

# A Woman of Substance

By Bill Pugh

While preaching by a stream, outside the city of Philippi, Paul met Lydia, a woman of considerable wealth and property, specialising in the sale of purple dyed garments.

As a believer in God, Paul's preaching touched her. He baptised Lydia and her household into the Christian faith.

Her home of considerable size became a centre for Christian mission where the apostles stayed on their journeys.

Free from having to seek employment to finance their work, Lydia's generosity

enabled their mission to continue unhindered. Lydia's conversion was a springboard for European Christianity and Christian outreach.

In the Acts of the Apostles, the history book of the Church, Luke records her story (Acts 16:11-15). From there the word spread to many places. An encounter with the Gospel by St Paul was the spark of mission. Lydia's stewardship of her resources and generosity enabled the early missionaries to have a base on which to build.

## Reflection:

*In today's world there is great need. Mission is being hindered by Covid. Church budgets are overwhelmed. Not meeting together hinders the challenges of giving for the Lord's work. The need is great. Our giving must increase if mission targets are to be met. There are people of means, like Lydia, out there who need to be challenged to give.*

[www.victas.uca.org.au/resources](http://www.victas.uca.org.au/resources) | Photo from Noah Buscher | November 2021

## Bequest

*Remember the Church in your will.*

A bequest will help continue to work of the Church long after you're gone. There are many ways a bequest can help the work of the Church - whether for a specific cause that's dear to your heart, for a specific congregation or for the general purposes of the life of the Church.



### Want to know more?

Speak to your solicitor or financial advisor, or visit the Synod's website:

[www.victas.uca.org.au](http://www.victas.uca.org.au)