

CORAL COAST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



'Therefore, glorify the Lord in the east,
...in the coastlands of the sea.' Isaiah 24:15

A Baptist Church Family



CHURCH CENTRE
596 Windermere Road
BARGARA 4670

Phone 4154 7220

Website: www.coralcoastchurch.org

Email: admin@coralcoast.org

Sunday 24 October 2021

9.30am

Brian Robertson

Romans 5:12-21

"Two Actual Men, Two Different Outcomes"

Sunday 31 October 2021

9.30am

Steve Müller

Creation Ministries International

"How to Impact Our Evolution-Soaked Culture"

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.

Women's Afternoon Tea Fellowship

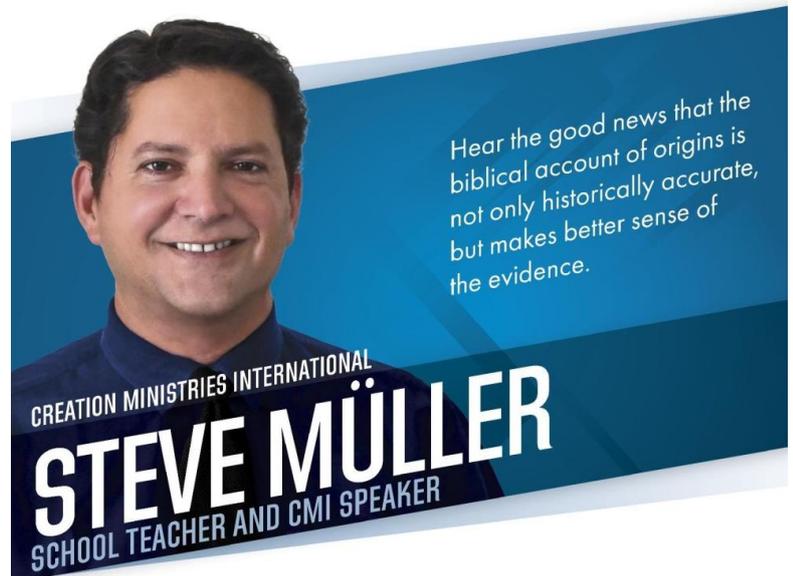
The next Women's Afternoon Tea Fellowship will be on Saturday 30 October, beginning at 3.00pm at the home of Helen Job (4 Majestic Place, Coral Cove). If you are going to attend, please advise Helen on 41556959 and take along a small plate of food to be shared. And Helen has enough space to allow for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

Creation Ministries International Presentation at Our Church

Evidence for design abounds. Even some ardent atheists acknowledge this, but they deny the need for a Designer, attributing it to 'evolution'. Modern science reveals design that 'shouts out' that God created, as the Bible says.

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.



Birthdays This Week

Wednesday 27 October – Maxine Stauffer

Church Morning Teas on Sundays

If you are willing to be a part of one of our four morning tea teams, please speak with Janine Maggacis on 0417 160965 and she will add you to a team. The teams of people provide food (including some gluten-free food items) and milk, put the cups, tea, coffee, milk, and sugar out on the table, and stack and unload the dishwasher afterwards.

The Morning Tea Roster

Sunday 24 October	Morning Tea Team 4 – Doves
Sunday 31 October	Morning Tea Team 1 – Sparrows

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.

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.

Date Claimer for 2022

Beginning at 9.00am on Tuesday 8 March 2022, Bubs'n'Kids is planning to hold a Fashion Parade. Please mark this date in your diaries and on your calendars, and plan to come.

The organisers will need people to volunteer as 'models' for the 'prestigious' clothing that will be on display. Male and female 'models', and child 'models' will be needed.

Please speak with Robbie Starr on 0477 014494 if you can help.

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. Gifts to Barnabas Fund Australia are not income-tax deductible.

“Gifts of Eternal Impact” through the Bible League Australia

Bible League Australia has released its “Gifts of Eternal Impact” Catalogue for 2021.

- supplying Bibles in relevant languages for new believers in under-resourced churches around the world (\$10.00 each)
- supplying Bibles and Bible study notes for prisoners in Australian prisons (\$15.00 each set)
- supplying illustrated children's Bibles to children in Colombia (\$20.00 per Bible)
- funding children's Bible-based literacy programs in Nepal (\$20.00 per set of resources)
- supplying Bibles in Arabic for Christians (especially those from Muslim backgrounds) in countries in the Middle East (\$25.00 each)
- providing easy-to-read portions of the Old Testament and New Testament in simple English for people in Australian indigenous communities (\$25.00 per storybook)
- supplying Bibles for whole families living in slum areas in Indonesia (\$100.00 per set of Bibles)
- training church planters in rural areas of Zimbabwe (\$560.00 per trainee)



If you would like to give to one of these projects, post your gift to Bible League Australia, PO Box 714, Penrith, NSW, 2751, or telephone 1800 800937, or go to the website www.bl.org.au. Gifts to BLA 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. All donations are income tax deductible.



**BAPTIST
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Issues in the News

“UK Prime Minister Addresses Climate Change, but Undermines Christian Doctrines”

This article was written by Andrew Sibley, a British-based meteorologist who has been a frequent contributor to CMI’s publications. He joined CMI-UK/Europe as an associate speaker and writer in February 2021 and then came on staff in August 2021. This article was published online by CMI on 12 October 2021.



Andrew Sibley

Ahead of the United Nations 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26), held in Glasgow, Scotland (1–12 November 2021), the UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson appealed to the UN General Assembly (22 September 2021) to argue for dramatic changes to global policy in use of carbon-based fuels. In his speech he undermined a basic Christian doctrine relating to the status and rights of mankind. He further appealed to the evolutionary tenets of naturalism, the Greek gods, and the ability of mankind to “save ourselves”. It was almost as if part of his speech had been written by Sir David Attenborough who has made similar comments in the past.

This is a marked departure from the traditional values of the Conservative Party, which were once closely linked to the Christian faith. Instead, it is along the lines of secular humanism, combined with influence from uncompromising environmental policies. Such policies unrealistically seek net-zero carbon emissions. Just as Darwinian evolution has become the creation myth of naturalism, so tackling climate change in order to ‘save the planet’ has become naturalism’s salvation narrative. This article will focus primarily on the science and theological implications.

An Evolutionary Narrative

Johnson started his speech by invoking millions of years, and that mankind is a relative latecomer, having been around for less than one million years:

“An inspection of the fossil record over the last 178 million years – since mammals first appeared – reveals that the average mammalian species exists for about a million years before it evolves into something else or vanishes into extinction. Of our allotted lifespan of a million, humanity has been around for about 200,000.”

It is interesting, but somewhat unfortunate, that Johnson should reference a period from the Jurassic, in which, he suggests, naturalistic science places the first appearance of mammals. The irony is that scientific papers have argued that during this time carbon dioxide levels (CO₂) were between 1,000 and 2,000 ppm (parts per million). That is 2.5 to 5 times greater than where they are today, when global average temperatures were supposedly 5 to 10 degrees Celsius higher for prolonged periods. If the assumptions of naturalism and deep-time were true, then responsibility for such CO₂ levels cannot be placed upon the shoulders of the not-yet-evolved human beings.

Naturalistic scientists believe that atmospheric CO₂ levels have experienced an erratic decline over hundreds of millions of years. From this we may ask a question in the context of the naturalistic fallacy: ‘What level of atmospheric CO₂ do we consider to be good: 200, 400, 1,000, or 2,000 ppm?’ Naturalists cannot answer this on their own terms. They believe that ecosystems have adapted to climate change in the past, and will adapt to future change through natural selection. This only highlights the intellectual conflict that arises for naturalism. A conflict between a belief in the power of natural selection given a naturally changing ecosystem, and the belief that conservation of nature is essential to ‘save the planet’.

With this in mind, we may consider that setting the issue of climate change in the framework of a life and death struggle for the planet, as Johnson and other environmental campaigners do, is bogus. Of course, we can acknowledge that there may be practical problems that arise from a warming climate for humanity. This is applicable for example to permanent dwellings in coastal towns and cities that are subject to flooding. But, despite some evidence of more

severe weather, improved planning, plus an accurate forecasting and warning capability, has led to a reduction in fatalities from such natural disasters. This was reported by the World Meteorological Organisation.

Environmental Issues Are Complex, Not Simple

Boris Johnson fails to deal with the complexity of the environmental issues that arise, and instead resorts to easy sound bites. These undermine a central Christian belief about mankind's place in the world:

"We still cling with part of our minds to the infantile belief that the world was made for our gratification and pleasure and we combine this narcissism with an assumption of our own immortality. ... It is time for humanity to grow up."

He misrepresents the Judeo-Christian belief that natural resources are a divine gift for humanity, and that people are justified in utilising them out of necessity, albeit not for selfish gratification or pleasure. But he calls this belief "infantile". Use of natural materials, such as iron, coal, oil, and gas, have brought great benefit to humanity, not least in terms of raising people out of poverty. Even so, we recognise this is not always without negative environmental or health impacts.

This only shows that making decisions about the environment is a complex process. It requires thinking in terms of inter-related systems. That is, thinking about the needs of human communities, businesses, the ecosystem etc., and so balancing the needs of multiple stakeholders and groups. These interested groups are sometimes in competition, or conflict with one another, and their needs do not necessarily align. It cannot be dismissed as an easy task.

And yet, Johnson appears to do so with a childish reference to one of the Muppet characters. He commented; "And when Kermit the frog sang *It's Not Easy Bein' Green*, I want you to know he was wrong." If we are to "grow up", as Johnson states, it must be in terms of recognising the complexity of the issues involved, and bravely facing the truth about the world as it actually is.

Need for Good Stewardship

Of course, utilisation of natural resources needs to be done responsibly. That is, with concern for social and environmental protection, and without the greedy exploitation of unrestrained capitalism. Mankind has been given dominion over the earth by God (Genesis 1:26), and we should fill our role of stewardship with diligent duty. We must not forget the poor in addressing a problem that may not entirely be the result of humanity in the first place.

In the context of the use of carbon fuels, the statement demonstrates that Prime Minister Johnson is out of touch with the lives of ordinary people. Like many green utopians, who are often the wealthy elite in society, there is a failure to see that access to cheap carbon fuels is necessary. This is especially so for people to travel, cook food, and keep warm in winter. Cheap carbon fuels are not greedily consumed for human "gratification and pleasure", but are a basic necessity for life. It would be great if renewable energy could supply the basic needs for power, light, and heat, but much of the technology is not there yet in terms of quantity and quality.

With some irony, Johnson delivered his speech at a time when market natural gas prices were rocketing in the UK, and many other countries across the world. This was hitting the pockets of ordinary consumers. In the UK, the cause of this was partly related to government policy to reduce UK carbon emissions. As well-known journalist and author Peter Hitchens has pointed out, "Utopians, as George Orwell demonstrated, prefer their visions to reality or truth."

Can We Save Ourselves through Science?

While ignoring the Judeo-Christian place of mankind in the world, Johnson believes we can save ourselves through science. Along with this, he references the Greek gods. Johnson, who majored in the Classics at Oxford University, has previously expressed knowledge of Scripture

and Christian doctrines. But disappointingly on this occasion, his speech effectively idolised the scientific endeavour. He stated:

“... it is through our Promethean faith in new green technology that we are cutting emissions in the UK.”

Prometheus, being the god of forethought, is considered by Johnson to be a suitable allegory, or idol, for the faith we place in science. But we may note that Prometheus was also said to be a ‘supreme trickster’. Johnson is convinced it’s the strength of humanity that will get us out of this ‘self-inflicted mess’, and so we can ‘save ourselves’. He commented that,

“We are awesome in our power to change things and awesome in our power to save ourselves, and in the next 40 days we must choose what kind of awesome we are going to be.”

This astounding statement entirely ignores the reality of humanity’s fallen condition, evident by reading any newspaper or newsfeed, as well as taught in Scripture. It is very reminiscent of the Pelagian heresy, which arose in the Fifth Century in Rome against the Pauline / Augustinian doctrine of grace. Pelagianism undermines the effect of the Fall, and holds that mankind can attain perfection through self-effort – without the need for divine grace.

Summary

We should not be subject to the illusion that undermining the Christian voice in society has no consequences. Western values are foundationally derived from Christianity, but an increasingly secular, humanistic society has lost sight of its roots. One outcome of this is that we are witnessing the development of a form of environmentalism that is disinterested in evaluating and meeting the needs of ordinary people. In response to such a skewed worldview, Peter Hitchens commented recently that it is only when “everyone sees what a post-Christian country is really like, they may begin to be interested in the gospels again.”

We can acknowledge that scientific endeavours have produced some great inventions and innovations. But we can also see occasions when great harm has come from science, technology, and environmentalism. For example, palm oil plantations in Asia have been grown for so-called environmentally friendly bio-diesel production, but at the expense of many hectares of rain forest, and loss of habitat of the orangutan. In medical science, the drug Thalidomide was once marketed as a wonder drug, but it was later found to engender foetal abnormalities in some unborn babies. There are other examples of the failings of science, or the gross misuse of technology, such as the Nazi medical research programme in the 1930s and 40s.

We believe that science needs to progress with humility, and within a framework of values that come from Christian faith. There needs to be an honest appraisal of impacts, costs, and benefits, so that possible harm can be minimised. In contrast, Prime Minister Johnson’s statement, which undermines mankind’s place in the world, effectively entails a downgrading of the concept of human rights and freedoms.

It is the grace of God that ultimately saves us through faith in the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ upon the cross. The grace of God has given humanity the intellect to study God’s creation, and the wisdom to make good decisions, which is the basis for science.

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World News – Mozambique

Attacks Continued in Mozambique

In Mozambique, where the church is growing vigorously among the ethno-religious and nominally Christian population, a Muslim minority in the north is rampaging across the region, killing Christians and destroying church property. The brutal attacks are carried out with apparent impunity because the police and army are more concerned with a power struggle between them than with defending helpless citizens.

In a series of savage attacks, fifty people were beheaded, homes burnt and women abducted. The attacks are part of a campaign by the ISIS-connected terrorists to establish a caliphate in the mineral-rich Cabo Delgado Province. Islamic militants turned a village football pitch in northern Mozambique into an execution ground where they beheaded more than fifty people during three days of savage violence between Friday 6 November and Sunday 8 November 2020. Villagers who tried to flee were caught and taken to the sports ground in Muatide village where they were decapitated and chopped to pieces in a series of ferocious attacks in the Muslim-majority Cabo Delgado Province.

In another attack, gunmen shouting “Allahu Akbar” stormed into Nanjaba village on 6 November 2020, firing weapons and setting homes alight. Two villagers were beheaded and several women were abducted. Barnabas Fund’s contacts in the area report that anyone who refused to support the jihadists and embrace their beliefs was attacked and their property set on fire. Thus Christians who refused to deny Christ were amongst the victims. The attacks were amongst the worst seen, in recent years, in the brutal campaign by militant Islamists to establish an Islamic caliphate in the oil and gas-rich Cabo Delgado Province.

It would seem that Mozambique’s government is ill-equipped to counter the growing number of radical insurgents. It was noted, “Additionally, there have been reports that Mozambique’s security forces have fled scenes of insurgent activity as the number of insurgents greatly outnumbers security forces in the area.”

Christian Victims of Violence in Mozambique

Two little boys and an adult hanged on the same tree – probably a family, who died together at the hands of one of the most savage terrorist groups currently operating in our world. In life, this little family were so poor that the older brother, aged about five, had several holes in his worn-out shorts. In death, they did not have even the dignity of a grave, but were left dangling among the branches.

This is Mozambique’s far north, nowadays known as the “land of fear”. It is a Muslim-majority area in a Christian-majority country, where an Islamist group has launched at least 769 attacks since 2017, killing almost 3,000 people. The group’s hallmark is beheading and cutting their victims into pieces. Their targets are Christians, moderate Muslims, the government, and anyone else who rejects the jihadists’ ideology. Perhaps the little family in the tree should be counted fortunate that they were not chopped up.

Half a million Mozambicans have fled their homes, trying to escape the violence, which peaked in the last months of 2020. January 2021 saw fewer attacks, perhaps because the insurgents were beginning to exhaust their supplies of stolen ammunition. Many of the displaced are crammed on to a beach in Pemba, the provincial capital, living in makeshift shelters and begging for food from passers-by. They are malnourished, malaria and cholera are spreading amongst them, and the children are severely traumatised by the brutal violence they have witnessed. Back in the rural areas from which they fled, their homes have been burned, their farms are left untended, a third of the health facilities are damaged or destroyed, and no one knows how many of the remaining civilian population perished when the insurgents used them as human shields against a government offensive. Until the beginning of 2021, food was arriving from Tanzania by boat, through the mangrove swamps, but then the jihadists cut the supply lines, bringing the real possibility of starvation.

Barnabas Fund has been reporting this situation since May 2020, although little world

attention has been given. International journalists are banned and local ones have been intimidated, with two held for months in a military prison. Battered by storms and cyclones, struggling with coronavirus, the UN called the situation in Mozambique “a perfect storm of instability”. Our Christian brothers and sisters here in Mozambique need our prayers and help.

Children Killed in Fresh Wave of Violence in Mozambique

On 4 July 2021, it was reported that the conflict in the northern Mozambique province of Cabo Delgado had taken a serious turn for the worse. The conflict, which began in 2017, has forced nearly 700,000 people from their homes. Around 43% of the 700,000 people displaced by the violence are children, according to the United Nations.

Conditions in Cabo Delgado have “seriously deteriorated” over the past year, affecting children “disproportionately” as nearly 3,000 people have been killed and almost 800,000 displaced since the violent insurgency began. The last twelve months of Mozambique’s Islamic insurgency has escalated due to increased armed conflict on villages and district capital towns, leading to casualties and “grave violations” against children. A report released by Save the Children, Plan International, and World Vision showed how the extent of the conflict in Cabo Delgado has worsened in the last year and how children are suffering disproportionately.

Amy Lamb, director of communications for Open Doors, told *The Christian Post* that the “fresh wave of violence” in Mozambique has had a “devastating” toll. Ms Lamb said that for the first time, Mozambique was added to the World Watch List as being among the most persecuted countries “because of the fresh wave of violence coming into Mozambique primarily driven by radical jihadist extremists.” The south-eastern African country is home to about 17,000,000 Christians, which is over 50% of the population. Ms Lamb said it’s also home to one of the fastest-growing evangelical populations in the world. “Because of the rise in Christianity we’re seeing jihadist groups infiltrate the area who are affiliated with Islamic State, al-Shabab, Boko Haram, and al-Qaeda,” she explained.

She said Christians in Mozambique are especially targeted with violence and believes the government contributes to this. “There is a great deal of instability, and there can even be some anti-Christian antipathy at the government level,” she added. “So the government of Mozambique is not helping because there are some of those antipathies even at the highest level, so when it’s pervasive at the lower level, it’s combining into a perfect storm.”

The report also offered recommendations and said the UN and international community “must, without delay,” support the establishment of peace and address underlying causes of the conflict. “What’s so concerning is these groups are organising together to create what’s essentially a new Islamic State throughout the entire region,” Ms Lamb continued. “So that is deeply concerning, not just from a religious freedom standpoint, but also from a democracy standpoint. We have this one group of incredibly violent extremists who are saying, ‘We’re going to take over.’”

Ms Lamb called on Christians worldwide to pray for their brothers and sisters in Christ who have been displaced. “Pray for God’s intervention in the violent attacks, and as rapidly as we have seen this wave of violence rise, that we would see it decline just as fast,” she said.

Bibles Distributed in Mozambique

A Malawian evangelist wrote: “I have returned safely from Mozambique where we went to minister and give seventy Bibles to people we had arranged. It’s really encouraging to see young people taking a leading role in discipleship programs and the way they are growing is very amazing. We started with five people five years ago and today there are 250 adults and over 300 children, plus 240 youths aged between 18 and 25. These vibrant young people sing and do evangelism and conduct discipleship programs effectively. For their worship house, they have now moulded over 100,000 bricks ready to construct the building. Among them are builders and carpenters and they are contributing to buy iron sheets despite being in small amounts. But their faith is motivating them that someday they will finish building that worship

house.”

The evangelist continued, “It was really enriching and encouraging to see many young men and leaders coming to the discipleship and leadership training we conducted across the border in Mozambique. We trained sixty leaders and 600 disciples, half of them women. I have learnt that to evangelise without discipleship is a failure. Many people who repent today within days are back to old ways. They need proper Bible study materials and training. Sometimes we need to rethink our missions strategy.”

A Song in Mozambique

A group of new Christians in one region of Mozambique were restricted in their praise and worship because the predominant religion in their region had banned tribal dances and singing. The communal Christian worship lacked something until on one occasion, after a preacher had finished preaching, a lady began singing. She was then joined by a man and soon everyone was singing in a variety of rhythms, pitches and tunes. The words sung were a repetition of the message that had just been preached, and what began as a strange mix of noises soon became a beautiful song. When it ended, people commented that the song of God deep in their hearts could no longer be kept inside.

Australian News

New Christian Radio Station for Hobart

In a show of great unity, Christians from across Australia have rallied behind Vision Christian Media to enable VCM to secure a high power FM licence covering all of Hobart. This licence was recently put up for auction by the Tasmanian Government.

This ten thousand watt licence on top of Mount Wellington will soon be broadcasting Vision Christian Radio across Tasmania’s capital city and its quarter of a million people. Establishing this FM service will be a priority project with technical planning now in full swing and a transmitter already ordered and in transit from overseas. There are many factors still to fall into place but VCM hope to have it up and running within six months.

Increased Concerns about Suicide in Australia

Record numbers of Australians are heeding the call to seek help from suicide prevention services in a “silver lining” that shows the sector is making a major contribution to keeping the community safe. The report found one in four Australians reported knowing someone who died by suicide during the past twelve months of the pandemic – the equivalent of 5,000,000 people – with social isolation, the economy and jobs driving concerns.

Suicide Prevention Australia CEO Nieves Murray said young people were seeking help at twice the rate of their parents’ generations, following decades of awareness-raising, stigma reduction initiatives and advocacy. “Creating hope through action is an important part of World Suicide Prevention Day and every other day of the year,” Ms Murray said. Suicide Prevention Australia released its second annual State of the Nation in Suicide Prevention report, which shows 84% of suicide prevention services and workers experienced an increase in demand in the past twelve months (August 2020 to August 2021). In the community, 29% of Australians report they discussed suicide concerns about themselves or with someone else over the same 12-month period. This included young people (18- 34) reporting having conversations about suicide (40%) and seeking help (41%) at twice the rate of their parent’s generations (20% and 19% respectively). Ms Murray said the increase in service demand showed Australians were hearing the message and seeking help. Ms Murray said it was important the “herculean” efforts of many suicide prevention services during the pandemic did not overshadow that they were a “sector under great strain”, both professionally and personally. “We need to listen and respond to the voice of people with lived and living experience of suicide,” she said. “Every life lost to suicide is heartbreaking. It’s important to remember that every statistic represents a life lost and a cascade of grief amongst family, friends, schools, workplaces, and community groups.”

Prayer Points

- Thank God for the amazing growth of the church in Mozambique as people from nominal Christian backgrounds and Muslim backgrounds find the truth and wholeness of a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Pray that the gospel will continue to be proclaimed throughout the country.
- Pray for an end to the Islamic extremist violence in Cabo Delgado Province in north-eastern Mozambique. Pray that the government forces will be able to restrain the violent brutality of the various Islamist groups, and pray that the Christian people in that area will have courage and boldness to stand true and to proclaim grace.
- 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.
- Continue to uphold the Christian believers in Afghanistan in prayer, especially as they face the very real possibility of being executed by Taliban extremists.
- 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.
- As world leaders prepare to gather in Glasgow for the COP26 climate conference (and expend huge amounts of fossil fuels to travel to the event where they will discuss how to curb fossil fuel usage), pray that our country will not commit to unrealistic climate goals. Pray that Prime Minister Scott Morrison and the Australian delegation will be able to clearly articulate that our nation is already achieving significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.
- 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.
- 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 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 Barnabas Fund Australia to be well supported with its Gifts of Love and Hope Christmas Appeal. Pray that many persecuted Christians will be blessed and encouraged through the practical support they receive through BFA.
- Remember Andrew and Hilda Steele in prayer as they serve with Wycliffe Bible Translators in the Solomon Islands. Pray for God's blessing on their ministry, and for continued opportunities to promote Scripture use and literacy development in the tribal languages of Malaita Province.
- Pray for our church's newly-formed Pastoral Search Committee as they begin the process of seeking 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.
- Be in prayer about the Bargara Carols by Candlelight, as we seek to determine if we have the resources and personnel to present this event on 11 December.