



The Messenger

April 2025

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2025 Theme



AUTHENTICITY: THE QUALITY OF BEING REAL OR TRUE.

About us—where we are heading

We have rebranded from *The Informer* to *The Messenger* to signal the ever-changing methods that apply to the unchanging good news of reconciliation between God and man achieved through the finished work of Jesus' at the cross, resurrection and ascension followed by the coming of the Holy Spirit. Yes, Easter is almost upon us even though the year has hardly begun. It's been so packed with activity.

I hope that those of you who are using the [Lenten Guide](#) are being blessed as you prepare for Easter.

This issue of *The Messenger* is **ABOUT US** and includes messages about our various aspects. It's a timely jumping off point as we take up the 2025 Challenge and set our sights on our theme of *Living Authentically*.

The series about the attributes of God and his otherness at the end of last year set us up for the *Encounters—then and now* series we are following now. It's amazing to move from awe at the all God is, to appreciation of his desire to encounter each and everyone throughout all history. in unique ways—with and without any influence of any church program.



Contacts

Ian Reid, Lead Pastor

Elders:

Rob James

Mike Ashford

Craig Leon

Phone: 0401 301 193

www.tbchurch.com.au

tbchurch@internode.on.net

YouTube

Electronic giving

Direct Deposit to: BSB 704 922,

Account: 100 014 987

Name: Tuggeranong Baptist Church

Love God Love People



What might Authenticity look like?

In January, we went through a short series *One Year from Now* where we considered what our lives might look like after a year of making the small changes toward living authentically - to look at habits that they need to put on and to put off, as a continual process toward maturity in Christ.

This chart may be useful in assessing how you are doing:

| On being a follower of Jesus | On being a religious person |
|--|--|
| You see Jesus' righteousness as your Saviour | You see your self-righteousness as your salvation |
| You extend grace to those who need it | You hoard grace from those who need it |
| You go to the sinner | You wait for sinners to come to you |
| You care for and help sinners | You criticise and preach at sinners |
| You compare yourself to Jesus | You compare yourself to others |
| You befriend sinners | You hate sinners |
| You leave everything to compassionately pursue other people who have need of the gospel of salvation | You grumble and complain when other people don't fit your system |

After Easter, we will be taking an in-depth look at walking to walk to authenticity.

The 2025 Challenge

The challenge presents actions so that we might get real as we move toward maturity as Christ-followers.

We are EXPECTED TO AND ARE FREE TO CHOOSE our levels of engagement with the challenge.

The links below provide you with access to various resources:

Possibilities are:

- [Accept Christ](#)
- [Be Baptised](#)
- Be added to the [Database and Mailing List](#) (be included in Pastoral oversight)
- Create a [Profile in the App](#) to receive notifications
- Join [groups](#) for communications via the App – eg the Prayer Team
- Become a [Member](#)
- Become a [Volunteer](#)
- Join a [team](#)
- Become a General [Volunteer](#)
- Participate in [ministry events](#)
- Attend [social gatherings](#)
- [Give](#)

2025 CHALLENGE

1. BECOME A CHRIST FOLLOWER
2. JOIN THE MISSION
3. BRING A FRIEND
4. GIVE GENEROUSLY
5. CHOOSE COMMUNITY

Faces to ministries

At our Sunday services during February and March, we have been introducing the faces of our various ministry teams, what they are about and how we might support them. This helps us understand and engage with the culture of the church - to know how and why we do things as we do, and how things may be evolving.



Safe Church team - [Alan Mitchell](#) and [Marian Ashford](#) - spoke of screening of volunteers and Creating Safe Space training.

[Kids' Church](#) - Marian explained the ministry and invited volunteers to assist. She emphasised the importance of children to make connections with each other and to build relationships across the church community.

[Op Shop](#) - [Brenda White](#) spoke of the work of the Op Shop and the vision for opening on a Saturday morning to attract a different part group of shoppers. She explained that the opening hours of the shop depends upon the availability of volunteers and that a minimum of 2 are required for the shop to remain open. She invited us to work in the Op Shop.

CAP Money - [Robert Ardill](#) and Kerrie Whitton covered the changes to the CAP delivery model so that coaches have now been trained as Money Mentors, their continuing commitment to the deliver of the CAP Money Course, and the possibilities for the congregation to engage with CAP mentees or to join the team of mentors.

[Connect through Craft](#) - [Frances Bate](#) outlined the RESPECT philosophy of this group that is for crafters inside and outside the church family and invited others to attend and enjoy a cup of tea as well as crafters.

Future Directions Group 25 - Alf Jonas is facilitating this group and presented the work of the group as adjustments to the course to bring us to our destination.

[Community of Givers](#) - Ian Reid outlined the process for distribution of vouchers to sole parent families in our neighbourhood.

[Eldership team](#) - Ian Reid presented the four key responsibilities of Elders specified in our [Constitution](#) and presented some of the immediate goals. He mentioned that, over the last couple of years, the Elders had been able to focus on these because of the work of the Operations team. Ian introduced Rob and Mike.

Operations team - [Daphne Bate](#) presented the biblical foundations for tandem functions for governance of places of worship and aspects of the church's infrastructure including the functional structure chart, the process for a new ministry, activity or event and the recruitment of volunteers and matching them with ministry teams.

Need an introduction or help to get started?

Go to the Challenge 25 corner after the service, ask someone wearing a teal jacket, or speak to the leaders who have been introduced.

About Us - What resources do we have?

As we consider changes in our personal habits and course adjustments for our church focus, taking stock of our resources reflects this wisdom of counting the cost or, in more modern terms, cost-benefit analysis.

The resources we currently have in our hand relate to:

- Building
- People
- Finances
- Time
- Energy
- Administrative systems

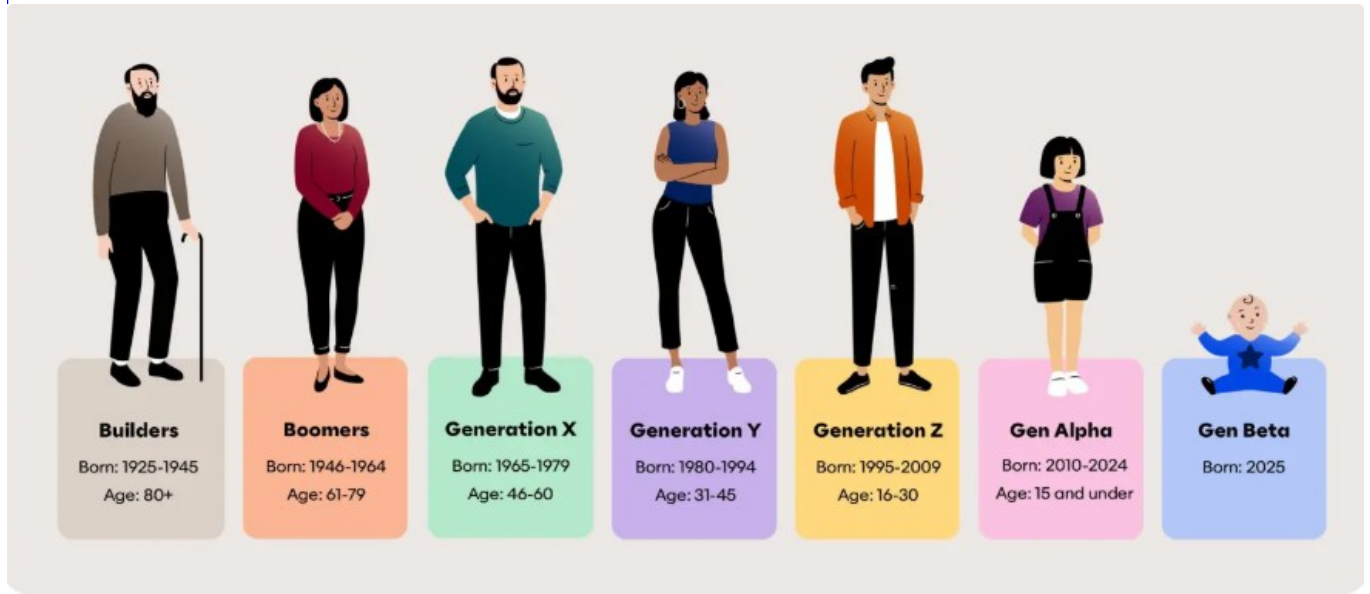
'Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? [Luke 14:28](#) [New International Version UK]

Snapshot of resources - Building

The building is debt-free {benefit}, however it incurs regular on-going costs in insurance, servicing and 24 hour monitoring of safety systems (lift, fire protection, IT system security, air-conditioning, garbage disposal) [cost].



About Us—People Attending and Volunteers



As we journey through 2025 we anticipate that 7 generations will be represented in our church family.

This chart is a best-guess of the age groupings of all of us who regularly attend on Sundays and also shows the number volunteers in each of the age ranges.

Some of our volunteer workforce do not attend our church but serve as CAP Money Mentors, in the Op Shop, Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade and are not included in the figures below.

All volunteers do comply with our Safe Church requirements.

| Age Range | Number (guessed) | Volunteers | Generation |
|------------------|------------------|------------|----------------|
| Primary or below | 16 | | Alpha and Beta |
| Secondary | 8 | | Z |
| University | 6 | | Z |
| 20 to 35 | 11 | 1 | X Y Z |
| 36-45 | 12 | 3 | Y |
| 46-55 | 9 | 4 | X |
| 56-65 | 22 | 7 | Baby Boomer X |
| 66-75 | 34 | 15 | Baby Boomer |
| Over 75 | 10 | 1 | Builder |
| Totals | 113 | 31 | |

About our people - Levels of engagement

Attendances for 2024 - the average weekly attendance for 2024 was 70. The lowest was 51 and the highest 113 (Easter with Baptisms) and Christmas with 95 as the next highest.

Database - we have 74 email addresses on our Mailing List.

Members - There were 50 members at the time of our AGM in December 2024.

Church App (on Church Central) There are 82 active accounts,

Prayer Team - 31 members are sent notifications, via the App, when a request for prayer is received.

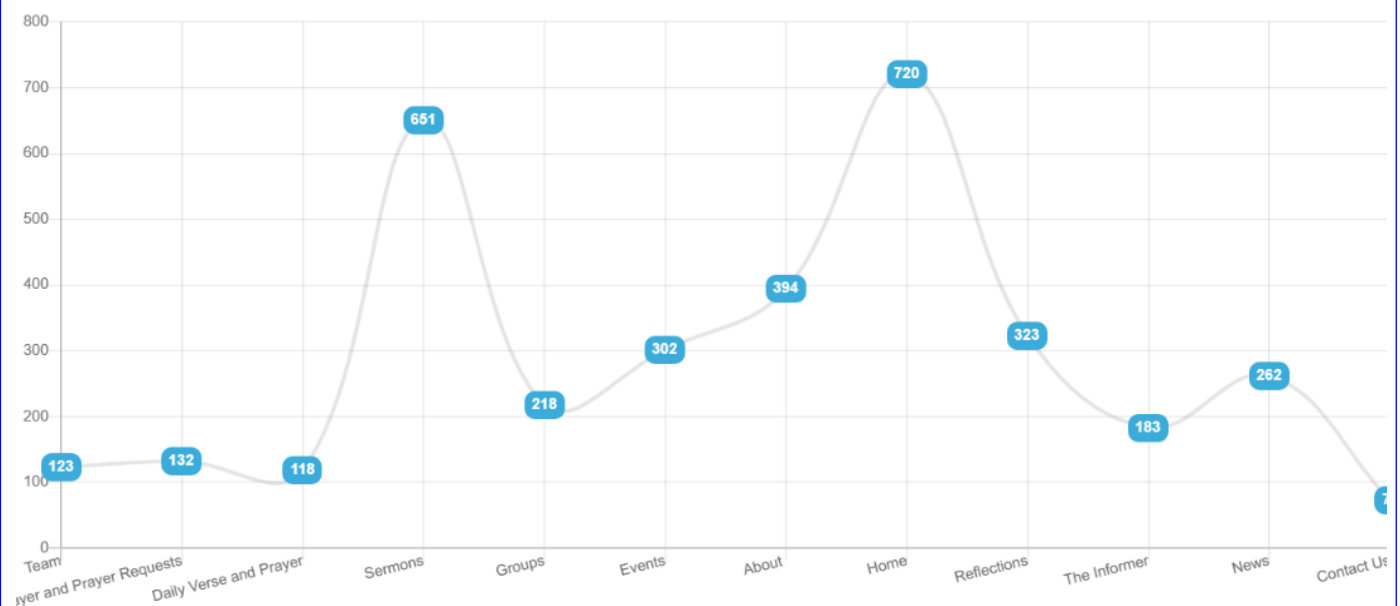
Baptisms - 11 were baptised in 2024.

Post Jenke Cct attendees - There are 50 regular attenders who have never worshipped at the building at Jenke Cct.

You Tube channel: 77 subscribe to the YouTube Channel and the number of hits 1 November 2024 to 20 January 2024 was 794.

Website/app Analysis - Total hits 3498 for the period 1 November 2024 to 20 January 2024.

This charts show which sections are being viewed.



Geographical Location - where we live

People who attend our church are spread throughout the Lanyon, Tuggeranong and Woden valleys with some travelling from Casey, Googong and Cooma. We also have an on-line community who regularly view our sermons and/or listen to our music in Australia-wide and overseas locations.

Location of the Harvest field - where we are called to work

The mindset of neighbours and serving our neighbourhood in a geographical sense does not serve our purposes. However, a few locals have transferred to the Garratt Street Centre since we the church's activities moved into their neighbourhood and actually walk to church.

Our neighbours do not live, work and play in Wanniasa, that's just the address of our property. However, we do have a responsibility to maintain respectful relationships in the Wanniasa neighbourhood, for example, maintaining the public footpaths, thoughtful use of the car park, controlling noise levels of our activities and, perhaps most importantly modelling friendly relationships with the businesses in the shopping centre where our custom at the shops is appreciated.

Our harvest field is wherever we are on the six days when we are not gathered at The Garratt Street Centre. Each of us has an essential role in the outreach of the church as a worker in these varied harvest fields.

About People - our giving

An analysis of on-line Offerings for December 2024 (which represents a standard month) shows that 49 givers transfer 35 monthly offerings. Couples attending the church who give through a joint account are counted as 2 givers for the purpose of this analysis.

The chart shows is a break down of regular amounts for each giver.

| Range of Amounts | Adult Givers |
|------------------|--------------|
| Up to \$399 pm | 19 |
| \$400 to \$699 | 10 |
| \$700 to \$2000 | 6 |
| Tota | 35 |

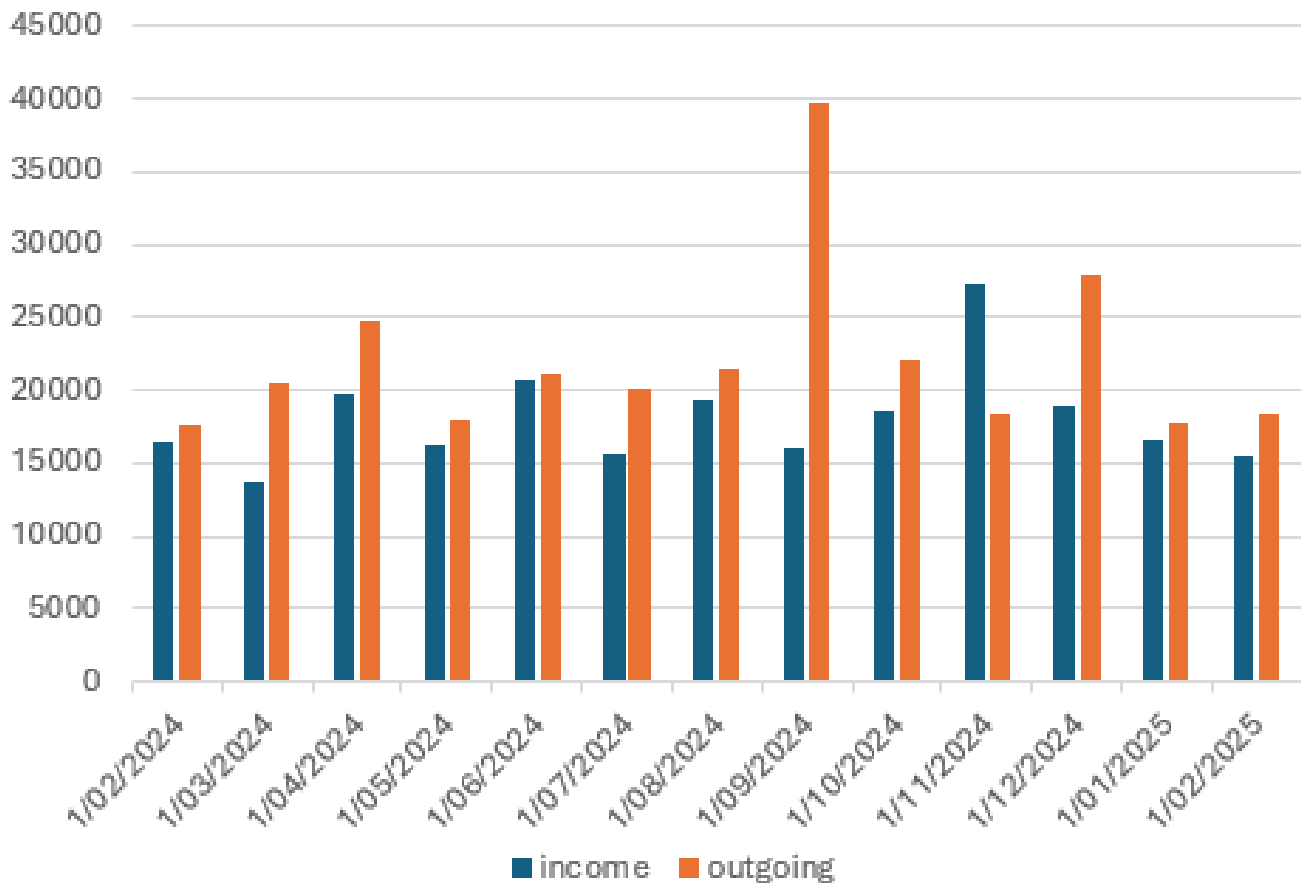
Note:
Boys’ Brigade and Girls’ Brigade are not funded by the church but the church provides the venue and re-sources that they share with other ministries.
BB and GB Insurance incidents are often covered by the Brigades insurers and copies of their current Public Liability Insurance are held by the church.
Attendees at the Craft Group provide donations towards the cost of materials.

Finance

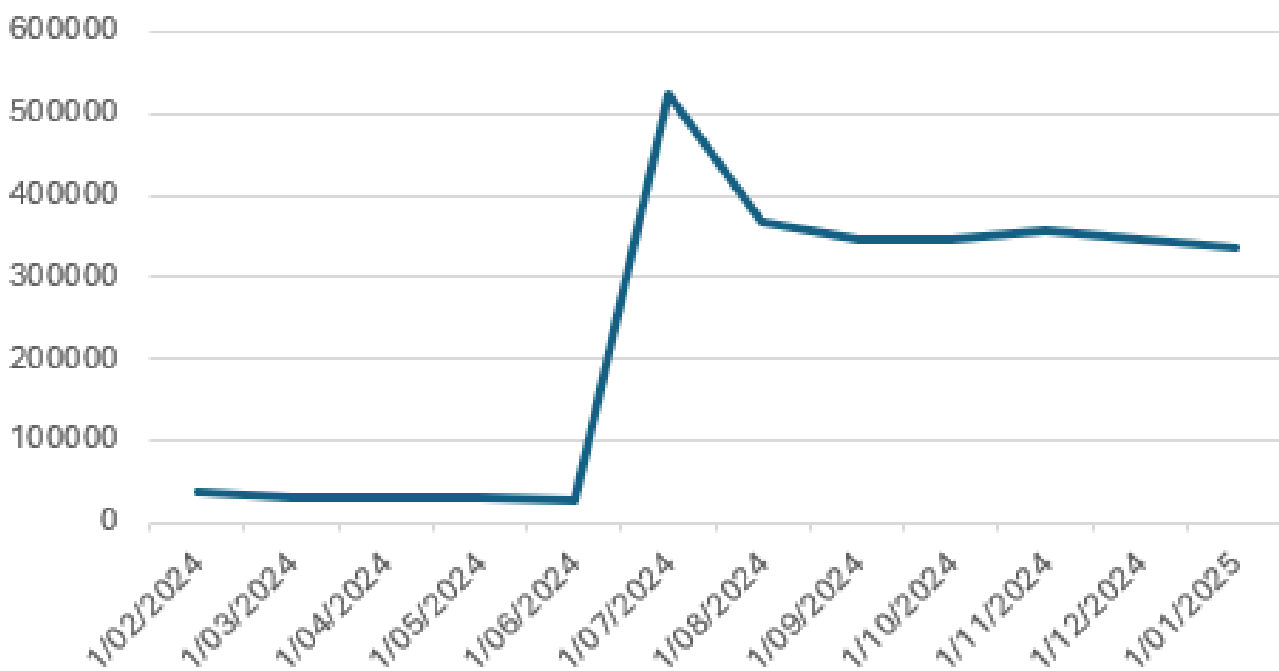
| Date | Offering received | Opshop & COG dona-tions | building use & bank in-terest | Total in-come | expenses | loan | Outgoing |
|------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| 29/02/2024 | \$14,347.00 | \$1,748.50 | \$290.00 | \$16,385.50 | \$16,147.56 | \$1,428.00 | \$17,575.56 |
| 31/03/2024 | \$11,725.00 | \$1,653.00 | \$265.55 | \$13,643.55 | \$19,181.54 | \$1,428.00 | \$20,609.54 |
| 30/04/2024 | \$17,379.00 | \$1,906.50 | \$525.25 | \$19,810.75 | \$22,998.61 | \$1,787.00 | \$24,785.61 |
| 31/05/2024 | \$14,069.00 | \$1,795.00 | \$311.10 | \$16,175.10 | \$16,513.43 | \$1,428.00 | \$17,941.43 |
| 30/06/2024 | \$18,967.00 | \$1,233.00 | \$515.54 | \$20,715.54 | \$19,743.92 | \$1,428.00 | \$21,171.92 |
| 31/07/2024 | \$14,195.00 | \$1,381.00 | \$155.00 | \$15,731.00 | \$18,279.23 | \$1,785.00 | \$20,064.23 |
| 31/08/2024 | \$15,819.00 | \$1,821.60 | \$1,648.72 | \$19,289.32 | \$20,161.34 | \$1,428.00 | \$21,589.34 |
| 30/09/2024 | \$12,687.00 | \$1,944.00 | \$1,441.11 | \$16,072.11 | \$37,895.17 | \$1,785.00 | \$39,680.17 |
| 31/10/2024 | \$16,217.00 | \$1,580.00 | \$846.27 | \$18,643.27 | \$20,627.03 | \$1,428.00 | \$22,055.03 |
| 30/11/2024 | \$23,561.68 | \$2,824.50 | \$920.29 | \$27,306.47 | \$16,919.33 | \$1,428.00 | \$18,347.33 |
| 31/12/2024 | \$16,135.00 | \$2,231.00 | \$600.11 | \$18,966.11 | \$26,074.70 | \$1,785.00 | \$27,859.70 |
| 31/01/2025 | \$15,815.00 | \$627.00 | \$186.48 | \$16,628.48 | \$16,378.40 | \$1,428.00 | \$17,806.40 |
| 28/02/2025 | \$13,417.05 | \$1,567.00 | \$448.97 | \$15,433.02 | \$16,938.64 | \$1,428.00 | \$18,366.64 |



Income vs Outgoing



Total bank balance



Treasure

A recent *Encounter* session reminded us that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matt 6:21)

Our most precious resources are money, time and energy and we can direct our hearts toward the things of God by the intentional investment of these precious resources.

One of the purposes of our gatherings each week is the ministry of encouraging one another and thus, build God's community in our midst.

The resources provided to us by *Olive Tree Media* include the description of testimony.

In your before and after church service chats, do you have a testimony ready to share? Have you thought about how you can adapt it to share with your other contacts? The sharing of our stories is a way that we can encourage each other in the faith. We don't need to be on a platform with a microphone to do this and it's a worthwhile investment of your time.

Testimony - What testimony is and isn't (Karl Faase, Olive Tree Media)

Is not...

Saying the person giving it is perfect

Just about the 'good' times but also the presence of Jesus in difficult times

That everything in every moment has worked out exactly how we would have liked it

It is

Giving God the glory for his work and presence

Reminding ourselves of the great things Jesus has done

Building up the faith of others

Champions what God is doing in our lives

Try to make it a relatively 'new' testimony i.e. something that has happened recently rather than from 20 years ago (although an older one of great significance is still very powerful)

It may be a 'coming to faith' testimony or a 'God at work in my situation' testimony

Op Shop News

A number of people have expressed their desire to work in the Op Shop on Saturdays. This enables us to go forward with the vision of the Manger and others, that the shop open on Saturdays to meet a current trend in our community when people visit a number of Op Shops as a weekend recreation.

The Manager presented an Induction/Training session on Saturday 22 March. The presentation covered all aspects of working in the shop and was followed by a tour of the workshop. Volunteers are now completing their Creating Safe Space requirements and Applications and interviews are being arranged and a roster drawn up. There are some unfilled time slots if you wish to join the team.

The seasonal change of stock is well under way and the shop is looking fresh and we continue to receive feedback on the welcoming and well appointed shop is. And people love the prices! As the shop does not have overheads for rent and utilities (which are met by the church), we are able to offer much lower prices than the bigger charities.

By popular request from attendees at the Open Baptists Gathering, the shop was opened and record sales were



achieved in 1 hour. Within in a couple of hours of having the gate and shop open on the first Saturday of trading (22 March) with good sales especially considering that advertising of the opening was only hours before.

Wanniassa High school has once again added the Op Shop to their list of work experience opportunities for students. Typically a student will complete a half-day shift at the shop once each week for a term. Brenda is well-known at the school and volunteers her time their to teach students to crochet.

Open Baptists

The Open Baptists used every part of the building, in many different configurations. They expressed their thanks in the *Book of Proceedings* as follows:

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Tuggeranong and Canberra Baptist Churches. Tuggeranong generously hosted us in their excellent facilities which were ideally suited to our purposes. And the two churches together provided an outstanding group of volunteers whose care and attentiveness ensured that we were well catered for and that the notes that became this report were typed and collated almost as fast as we produced them. Much of the credit for the



success of our Gathering goes to their hard work in the background.

Nathan Nettleton Open Baptists Board Member Open Space Facilitator

The Book of Proceedings also included the following:

Finally, with great rejoicing, Tuggeranong Baptist Church was admitted as the seventh member church of the Open Baptists on Sunday, 16th March! It took place during their worship service, surrounded by their congregation, which made it a truly wonderful event, and we give thanks to God for them, their gracious hospitality and their gracious companionship and work for the gospel in the years ahead!

Belinda Groves Chair Open Baptists Board

Creating Safe Spaces Workshop

More than 20 of our volunteers are due to refresh their Creating Safe Spaces Certification before 20 June 2025. A workshop has been arranged on our premises on [Saturday 24 May from 10:00 to 1:00](#) and you can follow this link to register for the workshop and here to link to the [on-line module](#) that must be completed before attending the workshop. Mandy Gray will be facilitating and she has advised that, if the 24 May date is not suitable then you may wish to attend the workshop at [North Canberra Baptist church](#) on May 28 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm.



We ask that you purchase the on-line module and pay the fees for the Workshop at the time of registration and request reimbursement from the church when you forward your Certificate of Completion together with your bank detail. This assists with church financial administration.

Your Privacy—your records

You need to give written permission for us to store your personal details on our [church database/mailling list](#). The purposes for which we can use your details are listed in our [Privacy Policy](#).

You **may or may not** wish to provide your details to others in the church as a matter of personal choice, for example the leader of a team of which you are a member.

Any official church contact can be conducted by sending your message via tbchurch@internode.on.net to be forwarded. Your details will not be given to anyone other than pastors and elders.

Upcoming Events

Baptism - Easter



Contact me, speak to one of the Elders or someone wearing a teal jacket to arrange to be Baptised this Easter.

Morning Tea Easter

Follow this link to select the type of [hot cross buns](#) we should order for you to enjoy at the Celebration Morning Tea after the service (and possible Baptisms).

Association of Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT

The Annual Assembly Gathering 2025 will be held on Friday, 2 May 2025 and Saturday, 3 May 2025. The local venue will be at Hughes Baptist Church. Follow this link to register [to attend as a non-voting member](#).

Baptist World Congress

This year the Congress is to be in Australia at the Gold Coast in July. [Register to attend](#) this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet Baptists from around the world and/or to escape the Canberra winter for a week.



School Holidays

The [Term 1 school holidays](#) begin on Saturday 12 April and a number of our activities will go into recess and begin again in the week commencing 28 April.

Save the dates in Term 2 - CSS Workshop on 22 May, Community Dinner on 4 June and, as the weather grows colder, look forward to warm soup as we lunch together on 27 July.

The last word

This year seems to have been particularly busy with events marching by at a relentless pace, combined with the usual round of pastoral and ministry tasks.

My thanks to the members of the Future Directions 25 Group who have added seven meetings of the group to their schedules and to all who have begun organising their various groups and activities.

I wish to thank ministry leaders who have presented on Sundays. I think that this has been particularly useful in bringing us all up to date with what goes on and how we do things. I hope that, in putting a face to each ministry, you understand that opportunities we advertise are indeed open to all.

The Challenge 25 Information boards are in place for your inspection and for you to ask for any assistance you need to engage with the church and to join the mission.

It's been a source of real joy for ministry team leaders and the Elders to see people taking up the challenge to volunteer in teams.

Now is the time for us to pause to consider the events of the triumphal entry of Christ on Palm Sunday and the events of the Holy Week leading up to the Crucifixion and Resurrection.

I pray that the realisation of the salvation Christ has won may increase in each of us this year as we strive to become authentic Christ-followers.

In the midst of all of this, please continue to pray for God's intervention in the troubles that those we know and those we do not know are walking through at every level.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up
Galatians 6:9 [New International Version]

Blessings

Ian Reid,
Lead Pastor Tuggeranong Baptist Church
For the Leadership Team

