



STRONGER TOGETHER

CCCNZ ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Young Adults from CCCNZ churches around the Lower North Island demonstrate how we're stronger when we work together as they complete the Confidence Course at Highland Home in Pohangina Valley, Manawatū, while taking part in the 2025 Next Training Retreat.

STRONGER TOGETHER: IT TAKES ALL OF US

CEO'S REPORT | ROGER OSBALDISTON

10 years ago, CCCNZ began with a belief that “together works better.”

Beginning in 2016, Mark Grace and the CCCNZ Board and Staff Team have done a phenomenal job of inviting churches to come together, to meet together, to pray together, and to work together. At the end of 2025 more than 100 churches had linked in to the CCCNZ network, and thousands of people have attended summits, trainings, workshops, and retreats.

After a decade of work and prayer, we are “stronger together.”

In my first months as CEO, I had the privilege of visiting many regions, meeting elders and leaders. One comment stood out to me during this time, when an elder in the South Island stood up in a meeting and said, *“I want to thank CCCNZ... you have brought us together, and lifted us up.”*

This summed up what I was hearing—CCCNZ was bringing leaders together, and championing the work of our local churches, as they do the work of pointing people to Jesus.

As we enter our second decade, we are looking to build on the foundation laid as we continue to grow stronger together.

When I was considering applying to join the CCCNZ team, I was reading the book of Acts and as Paul and his missionary team visited the churches, one verse captured the result of their work:

“So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and grew daily in numbers.” – Acts 16:5

This remains our prayer and vision for our movement—that our churches around the nation would be strengthened in their faith and growing daily.

HOW CAN WE GROW STRONGER TOGETHER?

During my first months with CCCNZ, I've been asking elders, leaders, churches and support ministries to identify major priorities for us to be focusing on together in this next season.

The summary of this has been to prioritise three main areas. These reflect how God is already at work among us—we're privileged to share some of these stories with you in this report, and to ask you to prayerfully consider how you might join us in working together to see:



Young people and their youth leaders at the 2025 Canterbury First Training Retreat.

The Gospel for Every Person

We invite churches to work together to make disciples all around our nation, and beyond. Pointing people to Jesus, through the gospel, from the Bible remains a primary focus of our movement. Together we are seeking to reach and make disciples among all peoples and communities around our nation.

A Church for Every Community

We invite churches to work together to plant and revitalise churches in every place the Lord leads us. Alongside others, we believe that every community ought to have a faithful gospel witness. As a movement we want to do our part to engage under-served communities with a local church presence and help revitalise churches that are seeking support.

Leaders for Every Church

We invite churches to work together to develop leaders for every part of church ministry and mission. One of the biggest areas of challenge for us as a movement is the need for leaders at almost every level, in almost every church. We want to support leadership development, especially among emerging generations.

As we move into the year ahead, Leadership Development will be the primary area of our focus, as the future of gospel witness and church strengthening and growth depends on the development of new and mature leaders. We look forward to introducing some new initiatives to support the work of local churches in identifying and equipping leaders.

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WAYS WE GREW STRONGER TOGETHER IN 2025

Bringing people together continued to be one of the ways CCCNZ helped the wider movement grow stronger in 2025. 42 different events were held across the year in each region, serving and supporting more than 166 CCCNZ/Open Brethren Heritage churches.

In 2025, CCCNZ brought 531 people together from 91 churches for the purpose of connecting and growing at seven Regional Summits.

CCCNZ invested in growing and developing leaders who work among the ‘next generation’ (youth and young adults ministry, camping ministry, community ministry, children and families’ ministry). This included running church-based training, E-QUIP online training, First Training, and Next Training. The Lead Well conference at Willow Park in Auckland also played a significant role, as 46 leaders from around the country came together to explore building teams—bringing together elders, key ministry leaders, and others working among the next generation.

Marcus and Ros Honeysett from Living Leadership UK played a key role in ministering at the CCCNZ Staff Team Conference, to pastors and spouses at the annual PastorLink Retreat at MiCamp in Taupō, and at a series of regional gatherings—bringing together local church elders and leaders to talk about what healthy, godly, biblical leaders look like.

CCCNZ ran two eldership pilots in Auckland and Waikato, developed and facilitated by Peter Lemmon and supported by our Regional Enablers. The success of these pilots paved the way for the Eldership Development Workshops being rolled out across the country in 2026.

CCCNZ also hosted regional Elder and Leader Gatherings, Risk and Liability Workshops, and a CCCNZ and Te Maru Hui for churches to better understand some of the resources available throughout the wider movement.

COMING TOGETHER TO GROW TOGETHER

These more formal events and gatherings were supported by regular newsletters, emails, messages, phone calls, and face-to-face meetings—ordinary and regular contact made by the CCCNZ Staff Team as they seek to support and serve the movement of churches.

In 2025 three churches chose to formally link in with CCCNZ for the first time: Northern Hills Church (Wellington), Kaitaia Bible Chapel (Northland), and Au uso Kerisiano Papakura (Auckland). We are thankful for what God is doing in each fellowship and for what each church offers to the wider movement.

I am incredibly grateful for the work of CCCNZ churches and their elders and leaders, and the work of the CCCNZ Board and Staff Team. We are supported by some godly and gifted leaders.

I also want to extend our heartfelt thanks for the support of several trusts and individuals, especially that of Lichfield Lands Inc. and Hillview trusts. We would not be able to do what we do without your ongoing commitment to our movement.

There is a famous phrase that says; “it takes a village to raise a child.”

I believe that it also takes all of us—churches, leaders, trusts, and ministries—working together into this next decade, confident that we can be “stronger together.”



Roger Osbaldiston
CCCNZ CEO

STRONGER TOGETHER: OUR HERITAGE & OUR CALLING



“When we work together—respecting one another’s autonomy while sharing resources, wisdom, and burden—churches thrive.”

As we step into the second decade of the Christian Community Churches of New Zealand Trust, our theme “Stronger Together” captures both our heritage and our calling. CCCNZ exists to serve autonomous churches of Open Brethren Heritage—equipping, connecting, and encouraging them so that the gospel of Jesus Christ continues to be proclaimed faithfully from the Scriptures, generation-to-generation.

2025 brought a significant leadership transition. We give thanks for Mark Grace and the faithful, energetic service he gave as Ambassador. Mark has left a strong foundation of relationships, regional engagement, and a clear focus on the next generation of leaders. We also warmly welcome Roger Osbaldiston as CEO. Roger brings deep experience, a steady hand, and a heart for the churches and support ministries that make up our movement. The Board is grateful for the continuity and fresh energy this transition brings.

One of the most encouraging developments has been the eldership workshops. Piloted in 2025 under the leadership of Peter Lemmon, and supported by our Regional Enablers, these workshops have been rolled out more widely in 2026. They exist to strengthen the biblical pattern of elder-led churches—elders called and appointed from among the flock to oversee, shepherd, and lead (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-3). Healthy eldership remains foundational to the health and faithfulness of our churches.

We continue to see churches linking in to the CCCNZ network. Each new church that formally joins is a tangible expression of shared conviction and mutual commitment. Membership is not about control; it is a recognition of primary affiliation to a movement of autonomous, self-governing churches that hold a high view of Scripture, share our theological convictions, and desire to resource and encourage one another.

In a cultural moment marked by theological drift and institutional pressure, the CCCNZ Board

remains resolute in its commitment to protect and build on our orthodoxy. We hold a high view of the Bible as the sole authority for faith and practice. We remain committed to the New Testament model of ecclesiology: churches led by elders who serve from among the people of God. These are not optional distinctives; they are the guardrails that keep us faithful to the gospel and to the historic Open Brethren conviction that the local church, under Christ as Head, is the primary expression of His body.

At the same time, we are seeing growing, practical engagement with the wider family of trusts and ministries that exist to serve our network—Te Maru (Camping), the Stewards’ Trust, the various funding trusts, GC3, Pathways College of Bible and Mission, NZ Rally, and others. No single entity can meet every need. When we work together—respecting one another’s autonomy while sharing resources, wisdom, and burden—churches thrive. We really are, and will be, Stronger Together (Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 4:16).

On behalf of the CCCNZ Board I express deep gratitude to the CCCNZ Staff Team, the Regional Enablers, the many volunteers who give so generously of their time, and the funding partners whose partnership makes so much of this work possible. I also thank my fellow board members for their wise and diligent service.

As we look ahead, we do so with confidence in the Lord who builds His Church. May we continue to run the race set before us with endurance, eyes fixed on Jesus, supporting one another, and pointing people to Him, through the gospel from the Bible.

Maranatha—come, Lord Jesus!



Chris Broadbent

*Chair, Christian Community
Churches of New Zealand Trust*

Opposite: Trustees and Staff from CCCNZ, GC3, GPH Foundation, GPH Trust, Hillview Trust, Lichfield Lands Incorporated Society, Pathways College Of Bible And Mission, Mission Rehabilitation Fund, NZ Every Boys And Girls Rally Trust, The Stewards’ Foundation, Te Maru Ltd. and Hako Tiaki Whenua Trust.

THE GOSPEL FOR EVERY PERSON



Sharing the Good News about Jesus in Hamilton

Sarah* is part of Agora Church where she helps coordinate a growing team of people in sharing the gospel on the streets of Hamilton. She shares her heart for seeing people know and understand the gospel.

“I was religious all my life but didn’t know the gospel until twenty months ago at age 43. I started reading the Bible and learned the true gospel and it changed my life, I found Agora Church through the CCCNZ website as I was looking for a Protestant church.

"I can honestly say I am surprised (and humbled) each time at the number of people who wish to hear the good news, and who genuinely understand it when we share."

"The gospel has changed my life so I've got a passion for sharing it with others. One thing that has surprised me about sharing the gospel with others is that so many people haven't actually heard the gospel at all. They may have heard some things about God but don't know how to follow him or have a living relationship with him. They don't know about what Jesus has done and how to respond.

"Attending The Send event really impacted me (The Send is a campaign activating Christians to live a missional lifestyle by adopting and reaching real mission fields at home and abroad). I initially thought 'missions and outreach is for young people', but God really opened up the way for me with street evangelism.

"We started off, just two women from Agora Church—myself and Tanya. I had done some training through NeedGod.net and had been sharing the gospel through online evangelism, where we'd be connected with a stranger via an online chat app and have an opportunity to chat and share. I found online evangelism was less daunting and it gave me the confidence to start sharing the gospel.

"Then I did some training with Operation 513 down in Christchurch and saw how to use a flip chart—the 'are you a good person' test. I came back to Hamilton and started using a flip chart, it has graphics to help you share the gospel. Now, we have a group of five people from church joining the outreach handing out gospel tracts, striking up conversations and praying at our Hamilton street outreaches. Agora Church has been so supportive with the wider church providing prayer support and encouragement as well as an additional flip-chart. One thing that has been cool is to see people from church who've been in overseas mission previously, who are keen to head out into Hamilton to share the gospel there."

Tanya says she has been really blessed by the opportunities to share her faith:

"I can honestly say I am surprised (and humbled) each time at the number of people who wish to hear the good news, and who genuinely understand it when we share.

"One Saturday I spoke to a gentleman who had a clear awe of the Lord, and understood that he, like all of us, had sinned, but yet he was very burdened. As we went through the conversation, he eventually said that he was Mormon, which opened the door for us to talk about the fact that the Bible conflicts with what he has been taught about salvation—that the Bible says we are actually saved by grace, through faith alone, and by Christ's sacrifice alone.

"Once he understood that Jesus took 100% of his punishment and that there was 0% left for him, and it was a free gift instead of our own works, his countenance lifted and he seemed like a new man. He said our conversation had lifted a heavy burden off him, because he felt like he had been pushing up against a brick wall for years.

"Praise be to God, who is the only saviour that asks us not to give, but to receive, the only God that seeks no sacrifice but sacrificed everything himself, and the only king who comes to our door to share a meal, but gives us the seat of honour."

Sarah says the team has found it helpful to be consistent with the commitment to head out, "a consistent routine has helped us, especially when haven't really 'felt' like it, we find that we never regret heading out, God always has people that he sends to us."

She encourages that sharing the gospel is not about being an expert or an extrovert, "I know it is all through God that I am able to do this work as I'm actually quite an introverted person when it comes to talking with people.



Sarah and Warren Ubel from Agora Church share about evangelism at the Waikato & Bay of Plenty Summit Connect.

“Going out together with another person and having support from others at the church through prayer really helped give me confidence. Then, my biggest piece of advice is just go and do it, the more you head out the more you grow in confidence. Go along with someone who is more confident, buddy up with someone, and learn together.

“Being a new Christian, I tend to communicate without lots of Christian jargon which has been helpful I think. I’ve been trying to debrief with others in the group to improve my approach and there are a lot of resources online. Some in our

outreach team are a lot older and have spent time in cross-cultural ministry, it has been so good to learn from them and to see that different people in our team have different ways of connecting.”

The team has been encouraged by how much people want to talk with them and are keen to approach them to look through the good person test or just to chat about spiritual things, Sarah says that Jesus’ words to his disciples ring true for her, ‘the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few’.

**Not her real name*

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“In 2025, for the first time, more than 40 volunteers from Pakuranga Christian Fellowship came together to take part in the Howick Santa Parade.”

Sharing the Gospel Beyond the Church Walls

Ever been to your local Christmas Parade and noticed the breadth of businesses and groups participating... but no mention of Jesus?

“We’d noticed that everyone from everywhere was involved in our local parade,” says Pakuranga Christian Fellowship Pastor Ken Hutchinson, “but no Christians talking about the real reason for Christmas.”

In 2025, for the first time, more than 40 volunteers from Pakuranga Christian Fellowship came together to take part in the Howick Santa Parade on Sunday 7 December. “Using signs and costumes, we told the salvation story, beginning with the nativity story and finishing with the cross—pointing to Jesus as the way, the truth and the life.”

Alongside this desire to be part of the parade, Ken says the church has been growing in its conviction to share the gospel outside the four walls of the church building. “If we don’t have a presence in the local community the Christian message can get lost.”

A few weeks later they ran an outreach in Mission Bay, where a team set up a gazebo and took anyone interested through an ‘Are you a good person?’ test on a flip chart. The results were encouraging—and surprising.

“We met some people who had lived in New Zealand for two years, and they shared they had never heard of Jesus. This was a real eye opener for our team.”



Some of the Pakuranga Christian Fellowship team in the 2025 Howick Santa Parade.

Ken says they had over 100 conversations with people who wanted to engage—and every single person was interested in hearing the gospel at the end. “People were very open to talking and it was incredibly successful. We had many long conversations with people from all sorts of religious backgrounds who were happy to chat.”

Pakuranga Christian Fellowship Program Director Diana Hutchinson says it was an amazing experience: “I’ve never had anything like it. We also found out through the day that there were other Christians who came to Mission Bay to pray for people there and were excited to see us sharing the gospel. It really felt like God co-ordinated even

extra prayer warriors to partner along with our church family who were praying at home!

“We had a team from Blenheim with us to help, and they had never had anything like that happen before either—such openness and opportunities to speak to people from all over the world. It re-energised them to share the gospel in Blenheim too.”

The Pakuranga Christian Fellowship evangelism team is led by elder John White, and Ken says they’ve been encouraged by many gospel opportunities: “We’ve had two ladies start to come along to church after meeting our team at the beach, and we’re planning similar outreach events over the summer in neutral spaces where people feel comfortable and free to chat.”

A CHURCH FOR EVERY COMMUNITY

“Developing the team and building the church towards independence has been a key focus for Shane, who has been part of planting churches in the Philippines.”

Growing Agape: Establishing a Church Plant in Morrinsville

The journey to planting and establishing a church is never straightforward—but one that is full of God’s grace.

For the past two years Associate Pastor Shane Wildermoth from Te Awamutu Bible Chapel (TABC) has been part of a team planting Agape Bible Chapel in Morrinsville—a Waikato town with a population of about 10,000 people, with many employed in the local dairy industry.

Shane says it all began with a Bible study he led out of Te Awamutu, “there was a group of Filipino Christians here in Te Awamutu, I led Bible studies with them for a number of years and they became active and involved in TABC.”

The idea to plant a church started to form after many of the group moved to Morrinsville for work and began making the 45-50 minute drive in for church each week: “They were keen to start a church in the Morrinsville area so they wouldn’t have to travel so far with kids, when covid hit that slowed things down, but we continued our Bible studies.

“In 2023 we brought it to the elders at Te Awamutu Bible Chapel that we had the idea of planting a church under TABC in Morrinsville.” The elders were supportive and in February 2024 things got underway.

“We were initially planning to use the old Methodist Church building because they were closing up.

“This year I’ll be working with the guys doing some studies in eldership—looking at what it means to be an elder and what the responsibilities are.”

However, during that time CCCNZ Waikato/Bay of Plenty Regional Enabler Grant Birks got in touch with the trustees of the old Morrinsville Bible Church (a church no longer actively meeting in their building). Some of our team met with Morrinsville trustees Darryl Houghton and Morris Broadbent and they offered us the building to use for free as long as we were faithful to preach the gospel! So God took care of our need for a building!”

From the Bible study group and wider TABC family, a Leadership Team of men and their wives emerged—Baddy and Joy Anora, Lovell and Cherie Calipusan, Glynn and Robyn Langford—along with Shane and his wife Rene.

“We kicked it off by advertising and put out invitations. We decided we’d have night services, because that fit with our schedules. About 20 people came along on our first night and since then it’s grown—we now regularly have 25-40 people joining us on a Sunday. We still meet in the evening, as many of our congregation find the time of the service fits in better with farming or factory work responsibilities, and they haven’t been able to be a regular part of any church due to the lack of evening services in many places.”

Shane says growth has come from within Morrinsville: “We’ve got people coming from the community now, in fact we had our first baptisms last November which is really exciting. A father and daughter got baptised, they’re now involved in the worship team leading us. And one of the older guys who’d started coming to the church early on decided to give his life to the Lord and be baptised.”

Although numbers have grown, true growth is taking place in a variety of ways, says Shane:

“One guy came to us from the Catholic Church and he started asking really great questions—he loves the Bible teaching, because what we’re doing is just teaching through the New Testament. Another guy was coming along, and it was clear he was just

coming for the food—over the year that he has been here he has come to know the Lord and has started bringing food. He has also been baptised—that’s the sort of growth that is encouraging in amongst the tough stuff and hard work of church planting.”

Developing the team and building the church towards independence has been a key focus for Shane, who has been part of planting churches in the Philippines.

“Training has played a big role in the planting process. I regularly take the boys through Bible studies for teaching and thinking through ‘how do we present a message?’ As we’ve grown we’ve started to build a music team. Cherie is a musician and she has organised a good-sized worship team and they’ve been developing over the two years we’ve been meeting. Now we have a number of great teachers—Baddy, Lovell, and another Filipino man who was a pastor in the Philippines.”

Shane has been encouraged by the intentional ways the group has been reaching out to their local community, “Last year we decided to do meals after the service—that was the Filipinos’ idea—so every Sunday we have our service from 6-7pm and then dinner until 8pm. It has been a good thing for talking with people about the gospel.

“We’re also doing outreach into our local community—we partnered on a community outreach with OAC’s Lew Meyer last year and coming up in a couple of weeks we have Michael Cook from Creation Ministries doing a day seminar.”

The name ‘Agape Bible Chapel’ was a group decision, based on a desire to show the heart of the church to the community around them:

“When we came to choose a name for our church we sat around the table as a Leadership Team and went through a whole lot of potential names—but we chose Agape Bible Chapel as it speaks of God’s



Agape Bible Chapel

love being sacrificial and that's what we want to be—to show sacrificial love to the people of Morrinsville and beyond."

Establishing Agape Bible Chapel as an independent church is the long term aim they're working towards, says Shane.

"This year I'll be working with the guys doing some studies in eldership—looking at what it means to be an elder and what the responsibilities are. We're looking from the Leadership Team to see who would become an elder at the end of this year or next year. We're also going to be doing similar studies with the whole congregation, and by the end of this year asking people to consider who they would see as elders.

"The idea is that by next year we'll have a local eldership. We're still under Te Awamutu Bible Chapel at this stage, and that has been really

helpful. Different people have come across and offer support, and the guys from the Leadership Group meet with the TABC elders once every three months. However, we're moving towards independence. We'd like to see elders chosen by next year but recognise the need to be cautious as we want to put the right people in as elders."

The development of the original Leadership Team has been the most encouraging thing about the whole process for Shane on a personal level:

"Just seeing where they were two years ago and now seeing where they are today, it's encouraging to see their maturity, their growth in ministry, and their desire to work together and chip in together. If someone visits us people go out of their way to welcome them and include them. Lovell is a real teacher of the Word of God, and one of Baddy's gifts is clearly evangelism, he loves to preach the gospel."

Growing and Going: Hukanui Plants a Church in Whatawhata

“They said they felt like God might be leading them to consider church planting. As elders we realised this was God at work and began to work from there.”

Hukanui Bible Church in Hamilton has recently commissioned and sent a team to plant a new church in Whatawhata.

Pastor Dan Pettersen says church planting has long been part of the vision.

“On my first day at Hukanui one of the elders was giving me a tour—the church was about to start a building project—and he said to me, ‘we’re a grow and go church, we don’t intend to become a mega-church, once we finish these extensions we’ll be looking to plant somewhere.’

“A few years later we were in an elders meeting looking at what it means to be a grow and go church. As we read Acts 26—where Paul recounts being called to the Gentiles during his conversion experience on the road to Damascus, we were reminded that there was about 14 years between Paul’s conversion and his being sent out with Barnabas from the church at Antioch.

“In Acts 13 we see the Holy Spirit says to the prophets and teachers of the church, ‘separate to me Paul and Barnabas for the work to which I have called them’, and so we observed this was the pattern of Scripture—that the Holy Spirit will call someone to come and do this work, and then He will let us know. Either God is putting it on someone now, or He will do so in the future. So we prayed for God to be at work.

“Some time later I got a phone call on a Sunday afternoon from a guy wanting to catch up for coffee, and he said, ‘I might bring a couple of others with me’. It turns out a group had also been thinking about what it means to grow and go, praying together regularly. They said they felt like God might be leading them to consider church planting. As elders we realised this was God at work and began to work from there.”

Dave Gow was one of those praying about what it means to “grow and go”:

“I’d heard the vision for being a grow and go church which I was excited about. During the covid season and as our church building came together we were meeting for church in four locations—so we got a taste of what a smaller church would be like. When we came back together it became really clear: the church was full and it was time to think about planting.



Whatawhata Community Church's church planting team on their first Sunday.

"Just over two years ago three of us started meeting weekly to pray. And after six months we approached the elders to share our thoughts about planting, and they said, 'well, we have been thinking through the same thing from our end—if God's going to have us go, then he'll be raising up people.'"

As prayer continued, a leadership team of four men (Ernie Pene, Dave Gow, Sam Crosbie, Brian White) and their families was formed. Recently, Hukanui commissioned the team, and they held their first service in a local community centre in Whatawhata.

"About 40 of us were there on the first Sunday (including kids and some from Hukanui who had come for the first service). The majority of us live in Whatawhata—it was great to see our local friends come along to check it out.

"I've been so encouraged by God's clear leading and provision the whole way through. Right from the start, God's clearly been working in the lives of many—not just us but the elders and where they were at. Things like this have happened the whole way through.

"A big hurdle has been where do we meet... the community hall is new, but it is such a busy hall that it's regularly booked out, and they initially wouldn't let us have a regular Sunday morning slot. Eventually we decided that we wanted to go ahead—and we set our start date as the last Sunday in Feb. The very next week, we heard back from the hall to say we had a regular Sunday afternoon booking and confirmation that we can do an evening meal! God's provision throughout this has been so encouraging."

Dan says it has been remarkable to watch it unfold.

"We still need to be doing so many of these, Hamilton is due to grow in population and there is such a need for churches. It has been really exciting to see God get a hold of people and the whole church family catch the vision for it.

"We're not planning on planting 'Hukanui West Wing'—the plan is for the Whatawhata church plant to transition into being an independent church. Our role from here is to pray and support, to share our resources and help with whatever is needed. But prayer is the big one."

LEADERS FOR EVERY CHURCH



Church on Ingestre Community Pastor Doug Benn.

Equipped to Serve: Doug Benn's Story

In 2021, Doug Benn from Church on Ingestre in Whanganui began theological study to better serve his church family:

“I wanted to grow in my understanding of the Word and be equipped to serve the people I was shepherding as an elder.”

At the time, Doug had recently moved from youth leader to youth pastor. The church was navigating a season of transition—the senior pastor had just resigned, and Doug was stepping into wider pastoral responsibilities.

“Training people within our church community has proven to be more successful than looking for people with the required qualifications and skills externally.”

Doug says study provided both practical ministry tools and helped him reflect more deeply on his beliefs:

“My study often challenged my own thinking and beliefs. Many times, what I was studying would affirm what I believed, and other times I was challenged to think through why I disagreed.”

A standout moment came when Doug took a paper on youth ministry foundations.

“Yes, I was a father to my own teenagers but compared to wider youth culture it was quite different! Research and information helped me develop a sense of compassion and understanding that enabled me to share the gospel more effectively with youth from our community.”

It changed how he approached youth group:

“One example of this was my first couple of times at youth group, I stood at the front and preached, and then they responded by saying, ‘this is just like school!’ So, I changed my approach and turned it into more of a forum, with space to ask questions and dialogue when there was something I was teaching that they didn’t understand.”

In 2025, Doug graduated with a Diploma in Christian Studies from Carey Baptist College. The journey took several years and was made possible by a team of supporters.

The JH Baldwin Scholarship helped a portion of Doug’s tuition, and Church on Ingestre funded the rest.

“Training people within our church community has proven to be more successful than looking for people with the required qualifications and skills externally,” says fellow elder Baden Brown.

Doug’s learning and growth have been a blessing to the wider church:

“Not only did Doug benefit from the learning for the youth leadership, but we also as a church have seen his solid spiritual development, leading us to offer him the community pastor’s role.”

Throughout his study, Doug continued to serve in youth ministry, preaching, and pastoral care—with steady support from his wife, Gill.

“I would like to acknowledge and thank the Lichfield Lands Trust for their amazing support over those years,” Doug says. “Through the JH Baldwin Scholarship, I have been blessed with their financial support for a considerable portion of my study fees.

I must also acknowledge the prayerful and financial support of the leadership of Church on Ingestre, Whanganui, who covered the balance of my fees. My wife, Gill, as always is my ardent supporter and encourager.”

Doug has been serving as Church on Ingestre’s Community Pastor since 2025, taking what he’s learned, and using his skills to help equip and support others in the congregation through preaching training, outreach, and community ministry.

“This is exactly the kind of fruit we love to see from the 3Trusts Scholarships,” says Liz Hodge, Scholarships Enabler. “The granting of scholarships is intended to be a partnership between the trusts and the local church.”

“I got a lot out of the training with Paul Windsor (of Langham Preaching) and I wanted to share that with others, especially some of the younger preachers at church, who I have responsibility for discipling.”

Training the Next Generation of Bible Teachers

In 2025, a group of developing preachers met each month to grow in their confidence and ability to teach and preach God’s Word.

Matt Meek is the Lead Youth Pastor at Riccarton Community Church, and Lance Robinson is part of the preaching team at Rutland Street Church. They were part of a cohort of preachers who attended the Langham Preaching Training hosted by CCCNZ in 2024.

Matt says they found the course so beneficial that they were keen to come back to Christchurch and share the content.

“I got a lot out of the training with Paul Windsor (of Langham Preaching) and I wanted to share that with others, especially some of the younger preachers at church, who I have responsibility for discipling.”

Lance and Matt aimed to share what they’d learnt with the group. The course covered core convictions around preaching, observation, illustration and application, finding the big idea of a passage, and delighting in God’s Word bringing transformation.

Their hope was that participants would come away with increased confidence in handling God’s Word in whatever context they found themselves teaching—whether in a Bible study setting, in a youth group, in kids’ ministry, or in a main church service.

Matt says one of the most encouraging parts of running the course was seeing one of the group preach for the first time at Riccarton Community



Participants working together to grow stronger in their preaching skills. Back row: Matt Meek, Emma Robinson, Lance Robinson. Middle row: Apoorva Doubleday. Front row: Alicia Meek, Luke Stedman.

Church. “Apoorva Doubleday had the chance to preach for the first time during the year. I remember watching her preach and just being so proud. And noticing when she used some of the techniques we’d covered in the course.”

All members of the group have had opportunities to preach in various contexts over the year, putting their learning into practice in the pulpit.

Matt and Lance found that running the course transformed them as well. “We had the opportunity to reflect on the content more and learn it more deeply as we taught it to others.”

Working together has also grown their own friendship. “We’ve become closer as friends as we’ve run the course—that’s really encouraging, and it has strengthened the relationship between our two churches.”

Matt says they plan on running the course again at the end of 2026 or beginning of 2027—but this time they want to run the sessions closer together. “We’ve learnt along the way that for most people, having the content delivered over a weekend or over a few successive weeks would be easier to digest and put into action.”

“What the elders wisely were doing was by slowing it down, they allowed the church time to catch up. They allowed themselves time to catch up... And then they became our partners.”

Growing a Pastor: How One Church Invested in Leadership Development

Developing church leaders is rarely the work of one person. It takes a church willing to pray, invest, encourage, challenge and walk alongside someone over many years.

For Manawarū Bible Chapel in rural Waikato, Matt Wright’s journey into pastoral ministry has been exactly that: a partnership between a local church and a family responding to God’s leading.

Through practical ministry opportunities, theological study, financial generosity and ongoing encouragement, the congregation didn’t simply support someone attending Bible college. They shared in the work of developing a pastor.

Matt’s journey began with a growing desire to be more involved in church life.

“It wasn’t necessarily a calling towards ministry,” he says. “My wife Sally challenged me to grow in my role as a husband and father, reminding me that this included a commitment to grow spiritually and be connected to church.”

After moving back to the Waikato, Matt committed to getting more involved in church life—this included attending Lake Learning with Manawarū Bible Chapel pastor Justin Thompson.

“He came back from that just fizzing, excited with what he’d learned,” Justin recalls. “He just said, ‘I really want to just do more of that. I want to learn, I want to grow, I want to know God better.’”

Rather than sending Matt straight into degree level study, the elders encouraged him to complete an internship through Pathways Bible College while continuing to work. It gave him opportunities to preach, serve in sports chaplaincy, and take on increasing ministry responsibility.



Matt Wright and Justin Thompson.

“It enabled us as an eldership to kind of evaluate Matt and his character qualities in terms of ministry and his own spiritual walk,” Justin says.

For Matt, the internship confirmed what God was doing. “It was probably early on in Pathways, where I was like, ‘No, look, this is really where I want to be heading at in terms of church leadership.’”

Even then, the elders deliberately slowed the process to give Matt and Sally time to prepare and consider the commitment—something that Matt found helpful. “It was never, ‘No, we don’t think so.’ It was just, ‘Let’s just slow this down a bit. Let’s

be prayerful about this. Let’s have a look at what this might look like.’”

That slower pace did more than help Matt discern his calling. It allowed the whole church to become part of the journey. “What the elders wisely were doing was by slowing it down, they allowed the church time to catch up. They allowed themselves time to catch up... And then they became our partners.”

That partnership continued when the church committed to supporting Matt and Sally, and their three young boys, through three years at Sydney

“Knowing the church was praying, encouraging and walking alongside them gave the family confidence to persevere, even when study was challenging.”

Missionary and Bible College. “We, as a church, decided this is not something we want them to just go and do on their own,” Justin says. “We want to support them in it.”

The church raised funds, approached trusts and invited members to contribute what they could. Justin says it wasn’t a handful of wealthy donors carrying the cost. “Some people were just putting aside even small amounts of money, whether it be twenty dollars a week, whether it be thirty dollars a week, and a large portion of our church were giving small amounts to make it work.”

Matt also received the JH Baldwin Scholarship. This is a scholarship for recipients in CCCNZ/Open Brethren Heritage Churches in New Zealand. The aim of this scholarship is to see men and women equipped for a lifetime of service in and through the local church—to serve in teaching, pastoral, and preaching ministries. The JH Baldwin Scholarship is generously provided by Lichfield Lands Inc. Trust.

For the elders, supporting Matt and Sally is about looking at the big picture. “If we can support someone like Matt and the family to do just a few years of training, it’s going to have a lot of payoff for the rest of their lives, hopefully.”

Financial support was only one part of the partnership. Matt and Sally sent regular reports home, sharing prayer requests, praise points and updates from college. The church prayed for them consistently and shared video updates with the congregation so newer members also became invested in their journey. “It enabled us to keep Matt and Sally in our minds,” Justin says.

For Matt, those relationships became one of the greatest encouragements during study. “It was only when I was at SMBC did I really appreciate that

when you’re able to sit in those classes and you’ve got a church behind you that’s endorsing you and that’s validating you being there.” Knowing the church was praying, encouraging and walking alongside them gave the family confidence to persevere, even when study was challenging. “There was huge support there and prayer there...There was a real buy-in from the whole church really.”

The elders also intentionally cared for Sally throughout the process. “They had a separate discussion with her,” Matt says, making sure she was fully on board before they left for Sydney. Justin and his wife Emma continued checking in with her while they were away. Matt believes that support is essential for anyone considering ministry training. “Does your spouse support you in your decision? That’s got to be a non-negotiable.”

He is equally convinced that churches have a vital role to play. “You’ve got to have the church behind you.”

Before Matt and Sally left for Sydney, the church also agreed to support them financially with the expectation they would return to serve after graduation. This ‘bonding’ process was a formal agreement on both ends—meaning the church would be willing to provide three years of pastoral employment for Matt, and for the Wrights to commit to three years in Manawarū.

For Matt, that commitment became a gift rather than a burden. “In our last year at college, when all the other students were stressing out about where they were going to go and serve... we could just... fully be there and not constantly worry about it.”

Returning to New Zealand at the end of 2025 also meant he didn’t begin ministry alone. Instead, he joined Justin as an associate pastor, allowing him to continue growing in a supportive environment.



Manawarū elders Gordon Wood and Justin Thompson, with Matt Wright on a panel at a CCCNZ Summit Connect, sharing their story of leadership development.

“It’s just so good to come out of Bible college and to be able to have an associate role... It’s just really helpful for helping me build sustainable ministry practices as I adjust to full time pastoral work.”

Six months into the role, Justin has already seen the benefits. “Matt has really grown into the role and it has been beneficial for us as a church having him on board. He has different strengths than I have and we’ve enjoyed working together as a team.”

For Manawarū Bible Chapel, leadership development has not stopped with one person. “We’re always on the lookout for the next leaders in training,” Justin says. The church now runs a monthly leadership development programme to help prepare future elders, ministry leaders, and pastors. “We want to be proactive. We want to start building into people now rather than waiting until someone steps out of a ministry and we’re looking for an urgent replacement.”

Matt believes intentionality is the key to developing leaders. “We need to know people, we need to spend time with people, because how do we know if this person’s got a gift... if we don’t know them and able to speak into those moments?”

His advice to churches is equally simple. “Be intentional, invest in the person, because it is a partnership.”

Looking back, Matt would not trade the journey. “I had a good career in farming, but we are far richer spiritually and fulfilled now than what we ever were then.”

Matt’s story is a reminder that pastors are not developed through theological study alone. They are formed through the patient partnership of a local church that creates opportunities to serve, prays faithfully, gives generously and continues walking alongside people as God prepares them for ministry.

“Throughout these workshops, a consistent theme has emerged: healthy churches need healthy elderships, and developing future elders is just as important as supporting those currently serving.”

Developing Elders for the Future

The health of CCCNZ churches is connected to the health and effectiveness of elderships as they are entrusted with the spiritual oversight and shepherding of God’s people.

Over the past year, a growing number of churches have been investing in the development of both current and future elders through a series of workshops designed to strengthen biblical understanding, practical leadership, and collaboration among eldership teams.

This initiative began in 2025 with pilot workshops facilitated by Peter Lemmon (Church@109, Taupō) alongside members of the CCCNZ Regional Enabling Team, Grant Birks and Richard Fountain. Together, they have been helping churches explore biblical eldership and encouraging the development of healthy oversight teams for the future.

In June 2025, elders from Oak Lane Community Church (in Tauranga, formerly known as Lifezone), Agora Church (Hamilton), and Hillcrest Chapel (Hamilton) gathered for an ‘Exploring Biblical Eldership’ pilot workshop. The training examined the biblical role of elders as overseers of God’s flock, covering topics such as roles and responsibilities, being a worker approved by God, and different approaches to leadership.

Participants spent time studying Scripture together and reflecting as eldership teams on how biblical principles shape their leadership. For some, it was their first opportunity to explore the biblical foundations of eldership in depth. One participant remarked:

“It was the first time I had truly understood what it means to be an elder.”



Discussing the call, character and commission of elders at the Northland Eldership Development Workshop.

A second pilot workshop followed in July 2025 in Epsom, bringing together elders from Tāmaki Community Church, Northcross Church, and Auckland Bible Church.

The workshop included both experienced and developing elders, creating opportunities for learning and mutual encouragement. Reflecting on the day, Hayden Johns, pastor at Auckland Bible Church, said:

“It was a meaningful time exploring topics together as a team.”

Building on the success of these pilots, the first CCCNZ Eldership Development Workshop was held in Whangārei in May 2026, bringing together 20 elders from six Northland churches and two Auckland churches.

Benny (Kilipeni) Fakatou from Kaitaia Bible Chapel said one of his key takeaways was:

“As an overseer you are overseeing the work, but don’t have to do everything.”

Andrew Clemow, from Clark Road Chapel (Whangārei), appreciated meeting other elders

and highlighted the importance of elders being, “among the flock.”

Graeme McNae, from Papatoetoe Bible Chapel, says he appreciated the set up and facilitation of the day:

“The notebook and study materials were well organised, and it was great to see such a strong representation from our northern churches. The experience of the presenters, especially Peter Lemmon, was a real strength, as was the clear presentation of the Trinity and its relationship to eldership. It was encouraging to be there with others from our own church, and use the helpful tools provided.”

In July 2026, 29 elders from eight churches attended the Auckland Eldership Development Workshop at the Parnell Hotel. The gathering gave eldership teams time to

connect, learn together, and discuss their roles and responsibilities.

Tony Gallagher, co-chair of Howick Community Church, reflected:

“Having lunch together was great and I very much appreciated each of the workshop speakers—the wisdom and experience they shared was valuable.”

Spouses were invited to join the Friday dinner and overnight stay. Ann Mullen, attending with her husband Peter from Kaukapakapa Bible Chapel, said:

“It was a treat! I appreciated the accommodation, meals and the fellowship of meeting up with other Christians.”

Throughout these workshops, a consistent theme has emerged: healthy churches need healthy elderships, and developing future elders is just as important as supporting those currently serving. Peter Lemmon and the Regional Enabling Team have played an important role in creating opportunities for elders and developing elders to learn together, strengthen their biblical understanding, and grow in their ability to shepherd God’s people.



STRONGER TOGETHER: EACH HAS A PART TO PLAY

FINANCIAL REPORT | JC MARAIS

God calls us to be faithful with what has been entrusted to us, in the location he has placed us. We each have a part to play and we can work together knowing it is God's work we are participating in. As Paul writes to the church in Corinth:

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So, neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:6-8).

As we look over the 2025 financial year, we see the participation and contribution of many—alongside the wonderful reality that God has provided the growth.

This report represents more than a record of income and expenses; it reflects intentional investment in people as CCCNZ connects, serves, and supports the wider Open Brethren Heritage movement of churches.

Our focus remains on building a movement of resilient churches actively working together to make disciples, plant and revitalise churches, and develop leaders.

SUPPORTING TO STRENGTHEN

We recognise that recruiting the right people for strategic roles helps us serve and support churches, and the wider movement, so they can grow stronger together.

In 2025 we continued our focus across four main regions: Auckland & Northland, Waikato & Bay of Plenty, the Lower North Island, and the South Island. Regional Enablers work locally to connect with elders, pastors and other leaders to serve and offer support at a local level. In 2025 we filled the Lower North Island Enabler role for the first time, with this financial investment leading to significant growth in relationships and engagement in this region.

Collaborating with other Open Brethren Heritage ministries has been an increasing focus, and in 2025 three CCCNZ staff members joined teams at Te Maru Christian Camps, and Pathways College of Bible and Mission. These moves strengthen the network as a whole by moving toward specialised delivery of services, gifting, and time.

2025 was a year of change and transition, with the outgoing Ambassador Mark Grace making way for the incoming CEO Roger Osbaldiston who joined the team in October.

These staffing changes contributed to personnel costs reducing to \$1,116,385, representing 66% of total expenses (2024: \$1,175,283, or 67%).

CONNECTING TO STRENGTHEN

Developing and hosting events designed to connect CCCNZ churches and leaders remained a key focus in 2025. CCCNZ hosted 42 events across the year, bringing together 1,153 registrants (compared to 2024 where there were 50 events and 1,279 registrants).

Regional Summit events, elders and leaders gatherings, First Training retreats, Next Training, Lead Well and more—these events continued to deepen relationships and reinforce our conviction that raising up leaders is best done together, regionally, across the whole movement. Events are intentionally developed and priced to remain accessible, encouraging as many churches as possible to participate in face-to-face gatherings.

CCCNZ also continued to financially support churches in jointly hosting Easter Camps.

The effectiveness of face-to-face connection remains our priority, but we've also leveraged online platforms—including Zoom sessions and E-QUIP training—to maintain engagement where in-person contact was not possible.

The total net investment relating to events was \$83,478 for the year (compared to 2024 where it was \$72,731).

SHARING TO STRENGTHEN

CCCNZ aims to highlight how God is at work in our movement through regular communication.

Sharing stories does more than just inform: they model good leadership, draw people closer together, and reinforce our shared identity as one movement. CCCNZ's newsletters, website, and ministry-specific Facebook groups remain the main channels for this connection.

Engagement also continued to grow, with newsletters recording 71,364 unique opens during the year (2024: 61,620). The continued focus on digital publications, including website-related items, resulted in a further reduction in these costs to \$17,002 for the year (2024: \$22,555).

PARTNERING TO STRENGTHEN

We are very grateful for the ongoing partnership with Lichfield Lands Inc., Hillview Trust, Soul Purpose Trust, Longview Trust, and GPH Charitable Trust. Together they provided funding support of \$1,329,798 in 2025 (2024: \$1,305,669).

We are thankful for the individuals and churches who responded to the invitation to not only work together, but also to support the work financially by giving one-off and regular donations. During 2025 these donations grew to \$35,744 (2024: \$31,764).

We maintained our strategy of operating at a lower level of reserves. We ended the 2025 year with a deficit of \$196,987 (2024: deficit of \$258,323). This planned use of reserves has moved CCCNZ closer to its target reserve position, as reflected in the annual accounts.

GIVING THANKS FOR GOD'S GROWTH

As we reflect on 2025, we give thanks for all those who have planted, watered, served, and given so faithfully. Yet, as Paul reminds us, it is God who gives the growth.

Encouraged by Philippians 1:6, we enter the year ahead with confidence that God, who began a good work among us, will carry it on to completion.

The financial picture reflects a deepening commitment to gospel partnership, practical generosity, and strategic risk, all for the sake of making sure we are investing wisely for the future.

Once audited, our full accounts will be available at the Charities Commission (CC54332) or by request from our Operations Manager, JC Marais, jcmarais@cccnz.nz or 027 303 2914



JC Marais
Operations Manager
jcmarais@cccnz.nz

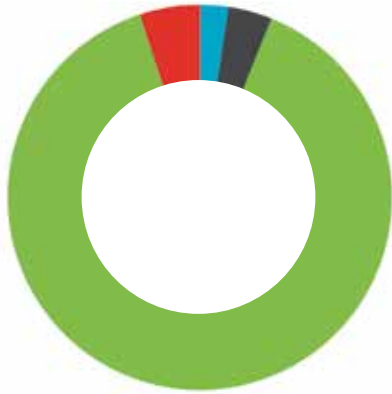
2025 REVENUE

DONATIONS \$35,744

EVENTS \$54,985

GRANTS \$1,329,798

OTHER \$75,840



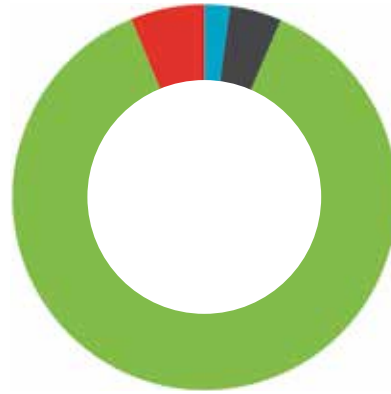
2024 REVENUE

DONATIONS \$31,764

EVENTS \$64,765

GRANTS \$1,305,669

OTHER \$93,128



2025 EXPENSES

STAFF \$1,116,385

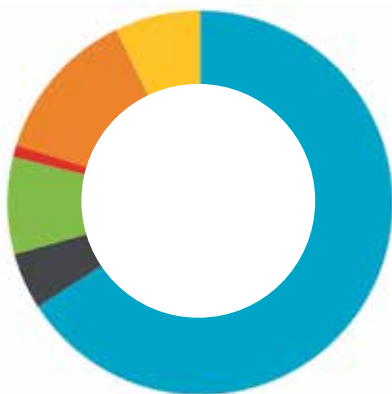
TRAVEL \$80,272

EVENTS \$138,462

PUBLICATIONS \$17,002

OFFICE \$219,606

OTHER \$121,627



2024 EXPENSES

STAFF \$1,175,283

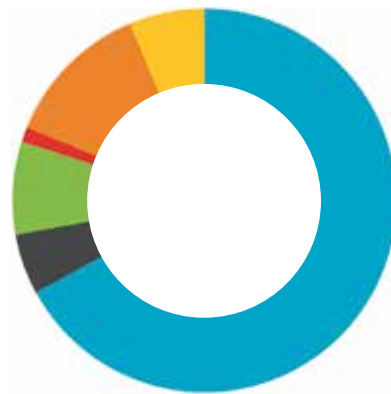
TRAVEL \$89,006

EVENTS \$137,496

PUBLICATIONS \$22,555

OFFICE \$217,775

OTHER \$111,534



STRONGER TOGETHER: LINKED IN CHURCHES



Northland

Clark Road Chapel
Kaitaia Bible Chapel
Lighthouse Church Tutukaka
Raumati Crescent Chapel

Auckland

Amatakiloa Gospel Church
Auckland Bible Church
Auckland Japanese Christian Church
Au Uso Kerisiano Māngere/Mascot Bible Chapel
Au Uso Kerisiano Church Papakura
Birkenhead Community Church
Eden Church
Franklin Bible Church
Howick Community Church
Kaukapakapa Bible Chapel
Kelston Community Church
LifeChurch South – Manurewa
Lincoln Road Bible Chapel
Manurewa Bible Church
Massey Community Church
Mt Wellington Community Church
New Lynn Community Church
Northcross Church
Orewa Community Church
Ōtara Brethren Christian Fellowship
Pakuranga Christian Fellowship
Papatoetoe Bible Church
Rossgrove Chapel
Samoan Open Brethren, Ranui
Takapuna Bible Church
Tāmaki Community Church
The Garden
Wiremu Street Bible Chapel

Waikato

Agora Church
Chapel Hill Community Church
Church @ 109
Hillcrest Chapel
Hukanui Bible Church
Kaipaki Combined Church
Kaipaki Bible Church
Manawarū Bible Chapel
Matamata Bible Church
Northgate Community Church
Paeroa Bible Chapel
Putaruru Gospel Chapel
Raleigh Street Christian Centre
Tauwhare Gospel Chapel
Te Awamutu Bible Chapel
Whitiora Bible Church

Bay of Plenty

Fenton Park Bible Church
Greerton Bible Church
Kawerau Bible Chapel
Oak Lane Community Church
Lakes Church (Rotorua)
Mount Bible Chapel
Paengaroa Bible Chapel
Redeemer Church
Roosevelt Road Chapel
The Orchard Church

Taranaki

New Plymouth Community Church

Hawke's Bay

Heretaunga Community Church
Onekawa Bible Church
Riverbend Bible Church

Manawatū-Whanganui

Church on Ingestre
Church on Vogel
Crossroads Church
Feilding Bible Chapel
Kingston Community Church
Rongotea Bible Chapel
Queen Street Chapel – Levin
York Street Chapel – Levin

Wairarapa

The Lighthouse Church (Masterton)

Wellington

Church @ Cedarwood
The Coast Community Church
Onslow Community Church
Heretaunga Community Church
Mansfield Street Gospel Hall
Northern Hills Church
Pathway Christian Centre
Porirua Gospel Chapel
The Anchor Church
Titahi Bay Community Church
Wainuiomata Gospel Church

Nelson-Tasman

Grace Church, Richmond
Hope Community Church
Tasman Church

Canterbury

Bryndwr Chapel
Christchurch Korean Church
Church Street Bible Chapel
EAKUS (Ekalesia Au Uso Kerisiano Samoa)
Emmett Street Community Church
Glentunnel Chapel
Halswell Community Church
Redemption Church Christchurch
Riccarton Community Church
Rowley Bible Church
Rutland Street Church
The Embassy @ North Beach
Wairakei Road Bible Church
Westchurch

Otago

Anchorage Church
Caversham Community Church
Cornerstone International Bible Church
Orwell Street Church
Riverside Chapel

Southland

Rosedale Bible Church
Gore Christian Fellowship

CCCNZ STAFF TEAM

Roger Osbaldiston
CEO

Richard Fountain
Auckland & Northland Regional Enabler

Grant Birks
Waikato & Bay of Plenty Regional Enabler

Miles Davison
Lower North Island Regional Enabler

Julie McKinnon
Children and Family Ministries Enabler

Isaac Claasen
Executive Assistant to the CEO

Liz Hodge
3TRUSTS Scholarships Enabler

Jan De Lange
National Advisor

Paula Almada
Programme Delivery Manager

JC Marais
Operations Manager

Ray-Anne Cahill
Team and Accounts Administrator

Sophia Sinclair
Communications Manager

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Gillian

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Rick

Murray Frost

NATIONAL MINISTRIES

We would like to acknowledge the many ministries supporting the wider movement. We would particularly like to thank Stewards' Trust, GC3—Global Connections in Mission, Pathways College of Bible and Mission, Te Maru Christian Camps, and NZ Rally.



JOIN US TO GROW STRONGER TOGETHER

We'd love to connect with you and keep you up to date with prayer requests, stories, and news from our movement.

Join us on Facebook: [@ChristianCommunityChurchesofNZ](#)

We have a number of email newsletters available—from our Weekly Wrap (a roundup of stories and encouragement) through to specific Auckland, Waikato/Bay of Plenty, Lower North Island and South Island Community newsletters, and ministry role-specific newsletters for leaders in Youth & Young Adults, Children & Families, and Admin.

Email sophiasinclair@cccnz.nz to sign up.

Visit our website for the latest stories and news: www.cccnz.nz