

NATIONAL BAPTIST SENIOR PASTORS GATHERING

HOBART | 2024



PLEASE ENJOY
OUR FREE WIFI



Password

wifi4u@citywide



Our Gathering:

- It is not a conference but a gathering of peers that is **informal, personal and communal** (to quote Matt Hunt)
- Is for pastors of bigger (300+), multi-staff churches and their spouses who live with different questions than smaller churches
- We also welcome State Directors of Ministries and Heads of Baptist entities
- We purposely don't accept promotional sponsorship, but we are very grateful for the support of Baptist Affiliated Ministries (BFS, BMA and BWA)
- It is hosted by a church in a different state each year. (*Suggestions now open*)

Welcome to Citywide

What to know about the building:

- Bathrooms (Shared)
- Gymnastics
- Cafe
- Emergencies
- MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME



You are here

Main Bathrooms

Gymnastics

Cafe Seating

Pilates

Prayer Room

Cafe

Cambridge Room

Office

Lounge

Public Bathrooms

Board Room

STORAGE

STORAGE

TOILETS

TOILETS

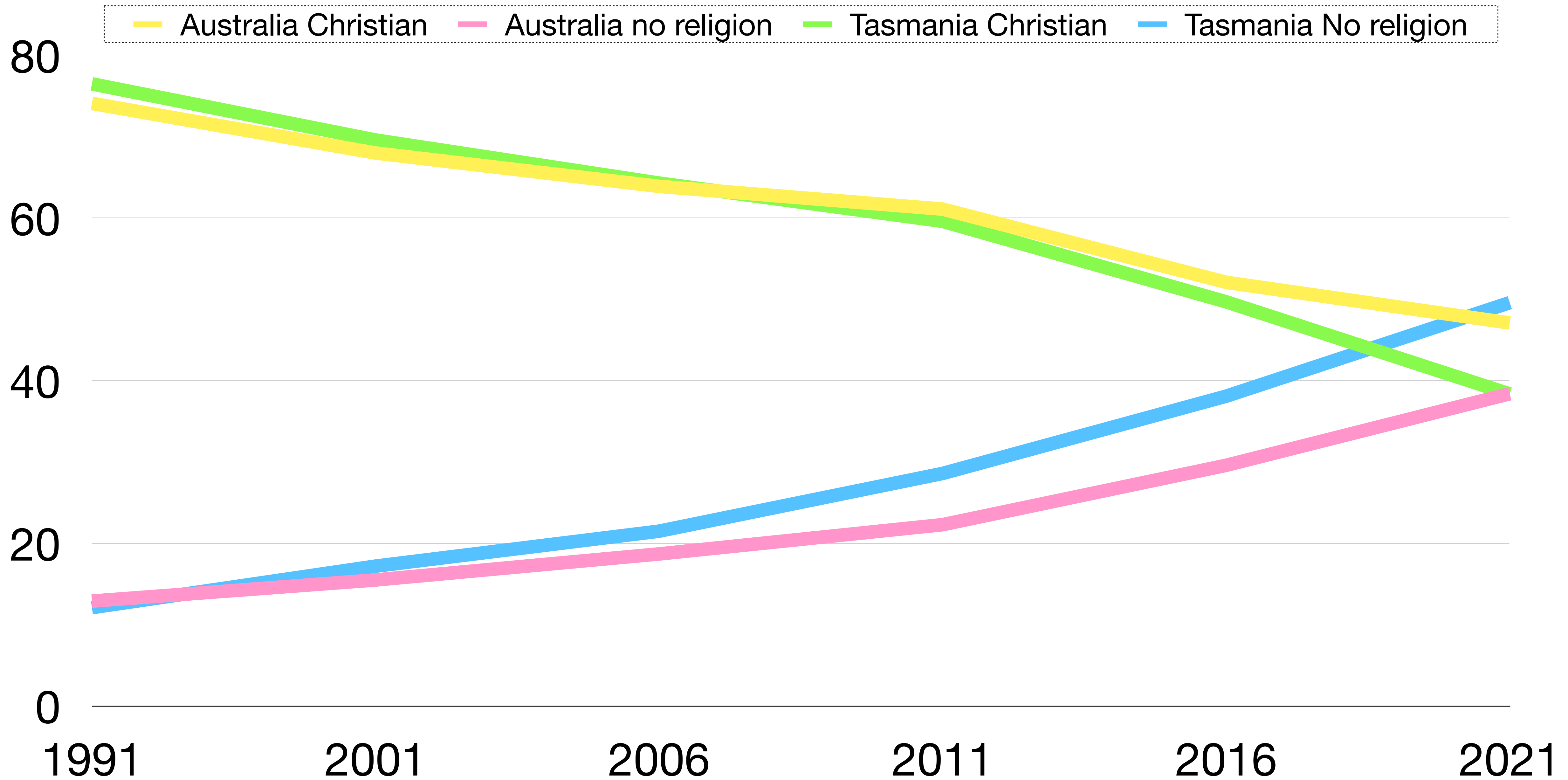


What to know about our time:

- Program (and QR code)
- Webpages for each day
- Dinner tonight - Nepali church
- Wednesday afternoon
- Wednesday dinner @T42
- Thursday @ Hobart Baptist

Tasmania is a great context to
be thinking about the future together ...

Tasmania vs Australia



What is Jesus' vision for His church?

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me
through their message,
that all of them may be one, Father,
just as you are in me and I am in you.
May they also be in us
so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

John 17:20-21 NIV

Jesus seems to be saying...

The relationship between the Father and the Son is to be the model for our relationship with one another...

*and somehow our relationships with each other
will speak loudly...*

Just as you are in me and I am in you...

Trinity is the most comprehensive and integrative framework that we have for understanding and participating in the Christian life

– Eugene Peterson

Perichoresis:
Mutual indwelling
without loss of identity.

Celtic Triquetra (Trinity Knot)

The eternal Father



The eternal Son

The holy spirit

Being one is not easy

"One can scarcely have had much experience in deliberative meetings of Christians without realizing that the best of men, having wills of their own, are liable to attempt to carry out their own views without paying sufficient respect to the rights of their opponents."

Henry M. Robert

I have given them the glory that you gave me, that
they may be one as we are one—

John 17:22 NIV

One of the severe handicaps under which the church operates is the cover-up of the glory with respectable substitutes such as acceptance and honor, success and 'relevance.'
Over and over again, we miss it.

- Eugene Peterson

And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming,
"The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God,
slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,
maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness,
rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty
unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for
the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."

Exodus 34:6-7

He (Moses) hears from God himself God's identity: his name ... and his character... The story seems to suggest that God's glory is the radiance of his character, of his goodness, of who he truly is.

– Richard Bauckham

You can summarise the glory of God
as His
Mercy, Compassion and Justice,
or His
Grace and Truth.

The wrestle to be one-but-not-the-same =
the wrestle for Grace and Truth.

I have given them the glory that you gave me, that
they may be one as we are one—

John 17:22 NIV

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14 NIV

Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

John 1:16-17 NIV

May they also be in us...

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians 1:27 NIV

At our best, Baptists have always lived in the tension between Grace for Freedom of Conscience, and Biblical Truth

During our time together, we will explore what we have learned and still need to learn about being one but not the same.

What does being 'one-but-not-the-same'
mean for us in this time?



Welcome to Tasmania

Stephen Baxter

What has God been doing since our last gathering?



Breakout Sessions:

- Leading a churchwide revisioning and strategic planning process – *Mike Stevens*
- Ministry as the world moves away from Christianity (learning from Tassie) – *Stephen Baxter*
- What we've learned co-lead pastoring a Baptist church – *Kathy and Stephen Bates*