

BULLETIN

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*“The heart of the discerning
acquires knowledge;
the ears of the wise seek it out.”*

(Proverbs 18:15 NIV)

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EDITORIAL

THE EMPTY BASKET

By Dr Jay Matenga, Executive Officer, Missions Interlink.

Aotearoa | New Zealand
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Tena tātou katoa e te iwi mīhana...

This month's whakataukī (proverb) is, “**Whaiwhia te kete mātauranga hei orange mā koutou.**” [Fill the basket(s) of knowledge for the sake of your wellbeing]. It is an encouragement towards learning, but (as usual) much more is meant by it than what appears at face value. According to customary narrative, te kete mātauranga (the basket[s] of knowledge) is not a single basket, but three baskets. The story tells of Tāne, lord of the forests, ascending to the highest heaven where he encounters Io Matua Kore (the uncreated elder, who many Māori Christians consider compatible with the God of the Bible). In Io's presence, Tāne's request for knowledge was granted with the gift of three baskets: Te kete Tuauri (sacred knowledge—understanding of reality beyond our sense perception), Te kete Tuatea (ancestral knowledge—that which is handed down through the ages), Te kete Aronui (knowledge before us—that which is learned through careful observation of relationships, between people and our habitats). Wisdom, then, is the application of all three kete in operation together, never one without the others.

In a recent conversation I had with Alan Jamieson (leader of the NZ Baptist Missionary Society), he quoted David Moko, (Kaihautu of Manatu Iriiri Maori—leader of the Baptist Maori Ministries) recommending that missionaries enter new relationships with an empty basket in front while keeping their full basket behind. The context of my conversation with Alan concerned the posture required for trans-boundary missions service—of a humble servant-learner, rather than that of the superior authoritative teacher. I interpreted David's metaphor through the story of Tāne and the baskets of knowledge.

To avoid putting words in David Moko's mouth, I would suggest we go into trans-boundary relationships with our three baskets of knowledge behind us and an empty extension of Te kete Aronui in front of us that influences the content at our back. We need to enter relationships with an openness to learn from the 'other', while not giving up all that we bring into the relationship. In an ideal context of mutuality, each of us would simultaneously be open to learning and teaching one another from our respective baskets of knowledge—our spiritual, historic and experienced understanding of the world we inhabit, contributing to each other's front basket if you will.

With every new relationship and every interpersonal encounter (whether with people or other parts of God's good creation) we need to be open to having our prior understanding of reality—the existing content in our knowledge baskets—challenged, ruptured, reframed,

renewed, revitalised, or made redundant. This is the pathway to growth, to wisdom, to maturity. As the empty basket is filled by our interaction with the 'other', it provides us with new data points to import into our ways of knowing. This can be a very uncomfortable experience if the 'other' person's way of seeing the world is markedly different from ours and that of our belief-reinforcing community. However, a flat refusal to try and understand the 'other' person's perspective, or not allowing time to adequately understand it, is both a posture of arrogance and a fast-track to folly.

I am not suggesting we need to adopt 'other' perspectives, but given adequate opportunity to do so, they alter our way of seeing the world. They draw out things about our own faith and knowing that we have never seen or considered before. Our inner being is exercised like free weights exercise our outer muscles—tearing down and building up. We become stronger and larger as people and as Christ-followers. For Bible-believing followers of Christ, Scripture well interpreted and the witness of the Holy Spirit will always be our anchor points, together with our fellowship with other believers. As the elders exemplified in Acts 15, we need not fear "sharp debate", for it is within such tensions that the mind of Christ is revealed to the body of Christ. Debates did not conclude with the ancient Church councils or the European systematising of theology. They continue in every age for every context, exploring new ideas before God—the very meaning of theology.

Issues of authenticity and identity are the most challenging ideas facing the global Church in our era. They arise from the relativising of authority in light of increasing pluralism. Waning Christendom, intoxicated as it is with the memory of colonialism, is in the death throes of decline, and its adherents struggle to adapt to the possibility of different, Biblically authentic, ways of living out our faith. Their knowledge baskets are not only closed but locked. This was precisely the issue Jesus had with the teachers of the law. They were defending a body of knowledge that refused to consider new data points and grow. It took a blinding encounter on the road to Damascus for Saul to become Paul—that was some 'epistemic rupture'!

We must engage 'others' with an empty kete out front as we participate in God's mission. It is the posture of love, generosity and humility, and it ensures that the gospel we share will grow indigenous churches—the only kind that has flourished in the history of global Christianity. By all means guard your heart, but love should allow a free pass as we engage and grow with 'others', **Together: On Mission.**

EQUIP



FOR THE POOR

THE BIBLICAL CALL TO GENEROSITY

by Craig Greenfield, Founder & International Director, *Alongsiders International*. This article is curated from [Craig's blog](#), April 21 2021.



Can you imagine a world without poverty? Or is it a problem that simply can't be solved? After all, Jesus said, “The poor you will ALWAYS have with you.” It's right there in Scripture. John chapter 12. Verse 8. So, how does this jive with Jesus' stated mission to bring Good News to those at the bottom of the heap? Because inevitably, when we start talking about serving the poor, feeding the hungry, or welcoming refugees, someone wheels out this old chestnut, “That's all very well Sonny-Jim but don't you know? The poor you will ALWAYS have with you.” It's as though some Christians are hell-bent on seeing serving the poor, as a losing battle. Poverty will always be here, so tone down your revolutionary rhetoric and give up the fight!

But consider this. I reckon Jesus actually meant the OPPOSITE of what we usually take him to mean here.

In fact, it seems to me that Jesus was actually advocating radical generosity and concerted action to eradicate poverty, rather than hands-up-in-the-air, shoulder-shrugging apathy.

Here's my reasoning...

You know how some catch-phrases are just so well known, that everyone knows the ending—you don't even really need to say it? Here's one: “Sticks and stones...”

Everyone already knows the ending, “Sticks and stones will break my bones but names will never hurt me.” Just saying Sticks and Stones is enough for you to catch my drift right?

It just so happens that by saying “The poor you will always have with you...” Jesus was quoting another super well-known Biblical phrase—from a famous passage of the Jewish Torah. Everyone hearing him back then would have caught his drift. Here's the full original quote (in English):

If among you, one of your number should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor neighbour, but you shall open your hand to them and lend them sufficient for their need, whatever it may be... **For the poor you will always have with you** in the land. Therefore, I command you, ‘You shall open wide your hand to your neighbour, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.’ (Deut. 15:7-11)

So, reading Jesus' words in their original context you can see that His words were meant to spur generosity towards those who are marginalized. “The poor you will always have with you, so open wide your hand!” The command to be open-handed towards the poor comes directly from Yahweh. It's the very OPPOSITE of how lots of Christians use these words. Jesus isn't

calling for apathy and tight-fistedness, but generosity and engagement.

So, memorize this passage properly. And the next time someone says, “The poor you will always have with you...” Be sure to complete the sentence:

Therefore I command you, ‘You shall open wide your hand to your neighbour, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.’

But wait, there's more...

The other important thing to note about this story is that Jesus specifically uses these words to rebuke Judas who was being mean towards the downtrodden. Judas was scornful towards a woman for pouring out her perfume on Jesus:

He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. (John 12:6)

So, when we use Jesus' words to justify not caring, we are actually repeating the very sin of Judas himself, who was robbing those most in need of compassion.

Judas you sly dog you.

This is not just theological gymnastics. Everything I have said here lines up consistently with the rest of Jesus' life and teachings, starting with the revolutionary freedom song sung by Mary while Jesus was still in the womb (that gets conveniently ignored):

He has filled the hungry with good

things, and the rich he has sent away empty. (Luke 1:53)

Jesus fulfilled this freaky prophecy in the feeding of the 5000. Here's the link—the same word from Mary's Song, "filled", is found in John 6:12, where we hear that that motley crowd of 5000+ all ate and were "filled".

Well over 5000 hungry people had their immediate needs met in that place and time because ONE little boy was willing to be "open-handed" towards the poor and needy.

Later, after Jesus' death, the early believers also took these teachings on open-handedness seriously:

And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were NO needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. (Acts 4:34-35)

There were no needy persons among them! Poverty was eradicated in their midst. That was the natural outcome of taking Jesus' teachings seriously.

Jesus' upside-down Kingdom is able to be made manifest here and it is coming in all its fullness. He calls you

and I to be part of it. The poor are going to be lifted up. The hungry are going to be fed. Your call, and my call, is to be open-handed and generous now in expectation of then.

So if, like me, you have experienced that metaphorical pat on the head, don't let the misuse of this verse take the wind out of your passion for justice.

Instead, quote the full verse and context. And then get on with what Jesus has called us all to do—love and serve, bring "good news to the poor", and invite them to experience the goodness of his Kingdom.



FAITHFUL

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2021



The growing Church in Turkey

Fri evening 17th Sept | Sat 18th Sept | Royal Oak Baptist Church | Auckland

New Zealand Turkey Network: nztnetwork@gmail.com REGISTER at <http://nzttn.eventbrite.com>



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25 YEARS ON

MISSIONARY TRAINING FROM AOTEAROA NZ

by Eastwest College of Intercultural Studies.

In the Bible we see examples of God making less into more—the feeding of the 5000+, the widow’s pot of oil and the growth of the church from a small rag-tag group in Palestine. Does that still happen today?

It certainly does. Over the past 25 years, God has turned a potato paddock into a thriving international missions training college, completely free of all debt, with graduates serving across cultures in countries right around the world. The prayers of faithful supporters, the generosity of donors, the labour of volunteers, the ministry of professional teaching staff who have poured their time and energy into lecturing, the support staff who provide the needed infrastructure that assists students and staff—this has been the testimony of just one way in which God has taken ordinary people with their gifts and skills to serve the world that He loves.

A Gordonton farmer donated 33 acres (approx. 13 hectares), an elderly lady sent a cheque for \$10, and in July 1996, 4 brave students enrolled in a college that wasn’t even there! The only buildings on site were a small re-located weatherboard library, which was later to become staff offices

and is now a small gym, and just one staff house. The small team had a huge vision and so lectures were held, free of any rental, in the local Gordonton Presbyterian Church (now Oaks Christian Centre). By the second year, the roll had more than doubled to 12 students, and the college has progressed ever since.

It wasn’t all plain sailing. Early staff will remember that at one stage—with money being so short and budgets so tight—a dilemma arose whether to purchase a muffin tin or a tin of paint. The tin of paint won!

In 2001, when the college had grown to a dining room, 2 accommodation blocks and 4 staff houses, a supporter felt that a missions college without a chapel didn’t seem appropriate, so they donated the finance and the chapel was duly completed. The college currently consists of 6 purpose-built accommodation blocks and 7 staff residences, as well

as modern administrative, catering and library amenities. We are especially proud of Rainbows, a quality early childhood centre that serves families across the wider Gordonton community. As student numbers grew, so did staff numbers. There has never been a shortage of staff despite staff members drawing no salary and living ‘by faith’. Over the years, many random needs have arisen, from painting and plumbing, graphic design and web development, to electrical work and fine art. If there were no staff members skilled in these needs, sometimes a student or volunteer would appear.



Current and former Principals & spouses

But of course God's miracle is not only evident in the bricks and mortar, it is also evident in the effect the college has had on people's lives around the world. The reality for many Christian workers is that eventually they will work in international teams. Yes, there are many books and resources about living and working in multi-cultural groups and communities but these are no substitute for actually living it day to day, sharing classes, work and meals together. Eastwest College is a multi-cultural community which lives, works, studies and prays together.

Over the years, students from New Zealand have been joined in their studies by people from around the world including South Korea, Vanuatu, Malaysia, Finland, Russia, Japan,

China, Myanmar, Mexico, Hong Kong, South Africa, Brazil, USA, Canada, India. The list goes on! Such a mix of nationalities would seem fertile ground for misunderstandings and conflict and yet it is a place to understand our own worldview and appreciate the perspective of others. Through prayer, love and hard work, the college has grown organically into a stepping stone to serving a world in need.

25 years of graduations have witnessed students move to 45 countries on every continent (except Antarctica!), in a wide range of professions and fields; medicine, business, education, church work, science, IT, pastoral care, agriculture and horticulture, trade services and specialist skills. In many countries in

the developing world, a graduate from Eastwest College can be found.

When Eastwest started up a low-powered radio broadcast to give the students radio training experience, the frequency we were assigned was 107.3 FM. This made us pause to look at Psalm 107.3 in the Bible. It says, "those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south". A fitting word for us as Eastwest, situated in rural Waikato, is a place of gathering from the four winds (ngā hau e whā) and then a scattering to serve and to bless the four corners of the globe.

Ko te ringa me te aroha o te Atua to tatou waka! The hand and the love of God is our waka!



2021 First Years



 **eastwest**
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2020 Staff

WE'RE CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF
TRAINING CHRISTIANS FOR CROSS-
CULTURAL MINISTRY!

JOIN US
FOR OUR

OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 31 JULY

11AM - 4PM

CAMPUS TOURS
TASTER LESSONS
INTERACTIVE FUN
KID'S ACTIVITIES
PLENTY OF KAI + KŌRERO

**(SHORT INTROS HAPPENING
AT 11AM & 2PM)**

RAINBOWS EARLY CHILDHOOD
CENTRE WILL ALSO BE OPEN TO VIEW!

21 COLLEGE DR, GORDONTON



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"I love the passion of NZCN to serve the Body of Christ. With a love for both people and the Bible, they speak constructively into Aotearoa church and society with clarity and gospel focus."

Jackie Millar
Pray As One NZ participant



"In a time when there are so many other beliefs and opinions influencing New Zealand people, I commend NZCN's clear witness to biblical Christian faith."

Lui Ponifasio, QSM
Senior Pastor - LifeChurch



"NZCN connects, supports, and encourages Christians throughout Aotearoa, and brings biblical truth into public discourse in a manner which is compassionate, considered, and grace-filled."

Mark Powell
Former CEO - The Warehouse Group



New Zealand Christian Network

New Zealand society is in a period of significant change, much of it away from Christian faith and values. Christian voices in society are either ignored or scorned.

We need Christians to work together.

We need the church in better shape.

We need Christian voices which are faithful, sensible, and well-informed.

Keep up to date with NZCN News

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Ka mahi tahi, Ka ora

From united work comes fulfillment

Join us and...

Be one of the thousands of individuals, churches, and organisations who are helping to unify Christianity in New Zealand as members of the New Zealand Christian Network.

Together we will share resources, insights, ideas, and wisdom - strengthening Churches and helping Christians think and live well.

Help the Church speak more effectively into New Zealand society, media, and government – standing for Christian values and freedom of religious belief and expression.

Gain access to additional resources and discounts on purchases made from our website.

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Learn about membership with NZCN





LOCAL MISSIONS

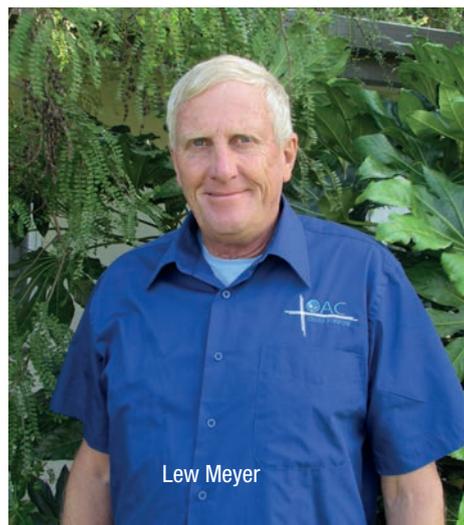
LOCKED IN BUT NOT LOCKED OUT



By Vicki-Lee Dempsey, OAC Ministries National Administrator. Vicki-Lee is a qualified Primary School Teacher with a Bachelor of Education. She is the National Administrator of OAC alongside husband Jeremy as OAC National Director.

Kiwis may be 'locked in' to our nation, unable to travel internationally unless it is for long-term service to a nation open to receiving expatriates. Meanwhile, we're not locked out. There remains huge opportunity to participate in God's mission here. Let these testimonies encourage you to live your faith out loud locally.

"But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry." 2 Timothy 4:5
Do you ever read God's word with a desire to do all that he commands and yet somehow feel it is a bit out your realm of expertise? For many, the idea of evangelism is scary! Talking to people about God and sharing your faith. You never know how someone will react. And yet God calls us to be his ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20) and to go to all the world and preach the gospel (Mark 16:15).



Lew Meyer

It can be a scary thing to approach strangers and try to engage in a conversation about spiritual things. Lew Meyer has recently developed a really neat way of engaging with people where they come to him and in some cases are lining up.

Lew gets to converse with numerous people and many times share the gospel either at that moment or during a follow-up conversation. He takes a small card-table with him into the streets, his jar of treats and a survey. He has seen a variety of people, including students, queueing up to do the survey (and enjoy a chocolate treat). The survey asks a variety of questions that cause one to think about what they really believe. From here they are led to question why they believe those things and this often gives Lew an opportunity to share what the Bible teaches about life and death.

This Card Table Evangelism has allowed Lew (an experienced evangelist) to not only reach several people with the gospel but he has also taken many people to sit at the table with him to conduct the survey. These others are not experienced evangelists. They are just Christians with a desire to serve the Lord and live lives that are obedient to him. One volunteer reports,

It was with some trepidation I put on my chaplaincy t-shirt and went down at the agreed time, it was an area that has been a shopping venue for me for the last 16+ years and has been the scene for the sharing of the



Lorraine, participating in Card Table Evangelism

gospel by numbers of church groups and individuals over that period.

Lew was his usual cheery, reassuring self and I relaxed. The large glass container of chocolate bars was instant eye candy which was needed to draw people to the table. We were not approaching people with the surveys, they were to approach us, as council cautions against 'hunting out' people. Of course, people need to be respected. A number came and filled out the survey. Two individuals in particular stood out in my mind, an older woman and a young guy, neither of whom were interested in chocolate.

The lady was obviously in need and after sharing her troubles agreed to prayer, which I was a privileged to be part of. Later the young guy came up and started to talk, then Lew (who had been gone for a short time at that point) rejoined us and the man, who had an Anglican mum and a Muslim dad, heard a gentle and persuasive sharing of Christian belief

while I prayed silently with my eyes open to the side of them. So God sets up divine appointments while we, as it were, look on.

—Lorraine R.

Tēnā koutou!

Ko Maria Henderson tōku ingoa. No Turanganui-a-kiwa au, engari no Heretaunga au e noho ana. He minita o te Rongopai ahau. Ko OAC Ministries e mahi ana.

My name is Maria Henderson. I grew up in the Gisborne region but now live in Hastings. I am an evangelist with OAC Ministries. We aim to share the Gospel by all means everywhere, and equip others to do the same. In my area, I have a lot to do with children and youth and networking.

Recently, I enjoyed the privilege of



Maria

taking part in the Reach Rotorua Mission. Months of groundwork had been done by a couple of others in OAC and locals before this fortnight's focus mission. Others from OAC joined as we were able to partner with at least 12 churches and 30-40 locals to 'reach' Rotorua. Over the 2-week period we engaged with over 1300 people with the aim to share the gospel. This was through two combined youth outreaches, school programs, door to door, programs with at least 5 churches, markets and more. There were about 600 Gospels of Luke given out to people, 15 people interested in attending Alpha, about 30 children interested in starting Sunday School at one church, 55 responses to the gospel and 24 people who want more information sent to them.

Ten training sessions lead up to this fortnight. As one pastor described it, OAC being there was "motivating"

the church as we encouraged and equipped them for more outreach.

The first Sunday, Marty Scheib and I helped with a family service at the Salvation Army, which is seeking to reach more children. We had lovely fellowship with the church leaders in the afternoon; it was good to hear their heart for their community and church. One of the children excitedly reported that this was the most kids they'd ever had at the church. Later, we heard that one of those kids had been singing the song they learned all week, and another one can't wait to come back again.

I enjoyed meeting the Roosevelt Road Bible Church Indian fellowship. I was especially impressed with the children who were eagerly involved in outreach alongside their parents. One boy, who must be about 7, boldly shared the gospel from the board we had painted up. He shared in great detail as his parents had taught him. He was disappointed afterwards because the people he was talking to were already Christians, but he did a great job of telling these strangers about Jesus anyway! How wonderful to see young children about the Lord's work!

One church runs a weekly prayer meeting, and for the time around Reach Rotorua they focused on that initiative and invited involvement from other churches. It was exciting to join them for my first time and see many people there, praising God together. There were at least 40 of us who spent time praying with enthusiasm and then fellowshiping over breakfast.

We found a couple of sites suitable for outreach to youth after school. Some crowded around to see object lessons and hear the gospel (see header image). One time, though, I was surprised that there weren't as many youth as we expected. In fact, I only spoke briefly to a group of three and then to two others who quickly said they knew about Jesus Christ. As we talked further, I discovered that one was a girl I had been told about that morning, who had just started a Christian group at her school. What a divine appointment! We arranged for me to join in the following week where she had a number of friends at the group, most of whom didn't know the Lord. After sharing a couple of gospel object lessons, I encouraged them to ask any questions. For a while, there was silence, but then there was



some good engagement on topics like "Why does God allow bad things to happen?" and "Is hell real?" For the latter question, the leader boldly proclaimed that she was unashamed to be a Christian and that she started this group because she believes heaven and hell are real and she wants to see her friends in heaven. I was encouraged to see her confidence and courage in sharing her faith. Please pray for her and others who are leading groups aiming at reaching their peers for Christ.

We were blessed to have some of the team go into Bethlehem College, Chapman, for the school assembly on two consecutive weeks. The first time, Marty shared the "Gospel in a nutshell" with Wally, his Australian cockatoo puppet. The students loved the presentation and learned the gospel in colours. At the end, the principal reinforced the message, saying that as a little girl, a lady on a bike had come to her village in Ireland and shared the gospel in colours from a book with her, and that is when she trusted the Lord Jesus as her Saviour. A teacher also stood up that week and the following one to acknowledge how the Lord had used both Robert Siakimotu and Lew Meyer to help her in life, as they trained her for a time during Bible College 20 years ago. Lew had also spoken on apologetics at a Sports Camp when she was a teenager, which was a turning point where she realised that "you can be a Christian and think!" It was great to hear the encouragement to these faithful men and to see the school staff reinforcing the importance of the gospel to the children.

It was really encouraging to see the excitement and the igniting of a flame among the local believers to do more ministry. One man had said he was "rusty" but was soon intentionally moving conversations towards the gospel. Another guy said he would just let his partner do the talking but he was soon doing more than he planned, sharing the story of Tārore's treasure. From door to door, to street, school and mall conversations, there are great opportunities to share the love of Jesus with people around us.



FOCUS ON FIJI SHIFTS LOCAL

by Rachael Hogan. Rachel and Roy Hogan are full time volunteer with MMM NZ as Fiji Coordinators. Their ministry journey can be followed on their [family blog](#). This article was previously published by the [Wellington Anglican Diocese](#).



C OVID-19 put a pretty abrupt stop to short term, cross-cultural missions around the world. An opportunity for churches and other groups to come together, build community and relationships in a unique way and serve our God in a different environment.

In 2017 we took a team of 20 people from our church, St Luke's in Waikanae, to Nacekoro village in Savusavu, Fiji to do a building project. Our family had been there before, but it was a new experience taking a team of people. It took a year of planning, saving and fundraising to get us all there.

We were able to introduce new and old friends from our church community to a very different culture. A different way of living, language, food and ultimately serve and love others by being Jesus' hands and feet. Four years on and still the relationships we built from this trip are unique and strong.

At the time, taking a team from our church to Fiji was a step in obedience, an important part of God's plan for our family. We have had a heart for Fiji for a long time and were able to use it to introduce others to a new experience. Since then we have been back to Fiji as a family again, and for a longer period, where we were able to bless others living in situations much worse than what we have in NZ.

Pre-COVID, we were appointed as Fiji Coordinators for an organisation called MMM (previously known as Mobile Mission Maintenance). In this role we will oversee building and maintenance projects for Christian ministries, initially working with and empowering locals, and when international travel is deemed safe once again, we will host short term teams from New Zealand, providing volunteer labour to equip God's kingdom in Fiji.



MMM does volunteer building and maintenance work for churches, other Christian organisations and missionaries. MMM is a people-oriented ministry, everyone has different gifts and skills and MMM is willing to let anyone shine through using them on a team. Our teams can be made up of men and women of all ages and skill sets. I've heard people comment that MMM is "that thing that builders do." In some ways it is, but in many more it is just anyone with a heart to serve in a practical way and ready to let God use them.

Despite our family now having three-year work permits for Fiji, we are unable to enter the country due to their emerging COVID-19 outbreak. Obviously, like many others around the world, the pandemic has flipped everything upside down; "We can make our plans but the Lord determines our steps," Proverbs 16:9.



So when it is safe to enter Fiji, we will... but until then we will continue with MMM New Zealand, where we have now been volunteering for a year and God continues to use us "Serving those who Serve." We have travelled around the North Island, leading teams on short term projects blessing Christian ministries, churches and camps. It has been an amazing opportunity to meet some incredible people and see some awesome sites. But the harvest is always plentiful and the workers are few!

MMM NZ is always seeking builders, painters, other tradies and people with a willing heart to serve God in a hands-on way for jobs in the North and South Island. It's a great opportunity to work alongside and support all the good stuff that is already happening in the Christian community.

Every day we get requests from ministries seeking our help to develop their facilities so they can impact God's world more. We are privileged to assist in meeting those needs. Every day we pray for more workers, never more work; we have plenty of ministries needing our support.

If you are looking for opportunities to do something a little bit different while the borders are shut, a short-term mission with MMM is worth considering. There are so many great opportunities and ways to serve God in a practical way without leaving NZ.





GET ONE GIVE ONE

HELPING VACCINE AVAILABILITY



By Steph Fry. Steph has a Masters in International Rural Development and works for Anglican Missions as an International Projects Manager/Development Adviser assisting with project management, monitoring and evaluation and policy development.

While vaccine inequality is not new, it has been accelerated with COVID-19. Unequal access to COVID-19 vaccinations disproportionately affects the world's most poor and vulnerable.

87% of COVID-19 vaccines have gone to high-income countries with only 0.2% going to low-income countries, with many high-income countries stockpiling vaccines. This means that out of every 50 COVID-19 vaccine doses already administered, approximately 41 of them are going to high-income countries with only 1 going to low-income countries.

There is an injustice in these numbers being so low. The impact of COVID-19 on low-income countries has also been unequal. For example, they are less likely to have the medical and health infrastructure and resources to cope with treating COVID-19 patients, thus providing a breeding-ground for potentially new variants to form. Social consequences are also worrying. Save The Children NGO estimates that 10 million children are at risk of not returning to school because of having to work to support their families. RNZ, for example, reports that 50% of women in Fiji have experienced a connection between Covid-19 and an increase in domestic violence.

With COVID-19 it is easy to feel helpless in wondering what we can do. For us at Anglican Missions, and in the Anglican

church, much of our work aligns with "5 Marks of Mission" —two of these being Service (responding to human needs by loving service) and Justice (transforming the unjust structures of society). Responding to the unequal distribution of vaccines meets both.

In being thankful for the availability of vaccines in our country, we wanted to reach out to others and so we recently launched the 'Get One. Give One' Campaign which aims to protect and support the poorest and most vulnerable. Through this campaign we encourage those of us who are fortunate to be able to receive a free vaccine to give so that others less fortunate can receive. Donations to the campaign are being directed through a Givealittle page which is receiving an excellent response so far.

Advocate, fundraise, and facilitate are some of the ways in which churches in Aotearoa and across the world can help. For example, NZCMS missions partner Nick Laing, who works as a doctor in Northern Uganda, has made a video advocating for vaccine equality through Anglican Missions' 'Get One. Give One' campaign. View it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMP8oG2EZBw&t=2s>.

In the picture above you can see Holy Cross Anglican Church in Dreketi on the Island of Vanua Levu, Fiji acting as a vaccine centre for surrounding rural communities. Holy Cross is facilitating the delivery of the COVID-19 vaccine.



Anglican Missions is spreading the word around churches in Aotearoa New Zealand and many others are now promoting the campaign and running fundraising events. Sharing the news in services, putting up posters, having a pop-up advert on your website, having groups use your church to hold fundraising activities are all ways local churches are stepping up.

We believe that equal access to health for all of God's children is a human right and a social justice issue. This campaign towards vaccine equality presents an opportunity for churches to work together and advocate for change.

For more information on what Anglican Missions is doing to tackle vaccine inequality click on our logo and get your church involved, because as the Archbishop of Southern Africa says in the video on our website "We are only safe if everyone is safe".





BIRD BRAINED LESSON

A CHICKEN DEMONSTRATES GOD'S GRACE

by Katherine, a nurse ministering in Africa, sent with Pioneers NZ.



For a week, a chicken was in quarantine outside my bedroom door. Granted, my bedroom door opens into the open covered space that is between the two shipping containers that form the structure of our home. It has a dirt floor, open sides, and serves as the place where the frequent visitors to our home sit, where we eat and cook, where the kids' swing and slide is, where the building supplies get stored—and, for a time, where chickens quarantine.

The reason for the quarantine was that the chicken was still too young and scrawny to make a worthwhile meal, but in the community, chickens had been dying from a mysterious ailment and we didn't want to risk introducing that disease to our chickens, or our neighbour's. Since our neighbour's chickens roam around free range, we couldn't have the chicken outside our fenced-in courtyard (which we try, often unsuccessfully, to keep chicken/goat/pig/cow-free so that our kitchen garden has a chance to grow!).

The reason I was given the chicken was because of a little premature baby named Rejoice. She was born on the way to the hospital, weighing less than 1kg (2.2lbs). Most mornings I start the day in the maternity ward, joining the ward round there and particularly checking in on any of the sick neonates. So, although I wasn't doing all the care, I interacted with the mother and baby most days.

It was touch and go for a week or two and a couple of times I walked into the room at just the right time to resuscitate her. Eventually she started doing great. She made it to 1kg and then 1.5kg. She started to

get chubby cheeks and to breastfeed. Then, suddenly one morning when she was over a month old, she wasn't fine. When I popped in during my 1-2 hourly rounds that I make through the wards in the afternoons, I was told that she had died and that the family had already taken her home.

The following Sunday, I went to one of the small village churches that we alternate attending. During the time for greetings, when any visitor or someone who hasn't been there for a while has the opportunity to speak, a teenage girl stood up and said, "I haven't been here for a while as my baby was in hospital, but she has now died and so I am here". I realised that it was the mother of Rejoice! She came to where I was at the back of the church, gave me a hug and sat down with me. At the end of the service she invited me to come visit at her nearby home.

I went with her. On the way we passed the small grave where they had buried Rejoice on the corner of their land. We sat in her mud tukul (hut), and she asked to see the photo I had taken of her daughter, the only picture of Rejoice that exists. I pulled out my phone and showed her, then her mother and her siblings, and all the other people who wandered in to greet us. We drank tea and ate together and talked about Rejoice's mother's plans to go back to school.

When it was time for me to walk home she grabbed a young chicken that had been sitting in the tukul, tied up its legs and brought it with us as she accompanied me half the way home. As we parted she gave me the chicken. I tried to protest, but she said, "We have given it to you, you cannot give it back". And so, I reluctantly took it, feeling bad. Why is this family giving me

something, a chicken which is precious for meat here, when I had failed them? I had not been able to save their daughter and granddaughter. And yet they still gave me a sacrificial gift. A gift that I did not deserve.

But as I could not return it, the chicken came home with me and was placed outside my room. For the first few days it cowered in the corner, legs still loosely tied. It was small enough that it could still escape from our chicken coop. But then it got brave and worked out that it could still get around and that there were always food crumbs under the kids' table. When the week's quarantine was up, we released its legs and set it outside. But it didn't want to stay there, having discovered the bounty of food inside. It also discovered that there was a crawl space under the containers (a crawl space for a very skinny person who doesn't mind bugs) that enabled entrance back into our courtyard!

The chicken started pooping everywhere and tried to grab food off our plates, so we decided that, even though it was a gift, whoever could catch it could take it home. The women who were helping to cook for one of the building projects, ran around our yard, with their shawls billowing behind them, trying to catch the wily chicken.

Even though that chicken is now a gift in someone else's house, it was still a gift to me. A reminder of the God who saw my grief and gave me a chance for closure; of the many gifts of grace I receive even though I don't deserve them; of the power of presence, even if the outcome is not what I would choose; that controlling life and death is not my job, but turning up is. And that God can use even bird-brained chickens to bless!



NEPAL COVID RESPONSE

Nepal is seeing an alarming number of cases of COVID infections and deaths. As most Nepalis live in remote and mountainous regions, reporting of COVID cases and access to help is very limited.

You can pay directly online at:
<https://www.hatnepal.co.nz/donations/nepal-covid-response/>

You can also deposit money directly into the following account:
Account name: Humanitarian Aid Trust
Account Number: 020820 0486456 00
Reference: COVID Response
Particulars: Your name

INF New Zealand is asking for your support. As an organisation that has been working in Nepal for the last 68 years serving the most vulnerable, we have the structures and workers in place to bring hope in these troubling times. INF Nepal is using the resources of their three hospitals as well as working with local hospitals, authorities and community support teams to respond to the crisis with emergency food distribution, healthcare and psycho-social support.

Please help us provide essential support to Nepalis impacted by COVID-19 by donating.

All donations made are tax deductible.



PASTORAL SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR

Visit www.nzbms.org.nz for a full job description!



You will ensure the care, nurture, and personal development of our global workers! The successful applicant will have considerable experience in counselling, spiritual direction, social work or pastoral care. Can't wait to hear from you!





Make
Meaningful
Connections

A MOBILISATION FORUM

REPORT FROM A CREATIVE EXPLORATION (PT2)

by Dr Jay Matenga, Executive Officer, Missions Interlink. Jay is seconded for half of his time to the World Evangelical Alliance where he serves as Director of the Global Witness dept. within which sits the Mission Commission that Jay also leads as Executive Director. Jay has been involved in missions mobilisation for 30 years and co-wrote the WEA Mission Commission book, [Mission In Motion: Speaking Frankly of Mobilization](#).



Last month I overviewed the first part of the missions promotion (mobilisation) forum held at World Vision NZ's HQ on May 20, 2021. The forum was designed to be liberating. Missions Interlink invited OMF's Shireen Chua to lead us in a creative time of innovative thinking around the issue of increasing participation in God's mission from and within Aotearoa New Zealand.



In addition to her service with OMF NZ, Shireen has an MBA, is a certified intercultural coach and is undertaking a PhD at Waikato Uni in organisational leadership, with a particular focus on cultural intelligence. In Part 1 of the Mobilisation Forum review we saw the outcomes of a conversation around the history of missions promotion since the 1980s. We evaluated that conversation by looking at the facts, conclusions, beliefs and next steps. The conversation moved on to looking at current realities and we mapped those on an ecocycle of life, growth, maturity and creative destruction of activities that can free up resources to allow for innovative renewal.

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

We used the 'post lunch slump' period to engage in group conversations about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on missions and mission promotion. Once again, Shireen employed the [W3 Liberating Structure](#) that asks questions about facts,

conclusions, beliefs and next steps. In the wake of COVID-19 the group recalled that this is **what** happened:

- Borders closed, visas were restricted
- Travel stopped and/or costs increased
- Things went online
- The workforce went home
- Distance between people increased
- Trust looked different
- Anxiety increased
- Interpersonal activity become very unpredictable
- Student bodies changed at universities and colleges
- People longed for personal connection
- Missions/ministry continued—in some cases, without us.

The discussion moved on to making meaning from the facts. These conclusions make up the **so what**:

- People are moving online, so the digital sphere needs become a ministry priority
- The restrictions are encouraging us to look for ways to partner and collaborate more effectively, especially with local (indigenous) ministries
- Some ministry tasks are becoming more specialised and, in some ways, professionalised
- The digital context may be more 'democratised', with more people participating as influencers, but that is an opportunity best maximised by digital natives who are used to that context rather than older workers
- Even so, people continue to long for personal in-person connections and shared experiences outside of the

virtual reality space

- Constant online access (and multiple timezone activities) are causing fatigue and burnout—e.g. international Zoom meetings, but also massively multiplayer online gaming engagements (an under-appreciated ministry context)
- Ambiguity and complexity have been amplified, making highly structured ministries and processes quickly redundant
- We now need to prioritise the big-picture views and understand how systems work rather than focus on one particular part in isolation, this requires significant rethinking
- Reaffirm purpose, values and core message, but redevelop how those things ought to apply in the 'new normal' ahead
- As the global missions/ministry workforce returns, it will have different needs, demands and ways of working that we should adapt to.

We concluded by prioritising ways we can respond to these facts and conclusions, this is the **now what**:

- We need to develop the new emphasis on distance and digital ministries
- We can maximise opportunities for local ministry
- A new openness to partnerships and collaboration across boundaries is developing and should be nurtured
- We need to continue exploring new ways of conducting our ministries and missions—and release different kinds of talents and skills to develop these innovations
- Redeploying our missions/ministry

workforce may be required

- We must continue to adapt to the changing environment — organisational rigidity needs to give way to agility
- Resources need to be (re)invested towards the unique opportunities emerging in the 'new normal' reality
- Contexts of higher stress, challenge and change require attention on pastoral/member care effectiveness
- We need to recalibrate our assumptions about our own culture/ context and how it might relate to and affect those we aim to minister to
- We should brace ourselves for a drop in funding from a global recession and decreasing discretionary incomes that will affect giving levels, as well as shifts in what people want to support.

DON'T DO MISSIONS!

To spice things up, the next exercise flipped the script on our exploration of how to better promote and encourage missions engagement. This engaged the **Triz** structure, which challenges sacred cows safely and encourages heretical thinking. The main question becomes, "What must we stop doing to make progress on our deepest purpose?". In this light-hearted context issues that are otherwise taboo get a chance to be aired and confronted. This was a verbal exercise as we regrouped for the afternoon so (un)fortunately our heretical thinking was not captured for posterity (or as evidence to prosecute us!)

A 15% CHANGE

The "now what" responses to COVID-19 and the current inertia we seem to be experiencing in collaborative missions promotional activities can seem a bit too overwhelming to do much about. Rather than bite off more than we can chew, we applied the **15% Solutions** structure to help us move ahead in incremental practical ways.

This activity can help to identify actions, however small, that everyone can do immediately. At a minimum, these should create some momentum that can create dramatic results. 15% Solutions remind us that there is no reason to wait around, feel powerless, or fearful about acting. Ideally, they get individuals and groups focusing on what is within their discretion to achieve rather than focusing on what they cannot change.

In our case, Shireen got participants into organisational (or related) groups and asked the questions: What is the 15% that you can do personally? and What is 15% that your organization can do? Since these were specific commitments they weren't shared with the larger group nor collected as data.

CROWD SOURCED COMMITMENTS

One of the concluding outcomes we did collect was something akin to a democratic selection of top actions. The **25/10 Crowd Sourcing** structure is designed to tease out what is possible to achieve towards a solution to an identified problem.

It was a fun, fast, and casual activity, with backing music, as ideas were written down, passed around and voted on by the whole group. Like musical chairs, when the music stopped the idea cards were passed around participants for them to vote on.

Shireen asked participants to write on 3x5" cards their answer to this question: "What one idea can contribute towards increasing churches' participation in God's mission from and within Aotearoa NZ?" Here are the results ranked in order of democratic preference (via a voting system):

1. **21 votes: Sharing training & resources**
2. **20 votes: AR (Augmented Reality) mission portal**
 - a. Create an AR environment with portals to different mission experiences
3. **20 votes: Gathering of missionally minded young adults**
 - a. Who do we know? Collating names of people who are interested in missions
4. **19 votes: Kids mission expo**
 - a. "Mission Possible"
5. **18 votes: Digital storytelling**
 - a. A NZ compilation (short video/s) of stories of people involved in mission
 - b. Gather a list of people who would like to share their story
6. **17 votes: Offer resources to churches**, like workshops such as Friendship First, TEE
7. **15 votes: Future forums like this one**
8. **16.5 votes: A virtual mission conference**

9. **16 votes: Running a 'how to walk with neighbours' workshop** in churches
10. **16 votes: Share expertise with churches to help them be missional** in their communities
 - a. Missions as a central hub, not one of many dept.s
11. **15 votes: Collaboration working together** on a programme for short term mission in NZ
12. **15 votes: Multi agency advertisement** for mission involvement (praying, giving, going) demonstrating Christian cooperation and efficiency
13. **15 votes: Mobilise together**
 - a. Have a mobiliser volunteer for 20 hours per week
14. **15 votes: Training for effective communication** in multi-cultural situations
15. **15 votes: 1st step = learning together?**
16. **14 votes: When invited to a church missions week/weekend then invite another organisation to join in.**
 - a. **14 votes: MI questionnaire** to find who is interested in partnering
17. **12 votes: Need help to gather people of same ethnicity** into a focus group for mission mobilising
18. **10 votes: Running an event like Urbana**
 - a. Big speakers – international worship
 - b. Serving opportunity
 - c. Agency 'market'.

WORKING YOUR WEB

The final exercise we did aimed to help us identify the people connections we each had who could help us achieve our desired aims, both organisationally and collectively. The **Social Network Webbing** structure is designed to reveal what people-resources might be hidden within our existing network of relationships. It can also be helpful for encouraging stronger connections across networks and show where new connections might be possible.

In the same organisation, this inclusive approach makes the network visible and understandable to everybody in a group simultaneously. It encourages individuals to take the initiative for building a stronger network rather than

receiving directions through top-down assignments. Our exercise was somewhat different because people from multiple organisations were participating, however we were all part of the same wider network under Missions Interlink. So there was still some value to the activity.

We were asked to map the types of people that are active in missions promotion (core) and who should be included in this work (periphery). Then we tried to map webs of connections—who knows who, who has influence, where are the blockages, who can boost progress towards our desired outcomes.

From the charts collected, the following data was revealed:

CORE

- Project leaders, producers, facilitators
- Mobilisers
- Administrators
- Communication specialists
- Social media specialists
- Follow-up personnel.

PERIPHERY

- Prayer group leaders
- Journalists/story-tellers

- Content creators: creative and non-fiction (copy)writers, photo/videographers, voice-over/narrators, artists, animators, web, graphic and layout designers
- Tech experts
- Cultural interpreters
- Language translators
- Generational leaders (Millennials, GenZ, Alpha)
- Children's educators
- Missions theologians.

BOOSTERS

- City/region representatives, contact coordinators, church representatives
- Spokespeople, cheerleaders, people of influence, champions
- Gatekeepers, pastors, ministry leaders
- Mentors, coaches, counsellors
- Donors, fundraisers, grant writers.

Within those lists sit many types of roles that missions organisations have not traditionally invested resources into. We were left wondering what would need to be creatively destroyed in order to release resource to activate the types of roles we need for the 'new normal' era emerging.

WRAPPING UP

In Māori contexts, a gathering usually concludes with an opportunity to express appreciation and articulate what they had learned and were taking away from the shared experience.

To conclude the forum, Shireen employed the **1-2-4-ALL** structure where participants consider a question alone, then in pairs, then foursomes, and finally as a whole group. In this case, time was against us so we arranged in an outer circle facing an inner circle and discussed the question with each other, the outer circle moving one person anti-clockwise every two minutes. The question we discussed: **“What do you consider the biggest challenge facing missions from and in Aotearoa now and in the near future?”**

Since this verbal exchange was not recorded, we will leave you to answer this question for your own context.

Liberating Structures can help your organisation or ministry navigate your way toward a solution. See the ad on the next page if you would like training to take advantage of this innovative group resource.

“Do you have a heart for mission but don't feel called to leave NZ?”

“Do you want to see New Zealanders thrive in mission wherever they serve?”

“Do you love people, HR, and working with a skilled team?”



If you thought 'yes' to these questions and are open to a vocational change, we would love to talk to you.

The SIM NZ office is currently interviewing to fill a Personnel Director position. We're looking for a leader willing to encourage innovation as we mobilise, prepare and support our mission partners while we work together with churches to fulfil God's mission across cultures locally and globally.

If you want to know more, please contact Patti Clark (patti@definitelypeople.co.nz) to ask questions or request a position description. We will continue to interview until we have found the right person to fit.

Do you want to include and unleash everyone in your teams and organizations?...



Come along to experience the surprisingly simple Liberating Structures that introduces tiny shifts in the way we meet, plan, decide and relate to one another that unleashes creativity and innovation and inclusion.

Once you've experienced the use of liberating structures, you will be equipped to use these facilitation tools in every context where you want to include everyone and to gain the insights in the room. Along the way, it is also a fun experience!

Liberating Structures have been used in professional settings such as NASA, an ICU unit, a university class to strategic planning sessions, staff and strategy meetings and church elder's retreats.

Shireen Chua and Christine Harding will introduce you to some of the tools

Next Immersion Experience:

13 August 2021

9.30am to 3.30pm

The Mission Centre, Dominion Road

Includes a pack of Liberating Structures Cards (RRP \$25).

Price \$75 Plus GST

Please get in touch if cost is a factor or if you want to bring more than one person along

Please contact Shireen on shireen@thirdculture.co.nz for further information or [click here](#) to register.

CARE

Aotearoa | New Zealand

missions
interlink
member care



PURPLE FLAMINGOS

WHAT YOU CONSUME INFLUENCES YOU

By Dr Christina Baird PhD, Founder and Director of Bread & Pomegranates, is a psychologist, coach and professional supervisor helping people to critically reflect, explore the future and respond creatively through one-on-one sessions and group reflective learning opportunities.

I like to write in cafes. Being away from my to do list and around other people who are working often helps me concentrate. I am writing this reflection from a cafe that has recently (post-lockdowns) changed owners, been refurbished and re-opened. It is looking fresh, clean and bright (all things it lacked previously). More importantly, the coffee is now of a much higher quality. It has been a positive outcome of change for both the new owner and the patrons. This very small change is representative of the changed and changing world that we now inhabit.

Post-COVID things will not be the same, and they will not go back to being how they were previously, no matter how much we desire that 'things to return to normal'. The question for us to personally ponder in 2021 is "how do I need to change to navigate life in this new fast changing world?"

As you ponder the question of how you need to change, you might like to consider what is currently feeding you, and what food you need so that you can make those changes. Have you ever seen a purple flamingo (aside from the Photoshopped image above)? How would you feel if you saw a real one?

A flamingo's beautiful plumage colour is determined by the pigments in their food. Often the flamingos at Auckland Zoo are very pale, paler than the photos I have seen of their wild counterparts in other parts of the world. Yet they stay within their colour range for flamingos,

they don't feast on aubergines and turn purple. No doubt aubergines wouldn't give them the nutrients they need.

We are awash in information as a result of the digitally-connected era we are living in. There is a lot of different input of different quality coming our way. In addition to moments of silence that allow us to tune into ourselves and process the inputs we receive, we also need to carefully evaluate what we expose ourselves to and whether it is good for us.

Not all that is broadcast towards us is nutritious for us. While some of what we are exposed to is simply noise, creating background distraction, we need to exercise good judgement about what is coming in. It can either turn us lovely shades of shrimp (healthy and flourishing) or turn us into a colour that isn't attractive for us (unhealthy and run down).

Some of what we're exposed to is simply noise (background distractions). There are a number of different inputs that invade our lives. Four immediately spring to mind: audial input physically received by our ears, informational input processed in our minds, relational input from our personal connections, and lastly our own internally generated noise.

Audial input is the actual noise of the life that goes on around us. We hear traffic, neighbours, building, pets, airplanes, birds, snoring, family members, sirens, and the dings, dongs and pings of electronic alerts. Some of these noises could be classed as noise pollution—uninvited noise that is constant and



bread and pomegranates

above a certain volume. Noise pollution has a negative impact on our mind and body and we may need to take action to screen it out (noise-cancelling headphones are my favourite). Other noises are welcome, attractive, perhaps even soothing, and with the potential to increase our well-being. They may include, music, laughter, purring, water boiling for tea, birds, singing and the coffee machine grinding beans. We may choose to add more of these noises into our life.

We also have a large amount of informational input that is streaming into our minds. Informational input comes from things like podcasts, social media, books, audiobooks, news, breaking news updates, book clubs, subscription based newsletters, journals or magazines (like this one), and update style newsletters from all the clubs and activities we are involved in. We could name some of these as information pollution; filling our mind, creating a pressure to keep up, to know the latest thing, to have an opinion, to understand and to know more and more. Some of these provoke our minds in unhelpful ways, introducing negative comparisons and harsh self-talk. Or, they can be mere distractions, pulling us away from the things that we should be doing—procrastination. Ironically, many of these informational inputs contain the very nutrients that can help

unhook us from negative judgements, and help us manage distractions and support our well-being.

Our personal connections with other people are the prime source of relational input; offering opinions, views, reckons, small-talk, recommendations, advice, ideologies, politics, philosophy, religion, updates on their neighbour's dog and random gossip. People offer a sense of belonging, support, direction, care and helpful ideas—all helpful for nurturing our well-being. Again we have the contrast of some of this input being very nutritious for us, others not so much.

Finally, we have internal input that is generated by our own mind, our biases and experiences in the world. These could be the self-stories that pop up and tell us we can't, the assumptions and presuppositions we make about others because of our experience, or our own bias or way of looking at the world that we have developed in response to our context and experiences. It is helpful to examine this

internal noise and consider what might be lacking nutrition—holding us back, distracting us, or otherwise unhelpfully influencing our judgements.

All of these inputs are like food that is either nutritional or detrimental for us. Unlike flamingos who survive on a fairly limited diet we need a diverse range of input nutrition. We need to take care that our diet is balanced, not solely from one perspective or approach. For our growth and maturity we need to chew on that which challenges us to consider new points of view and ways of looking at the world.

There is so much assualting our ears, eyes and minds these days. The inputs may not be good or bad in themselves, so we need to develop discernment about what is good or bad for us, that which is essential for our well-being. Approaching inputs with curiosity and evaluative reflection about how such things affect us can help to develop the discernment needed to navigate the emerging new world, to grow and flourish.



SELF CARE COACHING

It's been a rough 1.5 years for those in caring roles. The not-for-profit and human services sector have been hit with increased demand and decreased resource by COVID-19.

In her one-on-one work, Christina has observed a gap between self-care knowledge and the ability to put that knowledge into action. Research points to self-care being an essential component of well-being for helping professionals—helping to prevent burnout by stepping back from their clients' problems. Yet there remain many barriers and complications to implementing effective self-care.

Christina has developed a coaching program to address this gap. Over 12 weeks she takes participants on a journey that peels back the layers of difficulty with self-care implementation. This course will help empower you towards healthy and sustainable habits that will suit you in your care ministry.

Click [this link](#) for more information.



MISSIONS LEADER RETREAT

July 15, 2021 | Eastwest College, Gordonton

THRIVING THROUGH CHANGE

2021 MI MISSIONS LEADER RETREAT

This is an opportunity for **missions and ministry CEOs** (or functional equivalent) to set aside time to reflect on the past year(s) in light of the challenges facing missions and ministries as we prepare to step into a new era. The focus will be on leader well-being—helping leaders to remain resilient, healthy and hopeful in their responsibilities.

- DATE:** Thursday, July 15, 2021
- TIME:** From 10am—7pm(ish)
- LOCATION:** Eastwest College, 21 College Rd, Gordonton
- CATERING:** Breaks, Lunch & Light Dinner included
- COST:** (updated) \$50 MI Members | \$80 MI Non-Members
- REGISTRATION:** More info, register & pay via: <https://missions.fit/mlretreat/>

Ps Don Barry
Gateway Church
LEADER INTEGRITY & RESILIENCE



Rev Chris Harding
Discovery Church
NAVIGATING TRANSITION & CHANGE



All Participants
CEO Leaders
ENGAGING COMMON CHALLENGES



PRAY

PRAYERLINKS

PRAYER FUEL FOR MISSIONS

AGENCY LEADERS

COVID-19 has introduced many new challenges for missions and ministries. **Pray** for the **leaders of ministries** as they consider what changes to make in their respective areas of responsibility. For governing boards, CEOs, administrators, personnel managers, people carers, and recruiters.

BIBLE LEAGUE NZ

Praise God for a new Project Philip Bible study class being held in **Mexico**. The participants have shown great interest in continuing studies as they recognise that God is the one who helps them in their difficulties. **Pray** that their understanding of who God is will increase and make them strong believers. James 1:19.

EASTWEST COLLEGE

Praise God for 25 years of training Christians for cross-cultural service at Eastwest College—we are incredibly grateful for God's faithfulness and provision over this time. Please **pray** for the Eastwest team as we plan our Open Day and 25th anniversary celebrations for the end of July.

FEBC NZ

Our **broadcasts in Yemen** are reaching many local listeners eager for news, healthcare, and hope.

Small groups gather and listen, while others tune-in in secret. Please **pray** for the great impact of true and living words for this suffering nation in its sixth year of civil war, facing cholera, dengue, food deprivation, and COVID-19!

INTERSERVE

Please **pray** for Interserve NZ: Te Riu Whakaoreore as we continue to actively have discussions about **how we might strengthen our missional community** in a way that is honouring to Te Tiriti and which allows us to become truly bicultural in our everyday living.

MISSIONS INTERLINK (MI)

Thank God for the positive response from Jay's sharing in a couple of churches last month. The visit to Christchurch was very fruitful too. **Praise** too for the encouraging response from the MI Council to the next financial year's strategy and budget. **Pray** for the **Leaders Retreat** planned for July 15th: for last minute sign-ups, for the contributors and participants, and for an inspiring time for all.

NEW ZEALAND CHRISTIAN NETWORK (NZCN)

The NZCN has undergone a significant revitalisation over the past year. A new look, new website, new structure and some new personnel involved;

fresh commitments with a desire to galvanise churches to better cooperative engagement around critical issues facing our nation as well as our contributions to other nations via the World Evangelical Alliance. NZCN is effectively the evangelical Alliance of Aotearoa New Zealand. **Pray** for NZCN as they seek to rebuild their supporter base via paid **memberships** (see ad above). **Pray** that many churches and individuals will see the benefits of collaborative action, and take up membership so that the future of NZCN will be financially secured.

SIM

Pray for mission partners to **come to New Zealand** from other regions to help our churches experience a fresh vision for (or view of) missions.

WEC INTERNATIONAL NZ

We have two meetings with our **"Friends of WEC" groups** this month—the first was in Auckland on July 3rd and the next on July 24th in Wellington. The Auckland gathering had a focus on recording stories from some of our retirees, while the Wellington gathering will focus on introducing our new mobilisers to the Friends of WEC in Wellington. Please **pray** for good attendance at these sorts of meetings and that we will be able to encourage these support groups as they continue.

manaaki

The manaaki4missions app is available (for anyone) to download!

Since 2007 Missions Interlink, in partnership with CSC Buying Group, has made a discount card available to Missions Interlink members. In 2016 it was re-branded as the "manaakicard", with the final card version expiring at the end of August 2019. As a member-only benefit, these cards were distributed to all member agencies and individuals for dissemination amongst their staff and supporters.

Changes in the way some suppliers handle their discounts, the limited amount of information we could print on a card, and costs incurred with distributing cards to a limited

group of users, prompted a rethink in how best to foster **manaaki (generosity, wellbeing, honour)** amongst missions practitioners and supporters in Aotearoa New Zealand.



With CSC Buying Group's help, Ezystream's digital expertise, and the generosity of our subscribed members, Missions Interlink launched the "manaaki4missions" app in 2019.

This app is now freely available to download, enabling all missions passionate people to access, via the **MANAAKI** button, point of sale discounts available from participating vendors like Auto Super Shoppes, Beaurepaires, Bunnings, Carters, Office Max, Placemakers, Pit Stop, Repco,

and more. **Great savings can be had, especially from Noel Leeming, Warehouse Stationery, and Torpedo7.**

You can now read the latest **BULLETIN** in the app (great for tablets, a bit small for phones). A complete member **DIRECTORY** is available at the push of the D, and all the missions-related **EVENTS** in the country can be found via the E. If you are in need of **INSURANCE**, we provide an introductory overview of what Missions Interlink recommends and how to access it.

You can also access the Aotearoa NZ Missions Network **FACEBOOK** page and push-**NOTIFICATIONS** from the bottom menu. Notifications can be turned off but we reserve the right to push missions prayer and news updates from time to time.

A **KOHA** link in the bottom menu allows users to reciprocate manaaki and donate to Missions Interlink should they wish to do so.



DOWNLOAD MANAAKI APP HERE



or search for "manaaki4missions" in your app store

a manaaki benefit

@noel leeming
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CSC • 28 June - 11 July 2021

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ARE YOU SEEKING TO DEVELOP YOUR COACHING SKILLS FURTHER?...

If you're hoping to become professionally ACC or PCC certified, a pre-requisite is Mentor

We are running our first cohort of Mentor Coaching online. This involves 7 hours of Group Sessions and 3 hours of One-to-One

All on Zoom

Christine Harding has over 35 years of leadership and ministry experience in both local and cross-cultural ministry — both church based and parachurch based. She holds a PCC (Professional Certified Coach) credential and is a certified Mentor Coach through the International Coaching Federation.



Next Course:

Group sessions: Thursday Evenings for 1.5 hours. 21 October, 11 & 25 November, 9 December, 27th January 2022 or 10th Feb 2022 (1hour).
Cost: \$500 for the complete package (Includes 3 hours of one-on-one TBA).

Please contact Christine on christine@thirdculture.co.nz
For more information regarding the background of this course: see www.creativeresultsmanagement.com



Discovering Intercultural Intelligence

An Online Introduction...

Are you finding yourself working and ministering in culturally diverse settings?

If you are and you're seeking greater understanding of why different behaviours show up in your interactions, this is the course for you. Intercultural intelligence is developing our ability to create new cultural spaces that facilitate win-win solutions. We do this by anticipating, correctly interpreting and adjusting to the culturally defined behaviours of others. As our world becomes increasingly diverse culturally, we need to develop the cultural agility to connect and understand others.

These five, on-line sessions, introduce you to the principles of cultural agility, looking at our perceptions, and uncovering our cultural values and worldviews through the use of the CMI and 3C tools provided by Knowledgeworkx.

Christine Harding and Shireen Chua, will facilitate these learning sessions. With over 40 years of experience in cross-cultural settings in mission and ministry, and business, they bring different insights and perspectives in this online learning journey.



Next Course:

5 Thursday evenings from 7pm – 9pm NZT
(26th Aug; 9th Sep; 23rd Sep; 14th Oct; 28th Oct)
Includes the Intercultural Intelligence Tool
(RRP \$120).
Price \$300 (Early Bird \$250 until 10th August)

Please contact Christine on christine@thirdculture.co.nz



SPOTLIGHTS

HUIA COME HOME COURSE

Eastwest College is running a **one-week course called 'Huia Come Home'**, engaging with the story of Christianity in Aotearoa, New Zealand. Delivered by Luke Goodwin, a gifted communicator and history teacher. The course title is based on Jay Ruka's book of the same title, which is the text for the course. We're also pleased to now offer discounts on our Block Courses for ministers and church leaders.

Dates: 26-30 July | Cost: \$220

More info: eastwest.ac.nz/block-courses.

To register, email: office@eastwest.ac.nz.

EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

Calling all evangelists! OAC Ministries is hosting an **Evangelism Conference** to provide a place where we can learn from each other and encourage one another in the work.

Forest Lakes Camp in OTAKI

10-13 August 2021

Register now online to secure your place.

<https://www.oac.org.nz/events-1/evangelism-conference>

TOGETHER?—KOTAHITANGA

The 4th National Hui of the 'Our Neighbours' Movement' is being held in East Auckland in August. We should explore our indigenous roots 'together', and go where Muslims are 'together' if we want to engage with them 'together'.

**National Hui 'Our Neighbours'
Willow Park, Convention Centre**

1 Hostel Access Rd

Eastern Beach, Auckland 2012

3pm Thursday to 3pm Sunday 22 August

COST: \$395

Register before 8th August, on the website:

www.ourneighbours.co.nz. **For more info**

contact: info@asiapacificdt.org.nz.

SHOP FRONT TO LEASE

Highly visible shop front with high foot traffic outside, on Dominion Road, Balmoral. 50 square meters plus some storage and service facilities. Building shared with other Christian agencies.

For more info email wayne@nzkiwi.net.nz **or phone** +(64) 274 929 636.

NZ TURKEY NETWORK CONFERENCE

Yes, the Church in Turkey is growing! God is at work! Join with us to hear updates and testimonies of our faithful God from leaders in Turkey. **Come and hear from Kiwi's living and serving in Turkey**, and explore what the call to be faithful looks like for us in Aotearoa NZ.

Royal Oak Baptist Church

114 Symonds Street, AUCKLAND.

Friday Sept. 17, 7:00pm—9:00pm

Saturday Sept. 18, 9:30am—6:00pm

For more information or to register, visit the event page by [clicking here](#).

MI AGM

This annual members gathering will be similar to what we have done in the past with reports on the year gone and other updates relevant to our members. Our 2021 **AGM guest speaker will be Dr Joanna Lima**, specialist in organisational and intercultural leadership development and Regional Director with Pioneers.

Venue & timing to be confirmed.

NOTE DATE CHANGE: Thursday 18 November

Online registration will be announced in a future edition of the BULLETIN.

SHORT OR LONG TERM HOME AVAILABLE

Andy & Sharon Campbell (MAF, based in PNG) have a **fully furnished three bedroom house in Bulls** at very affordable rates available for those in Christian ministry. A car may also be available. It would be ideal for those preparing for or returning from the mission field, needing a place to recuperate, or planning ministry in the Manawatu/Whanganui region.

For more information, contact Andy by e-mail artifacts@artifacts.co.nz.

THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY FOR DOWNLOAD

The WEA has released the 10th Edition of their **Global Issues Series of theology books**. The entire library can now be downloaded as PDFs entirely free. It includes the latest Co-Workers and Co-Leaders book, and several texts on Islam.

An overview of the titles available can be viewed by [clicking here](#). The entire library can be downloaded by [clicking here](#).

ABOUT US

Executive Officer **Jay Matenga**
Administrator **Pauline Wood**

Executive Team

Joseph Bateson (Chair), Glenn Carter (Vice Chair),
Jon Horne (Treasurer), Russell Thorp (Secretary), Rob
Reynolds and Susie Couch.

MI Council

Alpha NZ, Asian Outreach, Bible Society NZ, Church
Mobilization, Eastwest College, European Christian
Mission, GC3, Interserve, LeaDev-Langham, MAF,
MotiVate (Missionary Ventures), NZBMS, NZCMS,
OMF, OMS, Pioneers, SIM, WEC, World Vision, with
individual member: Jon Horne.



Connecting the missions community
from and within Aotearoa NZ
for God's glory everywhere, always.

Our Purpose

We facilitate collaboration towards
participation in mission from and within
Aotearoa NZ. We nurture the missions
community in Aotearoa NZ to connect,
converse, and conduct mission with the aim
of working **together: on mission.**

MI SERVICES include (but are not limited to):

MI BULLETIN MI Online Member Directory
MI ManaakiApp (for retail discounts & coupons)
MI Research and Resources
MI Conferences, Clusters & Collaborations:
Admin, Mission Leaders, Church Mission, Diaspora,
Member Care, Mission Training, Mobilisation, & more.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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info@missions.org.nz
<https://missions.org.nz>

ADVERTISING

The MI BULLETIN is distributed by email every month to
more than 1000 missions interested people.

Commercial Rates & Sponsorship

Only **charity rates** are listed here. Commercial ad rates
and sponsor benefits are set by negotiation.

Spotlight Notices

Text only (up to 50 words with one web link).

MI members	FREE
Non members	\$40 per spotlight

BULLETIN Full Colour Spaces

Artwork must be supplied (.jpg or .pdf, 300dpi)
Deadline: Last Friday of the month before issue.

MI Members

	<u>First Month</u>	<u>Successive Months</u>
A4 Portrait:	\$130	A4 Portrait: \$90
A5 Landscape:	\$ 80	A5 Landscape: \$60

Non-members, double the member rate.

LIKE THE BULLETIN? DONATE HERE.

If you appreciate the work of Missions Interlink NZ you can make a tax deductible donation
by credit card on [our website](#) or straight into our bank account using these details:

Bank/Branch: BNZ Onehunga.
Account No.: 02 0208 0063000 000
Reference 1: Your Surname & Initials
Reference 2: Donation

Please then email us with your name and
postal address so we can be sure you receive
a tax deductible receipt after March 31.

Email: info@missions.org.nz

