Christ after marrying my mum.

During my early years he felt called to ministry and accepted God's call. I watched my dad grow in faith, and I watched God give him the abilities to study and complete his college work. Seeing God at work in dad, I wanted to know and have this God in my life. One night as dad was heading out for street mission, I decided this was it. I grabbed him by the leg and told him I wouldn't let go until I had Jesus in my life.

And from VIC to TAS!

My wife Lacey, my son Larry, and I moved to Tasmania in April this year. I had wanted to move back to Tasmania for some time. Lacey and I had a belated honeymoon in Tasmania, and she expressed how good it would be to live here one day. After God

heard our hearts and with much discernment, God opened an opportunity to come to Tassie. We moved over to Westbury after being called to pastor Westbury Baptist.

I enjoy how beautiful Tasmania and Westbury are. After living in such a flat part of Victoria, I love the mountains and the nature around us. I am excited to find time to get out and explore it. I also love the people. People here are so friendly and engaging. I am excited to get to know my local community.

The way I spend my time is constantly changing. It is a mixture of preparing for Sunday worship service, engaging with the local community, meetings, coffee meet ups, appointments, and time with family. What I should to say is Loving God, loving family, and Loving others.

Connection and challenge

I am privileged to be the Pastor at Westbury Baptist church. My role is to nurture and grow believers in their faith and to engage with the local community to make Christ known and grow his kingdom. I love connecting with people and discovering people's journeys. It is such a privilege to be let into other people's lives, to journey with them, and share Christ with them. What excites me most is seeing God at work in people's lives and situations, especially people finding Christ for the first time.

There are many challenges in ministry and everyday life. There is time management, making time for church, community engagement, appointments, most importantly God and family. As a newcomer to town, there are challenges as I seek to engage with the community. Finding where and how to connect in the community. Many people have been hurt by churches in the past and this presents challenges on connecting with them now and then there is the constant spiritual battle that goes on daily as I seek to gain ground for God.

Praying for Matt and Lacey

I would really appreciate if you would pray for us. Pray that God will open doors to reach into the community of Westbury and the surrounding area. That God would give discernment on how to manage time to be effective, that my heart and focus is on Jesus and the people he wants me to engage with. And finally, that I would see and overcome the spiritual battles waged against us as we seek to do God's will.

The best advice I have had is to "give God your availability and he will give you the ability to do what he calls you to do." It is only through Christ, his strength and



empowering that we can step into the calling on our lives and carry out his will.

And briefly

I am looking forward to ... exploring Tassie with my family, including my mother-in-law who I hadn't met until recently because she lives in Georgia USA!

I am worried about ... homelessness and housing shortage and the wider unseen implications. It is very concerning.

I am confident that ... we are where God wants us, and God will use us. My aim is to always be seeking God's will.

I am joyful about ... serving God and spending time with my family.

I would like to change ... church from being comfortable inside to going beyond the walls to the people and places that God calls us.

I am at my best when ... close to God and functioning in God's strength.



Give God
your
availability
and he will
give you the
ability

COURAGE

to
REENGAGE,
REIMAGINE,
REALIGN

Deep Thought - A bi-monthly feature in Recharge

Courage to Make a Difference

During 2022 Tasmanian Baptists are engaging with the concept of (EN)COURAGE, as we REENGAGE, REIMAINGE and REALIGN with the Gospel in our own communities.

In this Deep Thought reflection, Mark Wilson has some thoughts to inspire you to take hold of that courage.

As Christians, we are called to be different. Not only in who we are, but in the difference we make. It's a daunting challenge!

Ephesians 5:8-9 "For once you (followers of Christ) were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true"

Be the Change

As followers of Christ, we are different by nature to make a different impact.

When we embrace the same values, lifestyles,



"The
Kingdom of
God
requires us
to be
different."

MARK WILSON

practices, and priorities as the world around us, we have nothing to say of any consequence to that world. We may see the brokenness, the pain, the anxiety, and the shame, but when we are both in the world and like the world, we can offer very little to bring change.

The Gospel fundamentally calls us to be the change. Grace beckons us to be conduits of transformation. The Kingdom of God requires us to be different. It's a requirement that is not for the faint-hearted.

Our spouse needs us to be different. Our children need it. And our workplaces need it too. By God's grace, change comes first to us ... and then through us.

So, different how? In what we watch, how we parent, in our language, in our priorities, in how we treat others, how we lead. Different in love, in hope and in compassion. In forgiveness, in peace-making, in spending, in web-surfing and in just about every way we can imagine.

Learning from the Martyrs

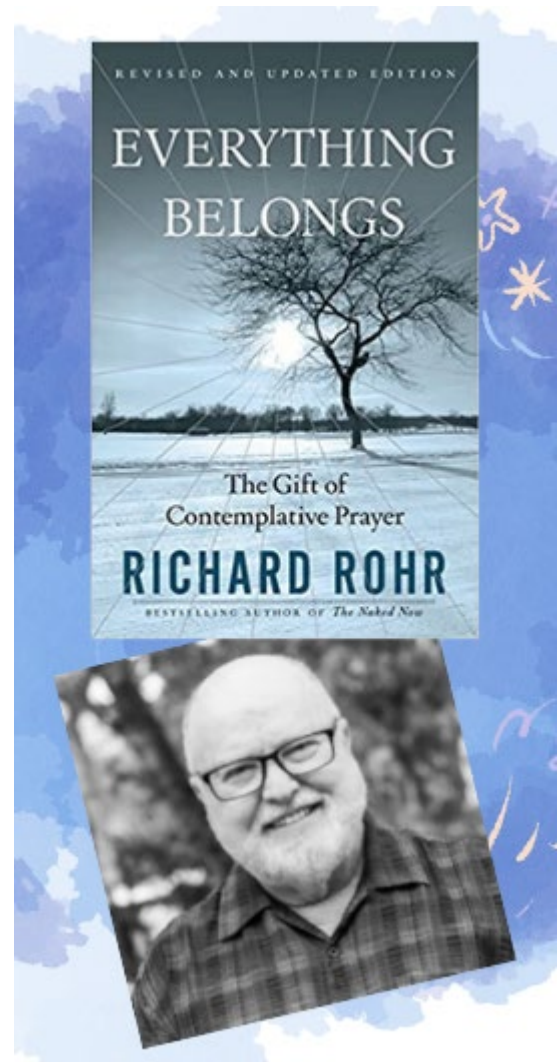
Richard Rohr, in his book *Everything Belongs*, writes: *“Underneath the language of orthodoxy and obedience (is) fear of a God who has not been experienced. Teaching and community without the necessary experience of the Holy One, often creates dry, ineffectual, and disappointing Christianity.”*

Pre-Constantine, with Emperors like Nero (54-68 AD), Decius (249-251 AD), and Diocletian (284-305 AD) countless followers of Jesus were martyred for their faith, often in brutal and unspeakable ways. Perpetrators and executioners conceived shocking acts of violence, as Christian women and men bravely stood firm for Christ.

In the fourth and fifth Centuries, various church leaders and theologians reflected on the blood-soaked era of the martyrs. What did they learn? How might those deaths inspire us to live differently; to live better?

They generally concluded that those faithful martyrs could teach us at least three things.

- Firstly, endurance built their faith and character.
- Secondly, the faith of the martyrs ensured their eternal salvation.



- But thirdly, and very importantly, the church fathers wrote about the martyrs receiving the gift of *parresia*, a Greek word meaning boldness or courage.

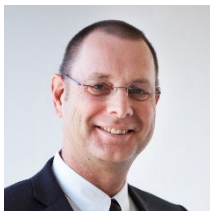
This courage was not the product of parental training. Nor did it come from natural grit and determination. Rather, *parresia* was a gift (a grace) from God; special courage that was needed for the moment to remain faithful, and to fulfill the will and plan of God.

The martyrs – thousands of Christian sisters and brothers whose names I do not know, but who are deeply known by the Father – encourage me to think that their extraordinary boldness and courage came as a gift from God, just in time. It was courage to make a difference in the world around them.

Giving God Glory

Whatever challenges you are facing, pray that Christ would grant you this same grace, this same courage. Not that you might emerge as a powerful person, but that God might receive glory and honour through you.

Few of us are called to martyrdom, but many of us will be called to stand boldly for the King and His Kingdom, in our marriages, workplaces, schools and communities. In this, we will be truly different!



Rev. Mark Wilson is the National Ministries Director for Australian Baptist Ministries. mark.wilson@baptist.org.au

Around the Churches, June-July 2022

Every two months you can catch up with some of the latest events in Tasmanian Baptist Churches.



North

CITY, Launceston

In Transition

City Baptist (in Launceston) has been working hard as we transition Anthea Maynard (above) and Jenna Blackwell (below) as our Ministry Team, in time for Jeff McKinnon's retirement at the end of the year.

The Ministry Team is guiding the church through a 'makeover' of 'how we do church'. Simultaneously we are preparing to relocate! First to a rental venue at the end of August this year, then again after 3-6 months purchase a new property.

We may also potentially purchase an investment property so as to fund a third part-time member on the Ministry Team.

Housing Crisis

The severe housing crisis has drawn attention to out-of-control homelessness, and the difficulty of bringing new refugees to Launceston. The church and related groups have played a major role in bringing these issues to the fore, increasing the church's civic and community profile.



Northwest

ULVERSTONE

Table Tennis Anyone?

After a two-year break (due to Covid), we once again have a Table Tennis competition in full swing. We have 25 participants who not only enjoy the rivalry of competition but also the social aspect of the group and a healthy bash of “round-the-table” before finishing the evening.

May Mission Month

On a personal level, and as a church, we were challenged by this year’s May Mission Month’s theme, “Crossing the Street”. It was a wonderful opportunity to engage with our three supported missionaries whom we partner with, and to hear of their day-to-day life, challenges, and moments of joy and praise through videos.

A special morning tea of cupcakes was enjoyed with donated monies gifted to May Mission Month.

Crossing the Street! – Challenge Accepted

With the cost of living on the rise, the community of Ulverstone has come together to offer hope and a lending hand to those in need.

We are excited to partner with businesses, individuals and organisations within the Ulverstone community and host a space for The Ulverstone Community Kitchen to operate. This event is organised and run by community volunteers, providing a hot meal cooked in our kitchen and served in the hall.

This is a wonderful opportunity to connect and chat with people in our community in a safe and warm space.

From the Pulpit

Over the course of the last few months, we were challenged and encouraged by Pastor Louis Fife as he preached his series titled “Spiritual Identity” and “Reimagine”.

BURNIE

Supporting One Another

- The Pastoral Search committee meets regularly in our search for a new Pastor for Burnie.
- Our congregation is faithful in their support of each other, as with an aging congregation, sickness keeps many away during these colder days.
- Our support of City Mission is ongoing as they provide hot meals from our kitchen for as many as 30 or 40 each weekday, with the majority of those being homeless or



disenfranchised is some social way.

- Jesus said, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” (Mat 14:16)

LATROBE

Farewell Iris

On 10th June, Mrs. Iris Walker passed away at the age of 91.



Iris became a member of the Latrobe Baptist Church in 1968, where she was an active member until the later years when poor health and Covid meant she was no longer able to join with us each Sunday. In the month leading up to her death many of her family members travelled from far and wide to visit her.

As Iris had eight children, 26 grandchildren and over 30 great-grandchildren, it was a large gathering to say goodbye on Thursday 16th June.

Iris left a wonderful legacy of a truly gentle, kind and caring woman of God, and a real witness to all her family and those she came in contact with.

At rest with her Lord now, but we know we will meet again.

South

CITYWIDE

Dinner Together

We are continuing our monthly Dinner Together events where people either host or attend a home for a Friday night dinner (pictured). Each month the mixes of people changes, so we get to know more people across our congregations and grow in our relationships and sense of belonging together. These are good fun nights enjoyed by all who attend.



Ministry Team Leaders' Day

We recently held a Ministry Team Leaders' Day together with all the leadership of Citywide. A group of 25 attended and shared together. Everyone's brief reports on their areas of ministry were very encouraging and unifying. Especially significant were the interactions with our Nepali ministry leaders, and to see how far we have come in integrating across our different cultures.

Prayer and Fasting Week

In the shortest daylight week of 19-26 June, coinciding with Dark Mofo, we held a Prayer & Fasting week where people were encouraged to seek God through prayer and fasting. In addition to personal resources, we encouraged all to do a neighbourhood walk praying over the homes and people as we passed; and we met on Rosny Hill on the shortest night to pray for and over our City (pictured).



CLAREMONT

Winter Dinner

On Saturday 26th June we held our annual winter dinner – pictured, top.

This year our theme was CHRISTMAS, and entertainment was provided by The Jammers who led us in Carol-singing – pictured, below.

In all, 54 people attended, about half of whom were family of our regular Sunday worshipers. It was a wonderful evening of fun, food and relationship-building.



HOBART

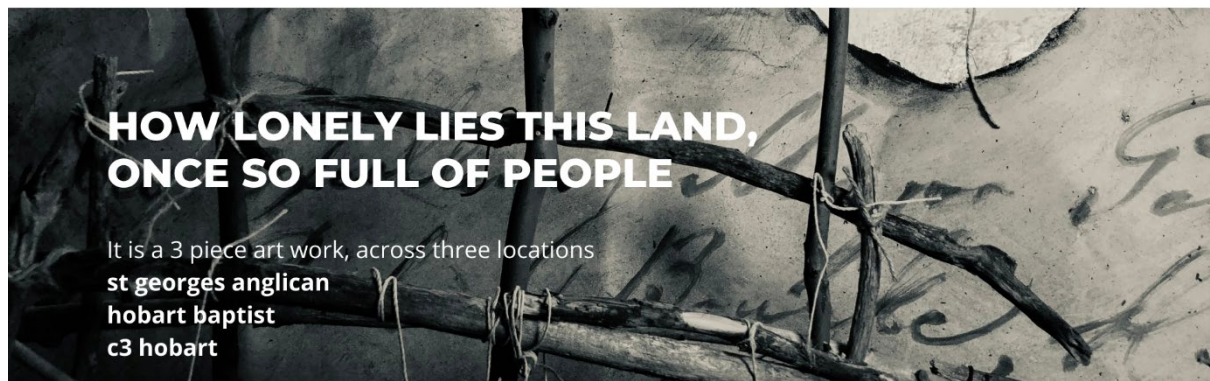
Luminous Festival

Our annual Luminous Festival took place from 9th June until 3rd July. Luminous encompassed an art installation How lonely lies this land, once so full of people, by Michael Henderson; three significant “conversations”; and Christmas in Winter.

Art Installation

How lonely lies this land, once so full of people: <https://www.howlonely.com>

open friday 10th - friday 17th June
12pm - 5pm daily



MORE INFO ON THE EXHIBITION
AND OPENING NIGHT
WWW.HOWLONELY.COM

This was a cooperative exhibition, with three churches participating – St Georges Battery Point (REMEMBER), Hobart Baptist (WELCOME) and C3 Hobart (COURAGE). Each location told another part of the story regarding the non-indigenous response to reconciliation.

The sculptures provided powerful imagery to provoke conversation around the history of engagement with our first nations peoples and provide a hopeful re-telling of the future.

Three Important Conversations

1. Truth Telling and Treaty with Tim McCormack, Kate Warner, Michael Henderson, hosted by Stephen Baxter.

Wednesday June 15
Receiving Welcome
Tim McCormack, Kate Warner, Michael Henderson

Tuesday June 21
Brave Leadership
Rebecca White, Wendy Quinn, Ella Hickey & Jenny Baxter

Thursday June 23
Losing my Religion
David Knox

2. Brave Leadership with Bec White, Wendy Quinn, Jenny Baxter, Ella Hickey, hosted by Stephen Baxter
3. Losing my Religion with David Knox (former Tasmanian Baptist pastor)

Christmas in Winter

This special celebration included two “Sundays in Advent”, as we anticipated the coming of Jesus’ light into the darkness as the winter solstice approached.

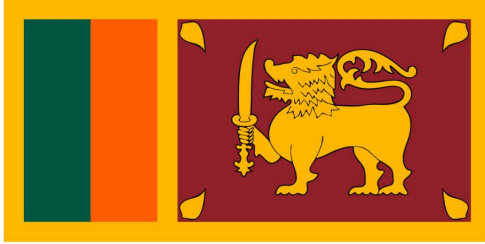
A Carol Service on Friday 1st July, was a fantastic event, including special guest artists Zoe Fitzherbert and Brett Budgeon (pictured).

Everyone was encouraged to celebrate Christmas by hosting a Christmas dinner in their homes. The dinners provided a place where people can easily engage with the Christmas story, minus all the trappings that come with Christmas in Summer.

There was also a well-attended Christmas Day Service on Sunday 3rd July.

It is only our second time to host the Luminous Festival, and we look forward to making it a special event when we can creatively engage with our community each year. Roll on 2023!





CRISIS IN SRI LANKA

Baptist Youth
Mobilised

Grief & Loss Support

Group for Adults

- 2-4pm Tuesdays, from 9th August 2022
- Registrations due by Thursday 28th July
- Places limited
- Pre-group appointments provided by Dr Nerrelie Cann (Ulverstone Baptist)
- \$5/session

These groups are suitable for people:

- Who feel stuck or overwhelmed by their grief
- Who are struggling with everyday tasks through their grief
- Whose grief is complicated by anxiety or depression.



Grief and Loss Support Group

Are *you or someone you know struggling with grief?*

This group program is for adults struggling through grief after...

Death of a loved one, Relationship breakdown or Other significant loss?

A safe and supportive place to **meet, share, learn and be encouraged**

Tuesdays afternoons in Ulverstone, starting 9th August (for 10 weeks)

Contact the New Mornings Grief Support team for more information

Phone: 6411 6212 Email: admin@newmornings.org.au

If someone is unsure whether the group would be appropriate for them, they can make an appointment with Dr Cann to discuss their needs (bulk-billed).

New Mornings' support groups provide a safe and supportive place for people to meet together, share experiences, learn from and encourage each other.

Australia Leads Globally

Micah Australia Update

So far, we are encouraged by the strong start the new Australian Government has made in strengthening diplomatic relationships, especially at a time like this. Straight after the election, the CEOs of Australia's leading Christian international development agencies, came together under the banner of Micah to deliver this call for A Safer World for All.

One of the most worrying developments we see is the quickly approaching global food crisis. The climate crisis, accompanied by the war on Ukraine, has created the perfect storm for mass food security, particularly in the Horn of Africa and across the Middle East.

Micah is working on a significant response to this, with actions that you and your church can take to help fight famine. We will update you with these developments as they evolve.

In acknowledging the crises faced by our world, we hold firm to the hope we have in Jesus. Even amidst our fears and anxieties, we are called to: "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed." (Proverbs 31:8).

Carly Smith, Micah Challenge
carly.smith@micahaustralia..org



Sri Lankan Crisis Appeal

Baptist Youth Mobilised to Raise Funds

Please support the *distribution of dry rations in response to the economic crisis in Sri Lanka*



Appeal. The focus is to ask young people to contribute to the need.

The past 75 days we have seen the youth of Sri Lanka rise and stand for justice, fighting against corrupt and evil leadership. This crisis brings thousands, if not millions of people, into life below the poverty line into devastation.

This appeal is launched by the Asia Pacific Baptist Youth (APBY) in partnership with the Asia Pacific Baptist Aid (APBAid), together with the Baptist Young People's Auxiliary (BYPA) as part of relief efforts towards the current crisis in Sri Lanka.

Please circulate this to the Youth Ministries as the request is for this to be driven by young people.

The dry ration distribution program was initiated by the social hub of the BYPA, upon identifying the need of a mechanism to support the daily essential needs of 556 families from 21 key Baptist Churches and 8 Mission Points and their surrounding communities.

The total amount to raise by the end of July is \$US12,000. Any small contribution you make towards this will reach people who are in dire need.

Your contribution of **\$US44** Will provide a family of 4-6 food security for a month

And **\$US22** Will provide a family of 4-6 food security for 2 weeks.

DONATE HERE: <https://www.apbf.org/page/donate>

Training Day for Mentors

Australian Christian Mentoring Network

9:30am - 4:30pm, Friday 5th August

This training day will be held in Hobart on Friday, 5th August and is designed to service anyone engaged in mentoring relationships, formal or informal.

This year's event focuses on working in difficult times, supporting people through experiences of trauma. The day will be an opportunity for networking as well as learning.



Heart & Soul

MENTORING THROUGH TOUGH TIMES

SPEAKERS

Dr Jonathan Andrews is a clinical psychologist who works with adults helping them to overcome depression and anxiety. He is registered with the Psychology Board of Australia (PBA) and is a PBA-approved Supervisor. He has been working as a psychologist for over 20 years and is the author of "The Reconnected Heart: How Relationships Help Us Heal".



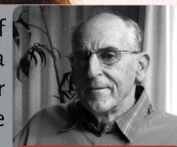
JONATHAN ANDREWS



ANGELA SAWYER

Dr Angela Sawyer is Lecturer in Hebrew Bible & Biblical Studies, and Dean of Students at Stirling College, Melbourne. Among other things, her current research areas include trauma hermeneutics and the pedagogy of trauma. Angela is on the college Executive team and has been involved in higher education teaching for over 15 years and is also accredited with the Victorian Churches of Christ.

After leading churches and a theological college, Dr Keith Farmer became one of the most experienced mentors of church leaders across Australia. With a background in psychology, commerce and theology, he recognises the need for pastors to be supported holistically. He is convinced Mentoring is a major resource to help ensure Christian leaders are healthy and have a sustainable lifestyle.



KEITH FARMER

Cosy Cuppa, Craft and Chat

EmpowHer North

2:30pm, Sunday 31st July 2022

Guest speakers: Lacey Holloway and Maria Hutchison

Westbury Baptist Church | Info/RSVP: Jenna – 0488 330 390 or Wendy – 0407 675 414



** EmpowHer is an activity of Tasmanian Baptist Women*


Try Alpha In Tasmania!

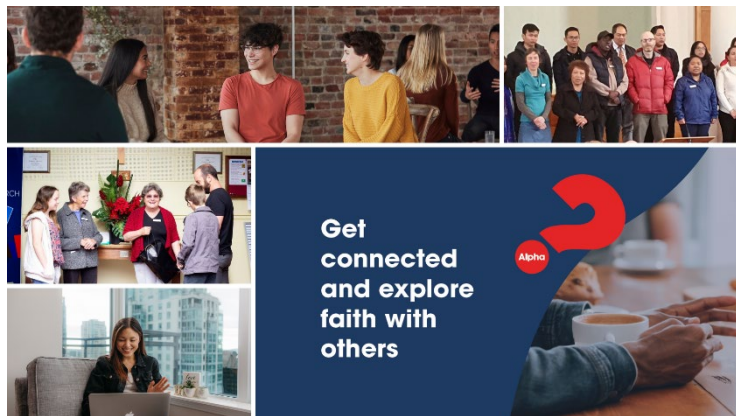
Online and In-person Alpha courses will begin soon at Baptist churches in Tasmania. This is such a great course for enquirers, new Christians, AND mature Christians. Why not invite a friend or family member to attend with you? Whether you attend online or in-person, ALL ARE WELCOME!

- **Hobart Baptist Church** from Sunday 31st July, starting at 12pm
- **Citywide Baptist Church** from Monday 8th August, starting at 7pm **REGISTER** (ONLINE/IN-PERSON): <https://www.alpha.org.au/try>

Does your church want to run Alpha?

In Alpha's Annual Impact Report, 78k people who explored Jesus last year (AU), many within our churches! Contact Ryan Vallee, our national Alpha Baptist rep, if you'd like to explore how to make the most of Alpha for you and your church.

 Ryan.Vallee@alpha.org.au, 0435 883 321
TAS Alpha.MOV



Love Beyond our Backyard

From Local to **Global**



How three generations of Baptist World Aid supporters built a legacy of generosity

Sophia Russell recently chatted with three women from the same Wynyard family: Shirley Wilson, daughter Cindy and granddaughter Kelsea Clingefer. Kelsea is the International Programs Coordinator at Baptist World Aid.

“Giving has shaped our lives to bring a perspective way beyond our backyard”

Shirley Wilson remembers the day she first decided to become a Child Sponsor with Baptist World Aid Australia.

It was 1977, and she was raising four children, working part time as a nurse, and helping her husband, Graeme, run a small poultry farm in the northwest of Tasmania.

A guest speaker from Baptist World Aid Australia visited Wynyard Baptist and spoke about a Child Sponsorship program. He explained that Australians could provide a monthly gift to support the work of Christian Partners working in places like Bangladesh and India. The funding would support children in those countries, helping them build a future free from poverty.

‘I decided it would be a good thing,’ Shirley said. ‘I’ve always loved Jesus’ words in Matthew 25:40, “as much as you did to one of the least of these my



‘I’ve always loved Jesus’ words, “as much as you did to one of the least of these my brethren, you did to me,” and I wanted to put it into practice’.

Shirley

brethren, you did to me.” I wanted to put it into practice’.

A Thrilling Discovery

After that Sunday, Shirley decided to support Anika*, a Child Partner living in India. Anika was nine years old, which made it easy for Shirley’s similarly aged daughter, Cindy, to connect with her. Cindy was thrilled to discover Anika enjoyed the same things she did—skipping rope, running games, playing outside with friends. But Cindy also learnt that their lives were vastly different. ‘It was an interesting education to have insight into somebody else’s world,’ Cindy said. ‘That’s when I started to think outside my own community.’

*‘It was an interesting education to have insight into somebody else’s world,’
Cindy said.*

Cindy loved exchanging letters with Anika so much, that when she got her first job as a teenager, she used her pocket money to become a Sponsor.

‘Mum’s example had a big impact on me,’ she said. ‘We can’t all go overseas, but this is how we can contribute’.

One Generation, to the Next

Cindy didn’t stop contributing—even when she married her husband David, and they had children of their own. And

even when it wasn’t easy. ‘David lost his job about 20 years ago,’ Cindy said. ‘We clung on to our Child Partner for as long as we could, so it was heartbreaking when we couldn’t support him anymore’.

When David resumed working, the first thing they did was ask if their Child Partner was still available to support. ‘I was so happy that he was,’ Cindy said. ‘That made me realise what a big impact our Child Partners had on us.’

Sponsorship also had a big impact on Cindy’s kids. Her eldest children, Kelsea and Braden, took over a newspaper delivery business as teenagers, and used their earnings to support a Child Partner themselves.

‘My mother’s heart sang!’ Cindy recalls. But for Kelsea, raised by big-hearted parents and grandparents who travelled with overseas mission organisations, generosity wasn’t something extraordinary. It was just part of the Christian life.

Generosity wasn’t something extraordinary.



"We clung on to our Child Partner for as long as we could, so it was **heartbreaking** when we couldn't support him anymore."
Cindy

It was just part of the Christian life

A BIG Perspective

'I always knew that there were communities that were in different circumstances to mine,' Kelsea said. 'In my family, it was normal to see the world as a bigger place, not just to focus on us.'

This perspective eventually led Kelsea to pursue a career in international community development, spending 22 months in Cambodia with the United Nations Development Program. At the beginning of 2022, she started serving as an International Programs Coordinator at Baptist World Aid. Her role, which focuses on building community resilience and responding to disasters, is a far cry from her paper delivery days. But her heart is the same.

'While it's easy just to focus on ourselves, God calls us to love our neighbour,' Kelsea said.

'That might be the person next door, or it might be someone overseas.'



In our family, it was normal to see the world as a bigger place, not just to focus on us."
Kelsea

Having a Heart that Rubs Off

Today, Shirley, Cindy and Kelsea still call the northwest coast of Tasmania home. And they continue their legacy of generosity. Shirley's home is full of gifts she's crafted for children in need overseas—girl's skirts, doll clothes, toy hedgehogs made from old scarves. She's still supporting children, now with friends from Wynyard Baptist Church. And she couldn't be prouder of her granddaughter Kelsea.

'You always hope that having a heart for others rubs off on your kids, and their kids,' Shirley said. 'It's pleasing to know that we can make a difference to someone else's life.'

Cindy, who is still part of Baptist World Aid's Child sponsorship program, agrees. 'We're not meant to live as islands,' she said. 'As Christians, we're called to live in community and support each other, even across the globe'.

*not her real name



Sophia Russell is the wife of a minister, mum of two children and the communication specialist at Baptist World Aid.

Achieve Lasting Social Change

Learning to live in **proximity** to your community



Strategies for change

By **Michael Henderson**, Mission Leadership Development

Tasmanian Baptists continue to share a desire for our churches to embrace the key strategies of RE- ENGAGE, RE-IMAGINE and RE-ALIGN.

We believe this is the best way for us to realise the social change God desires in Tasmania. The work Jenna Blackwell and I do with churches is focused on assisting Baptist churches to realise this vision.

Applying the Basics

Taking steps to reengage, reimagine and realign can sound complicated, risky and mysterious. However, the basics always apply. And the basics for us are to love our God who loves us; love our neighbours as God loves us; and go into all the world to help people to understand the first two. From this base, you can achieve the rest.

Taking steps to reengage, reimagine and realign can sound complicated, risky and mysterious.



Michael (above); Jenna (below)

Because here is the thing: when saying re-

imagine, it is not speaking about ideas. Instead, it is re-imagining people, relationships, and the communities our churches are immersed in. It is not about innovating products, or ideas, or programs. On the contrary, we, like God, are focused on people, communities, and ultimately the social change that happens from this.

Trust is Key

One of my guiding principles at the moment comes from a quote by the Rev. Jennifer Bailey.* “Relationships are built at the speed of trust, and social change happens at the speed of relationships.” That is, without trust there are no healthy relationships. And without healthy relationships, there will be no social change.

“Relationships are built at the speed of trust, and social change happens at the speed of relationships.”

Rev Jennifer Bailey

In my experience, people often want to jump over re-imagining trust and relationships and pursue the re-imagining of social change. But, if you do not start with trust, there will be no lasting social change.

So, how do we re-imagine trust-building and relationships? It starts with getting close to people.

This sounds simple, but with re-imagining, and a desire to create new things, it is possible to lose sight of people. They can disappear into the group of “people out there”. That is, people you have heard about but don’t know personally; people we have seen on television or YouTube but have never met.

Moving Into the Neighbourhood

Here is another quote ~~love,~~ from Bryan Stevenson*, “People are hard to hate up close, so move in. People are easy to notice and understand and build trust with up close, so move in.”

With people close by, you notice when you have built trust. And when you have broken it, you notice relationships go missing.

“People are hard to hate up close, so move in. People are easy to notice and understand and build trust with up close, so move in.”

Bryan Stevenson



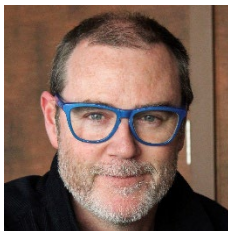
What does it mean to move in?

Find ways to be vulnerable with people:

- To be authentic and consistent, being the same person in all relationships.
- To be accountable to people.
- Do this over time, and you build trust and relationships.
- Do this as a church with the community around you and you build trust and relationship with your community.

This might be what re-imagine means for you as a church, and for you as a follower of Jesus.

But it all has to start with trust. You can achieve lasting social change through trusting that God loves you; trusting your neighbour in relationship; and trusting that God can empower you to go into all the world and make disciples (which includes the house next door!)



If you would like to discuss how your church can achieve lasting social change, then please send me an email!
michael@tasbaptists.org.au

* <https://www.reverendjen.com/>

* <https://eji.org/bryan-stevenson/>

PROFILE: Claremont Baptist Church



Claremont Baptist is one of Tasmanian Baptists' more recently developed churches.

In 1964 the church was the brainchild of Rev. Matthew Francis, pastor at Lenah Valley. Council planning included building new schools, and people were looking to live in the northern reaches of Hobart. The fledgling church began as a home fellowship called Abbotsfield Baptist Fellowship.

CLAREMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

A church for the working classes

Claremont Baptist Church (CBC) was originally planted to service the northern suburbs of Abbotsfield and Chigwell 50 years ago.

At that time, the surrounding community were mainly working class, and there were many Housing Commission homes. The early influences are still in evidence today. The building is not an ornate church design, but more like a community hall.



50th Anniversary, with former Pastor David Knox, Mayor of Claremont Kristie Johnson, and Pastor Peter Clark

The traditional offering plate has never been passed at the church– there is a box near the main entry (and now of course e-banking).

Unfortunately, younger families no longer call CBC home. The congregation is mainly elderly. The average age of members would make a great batting score!

From the extended church family, about 30 attend the Sunday morning service each week. One of the great assets of the church is the large, dedicated team of volunteers who keep everything running smoothly. In 2021, we were excited to celebrate our 50th Anniversary on the 6th of March.



Heather and Murray Hall cut the 50th Anniversary cake

Willing, Able and Gifted

We have welcomed some new members to the church in recent times. We've also had past friends return to us after a season elsewhere. As a local church we are not focused on guarding our patch but are happy to celebrate when the Kingdom grows. We bless members when they leave and bless them when they come back.

As a local church we are not focused on guarding our patch but are happy to celebrate when the Kingdom grows.



From left to right: Claremont founding member Roslein Priddle; Mid-winter dinner 2022; Pastor Peter and Alan Firth getting stuck into building the new entertainment area; Christening the new entertainment area

March this year, marked 20 years since Peter and Jenny Clark began providing pastoral leadership at CBC. Peter does most of the preaching/teaching, and Jenny is the music leader. Over the years, a great team of preachers has ably supported them, as well as musicians, and other highly gifted contributors. Peter can

remember one Sunday morning where our members were preaching at five different churches in Hobart (including CBC).

Ministry Opportunities

Building friendship is the focus of our current ministry. This includes groups such as Book Nook which meets on Tuesday mornings. We also hold Bible study and prayer meetings.

As well, there is a strong emphasis on missions at Claremont, with missionaries receiving finances, prayer support, and encouragement. This has been a feature of the church since its beginnings.

Future Direction

With some external support from Tasmanian Baptists, a review is being conducted into the future direction of CBC.

The members understand something new must emerge for the ministry to continue. We also need to reposition the church so the welcome which was always extended to the past community will also appeal to an increasingly multi-cultural and diverse population.

To that end, we value the prayers of our Baptist brothers and sisters as we look to God for what that future might look like.

By Peter Clarke

Pastor of CBC, and Chair of Tasmanian Baptists



Claremont Baptist Church

A Brief History

In 1964, Rev. Mathew Francis, pastor at Lenah Valley, urged the establishment of a church in the growing areas of Abbotsfield and Chigwell. The work began with six people in Ralph and Helen Tye's home, as Abbotsfield Baptist Fellowship. The Home Missions Committee called Sister Heather Hunt

CLAREMONT

from Baptist Union of Great Britain. She led the team for five years.

BEGINS

In 1966 the Glenorchy Council granted the Baptist Union some land in Cullen Street, where the manse was built.

Sister Heather lived there, and it doubled for services on Sundays. Soon, the house was packed every week.

Plans were made to build the church.

On 6th March 1971, the building opened as Claremont Baptist Church. 23 October 1977 saw the official inauguration of the Claremont Baptist.

**Laurie Rowston
Tasmanian Baptists Historian**

Pam Conrad's Reflection

Claremont Baptist, up close and personal

Pam was a founder member of the Constitution of Claremont Baptist in 1977. She has been an active member for some 45 years. She is a special person in our church family.

In my earliest years I believed in God and after a time I found myself at Claremont Baptist, which is where I am today.

Through attending on a regular basis, I became a true believer and even though times have been tough, the Lord has always brought me through. We have regular prayer times and keep in touch with each other.

People are strengthened through prayer, including me, and praise is strong when we gather on Sunday. Going through COVID hasn't been easy but taking things daily really helps.

We also celebrate in good times and gather whenever we can. From my first attendance over forty years ago until now, I feel that I belong.



“ People are strengthened through prayer, including me, and praise is strong when we gather on Sunday.

Pam Conrad

Stand Sunday 2022

During **September**



Stand Sunday 2022

Fostering Hope is Tasmanian Baptists' official foster care agency

Stand Sunday is a way for us to all rediscover the importance that Jesus puts on caring for vulnerable children in our community.

Individual Christians have fostered, offered kinship, and informal care for decades, but overall the church in Australia is not responding to this local need. Fostering Hope believes if the church in Australia takes seriously the call to open our homes and churches to vulnerable children, there would be more than enough homes for all the children who need one.



Stand with Carers

The early Church was known for its sacrificial care for widows and orphans. Can you imagine the ripple effect in our community if Christians took this seriously today and we became known as the place that offered families and communities of respect, healing, and kindness to everyone in the system?

We all hear the negative media about child protection systems, workers, and children growing up in care. As Christians, we can step into this space to offer light and hope and point to our Heavenly Father.

Stand Sunday is an opportunity to stand with the carers in your church or community, and to celebrate them! It is also a time to talk about the needs in Australia and ask people to consider responding.

When is Stand Sunday?

Stand Sunday is an international movement. In Australia, we celebrate it on the second Sunday in September (the 11th in 2022) as it is National Child Protection Week and National Foster Carer's Week in the first two weeks of September. So, it is a great time for churches to STAND with children and their carers. However, your church is welcome to participate any Sunday in September.

Fostering Hope recognises not everyone is able to be a foster carer. But we can all do something. You could be a mentor – Fostering Hope runs a mentoring program for children growing up in care, and connects volunteer babysitters and tutors. As well, we facilitate meals for fostering families, and run trauma-awareness training so churches can have greater understanding of children with extra needs. You may also know some carers in your local community who you could reach out to.



What to do Next



CHECK OUT our website for more information:

www.fosteringhope.community

EMAIL your questions to Mary Dickins of Fostering Hope:

mary@fosteringhope.community

Census Overview from Crossover

Sacred Agents #101



Census and Sensibility

By Andrew Turner, Director of Crossover, helping Australian Baptists share Jesus

I know most of you don't love statistics as much as I do, probably 98.841% of you with a margin of error of ... WAIT!

Don't switch off. The recent Australian Census data is important. Let me try to translate the number columns into a meaningful story.

Some results were not that surprising. Turns out we're all five years older than we were at the last census five years ago. Over that time the Australian population grew 8.6% (1.5% per year) to 25.4 million. Half of that growth came from migration. Ask your parents where the other half came from.

Speaking of which, did you know nearly 50% of us have a parent born overseas? Oh, and that Millennials have totally taken over as largest age demographic? LOL.

But it was the Religious Affiliation data that surprised many. The proportion of Aussies



Millennials have totes taken over as largest age demographic 🍷

who claim to be Christian dropped sharply, from 52% to 44% (in 2011 it was 61%). At the same time, those who ticked 'No Religion' rose from 30% to 39%. This represents two million nominal Christians no longer claiming to be what they don't practice.

Most of us would see this as a rise in honesty – don't claim to be a musician if you don't play an instrument. But if it's a shift from 'I'm a lazy musician who hardly ever practices' to 'I'm no musician and selling my trumpet', it is a loss and a grief.

Uneven Spread

The drop-of from those claiming Christianity was not spread evenly across denominations. Anglicans especially, but Catholics, Uniting, Presbyterians, Lutherans and Salvos had very significant reductions. Pentecostals and Churches of Christ fell a little. And Baptists actually grew – by 2,192 – small falls in most states were more than offset by a jump of 4,500 in Victoria.

The generation that is least 'Christian' (31%) and most 'No Religion' (47%) are those millennials, now aged 26-40. But this may be more about life-stage than generation; young adults often do a prodigal walkabout before returning to faith.

Let's be sure to welcome them.

So what's the story? What might God be saying to us and what might we do with all this?

CONTINUE READING Andrew Turner's blog, Sacred Agents: Census and Sensibility: www.crossover.org.au/census-and-sensibility



Andrew Turner is the Director of Crossover for Australian Baptist Ministries and author of *Fruitful Church*, and *Taking the Plunge: Baptism and Belonging to Jesus*.

Andrew recently completed a Leadership Review of Tasmanian Baptists, with results soon to be tabled.

ReCharge NEWS August 2022



Become a Foster Care Mentor! Training Day in October

For just a few hours a month, you can significantly impact the life of a child in care for the better.

You can make a difference, join us in caring for kids in care.



Become a mentor

Scan to find out more or apply:



www.fosteringhope.community/mentoring
ellie@fosteringhope.community

Fostering Hope is a community organisation who work closely with Tas Baptists to encourage and support Baptist families and churches to provide loving homes and church community for foster kids.

Their work is inspired by 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.

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

Here is a way to live out your faith by caring for those in need. You can make a difference for a child in care by becoming a mentor. Be equipped with training, connect with a child and be provided with ongoing support as you mentor your foster child.

The next training day is on Saturday, 1st October, in Hobart (Northern training will be available in 2023)

Find Out More or Apply at www.fosteringhope.community/mentoring

Or reach out to Ellie: ellie@fosteringhope.community

Heartlands News – Winter 2022

Every quarter, a new Heartlands news for women is released by EmpowHer*.

The Winter 2022 edition was sent to subscribers by email a few weeks ago.

Inside Heartlands

- OVERVIEW of the SHELTER Retreat, back in June (more retreats are in the wind!)
- DIARY What's coming up on the EmpowHer calendar – North, Northwest and South
- TAKE ACTION!
- READING God's Whisper, by Jenny Baxter
- SUBSCRIBE to Heartlands for women > (<http://eepurl.com/gGEAYT>)

*EmpowHer is an activity of Tasmanian Baptist Women

Help Fight Famine Today

Write to your MP



Baptist World Aid's Christian Partners have seen first-hand how devastating hunger can be to a person's health and wellbeing.



In Australia, we've seen our own food prices skyrocket due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic, climate disasters and most recently, the conflict in Ukraine. But in communities and countries where people were already facing life-threatening hunger, this conflict has pushed them to the breaking point. Right now, 49 million people are facing famine

This is an urgent crisis that can't wait. But we can make a difference. We can help save lives. We can help fight famine.

Baptist World Aid is part of Help Fight Famine, a new campaign calling on our government to urgently deliver \$150 million to support the world's hungriest countries, including communities in the Horn of Africa, Yemen, Afghanistan and Syria.

Write to your local MP here: www.fightfamine.com.au and call on them to push our new government to do our part in responding to this urgent crisis. It's really easy!

Library Aid International

Used books and educational supplies urgently needed
Library Aid International Inc in Burnie, Tasmania is now filling a tenth shipping container for an overseas destination BUT have completely run out of incoming books and educational resources.

Please send any you no longer have a need for! boxed resources labelled '**Library Aid c/- Burnie Depot**' can be left at any DeBruyn's transport depot and will be transported to us at no cost.

Educational resources for any age level are wanted for this next shipment and to keep our volunteers busy! Books used by your kids and no longer use. High School, College and University textbooks also needed.

For a full list of suitable educational and school supplies, please see the Books tab on the Donations page when you visit <https://libraryaid.org>



Students at Molumolu Secondary School in a rural area of Fiji in the school library.

Domestic Violence Workshop

16 July 2022, Citywide Baptist

In Australia, on average one woman is killed each week by a current or former partner. While men can be victims of DV, the overwhelming majority of victims are women. Children, too, experience severe trauma and developmental delay when exposed to domestic violence.

Aware of this concern, approximately 25 people met at Citywide Baptist Church recently to learn more about domestic violence (DV). Dr Wilma Gallet led us through a one-day workshop on how the church can respond to this serious social issue

An ever-present help

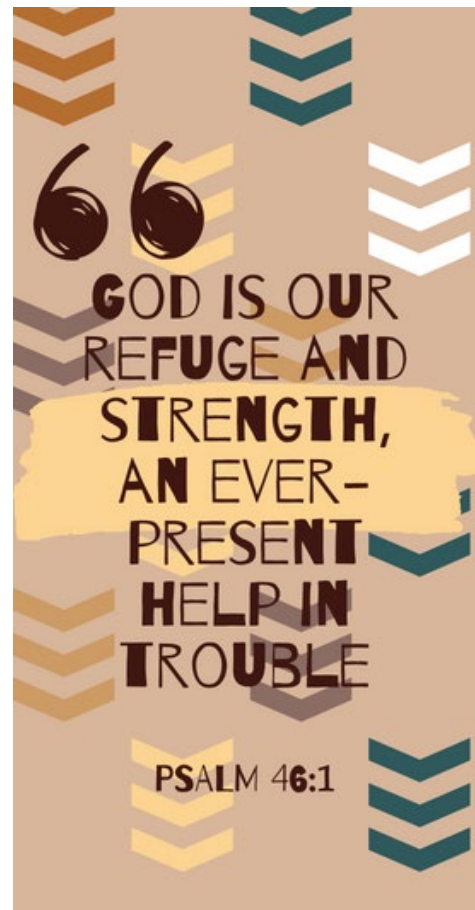
We explored the myths and facts about DV, its prevalence in Australia, the different forms it takes, and the ways in which it impacts people within our church communities as well as more broadly.

In particular, we looked at the SANCTUARY approach as a framework to help the church be better prepared to provide appropriate responses to both the victims/survivors of DV and those who perpetrate violence in the home.

A sanctuary is a sacred place, a place of safety and refuge. Psalm 46:1 tells us that, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble". Churches can be places of sanctuary where all people can find rest and refuge as expressed in the Gospel.

The DV Sanctuary Commitment is to create environments where victims of domestic violence feel safe, believed, included and loved. This includes:

- **Safe spaces**
- **Acceptance and trust**
- **Networks of support**



- **Caring for children**
- **Trauma-informed approaches Understanding unconscious bias**
- **Affirming personal agency**
- **Recognising red flags**
- **Yielding hope**

Step 1 for Citywide Baptist Church has been to make us more aware of the domestic violence issues in the community. Our challenge now is to work through what SANCTUARY can look like in our particular church community. With God's help, we will be an inclusive, safe sanctuary where healing can occur.

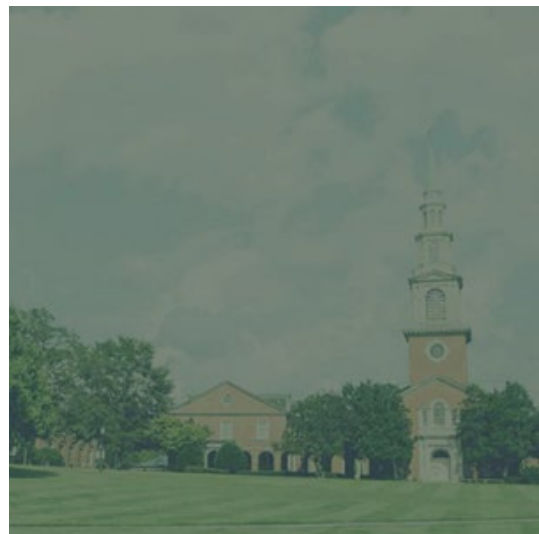
NB: Another resource available to us is the saferspace toolkit.com.au, developed by Australian Baptists.

Baptist World Alliance Gathering

10-15 July 2022, Birmingham, Alabama USA

Gathering for the first time in person since 2019, over 600 Baptist leaders from more than 65 countries participated in worship, prayer, learning, relationship building, and shared ministry at the 2022 Gathering.

Offered as a hybrid event, hundreds met on the campus of Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, USA, (pictured) with more than 150 others participating virtually.



Those gathered included Aussies ABM National Ministries Director Mark Wilson, President Baptist World Alliance Women Karen Wilson and President of Baptist Women of the Pacific Elissa Macpherson .

- The focus for the Gathering was largely facilitated by the BWA Racial Justice Action Group (<https://baptistworld.org/racial-justice/>) which was launched in October 2020. At the gathering the Action Group embarked on a two-year journey to:
 - Focus the 2022 BWA Annual Gathering around the theme of racial justice.

Engage in theological reflection related to the call for racial justice today

- Develop tools for ongoing engagement within the BWA, BWA Member Bodies, and Churches so that the pursuit of racial justice will remain an ongoing priority.

Grieving Your Way Launceston, 20th August 2022



Grieving Your Way

A reflective workshop for Christian women

with Karen Mace and Alison Wishaw

When: 10 am - 4.30 pm, Saturday 20th August

Where: Trevallyn Life Church, Launceston

Register: By 12th August (\$65 per person)
Early bird registration by 22nd July (\$45 pp)

Places are limited

Thank you, Newnham Baptist!

Newnham Baptist closed its doors in April 2016. At that time the leadership team made plans for remaining funds in their bank account.

This year, all funds have been donated to mission work as agreed. Jit and Jan Yawan, and their work with Lanternlight Ministries in Thailand, were recipients of some of the funds (Jit is pictured with a patient and family).



Below are excerpts of the thank you letter sent to Jill Ashdown. Jill is a past member at Newnham Baptist, who has overseen the project.

Dear Jill and all associated with the former Newnham Baptist Church,

We have seen your support gift and also the letter you sent to Baptist Mission Australia to tell us about the gift. We have very fond memories of the breakfast gathering at Jill's home. We loved the setting and felt a very warm acceptance at that session. We also remember our visits to the Newnham Baptist Church gatherings.

We have seen your support gift and also the letter you sent to Baptist Mission Australia to tell us about the gif. We have very fond memories of the breakfast gathering at Jill's home. We loved the setting and felt a very warm acceptance at that session. We also remember our visits to the Newnham Baptist Church gatherings.

We want to take this opportunity again to say thank you for the support you sent for our work with people with disabilities through Lanternlight Ministries.

Our recent newsletter gives you a snippet of an update of some of the folk we have been able to visit to touch your hearts

Jit and Jan Yawan

Stand Sunday 2022

Supporting Foster Carers during September

On Stand Sunday, Christians unite on behalf of every child in care. They commit to pray for them to be restored to a forever family.

In Australia, we host Stand Sunday on the second Sunday of September to coincide with National Child Protection Week (<https://www.napcan.org.au/get-involved-2022/>) (4-10 Sept) and National Foster Carer's Week (11-17 Sept). In 2022 that is on Sunday 11th September. However, your church is welcome to participate on any Sunday in September.



Each year, Fostering Hope provides a Stand Sunday Kit and video for you to use in your church, small group or community. These will soon be available.

Fostering Hope (<https://www.fosteringhope.community>) asks churches to come together to:

1. Celebrate foster carers who STAND as carers and family for children who desperately need it.
2. For churches to STAND with carers to understand the beautiful and messy lives they live.
3. And for churches to STAND up with information about the need for more homes for vulnerable Aussie children.

This Stand Sunday, we ask Baptist churches in Tasmania to open up to those who need a home, a family and community – let’s find fostering families to fill this need in Tassie!

For more info contact Mary Dickins, Executive Officer Fostering Hope: mary@fosteringhope.community

Mary with her two sons. For security reasons Mary’s foster sons cannot be photographed with them.



Become a Money Mentor

Christians Against Poverty calls on the Christian church community to consider becoming money mentors to meet growing demand.

With continued interest rate rises and the skyrocketing cost of living, it’s likely that more than 1 in 4 Australians will currently be living in financial distress and CAP says they need thousands of church-based money mentors to meet the growing demand for their services.

CAP trains volunteers to walk alongside people experiencing financial distress. They give them the tools and support they need to see beyond their current financial challenges.

CEO of CAP, Rosie Kendall (left) says, “We’re working hard now to ensure that no Australian suffers financial distress, and we’ll need a lot of help to do that. Especially in the current economic climate. The fact that so many Australians are living in financial distress just shows that we’re all vulnerable to it, especially in times of uncertainty”.



Recognising financial stress isn’t just about dollars and cents, CAP has released a free Financial Wellbeing Scale to help improve your understanding and measurement of all the elements that make up their financial wellbeing.

Check your financial wellbeing

For more information on CAP, including how to donate your time and become a money mentor, or to make a tax-deductible donation to support the work of CAP, visit: <https://capaust.org>

Tasmanian Baptist Key Dates, 2022

Dates for your Diary

2 July 2022	Council Meeting
26-27 July 2022	Muster in Burnie: <u>PROXIMITY</u>
10 September 2022	Council Meeting
19-21 September 2022	Muster in Launceston
28-29 October 2022	Annual Assembly, <u>Riverlands</u>
19 November 2022	Council Meeting



Tasmanian Baptist pastors, NORTH

Subscribe to your weekly *ReCharge* email here: www.tasbaptists.org.au/subscribe

Tasmanian Baptist ReCharge

Comments and submissions can be sent to:

Email: jenny@tasbaptists.org.au

Website: www.tasbaptists.org.au

ISSN: 2206-4230

