



Ruth Pinkerton

Director's Desk

Dear Friend,

Well, I hope you are as encouraged as I am in reading about the impact of chaplaincy across our state.

Thirty-seven thousand Tasmanian children and young people have a chaplain in their school. Our chaplains have the potential to serve and support them all, so it's a small wonder chaplains would like to be in school more days in the week! And we still have more schools asking for chaplaincy services. We wouldn't be able to provide all this chaplaincy without your help, so thanks for being such a crucial part of the team. Many of you pray, many of you volunteer your time and many more contribute financially – **thank you all.**

Just on the eve of Chaplaincy Week, on Saturday the 18th of May we will be having a panel of experts at the 'Churches Serving Communities Forum' where we will discuss 'What Makes Chaplaincy Great?' All are welcome at the Tailrace Centre in Launceston 2-4pm. The event is free and includes afternoon tea – please bring other people with you and let us know how many to expect.

See you soon!

Ruth Pinkerton
SU TAS CEO

YOU'RE INVITED What Make's Chaplaincy Great?

WHAT

A discussion panel featuring:

Steve Biddulph - Parenting author & educator
John Bardenhagen - Senior Teacher, East Launceston Primary
Cecily Rosol - Chaplain, Ravenswood Primary
Rev. Will Nicholas - Minister, Launceston North Uniting

WHERE

Tailrace Centre, 1 Waterfront Drive,
Riverside

WHEN

Saturday 18th May, 2pm - 4pm
Afternoon Tea included

COST

Free! It's an open invitation so feel free to bring others along.

RSVP

By Friday 10th May
enquiries@sutas.org.au | 6244 8422



1

Pray for them using the prayer points on page 2 of this newsletter.

2

Get involved in the fundraising events in your local community during Chaplaincy Week. Contact your chaplain, LCC, or visit www.sutas.org.au for more information.

3

Write a note of encouragement (see enclosed reply form) and return with any gift you might want to give. Please write as if speaking to all the chaplains in TAS.

4

Prayerfully consider whether you could give a gift to support those communities who need extra funding for their chaplains.

FOUR ways you can support your chaplains

SU
TASMANIA

Autumn
2013

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

YOUR SUPPORT EMPOWERS CHAPLAINS AFTER DEVASTATING BUSHFIRES

Chaplains like David Walker often play an important role supporting and caring for those in the wider community, although they are employed primarily to work in schools. This was true even when fires engulfed David's hometown of Dunalley in January, and destroyed his home and all of his family's possessions.

David was away on a trek when the fires came, unaware that, back home, his family only narrowly managed to escape the full force of the flames. After being located, then picked up by helicopter, David was thankful to learn his family members were all safe, but saddened by the news his school and family home were both destroyed.

Despite the losses, David says the fires have given him significant opportunities to provide much-needed emotional and spiritual support for many local families. "God has allowed this event into our lives for a significant reason," shares David, "because we as a family can empathise with the many people in our community who have lost everything."

David's family was one of 64 families who lost their homes during the crisis. This shared experience has placed David in a position to be a genuine support to other families who are looking for someone to talk to after living through one of life's most traumatic and challenging moments.

"I've had conversations with many people as a direct result of the fires – deep, meaningful conversations that have helped me also. I don't limit my role as chaplain to the school. I see my calling to the wider community, and..."

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"God has allowed this event into our lives for a significant reason – because we as a family can empathise with the many people in our community who have lost everything."

David Walker, SU TAS Chaplain



Please continue to pray for the Walkers and the community in Dunalley as they rebuild their lives in the wake of the fires.

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SU
TASMANIA

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... try and position myself and my family where the people are and go to them where they are at."

David's story is a reminder of how God is using your continued support of SU TAS chaplains to impact lives and provide hope – not just to students, but also to the wider community.

So, thank you for gifts and prayers, which fuel the ministry of chaplains in Tasmania. And please use the points below to pray for the Walkers and the community in Dunalloy as they continue to rebuild their lives in the wake of the fires.

Thank You to
Tas Fire Service
Police & VOLUNTEERS
FROM FORCETT COMMUNITY

EMERGENCY
MEETING
POINT

PRAYER POINTS

// Please pray for:

- **FIRE-AFFECTED FAMILIES:** There are a number of families that lost their homes. Please pray David can connect with each of these families and that he would be able to provide practical, emotional and spiritual support.
- **SCHOOL STAFF:** David says the teachers and support staff have gone above and beyond to ensure students can return to school life as seamlessly as possible. Please pray for David, and the other teachers and staff, as they deal with many out-of-the-ordinary situations.

Tasmanian chaplains need your support more than ever!

We all know the immense value chaplains bring to school communities across Tasmania. However, with recent changes to how chaplaincy is funded, it's now even more important that local churches and communities understand the vital role they play in supporting their chaplains.

Although the majority of funding for each chaplain comes from the Federal Government, each local community is now required to also provide their own financial support. The minimum cost of employing a chaplain is around \$23,700, so with the Government only providing \$20,000, there is a shortfall of \$3,700 to be made up by the local community.

Where the funding gap remains, chaplains' hours will have to be cut back.

This all-important 'gap amount' is usually raised through events like sausage sizzles and fetes, which are organised by Local Chaplaincy Committees (LCCs). Working alongside Scripture Union Tasmania, LCCs ensure chaplains receive the financial and emotional support they require. They are made up of dedicated supporters like Debbie Buckland from Exeter.

Debbie says local communities need to do all they can to get behind their chaplains:

"Community support is vital for chaplaincy to function successfully. In Exeter, we asked members of local churches to forgo two coffees

per week. The idea took off, and now our chaplain can spend twice as much time in school supporting the needs of local children!"

Unfortunately, for some communities, finding the \$3,700 needed to support their chaplain is proving more difficult. Where the funding gap remains, chaplains' hours will have to be cut back. That's why, with your support, SU TAS is seeking to hit a \$50,000 target this year, to provide for those communities who need extra assistance.

Thank you for your continued financial and prayerful support of our chaplains! And thank you for considering a special gift this month to help SU TAS reach the \$50,000 goal to help under-resourced schools continue providing chaplaincy.



Funding of chaplaincy

NSCSWP	\$20,000
SU	\$1,795
Funding Gap	\$3,700

Interview with a chaplain:

"I'm passionate about chaplaincy because it works!"

Thanks to your prayers and financial support, SU TAS now has 80 chaplains serving 95 schools to bring hope to the next generation! We sat down with one of our chaplains, Jacinta Sturdy, to find out how she is making a difference at her school, and to find out what chaplains in Tasmania currently need prayer for.

Jacinta, why are you passionate about chaplaincy?

I'm passionate about chaplaincy because it works. Sometimes it's a bit like being in a battle. We have to fight for the most basic practical and spiritual needs of children who are neglected and stood on. This age is where lives are won or lost, and where I believe God wants us to work for him.

What impact have you seen in your school community since working there?

I developed a really meaningful relationship with a student who had no friends in class and believed the teachers were set against her. We were able to talk through some of these issues, which led me to refer her to the school's psychologist. The student was diagnosed with a form of mild autism and, at last, we know one of the underlying reasons for her issues.

Can you give an example of how you are able to show the love of Jesus to the students?

I organised a volunteer from my church to assist me running the Shine program, which helps girls see themselves in a more positive way. The students know I am a Christian, and really appreciated and valued the time we spent together. Through our time together, they saw the love of Jesus, especially through the volunteer.

What is your dream for the school community you are working in?

I would love to see a growing church community that the school kids could join. I'd also love to see the wider community becoming involved in running programs, or helping out with reading and sports.

How can we be praying for chaplains in Tasmania?

Chaplains could make an even bigger impact if we were in schools for four or five days, so please pray that many will get funding to work more days. Please also pray that, as chaplains, we will continuously seek God's wisdom.



Thanks to your support, chaplains like Jacinta are making a difference in the lives of young people in schools across Tasmania!

Schools with chaplains throughout Tassie:

Primary School
High School