

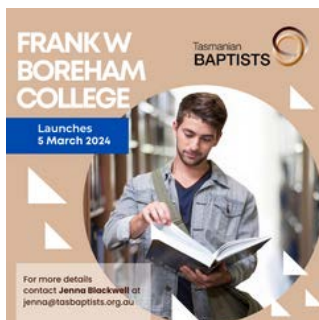


WELCOME!

Here is the online version of the Feb/Mar 2024 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 here:
tasbaptists.org.au



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Blessings!

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Clockwise from top left: Artwork by Michael Henderson; Some attendees at March Muster; Chat n Choose group celebrate 30-year anniversary at Wynyard; Frank W Boreham launch advertising.

Table of Contents

Reason for Great Hope in a Broken World	2
Mission and Leadership Development.....	2
Aboriginal Sunday 2024	4
Citywide Baptist continues a tradition	4
Intercultural Australian Baptists.....	6
Baptist Mission Australia.....	6
An Ode To The Shepherd	8
For you to Ponder – Psalm 23	8
Reap the Rewards of Transition	13
Facing the Future – WELL!	13
The Turning of the Tide?	16
Sacred Agents	16
Morgan Read	18
Ministry Profile: Morgan Read.....	18
Gender Diversity	22
Theology and Culture.....	22
Around the Churches, Feb - Mar 2024	25
North	25
Northwest.....	26
South.....	28
reCharge NEWS February 2024	31
reCharge NEWS March 2024	35

Reason for Great Hope in a Broken World

MISSION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



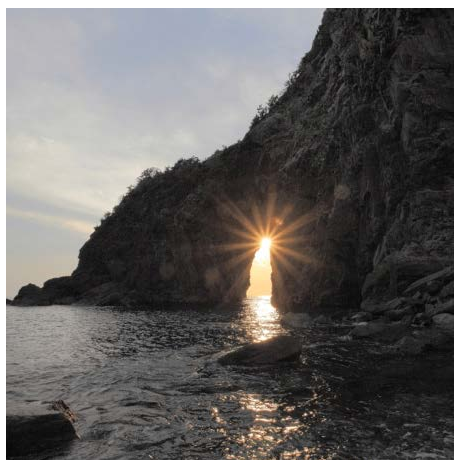
Being a church leader in Tasmania is challenging!

Whether a pastor or part of a leadership team, in either a paid or volunteer capacity, the issues faced can feel overwhelming. Yet, there is great reason for great hope.

People do not think about or relate to the church in ways they used to. Where once they may have looked to the church for guidance and support, today most look elsewhere.

In fact, for many, the church is the last place they expect to find welcome and care. Yet, across many of our Baptist churches in Tasmania, that is exactly what many people are receiving. There are so many opportunities. You can read about many of them in articles released via reCharge.

Despite the good things happening, there are still challenges. Significantly, Tasmanians remain the least religious people in Australia according to the last census figures. Many, no doubt, have been repelled by some of the extreme and reactionary versions of Christianity portrayed in the media. Despite representing only a small minority of people, every church is tarred with the same brush.



There is reason for great hope

While many have rejected religion, this does not mean they no longer believe in God. Religion is often associated with an institutional or external moral framework as a means to relate to God. In a very individualistic world, many don't see the need of religion to go to God.

These and many other influences mean that most Tasmanians are unlikely to come to our churches of their own accord. So, we must go to them. This is exactly what many of our churches are doing in many different ways.

Their approach is to begin with a focus on the needs of their community and find what can be done to address them. There is a focus on building relationships, in one-on-one meetings, small groups and other activities where connection and community are the focus.

This is why there is reason for hope. Our churches are adapting to the challenges of the Tasmanian community. The good news of Jesus still brings hope to the chaos of people's lives.

By being in the community, rather than waiting for them to come to us, we can be on hand when the moment arrives.

For it is in times of significant life change, challenge or loss, that people are more open to hearing about truth, hope, meaning and purpose. The challenges before us in 2024, and beyond, call for adaptability and creativity.

We have already begun the journey and God continues to guide us. May we have an openness to new ideas, to new ways of doing things, and to new ways of thinking so that "he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion" (Phil 1:6).



Stephen L. Baxter is Mission Director for Tasmanian Baptists

Aboriginal Sunday 2024



CITYWIDE BAPTIST CONTINUES A TRADITION

On 21 January this year, Citywide Baptist Church held Aboriginal Sunday at Risdon Brook Dam. This is the third year where Citywide has come together to further understand and acknowledge the hurt caused to Aboriginal peoples right up to now. It continues a Christian tradition that began in 1938.

This year's service, held on the Sunday before 26 January, was at Risdon Brook Dam.

"Choosing to meet at Risdon Brook Dam is significant. Less than one Kilometre from the site was the first massacre of over 50 Aboriginal people by white settlers in 1804," said Paul Dare, Aboriginal member of Citywide Baptist Church.

"But with God there is always grace and hope. Grace to move forward and hope for what Jesus is doing," he said.

"Through the service we encouraged the congregation to create space, listen to and research Tasmanian Aboriginal history. But also, to be aware of the injustices and inequalities many of our Aboriginal communities' face in our nation still," he said.



ABOVE: Citywide Baptist Church recognises Aboriginal Sunday at Risdon Brook Dam on 21 January 2024

Aboriginal Sunday Is Not New

On 26 January 1938, Aboriginal leaders including William Cooper, met for a Day of Mourning, seeking equality and full citizenship. Consequently, Australian Churches set aside the day as Aboriginal Sunday (previously called Aborigines' Day). This is for Christians to act in solidarity with the injustices Aboriginal peoples have experienced.

This year over 490 local churches and faith communities marked Aboriginal Sunday and joined in taking up this call to act in solidarity with Aboriginal peoples, according to Common Grace.

Today, the Common Grace movement encourages congregations to reclaim the Day. They provide free Church Resources developed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian Leaders to equip churches and faith communities to act in solidarity.

Citywide welcomes other Tasmanian churches to join them at their event in 2025.

Alternatively, churches and faith communities can sign up on the Common Grace website to receive links to resources for next year.

Intercultural Australian Baptists



BAPTIST MISSION AUSTRALIA

God's mission in the world. A world that God so loves!

Greetings from the Baptist Mission Australia team. We are so grateful for the partnership of Tasmanian Baptist churches as we share in God's love for the world together.

As a state leader and missiologist for Baptist Mission Australia, I am keenly aware of cultural diversity throughout the world. What I am learning about, however, is the significance of our rising intercultural Baptist family right here in Australia. We believe this presents us with a significant opportunity to join with God in mission across cultural difference here and abroad.

Here's the wonderful news. Our gospel does not need to be understood in English to be authentic. Sounds obvious, but how often we really contemplate the multicultural genesis of our faith? Unlike many other faiths and some religious traditions, we have no holy language reserved for our spiritual message. The Good News for us as Christians is the fact of the incarnation – God meeting us in our own places, cultures and languages.

This world altering Christmas event has profound implications for our mission. Jesus arrives in a diverse context, layered with different languages, world views and mythologies. Jump forward in the story and Pentecost is a breakthrough in human religious experience.

“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.” Acts 2:4 (NIV)

Imagine the scene when, in this multicultural setting,

...each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” Acts 2:6-12 (NIV)



We are Intercultural Australian Baptists

What does this mean for us in Australia as we pursue mission near and far? Just last month the leaders of the Baptist State Intercultural Communities met together. They confirmed that the growth and vitality of these communities is part of the transformation of Australian Baptist demographics.

Here are some numbers to illustrate the percentage of Intercultural Communities in state Baptist churches:

Tasmania: 18%, Victoria: 42%, NSW & ACT: 21%, QLD: 20%, WA: 29%, SA & NT: 26%.

More research needs to be carried out across our Baptist communities, but these numbers should pique our interest about what God is up to in our movement.

We may well echo the question asked by those present at Pentecost – What does this mean? I'm coming to the belief that it means we have an opportunity to learn from our non-English background brothers and sisters about how to meaningfully engage their kin here in Australia and in their countries of origin. It means we have an opportunity to trust new pathways of mission partnership that increase sustainability and impact. It means we can all better anticipate – and perhaps even experience a foretaste of – the magnificent future described in Revelation:

I looked again. I saw a huge crowd, too huge to count. Everyone was there—all nations and tribes, all races and languages. And they were standing...and heartily singing: Salvation to our God on his Throne! Salvation to the Lamb! Revelation 7:9-10 (Message)

We celebrate the fact that God has given us family across diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. We look forward to learning together about what all this means for God's mission in the world – a world that God so loves!



Geoff Maddock is the State Leader for Baptist Mission Australia in Tasmania and Victoria

An Ode To The Shepherd



FOR YOU TO PONDER – PSALM 23

Throughout our lives, events just seem to happen apparently at random. God teaches that there is nothing random about our lives and that He is always in control.

In times of weariness rest comes 'beside quiet waters', always aware that the purposes of our lives are to be accomplished. It soon emerges that strength and struggle are the means by which we become capable of growing up and gathering character.

David, the future king of Israel, was led through a shepherd's job, to acquire skills and character traits which would prove extremely useful to him in later life. He was aware of this as shown in Psalm 23. In awe of God's input into his life and affairs, he wrote 'The Lord is my shepherd'. This was his Ode to the Shepherd.

Of all the people in the world, he could speak with authority of this fact. Seeing the defeat of Goliath, in front of the Israeli army and King Saul. He was just a lad then, a teenager. How could the pebble slung from his sling hit Goliath exactly in the right place, with such force as to kill him instantly. Such a strong and huge man! The major threat at that time to the baby nation of Israel. David instinctively knew the God of Israel had enabled him.

More than anything he began to think that the anointing he received was the new reality in his life. That the power of God was released in his declarations before Saul and his army. Somehow the words he spoke empowered the actions he took.

A resistless force!

A force that operated flawlessly without his trying. He realised it was the power of God almighty. His confidence grew enormously at this demonstration of power. Hereafter he was never again the demure youngest son of Jesse. Never again to be bullied by Eliab or any of his older brothers. He now had power in his spoken words.



David knew that the job of a shepherd was to totally care for sheep.

It taught him responsibility as he learnt to deal with their wayward natures. (Just as he had to deal with the men of Israel later when he was their King.)

Even though sheep often got in trouble by walking off on their own, he loved their gentle and placid nature. As their shepherd he provided for all their needs and kept them safe. Especially at night when predators were about in the dark. These sheep were not even his. They were his father, Jesse's.

This psalm finds its source in that experience. I suspect he realised that the Lord was doing the same for him, in his life, as he did for his sheep, and he was grateful. No doubt reminding himself that the anointing he received was for God's purposes and it made sense that everything he experienced was in accord with those.

The Creator of the universe wants to be an intimate friend with us.

At times when David was exhausted and weary of the whole job he would cry out to the Lord. Then he would be reminded that the hardships he endured now would prepare him for an extraordinary destiny! That is true for all of us.

He grew up in this relationship with God, which became intimate, mature and personal. They became good, trusted friends. He, the created, with the Creator. Since Jesus opened the door for us, such an amazing relationship is now available to all of us believers. Difficult as this may be to accept, truly the Creator of the universe wants to be an intimate friend with us. A relationship such as David's! What a thought! What a vision!

Even though David strayed a number of times from the 'straight and narrow', his friend the almighty God of the Universe never abandoned the relationship. David was only corrected by Him when it was absolutely necessary. All of his needs were always met and provision for him was abundant. This impressed him to the point of declaring:

*He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.
He restores my soul... Psalm 23:2-3 (NKJV)*

In trusting, he must, like us, have wondered often where he was being led to. This special relationship with God, based on the evidence, found expression in his whole life and affairs. He then lists many of the major events in his life where the road ahead looked awful, but then saying in the next verse: He restores my soul.

God kept him morally upright for His name's sake; though David was reluctant at times. When threatened by having to walk through the 'valley of the shadow of death', he feared no evil.

He knew that God was with him as he says, 'Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me'. The rod and staff being a means of support and defence.

Before we wish that we were David, remember he was exposed to extreme life events which would have taken all his acumen to survive. (We are reminded of him being pursued by King Saul and having to hide from his continual jealous wrath).

David then notes, in wonder, God's preparing a table before him though surrounded by enemies. Historically, this happened literally many times. Ever since he was anointed with oil by the prophet of Israel, 'You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Psalm 23:5 (NKJV)

He could not be happier at that moment and is prompted to say:

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23:6 (NKJV)

This is all we ever wish to do!

The Lord is involved in every aspect of our lives.

You could say: How could this apply to us? He was anointed and God seemed almost visibly present and looking after him!

We can and do say that with Jesus in our hearts we have the equivalent and an even better provision. All the things David said are now equally true for us. Of course, he was one of the very few who could experience God's presence at all times before the Messiah came.

Whilst God had to be 'about' David; Jesus is actually in us and will never forsake or leave those who have accepted Him as their Saviour. Really a much better deal!

This psalm does show us how involved the Lord is in every aspect of our lives although perhaps not as often as demonstrated with David. Maybe we are not as physically surrounded by enemies who seek to devour us, but even so, we are surrounded by enemies we cannot see but which can be, and often are, equally deadly.

The most poignant observations David makes come at the end of this wonderful Psalm. Acutely aware of God's presence in every aspect of his many struggles, he is moved to cry out: 'You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Psalm 23:5 (NKJV)

Such an expression of awesome and exceeding joy. I often wonder why we do not declare that more often. For us it is equally true. We just have to accept it by faith and then have it!

He ends with an exultant exclamation:

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23:6 (NKJV)



A confident statement. A confidence based on experience.

For us who are still here, we should find real encouragement and even peace in this public declaration. An awareness of similar life experiences and a Presence, which makes it often obvious that He has intervened in our lives. To save us from ourselves, most likely.

What David said had direct bearing on the outcome of his actions.

Often overlooked is the fact that David was quite aware that what he said had a direct bearing on the outcome of his actions. Classic is the case of the actions he took and what he said when he took on Goliath. Then follow a series of events so invaluable instructive for us now. Nothing has changed much since then in human attitudes and beliefs.

Firstly, his brother Eliab, apparently suspicious of his baby brother saying that he knew David to be proud and insolent and that the real reason he came was to see the battle (1 Sam 17:28).

Eliab did not know that this was the beginning of David's ministry to the state of Israel. That he was really led by the Lord God. David's confidence, particularly for one so young, is led to say to those just standing about:

What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" 1 Sam 17:26 (NKJV)

King Saul said:

You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth." 1 Sam 17:33 (NKJV)

King Saul was quite unable to scare David into abandoning this 'silly' adventure in his eyes. A sense of abandonment to a positive outcome rests entirely on trust.

Our life lessons come from what David then said, in faith, to the King:

Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard,

and struck and killed it. Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.”

Moreover, David said, “The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine. 1 Samuel 17:34-37 (NKJV)



This demonstration of sheer faith in his companion the Lord God, should not be any different in its application to our lives now. We too have this presence within us to be utterly relied on. This is a sense of abandonment to a predictable and positive outcome rests entirely on trust. A reliance, a faith or trust we have guaranteed within each saved believer in Jesus.

The process: David spoke it; he believed it absolutely; he did it and the result was what he expected, was there. This whole historical saga is recorded for our benefit as an example to follow: Say it; Do it; Receive it; Tell the world. Now, do so likewise! The whole of this psalm is testimony to the wonder of His grace, love and kindness. May God bless you always, Frans.



Frans Ammerlaan attends Sassafras Baptist. He is a published Author, Linguist, Journalist and Student. He plans to publish a book of devotionals he has written, this one included.

Reap the Rewards of Transition



FACING THE FUTURE – WELL!

Transition is never simple – but there is always a silver-lining.

Oh yes! 2024 has really, truly begun. Children have returned to school, or perhaps just begun. Uni and TAFE students are on the verge of new semesters. The city traffic around the state is at its max for the year. And here we are, ramping up for another twirly dance around our glorious sun. What does your year look like? Is it a case of the “Same Ol’, Same Ol’”? Or, are you switching to something else? Perhaps you really want to switch, and it isn’t happening because you are stuck in the Same Ol’!

If you are anything like me, you may feel as though your year has begun without any sort of familiarity. We have put our house on the market – but have no idea if or when we will move. I have finished my job – but have not yet begun the next thing. Our daughter and family came to visit a few weeks back – but until recently we had no idea how long they would be staying. So, we have a full-on mix of excitement, noise, house inspections, constant meal prep, and lots and lots of cuddles! Crazy? Yes. Lovely? Also, yes! Transitioning? Absolutely.



Recover your Life

I always feel better when I remember I am not at my best when in transition. It can be so unsettling. Transition throws me sideways in unexpected ways. The “new normal” is not yet apparent. It takes work to remember that until I find an even keel, I need to be kind to myself, and cut myself some slack. Yes, things will level up again.



Over the years I have discovered there is gold within the tricky trials of transition. This liminal moment is an amazing opportunity to grow. I am beyond the usual flow of life. Situations come where it is essential to think outside the box. Unexpected and unprecedented problems beg to be solved. Learning curves are often steep, steep, steep.

Do you recognise the pattern? This is the growing and maturing process, common to every person on the planet. Whether learning to walk, to relate to others, or to solve complex problems, what I learn today will help me in my tomorrows. This is Jesus' encouragement to me (and to you too), as he says, "Take heart, dear one! I promise to be with you in your ups and downs. Keep company with me to live freely and lightly."

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG)

Managing Transition

Here are some ideas to face your future, and thrive, through transition . . .

Get enough rest. Sleeping well helps you stay sharp. Here are a few strategies to help regularly get those 8-hours:

- Breathe. I know – so simple, who would have thought? Long, slow, deep breathing does wonders. Try this: Get yourself comfortable, then . . . Breathe in through your nose for a count of five. Hold for five. Breathe out through your mouth for eight. Repeat five times. That's it! You will soon be out to it.
- Listen. Sometimes your mind is so active you need a bit more help. There are many sleep podcasts on Spotify and YouTube. Search around. Find some earbuds and find a favourite.
- Keep up your exercise regimen. Exercise is more important than ever to get through these unpredictable days. There are many free apps to help you with daily exercise discipline. From gentle to vigorous, see what works for you.
- Prayer and Bible study. These daily disciplines can be short, but incredibly valuable to keep priorities in the right place. There are free study plans on the YouVersion Bible App, and Lectio 365 has encouraging daily reflections and prayers. There are many others.

- Ask for help. While this can be really hard, there is no shame in off-loading to a safe and trusted friend, family member, mentor or coach. Work with others to share the load, the kids, the laundry, and the nightmare! I know a do-it-by-myself girl, who was too proud to “suck it up” and ask for support. She toughed out incredibly difficult circumstances on her own. Sadly, she reaped consequences decades later, finding herself alone and physically broken. Learn from her mistakes.

Look for the GOLD

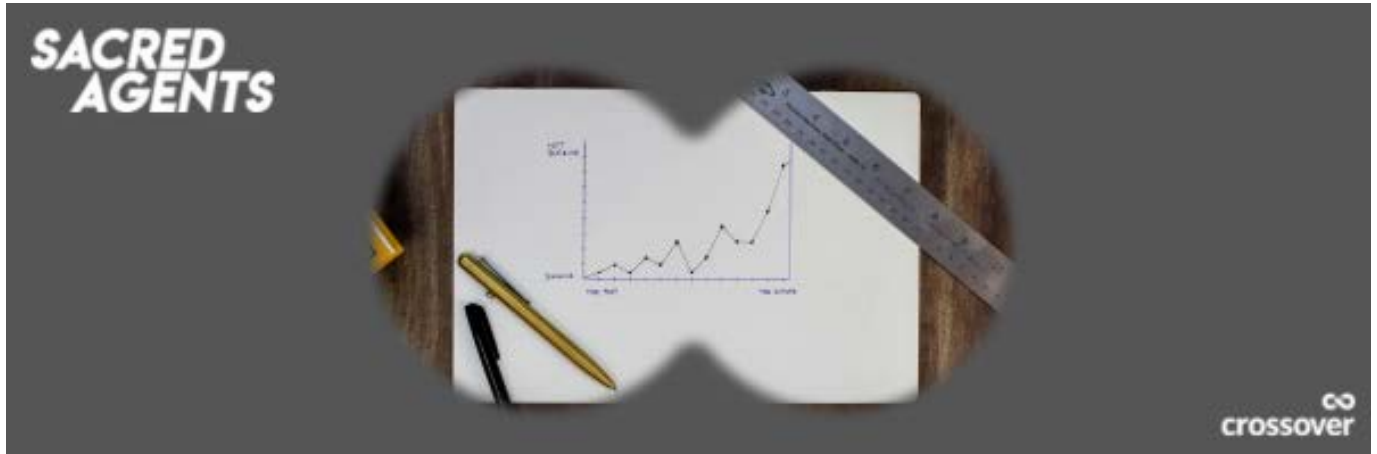
You know what they say: “Short term pain. Long term gain.” This is the essence of transition. In reality, facing the future like this is a gift. Even if it is uncomfortable, good things will come. So stick at it, look for the gold, and know that one day not only will the “new normal” be the “Same Ol” – you will have grown and matured as well!



Jenny Baxter is the State Director for EmpowHer, Tasmanian Baptists' women's ministry arm. During Covid she experienced burnout, and learnt that stopping for a bit to take a breather is probably a good idea. Jenny and her husband Stephen live in Hobart, and enjoy a walk on the beach together most days.

Need help? Contact Jenny to find a good mentor to talk through your transition: jb@jennybaxter.com.au

The Turning of the Tide?



SACRED AGENTS

I blinked and had to look at the number a second time: 34 percent! Each year we gather the number of baptisms reported by Australian Baptist state associations, and there was a 34 percent increase from 2022 to 2023. Wow! But what to make of it?

It could be a whole range of things. Perhaps Australian Baptists got a whole lot better at reporting! (I imagine plenty of baptisms go un-counted, and while that's frustrating for statisticians, it's rather how things should be in a decentralised movement like ours.) Or was it a post-Covid bump? Possibly, but I'm not convinced. Was it our National Baptism Week initiative? No, given the six-month lag in collecting the numbers, they'll show up next year. I had been expecting a rise of over 20 percent simply based on what I was hearing anecdotally from pastors and leaders. But 34 percent is remarkable – what could possibly explain it?



Is the wave of baptisms another indication of the 'turning of the tide'?

Could It Possibly Be Jesus?

Well, I think the answer could possibly be Jesus. Why on earth would so many people want to be baptised? Hang on, why would they not? Let's remember that belonging to God's family through faith in Christ is the normal and sensible thing given the unfolding of his kingdom, the place in it he offers, and the promise of his Spirit! We can get lost in studying the tea leaves of culture and economy to see whether people will or won't like Jesus – and find that we believe more in the power of culture and economy than in the power of the gospel to captivate people of all cultures and economies.

That said, I do wonder whether wave of baptisms is another indication of the 'turning of the tide.' The church in the West has long been adjusting to the end of Christendom and the loss of (mandatory) popularity that entailed. Many have become resigned to endless decline – a narrative that's entrenched itself even as church participation has increased.

New Theist Movement

As Western culture increasingly becomes a spiritual desert, however, should we be surprised that spiritual thirst increases?

As Western culture increasingly becomes a spiritual desert, however, should we be surprised that spiritual thirst increases? Along with stories of baptisms, I've been inundated with stories of 'gate crashers' – people (especially young adults) walking into churches that neither advertised nor invited them – and asking to be introduced to Jesus and Christianity.

Ten years ago, the 'New Atheist Movement' held the floor among Western intellectuals, but it has died much faster than any church it mocked, and in its place we now see the 'New Theist Movement' – including such opinion-leaders as Jordan Peterson, Tom Holland and Ayaan Hirsi Ali (now openly a Christian). For more on this see Justin Brierley's *The Surprising Rebirth of Belief in God* book and podcast.

So are we seeing the turning of the tide – even the beginnings of revival? It's 20 years too early to say. But keeping our heads – indeed keeping our eyes on Jesus – our confidence to live for and witness to him should be based on him, rather than the fickle fashions of our culture.

Let's be absolutely confident in Christ, and in pointing people to him, regardless of whether they're likely to applaud or imprison us.



Andrew Turner is the Director of Crossover.
Crossover exists to Help Australian Baptists Share Jesus.

This article appears on his Sacred Agents blog.

Please support the Australian Baptist Easter Offering – which funds Crossover to Help Australian Baptists Share Jesus. For information on how to participate and run the offering, see crossover.org.au/offering.
Banner Photo by Isaac Smith on Unsplash.

Morgan Read



Morgan Read
MINISTRY PROFILE



MINISTRY PROFILE: MORGAN READ

From 'Curious Outsider' to LifeWay Pastor

Lifeway Student Pastor Morgan Read writes about her journey from being a 'curious outsider' to giving back to the community that gave her so much. Read on to find out . . .

Early Years

I was born in Northern Tasmania and spent all my childhood in Devonport. I was raised by both my mum and my dad and have two brothers; my half-brother Ben, who is 11 years older than me, and my younger brother Olly, who is 18 months younger than me.

Ben moved out when I was young so as you read on you can decide if I have "oldest child" or "middle kid" energy. We had quite a fun childhood in a lot of ways. My mother was a child carer who was really into learning by play so Olly and I had the best cubby house and dress ups of any kids I knew. We spent a lot of our childhood in full princess dress ups, up a tree in our backyard, playing complicated make-believe games even we didn't fully understand. In the summer we would spend most of our time at the beach with dad pulling us in and out of the surf on a bodyboard.



Morgan with High School friends

Learning About Religion

My early religious education was in many ways as the curious outsider. It started when I was nine, with school based religious education, and continued a year later with an optional bible study club in primary school. My parents (though not religious themselves) were both raised in religious families. (I have several Great Uncles and cousins who were Uniting Church/Methodist Ministers.) They did however encourage me to think for myself and pursue whatever path felt right for me and gave me access to any resources I was curious about.

My early religious education was in many ways as the curious outsider. Though, at this early stage I did not consider myself a Christian, I had developed a philosophy that in many ways I still hold, which is an understanding that you do not have to be all or nothing in all the minutia of a belief to have faith in it. If you try to have all the answers you will either fail or drive yourself mad trying.

When I got to high school, I met three of my closest friends all of whom are Christians, and this is where my links to Lifeway Baptist started. Though, through all this time, I must admit, I was the youth group's token Atheist — but I was still determined to learn.

I was a member of J-Walkers (the youth group at the time) and later Converge (the young adult bible study group). When I moved to Hobart in 2014 with one of those same friends, I became yet another token Atheist. This time at a Campus Christian Movement Bible Study. This was partially to support my friend, to learn, and later because it was in my house.



Morgan speaking

A New Country and Finding Faith

My switch into believing rather than just studying happened when I moved to the UK.

At the end of 2018, my contract hadn't been renewed in the administration job I was working, and the rent we were paying had just gone up (a lot). So, I decided that this was all a sign, and I needed a change. So, I applied for some Au Pair positions and within two months I was living in England. Hoping to meet new people I joined a local Church. I found a home there. I loved the people and slowly grew to love God and haven't gone back.

After a year in England, I moved to Scotland and worked for two different families, one in Dundee, then one up in Aberdeen. There I joined the local Episcopalian Church. I was able to really strengthen my prayer life in this church and was able to have a lot of interesting conversations with the Vicar there.

It was also around this time that I decided to get Baptised. Baptism to me is the start of your decided journey with God, and I worry sometimes people think of it as the pinnacle of the journey rather than the beginning.

Back Home Again

In mid-2021 I moved back to Australia. My grandmother was becoming very unwell, and the government was looking at winding up repatriation flights, and honestly, I was missing Tasmania. I have a lot of love for my home state, for my family has been here for a very long time. If you are a Northern Tasmanian reading this, yes, we are probably related. I love the environment here, and I like that you end up knowing everyone or if you don't, you know someone who does.

I have a lot of love for my home state, for my family has been here for a very long time. So, I made the decision to finish up my British adventure early. I moved back with my parents and Olly in Devonport. We all still very happily living together with our two English Springer Spaniels, Harry, and George. We are four very different people, but we all love each other so much, which makes life much easier.



Morgan and her family at her brother's graduation

When I came back home, I also went back to Lifeway Baptist. It was where so much of this journey began. It only took one service, and I knew overwhelmingly this was where I was meant to be. I started volunteering with a couple of the kid's programs and towards the end of last year I was Baptised again (this time by submersion). It only took one service, and I knew overwhelmingly this was where I was meant to be.

Today

These days I am a busy person. I run the local Air Force Cadet Unit, I've just started an after-school theatre group, I study theology part time through Whitley College, I run a weekday primary school kids club through the church, and a few other bits and pieces I'm probably forgetting.



Morgan

At Lifeway I am a Student Pastor, so I study, I also co-run the children's ministry with a focus on activities that happen outside of Sunday services, and I occasionally preach. Both in and outside of direct ministry almost all of the stuff I do is about giving back for the opportunities and community I have been given.

Both in and outside of direct ministry almost all of the stuff I do is about giving back for the opportunities and community I have been given.

Lifeway helped me with my faith; Cadets and theatre have helped me build my confidence and leadership. It is so valuable in a small community like Devonport to have outlets for children and teenagers to be able to develop and socialise outside of school.

The biggest challenge I face in my ministry is myself. I always want to and try to do more, and tend to over commit, but I am working on that.

The Best piece of advice I have received is "you can only help someone who wants to be helped." It's not universal, but it helps when sometimes ministry can be slow, frustrating, and not the way you feel it should be.

Pray For...

If you could pray for me as I balance a lot of my commitments to my community and ministry. Also, for the children and families in our community, as they start down the path of faith and come to understand their relationship with God and what that means to them.

Short 'n' Sweet

I am looking forward to . . . learning more about God and his people.

I am worried about . . . time. There never seems to be enough.

I am confident that . . . God is good and in control.

I am joyful about . . . getting to share Gods love.

I would like to change . . . I'd like to be less judgemental.

I am at my best . . . when I have others to bounce ideas off.



Morgan Read is currently a Student Pastor at Lifeway Baptist church.

Gender Diversity



THEOLOGY AND CULTURE

A new regular offering in reCharge

Your daughter is wearing pants, your son wears nail polish, and you're not quite sure if the person behind the counter was a man or a woman. Scare tactics and confusion around the younger generations focus of gender is everywhere. How we handle that as Christians matters for the mission of Christ.

Gender is the broad characteristics of women, men, girls, and boys that are socially constructed. It includes social rules for what a man does, what a woman does, what toys we give children, and who takes whose last name when we're married. Gender bumps shoulders with sex, and sexuality, but it is primarily social, the rules and scripts for who does what. Different cultures will have different rigidity between sex and gender, and that rigidity is presently very loose in modern western culture.

A lot of our gender rules come from Victorian era or post-WWII understandings of what men and women do. Men work, women stay home; men do public things, women deal with private things; men are protective, women are nurturing. And whilst there is some biological basis in these divisions, the main reason we have these rules is simply because we have them.

”

Gender bumps
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primarily social, the
rules and scripts for
who does what.

LIAM CONWAY, ASSOCIATE PASTOR,
RIVERLANDS, LONGFORD

Biblical Context

The Bible's context for gender is bound in culture. Whether that be the context of Ancient Israel, or the Roman Empire, there was a gendered understanding of family. The Father was the head, and the rest of the family was subordinate. Men could contemplate God, woman were at higher risk of being unclean.

Rarely did both sexes mix in religious contexts. Until Jesus. Jesus is often seen in womanly spaces like wells (John 4:4-42) and he encourages women to sit with him and learn (Luke 10:38-42). Jesus scandalously broke from purely male spaces, and he sat in them, such as the courts of the Temple debating pharisees.

Early Church

In the early church, women sat as deacons, Paul sends greetings to the woman Junia, “apostle with them” in Romans 16:7, women learnt and spoke alongside men in services, a practice unheard of and bizarre to the Roman world. In the early church, some gender norms were upheld, but others were able to be rejected for the sake of the kingdom of God.

”

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LIAM CONWAY, ASSOCIATE PASTOR,
RIVERLANDS, LONGFORD

For early Christians both men and women all needed Christ, so all were welcome. Many of the earliest followers were women, giving the Faith a sense of being womanly, and unbecoming for the Roman Man. Gender roles and rules have their place, but they have always been flexible within the faith.

What is our Call?

Theologically speaking, our call is to serve and live with God and be conformed to God. Gender can be an element of that. For some of us, it is very important that we are conformed to the rules that our body aligns with most. For others these rules can highlight the effects of sin in our world as they discriminate the image of God, and conforming to them would diminish the ability to conform to God. We should trust in God, and remember Romans 14 that we should not judge, and trust in God’s work in the hearts of those we may disagree with.

”

...our call is to serve
and live with God and
be conformed to God.
Gender can be an
element of that.

LIAM CONWAY, ASSOCIATE PASTOR,
RIVERLANDS, LONGFORD



Liam Conway is Associate Pastor at Riverlands, Longford. He was born and raised in Hobart, graduated from UTas with a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Psychology. He is now the associate Pastor of Riverlands community church and is studying his Master of Divinity.

Around the Churches, Feb - Mar 2024



NORTH

Launceston

Farewell Rev Alan J L Neate

The Rev Alan J L Neate died on 2 March 2024. Alan began his ministerial life as a student pastor at Port Kembla and Lugarno before serving as pastor at Wagga Wagga, Broken Hill South, Liverpool and Auburn Baptist Churches in New South Wales as well in ministering in Ashfield as Director of Religious Education.

He and his wife Lillian and family moved to Tasmania and pastored Central Baptist in Launceston from February 1974 to October 1980 before moving to Victoria and pastoring Bendigo Baptist Church from 1980-1987 and then Wodonga District Baptist Church from 1987-1992. Alan was the President of the Baptist Union of Victoria in 1988-1989.

Alan was a pastor who regularly visited the congregation in their homes and was a much loved preacher. Born in NSW on 16 September 1926, he was converted during a CSSM beach mission and years later was baptised and joined a Baptist church.

Prior to training at the NSW Baptist College from 1949, he worked for the Commonwealth Bank for seven years. Here Tasmania he was President of the Baptist Union. He served on many Councils and Committees of the various Baptist Associations. He was lovingly supported by his wife Lillian (dec.) throughout his ministry.

He's was never afraid to tell people they need Jesus Christ in their lives.

"I like to preach for a verdict," he once explained. "People have been saved in a communion service because I've stopped to explain what communion was about. Although, I don't see myself as a red-hot evangelist, and I regularly use others who can put the net out."



For him the keys to church growth were the effective exposition of God's Word and genuine pastoral care by the pastor, the pastor's wife and others. One of his children, Margaret, Christian educator with the ABMS both in Timor and Indonesia, became well known to us Tasmanian Baptists. – Laurie Rowston.

NORTHWEST

Wynyard



Church Events

The Wynyard Church and Sunday School picnic at the Railway Institute Hall was an enjoyable day for all ages and the “Just Girls” group enjoyed a day out at Kaydale Gardens recently. Approximately 90 people met for a special Chat n Choose morning tea and fellowship on Thursday, 14 March. The event was to celebrate the 30-year anniversary of Chat n Choose. It was a great opportunity for past and present ladies to get together. Chat n Choose women meet every Thursday morning during school term for morning tea and various crafts. The annual Harvest Thanksgiving Auction and dinner fundraiser held in March was a great success and enjoyed by everyone that attended.



Chat n Choose 30-year anniversary at Wynyard

Yolla

BBQ Lunch

Members from our congregation opened their home and provided a BBQ lunch on Sunday, 25 February at Hellyer Beach. The time together was enjoyable, despite the rather gusty conditions.



From TOP: BBQ lunch: Barry & Jann, Graeme & Debbie, Mark & Avril, Basil & Val, Jeff & Rosemary, Ann, Geoff & Maureen, Max, Annette, Vivien & Richard; Thumbs up; Lunch with a view; Enjoying lunch; Strolling along Hellyer Beach

Ulverstone

Christmas Day Lunch 2023

It was a privilege for Ulverstone church to host a Christmas Day Lunch, with 58 people attending. Illness kept a few from coming. All who attended were well fed, with leftovers to take home. A Christmas message was presented, and a small gift, with a take home message, was given out to attendees.

Leadership Vision Day Retreat 2024

On Saturday 17 February Ulverstone held a Leadership Vision Day Retreat. Attendees were blessed by a time of praise and worship, and prayer. The group completed a survey, followed by a time of discussion. Nick Booth from Romaine Park blessed everyone with his sharing, then this was followed by a yummy lunch and further discussion.

Church Family News

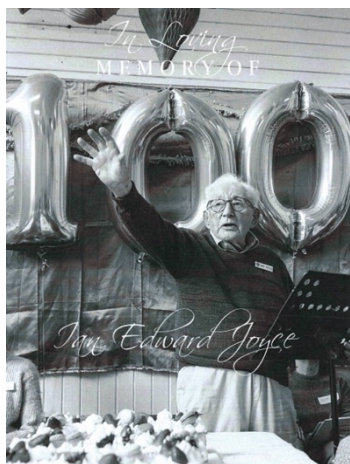
As a church family, Ulverstone continue to enjoy the warmth of summer and fellowship as they gather each month after the Sunday morning service for a picnic at Fairway Park.

In November they celebrated with Abbey and Cameron Hingson with the safe arrival of their sweet son Rory Mac Hingson. Rory's timely arrival meant that he was able to attend the celebration of his Great Grandparents, John and Glenys Preston's 60th wedding anniversary in December.

From the Pulpit

A new catch phrase "Believing for more in 2024", has seen the church be challenged. The church has been reminded, over the last few weeks – by Pastor Louis, Lyn McKay and John Sypkes – how each person has been called according to His purpose.

Burnie



Farewell Ian Joyce

Ian Joyce passed away on Friday, 23 February, aged 102. He was a long serving member of Burnie Baptist for many decades. Ian and his wife Fay moved away from Burnie to down-size and be nearer to family about 15 years ago. In 1983, Ian was made Life Deacon after serving as Deacon and Elder over many years.

In 1984, he was inducted as Associate Pastor, a role he served for 10 years until his wife Faye took a position with Lifeline in Broken Hill. In Broken Hill, Ian served as Pastor of Broken Hill Baptist Church. He returned to Burnie after four years. He continued to preach occasionally. After moving to nearby Penguin, Ian and Faye faithfully fellowshipped at the Penguin Uniting Church. Ian continued to be a faithful servant until his passing.

Ian Joyce

SOUTH

Citywide - Mornington, Lenah Valley, Nepali



Summer Teaching Series

Throughout January we were challenged and inspired by different speakers sharing from their faith journeyings. We were blessed!

Finalising Carpet Replacement

Great rejoicing! We finished replacing the old, worn carpeting throughout the building at Mornington; As a result, the new carpet looks so much better. Praise God for his provision through the generosity of his people.

Dinner Together

Over 50 people gathered in various homes to share the first of our potluck Dinner Together meals this year. We will be changing the way we do this for the rest of the year, in that we are aiming to meet in our own suburb with Christians from other Baptist churches in our area – a way of getting to know others in God's family who live near us.



Potluck Dinner Together meals at Citywide

Child Safe Workshop

Several of our leaders have joined with other churches in our area to workshop the changes in Legislation together. This is a significant area of risk for us and facing the compliance responsibilities is a challenge.

Mission Foci

In January, our focus was on Aboriginal Day and the needs of our indigenous people of our land. February featured the 12 children we sponsor through Baptist World Aid, Compassion and REHOCH children's home in Zambia. In March, we are centring on our support of two remote rural pastors in Nepal, and hearing of their work and the people they care for.

Claremont



Church Growth

In the past few months Claremont Baptist has been quietly growing in numbers. This is a great joy and answer to prayer.

Hobart

Esteem Cafe

Esteem Café, operated by Kelvin Smith, is bringing a quiet but steady stream of people into the new space at Hobart Baptist Church. After the success of the Long Table dinners and Market Stall days, Kelvin is now turning his attention to starting weekday groups, between 8am and 2pm. Groups include English Conversation and Story Telling. Esteem is still waiting for kitchen approvals before progressing to being a full cafe.

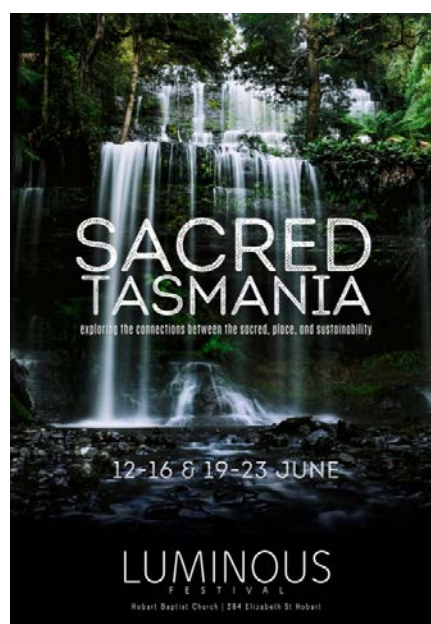


Long Table dinner at Esteem

Luminous

The year began with an Info Session and pre-planning session for Luminous 2024 festival, held in June every year. Luminous seeks to open a space for discussion, develop thought and shine a gentle and welcoming light on profound and foundational questions in a way that is life-giving and unifying.

The festival brings art and conversations together through the theme of Christmas within its original context of the dark and cold of winter. This provides an opportunity to celebrate the rich themes of light and hope, which often go missing in an Australian summer Christmas.



reCharge NEWS February 2024



New Pastor Welcome

Matu Christian Church welcome Rev Kosen

Rev. Maddy Svoboda from Summerhill Baptist welcomed Mr Kosen to Matu Christian Church on Sunday, 4 February. Matu Christian Church meet every Sunday afternoon at Newstead Baptist Church at 2pm.



Free One-Day Workshop

S.A.N.C.T.U.A.R.Y approach to family violence

The Anglican Diocese of Tasmania is offering a free one-day workshop for Church Leaders and Pastoral Carers. The S.A.N.C.T.U.A.R.Y approach to domestic violence is a guide for churches that offers a theologically-informed lens on domestic violence and how individual churches can create safe spaces for women and children who have experienced domestic violence.

The intention and prayer of the workshop is that Tasmanian churches reflect God's care for the abused and vulnerable and that churches be places of safety.



The S.A.N.C.T.U.A.R.Y training can be taken either in person or online and is open to church leaders and pastoral carers from any denomination for use within the local church context. All training materials will be available to those who attend.

The workshop is on Saturday, 17 February 2024 at Wellspring Anglican Church, Hobart or online on Saturday, 2 March 2024. Both workshops run from 9:30am to 3pm and include:

- Comprehensive information relating to domestic violence
- Tactics used by abusers
- Impact of family violence on children: brain development, trauma etc.
- Spiritual abuse and misuse of scripture to justify or maintain coercive control
- Potential theological blockages to reporting domestic abuse
- Theology and Biblical messages of love, justice, respect & equality
- Exploring what Sanctuary might look like in your church.

Ann Herbert is facilitating the workshops. An experienced facilitator and Elder at Citywide Baptist Church, Ann leads Citywide Baptist’s Sanctuary Care ministry. She has previously managed the Social Policy Unit in the Tasmanian Government Department of Premier and Cabinet and oversaw implementation of a wide range of social policies, including the Tasmanian Government’s Family Violence Action Plan.

Register here <https://forms.gle/swro5TNFeQvi686F6> . For more information contact Kristy Crouch on 0403 957 106 or email kristy.crouch@gmail.com

Tasmanian Baptist Calendar 2024

EVENT	DATE
Tasmanian Baptist Council	24 February
Pastors and Leaders Muster (Hobart)	5-6 March
Launch of Frank W. Boreham College	5 March
Roadshow (North)	7 March
Roadshow (Northwest)	8 March
Mid-Year Assembly	11 May
Tasmanian Baptist Council	15 June
Pastors and Leaders Muster, Family-friendly (Devonport)	9-11 July
Tasmanian Baptist Council	7 September
Pastors and Leaders Muster (Launceston)	10-11 September
Annual Assembly	19 October
Tasmanian Baptist Council	16 November

Foundations Course

Burnie Baptist hosts one week discipleship course in January

On Sunday 21 January, Burnie Baptist church welcomed people from all over the world as they hosted a one-week discipleship course called “Foundations.” Along with Burnie Baptist, four other Tasmanian Baptist Churches, as well as students from India, Indonesia, Japan, Brazil and Canada, joined the ‘whole-of-life’ discipleship course, which is run as either a one week intensive or 10-week course (one night a week, plus two Saturdays). The strongly Bible-based course concluded with a highly successful community festival.

Afterwards, feedback from participants was very positive. Some participants, who had been in the church for many years, said that Foundations gave them a new way of seeing both faith and mission.

Watch our video of participant reflections here: https://youtu.be/XaIWcs_TK4I?si=GAC6mi_bnMVt6vmy

As a result, both Citywide Baptist and Burnie Baptist are hoping to run 10-week version of the course later this year.



Participating students in the 'whole-of-life' discipleship course.

SU Schools Sunday in February

Encouraging students and school staff

Schools Sunday in February is an excellent way to encourage Christian students and school staff members at the beginning of the year. It's an opportunity to remember that God goes with students and teachers everyday as they attend school.

The day provides churches with an opportunity to set aside time during a Sunday service in February to focus on schools and support young people and the local school community. Scripture Union runs the initiative and also provides resources to support churches as they celebrate the day. Visit the SU website here: <https://sutas.org.au/schools-sunday/>

Resources are available on the SU website or in their PDF Resource Pack.

<https://www.tasbaptists.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024-SU-Schools-Sunday.pdf>

Additionally, the pack provides different ideas for either a complete intergenerational Sunday service or a short segment within a regular service. Churches can choose a date early in the school year to celebrate and encourage students and school staff members.



Schools Sunday supports young people and the local school community.

Position Vacant

Youth and Children's worker wanted

Citywide Baptist (Mornington/Lenah Valley) are searching for a Youth and Children's worker with the ability to think outside the box, lead teams and mentor young people.

Click here for details: <https://www.citywidehobart.org.au/citywide-youth-and-childrens-worker/>



Citywide are looking for someone who wants to make a difference for kids and young people.

reCharge NEWS March 2024



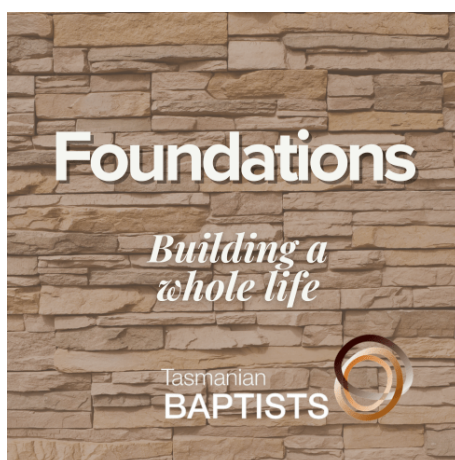
BibleProject Resources

BibleProject creates free resources to help people experience the Bible. Everything they make is funded by generous supporters around the world. The entire library of videos, podcasts, classes, and other resources are available at [bibleproject.com](https://www.bibleproject.com). Their most recent production is a 10-part series on Jesus' teachings on the Sermon on the Mount, available to watch on YouTube. Subscribe to the channel for more explainer videos about the Bible: <https://www.youtube.com/bibleproject>. They currently have over 4 million subscribers already!

Register for Foundations

Foundations is a path toward the unique calling that God has on your life, equipping you to live the deep truth of Christian faith in every area of your life. The course runs on Wednesdays from Wed, 1 May to Wed, 14 Aug. Choose either a day course at Hobart Baptist (12:00pm to 2:30pm) or an evening course at Citywide Mornington (7-9:30pm). The two courses will combine for two Saturday sessions on the 1 June (9:30 – 4:30) and 6 July (9:30 – 7:30). The whole course works together to produce a deep understanding of a practical Christian worldview.

You will receive specific skills in a range of areas including: Managing complicated relationships; Knowing God's will; Building healthy teams; Developing life-giving habits; Finding your place in leadership; Sharing your Faith; Understanding the revolutionary big picture of the bible; Love and Sexuality; Listening; Community; Development and Transformation. Cost of \$50 includes refreshments, meals on the Saturdays, and a Foundations manual. Register now: <http://www.citywidehobart.org.au/foundations>



Citywide Easter Exhibition

Monday, 18 March to Friday, 26 April

A series of drawings by artist Michael Henderson have been installed in Citywide Baptist Church, Hobart, for Easter 2024. The work is titled, *We only remember history in the present moment*. The four drawings are a part of a larger series of 16 charcoal drawings. All together they describe contemporary life through stories from Christian Scripture. The drawings are not intended to illustrate certain scriptures, or tell the story of the whole Bible, but they draw inspiration from biblical stories and place an experience in a contemporary setting. They blur the line between history and the present moment, intending for the viewer to think about their own life. Most of the drawings are 1.2m square. The 3 of the crucifixion are 1.4m square. The 16 drawings combine for an overall length of 20m.

The Drawings



Second drawing



Fourth drawing

The second drawing above describes Jesus being crucified, with the two either side describing Peter and Judas's response to Jesus' crucifixion. This series of 3 is where the whole series started for me. I wanted to describe both Peter and Judas turning their back on Jesus, and then both of them responding to what they had done. The fourth drawing above is of Mary hugging Jesus, and focuses on Mary's joy at seeing Jesus again, rather than describe an event around the resurrection. The drawings have been exhibited in many places, including St. Francis Xavier's Catholic Cathedral in Adelaide, as part of the 2017 Adelaide Fringe Festival, and in churches and exhibition spaces around Australia. Michael's work is held in private and public collections; he was a finalist in the 66th Blake Prize (2021).

The exhibition runs from the Monday, 18 March to Friday, 26 April 2024 at 400 Cambridge Road, Mornington, Tasmania. Art can be viewed daily Monday to Saturday. From 9:00am to 8:00pm, Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 1:00pm Saturday and Sunday. See all 16 drawings online here: <https://www.michaeljameshenderson.com.au/we-only-remember-history-in-the-present-moment>

The Bob Curé Exhibition Space

Matt Garvin and Dan Evenhuis explained more about the motivation behind Citywide's exhibition space.

"As we approach Easter, we wanted to have an exhibition that would help those passing by reflect on Jesus and his sacrifice. We have around 2,000 people walking through our foyer each week," said Dan Evenhuis, Executive Pastor at Citywide.

"Citywide's Mornington Campus has housed the Bob Curé Exhibition Space in its foyer since 2019.

Through the exhibition space, we have been able to support many local artists, photographers and craft-makers as they share their creative thoughts and skills,” he said.

Matt Garvin, Senior Pastor at the church, said he was grateful to have Michael’s art which communicates the message of Easter over these few weeks.

“The Bob Curè exhibition space is our way to encourage Christians to express their creativity,” he said.

Launceston Alive Easter Festival

Thu 28 – Sun 31 Mar

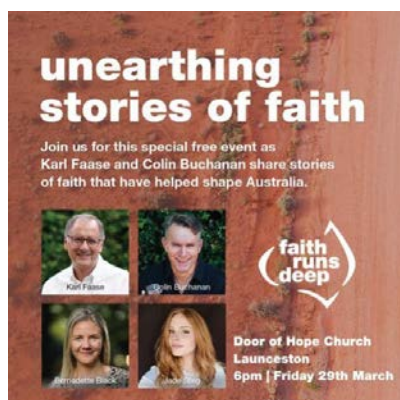
Launceston Alive is an annual Easter community festival of thought, music and art held throughout Launceston over the Easter weekend at one of the following planned events. Karl Fasse, Colin Buchanan and other performing artists will offer stories of faith.

Thursday, 28 March at 9:00am – Leaders workshop with Karl Faase at Legana Christian Church, 1 Gerrard Cl, Legana.

Friday, 29 March at 6:00pm – The 2024 Unearthed Event will unearth stories of faith with Karl Faase and Colin Buchanan. There will be music and entertainment by Colin Buchanan and Jade Steg; a remarkable story of faith and courage from Bernadette Black; Karl Faase will speak about the stories of faith that have shaped our nation. All are welcome, just come along at Door Of Hope Church, 50 Glen Dhu St, South Launceston. The event is free.

Saturday, 30 March, 11:00am – 2:00pm – The Children and Families Festival is especially for children, young people and their families. Performers include Colin Buchanan, Bronte Ferguson, Azahlia Dingemans and Caitlyn Duffy. at at Riverbend Park, Launceston.

Sunday, 31 March, 5:00pm – Combined Churches Easter service with Karl Faase at Door Of Hope, 50 Glen Dhu St, South Launceston.



Faith Impact Audit

NAYBA Audit Presentation

On Thursday 7 March, Stephen and Jenny Baxter attended a presentation for the results of the NAYBA Impact Audit of Tasmania. This is the first statewide audit of its kind conducted and reflects the work being done by people of faith.

The final audit report includes the following statistics on Tasmania:

- 284 community service activities
- 209,057 people served in the last year
- \$70,841,878 social value impact to the State of Tasmania each year.

The results are listed here: <https://www.nayba.org/tasmania>



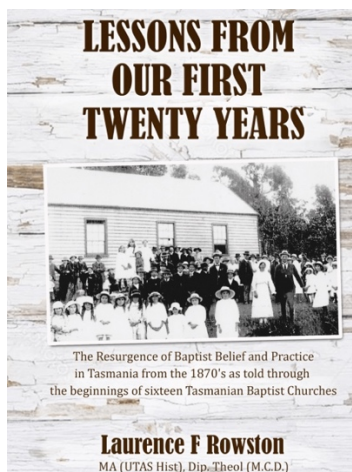
Stephen hosts a panel at the Grace Centre Rokeby. From left, Councillor Brendan Blomeley (Mayor of the City of Clarence), John Kamara (Tasmanian Australian of the Year 2024) and Aimen Jafri (Chair of the Multicultural Council of Tasmania).

New Book Available

Tasmanian Baptist History

This is the ninth book on Tasmanian Baptist History by Laurence F Rowston. It looks at the beginnings of sixteen of our Baptist Churches in Tasmania commencing about 1880. The churches are Bracknell, Blackwood Creek, Burnie, Deloraine, Devonport, Hobart, Latrobe, Launceston, Longford, Perth, Sheffield, Smithton, Ulverstone, Wynyard and Yolla and also Memorial, the Henry Reed Mission Church in Launceston. But it is more than account of their first years. The book contains full biographies of their pastors, seventy-four in number from the moment they come on the scene wherever they are, to their deaths. The biographies look into their origins, their preaching and their pastoral work and the movements of the day.

The book has more than 3,000 footnotes and contains about 230 photographs. Each chapter contains a conclusion which compares the church of those years with the church today. In time a hardback hand-stitched two-volume copy will be available from the author. Books cost \$40 plus postage (or collect from Baptist Assembly or Citywide Mornington office, 400 Cambridge Road, Mornington, TAS. Contact Dan Evenhuis on 0481 917 806 or email dan.evenhuis@citywidehobart.org.au).



March Muster

Why Theological Education Matters

The Tas Baptists March Muster was held in Hobart and offered the perfect opportunity to launch the Frank W Boreham College. Andrew Corbett, of Legana Christian Fellowship, gave a detailed account of Boreham's amazing life and ministry. Boreham moved to Australia in 1906 to pastor at Hobart Baptist Church. He wrote 46 books (many receiving wide international acclaim) and over 3,000 weekly editorials for the Hobart Mercury between 1912 and 1959. Alongside the launch of the college, the Muster focused on professional development. David Williams from Taylor Baptist College, Edmonton, Canada (and Kairos University) and Darrell Jackson, interim principal of Whitley College in Victoria spoke on the topic. Darrell answered the question, "Was Jesus a theological educator?" while David reflected on "Why theological education matters". As the first Muster for the year, time together was an opportunity for fellowship, learning and encouragement. This included a long table dinner together at HBC's new Esteem Cafe. Following the Muster, David Williams travelled to all three regions to discuss with other Baptists what further theological education can look like, from diploma to doctorate. In particular, he outlined the Kairos subscription-based education model of learning that surrounds students with a team of mentors who, together, determine the student's education and formation pathway.



Stephen Baxter launches Frank W. Boreham College at March Muster.



Long table dinner at Hobart Baptist Church during the March Muster.

Candidate Forums

Meet your Local Candidate

In the lead up to the State election, churches are working together to host election candidate forums. The forums will be held in each electorate in preparation for the upcoming State election. Each forum will include set questions on issues of concern to Christians, and time for questions from the floor. Most events will be live streamed or recorded, for those who cannot make it. This is a great opportunity to meet local candidates, ask questions and hear from them on issues that you care about. Find more information online at meetyourcandidates.org.au



Crossover

2024 Australian Baptist Easter Offering

The Australian Baptist Easter Offering by Crossover is a thousand churches combining to express our gratitude for Jesus and to invest in sharing him with others. The offering supports Crossover – a national Baptist ministry that provides resources, training and encouragement to help Australian Baptists share Jesus with their friends and neighbourhoods. They offer all churches free-to-use Easter resources. To see all their resources or join their mailing list, visit the Crossover website here: <https://www.crossover.org.au/resources/easter-resources/>



Crossover runs entirely on the donations of people like us – so let's support generously as we're able. Donations can also be made directly at [crossover.org.au](https://www.crossover.org.au). To watch their appeal visit <https://vimeo.com/908150783>

Re-Imagine

Combined Gathering

Re-Imagine is a combined gathering that aims to create a safe space for people to wrestle with faith, ask questions, and explore the journey of following Jesus. The gathering is organised by young adults from different churches, aged 18+ and is open to anyone interested.

Meets fortnightly at 157 St John St (St Johns middle building) on Tuesdays at 6pm for dinner and discussion with the next meeting on Tuesday, 12 March. Find more details on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61555902880372&mibextid=ZbWKwL>



Samaritan's Purse

Shoebox Numbers Are In!

Samaritan's Purse announced this week that 11.3 million shoeboxes were packed worldwide during last year's Operation Christmas Child collection season (2023). That means millions of children will now hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ and be discipled in 2024! Read stories of the incredible impact a simple shoebox gift is having around the world, visit their website here: <https://occ.samaritanspurse.org.au/2023-special-report/#numbers>. Seeing and sharing the impact of this work is a great way to honour everyone in the TasBaptist community who has packed shoeboxes and partnered with Samaritan's Purse over the years.



Being Human Webinar

What does it mean to be human?

Karl Faase will be joined by Jo Frost to look at the question, What does it mean to be human. Jo Frost is Author of the book and video series, 'Being Human' and will grapple with the idea of what it is to view the world through the Being Human lens. She will consider questions such as What is Jesus on about when he offers us 'life to the full'? And look at the cultural stories are shaping our identity. Also, what makes humanity unique and what is the invitation that God extends?

On Tuesday, 12 March 2024 at 7pm. RESERVE YOUR TICKET here: <https://campaigns.letsmakeawebsite.com.au/t/r-l-tiihdttt-nltnsutu-y/>

OLIVETREE MEDIA
Webinar Series

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN
TO BE HUMAN?**

12 MARCH 2024
7pm NSW | 6pm QLD | 4pm WA | 8am UK

Jo Frost
Evangelical Alliance UK and
Author of 'Being Human'

www.olivetreemedia.com.au/webinar

Trauma Recovery Course

Reboot Trauma Recovery

This three-day, faith-based course is focused on healing from trauma. While aimed at Service-related trauma, REBOOT courses are being offered to the wider community suffering from all forms of trauma. This includes victims of crime, DV, childhood trauma, disability, grief and ongoing illness.

One veteran on average dies by suicide every 2 weeks, making suicide amongst our service community is at an epidemic. Free to attend. Childcare is not available. For more info contact Andy & Zoe Cullen: 0420 462 845 or email: info@rebootau.org. From Wednesday 13, March to Friday, 15 March, 9am to 2pm, (Graduation Ceremony on Friday night, 6pm – 8pm) at Wrest Point Hotel Hobart, Drysdale Room – 410 Sandy Bay Road, Sandy Bay. Register Online: <http://www.ptsdresurrected.org/join/>



Heartlands Summer 2024 – out now

By Women, for Women

Heartlands is the quarterly email for EmpowHer – a network of Tasmanian women growing and encouraging each other in their God-given potential. Read More:

<https://www.tasbaptists.org.au/heartlands-summer-2024/>



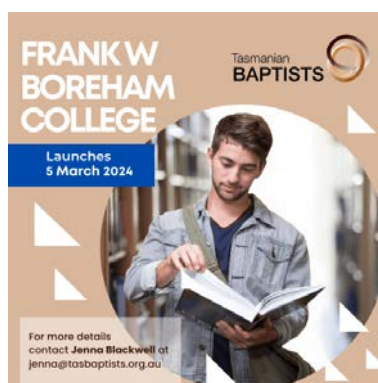
New College Roadshow

Frank W Boreham College launch

Tas Baptists launched the new Frank W Boreham College on 5 March at Hobart Baptist Church. The college will provide ministry and theological education, training, and reflection for our pastors, leaders, and members across Tasmania. This means Tasmanian Baptists now have the capacity to provide qualified training within the State. The new college is made possible by a partnership with both Kairos and Whitley. David will visit the state in early March and travel to all three regions to discuss what further theological education can look like, from diploma to doctorate. He will explain the Kairos subscription-based education model of learning. This model surrounds each student with a team of mentors who, along with the student, determine the student's education and formation pathway. The following informal evenings are open to anyone:

- Wednesday 6 March 7.30pm at Hobart Baptist Church, Hosted by Stephen Baxter, 0417 313 273
- Thursday 7 March 7.30pm at Newstead Baptist Church, Hosted by Dan Hutchison, 0457 765 907
- Friday 8 March 7.30pm at Burnie Baptist Church, Hosted by Matty Coppin, 9484 064 490

Please contact Stephen, Dan, or Matty, ASAP if you plan to attend.



Hear about the Kairos subscription-based education model of learning

Workshop for churches on CYSOF

New Child and Youth Safe Organisation Framework legislation

Olive Road and Fostering Hope are running a workshop on Child and Youth Safe Organisation Framework (CYSOF) legislation. The workshop is on Thursday, the 14 March 2024 at the Grace Centre, Rokeby, from 9.30pm to 2.30pm. It will provide an opportunity for attendees to grapple with the new CYSOF legislation and to share resources and ideas to develop the required policies and processes that will ensure ongoing compliance with the new Framework.

Anyone from not-for-profit organisations and churches in Hobart would benefit from this workshop to gain a better understanding of the new legislation. This includes the new Reportable Conduct Scheme and new strict timeframes on reporting to the regulator. The workshop will also focus on how organisations or churches might comply with the ten Child and Youth Safe Standards. If you, or someone within your organisation or church, are keen to attend, or if a weekend or evening session would suit better, contact Mary Blake, Exec. Officer, Fostering Hope on m. 0423 365 988 or email mary@fosteringhope.net.au.

There's more information about the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework here: <https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/carcru/child-and-youth-safe-organisations-framework>



Working for a Child and Youth Safe Organisation

Gaza Crisis Update

From Baptist World Aid Australia

Around 1.9 million people in Gaza have been displaced since the war started three months ago, when Hamas launched a terrorist attack on innocent civilians in Israel. People are sheltering in overcrowded school buildings, churches, and medical centres; some are even pitching tents on the street. This has left families vulnerable as winter hits, with temperatures dropping down to 10 degrees at night. Also, Gaza is experiencing a healthcare crisis. Baptist World Aid Partners in the region are distributing aid to families, including medical items, medicines, hygiene kits, mattresses and blankets, and food packages. They are also continuing to provide medical supplies and other essentials to families in the West Bank and Lebanon, where civil unrest and violent attacks are rising.

Read this lament written late last year as preparation to pray for protection and relief for families in the Middle East here: <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/2023/11/30/middle-east-lament/> .

If you'd like to consider giving, visit Baptist World Aid site here: <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/appeals/>



Gaza war damage photo by Mohamad Zaanoun, International Health Partners

Tasmanian
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