

Rongopai

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ENGAGING YOUNG ADULTS IN A CHANGING CULTURE



JEREMY SUISTED
CCCNZ COACHING COORDINATOR

In 1964, Bob Dylan crooned “the times they are a-changing.” In a world of nuclear missiles, television, jet-travel and a growing consumer market, Dylan recognised the world he was part of was wildly different to the environment his grandparents were accustomed to.

45 years later and we would think Dylan’s sentiment was a little too conservative. The times don’t seem to just be changing—they seem to be constantly in flux, with new trends, technologies and attitudes rising and falling by the month. As much as we like to think we may be immune to these changes, the truth is that as we plan and shape our culture, so our culture shapes us.

One example of these changes is the new generational category of young adults. In the past, the transition from

child to adulthood was through one stage of adolescence. In this issue of Rongopai we’re turning the spotlight on the very beginning of the young adult phase of life: Students—particularly those who are leaving school and/or home for the first time.

Today’s students are part of a group of young adults facing a world of rising living costs, amidst a cultural milieu that favours *experience* over possessions, *intimacy* over power, and *advocacy* over involvement. How we disciple those in the 18-30 year-old age category has also been changing along with the wider culture.

Young people are living at home for longer, marrying later, and readily talk about the difficulties of ‘adulting’. They also appear to have both a lot of free-time *and* a lot of involvement in a world that seeks to delay ‘growing up’ for as long as possible! In many ways, this age group is caught in the middle and likely has a presence within your church.

It can be tempting to resort to complaining about this generation; pointing out the flaws in their thinking, bemoaning they are not like you, and constantly lamenting they are not 'getting involved' with church and ministry.

One such complaint was captured as "Young people are high-minded because they have not yet been humbled by life, nor have they experienced the force of circumstances... They think they know everything and are always quite sure about it." This was spoken by Aristotle in the 4th century BC, so complaining is nothing new!

However, complaining about any group within your church is a sure-fire way to continue building the divide between you. Additionally, this is not the way of the cross, as Paul reminded the church in Corinth to "Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace." (2 Corinthians 13:11).

So, how might we better engage with young adults to create unity and a oneness of mind?

1. LEARN THEIR NAMES

Researchers have identified a common need for young adults across the West. They have a strong desire to be individually loved, and to be known by those around them. This is not a love that merely means you put up with them or are happy they come to church. This is a love that knows their stories, their names and their pains.

Over Labour Weekend, I had the privilege of speaking at Word of Life's youth camp at Finlay Park. What surprised me was the huge amount of young adults who volunteered to organise games, run sessions, care for youth and provide practical care for the camp. Many of these young adults had taken leave off work to serve in this way—and every single one of them pointed to the



Tom McIvor

fact that Tom McIvor had invested in their lives.

If you don't know Tom, the National Director of Word of Life, he has lived by his saying, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." Tom has learnt the names of hundreds of young adults, encouraging their journeys, challenging them in times they have gone astray—but always from a place of specific, personal love.

Young adults have spoken to me of their yearning for this connection from their churches. They want to be known—and to know they are cared for—rather than being seen

as a resource for the youth ministry.

So, spend time talking to your young adults. Learn their names, their jobs, their hopes, their struggles. Invite them around for a meal. Encourage them and love them in a personal way.

2. PRACTICE WISE AUTHENTICITY

As a general rule, young adults don't value power, position or qualifications from their leaders half as much as they desire authenticity. Behind it all, they want to know who their leaders are as people and despise leadership as a performance.

This makes sense—as young adults have often come to the point where they recognise living a hypocritical life is profoundly unfulfilling. Perhaps they attempted this through their secondary school years, but many enter the young adult stage aware they have struggles and sin they need to confront. And they desire to see how others are doing this.

You see, it is in the young adult years that big decisions and big mistakes can often be made. Whether financial, sexual, relational, career, personal—all of these domains

“People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.’ Tom has learnt the names of hundreds of young adults, encouraging their journeys, challenging them in times they have gone astray—but always from a place of specific, personal love.”

can be powerfully shaped in these times, and young adults want to hear how others have navigated this time.

When I look back on my twenties, my most significant moments of growth did not come about from hearing a sermon (and I say this as a preacher!). Instead, they came when older guys and couples practiced courageous honesty, and shared moments from their life with me. They explained their struggles, their battles with sin, and the consequences of their choices. They shared how God's grace sustains them, and how the Spirit guides them. They talked about how faithful Christ is.

3. TRAIN THEM FOR LEADERSHIP

We're often told that the early Church was led by young leaders. Additionally, we look back at church history and can recognise that many of the powerful movements that led to reformation were led by remarkable young adults. Francis of Assisi was 24 when he became a 'fool for God'. Billy Graham was 28 at the time of his first crusade. Elizabeth of Hungary, a powerful leader in the development of care for the sick and poor, developed her first hospital at the age of 20.

It is easy to read this and lament "Why aren't our young adults doing this?" We forget that many of these leaders had training at the hands of a strong mentor. Jesus invested three years in the young disciples before commissioning them to witness and plant churches. They learnt conflict resolution, theology, preaching, financial wisdom, ethics... And then, full of the Spirit, they were equipped to lead.

Several churches in New Zealand are taking this leadership training seriously, and choosing to invest in their young adults. The Street has a two-year leadership program for young adults they identify for ministry. Papatoetoe Gospel Chapel has identified and invested

"Jesus invested three years in the young disciples before commissioning them to witness and plant churches. They learnt conflict resolution, theology, preaching, financial wisdom, ethics..."

in several young adults, using *Knowing God* as a conversation text. Botany Life has run a two-year servant and leadership training program for young adults.

This investment has seen new preachers, elders, ministry leaders, entrepreneurs and more rise up. This has not come about due to chance or luck; but due to a decision to invest significant time, love and energy into developing their young adults into leaders. As these churches have followed Paul's command to "equip his people for works of service", they are seeing vitality and maturity grow from and through these people.

There are a range of exciting stories of how God is working amongst young adults in churches, and a group of strong leaders who are experienced in helping churches understand and engage with their young adults in a meaningful, gospel-centred way.

If you'd appreciate ideas or guidance as to how better to connect with your young adults, please contact jeremys@cccnz.nz to identify and arrange for a coach to help you along this journey.

SUPPORTING RONGOPAI

Rongopai seeks to encourage you with what God is doing in and through our churches and support ministries across New Zealand. To see Rongopai grow and flourish, would you consider providing a financial gift towards helping CCCNZ publish it? If you'd like to know more please email office@cccnz.nz or deposit funds to: CCCNZ: 02-0719-0220311-000. Thanks for your support.

GO DEEPER AND GROW A LIFE-CHANGING YEAR AT PATHWAYS



SOPHIA SINCLAIR
CCCNZ COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER & RONGOPAI EDITOR

Mark Su was working as a quantity surveyor for three years before deciding to enrol at Pathways, “The reason I took the time to pursue my study in theology was twofold. Firstly, it had been on my heart to go to Bible college for a while. I always valued having a firm understanding of Scripture, and I saw the benefit it had on close friends and how it enriched their faith. Secondly, God really paved the way for it to happen.”

The music worship coordinator role at Mark’s church—Northcross Community Church in Auckland—became vacant at the end of 2017: “I felt our worship team had a lot

of momentum in terms of how we were seeing God move through our ministry,” says Mark. “There was a significant reform instigated in our team by the previous coordinator, and this left a need for someone to take the helm and consolidate what was implemented.”

Pathways’ Diploma in Christian Studies offered Mark the opportunity to both fulfil the need for leadership in a growing ministry while broadening his understanding of the Bible. “This opportunity—coupled with a flexibility that allowed me to work part-time during my study and still progress in my career—meant it was a win/win.”

Pathways College of Bible and Mission has roots in the Open Brethren movement and is an amalgamation of two colleges; New Zealand Assembly Bible School and Global Literature Outreach Bible and Missionary College (GLO).

“Pathways’ Diploma in Christian Studies offered Mark the opportunity to both fulfil the need for leadership in a growing ministry while broadening his understanding of the Bible.”

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Based in Tauranga, Pathways offers both online and onsite options for anyone wanting tertiary level training in the areas of biblical studies, theology and ministry.

Director of Ministry Training Graeme Chamberlain (who has recently moved on to a pastoral role), says he's had the privilege of seeing students thrive under the internship study model: "Our internship programmes are a combo of academic study, ministry experience and mentoring."

Courses are NZQA-approved and divided into six blocks throughout the year. "This includes lectures and teaching from qualified lecturers who have loads of practical experience in ministry," says Graeme, "many of them are currently working in churches or pastoral positions—so all theory has a seriously practical focus on how to apply theology in the real world."

Mark Su says theological study really challenged him and helped him grow. "Three of my favourite papers were Systematic Theology, Old Testament, and Christian History taken by Craig Barrow, Jeremy Suisted, and Craig Ashby respectively. These three lecturers were incredibly engaging and made the content come alive for me." And studying has given Mark a new confidence when coming to the Bible: "Learning how to properly contextualise a passage and really discern its truth for myself has given me a new reverence for Scripture."

The second component of the Diploma in Christian Studies is the practical stuff: ministry. Interns do 15 hours of hands-on work in churches or support ministries per week. This can include things like youth ministry, Christian camping, hospitality... and for Mark this meant serving Northcross Community Church as their Music Worship Coordinator.

The final component is mentoring, and this is where Graeme Chamberlain believes the real difference is made: "Mentoring is where it all gets pulled together. When a student is being mentored well it really makes all the difference to their study and growth. One of the things we discuss as a team is 'how is this person growing to become more like Jesus?' Mentoring helps provide direction and solidify the learning that's happening in the classroom and in ministry."

"I loved Pathways' emphasis on Spiritual Formation," says Mark, "although the learning was important, the lecturers never failed to remind the students that relationship with Jesus is everything. Out of all my years of secular education, never have I had staff that have cared for my well-being as much as Pathways' staff did."

Mark says the process of growth often left him face-to-face with his brokenness and sin: "In a lot of ways,



Mark Su with Pathways' Principal Craig Barrow

2018 was probably one of my toughest years spiritually and emotionally. However, God remained close and he constantly reminded me that his grace is more than sufficient for me (Romans 5:20-21); the reality of the gospel demands nothing short of my complete joy and satisfaction in him alone."

Why do many students come to Pathways? "People desperately want to be closer to God, but often don't know how," says Graeme Chamberlain, "Pathways gives you the tools to go deeper and grow. For many, it's a push towards confronting God's call on their lives. Pathways gives time and space to the desire to know the Bible better and deeper, discover Church history and become more competent in reading and teaching the Scriptures with others as they grow and hear what God is saying."

Mark says his year at Pathways has really changed his perspective: "I have a new take on young professional Christians who think that it's too much time and resources away from your career to do some tertiary study in theology. To that I say, if you'd be willing to pour thousands of dollars and years of study into an education that enables you to learn a trade or profession, how much more attention and resources should we be investing into being able to effectively minister the Gospel of Christ, which is our primary vocation in this life? I can only speak for myself, but Bible college helped lay a foundational understanding of how to approach Scripture."

Pathways offers a range of courses, including the Diploma of Christian Studies. If you're interested in checking out more visit: www.pathways.ac.nz

MORE THAN A ROOM & FOOD CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY AT EDEN CHRISTIAN HOSTEL

It's dinner time at Eden Christian Hostel and sitting around tables are dozens of university students, devouring plates of freshly-made lasagna. Chatting amongst them are hostel managers Stuart and Dianne Turner, who put together the meal. But it's not only the student's bellies they are looking after—the couple are helping ease the transition from home life to university living.

For the past 55 years, Eden Christian Hostel, in Auckland, has been the home to students in their first year of university. The former missionary home, situated at the base of Mount Eden, consists of three adjoining properties which cater for more than 40 students a year.

Far more than just a place for students to stash their textbooks, the hostel is a community where Christian students find physical, mental and spiritual support during the transition from being at home to living independently. Here, first-year students can learn basics like how to cook, do laundry, and eventually rent a flat, while maintaining personal foundations through ongoing worship meetings and fellowship with both peers and caring older adults.

Hostel managers Stuart and Dianne Turner say the aim of the hostel is to assist students in the transition from living at home to flatting. The pair lives on-site, cooking weeknight meals for the students. "We're possibly a little unique in the way we go about things, as a transition place," Stuart Turner says. "It's not just about housing and food: we see this as a family, as a community."

The hostel runs weekly meetings with worship, student testimonies, or devotionals from guest speakers. This also includes teaching around physical and mental health.

Dianne Turner says there are a lot of reasons why a young person might move away from their faith during the first year of university. "They move away from home, from their church, and come up against a lot of ideology that may be foreign to them, but which is expressed as truth," she says. "Universities here are very liberal and extremely politically correct. A Christian is at the bottom of the heap, and it's hard to be that one dissenting voice, and to stand up for what you believe."

Stuart says he sees many students wrestle with what they believe in. "Young people leaving home are discovering who



Stuart and Dianne Turner

they are ...they will make decisions on what their faith in God will look like."

He says he has seen young people who arrive at the hostel with a shallow faith. "We see a lot of Sunday-only Christians without a real evident passion for Christ and we have seen some choose to not follow Christ."

Part of being hostel managers is to facilitate a place of community that provides for their needs and show them Christ while doing so, Stuart says. "We want to be a demonstration of Christ and live life as role models, to speak into their lives as we have opportunity."

The pair invest special attention into making sure that every student becomes securely connected with a home church. "For the first few Sundays at the start of each year, we all go as a group to some of the local churches here," Dianne says. "We introduce the students to people in the church, help them make connections, churches, and ensure that everyone who wants to go to church has found a place they're comfortable with."

But the best thing for the hostel managers is watching students with firm beliefs, influence those around them. "We have seen those who share their faith and bring new people to faith in God."

For more information about Eden Christian Hostel visit: edenchristianhostel.nz

Story by Elesha Gordon with Patricia Engler.



WHAT'S NEXT? HELPING YOUNG ADULTS PREPARE TO LEAVE HOME



NICK GOODWIN
CCCNZ REGIONAL ENABLER, WAIKATO

Before Christmas I talked to a couple in my church whose daughter had recently graduated from tertiary study and entered the workforce. They described how the move away from home to study in a distant location had led to wonderful changes in her life. Previously spiritually cold and uninterested in church, something in the fresh environment awakened her from a spiritual slumber and transformed her over time into an enthusiastic and committed contributor to her new local church.

Her experience shows that the transition from school to tertiary study and work can be positive and stimulating, full of opportunities for growth, spiritual and otherwise. In Scripture, the experiences of Moses and Daniel both demonstrate that a top education surrounded by unbelievers can sometimes be excellent preparation for a life of service to God!

At the same time, we are all aware that when our young people move into work and study they encounter new challenges to faith. One significant American study found that among those engaged in church as teenagers, 43% were no longer connected in the 18-29 year age group.¹ I suspect our New Zealand experience is not very different.

Towards the end of 2018 I teamed up with the Youth Pastor at Raleigh Street, Aaron Hodgson, and together we test-ran an initiative we hoped would help Christian young people transition well from high school to work and study. This was a two-day retreat called "What's Next?", and it was open to all Year 13 (i.e. Seventh Form) high school students attending the various Cambridge churches.

The programme included teaching on a range of subjects, such as: how to connect your faith to work and study; how to stay accountable and find a new church when you leave home; maintaining your spiritual vitality as an adult; dealing with finances; and answering hard apologetic questions.

¹ David Kinnaman, *You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church and Rethinking Faith* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2011).



Peverel Flats

We also took a field trip to the local university, met a Christian academic there for questions and answers, and considered how to do a Bible study in a university cafeteria. Some university students were invited along to offer points of connection for school leavers.

My favourite element in the programme was a panel discussion on the second day, reflecting on subjects that had been covered during the previous sessions. For this discussion we invited an experienced builder, a veterinarian, and a landscape designer. Their contrasting study and work experiences—connected to a deep Christian faith—made for an absorbing session as they responded with insight to student’s questions.

We have a lot to learn about how to run such a retreat well; our marketing wasn’t great, attendance was variable, and we noticed many possible improvements. (For instance, a lot of questions asked of our panel were about choosing a career, a topic we hadn’t specifically covered in the programme!). Still, we believe running this retreat was a fundamentally sensible thing to do, and we’re committed to building on the start we’ve made in future years. Maybe there are other churches in



Residents of Longview Taurima

the CCCNZ network who would like to work collaboratively on developing something together?

Of course, a one-off retreat like this is no silver bullet—ideally, it should supplement wider efforts to make disciples of young people and integrate them into their church family well before they reach this important transition. Other steps church leaders could take in addition to a central focus on disciple-making include:

1. Assign one or two older members of the congregation to take a special interest in young people departing for work and study, by contacting them regularly and showing hospitality when they return to visit.
2. Acknowledge young people’s new beginnings publicly in church and pray for them.
3. Where a young person has a special vocational interest (such as teaching, medicine or science), ask a mature Christian in the same vocational area to meet with them in a mentoring capacity some time before they embark on their training—then they will have someone they can turn to with the particular challenges they meet in their chosen career.
4. With permission, pass on their contact details to a local church in their new town, or if they are students, to a national Christian student ministry. Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship (TSCF), for instance, has Christian workers and student clubs at every university and several polytechnics around New Zealand.
5. Make sure students travelling for tertiary study are aware of Christian accommodation options. There are three student hostels with connections to CCCNZ: Eden Christian Hostel (Auckland); Longview Taurima Hostel (Hamilton); and Rahiri (Palmerston North). In addition, there are other possibilities, such as TSCF residential accommodation in Dunedin and Wellington, or Riccarton Community Church’s Peverel Flats in Christchurch. (Check out other articles in this issue for more details!)

One book which has particularly helped me think constructively about this area is *Sticky Faith*.² This book, drawing on research into school leavers by Fuller Theological Seminary, suggests a number of practical ways in which churches can make the faith of their school leavers ‘sticky.’ If you’re interested to learn more, I’d suggest this book as a good place to start.

Nick Goodwin is an Associate Pastor at Raleigh Street Christian Centre, Cambridge. The eldership of the church have commissioned him to spend several days a week ministering at the University of Waikato.

² Kara E. Powell, Brad M. Griffin and Cheryl A. Crawford, *Sticky Faith: Youth Worker Edition* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011).

GIVE A YEAR OUT FOR GOD



Alix Pene

“After leaving high school I was looking for direction. I had a sense that God was calling me into ministry, but I had no idea what that would look like or which direction to move in. I knew God would be able to use, shape, and grow me during an internship with Word of Life—so I signed up!”

20-year-old Alix Pene was one of Word of Life NZ’s 2018 interns—young adults who spend a year doing an internship involving practical experience, mentoring and study through Pathways Mission and Bible College.

Word of Life Director Tom McIvor says the internship is one way to help young people grow in evangelism and discipleship, “We’ve been running the internship since 2005 and we’ve learnt a lot about how to walk alongside interns to help them grow spiritually, academically and in practical ministry experience during their year with us.”

“Most interns join the team after taking part in a Word of Life mission or event. They’re given a specific role on our team and are mentored and discipled by our staff,” says Tom. It was really helpful to spend a year developing her gifts, says Alix: “My internship helped me hone skills and release the gifts that God has given me; it was a joy to be encouraged in excellence and be part of a team who use their gifts to honour and serve God.”

For Tom and the staff team, seeing people grow in Jesus Christ is a key focus for shepherding interns: “We love to see people use their giftings and grow into their skills.

“It was really helpful to spend a year developing her gifts, says Alix: ‘My internship helped me hone skills and release the gifts that God has given me; it was a joy to be encouraged in excellence and be part of a team who use their gifts to honour and serve God.’”

We’re more interested in character development than ticking boxes. It’s about who you become, and all of our interns have a part to play.”

Alix’s part involved a lot of planning and logistics: “My big thing was always people; contacting churches, MCing... I’m kind of an elusive person—not easily tied down—and God used this year to help me learn commitment and finishing, to sit down and get it done. I learnt pretty quickly that if I got the logistics done and out of the way, I’d have more time for discipleship, more time to sit down and read the Bible with someone or spend time in relationship. My dad was really impressed by my growth in this area, and mentioned he’d noticed how much I’d matured in my ability to sit down, focus and get stuff done.”

This year, after finishing the internship, Alix is working on the staff team at Word of Life—helping develop a new focus and way of organising evangelistic events. Instead of running one-off sports tournaments as evangelistic events, the Word of Life staff team will work alongside local youth groups to develop outreaches specific to their context—equipping youth leaders and young people to evangelise and disciple by giving them tools, training and support.

Alix is also preparing to head to the US later in 2019 to do some further training and study: “I knew I loved working with youth and my year with Word of Life confirmed it. I want to be as well-equipped as I can be.”

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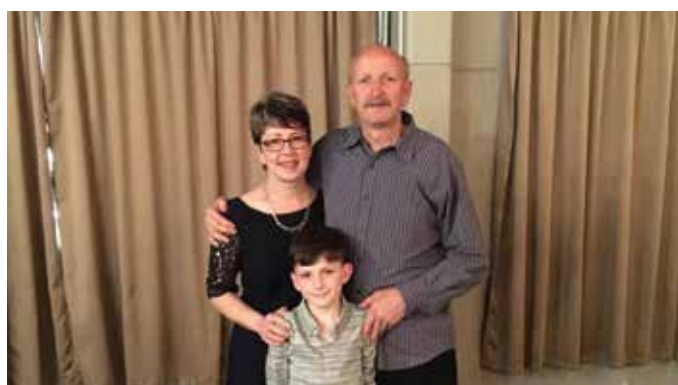
“The Word of Life internship was a growing experience for me. I’d encourage anyone in the same boat, or someone fresh out of high school, who might be looking to God to give direction and leading to take the leap and give a year out for God. You might not be called into full-time ministry but be encouraged our world needs teachers, engineers, factory

workers... the world needs people who will talk about God to those who haven’t heard about Jesus Christ in every sector. God will lead you and he’ll use your experiences to grow you to be more like Christ.”

For more info on Word of Ministries NZ: www.wol.org.nz

Story by Sophia Sinclair

TAKING THE LONG VIEW



Stephanie, Mark and Ryan Jenkins

“Our name is Longview Taurima. ‘Longview’ refers to the Longview Trust, and to taking the long view of investing time and energy into people. ‘Taurima’ is a Māori word meaning ‘place of shelter or refuge’. And that’s what this hostel aims to be for students leaving home.”

Stephanie and Mark Jenkins are managers at Longview Taurima in Hamilton, Waikato, and came to the position with a two-year stay in mind: “We felt like everything we’d done previously was leading up to our position here. We came for two years and have stayed for 19!”

And over the 19 years they’ve experienced the full range of challenges, joys, frustrations and celebrations. “Day-to-day life at Taurima is much a like a household community, we do all the routine things like meals, maintenance and admin, but you need to be prepared for the unexpected: anything can happen!”

“You can’t do this sort of work if you aren’t prepared to answer ‘no’ to the question: ‘are you busy?’ We might be up to eyeballs in accounts, or right in the middle of fixing plumbing, but if you’re not prepared to prioritise relationship then you’ve missed the point—and the opportunity of relating to, discipling and supporting students.”

“We are able to walk alongside the students. One girl told me that she wouldn’t have been able to hang on to faith if it hadn’t been for the community at Taurima.”

We can often make the mistake of thinking young people only want someone their own age and stage to relate to, says Stephanie: “They’re usually not looking for a peer, but someone to listen, someone to help with the practical, everyday things, or someone who will help without making them look stupid.”

The transition away from home can be a hard one for many young Christians, “We often don’t realise how hard it is to leave a church family you’ve known all your life and start afresh again somewhere new. Finding somewhere comfortable might take a while, and it might not be the popular ‘student’ church.”

“We are able to walk alongside the students. One girl told me that she wouldn’t have been able to hang on to faith if it hadn’t been for the community at Taurima.”

But not everyone who comes to Taurima is a Christian, making it a safe place to explore faith and what it means to believe in Jesus.

Calling himself a Christian was something Jordan Roper thought he’d never do: “I came to Taurima because I was looking for accommodation in Hamilton and I was totally against the drinking culture and figured Christians would be like-minded and we’d actually get to have fun without getting drunk. But believing in God seemed impossible.”

“I’m really interested in history and science, and the history of the Church and Christianity seemed really dodgy—full of people who did awful things in the name of religion. I also couldn’t see how science and faith could fit together. But I opened up to the possibility that God exists, and began to have conversations with Christians about how God and science fit together, and about how to read the Bible and Christian history in context.”

And the environment at Taurima was one where he could ask deep questions: “Instead of approaching a uni lecturer and hearing, ‘God is dead’, the community at Taurima was one where I was listened to, encouraged to go to church and discuss my doubts openly.”

“Taurima played a really big part in who I am now. It wasn’t just two years, it will shape who I am forever. I now call myself a Christian and am continuing to explore what it means to follow Jesus. This has been a pretty big change for

me. My family have had a mixed reaction. My mum’s family has been supportive, but Dad and his family are still unsure if it’s just a phase and are a bit hesitant.”

Young adulthood is often a time where people investigate faith, but also a time when people might walk away, “We focus on keeping the conversation open and the lines of communication open,” says Stephanie, “one resident was a pastor’s son who had decided not to follow his parents’ faith, but halfway through the following year he told me ‘God and I are friends again’. We have the privilege of walking with students in different places in their journey.”

Churches and families who have just sent off young people have an important role to play too, says Stephanie: “Pray. It’s not, ‘just’ pray, but pray—it’s powerful! And keep in contact and don’t be afraid to ask the challenging questions: ‘How’s church? And your walk with the Lord? One other thing families can do is send mail, a card or a letter means so much to students who are living away from home.”

“Remember that it is taking the long view; this is an exciting, challenging and rewarding time in most people’s lives and it’s a blessing to walk alongside students in this role.”

For more information on Longview Taurima: www.taurima.nz

Story by Sophia Sinclair



PREPARE

We’ve developed a simple booklet with some key steps for setting yourself up for a healthy spiritual life when you leave home. It’s called PREPARE, and it’s downloadable and shareable via our website: www.ccnz.nz

‘CHANGE THE UNIVERSITY, CHANGE THE WORLD’*

Dunedin is one of New Zealand’s most ‘infamous’ student cities... burning couches, wild parties, creative thinkers, and people studying medicine... So, what does day-to-day life look like for those serving in Christian ministry to students at Otago?

Rongopai Editor Sophia Sinclair caught up with Jandre Niehaus, who—along with his wife Micaela—is a Team Leader for Student Life; and with Simon and Rosie Sim, who work with Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship (TSCF). Both families are based in Dunedin at the University of Otago.

In many ways sharing the gospel in a university context is pretty similar to sharing the gospel anywhere, says Jandre. “Most students on campus have never been to church or Sunday school and don’t know much about the gospel—which is the reality most Christians face when seeking to share the good news with their neighbours.”

“Our focus is on evangelism and discipleship,” says Jandre, “we’re aiming to give students in Dunedin at least one opportunity to hear the gospel presented in an attractive way and to equip Christian students to share the gospel. “We’ve found that students are often open and curious, rather than hostile, to talk about the spiritual side of life.”

SEMESTER BY SEMESTER...

Life often follows the rhythms and seasons of the university calendar, but the vision, “to reach students for Christ, and change students for life” is at the heart of the day-to-day for Simon and Rosie Sim.

Practically, most of their work involves working together with Christian student groups on campus to reach and



Simon and Rosie Sim

disciple students; and meeting up with students one-to-one to study the Bible together. “We also live in an intentional Christian student community called ‘The Quarters’, where we do life together with students, cultivating Christian community and spiritual formation.”

For many students, moving away from home for the first time is a big step—it’s more than just getting a degree, it’s also about discovering who they are, and establishing their identity. “It’s a time of exploration, gathering new experiences and forming opinions, values and beliefs which go on to shape the rest of life.” Simon and Rosie have had a number of first-years living in The Quarters with them over the last year: “This has given us the opportunity to journey with them during this formative time.”

While university students are often open and curious, they can also be some of the most argumentative and resistant: “We’ve observed that faith has to be more than credible, it has to be authentic,” share Simon and Rosie, “...and that’s one of the ongoing challenges of student ministry; being able to engage meaningfully with students on the deep questions of faith and life, and how the gospel speaks to them all.”

Jandre and the Sims describe how exciting it is to see the way God is working as more and more students from all over the world arrive in New Zealand to study; “The campus has become a place of rich diversity and multiculturalism,” say Simon and Rosie, “...in our work with international student ministry, it really has been a gift to us to have so many cultures and nations represented in our churches and Christian groups—especially when they share their stories and their culture with us!”



Jandre and Micaela Niehaus

* Dr Charles Malik



The Story Project

Jandre shared this story about how God is at work through evangelism, friendship and discipleship:

“A few years ago I met up with a new student who was a Christian, and I challenged him: ‘What would it be like to be used by God to see someone come to faith?’ He agreed it would be something he’d be keen to be part of, so we committed to go out during O Week and see if anyone might be keen to chat about Jesus.

“With about 20,000 students on campus there are lots of opportunities to chat, and soon enough we started talking with one guy about God. The problem of pain and suffering was a big thing for him, so we encouraged him to go along and hear a visiting Christian apologist.

“I could see he was wrestling with the idea of faith and what following Jesus would mean. We kept meeting weekly to chat about life and spiritual things, and over time we developed a friendship.

“Several months later he came to faith in Jesus. We’re two years down the track now and he was recently one of the key people in organising a two-week trip for a team to do some street evangelism in the Auckland CBD.

“The student who had initially shared the gospel with him during O Week has also grown, and recently gave a message at a Christmas camp. This is exciting to see people motivated to share the gospel and realise, ‘hey—people are open, God is at work and I want to be obedient in sharing the good news with others.’”

Students are also coming from places where they have never heard the gospel or met a Christian: “We (Simon and Rosie) have had the opportunity to reach out to them, and through community and hospitality, they hear the gospel and experience belonging. We’ve been blessed to see God work through that, and some have come to faith in Jesus.”

MAKING THE MOST OF O WEEK

We’re releasing this issue of Rongopai around the time that tertiary study is starting for thousands of students across the country, and ‘O Week’ (orientation week) can be a significant time for many students and those working with students. It’s a time to re-connect with returning students and to meet new students.

“O Week is a two-week period where the feelings of ‘Who am I? Who will I become?’ are at their strongest,” says Jandre, “Please pray for us during O Week, as students on our campus have every opportunity to be changed by the culture, but there is also an opportunity for people to ask questions and find the greatest answer ever: Jesus.”

“One of things that we’re excited about doing each year during O-Week is an outreach called *The Story Project*”, say Simon and Rosie. “*The Story Project* is where we use an art mural depicting scenes from the gospels to start conversations with students about Jesus. It’s a great opportunity for students to share their faith with others, and to invite non-Christians to encounter Jesus in the stories of Scripture, what he did and taught, and ultimately, his mission to seek and to save the lost through his life, death and resurrection.”

HOW CAN CHURCHES SUPPORT THOSE WHO WORK WITH STUDENTS?

Student work engages people at a significant and formative time in their lives, say Simon and Rosie: “The gospel of Jesus needs to form and shape who they are and the paths they choose, for the sake of God’s kingdom.”

“Be encouraged!” Says Jandre, “In 2019 God is at work in people’s lives. Remember that nothing will slow down the gospel—we are talking about God and he is at work in people’s lives. We’re so encouraged by your prayers and support. Often just knowing people are praying is a real boost, prayer is powerful and vital.”

“God is at work in the university through student work,” say Simon and Rosie, “...reaching students with the good news and changing their lives for his glorious purposes and plans. Pray with us and the work that God is doing on campus. Partner with us and work together to reach and disciple students across Aotearoa.”

For more info on the ministry of TSCF:
www.tscf.org.nz

For more info on the ministry of Student Life:
www.studentlife.org.nz

FACING THE BIG UNKNOWN



“The unknown is the hardest part. Leaving home and not knowing what life will look like, who you’ll spend your time with and what sort of person you’ll be... so many young adults are not equipped for facing the big unknown of leaving home”.

Donna Grant, along with her husband Brayden, is one of the people there to meet our young adults when they fly the nest for the first time. The Grants serve as managers at Rahiri in Palmerston North, a community of flats designed to help provide community for students moving away from home.

Rahiri hosts a maximum of 22 residents, big enough to feel like a community and small enough to really get to know each other and make life-long relationships. Planned social/communal events, weekly onsite Bible study, occasional shared meals and other events all help residents to build friendships and learn how to best care for and support each other.

Donna has been involved with ministry to youth and young adults for the past ten years, and she knows the opportunities that come with a fresh start: “For many young people, their first flatting experience offers an opportunity to put their faith into action and realise why they believe what they believe. We get the chance to walk alongside them as they ask hard questions, work out what faith in Jesus looks like and challenge themselves.”

But leaving home is not always a time of growing closer to the Lord. “We’ve seen all experiences—some where

people go through a time of deep questioning or walking away from the Lord; and we’ve learnt to keep the lines of communication open, to keep praying and extend grace as we discuss questions and doubts. It’s been wonderful to see some people come back to the Lord—even years later. We’ve seen God’s work in people’s lives and hearts, and his faithfulness time and time again.”

It’s also a wonderful opportunity for evangelism, as it’s not a requirement to be a Christian at Rahiri. “We’ve seen people who come along, curious, and are immersed in Christian culture. The influence of their (Christian) peers is huge at this stage of life. One of the real joys has been seeing students come out of their shell and evangelise their friends for the first time—and to see people grasp the truth of the gospel.”

Donna has noticed that connection is a key element for supporting young adults as they leave home; “Students are often looking for connection, particularly in their new churches. One of the reasons they tend to group together is because relationships with each other are easier to make! Churches can be welcoming to students by connecting them in with deep relationships in the life of the church. Many students long for mentoring relationships or friendship with older Christians but might not have the skills to make that happen. If you’ve got students visiting at this time of year, don’t be afraid to reach out and make the first move.”

Find out more about life at Rahiri here: www.rahiri.co.nz

Story by Sophia Sinclair



WELCOMING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

As cheap air travel and globalisation bring the nations to our doorstep, New Zealand has become a popular study location for many international students—bringing opportunities for churches to love, care and reach out to people from different cultures while they live here for a short time.

International Student Ministries (ISM) have been working in New Zealand since 2000, and during the past 19 years they've seen the numbers grow—there are now an estimated 120,000-130,000 international students studying in NZ each year, with that number predicted to grow!

International students often feel the same excitement, loneliness and overwhelm as Kiwi students leaving home for the first time—but with the added factors of learning a new language and culture. Churches can become places of community, family and support during this time of transition; and for many students, the place where they hear the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ for the first time.

How do Kiwi churches become welcoming communities for international students? Akira and Kikuko Doi are ISMNZ workers and are involved with ministry among Japanese students in New Zealand. International student ministry is most effective when churches integrate the ministry into

“It is much, much more effective when students are given opportunities to serve... Being able to take part in church life brings belonging & identity as part of the body.”

everyday church life, says Akira: “It is much, much more effective when students are given opportunities to serve—such as lead worship. Being able to take part in church life brings belonging and identity as part of the body. Students know there is a place for them to stay in the church.”

Simply being open to be a friend is also an important component to welcoming students: “One of the biggest things at the beginning of the year is a desire to connect. Loneliness and homesickness often kicks in at around the three-month mark, and then at six-months. It is very encouraging to students when people make friends with



Akira and Kikuko

them, welcome them into their lives and offer to pray for them. Offering this sort of personal, pastoral care makes a great impact.” Encourage and support those in your church who have a gift for welcoming others—these people are often particularly effective in supporting ministry among international students.

Food is another way to show welcome and appreciation of the differences in culture: “The novelty of New Zealand food, or hostel-cooked food, will have worn off for many after a few weeks,” says Akira, “there is simply nothing like having a home-cooked meal, particularly if it reminds them of home.” One idea is to use church lunches to show hospitality and welcome.

Exams present another opportunity: “Many students are under a lot of pressure during exams. We like to hand out encouragement kits; a plastic bag with some chocolate or lollies and a little note saying ‘we’re praying for you.’”

Developing a team is also an important part of supporting international student ministry. An ISM worker, or a returned missionary, or someone who has recently immigrated from another country may be able to help lead or support this sort of ministry—particularly if they have language skills and connections with their community. “Communication is very helpful in our ministry,” says Akira, “making sure there are resources available in students’ native language—possibly even a translation of sermons—makes a huge difference. Even trying to communicate the message with pictures to aid understanding. It’s important for international students to grow in understanding of God and the gospel in resources using their own languages—especially as most return to their countries after studying.”

The Dois facilitate several Bible studies and prayer opportunities for Japanese students as part of their ministry, giving a chance for students to reflect and ask questions about the sermon or other spiritual material.

The impact of student ministry has been significant for the Japanese Church, says Akira: “In Japan, 50% of Christians received Christ while they were living overseas. Many more respond to the gospel but have a very hard time re-entering Japanese culture and connecting with traditional Japanese churches, there is an 80% drop-off rate. One strategy that is currently being explored is setting up churches in Japan which reflect people’s international experiences in a church setting.”

Supporting returned students is another opportunity for New Zealand churches: “We try to visit Japan as often as we can to support returned students, for encouragement. Another idea is church mission trips where a team of people might go to visit a number of former members.” Akira says that ongoing connection with churches overseas, and an increased awareness of global mission (even sending out missionaries) is another by-product of supporting international students.

Akira says he is particularly keen to support any churches interested in reaching Japanese students.

If you or your church is looking for advice on starting ministry to international students, the team at ISM would love to assist you and have a wide range of resources available to help get you started: www.ism.org.nz

Story by Sophia Sinclair



Small Group Leaders Prayer

RE-CONSTRUCTING FAITH FOR THE LONG-HAUL

“A few years ago, we began to pray and think intentionally about raising up the next generation of leaders—and we realised there weren’t a whole lot of people around to step up.”

It’s not uncommon to hear this sort of intention coming from the mouths of older leaders. But here’s the catch: James Sheat and the team at Riccarton Community Church (RCC) were a group in their mid-20s—all young professionals—at the time they began planning for new leadership.

“We began discussing what it was like for us when we were going through uni and leaving home for the first time,” says James, “we asked ourselves: What was it that made us get through uni with our faith intact? When many use their uni years as a time to deconstruct their faith, what helped us re-construct it for the long-haul?”

When several members of their group talked about the lasting impact of their time at The Peverel Flats, the group began looking for ways to re-ignite an old ministry.

THE HISTORY OF THE PEVEREL FLATS

In 2004, RCC members Joy and Russell Broughton felt called to start a ministry to serve students moving to Christchurch for their first year of uni. The Broughtons commissioned two purpose-built, six bedroom flats and ran them successfully for eight years, with nearly 100 students benefitting from community life and pastoral care as they adjusted to student life.

After the earthquakes of 2010/11, numbers of students coming to Christchurch dropped off and the ministry drew to a close, with the units being sold off.

When James Sheat and his fellow young adults began talking and praying about new leadership, they began exploring the possibility of re-launching a ministry focused on building intentional community. When they approached the new owners of the units they asked about the possibility of allowing a team from RCC to manage the flats and sub-letting to residents. The new owners agreed!

Three years ago The Peverel Flats re-launched (with enthusiastic support from original leaders Joy and Russell Broughton, and the leadership of RCC). These flats are a uniquely Christian environment for young adults to explore faith, community and life away from home in a supportive environment.



The team of young adults which helped re-launch The Peverel Flats

A NEW SEASON

“The re-launch hasn’t been without teething problems; sometimes we’ve needed extra young adults from RCC to fill spare rooms, but overall it has been a success. This year we’ve got one flat of first-years supported by another flat of returning students who are already connected to the community.” Each resident is mentored by a member of the oversight team: James and Grace Sheat, Caleb and Sophie Meyer, Lauren and Matt Taylor, William and Jessamy Minish. “...And we’re praying about finding an older couple who can provide some regular pastoral support and care.”

Growing young leaders, nurturing students and supporting intentional Christian community is not always easy, but the fruit is always worth praising God for. “I think for many churches and Christians it is about finding the confidence to initiate,” says James, “often I’ll hear people say: ‘Yes, being a student leaving home is a tough time for faith.’ But it will stop at sentiment, it takes confidence to act.”

It doesn’t have to be complicated—you don’t have to buy a purpose-built block of flats—it can be as simple as developing a friendship. “A friend of mine started babysitting for a church family when she was a student. They would host her in their home and just got to know her. Years on, she is now married and having a family of her own and the friendship is still there. Discipleship often looks like sharing life in Christ together in an ordinary, everyday way.” And it’s this ‘ordinary’ context—a student flat—that provides the space for friendship, discipleship and community at Peverel Flats.

For more info on The Peverel Flats: www.peverelflats.co.nz

Story by Sophia Sinclair

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH



IAN REID
TRUSTS SCHOLARSHIPS COORDINATOR

If you are reading Rongopai, then it is likely that you love the Church; or at least you love your church. You might not love every detail, but you see that through the Church God is making his gospel known, he is bringing people to himself and he is transforming us into the people that he wants.

God will always look after his church, he always does, but if we are going to faithfully pass on the truth of the gospel to the next generation then we need to intentionally invest in them, to train people to handle the Bible well, and love and lead God's people. How do we help the next generation to not only love the Church, but lead it in a direction that loves and honours God?

As the CCCNZ Scholarships Coordinator I am regularly encouraging people to take time out to do theological study (and often time away from their local church). So, you might be surprised to hear that I don't think theological study is THE most important thing in raising up a new generation of godly leaders! I believe there is something far more important for the health of the Church.

The most important thing is this: ***Strong local churches where older generations are investing in younger generations; where the Bible is opened regularly; and where people of all ages have opportunities to serve each other.***

It is in these loving and serving communities that older generations invest in others, recognise gifts in younger people, and give them an opportunity to use them. It is from these communities that we want to send young people to get formal training so they can better serve the Church (whether that is our local church or further afield).

This is the role of scholarships. They are not a replacement for a local church's responsibility and ability to disciple and foster the next generation of Christian leaders. They are a

way to help young people to be equipped to better serve our churches in the future. We want the right people, studying in the right institutions, and serving in the right places.

The right people are those who are already loving and serving in a local church. They are often those who are already doing the work but see they would be better equipped by a bit of training. We want to encourage these people to do some study so they are able to better serve the Church.

Godly leaders do not typically just spring up before us. The right people come through intentional investment by those who are slightly older and wiser; through the age-old tradition of one generation loving and discipling another.

Are there young people in your church who need discipling? Opening the Bible with someone an hour a week or fortnight will never be a waste of time, even if it is only for a season.

In my experience, young people are craving for older people to invest in them. Every time I have asked a young person to open the Bible with me they have jumped at the chance and have been extremely grateful for it. You will be surprised by their enthusiasm!

If we want to see a new generation of people loving and serving Jesus then we need to start with the people right in front of us. Pray about who God might have you encourage in godliness, and try developing a relationship with someone younger with the intention of discipleship. Maybe you've got some godly people who are ready for theological training? Or maybe you'd like to know more for your own development?

Please get in touch with me to chat about how scholarships can support training and discipleship in your church, as we invest in the next generation of leaders together.

ianreid@cccnz.nz, 021 180 6135

There is more info on specific scholarships and how you can apply at www.cccnz.nz

“The right people come through intentional investment by those who are slightly older and wiser; through the age-old tradition of one generation loving and discipling another.”

REMEMBERING IAN ELLIOTT

Many of our readers will be aware of the recent sudden passing of Ian Elliott in Waikato hospital on 8 January, after receiving a cancer diagnosis.

Stuff media described Ian as ‘a prominent Waikato farmer’ and a ‘highly-respected business man’, but for many in our movement—and indeed in the wider New Zealand Church—Ian was most well-known for his faith in Jesus and his extraordinary vision and leadership. Indeed, it was Ian’s faith and his relationships which were the focus of the tributes given at his funeral.

With this in mind, we have asked CCCNZ Ambassador Mark Grace to share about the personal impact of Ian’s friendship and spiritual mentoring.

Ian served as a CCCNZ Board Member until August 2018 and supported the development of the CCCNZ Service Trust through his involvement with Lichfield Lands. Over the last three years Ian became both a friend and mentor to me. Someone whose advice and wisdom I appreciated greatly.

I appreciated Ian’s ‘joined-up’ faith in Jesus Christ; whether it was supporting a widow in his local church, negotiating farming developments with Trinity Lands, supporting a campsite, or chatting with a newly-released prisoner. Ian’s faith in Christ informed and shaped each interaction. He served our Lord, where he was, with what he had.

I appreciated Ian’s heart for our movement and his stewardship of various resources for it. Ian knew well the strengths and weakness of the movement. He knew God’s economy, he knew the gospel grows through groups of Christians being faithful to Jesus over the long haul. He knew that sometimes the most significant gospel initiatives happen far away from the Christian public’s eye. He knew well that size and significance in the Kingdom of God are not necessarily related. There are many churches, ministries and individuals across our movement who can attest to Ian’s integrity.

I immensely appreciated Ian’s passion to pass the baton on to the next generation—whether it be in farming, philanthropy, or ministry—Ian sought out, invested in, and brought younger leaders into new places of service and impact. This could be helping young couples get established on farms, bringing younger leaders onto boards, or seeking



to see younger leaders step up to senior leadership roles in ministry across New Zealand.

I valued Ian’s love for his family—whether it was a meeting or morning tea, whether there were budgets to be discussed, or just a catch up—Ian’s family was never far from the conversation. I think of Margaret and his daughters, and their families, and I continue to pray for them as they grieve.

I appreciated that Ian served for an ‘audience of one’. Sometimes I’d get a glimpse from those involved in a project with him about how he served Jesus; he served Jesus with no fuss, no noise, and no focus on himself. He’d be willing to have the tough conversation to challenge the prevailing wisdom, or bring unwilling heads together to see resources developed for the gospel or to see the gospel grow.

Like many of you, I’m missing Ian.

I’m missing Ian’s friendship; I’d often drop him a call to pick his brains. I’m missing his humour; he wasn’t a Warriors fan! I’m missing his hospitality; he did a great baked beans on toast. Lastly, I’m really missing his stories!

As much as I’m missing Ian, I know where he is and *WHO* he is with. I know the gospel Ian trusted is still good news for every New Zealander.

I know God has good things for the movement and ministries Ian contributed to, and so I give thanks to God for Ian’s life and legacy and his impact on my life.

Please join with us in praying for Ian’s family; his wife Margaret, his daughters and son-in-law Sarah, Marianne, Theresa and Tom, along with their children. Pray also for Ian’s brothers and sisters, and their families: Bruce and Marylyn, Delwynne and Stuart, Christine and Steve; Graham and Betty, Sue, Jeff and Anne.

CCCNZ REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Our regional gatherings are events for anyone who knows and loves Jesus, and wants to learn how to serve in an ordinary, everyday way.

These get-togethers are practical events where you'll spend time sitting under great teaching, time meeting and worshipping alongside like-minded Christians from churches within our movement, and time delving into God's Word as you learn how to share it with someone else.

We run our regional events at different times of the year, up and down the country--so there's bound to be one within driving distance. Maybe you could consider making a day of it and coming with a group from your church?



Here's some feedback we received from last year's regional events:

"The CCCNZ Regional Conference encouraged me to keep going with reading the Bible with the group of girls, and now begin encouraging them to start reading with others... To allow God to be a part of everything and to keep looking to him to see what he is doing in those in my circles and ask him how he wants me to be part of that."

"I was inspired by the conference to mentor a teenager, which I've just started doing."

"Refreshingly low-key and well-organised."

"I enjoyed the CCCNZ Regional Conference. It was very helpful and challenging with a good mix of speaker/worship/small groups/coffee."

Where and when?

- Lower South Island: Saturday 6th April, Riverside Chapel, Henley, Otago.
- Waikato: Saturday 4th May, Raleigh Street Christian Centre, Cambridge.
- Canterbury: 14th to 15th June, Rutland Street Church, Christchurch.
- Central and Lower North Island: Saturday 24th August, The Anchor Church, Whitby, Porirua.
- Auckland: Saturday 21st September, Northcross Church, Oteha, North Shore, Auckland.

For more information visit www.cccnz.nz or get in touch with the office: office@cccnz.nz

CCCNZ ADMIN WORKSHOPS

Our admin workshops are special events for anyone serving in a church admin role: office managers, administrators, treasurers, secretaries, elders, leaders, paid or voluntary...

We're excited to promote our first event for 2019: **Child Protection Workshop**.

If you, or anyone in your church, works with children and/or vulnerable people this event is a must-attend. Presenter Jane Searle is an expert in the area of child protection and safety and brings decades of experience and understanding of both the practical and legal side of things.



All our facilitators know what it's like to serve in these roles within the context of our movement, and they are passionate about seeing the ministry of administration contribute to the work of the gospel going out to Kiwis.

CHILD PROTECTION WORKSHOP

- 25 March, Manurewa Bible Church, Auckland.
- 27 March, Bryndwr Chapel, Christchurch.

GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP

A workshop to assist boards and support ministries to effectively run meetings and create processes that best support their organisations and management to achieve their goals.

- 5 June, Manurewa Bible Church, Auckland.
- 6 June, Bryndwr Chapel, Christchurch.

HR AND EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP

A workshop focusing on best practice and legal framework for employing staff within our churches and support ministries.

- 28 August, Manurewa Bible Church, Auckland, and via webinar.

FINANCE WORKSHOP

Learn more about the best practice and legal requirements for stewarding church finances.

- 7 October, Manurewa Bible Church, Auckland.
- 9 October, Bryndwr Chapel, Christchurch.

To register: www.cccnz.nz

For more information please get in touch with CCCNZ National Administrator Danielle Diprose: daniellediprose@cccnz.nz or 027 354 4172

CCCNZ YOUTH EVENTS

Our Youth events are designed to support, connect, and train youth, youth leaders and youth pastors.



YOUTH SUMMIT

A national get-together for Youth Pastors and Key Youth Leaders with time for training, planning, prayer and co-ordination. Cost: \$180. Please register by visiting the News & Events page of www.cccnz.nz

20 - 22 May, Totara Springs Christian Centre, Waikato

FIRST TRAINING

FIRST Training is a CCCNZ Youth initiative aimed at those aged 16-18 who are beginning or preparing to take on leadership responsibilities in our churches and youth ministries. It consists of two 3 day retreats to which youth pastors and key leaders invite selected young people to attend.

Content

Teaching: By CCCNZ youth enabler and experienced youth pastors . All content is leadership focused with a biblical foundation and participants record what they learn in pre-printed workbooks.

Group interaction: Small group discussion times where participants build community and grow in understanding.

Personal reflection: Directed solo time and journalling.

Curriculum

The curriculum covers four core areas:

- Leadership dynamics
 - Leadership skills
 - Self awareness
 - Personal devotion
-
- **South Island: Living Springs, Christchurch: 1-3 June (Queen's Birthday Weekend)**
 - **Upper North Island: Camp Whakamaru 9 - 11 July (First week school holidays)**
 - **Lower North Island: Forest Lakes, Otaki 16 - 18 July (Second week school holidays)**

For more info on any of these events please get in touch with CCCNZ Youth Enabler Murray Brown: murraybrown@cccnz.nz or 027 841 5321

CCCNZ CONSIDERING MINISTRY

This is a workshop for those considering study, receiving scholarships, or currently studying theology/ministry training; either for the purpose of preparing for future ministry, or for developing current ministry.

If you'd like to know more about this event, either for yourself or for someone in your church, please get in touch with Ian Reid: ianreid@cccnz.nz or 021 180 6135



- 2 April 2019, Life Centre, Level 1, 21 Hania Street, Mt Victoria, Wellington.
- 21 August 2019, Bryndwr Chapel, Christchurch.

CCCNZ CHURCH PLANTING FORUMS

Church Planting Forums are a place for pastors, elders, leaders, and planters who are all at different stages of working through what church planting could look like for them.

Together we will hear some of the stories of how church planting has served to advance the gospel among CCCNZ churches, share where we are currently at in our church planting journey, pray for and encourage one another.



Under God, our desire is for an intentionally evangelistic approach to starting new churches, congregations, and re-ignitions to take hold of our movement. We would love you to be a part of taking the first steps in that direction.

For more info and to register your interest, contact CCCNZ Church Planting Enabler Dave Giesbers: daveg@cccnz.nz or 021 585 212

- 2 April 2019, Life Centre, Level 1, 21 Hania Street, Mt Victoria, Wellington.
- 21 August 2019, Bryndwr Chapel, Christchurch.

CCCNZ PASTORLINK RETREAT

A retreat for pastors and their spouses to unwind, de-brief, connect and be fed from the Word of God together.



We're pleased to announce this year's speaker: Steve Harling. Steve has served in pastoral ministry for 36 years, in churches of all different sizes—small, medium and large—most recently as the pastor of Foothills Community Church in Colorado, USA. Steve also has experience serving pastorally in a cross-cultural context, and is now president of Reach Beyond. Steve is a passionate preacher and is known for his ability to mentor and train others in mission and ministry—from walking alongside and helping prepare people for cross-cultural work, to managing large staff teams, and pastoring diverse congregations.

- 6 - 9 August, MiCamp, Taupo.

For more information on CCCNZ PastorLink, please get in touch with Kerry Rickard, the CCCNZ PastorLink Enabler: kerryrickard@cccnz.nz or 022 439 2507



Steve Harling

NATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS' RETREAT

A time where board members from Support Ministries (which include service providers, campsites, hostels, funders and parachurch agencies) can be together and work to focus on how best to support our movement's churches and each other to see the gospel grow.



- 6-7 September 2019, Willow Park, Auckland.

For more info contact the CCCNZ Office: office@cccnz.nz