

# CORAL COAST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



A Baptist Church Family



CHURCH CENTRE  
596 Windermere Road  
BARGARA 4670

Phone 4154 7220  
Website: [www.coralcoastchurch.org](http://www.coralcoastchurch.org)  
Email: [admin@coralcoast.org](mailto:admin@coralcoast.org)

**Sunday 17 October 2021**

9.30am

**John Mansfield**

Queensland Church Relationships Manager –  
Baptist World Aid Australia

*Micah 6:8*

*"A Better World for All"*

**Sunday 24 October 2021**

9.30am

**Brian Robertson**

*Romans 5:12-21*

*"Two Actual Men, Two Different Outcomes"*

**Pastor:**

**Brian Robertson**                      **0407 547 036**

**Elders:**

**Munya Clarence Bere**                **0429 389 076**

**Geoff Oakes**                                **0409 891 802**

**Secretary:**

**Ken Meyer**                                 **0403 937 421**

**Treasurer:**

**Colin Stollery**                              **0425 272 298**

# WELCOME

to the

## CORAL COAST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

If you are visiting with us today, we welcome you and invite you to sign our Visitor's Book. The restrooms are on the southern side of the hall, with entry off the veranda. There are baby-change facilities in the Toilet for People with Disabilities.

### Start-Time of Our Sunday Worship Services

Remember that our worship services are now commencing at 9.30am (rather than 10.00am). Please note this change in your diary, on your calendar, or in your electronic organiser.

### Checking-In on Sundays

The church has implemented the Queensland Government's Check-In-Queensland QR code system, for the listing of 'patrons' to the church buildings. This means that when you enter the church auditorium, hall, or office – on any day of the week – you are to log your attendance with the QR code. Coral Coast Men's Shed and Bubs'n'Kids have also set up the same system (and have adopted the same QR code as the church).

If you have not yet downloaded the Check-In-Queensland QR code app to your smart phone, please do so ... after all, you are now supposed to register your attendance using this app when you enter any indoor public space. If you do not have a smart phone, we will manually enter your details on an electronic device when you arrive on Sunday mornings and then submit that to Queensland Health's COVID-19 tracing section.

### Guest Speaker Today

Our guest speaker today is John Mansfield, the Queensland Church Relationships Manager for Baptist World Aid Australia. John has been with BWAA as a volunteer for eighteen years and been full-time since February 2020. He has been heavily involved with mission work over the years, predominantly in Africa, Turkey, and China.

John's message is entitled "A Better World for All", based on *Micah 6:8*. Welcome to Coral Coast, John!



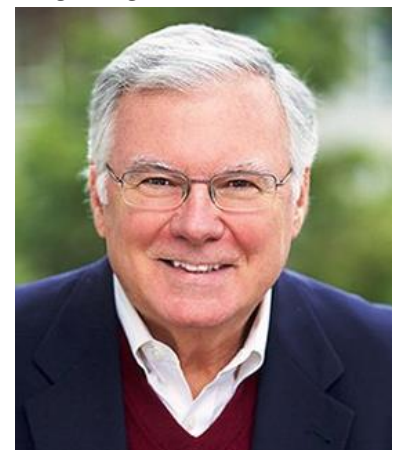
John Mansfield

### "Forgiveness 70 X 7" Seminar

The Forgiveness 70 X 7 Seminar is a DVD teaching presentation by Dr Bruce Wilkinson, designed to enable participants to find peace through forgiving others and themselves. Dr Wilkinson is a renowned Bible teacher who formerly presented the Walk Thru the Bible teaching series. The Forgiveness 70 X 7 Seminar involves a total of eight teaching sessions, presented over two days (four teaching sessions per day).

Megan Kelly and Sharen Slater will be screening this DVD teaching seminar on Tuesday 12 October and Tuesday 19 October, from 9.00am to about 2.30pm both days. The venue will be our Church Hall. Participants are asked to bring their own Bible, a notebook, a pen, their own water-bottle, and a plate of food to share for lunch. Tea and coffee will be supplied. The cost of the workbook is \$10.00.

For further information or to register, please contact Megan Kelly on 0412 827028 or Sharen Slater on 0411 030166.



Bruce Wilkinson

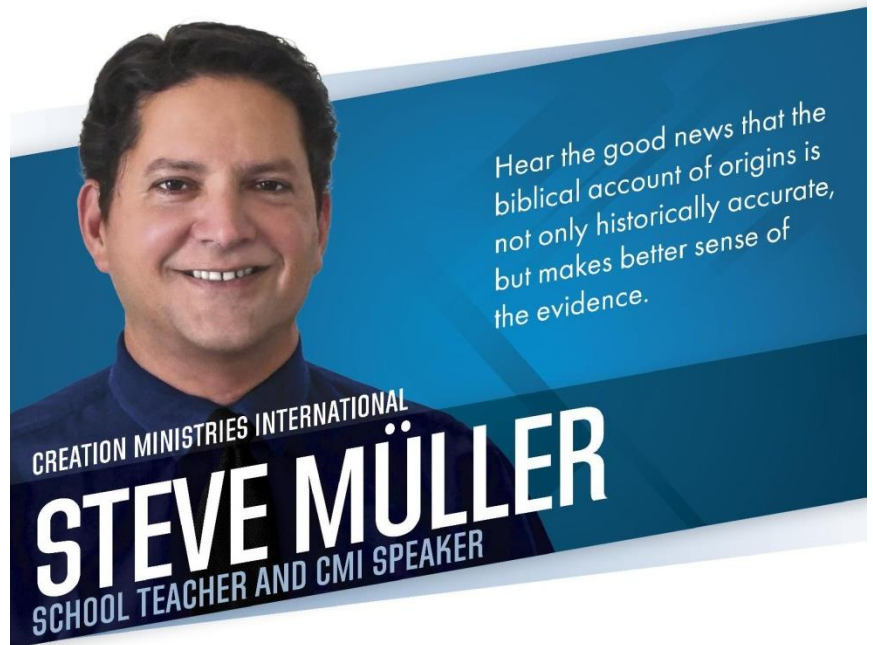
### Women's Afternoon Tea Fellowship

The next Women's Afternoon Tea Fellowship will be on Saturday 30 October, beginning at 3.00pm at the home of Helen Job (4 Majestic Place, Coral Cove). If you are going to attend, please advise Helen on 41556959 and take along a small plate of food to be shared. And Helen has enough space to allow for appropriate social distancing.

## Creation Ministries International Presentation at Our Church

Why won't they listen? Have you wondered why your witnessing falls flat and people fail to respond? Many people comment that science has disproved the Bible and therefore it is not relevant to today's modern world. But what's the answer? Can the majority of scientists really be wrong?

Discover the answers with Steve Müller when he brings his powerful message "How to Impact our Evolution-Soaked Culture" on Sunday 31 October 2021. Steve is a high school teacher and a house-church pastor based in Gladstone, and he will be joining us for our 9.30am service on that Sunday. Make sure you come along, and invite your unchurched friends!



## 'Hope-a-Float' School Chaplaincy Support Breakfast

On Tuesday 2 November, beginning at 6.30am at Rowers-on-the-River (2 Toonburra Street, Bundaberg), Scripture Union will be holding a fundraising Chaplaincy Support Breakfast. This event is for church-going people – rather than the Mayoral Chaplaincy Support Breakfast that is a community event, but which has been cancelled in both 2020 and 2021. Tickets cost \$40.00 per person, and places are limited to 200 people.

If you would like to attend this event and support our local school chaplains, tickets can be purchased online at <https://suqld.eventsair.com/hope-a-float-2021/register>. For further information, telephone Lisa Hardie on 0414 983353.

## Church mice



## Birthdays This Week

Tuesday 19 October – Sue Bennett

Thursday 21 October – Carol Rock

Friday 22 October – Helen Job

## Church Account Details

If you would like to have your weekly or fortnightly offering directly debited from your bank account into the church account, you will need the following information –

BSB Number 704 913

Account Number 400040010

Account Name Coral Coast Christian Church

Please reference you giving as "Offering" or "Tithe". Including your surname is optional.

## Monthly Financial Reports

### Offerings during September

During September, our church's offering (including direct deposits) totalled \$14,008.92 which makes an average of \$3,502.23 per week over the four Sundays. The total offering was \$1,885.09 less than the total in August, but the average weekly offering in the four-Sunday month was \$323.43 per week more than in the five-Sunday month of August.

The 2021-2022 Church Budget projected an offering income of \$47,500.00 for the July to September quarter. Our actual income was \$45,486.93 over the three months, which means our offerings were \$2,013.07 below the projected amount. Furthermore, the amount is \$2,951.87 below the total amount received in first quarter of the 2020-2021 financial year.

In September, there were no further donations to our "Buying Bricks" appeal.

Some 400 years before Jesus' birth, God challenged the people of Israel to "bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this ... if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows." (*Malachi 3:10*) We are usually commanded to not put God to the test, but in this matter – our financial prosperity – He invites us to test Him. And then Paul encouraged the Corinthians believers to give to God's work by telling them of the expansive generosity of the Christians in Macedonia who were experiencing "a great ordeal of affliction" and yet still "overflowed in the wealth of their liberality" (*2 Corinthians 8:2*). Give generously, and trust Him!

Thank you to all those who have been giving faithfully to the Lord's work in our church. If you are regularly tithing your income to God's work through our church, thank you! If you have not yet learned the discipline of giving 10% of your income to God's work, you are urged to trust God in this response to Him. The regular week-by-week giving by the people of our church is our church's only source of income (apart from bank interest).

Please remember too that if you are going away for a period of time, it is appropriate to put your offering for those weeks that you will be away in before you go (or when you return). The church still has to meet its financial commitments when you are away.

### Balance of the Church Loan

On 30 September, our church loan with BapLink stood at \$288,981.11.

The church's portion of the loan with BapLink is about \$276,000 because a \$12,000 portion of this debt is 'owed' to the church by Coral Coast Community Care Inc. CCC Inc has made a further \$5,000.00 repayment (but it was not processed until early October), making CCC Inc's debt as of today now only \$7,000.00.

### Special Offering Envelopes for the Building Program

Special offering envelopes – marked "Buying Bricks" – are available in a clear plastic rack on the wall in the foyer. These envelopes are to allow you to make donations to our church's building program, over and above your regular giving to our church.

### Balance of Kingdom Offset Accounts 'Tagged' to Our Church

As of 30 September, a total of \$111,673.71 was lodged in Kingdom Offset Accounts with BapLink and 'tagged' to our church. This money belongs to people associated with our church, and because these people are forgoing interest on their funds, the church is paying less interest on \$111,673.71 of our loan from BapLink.

### Balance of The Sowers Fund

As of 30 September, a total of \$14,676.39 had been donated to The Sowers Fund – 'seed funding' for the expansion of our church's pastoral team in the future.

### Separate Account for The Sowers Fund

There is a separate account with BapLink for contributions to The Sowers Fund.

BSB Number	704 913,
Account Number	100001092
Account Name	"Coral Coast Christian Church The Sowers Fund"

## Seeking a New Children's Officer

For many years, Fran McCulloch and Cherryl Johnston have been our church's volunteer Children's Officers, responsible for maintaining our compliance with the Queensland Government Blue Card system. Fran and Cherryl have kept all the paperwork up-to-date and ensured that everyone who has a Blue Card or a Blue Card Exemption knows when to renew with Blue Card Services.

However, now that the entire Blue Card system is online and our church now has its own unique online portal to manage our Blue Card compliance, Fran McCulloch thinks that she ought to step down from being one of our two Children's Officers. We are seeking another person – with computer skills and the ability to use an online portal – to join with Cherryl as one of our two Children's Officer. The person needs to hold a current Blue Card (or be able to acquire one). Please speak with Pastor Brian if you would be willing to volunteer.

## Returning the Old Church Directory

Now that you have received the new 2021 Church Directory, please return your copy of last year's Directory to the Church Office. The office staff can take these apart so that we can re-use plastic covers and spiral comb binders, and can shred the pages to protect the information contained in the booklet from inappropriate use. So, if you still have a copy of the 2020 Directory (or any earlier edition of the Church Directory), please remember to bring it with you next Sunday so that it can be 'recycled'.

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## Mission News

### “Barnabas Gifts of Love and Hope”

Barnabas Fund Australia has released its “Barnabas Gifts of Love and Hope” 2021-2022 catalogue. Gifts include –

- funding children's basic education in a Christian school environment in Pakistan (\$3.70 per child per month)
- funding the printing of New Testaments in a local language of a Central Asian country (\$5.70 per NT)
- supplying sleeping mats for persecuted and displaced Christian families in Nigeria (\$5.70 per sleeping mat)
- supplying Bibles to persecuted Christians (\$9.00 per Bible)
- providing 1.75kg packets of ePap (a highly nourishing grain-based food source) to displaced Christian families in Mozambique, feeding up to six people for a week (\$10.00 per packet)
- funding apprenticeship support for Christian young people in Pakistan as they learn trades (\$17.00 per apprentice per month)
- supplying stethoscopes to Christian healthcare workers in Pakistan (\$19.00 each)
- funding church leaders in a deprived area of Egypt to enable them to attend one-day Bible study and pastoral training courses (\$19.00 per church leader)
- providing 40kg sacks of rice to feed two displaced Christian families in Myanmar for one month (\$30.00 per sack)
- providing food parcels for persecuted Christian families in Uzbekistan, parcels which can last up to three months (\$34.00 per parcel)
- sponsoring the children of persecuted Christians (\$34.00 per child per month)
- supporting Christian widows and their children in Pakistan whose husbands have been martyred for their faith (\$38.00 per woman per month)
- supplying monthly food parcels to poverty-stricken Christian families (\$38.00 per parcel per month)
- funding the running costs of basic local-church-based health clinics in Pakistan, clinics that serve about 400 Christian people per month (\$45.00 per clinic per day)
- supporting church planters in Indonesia (\$47.00 per person per month)



- supplying ten personal protective gowns for hospital staff in Indonesia (\$60.00 per set of ten gowns)
- funding quality education for children of Christian families in Bethlehem (\$66.00 per child per month)
- providing goats or sheep to Christian widows displaced by violence in Cameroon (\$75.00 per animal)
- funding Christian leaders in Bangladesh to attend a week-long training course in discipleship, mission, or Bible study (\$102.00 per church leader)
- supplying bundles of roofing iron to repair houses damaged by anti-Christian violence in Nigeria (\$117.00 per bundle of roofing iron)
- funding church leaders in Kazakhstan to attend a three-day conference about establishing and developing small group ministry (\$130.00 per church leader)
- funding the installation of windows in a new church building for a group of persecuted Christians in Kazakhstan (\$207.00 per window)
- funding the construction of tube wells in Christian communities in Bangladesh to enable access to clean water (\$217.00 per tube well)
- supplying Type D oxygen cylinders to clinics in India (\$320.00 per cylinder)
- sponsoring Bible College students in theological and pastoral education through The Shepherd's Academy (TSA), an online institution established by BF to provide such training for Christians in non-Western contexts (\$415.00 per student per year)
- funding struggling Christian families (many headed by widows) in Egypt to start up sustainable micro-businesses (\$452.00 per grant)
- paying for flights and visas to enable Afghan Christian families to escape from Afghanistan (\$2,070.00 per family)
- funding the infrastructure costs to establish local theological training institutions with the hardware and software capacities to run The Shepherd's Academy courses (\$6,790.00 per training institution)

To donate to one or more of these projects, contact Barnabas Fund Australia, PO Box 3527, Loganholme, Qld, 4129, or phone 1300 365799, or visit the website at [www.barnabasfund.org](http://www.barnabasfund.org). Gifts to Barnabas Fund Australia are not income-tax deductible.

### **Baptist World Aid Australia's Afghanistan Crisis Appeal**

Decades of a refugee crisis have resulted in nearly six million Afghans forcibly displaced from their homes. Now the Taliban's recent takeover of the government has severely compounded the crisis, forcing hundreds of thousands to flee from their homes and tens of thousands in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. Some 80% of those who have been displaced are women and children.

Baptist World Aid Australia's partner organisation – which cannot be named for security reasons – is active and committed to continue meeting the needs of those most vulnerable and displaced families. As soon as it is practically possible, with your financial gifts our Christian partner will be enabled to help displaced families at risk of starvation, keep families warm and sheltered in camps during the oncoming winter, and provide mobile emergency healthcare services and medical assistance. Your financial gifts can mean the difference between life and death in this crisis. And your financial gifts also show the world that God is greater than the crisis in Afghanistan.

Join BWAA as it responds to this unfolding tragedy and provide real assistance to those who need it most. Send your gift to BWAA, Locked Bag 2200, North Ryde, NSW, 1670, or telephone 1300 789991, or donate online at [www.baptistworldaid.org.au/appeals/afghanistan-crisis-appeal](http://www.baptistworldaid.org.au/appeals/afghanistan-crisis-appeal). All donations are income tax deductible.



## **Baptist World Aid Australia “The Little Book of Big Hearted Gifts” for 2021-2022**

Baptist World Aid Australia has released “The Little Book of Big Hearted Gifts” filled with suggestions for the support of BWAA projects around the world. Suggested gifts include –

- providing bars of soap and training Cambodian and Kenyan people in basic sanitation and personal hygiene (\$5.00)
- helping to prevent malaria in the Solomon Islands (\$10.00)
- providing communities in Nepal and Kenya with training in environmental protection techniques and planting trees to reduce erosion, provide cattle feed, and develop forests (\$10.00)
- arranging children’s arts and crafts experiences in Uganda so that children develop resilience, learn skills, become creative, and avoid child labour and child marriage (\$15.00 per session)
- providing blankets for refugee children in various locations (\$15.00 per blanket)
- supplying face masks, gloves, other protective equipment, and hand sanitiser to families and frontline healthcare workers in the midst of the pandemic (\$15.00 per package)
- training for Nepali and Kenyan families in chicken rearing and providing them with chickens (\$20.00)
- training poor families in Bangladesh and Nepal in establishing vegetable gardens, and supplying seeds to enable vegetable gardens to be planted (\$20.00)
- providing hives of bees in Nepal and training families in beekeeping (\$40.00 per bee hive)
- supplying goats for families in Nepal and Kenya (\$40.00 per goat)
- assisting in the provision of clean water (water filters, arsenic testing kits, borehole sinking, and pond building) in Bangladesh, Nepal, Kenya, and the Solomon Islands (\$50.00)
- training in pig breeding for families in Nepal and Cambodia and supplying piglets to allow for the establishment of pig farms (\$50.00)
- training and supporting birth attendants in Nepal, and educating new mothers on better health care (\$60.00)
- supplying disease-fighter packs (which combine the fresh water gift, the anti-malaria gift, and clean-hands bars-of-soap gift) (\$65.00 per pack)
- supplying family nutrition packs (which combine the vegetable gardens, goat, and chickens gifts) (\$70.00 per pack)
- establishing eco-friendly fish farms in rural Nepal and training families to farm fish for food and to sell in the markets (\$80.00 per fish pond)
- supplying farm animal packs (which combine the goat, piglets, and chickens gifts) (\$100.00 per pack)
- educating refugee children and ethnic minority children in Lebanon and Nepal (\$100.00)
- funding “Change-a-Child’s Life 3-in-1 Value Packs” (which combine back-to-school, arts and crafts, and clean water gifts) (\$150.00 per pack)
- helping to prevent child trafficking in Asia by creating safe centres where children can receive shelter, protection, education, opportunities for play, and health care (\$300.00)
- constructing flushing toilets and training in better sanitation in Nepal (\$500.00)
- constructing emergency shelters and providing emergency aid following natural disasters, especially so that people have safe places to live and sleep (\$1,500.00 per shelter)

If you would like to make an income-tax deductible purchase of one or more of these items, send your gift to BWAA, Locked Bag 2200, North Ryde, NSW, 1670, or telephone 1300 789991, or email [hello@baptistworldaid.org.au](mailto:hello@baptistworldaid.org.au). You can also view further details about these projects at the website [www.baptistworldaid.org.au/big-hearted-gifts](http://www.baptistworldaid.org.au/big-hearted-gifts). BWAA will supply you with Christmas cards that match each gift, so that you can advise your loved ones that a gift has been purchased on their behalf through BWAA.



## Issues of the Faith

### “Teaching ‘Original Goodness’ Is Anti-Gospel”

This article was written by Philip Bell, a British-based scientist and educator who has been the CEO of Creation Ministries International (UK / Europe) since January 2007. This article was first published in *Prayer News*, CMI-UK / Europe in April 2020, and then published online by CMI on 29 December 2020.



Philip Bell

*Today, many modern writers who describe themselves as evangelicals openly disagree with the core Christian doctrine of original sin. Some argue instead that Jesus seeks out original goodness in us. They reject a historical Fall in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve rebelled against the clear instructions God had given them (Genesis 2:15-17), earning the punishment of both physical and spiritual death (Genesis 3:19; Romans 6:23). Such denials of the words of Scripture by theistic evolutionists are deeply ironic: Adam and Eve’s very sin was in agreeing with the serpent’s questioning and open defiance of God’s words: “Did God actually say?” and “You will not surely die” (Genesis 3:1, 4).*

*Sadly, this slide into further compromise of biblical truth shows no sign of slowing. Far too many Christians are oblivious of what leading movers and shakers of evangelical thought actually believe and teach. We need both to be aware for ourselves and to help prevent others in our churches from succumbing to such scholarly-sounding but treacherous teachings.*

#### Sin Redefined and Minimised

*Influential Old Testament scholar John Walton advocates the idea of pre-Adamic, soul-less people doing things which today we would consider sinful for thousands of years before the events of Genesis 3. Supposedly, God then stepped in and designated a human pair (Adam and Eve) to be priestly representatives in the sacred garden. That does not mean, says Walton, “that Adam and Eve were specimens of humanity who were perfect in every way”. Not at all. Their taking of the forbidden fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, what he calls the “beginning of sin”, was simply when human accountability began. Before that point of accountability, he teaches that all sorts of ‘sinful’ behaviours were being committed by other humans*

*However, there’s not a shred of biblical support for the idea that God set aside Adam and Eve as priests in some sort of cosmic temple. Walton reimagines Adam and Eve and flatly disagrees that the Fall was an act of disobedience, alleging that “An Israelite reader ... would not necessarily recognise the serpent to be morally evil or bent on the destruction of mankind”. Walton says of the serpent, “He does not say ‘you will not die’. Instead [the words convey] something more like ‘don’t think that death is such an immediate threat’.” He even argues, shockingly, “we can have a much more charitable attitude toward Adam and Eve” but Walton’s twisted, distorted understanding of the Fall is frankly anti-evangelical.*

#### Homo Lapsus

*Irish theologian Niamh Middleton’s recent book, *Homo Lapsus*, pushes theistic evolution further than most writers have gone before. She argues that evil behaviour evolved in our ancestors – deception, exploitation, cruelty, corruption, aggression etc. This was humanity’s gradual moral lapse. Admitting that this renders ‘original sin’ redundant, she thinks nevertheless that it enhances our understanding of Christianity! A detailed review of her ideas was published in *Journal of Creation*. Here, we will content ourselves with a few quotations. According to Middleton, hard-heartedness is not rebellion (contra Hebrews 3:15) but something that aided human evolution:*

*“This means that the genes of the harder-hearted and more deceitful ... would have begun to increase incrementally ...”*



“... my argument [is] that human nature in and of itself is basically good, and that the evolution of evil was an aberration within a purely natural context.”

“... Homo sapiens also became Homo lapsus.”

Speaking of Adam and Eve, Middleton says:

“... it may not be their genes or souls that are the vehicle of transmission of original sin but the impact on the human gene pool of the moral decisions that they make.”

But make no mistake; these ideas are alien to the teaching of true, biblical Christianity. She goes further:

“Most of all, science reveals the basic goodness of human nature itself, made good over millions of years of evolution ... No matter what decisions our forebears made or might have made, there is a fundamental goodness to human nature ... that is prior to any free moral decision; this premoral goodness with its associated behaviours and behavioural patterns cannot be eliminated.”

Notice the claim being made here. Not only does she teach that the evil side of human nature evolved but that the goodness of human nature is also due to evolution! Whenever the Fall is minimised or redefined – with an insistence on the pre-Fall inherent goodness of human beings – the gospel is undermined.

### Gospel Imperatives

To imbibe the idea of ‘original goodness’ is no longer to see people as fallen sinners in need of Christ’s forgiveness, cleansing, and redemption. Perhaps it is unsurprising that Middleton goes on to assert:

“Much of what would have been considered ‘sin’ in the past can now be attributed to circumstances that are not the fault of any particular individual and can, in fact, be remedied through secular rather than religious means.”

The remedy of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ for sinners (1 John 1:7) is nowhere in view. A denial of the Fall leads to an overestimate of human goodness, which in turn tends towards a denial of the need for salvation through Jesus Christ. The doctrine of original sin is a gospel imperative, providing a logical basis for the imperatives of repentance and faith in Jesus

Ironically, a few theistic evolutionists do insist that Genesis means what it says, even though they themselves admit to disbelieving it. For example, Denis Lamoureux (a professor of science and religion) is critical of his fellow theistic evolutionists who try to make out that Genesis doesn’t actually teach six regular creation days and a real Adam and Eve. He believes in billions of years and rejects a historical Adam but he does acknowledge that the apostle “Paul ... definitely believed that death entered the world with Adam. This was not merely spiritual death [he then quotes Genesis 3:19]. Clearly it is physical death”. He insists Genesis teaches that, when “Adam broke God’s Word, he inaugurated sin...”. Without doubt, the Genesis account of a literal Fall is what the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to affirm (Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22).

### Sabotage of Christian Fundamentals

What is happening to the core biblical teachings about Adam and Eve and the Fall in ‘evangelical circles’ is terribly sad but also devastating too. The foundations are being undermined from within the Church itself. John D Currid (Old Testament Professor) succinctly observes:

“The macro-structure of the Bible is a historical account of God’s actions from beginning to end. If we remove the profoundly historical nature of Genesis 1–3, we will remove the historical foundation on which all the remainder of the Bible rests.”

Currid’s words are so true. As fundamentally important doctrines of the faith are being deceitfully displaced by sham alternatives, the Church is fast losing its credibility or right to be

# Homo Lapsus

Sin, Evolution, and the  
God who is Love



Niamh M. Middleton

*an authoritative voice in society. The fall-out is deadly, as philosopher and theologian (James Peter) J P Moreland dogmatically asserts:*

*“... the rejection of historical Adam and Eve reinforces the privatised, non-cognitive status of biblical doctrine, ethics, and practice ... If the church has been mistaken about one of its central teachings for two thousand years, why should we trust the church regarding its teaching about extramarital sex, homosexuality, or the role of women in the church? ... Those who reject a historical Adam and Eve inadvertently harm the church and become its gravedigger.”*

*It is vital that those of us who profess to be evangelical Christians are aware of the dangers of compromised teaching within the Church. But awareness is not sufficient: we must be doing all that we can to counteract these sabotaging influences.*

<b>YOUR CHURCH FAMILY BUSINESSES</b>		
<p><b>Bundaberg South Vet Clinic</b> 67 Walla Street, Bundaberg South 41520009 vet@bundabergsouthvet.com.au www.bundabergsouthvet.com.au <b>Munya Clarence Bere Rutendo Bere</b></p>	<p><b>ACTIVE PHYSIOTHERAPY SOLUTIONS</b> 222 Walker Street Bundaberg 41510106 <b>Trevor &amp; Andrea McLaren</b></p>	<p><b>Bundaberg I.T. Services</b> For all your computer needs 25 Boston Street, Bundaberg <b>41535865</b> sales@bundyit.com.au www.bundyit.com.au <b>Wayne Barrett</b></p>

## **World News – United States of America**

### **Churches in Virginia Stripped of Freedom to Hire in Accordance with Beliefs**

Last year, the US State of Virginia enacted the *Virginia Values Act*, which added “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” language to existing non-discrimination laws. In practice, this law stripped faith-based organisations of their right to operate their ministries and make employment decisions according to their mission and core beliefs.

Take Calvary Road Baptist Church for example. Calvary Road believes that marriage is between one man and one woman, and that God created humanity as either male or female. Under Virginia’s new law, Calvary Road can believe that – but that’s where it stops. According to the law, Calvary Road cannot actually operate according to these beliefs. It cannot ask its employees to teach and act according to these beliefs. And it cannot even explain these beliefs on its own website! Essentially, Virginia’s law forces Calvary Road and other ministries like it to make a choice: either abandon their biblical beliefs or face investigations, lawsuits, fines of up to \$100,000 per violation, unlimited legal fees, and court orders forcing them to violate their convictions.

Calvary Road Baptist Church did not like those options, so it chose a different path. Calvary Road – along with Community Fellowship Church, Community Christian Academy, and Care Net – filed a lawsuit against the Commonwealth of Virginia. After all, if a religious ministry cannot follow its core beliefs in key policy, personnel, and leadership decisions, that destroys its identity – its very reason for existing. Unfortunately, that seems to be the intended outcome. That’s why these churches and ministries are taking a stand. There is no place in a free society for the religious hostility on full display in Virginia!

### **Jonathan Lotz Recovered from COVID-19**

Jonathan Lotz, one of the grandsons of the late evangelist Billy Graham, contracted COVID-19 and was in a critical condition in intensive care. Anne Graham Lotz, Billy Graham’s daughter, took to social media to ask for prayer for her son. And a recent update revealed that Jonathan was not long after moved out of the intensive care unit and into rehabilitation.

Anne Graham Lotz, credited prayer for her son’s recovery. She said, “Fifty years ago I could hold my son in my arms. Now I have placed him in the arms of Jesus.” She thanked

everyone for “carrying Jonathan on your knees”.

Mr Lotz testified that he had the privilege of sharing Jesus with the hospital staff. “What a Saviour! God is so good!” he told his mother. Jonathan Lotz worked with his grandfather from 1994 through 2002, and has continued to operate his own ministry, preaching the gospel worldwide.

### **Majority of US Christians Shaky on Core Truths**

The churches in the USA may be in a crisis stage after a new report has found the theology of the majority of Christians appears to be fundamentally flawed. The report, compiled by the Cultural Research Centre at Arizona Christian University, showed that “many in this group hold views clearly in conflict with traditional teachings and only 9% actually possess a biblical worldview”, according to George Barna, CRC Director of Research.

In total, currently about seven out of every ten adults in the USA (69%, or 176 million people) adopt the label “Christian” to identify their faith. 35% of the population or 89 million people identify themselves as “born again Christian”.

While on the positive side, the Report revealed that –

- 79% believe that God has a reason for everything
- 77% say they have a unique, God-given calling
- 74% say they intentionally try to avoid sinning because they know it hurts God
- 72% claim that every moral choice either honours or dishonours God
- 62% agree that the universe was designed and created, and is sustained by God
- 61% believe that God is the all-knowing, all-powerful, perfect and just Creator of the universe who still rules the universe today

On the negative side, the Report also showed that this large group entertains a wide range of perspectives that are not in harmony with biblical teachings. Among the errant perspectives most widely embraced were –

- 72% argue that people are basically good
- 71% consider feelings, experience, or the input of friends and family as their most trusted sources of moral guidance
- 66% say that having faith matters more than which faith you pursue
- 64% say that all religious faiths are of equal value
- 58% believe that if a person is good enough, or does enough good things, they can earn their way into heaven
- 58% contend that the Holy Spirit is not a real, living being but is merely a symbol of God’s power, presence, or purity
- 57% believe in karma (basically means good or bad luck, viewed as resulting from one’s actions).
- 52% claim that determining moral truth is up to each individual; there are no moral absolutes that apply to everyone, all the time

It appears that Christianity may be a simple term, rather than a deeply committed lifestyle, that many Americans may use to describe their faith. And with less and less people going back to church after the COVID lock-downs, re-training the nation’s Christians on correct theology will be a major challenge.

### **Harvesting Kidneys from Aborted Babies While Hearts Still Beating**

On 4 August 2021, it was reported that the University of Pittsburgh in the USA had inadvertently revealed more evidence that aborted babies were being born alive and left to die so that their organs could be used for scientific research.

Judicial Watch and the Centre for Medical Progress exposed evidence of babies potentially being born alive in abortions and other disturbing practices in documents they obtained from a *Freedom of Information Act* request to the US Department of Health and Human Services. The documents showed that the federal government gave the University of Pittsburgh at least \$2,700,000 in federal tax dollars over the past five years to become a “tissue hub” for aborted

baby body parts for scientific research. On Wednesday 4 August, a University of Pittsburgh spokesperson defended its practices in an interview with Fox News.

However, the Centre for Medical Progress said the university's statements confirmed that aborted babies' hearts still are beating while their kidneys were harvested for scientific research. "Pitt is now admitting to the news media that the aborted babies are still alive at the time their kidneys are cut out for [National Institutes of Health] grant money," said David Daleiden, founder and president of the Centre for Medical Progress. Mr Daleiden continued, "Pitt's grant application for the GenitoUrinary Development Molecular Anatomy Project (GUDMAP) advertised this to the federal government and that labour induction abortions, where the baby is pushed out of the mother whole, would be 'used to obtain the tissue'. The plain meaning of the GUDMAP grant application, and the University of Pittsburgh's statement explaining it, is that Pitt and the Planned Parenthood abortion providers responsible for its 'research' abortions are allowing babies, some of the age of viability, to be delivered alive, and then killing them by cutting their kidneys out."

The university has been using Americans' tax dollars to pay for its "tissue hub" for aborted baby body parts for years. According to the documents, the University of Pittsburgh requested \$3,200,000 over a five-year period in 2015, and it has received at least \$2,700,000 so far. One of the experiments that may have been funded with that money involved scalping five-month aborted babies and then implanting their scalps onto rodents. The information comes from a study that University of Pittsburgh researchers published in September 2020 in the journal "Scientific Reports". It describes how scientists used scalps from aborted babies to create "humanised" mice and rats to study the human immune system.

### **The Satanic Temple Claiming Abortion Is a "Religious Ritual"**

The Satanic Temple in the USA, a group that claims aborting unborn babies is a 'religious ritual', is challenging the new Texas heartbeat law on religious freedom grounds.

The Satanic Temple asked for an exemption from the pro-life law under the Texas *Religious Freedom Restoration Act*. If the State refuses, the Satanic Temple said it will ask the courts for "judicial relief", because the Satanic Temple believes abortion is a 'religious ritual' similar to communion or baptism for Christians. In 2020, the Temple even raffled off a free abortion to raise money for its pro-abortion work. It has slammed the new Texas law as "unjust" and "tyrannical" and demanded that the State grant an exception for its members. Attorney Matthew Kezhaya who is representing the organisation said the Satanic Temple believes in bodily autonomy and science. He stated, "By regulating the context in which the ritual happens, you're basically regulating the ritual itself. If I say nobody can buy wine, well that is affecting the Catholics' ability to do Mass."

For years, the Satanic Temple has been suing to challenge pro-life State laws in the USA, and so far all of its lawsuits have failed. But every time it loses, it tries again with a new approach. Its plan is to challenge pro-life laws based on the *Religious Freedom Restoration Act* (RFRA), which ensures the government does not unnecessarily interfere with people's religious freedom. The Satanic Temple is heavily involved in abortion activism in the USA. Its work has been described as a "pro-abortion crusade to come to the aid of America's largest abortion provider", Planned Parenthood.

The new Texas law, which went into effect on 1 September 2021, prohibits abortions once an unborn baby's heartbeat is detectable at about six weeks of pregnancy. This law has the potential to save tens of thousands of babies' lives every year. Unique from other heartbeat laws, it includes a private enforcement mechanism that allows people to file lawsuits against abortionists who violate the law and those who help them. Meanwhile, pro-life advocates are reaching out to pregnant women across Texas with compassion and understanding, offering resources and emotional support to help them and their babies. Earlier this year, State lawmakers increased support for pregnant and parenting mothers and babies, ensuring that they have resources to choose life for their babies.

## **The Right to Kill Babies in Abortions Is “Not Negotiable”**

For US Vice-President Kamala Harris, the ‘right’ to kill babies in abortions right up to the full term of a pregnancy is “not negotiable”.

On 9 September 2021, Vice-President Harris met with a group of abortionists at the White House and expressed her unwavering support for their actions. She met with abortionists from across the USA, but one man among her guests was lauded as a ‘hero’. Dr Bhavik Kumar, a Planned Parenthood abortionist in Houston in Texas, had performed a record of sixty-seven abortions in one day on 31 August (the day before Texas’ new heartbeat law went into effect). He was described as a hero by the Vice-President and in the secular mainstream media.

After the meeting, Vice-President Harris extolled the virtues of unlimited abortions, saying the right to end the life of an unborn child is “not negotiable”. “The right of women to make decisions about their own bodies is not negotiable,” Ms Harris said. “Right now there are twenty-two States that have laws that could be used to restrict the legal status of abortion,” she said. “Ninety provisions that restrict access to reproductive health care were passed in 2021. Some States, like Kentucky and Mississippi, have only one abortion clinic. The Supreme Court has allowed a State law to stand that deputises citizens, anyone, to proclaim themselves in a position to have a right under law to interfere with those choices that that woman has made.” And referring to the new Texas pro-life law, she described it as “essentially an abortion bounty law, empowering vigilantes with a private right of action to interfere with a woman’s relationship with her health care provider.” She added that abortion on demand up to a birth is a value we “hold as an ideal. So for me this is truly an issue that is about full participation. And in that way we know that when all people are able to fully participate, our democracy is stronger, and everyone benefits,” she said.

In reality though, abortions do not protect women. An abortion is not health care, and access to abortion is not necessary for women to be free or to thrive. An abortion kills a unique, living human being, a child in the womb, and risks the mother’s life and health. The Texas law allows exceptions for medical emergencies when the mother’s life is genuinely at risk, but prohibits abortions on unborn babies for all other reasons. It recognises that a baby in the womb is a valuable human being who deserves rights and protections under the law. But it is these basic human rights that Vice-President Harris is fighting against.

They are fighting against the beliefs of most Americans, too. Americans don’t agree with Ms Harris and support protecting babies from abortion. Several recent polls show Americans support heartbeat laws. A new Rasmussen poll found that Americans support the Texas heartbeat law, with 46% in favour to 43% percent against. An April poll by the University of Texas-Austin found that 49% of Texans supported making abortions illegal after six weeks of pregnancy, while 41% opposed it. And a national Hill-HarrisX survey in 2019 found that 55% of voters said they do not think laws banning abortions after six weeks – when an unborn baby’s heartbeat is detectable – are too restrictive. Since *Roe v Wade* in 1973, nearly 63 million babies have been killed in abortions in the United States. Most Americans recognise that it is time for this injustice to end and time that States be allowed to protect unborn babies’ right to life once again.

## **Horrible New Abortion Law Passed by Democrats in US House of Representatives**

No one thought an abortion law more barbaric than the one approved by the State of New York, but the Democrat Party is bent on proving them wrong. New York’s *Reproductive Health Act* allows practitioners to perform an abortion on a patient who is 24 weeks or more into a pregnancy if the foetus is not viable or the abortion is necessary “to protect the patient’s life or health”. The law does not define “health” or viability of a foetus. The determination of these factors must be made by a “health care practitioner licensed, certified, or authorised” under state law, “acting within his or her lawful scope of practice”.

In an astonishing move, Democrats in the US House of Representatives made history on Friday 24 September 2021 by passing a Bill that allows any kind of abortion, at any time, for any reason, anywhere in the USA. If this Bill becomes law, gone would be the States’ partial-

birth abortion bans, protections for newborn survivors, conscience rights, ultrasound requirements, parental consent, and so much more. If the US Senate were to also pass this Bill, everything the pro-life community has worked for over the last fifty years would evaporate. It is, as Representative Mary Miller (R-Illinois.) said with horror, “completely radical and evil”.

When the Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi – who claims to be a Roman Catholic – defended the legislation by saying God gives people “free will to honour our responsibilities”, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco, Salvatore Cordileone, said it was “nothing short of child sacrifice”. Republicans agreed, offering speech after passionate speech in opposition on the House floor. “Quite frankly,” an emotional Rep Jody Hice (R-Georgia) said, “the Democrats don’t care if the unborn child has a fully developed heart. They don’t care if it has arms or lungs or fingers or toes. They don’t care if it feels pain. They want abortion – period – and they want to finance it with your tax dollars.” And Rep Tom Cole (R-Oklahoma) warned that the Bill was “the fiercest attack on the unborn since *Roe* was decided”.

With the US Supreme Court set to take up the ground-breaking case on Mississippi’s abortion law (which challenges the Supreme Court’s ruling that ‘abortion is a woman’s right’), there’s a reason for that. When Democrats started pushing this Bill to make abortion-on-demand permanent, they weren’t just pursuing wildly unpopular legislation; they were exposing the fact that abortion was never law to begin with. Instead, it was a Supreme Court invention that has unjustly claimed the lives of more than 60 million children. And what Mississippi has said – and hopefully the Supreme Court justices will uphold – is that abortion should be an issue the people and their State leaders decide, not the courts.

And yet, as unified as House Democrats may be on abortion, the country is anything but. According to a Harvard Centre for American Studies poll, only 8% of the country sides with Nancy Pelosi on third-trimester abortion. Any far-Left leaders who think this barbaric crusade is a winning strategy are kidding themselves. Even two out of every three ‘pro-choicers’ are appalled at the idea of destroying a baby in the womb after the fifth month. “They are overriding the will of the people,” Mary Miller shook her head. “They are crushing the rights and freedoms that States have to implement their own laws in this area.”

If there is a bright side to this vote in the US House of Representatives, it is that Republicans are just as determined to protect life as Democrats are to destroy it. And that’s significant. Prior to 2018, there were still a number of pro-abortion Republicans. That’s not the case anymore. If they support it, they certainly aren’t open about it – and that’s the result of a lot of Christians being involved and voting.

### **Quitters Ball Celebrated People Who Quit Jobs at US Abortion Clinics**

And Then There Were None, a US organisation actively assisting people who work in the abortion industry to leave, to find new jobs, and to obtain healing from the horrific things they saw and participated in, held its first ever “Quitters Ball” in Dallas in Texas in late September 2021. This social event honoured former abortion clinic workers, affectionately called “quitters” by the ministry.

“Never before has this many former abortion workers been in the same room together and on the side of life,” said Abby Johnson. “Abortion workers are overlooked in the national conversation on abortion, yet they are just like us, people who went to work trying to support their families and wanting to help others. But they discovered the abortion industry does just the opposite: they harm women and their families. Their stories are ones of courage, redemption, and healing and I am so proud of them.”

And Then There Were None was founded by Abby Johnson in 2012 after she realised there were no organisations where former abortion workers could find the kind of solidarity that comes from uniquely shared experienced. The ministry has helped nearly 600 workers leave the abortion industry and aids them with financial assistance, résumé writing, job search help, free counselling from licensed therapists, and healing retreats. “One of the most incredible aspects about our quitters is that not only are they leaving the clinics but many have started their own ministries to support life, to get their friends out of the clinics ...” said Ms Johnson.

## **Australian News**

### **Broad Constitutionally-Barred Religious Freedom Laws Not Likely**

The Federal Attorney-General, Michaelia Cash, has signalled that proposed new laws to fight discrimination against people of faith will not morph into a religious bill of rights, and warned some faith leaders their demands for wider protections for religious institutions are “constitutionally-barred”. In other words, the Commonwealth cannot override State laws.

The religious discrimination act was a key promise of Scott Morrison’s at the 2019 election and is a major policy ‘barnacle’ Senator Cash wants to deal with before the next federal poll. In her first wide-ranging interview as the nation’s first law officer, Senator Cash said she also wants to set up a national integrity commission before the election and is taking advice on the need for an independent complaints body to oversee judges.

After revealing in June plans to bring the religious discrimination bill to a parliamentary vote by Christmas, Senator Cash was inundated with calls from religious leaders to override state government bans on gay conversion therapy and to significantly broaden the bill’s definitions of faith-based institutions to cover a wider group of institutions than places of worship and schools. But the Attorney-General said that the bill would need to stick within the confines of traditional anti-discrimination legislation. “Some people are putting forward ideas that go way beyond a religious discrimination bill and in some cases are constitutionally barred,” she said. “It is widely recognised that we do need a religious discrimination bill; it is widely recognised that we need to deliver on the Ruddock review; and there will be some carve-outs due to the nature of religious beliefs. I am working day and night with stakeholders, looking at whether or not what they’re saying is within the confines of a religious discrimination bill.”

‘Moderate’ Liberals and those on the political Left have been vocal in opposing any bill that might reduce the rights of LGBTI Australians or roll back the gains made on same-sex ‘marriage’. In effect, it’s OK to protect the freedoms of the LGBTI community, but not the freedoms of Christians!

### **Australian Young People Hit Hardest by COVID Lockdowns**

There is little doubt that teenagers and young people have been hit hardest of all by COVID lockdowns. Presentations to emergency departments in NSW for self-harm or suicidal ideation among 12-17-year-olds are 49% higher in 2021 compared to 2019. While hospital admissions for acute mental health conditions have increased by only 2% for the general population, for children and young people, admissions have spiked by 43%. “This is not a normal time for any of us. I don’t think it’s over the top to equate it to a public health version of being at war,” said NSW chief psychiatrist Murray Wright. “Every child, from primary school onwards, is aware that they’re not living a normal life.”

Victoria’s chief psychiatrist Dr Neil Coventry has urged residents to “reach out” to those undergoing mental health struggles, saying feelings of confusion and uncertainty are “very normal” reactions to lockdowns. “Parents are sleeping outside the doors of their kids’ bedrooms just making sure they can be safe,” said prominent psychiatrist Dr Patrick McGorry, whose youth mental health service has 200 young people in acute distress on its waiting list.

The Safeguards Child and Adolescent Mental Health Response Teams are being established in every local health district, made up of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and allied health workers. NSW has also moved to employ school nurses to manage teen wellbeing. “The impact of the pandemic is significant and I think any of us that have anything to do with young people have to be very honest about that,” said NSW Mental Health Minister Bronnie Taylor. She noted that parents from the suburbs hardest hit by Delta in the southwest and west of Sydney were unlikely to be able to afford private psychiatric care.

“Many young people are actually receiving no care, they’re being sent home from emergency departments with no care, presenting with suicidal ideation and self-harm and are being told that they don’t have a problem, meaning they don’t have a problem sufficient enough to get care,” Professor Hickie said.

## Prayer Points

- Thank God for the ministry in the USA of Abby Johnson's organisation And Then There Were None, and pray that the group will continue to successfully support abortion clinic workers who want to get out of that 'industry' of killing pre-born children.
- Pray that there will be a huge public backlash against the University of Pittsburgh's program of harvesting aborted baby parts for scientific research while the babies' are still alive. Pray that this horrific practice will be stopped.
- Pray that The Satanic Temple will be unsuccessful in its legal challenge against Texas' heartbeat law, and pray that the claim of abortion as a 'religious ritual' by the Satanists – similar to Christians' baptism and communion – will highlight the evil of both the Satanist and the practice of abortion.
- Continue to uphold the Rohingya Christians in prayer, especially as they struggle to hold on to their faith amid the persecution they experience from both their fellow Rohingyas (who are Muslims) and the Myanmar military (who are Buddhists). Pray particularly for Rohingya Christians in the refugee camps in Bangladesh, and pray for God's provision for those who lost their shanty houses and possessions in the massive fire in the camp on 22 March 2021.
- China has been ramping up its military threats towards Taiwan. Pray that God's protective hand will be over the nation of Taiwan, and that these tensions will not escalate into war.
- Pray again for the Lord to bring about the collapse of the dictatorial regime of President Kim Jong-un in North Korea and for the release of the hundreds of thousands of people (many of whom are Christians) from prison camps in that country. Pray that the gospel will continue to be proclaimed and North Koreans will continue to come to faith, despite the brutal treatment they receive.
- Continue to uphold the Christian believers in Afghanistan in prayer, especially as they face the very real possibility of being executed by Taliban extremists.
- Keep praying that the Federal Attorney-General, Michaelia Cash, will bring forward a revised and improved version of the proposed legislation regarding safeguarding religious freedom in our country. Pray that this legislation will be passed through Parliament before the end of 2021, so that there will be an end to the increasing number of instances where people of faith face attacks and harassment for expressing their Bible-based views on marriage, family, gender, and sexuality.
- Pray that the Victorian State Government will not implement its proposed legislation to force faith-based schools to employ staff members who do not hold to the schools' biblically-based ideas on faith, sexuality, and gender.
- Pray that the new Premier and Deputy Premier of NSW will quickly settle into their roles, and will lead NSW wisely.
- Be in prayer that the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021* in NSW will not pass through the NSW Parliament. Fortunately, it is a private member's bill (rather than a government-sponsored Bill).
- With the numbers of people in our country being vaccinated against COVID-19 increasing, our governments are now wrestling with the issue of so-called 'vaccine passports' and the requirement of some employers to mandate vaccination for employees. Pray that the right balance can be found between public health and personal freedoms. Pray too that people who choose to not be vaccinated (or cannot be vaccinated because of other medical conditions) will not be maligned or discriminated against.
- Pray for the mental wellbeing of Australia's young people who have been hard hit by the lockdowns in Sydney and Melbourne. Pray that these teens will find lasting answers in coming to know the true God who offers salvation and meaning to life.
- Pray that the BWAA special fundraising appeal to raise funds in support of Afghani refugees and Christians still trapped in that country will be well supported. Pray that assistance will be able to be provided to those in need.
- Pray for our church leaders as they begin the process of appointing a Pastoral Search Committee to seek a new Pastor (and perhaps also a part-time youth and children's worker). Ask for the Lord's clear guidance and for the Spirit to lead the Committee to the person of God's choosing. Pray too for His guidance for Brian and Caroline as they weigh up their next steps.