

Tuggeranong Baptist Church

Ian's Update— 5 October 2021

Prayer

Nicky Gumbel outlined used the illustration of the traffic lights in the Alpha presentation, *Why and How do I pray?* to explain that God's answers to pray are yes, no and wait. He also talked about praying as having a conversation with God and gave examples of how things happen when we pray.

We sometimes hear people say that they prayers have not been answered because they thing that they prayer to happen did not happen in the way that they wanted it. As Nicky mentioned, God will often do a better thing or achieve a better outcome in the area of our prayer.

In this issue: we follow the theme or prayer and look at the ministry of Prayer, our Prayer Team and our on-line Prayer Request facility, and invite you to join in; we explain our participation in the *National Church Life Survey 2021* and touch what the *ACT Pathway Forward from 1 October 2021* means for us.

Praying with and for Others at Tuggeranong Baptist Church

TBC has a long history of offering to pray for others in various forms that included physically meeting in groups to pray over the needs of specific persons and situations and praying separately over the same request. How we managed the latter has evolved from the early days when the requests were passed via phone calls down a chain of people. Emails and text messages were the method of transmitting the requests in more recent and we have now acquired our App and Website to take on the administrative work around prayer requests.

Prayer request content

Though the model prayer described by Jesus, during his earthly ministry teaches us to pray for our daily bread (all of our needs each day), it is not uncommon to hear a person or situation being described as *in need of prayer* only when they are facing dire issues like ill health and this has often been seen as the criteria for

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Tuggeranong Baptist Church

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Elders/Corporation Committee

Ian Reid (President)
Rob James (Vice President)
Mike Ashford (Secretary)
Craig Leon

putting in a Prayer Request.

Prayer and Prayer Requests in the App

If you check out this tab in our App, you will see that we have loaded a number of prayers that have been prayed through time. They are there for inspiration and have been made public. I also post requests and prayers of thanksgiving which are public and notified to all of you as an encouragement.

Two sorts of prayer that are particularly welcome, are suggested by these verses:

1. For authorities so that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness—to foster the spread of the gospel to all men.

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, Intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth [1 Tim 2:1-4 NIV]

These prayers are about fundamental issues of the day and an example might be:

- Father, I pray that you will help people remember to respect and follow COVID Safe behaviours, so that the spread of COVID might be slowed, the pressure taken off our health system and that many workers might be spared from burnout and other mental health issues. In Jesus' Name. Amen
 - Father, I pray that you might move on the hearts and minds of those in control of Afghanistan, so that they will change the way they govern the country and so that many may be rescued from inhumane treatment of citizens. I know that it is your will that all men might be saved and I ask that, even as the current situation prevails, many may come to you. In Jesus' Name. Amen.
 - Father, I ask that you will grant wisdom to all who participate in the appointment of changed leadership of the government in New South Wales so that the nation might continue down a path that will lead to a peaceable environment where your gospel will flourish and the health and livelihood of many will be restored. In Jesus Name. Amen.
2. Prayers of petition and thanksgiving for ourselves, individuals known to us, or for those in a particular set of circumstances
 - Father, I pray for X (named or unnamed) who is facing tests to diagnose a medical condition. I ask that the results will reveal the cause so that an effective treatment can be prescribed. I ask that, while going through the tests and waiting for the results, you will bless them with an extra portion of the fruit of the spirit in self-control and peacefulness—that they might fear not because they know that no circumstance can separate them from your love. In Jesus' Name. Amen.
 - Father, Bless x with ever spiritual blessing and heal them from y and thank you for your promise that you want us to be well. I do not know when and how you will do this but I know that you care for them more than I ever can and place them in your hands. In Jesus' Name.
 - Father, Help me in my situation so that I may live a life worthy of you and glorify your Name as I see you operating in the circumstances of my life. Amen
 - Father, Intervene in the life of x as he deals with his situation so that he may be restored to health. In Jesus' Name Amen.

Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God. [[Phil 4:6 AMP]



Most of the prayer in the second category are seen only by the Prayer Team as publication is restricted to this group only. The requests often contain the names of people and their private circumstances so they are not visible to all.

Because of this, you may be under the impression that the App and Website are not the place for you to lodge your request for Prayers of Petition.

Who sees my prayer request

We are able to allow everyone and anyone who checks out our website or installs our app to see request that are *Public* or we can restrict viewing privileges to a select group.

Choose one of the options which will determine what happens to your request as follows:

- I want this prayer request to be public* - in the App this field name is *Public in the app*
Your request will be published on the website/app where everyone can see it (i.e. any member of the public logging onto the website, not just TBC people)
AND a notification will be sent to all of the people who have signed up to be part of the Prayer Team.
- I want to be followed up by Church Leadership* – in the App this field is *pastoral follow up*
Your request will only be published to the Prayer Team. It will not be visible to others when they look at Prayer and Prayer Requests on either the website or the app.
AND a notification will be sent to the Prayer Team.

The labels are a standard system feature that cannot be changed at this time

Protecting People's Privacy

Always ask permission if you want to submit a prayer request that will name another person or describe their medical, or other sensitive issue. Your friend may not welcome a call from a well-wisher who has come to know about their situation via a prayer request you submit.

Compose your own prayer request

If you are able to write an email or text message you are able to Compose your own Prayer Request on our website or in the app.

This allows you to:

- Ensure that the facts are right.
- Write specifically what you want others prayer for, or ask them to pray as they feel the Holy Spirit is leading them to pray.

How to Compose a Prayer Request

Click [here](#) to read a fuller explanation. These instructions are stored permanently so they will be there next time you want to submit a request. You can find them in the App/Website under the *More/About Us* tabs.

Use the App or the Website to submit Prayer Requests

Requests should no longer be submitted via email to the Elders. If you do have access to either website or app, contact me or send a message to tbchurch@internode.on.net.



The Prayer Team

To join the Prayer Team, go into your account in the App and **Add Prayer Team** to your *Preferences*. To be notified when requests are loaded, do not log out of your profile before you close down the App so that it runs in the background.

You may leave the team at any time: Go to your account in the App and deselect Prayer Team in your preferences.



National Church Life Survey (NCLS) 2021

We have ordered surveys so that you can participate in the 2021 survey. The survey is designed to listen to the views of each church's leadership, attenders, and broader community to provide a picture of the church's health and vitality. The results will help us identify our strengths and provide processes to help us evaluate, make decisions and connect effectively with our community.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

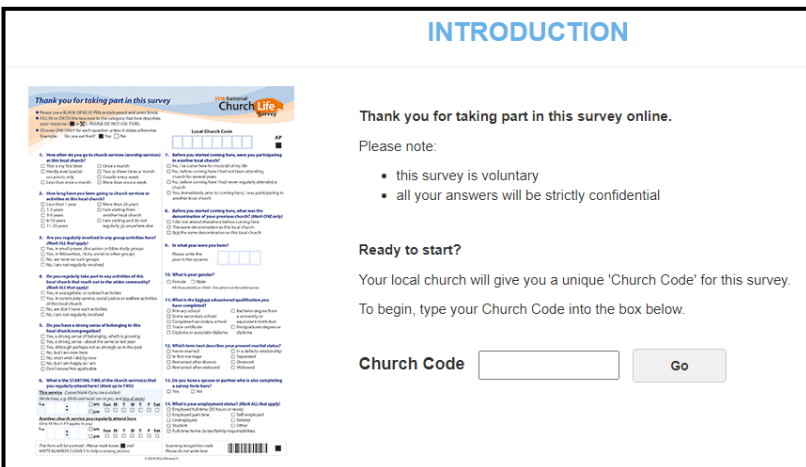


The survey this year will be conducted on-line, so for a very little administrative effort and your co-operation we will be able to collect the data, have it analysed and receive a report that will tell us how we are doing against a standard set of markers of church health.

Click [here](#) to go the National Church Life Survey website to find out more about the 2021 survey and why social issue questions are being included this year and to check out the publications area to see the types of fact sheets that will be produced, based on the findings of the surveys.

The Association of Baptist Churches in NSW&ACT advises that they have made a significant investment in the survey and will pay for our participation this year. The cost would normally be about \$500.00. The Association emphasises the importance of our participation as a local church and also because it will result in a cohesive snapshot for the movement as a whole.

We will pass on further information as it arrives. Here is a snapshot of the screen where you will start your survey:



Baptist Care—Yarra Rossa Retirement Village

We received a letter from the General Manager of Residential Services & Retirement Living, advising that the Yarra Rossa, Red Hill, will open and begin moving in residents on 31 January 2022. Teams are working hard to prepare for the day and recruitment of a Chaplain is underway.

Global Interaction—new look supporter magazine

Global Interaction have advised that instead of publishing *Resonate* and *Vision* magazines, they are producing a new

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iteration of *Resonate* as their single supporter magazine.

Previously *Vision*'s focus was to feature up-to-date ministries stories and updates, while *Resonate* was full of thought-provoking mission and faith articles.

We no longer distribute paper copies of the magazines or other publications, we suggest you access [Global Interaction](#) direct.

Operation Christmas Child



OCC advised our co-ordinator that Shoebox collection has been moved to 1-14 November in the NSW/ACT region.

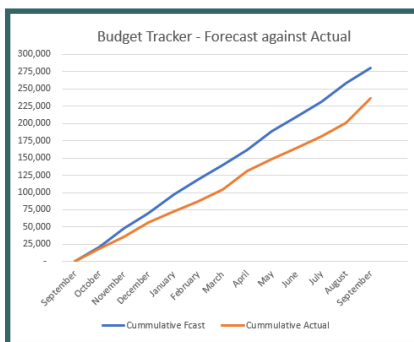
They have [Pack A Shoebox Online](#) available. For \$30 you can choose to pack a shoebox for a boy or girl, choose an age group and write a personalised letter. They will then pack and ship the shoebox for you. Please note \$30 includes the \$10 donation to cover shipping and project costs.

Koorong (Australia wide) have advised that they will be distributing boxes and will be a collection point but we have been unable confirm details with our local store.

Finance— Giving

Powering Communities Program—a Federal Government initiative

Our application for a grant of \$9,500.00 was submitted on 29 September. We were invited to apply for this grant by our local member for the electorate of Bean (Federal), David Smith. We pray that our application might be successful as it will meet almost half of the cost of installing solar power at Garratt Street allowing us to channel our resources into God's work in other ways.



We give thanks that our income from offerings was \$236,962 which was 84.63% of our estimated offering for the year.

We thank you for switching to on-line giving direct to the bank account detailed on Page 1 of this *Update*.

COVID Update - ACT Pathway Forward from 1 October 2021

Click here to read the full version of the [ACT Pathway](#) Forward from 1 October 2021.

The pathway explains what we can lawfully do from certain dates. However it does not dictate when we **must do** what. The *must dos* are illustrated in the document thus:

COVID Safe behaviours—new practices do not replace former practices



It was noticeable, at a suburban shopping centre this weekend that, while everyone was wearing a mask, very few were sanitising their hands as they entered. ACT Health continue to emphasise that **all** the measures are necessary to slow the spread of the virus. The ongoing behaviours required to stop the spread of COVID-19 are:

- Maintain good hand hygiene
- Keep your distance
- Stay at home if unwell
- Use CBR to check in and check exposure locations
- Monitor travel advice
- Wear a Mask
- Follow the COVID Safe Plan

All things are lawful—not all things are expedient

It is the responsibility of the leadership of the church to determine how we proceed to achieve our priorities—these are not dictated by the fact ACT list of dates and capacities. The situation brings to mind this verse which was written in a different context but has application here.

Everything is permissible (allowable and lawful) for me; but not all things are helpful (good for me to do, expedient and profitable when considered with other things). Everything is lawful for me, but I will not become the slave of anything or be brought under its power [1 Corinthians 6:12 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition]

Factors that we need to take into account include:

- Many ministries and events close down for the Christmas break.
- The long list of tasks and the resources (people's time and energy) that are required to prepare various spaces in the building for multiple activities.
- The reforming of teams and training of volunteers to do the work
- The importance to our church community of being able to worship face-to-face on Christmas Day.
- The extra and unfamiliar work that will have to be done if we are defined as an Exposure Location.
- The risk of the all who attend having to be tested and quarantined because they attended an event at the building at the same time as others.
- The risk of spreading the infection through touching of surfaces. in the multiple spaces in the building.
- Vaccinated persons can contract COVID and will infect others.
- Our responsibility to keep the pressure off our health system as much as we can.

COVID Safety Plans

All COVID Safety Plans for every team, event and activity will have to be reviewed to align with [ACT criteria](#) revised in June 2021.

ACT Health has now produced a Business Safety Check List to be used in conjunction with this COVID Safety Plan template and completion of this checklist satisfies the criteria for a COVID Safety Plan. so we can use or adapt this checklist for each of our teams or ministries.

https://www.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/1857502/PICC0400-Business-Safety-check-list_AW3.pdf

The checklist is specifically designed for small business so is very relevant for the Op Shop.



Our COVID Safety plan will outline the steps that we will take to prevent the Garratt Street Centre from becoming an Exposure Location and outline the steps we will follow if we have a confirmed [case of COVID](#) .

A signed [Cleaning](#) checklist has to be provided to ACT Health if and when we are identified as an Exposure Location and we have to take into account the [Worksafe Australia](#) cleaning checklist.

Observance of COVID Safety Plan

It is important that the plans exist as they may need to be produced to ACT Health. However, observance of the plans is also required and depend upon each of us. The benefits are:

1. Decreases the possibility of the Garratt Street Centre being identified as an Exposure Site with the consequences of attendees needing to be tested, quarantine and exposure site cleaning. Serves all who attend their families, friends ad co-workers, the community and the health system as it slows the spread of the virus.

2. Eliminates the possibility of the church being fined for breaches.
3. Ensures that we are covered by insurance if someone contracts COVID at our building, and sues the church. Baptist Insurance Service published this in their recent Newsletter:

“Our most current advice from our public liability insurer, CCI, is that provided the Church follows relevant Government directives and has a COVID-19 plan in place and follows the plan, they would cover any claim against the Church. If, however, the Church deliberately fails to follow Government directives and/or fails to have a COVID-19 plan in place, it is unlikely they would provide indemnity as a subsequent COVID-19 claim could not be said to be ‘neither expected nor intended from the standpoint of the insured’. So, at a minimum, churches/organisations need to follow Government directives and communicate that to their congregations and follow their COVID-19 plan at all times.”

Individual Safety measures

ACT advice on how to manage your health risk includes:

Activities and events that may increase your risk include activities that:

- are in closed environments, crowded situations or involve close contact with others;
- require speaking loudly or singing in an indoor environment (e.g. choirs, singing in church, shouting in a noisy environment);
- require sharing objects with others (e.g. utensils at a buffet)

Pathway to the Christmas Day service

From 15 October—Gradual return to work:

Team meetings can commence in the Community Room—Elders, Transition Team, COVID Safety Team, Op Shop staff meeting, Safe Church Team

Jack’s Gym cleaning and preparation.

COVID Safety Plans To be re-written for Worship Team, Op Shop, Garratt St Centre and Church Services and Jack’s Gym.

Recruiting of volunteers and training of volunteers. in new requirements.

New signage prepared.

[Upgrade of Community Room may commence during this period.](#)

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| 19 and 21 October | Op Shop not open to the public or for donations. Shop re-arrangement, and stock swap over from basement store. Ground level toilets cleaned. |
| 20 October | Transition/COVID Safety Team meeting and start Auditorium re-configure for 4 sqm rule. Excess chairs stored. |
| 26 and 28 October | Op Shop not open to the public or for donations. Continue re-arrangement, and stock swap. |
| 27 October | Solar Site Inspection and Transition/COVID team cleaning, signage, stock hygiene supplies and gardening. |
| | Elders’ Meeting in Community Room—approve COVID Safety Plans. |

From 29 October– introduction of 25 across the venue or the 4 sqm density rule, gyms, bands and retail permitted

Plans for Church Services for 54 people and Worship Team endorsed by Transition Team and approved by Elders.

Auditorium prepared at 1.5 m and foyers, stairwells and toilets cleaned. COVID Safety Team trained.

Op Shop volunteers trained in additional requirements and plan for 1 person 2sqm capacity endorsed by Transition Team and approved by Elders.

Op Shop—changeover of stock continues to prepare for opening when 2 sqm rule introduced at end of November/early December. ('Consider viability of opening at 4 sqm)

31 October—Transition /COVID Safety team training in Auditorium.

1 November - Bookings commence for Sunday service with limit of 54 and no Kids' Church

Jacks gym may open with class limited to 20.

All primary aged school children back to school—so viable for children to gather in person but will occur off-site as we do not have the capacity to prepare and clean the whole building at this time.

2 November Live recording session for Worship Team for Church on-line—limited to band, teaching and COVID Safety warden.

3 November Transition/COVID Safety Team meeting and final preparation for Opening.

Upgrade of Community Room may occur during this period.

3—4 November Op Shop activities—volunteers only to finalise arrangements for opening. No public interaction.

7 November Church Service at Garratt St Centre—Auditorium

9 November Recording of Church On-line—Auditorium

Bookings for 14 November open.

10 November Transition Team meeting

Leadership Team meeting

9, 10, 11 Nov Op Shop open to the public and donations

22 –23 Nov Solar Panel installation. Site may need to be closed to other activities.

From end of November or Early December— density rule change to 2sqm rule

Activities that will continue under the new density rule are:

1. Sunday services at Garratt St without Kids' Church
2. Recording of services
3. Transition/COVID Safety team work
4. Op Shop open Tuesdays to Thursdays
5. Jacks's Gym

Activities which will not occur on site are:

1. Boys' and Girls' Brigade—offsite activities in the planning stage and may commence from 4 November
2. Craft Group
3. Bible study
4. Catered events
5. Use of building (Community Room) by outside organisations

25 December Christmas Day service—with 99 capacity if the 2 sqm rule is in force

26 December No Sunday service.

Fixing our vision on Christmas

As you can see from the list above, we are taking a very conservative approach to opening services at Garratt Street Centre that takes into account all of the effort required. The fact that there are only several weeks between opening with the 4 sqm rule and the possible move to the 2 sqm rule, and the date when all children can meet means that the Boys' and Girls' Brigades will only have 3 Thursdays before their end of year date of the end of November has also influenced decisions that we've taken.

Our conservative approach means that we are taking every possible measure to ensure that we will be able to gather at the Garratt Street Centre on Christmas.

During November and December, we encourage you to take advantage of the eased conditions in a cautious safe way. To keep in contact with each other but to do this safely so that we can play our part in keeping the pressure off our health system. World-trends show that we can expect to see case numbers increase.

Thankfully, the vaccination rates that will have been achieved by the time that any of these projected eased restrictions occur, will go a long way to prevent serious cases, hospitalization and death.

What will January bring?

Only our heavenly Father knows.

We will keep monitoring the situation and may be able to approve building projects that are on the Transition's teams TO DO list, and other activities that may bring us on site in smaller groups during the week.

Last words and contact

Please keep watching my mid-week video updates and the Alpha series as part of Church On-line until 31 October when the series ends.

I am available to receive your email at ianreid@mail.com or phone call 0401 301 193 or you can send a message through from the App by using the Enquiry option.

Blessings,

Ian Reid

for the Leadership Team

5 October 2021