Transforming Tasmania with Jesus for Eternity

MARCH 2021

Delegates at the Tasmanian Conference's 58th Constituency Meeting

CONSTITUENCY MEETING REVEALS GOD ON THE MOVE IN TASSIE

Reports at the 58th Conference Constituency Meeting, held on Sunday, February 21 at the Launceston Church hall, revealed that God is truly on the move through our members, teachers and pastors in Tasmania. Our church was called by God to follow Christ's example in sharing the gospel through health/helping, teaching and evangelistic proclamation ministries. In seeking to follow the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy counsel concerning these ministry areas, we have seen significant results in the last quadrennium: Baptisms and Professions of Faith nearly doubled from 60 in the previous quadrennium (2012-2015), to 107 in the quadrennium under review (2016-2019).

Tithe consistently increased each year of the quadrennium from \$1,264,000 at the end of the last quadrennium, to \$1,957,000 at the end of 2020. Our members have truly been faithful to God in

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this area of life. We praise God that Tasmania is now one of the strongest conferences financially, per capita membership, in the Australian Union Conference.

Both of our schools have experienced amazing growth during the quadrennium: Hilliard has gone from 107 students in 2017 to 190 in 2020 (in 2021, there are now 210); North West Christian School has gone from 54 students in 2017 to 76 in 2020 (in 2021, there are now over 90). Both schools have now added year 11 and 12 and are currently undergoing extensive building programs to cater for the increase. We praise the Lord for the work our school teams are doing.

Read about important decisions made at the Constituency Meeting on page 6 of this issue of TASDA.

Tasmanian Conference 2021 Leaders Retreat REGISTER NOW

THE FINEST FOR THE FINEST HOUR

Collowing the miraculous rescue of some 338,000 trapped British, French, Belgian and Polish soldiers from the beaches of Dunkirk by both the British navy and scores of British civilians in their privately own boats, and with the subsequent fall of France to Hitler's "odious Nazi apparatus" in June, 1940, British Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill addressed the British parliament as follows:

"The battle of France is over. I expect that the Battle of Britain is about to begin. Upon this battle depends the survival of Christian civilisation...If we can stand up to him (Hitler), all Europe may be free, and the life of the world may move forward into broad, sunlit uplands. But if we fail, then the whole world...will sink into the abyss of a new Dark Age...Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that...men will still say, 'This was their finest hour.'"



As the British nation at the end of June 1940 was the sole European power to rescue Europe from Nazi tyranny, so today God's Church is the only power able to rescue people from the tyranny of sin and evil sweeping across the world.

As God's saving agency for the world, the Church will not be overcome or fail in its mission, for it is built on Christ the solid rock (Matthew 16:18). It is the most precious thing on earth to Christ as seen by the imagery God uses for it.

Firstly, warts and all, it is Christ's dearly loved "Bride", purchased



The church is the Bride and Body of Christ

and washed clean for Himself by his own blood (2 Corinthians 11:2; Isaiah 54:5 Ephesians 5:25). What infinite love Christ, God Almighty in human flesh, has for each one of us.

Secondly, as His bride and wife, it is therefore His "Body", one flesh with Himself, with each disciple being a member of His one body (Ephesians 5:31; 1 Corinthians 12:12,25). O how careful we need to treat each other for we are all part of His body, with everyone linked together in Christ to help His body grow through the exercise of the gifts He has entrusted to each of us.

Next, Christ's church is called the "Pillar" and "Ground" of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15). As a pillar supports a building, so the truth is supported by the church. As a house is stabilised by resting on a foundation, so the stability of the truth rests "on" the church, which is itself founded on Christ the rock. The church is thus the custodian of truth, entrusted to maintain the truth, to defend it from the assaults of error, and to transmit it to future generations. The truth upheld in the world by the church is found in the Bible. According to God, any behaviour, belief, world view, philosophy, or so-called science that contradicts His word, is erroneous and must be discarded (Colossians 2:8; 1 Timothy 6:20; 2 Timothy 3:16).

Finally, the church is both individually and collectively the "Temple"



The church is God's Temple, and the pillar and foundation of truth

of God (Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Timothy 3:15). As such it is a temple of priests in which God lives individually and collectively by His Spirit for His mission of bringing people to Himself through their godly living, deeds and words (1 Corinthians 3:16,17; 6:19; 1 Peter 2: 4-12).

Given the church is the finest and most vital thing to God in his soul-saving mission, let us therefore, as members of God's remnant church of Bible prophecy, "brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that...men will also say of us, 'This was their finest hour."

Pr Gary Webster Tasmanian Conference President

WORRY ERODES OUR FAITH IN GOD

Bitcoin, a non-government backed cryptocurrency worth a staggering \$AUD70,000 for each coin, is backed by the invisible inanimate world of cyberspace. Bitcoin is expensive because it offers an efficient means to transfer money over the internet that is decentralized from the Banks. When Bitcoin was first launched around 2010 you needed 10,000 Bitcoins to buy just one pizza! That Pizza is now worth \$700m. So, imagine Stefan Thomas, a German programmer, who had 7002 Bitcoins, now worth over \$AUD490million, stored on his digital wallet, but he can't remember the password! He has two more tries then his whole fortune is lost in cyberspace forever. Imagine? What would you say? Do not worry? Well, in fact the Bible states outrightly to us not to worry. How could this possibly help people like Stefan in daily life?

Jesus has some simple, but profound advice for us. In Matt 6:25 – 6:34, Jesus uses the phrase 'do not worry' 3 times and the word worry six times in reference to food, drink and clothing. In Jesus' day there was no guarantee these basic needs would be met. With the breaking of a new day, the confronting question for many was literally: "what ARE we going to eat and drink today?" Then Jesus cuts through all the clutter: "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you". Does this mean they withdraw from the tasks to seek God first? No, Jesus prioritizes: It is how we live out our many-faceted world that is the key. Amongst all the hustle and bustle we are to "Seek First..." Worry is a choice and Jesus drives the believer to change the priorities of the heart to seek God first so that He is able transforms our lives.

Worry only adds burdens and makes matters bigger than they ought to be, and the failure to prioritize effectively, often means our lives easily become over-loaded. The first activity to then drop away is our spiritual life. Research has demonstrated this to be the case for around 80% of Christians (Adventist and non-Adventist), who tag on "Worry only adds burdens and makes matters bigger than they ought to be, and the failure to prioritize effectively, often means our lives easily become over-loaded."

their spirituality to a simple thought text as they race out the door.

After a decade of regret and lying awake at night with trying to recall that illusive password, Stefan Thomas states that: "though it is painful" – an understatement to say the least – "he is now reconciled to losing his fortune and no longer wishes to be defined by it". When we worry, we have our hearts in the wrong place. Look to the cross and we see how much Jesus loves us, and so He WILL care for us! A relationship with Jesus is not tagged on. Worry will ensure it drops off the radar, but when worship is the centre, our dead bones come to life (Ezekiel 37: 1-14). There are two paths we can take – the way of worry, or the way of faith and worship.

Dr Mark Falconer Tasmanian Conference Secretary



FINANCES AND THE MISSION OF THE REMNANT CHURCH

Money or material blessings is the most often mentioned subject in Scripture. Two-thirds or more of Jesus parables deal with money or material possessions. Over 2,300 biblical passages refer to money or material possessions! There are only about 500 on prayer, and less than 500 on the subject of faith. Surely, if God gives it this much emphasis, we need to take the subject seriously.

On the other hand, finances are a spiritual battleground. Because money has such great significance to our sense of position, power, and control, we fight over it. One study revealed that 80% of divorces in western societies list financial difficulties as a primary factor in the divorce. Because of selfishness, our struggle over money is, at its core, a spiritual battle, a battle that takes place not only at home, but at church also.

Money and time are the two of the most fluid or changeable dimensions of life. How we deal with money and time reflects our walk with God. If we change our relationship with God, it will impact the way we deal with time and money. If we change the way we deal with our time or money, it will change our relationship with God.

This is why God has given us two spiritual thermometers - **the Sabbath and tithe**. They reflect where we are spiritually, both as individuals and as part of a corporate group. God demonstrates His trust in us by placing His resources in our hands to manage. There really are only three reasons that God gives us material blessings:

- To provide for our needs and those of our families
- To help others around us
- · To advance His kingdom

We have an opportunity to invest in God's kingdom with how we manage His blessings. God could have funded His Church directly. Instead, He chose to partner with us and trust us to invest His resources in His kingdom.

Church leaders (starting with me those of us who are conference administrators, pastors and local church leaders) need to remember that the role of leadership is critical for developing the confidence of church members in their Church and in strengthening their relationship with God. We are living in an information age. Information is easily discovered and easily shared. Information contributes to confidence in leadership and in the Church organization. When that information is

not provided by organizational leadership in an open and understandable way, it is easily misunderstood. Therefore, it is the responsibility of Church leadership to be transparent and credible in all its dealings, from conference funds to as little as pathfinder and adventure club funds.

The Apostle Paul provides a biblical example of this type of leadership: "And we are sending along with him the brother who is praised by all the churches for his service to the gospel. What is more, he was chosen by the churches to accompany us as we carry the offering, which we administer in order to honor the Lord himself and to show our eagerness to help. We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men" (2 Corinthians 8:18-21, NIV).

Ellen G White, in the context of dealing with tithe and the financial side of church leadership, states, "Those in responsible places are to act in such a way that the people will have firm confidence in them. These men should not be afraid to open to the light of day everything in the management of the work" (MR, Vol 13, 198).

So, at the beginning of this new quadrennium, let us look back to see briefly how the conference has travelled financially over the last 4-5 years? The graph below reveals that since 2016, tithe in Tasmania has increased amazingly, especially in the last three years. Praise be to God. In a Covid-19 affected year, Tasmania broke its own tithe return record increase set back in 2018 at 14.56%. In 2020, it was 17.77%. This has allowed more staff to be employed, both in the field and in administration.



Offerings in Australia and the rest of the world dropped significantly in 2020. However, as indicated in the graph below, in Tasmania offerings increased by 45.25% over 2019, with major increases in Sabbath School Offering, Annual Sacrifice Offering, Camp Mission Offering and the World Mission Budget, to name just a few. Thank you brothers and sisters in Tasmania for your generosity and let us together thank God for His blessings.



As seen in the following graph, except for 2016, the church company reported surpluses every year of the quadrennium. The unincorporated entity also reported surpluses.



Profit and Loss graph for our Church Company

Our investments, as seen on the table below, have returned good income, which was used to support the work of the church.

| Properties Purchased | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------|------------|-------|-----------|-------|--|
| | | Return on investment. | | | | | | |
| | Total cost of | | | | | | | |
| | purchase | 201 | 8 | 201 | 9 | 2020 | כ | |
| 10 Merino Street, Kings Meadows | \$ 2,505,280 | \$ 99,177 | 3.96% | \$221,154 | 8.83% | \$201,407 | 8.04% | |
| 70 Sandy Bay Road, Battery Point | \$ 1,195,755 | \$ 19,378 | 1.62% | \$ 63,648 | 5.32% | \$ 48,219 | 4.03% | |
| 70 Sandy Bay Road, Battery Point | \$ 1,195,755 | \$ 18,407 | 1.54% | \$ 45,490 | 3.80% | \$ 28,377 | 2.37% | |
| Total: | \$ 5,355,171 | \$ 136,962 | 2.56% | \$ 330,292 | 6.17% | \$278,003 | 5.19% | |

As seen in the graph below, the schools are now on a much better financial trajectory.



The feature picture reveals that the new Conference Office is nearly completed. We expect to move in by the end of March.

In conclusion, overall the picture is one of strengthening our core entities and operations. When God's people remain faithful, He will provide for their needs and I know that as we focus more on evangelism - bringing the gospel to people - God will bring even greater means to finish His work in Tasmania.

Our target for the next quadrennium is to see tithe increasing to \$2.5 million every year. We want to be in a position to support the development of:

- 5 new churches
- 2 health clinics in major cities
- invest in the campgrounds to become selfsufficient
- finalize the building programs to both schools, that are critical to their future growth
- and much more, as per the strategic plan.

We can only do this through more and stronger prayers and petitions to the One who holds the resources of the entire universe. With God, everything is possible.

Pr Cosmin Dan-Marica Tasmanian Conference CFO



After postponing our Conference's 58TH Constituency Meeting because of Covid-19, it was a relief to host the meeting on Sunday, February 21 with virtually all delegates present.

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A copy of the 58th Quadrennial Constituency Meeting book with reports from the President, Secretary, Chief Financial Officer, Departmental Directors, Schools and Campground can be read and downloaded from the Conference website (www.tas.adventist.org. au). We would encourage members to read these reports online.

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

Following a season of prayer, the first order of business was to update the constitution. While not the most stimulating agenda item, the constitution is an important legal governing document that holds us all accountable. There were substantial changes ranging from editorial changes to the way we elect our Officers, Executive Committee and Departmental leaders. From now on the Nominating committee will be comprised of the Executive Committee, plus 6 additional members (elected at the Constituency Meeting, which with the Executive Committee make up the Appointments Committee), and 6 more members (also elected at the Constituency Meeting). The Nominating Committee will sit at least 3 months prior to the next Regular Constituency Meeting to nominate the Officers (the current officers will not be present in the Nominating Committee when this happens) and the Members of the Executive Committee (Members of the Executive Committee will not be present when this takes place). During the quadrennium, the Appointments committee (Executive committee plus the 6 additional members) will fill any vacancies that occur among the Officers, Departmental Directors, Executive, Appointments, and Nominating Committees until the Nominating committee sits 3 months prior to the next Regular Constituency Meeting.

HILLIARD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SUBDIVISION

The Executive Committee recommended that the Constituency Meeting approve the subdivision behind Hilliard Christian School. With Hilliard Christian School's rising enrolments, it needs funding of over \$2.4m to build additional facilities and classrooms, which they desperately need. After a lengthy and fruitful discussion, it was resolved to subdivide the land behind the school into 19 lots to raise the funds for these facilities.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Constituency Meeting delegates re-elected Pr G Webster as President, Dr M Falconer as Secretary, and Pr Cosmin Dan-Marica as Chief Financial Officer of the Conference.

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Delegates elected the following members to serve on the Executive Committee: Michelle Stephens (Rosny Church, re-elected); Noel How (Launceston Church, re-elected); Vivian Hill (Ulverstone Church); Katy Matteo (Glenorchy Church) and teacher employee; Eugene Estil (Margate and Hobart Church Plant) and pastor employee); Sue Mott (Deloraine Church); Barry Bidmead (Wynyard Church); Michael Groenewege (Burnie Church); Vicki Knight (Conference Church, Scottsdale Company).

ELECTION OF APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

The Constituency Meeting delegates elected the following six members to the Appointments Committee: Greg Bott (Launceston Church), Jason Cook (Rosny Church), Nathan Bakker (Burnie Church), Adrian Smith (Devonport Church), Lee Menzie (Collinsvale Church) – employee, Leanne Perry Glenorchy.



AUC President, Pr Munoz, explains the advantages of the constitutional changes

ELECTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The six additional members elected to the Nominating Committee were: Heath Walsh (Wynyard Church), Llevella Read (Launceston Church), Nanise Brown (Margate Church), Duane Vickery (Rosny Church), Peter Ralph (Margate Church), and Stephen Littlewood (Glenorchy Church).

CONFERENCE STRATEGIC PLAN

A Constituency Meeting not only reviews the churches work of the last four years, but also looks forward to the next four years. Due to time constraints at the meeting, the delegates voted that the proposed Conference Strategic Plan, "I Will Go", be sent to each church to make comments/suggestions, and that these be sent to the Executive Committee, who will then finalize the new quadrennial Strategic Plan. The theme "I WILL GO" is self-explanatory, and seeks to involve all our members in sharing Jesus. The plan covers Spirituality, Leadership, and Mission objectives that together strive to build revived healthy missional churches and schools, inspired competent leaders, evangelistic small groups, and to lead to greater youth retention and involvement. The Proposed Conference Strategic Plan can be viewed in the Constituency Meeting book online.



Conference strategic focus areas

SPECIAL THANKS

The reports by our ADRA, Education Health, Youth, Women's Ministry, Personal Ministries, Sabbath School, Ministerial, Stewardship, and Communication Directors, Schools and Spring Beach Campground reveal the progress and tremendous amount of work that has taken place over the last five years by our Members, Pastors and Directors. We encourage everyone to read all these wonderful reports to see what God has been doing around our conference. These reports are in our 58th Quadrennial Constituency book, which can be downloaded from the Conference website. Special thanks to Vicki Knight and Krystal Harder, who led Women's Ministry, Natasha Jordan, who led our Health Department, and to Pr Dana Howard and Pr Daniel Matteo who led our Youth, Pathfinders and Children's Ministries this quadrennium.

During this quadrennium, Hilliard Christian School experienced the sad passing of their former Principal, Susan Matthews, who was dearly loved by the students and staff. Cheryl Walsh, who served as Principal of North West Christian School for many years retired during this quadrennium. We acknowledge the tremendous work these two women have done for our schools. Ross Reid was a great blessing as the acting Hilliard Principal for one year until the current Principal, Stephen Littlewood, took over. David McNeil followed Cheryl as Principal until the end of 2020. He and Stephen Littlewood have been a tremendous help in growing both of our schools to where they are today.

Susan Matthews also served as our Conference Education Director until the end of 2016. Lyndon Chapman then took up the Education Director baton from Susan until the end of 2019. Ashley Bailey, who also works for the Victorian Conference Education Department, has been our Director since the beginning of 2020 and is doing a wonderful job. We want to thank these Education Directors, our Principals, teachers, ancillary staff, School Councils and our Conference Board of Directors for wonderful work they have done in educating children for time and eternity.



Ashley Bayley, education director, giving his report

Finally, Jesus tells us there is something wrong with humanity – all are sinners and in need of repentance. On top of this, according to Jesus in Matthew 25:31-46, and Rev 3:14-22, God's last day church is lukewarm – not on fire for Him, and not cold like the world. Therefore, let us all grapple with what is wrong both in our personal lives and collectively as a church, and then by God's power change things for the better. To sum up the last four years, we will use Ellen White's words: *"I can say, Praise God! As I see what God has wrought, I am filled with astonishment and with confidence in Christ as Leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history." Selected Messages vol 3, p162.*

Notice Board



DIRECTORS CHOSEN FOR NEW QUINQUENNIUM

On Sunday, February 28, just one week after othe Conference Constituency meeting, the new Appointments Committee met to choose the Departmental Directors. The following people have accepted the call to serve as Departmental Directors for the next 4 years:

| ADRA Director | Natasha Jordan | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| Youth Director | Pr Daniel Matteo | | | |
| Associate Youth Director (North West Region) | Pr David Leo | | | |
| Health Director | Raluka Dan-Marica | | | |
| Personal Ministries | Pr Gary Webster | | | |
| Sabbath School | Pr Gary Webster | | | |
| Education Director | Mr Ashley Bailey | | | |
| Ministerial Secretary | Dr Mark Falconer | | | |
| Stewardship | Pr Cosmin Dan-Marica | | | |
| Communication Director | Pr Gary Webster | | | |
| Family Ministries | Luigi and Takaia Bocchind | | | |
| This new role encompasses the following three | | | | |

This new role encompasses the following three areas

- Men's ministries
- Women's ministries
- Family ministries

We want to say a big thank-you to each of the above people for taking up these roles and pray that God will richly bless you as you work with Christ to build up His kingdom.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Thanks to Covid-19, the danger of not meeting together as we are called to do in Hebrews 10:24,25 has been clearly seen in many places around the Adventist world. It has been discovered that because churches were shut on Sabbath for months, when they re-opened many members have not returned. However, churches that involve all members in evangelistic home groups (groups that care for members and also intentionally seek to reach others for Christ) do not have this apostasy problem. In Tasmania, we were fortunate in that our time away from Church was fairly short and most members have returned to church since we re-opened.

However, the impact of Covid-19 on our mission in Tasmania in 2020 is seen by the following graph of Baptisms and Professions of Faith. Notice that our baptisms/ Professions of Faith for 2020 are less than half of 2019.



One of the reasons for this large drop is that there were no public evangelistic campaigns or Bible Seminars in 2020. Clearly, if we continue to have pandemics, which is highly likely, mission will be seriously impacted in Tasmania unless we intentionally set up a strong evangelistic home group movement throughout our conference. Covid-19 is forcing us to do what church growth research has shown, what Jesus modelled with His evangelistic small group of 12, and what Ellen White said God commanded us to do – to divide the church into evangelistic Home Groups:

The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err. If there are a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church members, but for unbelievers. If in one place there are only two or three who know the truth, let them form themselves into a band of workers. Let them keep their bond of union unbroken, pressing together in love and unity, encouraging one another to advance, each gaining courage and strength from the assistance of the others. Ellen G White, Testimonies for the Church vol 7, p21

Evangelistic home groups are a critical key to member retention and mission.

Thank God there are a growing number of members now running evangelistic small groups of different types. Following are some examples of this.



Margate Church and the small group luncheon with Vanuatu brothers and sisters

MARGATE SMALL GROUP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

The small group in Margate Church meets in Nanise's house. Nanise and some women prepared the food especially for our brothers and sisters who came from Vanuatu. They also invited visitors in the church to join them for the Sabbath lunch. After lunch, they love to play some instruments, sing gospel songs, share testimonies, recite their favourite memory verses, pray, and study the Bible together. Sometimes they even close the Sabbath there. They do also mid-week prayer meeting in that place. Because some of our brothers from Vanuatu need to go back home to Vanuatu after they have finished their contract as fruit pickers, for two succeeding Sabbaths, Margate Church and the small group have a luncheon with them.

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" Psalm 133:1



A couple of Deloraine's evangelistic small groups

DELORAINE'S EVANGELISTIC SMALL GROUPS

I was at Deloraine last Sabbath and witnessed again the wonderful movement of the Spirit that it is taking place there. They have a number of different types of groups that meet at night during the week and their weekly Sabbath School with their small groups is exciting. They continue to have a number of seekers in their Seeker's Sabbath School small group. Watch this space. Deloraine Church had caught the vision of evangelistic small groups and is destined to become one of our fastest growing churches in the Conference. You can rest assured the Devil will seek to upset things when God's Spirit is so evidently at work. Pray for them. I am also sure they would be happy to share their story in your church and how to replicate something similar in yours.

The Hobart Church Plant being led by Eugene and Michelle Estil had a year-end fellowship meeting in their home for all of their friends. They had worship, gave thanks to God for His goodness, sang carols, played games and exchanged gifts. God is working on the hearts of people as they make time to spend with them. One young man, who has been regularly attending their small group for three years, has started to open his heart to the Lord. Please pray for Eugene, Michelle and their team in their work. If you would like to do something similar, why not contact Eugene for some tips.



Christmas fellowship at Eugene and Michelle's home







Christmas cake for the kids (and the adults of course)

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YOUTH OUTREACH IN DEVONPORT

What would have been Big Camp week was used by the youth of Tasmania to serve God and the community. Each day the youth teamed up with Scripture Union to run a Vacation Bible School in East Devonport. They also partnered with Devonport church to do yard work for some community contacts. The week's evening worships were themed around personal self-care. On Friday, Kaitlin Gordon and Pastor Daniel did "Shave for a Cure" and raised \$4500 toward the Leukaemia Foundation. It was a great week of outreach and service. God is great!



Pr David leading out at the Scripture Union daily program



Kids on the bowling green at the outreach - obviously, lawn bowls is not just for senior citizens



Evening worship for the outreach team

HOBART CHURCH PLANT

CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP

HOW TO GET FAITH FM IN TASMANIA

As I am just commencing my work to oversee the Faith FM Radio network in Tasmania, I have been encouraged to hear how much interest and support our church members have for Faith FM. It is interesting to note that Faith FM in Tasmania has a greater percentage coverage of the state population than any other state. A number of people have asked why it is that the radio signal drops out when driving from place to place. Here is a bit of a technical explanation. I will try to keep it as simple as possible.

The Faith FM radio network in Tasmania is currently built using a special low power radio service - the Low Power Open Narrowcasting service (or LPONs). This is a low-cost system where the radio licences are much lower in cost compared to high-powered radio licences that are used for stations like ABC FM and other commercial radio stations. The downside is that the range of the radio waves is very limited. There are two levels of radio power that we are allowed to use. In residential areas, we are limited to very low power transmitters that are designed to work over a 2 km distance. Under some circumstances, these low power transmitters can reach a distance of about 5 km from the transmitter. For non-residential areas, we can often operate a higher power licence and in this case, the coverage is designed to be 10 km from the transmitter but can reach up to 20 km.

As you can see on the map, most of our radio sites are based around the townships and operate at low power. In addition to this, there are other radio services that also share the same set of frequencies. We have three possible frequencies for Faith FM - 88.0 (shown in green), 87.6 (shown in yellow) and 87.8 (shown in red). We have two challenges. Firstly, getting enough radio transmitters to cover more locations, and secondly, reusing frequencies within local areas. Every low power radio of the same frequency has to be at least 10 km away from a transmitter using the same frequency. And in some cases, there are other broadcasters who may also be using the same frequencies. It is very difficult, if not impossible to get full coverage, and it is entirely impossible to get full coverage on the same frequency, which means if you are travelling, you have to keep changing frequencies. If you are travelling and would like to listen to Faith FM uninterrupted without changing frequencies on your radio, I would recommend you download the Faith FM app on your phone. You can set your location and listen to the same content on your phone that is played on the radio. It will use some data on your phone so be aware of that. However, you will find that wherever you have mobile phone reception you can listen to Faith FM on your phone uninterrupted whilst travelling from place to place.



Future Plans

You may or may not be aware, but there is an opportunity for us to acquire a high-power radio licence that would operate from Mt Wellington. We are waiting notification for an auction date where we can bid for this licence. This transmitter would be about 10,000 times more powerful than the low power transmitters that we currently have. It would cover all of the southern Tasmania area and up to Launceston, however some areas in Launceston would not be able to get a good signal so there is still a need to continue to use the low power radios in the North, and North West. We also have areas that we have no coverage such as the North East, East and West Coast of Tasmania. In particular, we are looking at possibilities for Queenstown, Zeehan, and Strahan as well as filling some current gaps and getting some locations back on air that are no longer functioning (one such example is Ulverstone). I ask that you put all this to prayer, particularly the high-power licence in Hobart. All of the new sites are important, and cost money to establish. Each new radio site is approximately a cost of \$5,000 and the large high-power one on Mt Wellington will be a much greater cost. We need your prayer - specifically that God's will be done in the acquisition of the high-power license and transmitter for Mt Wellington.

We would love to hear your testimonies about how Faith FM has helped you or someone you know. Please contact me to share these testimonies by phoning me on 0419 108 495 or emailing me at: JasonCook@adventist.org.au

Thank you for your support of Faith FM. May God's work continue to bless many through this ministry.

Jason Cook Faith FM Coordinator Tasmania

WOMEN'S MINISTRY: REFLECTIONS & A FORWARD LOOK

As the seasons change and the Christmas break seems long gone, let us remember some things are constant. Like a God who sees our needs before we ask (Isaiah 65:24). A God who remains true to His promises (Deuteronomy 7:9, Heb 10:23). A love that pursues us even when we falter or wander (Jeremiah 31:3, 1 John 4:10, 19). Fellow believers who speak words of encouragement and pray with us and for us during difficulties (1 Thessalonians 5:11, Hebrews 10:23-25, Galatians 6:2, Ephesians 6:18, 1 Timothy 2:1).



Over the summer I took a few days to practice some selfcare and indulged in reading a new book, *Sisters In Arms* by Sukeshinie Goonatilleke. The book shares the journeys of eight women during the Reformation. Regardless of their life experiences, education, physical location or other restraints, their faith in God, daily communion with Him, active prayer lives and wiliness to work for Him in whatever way they could.

shone through. It made me consider what others see depicted in my actions, choices and values that I reflect. Because, truth be told, our actions speak loudest and reveal our true priorities sometimes before we acknowledge them personally. With those within our communities who are anxious, stressed, financially and emotionally stretched, I am provided with opportunities to share my treasure trove of blessings and peace that I experience because of my anchor in God and His scriptures.

While we've had time to reflect on last year and all that didn't happen, I hope too you've paused to joyfully praise God for the new doors and opportunities that opened up. From conversations with women from around the state God continues to show up in unexpected ways and hearts are open to learn of His love. Through women sharing their hearts and journeys, people are supported. Women praising through song, writing their own blessings into songs and worshiping joyfully together. Ladies opening their homes and kitchens for Bible studies, sharing their tables to meet both physical and spiritual needs. Others have shared literature, driven grandchildren to church to learn about Jesus or volunteered in our ADRA op shops. Those blessed with creative hands have sent handmade cards, knitted or sewn items for those with needs within their communities, across in Victoria or for international projects.

This year let us open our eyes, hearts, minds and homes to the leading of the Holy Spirit. To share that song God spoke His love to us through, or the Bible text, which contained the promise we needed. To call or text that name that springs unexpectedly to mind. To prepare a little extra to share with someone who is lonely or struggling. To take the time to schedule a catch up with a friend or neighbour. To join sisters in Bible studies either in person or via social media so we too can grow. To give a few hours volunteering in some capacity because when we share together and be real, we too blossom.



So if time is an issue start small. If money is an issue do something that is free. If you are blessed with resources, but are stretched, team up with others who have the passion and time. Together we can share His love, colour our part of the world with kindness and go to those in need, because when we do this we are sharing Christ with those around us.

If you were not aware, Women's

Ministries has an annual devotional book with all profits contributing to fellow Adventist sisters who are studying. This year's devotional entitled *Colour My World With Love* is a great place to start, and you could even submit for future editions. Alternatively, there are plenty of free online devotionals and Bible apps like *YouVersion*, which allows you to study devotionals or scripture with friends regardless of where they are situated. Why not do something for March 6, our International Women's Day of Prayer, which is hosted by the South Pacific Division this year? If you are looking for some resources to use for personal or small group Bible studies or to dive deeper into our Sabbath School lesson, then check out the following:

- Disciple.org (www.disciple.org.au/resources/) has something for everyone
- www.women.adventist.org/ our General Conference Women's Ministries is loaded with ideas and resources
- www.women.adventistchurch.com/ our South Pacific Division website equips women with local information, newsletters and resources
- www.inversebible.org provides a contemporary discussion and guides for Bible study

Friends, may we pray earnestly for the Holy Spirit to open our eyes, hearts, homes and minds to serve in love, reach out to our hurting communities and serve our risen Saviour until He returns. I will go and tell my world because I care...

Krystal Harder

Tasmanian Conference Women's Ministries Director



Conference staff and family members sharing God's blessings

CONFERENCE STAFF YEAR END CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Each year in early December, Pastors, Office Staff, Departmental Directors, Spring Beach Camp Managers, School Principals and their families gather together for a year-end Christmas luncheon. This year it was held at the Hobart Botanical Gardens on Sunday, January 6. Each time we gather like this we share God's blessings we have experienced during the year.

BOOK RELEASE



SISTERS IN ARMS

Courageous women of the reformation

BY Sukeshinie Goonatilleke

The Reformation was led by men like Luther, Calvin and Zwingli who revolutionised their world and ours. But there were also many remarkable women who defied social biases and traditions with a dauntless commitment to God's Word.

These are the true stories of eight of these women: follow Katharina von Bora as she escapes from a convent to start a revolutionary new life; flee Paris with Charlotte Duplessis de Mornay, who wrote an eyewitness account of the gruesome St Bartholomew's Day massacre; and learn about the new faith with Queen Katherine Parr, the only one of Henry VIII's wives to survive him.

These women were heads of state, writers, activists, poets and scholars but they were also very human, with their own loves, fears, heartbreaks and temptations. When we are called to stand for our faith, we can be inspired by their legacy.

North West Christian School News

Ulverstone Waterslide Big Freeze

The Central Coast Youth Leaders Group (which 2 of our Year 10 students attend as representatives for NWCS) were rather excited about an event they had been planning was able to go ahead. This was a fundraiser for Motor Neurone Disease (MND) and was held at the Ulverstone Waterslide on November 27, 2020. The heater was turned off in the pool and ice was added to the water. Eleven of our staff and students took the plunge down the waterslide into the 'inviting' cold water. We raised \$205 for MND. One of our participants (Alina Nibbs) took out best dressed for the event. She received a gift voucher for Beach Beat Surf in Ulverstone. What a great effort from the Central Coast community as the aim was to raise \$5,000 however \$11,021 was raised.



NWCS students on Maria Island



Students & Staff participate in raising funds for motor neurone disease (MND)

Changes

On the very last day of Term 4 for teachers, we received some news, which rocked the boat a bit. Our Principal Mr David McNeill was called to, and accepted a position in NSW. His replacement Mr Brayden Morton who has been teaching at NWCS has taken on the role as Acting Principal for 2021. New staff also include Mrs Belinda Ackland, Mrs Hannah Rabe, Mr Vivian Hill and Mr Barrie Bidmead.

Christmas Cards

About 4 years ago Miss Scott's class started a tradition of making Christmas cards for the school's closest neighbours. Every year since, her class has continued this tradition. In 2020, Mrs Weedon's class (K-1) joined in the creating and giving of the cards, and in total, the two classes posted 90 cards! It was very special to find out that within just one week of delivering all these cards, three families wrote cards back to the school and students and they personally delivered them to the office. What a blessing it is to give!



Excited NWCS students

Picnic Days

Kinder – Year 4 celebrated the end of 2020 by spending the day at Fairway Park, Ulverstone where they enjoyed free play and the school provided them with hot chips and icy poles as part of their lunch. Years 5 - 11 had a fun filled day of water sports at Lake Barrington.

School Camp

Many school activities were disrupted during 2020 however we were able to hold a Year 5 – 11 camp in December. We spent the week at Spring Beach where students and staff participated in many activities: a trip to Maria Island, a talent evening, playing spotlight, Commando Course, abseiling, lots of food, shopping and a couple of visits to the Royal Hobart Hospitals Emergency Department. As students supported and encouraged each other in the activities, an atmosphere of caring, thoughtfulness and helpfulness developed.

Record Enrolments at NWCS

2021 has brought record enrolments for NWCS with school enrolments up to 97. Please continue to pray for both of our schools that God continues to work through the schools for His greater purpose.

Kindergarten

NWCS now has a standalone Kindergarten room with 9 students enrolled in this class in 2021. This room gives the students the chance to learn to their full potential and experience learning through play in an outdoor setting. Belinda Ackland is leading out in this area and is doing a fantastic job.



Mrs Ackland teaching the Kindy Kids

Hilliard Christian School News

Enrolment Growth Continues at Hilliard Christian School

Hilliard Christian School has continued to increase its enrolment growth for 2021, with numbers topping 200 for the first time. Only one of our classes is still composite (Years 3 & 4) and the goal is to be completely single-streamed in 2022.



Prep and Year 1 students taking swimming lessons

In order to do this, we need the building program, which should be started in March 2021, building five new Primary school classrooms and renovating some of the current Primary classrooms for a Science facility to meet the needs of our Secondary and Senior Secondary students.

We praise God for giving us so many students to influence for Him.



Year 8 Science students



Commencement of Year 11

Hilliard this year started offering Year 11 classes. While our Year 11 class is very small, the school staff and the Board of Directors felt that it was important to make a start and get the program up and running. The material being compiled is of high quality and the work being produced is exceptional, as attested to by the people who came and ate the biscuits at our recent Dedication Service.

Meet Henry & Chanel Higgins

Henry and Chanel Higgins are new teachers at Hilliard Christian School. Mrs Higgins is teaching Bible, Music and Maths while Mr Higgins is teaching Design & Technology in the workshop along with some Bible and Science.

Mr Higgins is a graduate who is in his first year of teaching. Mrs Higgins was most recently a Mathematics teacher at Avondale School in NSW. Both of them are gifted musicians.

They spent their honeymoon in Tasmania two years ago and when they were asked if they were interested in coming to teach at Hilliard those memories helped make the decision to come. They are delighted to be here, loving living in Tasmania and working at Hilliard Christian School.

We love having their contribution to our school at Hilliard.

Ignite

Ignite is a social program for our Secondary school students that incorporates a spiritual aspect as well. This program normally happens twice a term and this year, under the leadership of Miss Felicity Knight, we had our first program on 26 February. With approximately half of the high school students in attendance, we had a great time with a 10-pin bowling game to conclude.



Cooking in the Home Economics Room (Year 9/10)



Mr & Mrs Higgins at Dove Lake, Cradle Mountain during their honeymoon



Secondary students enjoying the fun of 10-pin bowling at Ignite

Junior Prayer Meeting

Do you want to make new friends and learn more about Jesus? I would like to invite you to zoom prayer meeting every Wednesday night at 7:30.

This prayer meeting started over the summer holiday as a holiday project. I wanted to catch up with old friends from interstate and what better way but have a time of sharing and praying? We soon invited our extended friends from all over Australia and this meeting continued during the school term as well.

We are basking in the Word of God, play Bible games, and pray for various things. Sometimes we have a guest speaker with interesting topics from the Scriptures.

We are all excited to meet new people our age. So if



you are between 10 and 15 years of age, why don't you join us every Wednesday at 7:30pm? The meeting ID no. is: 945 9942 1752. See you soon!

By Annabelle Dan-Marica