

# 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.

## *Reflection:*

In today's world there is great need. Church budgets are overwhelmed. 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.

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.

[www.victas.uca.org.au/resources](http://www.victas.uca.org.au/resources) | Photo by freepik.com | October 2024



## Moderator's Emergency Response Fund

The new *Moderator's Emergency Response Fund* helps Victorian and Tasmanian communities with assistance in times of emergencies.

Donations can be made at any time, not just in response to a specific emergency. To donate, visit [www.victas.uca.org.au](http://www.victas.uca.org.au)



Uniting Church in Australia  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA