

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE



A DAY IN MY LIFE:

Chaplains share how your support makes a daily difference

As a chaplain, I have the flexibility to build relationships through all kinds of activities. I have been at the school for seven years and have built up relationships over that time. With some of the boys, we go to the farm where they work in small groups on tasks including track repair or shovelling dung. They have built up their resilience and sense of accomplishment by completing tasks they don't enjoy and have also come to appreciate one another's strengths. In our Blokes group this has led to more honest sharing and I see changes that confirm the value chaplaincy brings to these boys' lives.

JAMES TODD – CHAPLAIN, PENGUIN DISTRICT SCHOOL.

More than 60 chaplains like James across the state use their skills and training to encourage, mentor and support young people – and their job is made possible by your support. But it's easy to forget how much of an impact even one day can make on students – especially those who are lonely, lacking confidence or facing difficult circumstances.

Another local chaplain – was only too happy to share a typical day in her life at school as she confronted challenges and gave support to students, staff and others in the school community.

In early to set up for Breakfast Club and I'm joined by some local church volunteers and one grade six student who is always in early. Everyone is welcome at Brekkie Club. It used to be seen as "just for poor kids" but we've...

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A DAY IN MY LIFE: CHAPLAINS SHARE HOW YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DAILY DIFFERENCE

... worked hard to make it more inclusive.

The first bell goes and I am asked to care for a child who has arrived too upset to go to class. Her dog has recently died and this is the first time she has confronted death. I listen to her and support her till she's ready to return to class.

At recess, I'm in the playground and kicking a ball around with some of the children. One boy is standing apart. I invite him to join in and it turns out it's his first day at his new school. I introduce him and he joins in the game. Later I see him smiling and he tells me he's made a friend.

In the afternoon, I run a PEAC group for grade six boys. I will have all the grade six students in turn going through this

program, which helps them explore friendship, self-worth, decision making etc.

When the last bell sounds, I catch up with a mum at the school gate who is often struggling with her three preschoolers, and share a smile with the bus drivers.

As I head out the gate, I'm tired but upbeat. It has been a big day – but an encouraging one when I think of all the students who are making progress. I can't help but feel that two days are just not enough to be by their sides!

Your support makes a daily difference through chaplaincy in schools across Tasmania. So, thank you!

Thank you for helping chaplains care for our kids

Kids today are growing up in an increasingly difficult world. Many struggle with issues such as bullying, loneliness, broken families, depression – and even suicide.

Because of your help, SU Tas chaplains are already working in 83 schools around the state. They share the love of God, and support hundreds of students and school communities with the difficulties they face every day.

Your response to the recent call to build the \$40,000 Local Chaplaincy Fund – a critical fund that will mean more chaplains spending more time caring for the most vulnerable children – was overwhelming.

Thanks to you, more than \$40,000 has already come in and will directly help more children get the care, mentoring and resources they need... when they need it most. Thank you!



Chaplaincy Week 21st–28th May 2017

Schools are the heart of the community – but they need the support of the community to help every student reach their full potential. That's why your support for Chaplaincy Week means so much! Last year, your efforts, together with chaplains, volunteers and SU Tas staff, made Chaplaincy Week such a success... we're looking forward to more fantastic stories of school communities uplifted and given hope, thanks to your enthusiasm and involvement.

Once again the theme for Chaplaincy Week is 'Churches Supporting Schools' – because the church's role in supporting its local school is so valuable. It's your opportunity to celebrate and show how much you care for your local school, as well as to recognise the contribution that chaplains make to the whole community.

Chaplaincy Week has become an important part of the calendar in many schools – and they celebrate and involve

their communities in different ways. In 2016, almost fifty schools acknowledged Chaplaincy Week with a special morning tea, most with the support of local churches. Others recognised their chaplains with a movie afternoon, music events, barbecues and even a colouring competition for staff.

Another highlight returning this year is the annual art competition. Last year, Longford Primary held an art exhibition in their local IGA store, with the projects on display representing the values, benefits, challenges and local church support available through the chaplaincy program. This year, students are invited to get creative with the theme 'You and Me'. It will be great to see what they come up with!

Want to encourage and thank your local chaplain personally? Simply write a note on the enclosed reply page to show them that they are valued and supported. Your encouragement means so much!



SU FAMILY HOLIDAY UPDATE:

YOUR SUPPORT NURTURES LOCAL FAMILIES

SU Family Holidays are a great opportunity for local families who might be struggling with the daily grind to take some time to unwind in a welcoming and nurturing atmosphere. Thanks to your support, families can discover more about God's love for them, build deeper relationships together, and recharge their batteries for the coming year.

Camp leaders say their key Scripture is Jesus' words in Matthew 11:28 (NCV), "Come to me, all of you who are tired and have heavy loads, and I will give you rest".

Earlier this year, these camps continued their vital work of investing in local families – thanks to you. Many of the attendees were returning for their second or third year (or more!), which is a great reflection on the relationships that are built through this ministry.

One inspiring example began last year, when a father dropped his daughter off at camp each day so she could enjoy herself in the care of her school chaplain as a day camper. Each night when he picked her up, he was drawn further into conversation and fellowship. This year he signed up the whole family to attend... and has recommitted his life to Christ! Your faithful support and prayers make stories like this possible.

The aim is to see each camper come to know that they are loved and cared for – not just by those around them but also by God.

And this year's family camps achieved that beautiful goal – as you can see from the smiles on the campers' faces!

SU MISSIONS UPDATE:

Your generosity transformed kids' lives this summer

Also across the summer the East Devonport Holiday Happening (EDHH), Westbury and St Helen's missions were taking place. At EDHH 45 children from kinder to year 6 learned about New Testament Heroes. As always, the children learned about God's love for them and how they too can share God's love with others. One girl had remembered her Bible memory verse from last year!

At St Helen's Mission 30 children attended with activities ranging from making beanbags to games of dodge ball – all to encourage the children to personally explore God's love in their lives.

Westbury Holiday club ran for the first time this year with a team of local volunteers using a fun pirate theme to help share their faith with local children. After a slow start to the week 20 children came along. The team are hoping it is the beginning of even greater things next year.



Please pray that the many young lives you helped impact this summer will grow in faith this coming year!



Director's Desk

Dear Friend,

Keeping up with the many demands on our time and energy in the midst of family, school and community life can be really difficult. It seems like each year somehow gets busier than the one before! I'm sure I'm not the only one who has felt this way.

That's why I'm so grateful for the reminder this month from our SU Tas Family Camp leadership team – the reminder that we can always find respite and peace in Christ. In Matthew 11:28, Jesus says, "Come to me, all of you who are tired and have heavy loads, and I will give you rest".

We can see the results of resting in Jesus on the faces of families who attended Family Camps this year, and in the stories of chaplains who are doing the vital work of caring for vulnerable kids in our schools. There's a joy and a peace that can only come as we trust Him with our struggles and cast our cares upon Him.

As we get into the full swing of the year, and the busyness of life starts to really press in, I want to encourage you to continue to pray for our hard-working chaplains, camp leaders, volunteers and the whole SU Tas family. They give so much of themselves in their tremendous work in schools and communities across the state.

I also want to encourage you to take some time – even as you go about your daily routines of home, church, work and community – to rest in Jesus. As you do, I pray you will experience the same joy and peace that you are helping to bring to children and families across the state.

Thank you again for the vital role you play in nurturing, encouraging and building up children, chaplains and whole communities through your prayerful support.

Sincerely,

Ruth Pinkerton
SU Tas CEO

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS

PLEASE PRAY for the families and young people who attended our Family Camps this year – pray that God will continue to draw them closer to Himself, to build their faith and strength in Him.

PRAISE GOD for such a fantastic response to building the Local Chaplaincy Fund! Pray that He will direct these funds to make a huge impact in students' lives and in school communities across the state.

PLEASE PRAY for an encouraging time at our new camps coming up over the next few months: 'Difference Makers' (27–29 April) and 'Bush n' Biscuits' (20–21 May).

Your Chaplaincy Week news

You can stay connected with the latest news, updates and prayer points during Chaplaincy Week. You will be encouraged and inspired by what's happening across the week and join with others around the state praying for chaplains and the incredible work they do in our local communities.

SIMPLY EMAIL US AT
ADMIN@SUTAS.ORG.AU WITH YOUR
FULL NAME AND ADDRESS– AND KEEP
AN EYE ON YOUR INBOX!

The following events are already
fast approaching:

8TH APRIL
NW Celebration: The Chapel,
50 Cattley Street, Burnie

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