



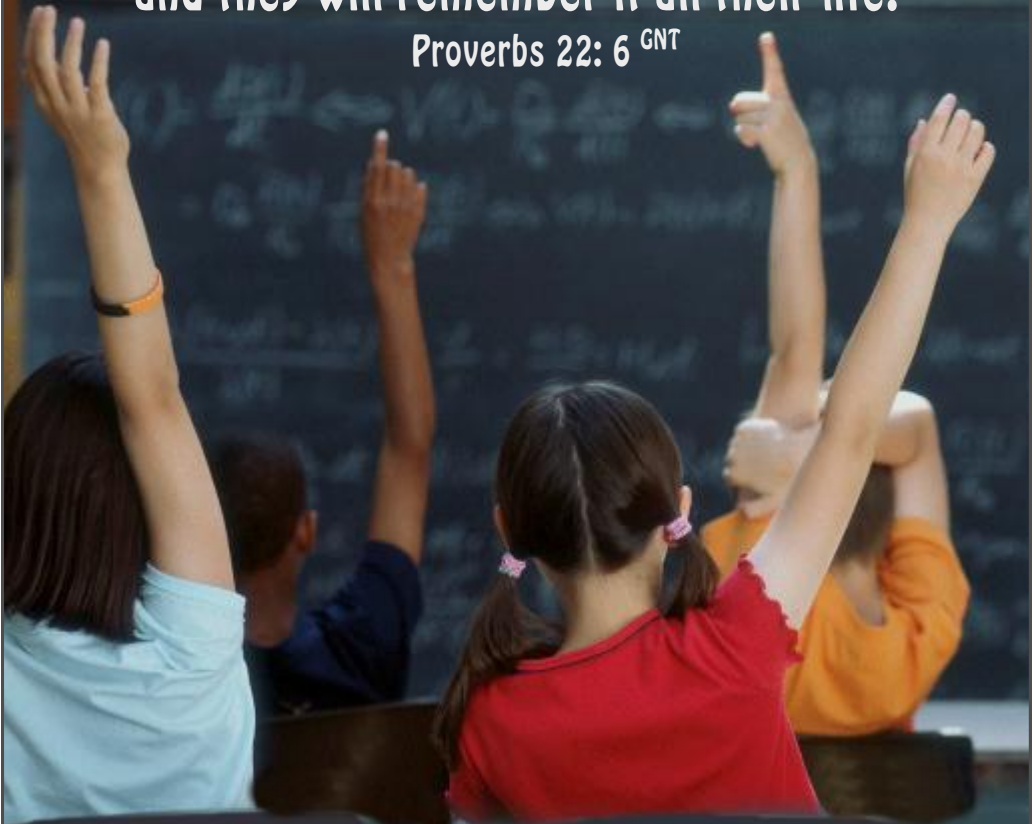
# Newsletter

## February

### 2013

Teach children how they should live,  
and they will remember it all their life.

Proverbs 22: 6 <sup>GNT</sup>



*Our vision:* **“Growing a community of faith  
committed to Christ and making him known”**

Linking ministering communities in East Launceston, George Town,  
Hillwood, Low Head, Pipers River, Riverside & Trevallyn



# From the Enabler

## Perseverance



Such a large crowd of witnesses is all around us! So we must get rid of every thing that slows us down, especially the sin that just won't let go. And we must be determined to run the race that is ahead of us.

We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete.

I'm just going through the motions with church. I'm tired and discouraged; sometimes feeling guilty. I also feel like an alien in my own culture. And most discouraging of all: Some of our church's keenest members have gone back to their old lives. You might be surprised to know something else about me. I'm a follower of Jesus in the first century. My church is the one that the book you call 'Hebrews' was written to. There you can hear God's urging to stay with his Son and not give up.

I'd like you to look up Hebrews chapter 12. It answers the question that we all ask: 'How do I not lose heart but stick with Jesus?' See the 'Therefore' that links verse 1 with chapter 11. The 'cloud of witnesses' are the faithful believers in chapter 11 who witnessed to God's faithfulness; inspiring examples of gritty faith that's defined for us in 11:1; people who were convinced that God would keep his gospel promises. They looked forward to Christ and the New Creation and desired them more than anything else. That's the sort of faith that pleases God (11:6). That's why

it's catastrophic when people 'throw away their confidence' (10:35) and shrink back from Christ and his people (10:37-39, 25). Let them and the faithful believers in chapter 11 and in your own life (can you think of them?) provoke you to keep living by faith in God's promises.

See how that's described at the end of 12:1 – An endurance race. That word 'endurance' keeps coming up doesn't it? Back in 10:36 God says that we have need of endurance – so that we'll receive what God has promised (10:34) and not miss out (10:39). Remember Jesus himself said that the love of many will grow cold. 'But the one who endures to the end will be saved' (Mt 24:12-13). Our final salvation's at stake!

So our question, 'How do I not lose heart but stick with Jesus until the end?' is crucially important.

*How do I not lose heart but stick with Jesus?*

God likens our life of faith to a race that he sets before us (12:1). He has determined the specific course of your life – your upbringing, illnesses, setbacks and accomplishments, and the irresistible call to follow Christ. It is your race that you must run with endurance. Knowing that helps me not compare my race to another's; to accept mine as from God.

Meet John Stephen Akhwari. He represented Tanzania in the men's marathon at the 1968 Mexico Olympic Games. The winner had finished over an hour earlier, but John pressed on, pain hobbling his every step, his leg bloody and bandaged. When he crossed the finish line, a reporter asked him why he'd not retired from the race, since he had no chance of winning. I love his answer: 'My country did not send me to Mexico City to start the race. They sent me to finish.'



As the 'founder of our faith' (12:2), Jesus has called us to our race to finish it. All who finish are winners – remember the faithful in chapter 11. You don't have to be first, but you have to finish.

God enables us to finish by urging us to persevere and by the example of others who did. And in 12:1-3 he tells us how to run with endurance: 'Lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely.' Imagine a marathon runner pulling behind them a bag of concrete. What's in your bag? What good, bad or unhelpful things are weighing you down and threatening to pull you up short? Excessive busyness, a relationship, habit, ministry situation? We're also to lay aside the sin that clings to us and trips us up. Imagine a runner with his underpants down around his ankles. So what unseemly thing(s) are you running with? It's so important that we finish that we must lay these things aside. Will you do that?

And we're to look to Jesus (12:2) and consider him who endured (12:3). The words mean to fix your gaze upon, to contemplate, Jesus. Because he faithfully endured his race, at great cost, then was glorified (12:2).

He endured the shame of being nailed to a cross, because he knew that later on he would be glad he did. Now he is seated at the right side of God's throne!

So keep your mind on Jesus, who put up with many insults from sinners. Then you won't get discouraged and give up.

Hebrews  
12: 1 - 3 CEV

*continued  
from  
previous  
page*

From the place of supreme authority he will see to it that you finish your race. He will perfect what he began in you. But you must be careful to follow his directions: to lay aside the weights and sins, and to keep looking to Him. Driven by the promise of future joy, he endured...thinking nothing of the shame of the cross (12:2).

As for Jesus so for us, there is shame, rejection and alienation, sometimes even from the established church. Have you grown weary and fainthearted from it all? Jesus and our hope eclipse our shame and our pain. Don't take your eyes off either!

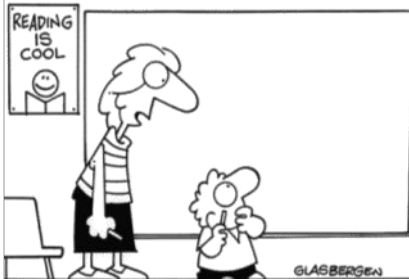
Warmly,

*David*

A man was in a hurry taking his eight-year-old son to school and made a turn at a red light where it was prohibited.

"Uh-oh, I think I just made an illegal turn!" the man said.

"It's okay, Dad," the boy said, "The police car right behind us did the same thing."

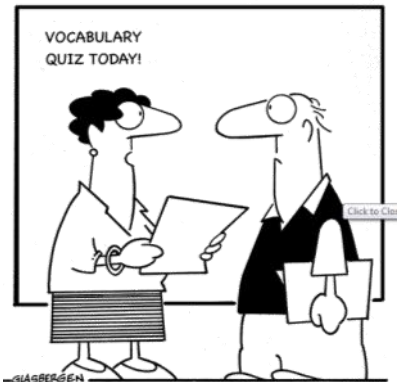


"There aren't any icons to click.  
It's a chalk board."

This article will appear in the Autumn 2013 edition of BCA's *Real Australian* magazine.

If you would like to receive BCA's prayer notes and *Real Australian* magazine each season, you can contact them in any of these ways:  
e: [robyn@bushchurchoaid.com.au](mailto:robyn@bushchurchoaid.com.au)  
p: (02) 9262 5017

Bush Church Aid is an association of Christians within the Anglican Church. They fund my Diocesan position and many parishes and pastors around remote and regional Australia. It's a long-established ministry that does great work in difficult and strategic places. You can check them out on the web: [www.bushchurchoaid.com.au](http://www.bushchurchoaid.com.au)



"Many kids never hear that word at home, so I added 'no' to our vocabulary lesson."

# Tasmanian Bushfire Appeal

An ecumenical service of reflection and prayer for those affected by the bushfires, including thankfulness for the service of so many, was held at St David's Cathedral on 19<sup>th</sup> January.

Donations can still be made to the Bushfire appeal through the Tasmanian Diocese.

You may donate by any of the following means:

**1) Direct deposit** into the bank account for Anglican Health and Welfare  
BSB: 067-000  
Account Number: 10720017  
Reference: Bushfire & surname

**2) Cheque** made out to Anglican Health and Welfare and sent to GPO Box 748, Hobart TAS 7001\*\*\*

**3) Cash** donations in envelopes clearly marked "Bushfire Appeal" can be put into the offertory in your local centre\*\*\*

\*\*\* Please include your name and address, so that a tax-deductible receipt can be sent. For direct deposits please email [finance@anglicantas.org.au](mailto:finance@anglicantas.org.au)

**4) Online credit card** donations can be made through the Anglicare website:

[www.anglicare-tas.org.au/BeInvolved/Donate.aspx](http://www.anglicare-tas.org.au/BeInvolved/Donate.aspx)

Alternatively call Anglicare on 1800 243 232 to make a credit card donation by phone.

## ***A prayer in time of bushfire***

All things look to you, O Lord, to give them their food in due season:

look in mercy on your people, and hear our prayer for those whose lives and possessions are threatened by fire.

Give protection and wisdom to fire fighters and other emergency service personnel.

Encourage our generosity to those who suffer loss.

In your mercy restore your creation and heal our land.

So guide and bless your people, that we may enjoy the fruits of the earth and give you thanks with grateful hearts, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Adapted from: *A Prayer Book for Australia*, Broughton Books, 1999, page 205.



Summer holidays were over and Johnny returned to school.

Only two days later his teacher phoned his mother to tell her that he was misbehaving.

"Wait a minute," she said. "I had Johnny with me for three months and I never called you once when he misbehaved!"

# Riverlinks

February 2013	
1st Fri	
2nd Sat	
3rd Sun	<b>Kids' Church</b> – 10:30am at St Oswald's <b>Messy Church</b> – 4:30pm at St Aidan's
4th Mon	<b>MST Meeting</b> – 6:45pm in the Parish Office
5th Tue	<i>(each Tuesday)</i> Prayer Group – 1:00pm at St MM G/Town <b>Home &amp; Study Groups</b> – 1:45pm at Igglesden's home – 7:30pm at Booth's home – 7:30pm at Pedley's home – 7:30pm Stanford's group at St Aidan's
6th Wed	<i>(each Wednesday)</i> <b>Healing Service</b> – 10:00am at St Oswald's <b>Home &amp; Study Groups</b> – 7:30pm at Stott's home – 7:30pm St Oswald's
7th Thur	
8th Fri	<i>(each Friday)</i> <b>KYB Study Group</b> – 10:00am at Baptist Church George Town
9th Sat	
*** <b>CHECK WITH YOUR HOME GROUP FOR STARTING DATES</b>	

February 2013	
10th Sun	<b>Back to Church Sunday</b> – 10:00am at St David's
11th Mon	<b>Cadorna</b> – 2:00pm
12th Tue	<i>Shrove Tuesday</i>
13th Wed	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>
14th Thur	<i>(each Thursday)</i> <b>mainly music</b> – 10:00am at St Aidan's <b>Crafty Circle</b> – 10:00am at St David's <b>Parish Council meeting</b> – 7:30pm
15th Fri	
16th Sat	
17th Sun	<b>Preaching Workshop</b> – 2:00pm in the Parish Office
18th Mon	
19th Tue	
20th Wed	<b>St Oswald's Fellowship Group</b> – 2:00pm <b>Ainslie Service</b> – 2:15pm

The **deadline** for the March Newsletter edition is **22<sup>nd</sup> February**

# Calendar

February 2013	
21 <sup>st</sup> Thur	Prescare Legana – 10:45am
22 <sup>nd</sup> Fri	Youth Group – 7:30 to 9:30pm at St Aidan's Mighty Mens Conference 22 <sup>nd</sup> to 24 <sup>th</sup>
23 <sup>rd</sup> Sat	Free Family Fun Day – 10:00am at the Baptist Church George Town
24 <sup>th</sup> Sun	CCCGT Service – 6:00pm
25 <sup>th</sup> Mon	
26 <sup>th</sup> Tue	
27 <sup>th</sup> Wed	*** Launceston Cup Day Public Holiday PARISH OFFICE CLOSED FROM 11am
28 <sup>th</sup> Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Tamar Park – 1:45pm

March and other dates 2013	
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	PC & MST Retreat
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Messy Church at St Aidan's Kids' Church at St Oswald's
16 <sup>th</sup> March	Children's Ministry Conference
26 <sup>th</sup> March	Recommitment to Ministry Services & Blessing of the Oils
29 <sup>th</sup> March to 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Easter

## Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
10 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Communion	
17 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
24 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Communion	
George Town			
3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:00 am	Hillwood	Communion
	9:00 am	Pipers River	Morning Prayer
	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
10 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Low Head	Baptism
	10:30 am	George Town	Together @ 10.30
17 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Pipers River	Communion
	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
24 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Low Head	Communion
	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
Riverside & Trevallyn			
3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
10 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Praise & worship
	5:00 pm	Trevallyn	Communion
17 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
24 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
	5:00 pm	Trevallyn	Evening Prayer
Each Wed	10:00am	Trevallyn	Healing Service
Peace Haven			
10 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
17 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
24 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Holy Communion	



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www.emdoodle.com

01/25/2013

Please send articles, comments, information & photos to the Parish Office  
399 West Tamar, Riverside - 6327 4742 [office@riverlinks.net.au](mailto:office@riverlinks.net.au)





## Mighty Mens Conference

22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> February

Register at: [www.mightymensconference.org.au](http://www.mightymensconference.org.au)

Gathering Australian men together for  
fellowship, worship and spiritual encouragement



## Preaching Workshop

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February

2 - 4pm

in the Parish Office



Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb

4:30pm

at Punchbowl Christian  
Centre, Punchbowl Rd

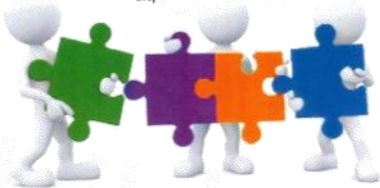
& Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb

7:30pm

at Christian Reformed Church,  
Frederick St Launceston  
FREE ADMISSION

# connect

connecting children, churches, communities, culture



Children's Ministry Conference

Saturday

16<sup>th</sup>

March

2013

Venue: Launceston Christian School  
452A West Tamar Rd Riverside

Time: 9.15am-4pm

Cost: \$50/adult  
\$40 Early bird before 1 March  
Includes lunch/morning tea  
\$10/emerging leader (13-17 yrs)

Enquiries: James Oakley  
ph 6327 3482



Keynote Speaker: Beth Barnett  
Beth has written several books and  
currently has a role with the Victorian  
Council for Christian Education

Keynote Topic: Inter-generational gatherings –  
the skills and the thrills, without too many fills or spills

## Caretaker Wanted



The City Mission is offering free accommodation situated in Frederick Street Launceston (including power) in exchange for services rendered.

- ✓ The caretaker will be expected to monitor and move donated items left out the front of the City Mission building undercover
- ✓ Undertake a bread run to a local bakery, returning collected items to Frederick Street
- ✓ Some cleaning of common areas once or twice a week

*The above mentioned responsibilities are not expected to take more than four to five hours per week to complete.*

To find out more please contact Ray Green on 6335 3000 or email him at [ray@citymission.org.au](mailto:ray@citymission.org.au)





# Why kids stop going to church

One of the great pleasures about being at the same church for a long time is that you get to see children grow up from infants into young adults.

As a member of the same church for seventeen years, many of which I originally served as the Senior Minister, I baptised many babies who grew to become leaders of the children's and youth ministries. I saw a church with hardly any kids in Sunday School and youth group grow into a Christian community with hundreds of young people.

How did the church grow? Well, under God's grace and sovereignty, Christian parents did the most important thing they could ever do - they led their children in Christ.

Yet in these seventeen years at *St George North Anglican*, I have also seen some children drop out of church. This sad outcome happens for many reasons, both theological and practical.

But of these reasons, two stand out, which I will explore in more detail below.

## 1. Kids stop going when their parents are slack in their church attendance

When mum and dad stop going to church, they teach their children that church isn't really that important.

Whether we like it or not, children learn as much from what we do as what we say. When we easily skip church for weak excuses, we teach our kids that gathering together with others around God's word is really not as important as the many other temptations upon our time and attention.

The sad reality is that many parents choose for their kids to be football players rather than Christians. When Sunday morning sport is on, they push their kids there, rather than take them to church, and then wonder when they reach adulthood, why their kids no longer have any interest in Christianity.

They make other things a priority for their kids other than church, and then wonder why their children are binge drinking or on drugs or pregnant and hanging around with people that have destructive influence upon them!

Some people have great difficulty coming to church



Little Jimmy's preschool class went on a field trip to the fire station.

The firefighter giving the presentation held up a smoke detector and asked the class: "Does anyone know what this is?"

Little Jimmy's hand shot up.

"That's how Mommy knows dinner is ready!"

I never think of the future - it comes soon enough.

Albert Einstein

*continued next page...*

## A Student's Prayer

Now I lay me  
down to study,  
I pray the Lord  
I won't go nutty.

If I should  
fail to learn  
this junk,  
I pray the Lord  
I will not  
flunk.

Now I lay me  
down to rest,  
And pray  
I'll pass  
tomorrow's test.

If I should die  
before I wake,  
That's one  
less test  
I'll have to take.

more than twice a month because of endless family gatherings. My wife, Sheree, and I took two years to break in our families ... two years of saying, *"no we can't come at that time because we go to church then, but we can come at these other times..."*

But it's not just social gatherings. Christian people all over Australia make other things a priority for their kids on Sundays, rather than church, and then wonder why their kids have gone completely off the rails.

**Come to church every week, with your children. Be consistent in this. Model what's important in life.**

**2. Kids stop coming when their parents don't pastor their own children**

Children stopped coming to church when their parents delegated the upbringing of their kids to the church.

Don't leave it to the Kids' Club or Sunday School teachers to do it – it's your job! It's the primary job of Christian parents to raise their children into missional disciples for the Lord. The Sunday School teachers are there only to supplement what you are already teaching your kids about Jesus at home.

How sad it is to see some church-going parents treat their young children as little unbelievers that will need to be converted one day, when they get old enough to understand everything and make up their own minds what is right and wrong. Don't be like them! Raise your children as Christians, from day one!

In families where the parents didn't pray and read the Bible with their kids, the children didn't value the Scriptures, and therefore the voices of others have taken them away from the voice of God.

You want your children to spend eternity in heaven, don't you? Therefore, show them you love them by showing them Jesus Christ in the Bible every day. Read and discuss the Bible with them. Pray with them. Love them.

When should you start praying with your child, reading the Scriptures with them and taking them to church? Soon after coming home with them from the hospital!

**It is simply never too early to raise children as Christians, in a Christian environment with Christian habits and values.**

**Grace-filled parenting**

I give thanks to God that

children still grow up to become mature Christian adults, even when their parents miss the mark in many ways. I am eternally thankful to my heavenly Father for helping my own adult and nearly-adult children grow up as believers, despite the times I failed to be the perfect Christian father.

Yet, by making church our number-one priority, and by taking the time to pray and read the Bible with my family, God was pleased to have my girls

grow into keen Christians, by his power, for his glory.

And remember that the same grace that grows our kids is the same grace that God shows us, as parents. There's still time to create new habits for your family ... today is the first day of the rest of your family life! Make a bold move, for the sake of your kids, and for the glory of God.

Zachary Veron

*Reproduced from an article at [www.growingfaith.com.au](http://www.growingfaith.com.au)*

## Mission Giving Financial YTD

### INCOME

**Actual \$808**  
Budget \$2400

### EXPENDITURE

SU Riverside

Chaplaincy  
\$1200

SU George  
Town

Chaplaincy  
\$400

SU Staff

Support \$400

CMS \$1500

ABM \$1000

BCA \$1000

Barnabas Fund

\$750

Bible Society

\$500

World Vision

\$394

Leprosy

Mission \$106

Samaritan's

Purse \$450

**Actual \$7832**

Budget \$9600

## Parish Financial Report July to December 2012



**Income**                      *Budget*  
\$130,115                      \$131,320

**Expenditure**              *Budget*  
\$141,910                      \$146,462

The first half of the financial year is operating close to budget with some itemised variations.

**The offertory** is \$4500 under budget target and the Children and family Ministry offering is on budget.

The Finlay Estate has provided \$50000 to work on St Aidan's buildings. This is not included in the Parish Income.

The redevelopment of St Oswald's Hall was completed in September. The tender cost was

\$137450, when finished the builder had made a saving of \$1000. The amount required from the Parish capital account was \$90000 to finance the project.

The other cost increase for the parish is power expenditure, this is \$2000 above budget. If anyone has any bright thoughts on Solar energy I would like to hear from them.

The office is undergoing a refurbishment and should be completed shortly.

Finally, the target for the next 6 months is to have the offering reach the budget figure.

Ken Pedley - Treasurer

February 2013

**East Launceston**

21-23 Arthur St  
East Launceston  
0438 378 233

**George Town**

3 Anne St  
George Town  
0439 821 038

**Hillwood**

Hall - Jetty Rd  
Hillwood

**Low Head**

Low Head Rd  
Low Head

**Peacehaven**

185 Penquite Rd  
Norwood

**Pipers River**

School Rd  
Pipers River

**Riverside**

399 West Tamar Hwy  
Riverside

**Trevallyn**

34 Bain Tce  
Trevallyn  
0409 799 419

**Parish office**

399 West Tamar Hwy  
Riverside  
6327 4742  
office@riverlinks.net.au

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photos, articles, etc. is 20<sup>th</sup>  
of each month unless  
otherwise stated



**Contact us:**

**Parish Office (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)**

6327 4742 office@riverlinks.net.au

**Children & Young Families Ministry**

6327 3482 kids\_families@riverlinks.net.au

**Website**

www.riverlinks.net.au