

# PARTNERS

**APRIL 2023** 

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Isaiah 40:31

#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

Editorial - Jeremy Dempsey

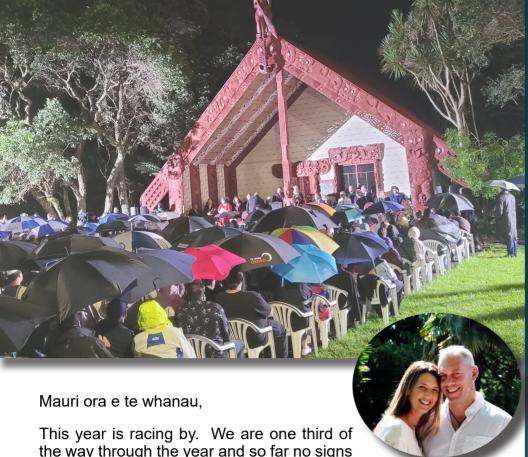
Around the Nation - What's going on in the regions?

**SOE Foundation Course** 

**Community Chaplains** 

**Evangelist Fellowship Conference** 

**Eternal Opportunities** 



the way through the year and so far no signs of slowing down.

Jeremy & Vicki-Lee

Since our last panui (newsletter) our team have been preaching the gospel up and down our great country at beaches, camps, in neighborhoods, city centers and at significant events like Waitangi. We have endured storms and national emergencies but not lost sight of our call as evangelists. In Ephesians 4:12 it says, God has given some to be ...evangelists ...to equip the saints for the work of the ministry and to build up the body."

I was at Festival One recently, and was greatly encouraged about how important the ministry of the evangelist is. A man in his early 30's stopped me randomly and asked, "Are you with OAC?" I looked at him surprised and said, "Yes." He shook my hand and encouraged me to not stop what we were doing. He came to Christ through an OAC evangelist many years ago and has been following our Lord since. What a privilege we have to serve Christ in this way. That whole experience strengthened my resolve to not only preach Christ in a greater way but to help solve the problem of a lack of evangelists in Aotearoa. We are in desperate need to see more evangelists released in to full-time ministry. More and more people are in a place where they are not hearing anything about our wonderful saviour. This year our heart is to reach more people with the gospel and to see more Christians engage in the fulfillment of the great commission in our communities.



Thank you for partnering with us. We are so grateful for all the Lord has done and is doing, however, we understand that there is still much to be done. I hope you enjoy this short update of OAC N.Z.

Mahitahi i te hauhake

Jeremy Dempsey

#### REGULAR MINISTRY

**Preaching** Personal Evangelism Highschool & Kids Programs **Prison Ministry** Street Work & Door to Door **Youth Groups** Chaplaincy **Discipleship** 

#### WHAT'S COMING UP?

APRIL	
7-10	Love Auckland Outreach
11-21	Holiday programs and Kids Camps
13-17	Henry Williams 200yr celebrations
29	CC Training Hamilton
MAY	
8-14	Evangelism with Word o Life Interns
13	CC Training Oamaru
20	CC Training Christchurch
JUNE	
9	SOE Hawkes Bay starts
10	CC Training Napier

#### **JULY**

14

CC Training Auckland

CC Training Whanganui

# Lew, Philip B & Philip W

## AUCKLAND

Achmed was sad. We discussed his Muslim faith, his interest in religions and the differences between Islam and Christianity. He was concerned that if he saw that another religion was true, he could be estranged from his family and even lose his life when he returned to his home country in

the Middle East. I suggested it was tragedy when a faith had to hold its people by fear and not by love.

When we go on outreach in Auckland city, we often say, "That conversation alone was worth coming here for." Last Friday, there were many like that. As a team of 6, we operated two outreach tables laden with chocolate bars, cans of drink and surveys. I counted 206 surveys completed. We ran out of refreshments. There were Hindus, Mormons, a Sikh, many Roman Catholics, various Christians who needed encouragement, a neo-pagan Wiccian (feminist witchcraft), someone who believed in Norse mythology, many agnostics and many who think they are atheists. We had the joy of helping

many of them take at least one step in the right direction. Philip spoke to a lady who had just joined a very manipulative cult. He was able to show her, from the Bible, where they were wrong, and she determined to leave them.

Then there was the young Christian man who wants to join us on outreach. Friday is our main outreach day. Please pray for this as well as our Easter outreach and other ministry. Why not join us?





## WAIKATO

Waikato region has been busy with gospel work. Eric and I have been helping a church plant in Pukekohe. A team of us have been using "table evangelism" at the Saturday market resulting in some great conversations and one young man made a decision for the Lord. We've also been sowing seeds using the same sort of outreach in Hamilton, again, with good connections and much literature distribution.

Eric & Paul

Waikato's intern, Eric, is very involved at our home fellowship, Hukanui Bible Church, with youth work. One young lad who came to the Lord during our week-long Summer Hamilton City outreach has been attending the junior group.

A team from five churches erected a marquee in a park. The five churches worked together preaching the gospel in kid's programs each morning, youth in the afternoon and adults outreach at nights. A few commitments were made over the week.

Prison work is not as free as it was before Covid, however, three men have accepted Christ over the last 3-4 months and the discipling work continues with five other men.

Joanne, myself and one other lady from Joanne's B.S.F. group are working with two ladies who live on the street. For over 6 weeks we've been sharing the gospel and answering their questions. Tomorrow we begin a Bible Study with them in a cafe owned by some Christians.

I've had the pleasure of preaching at three churches recently as well as Word of Life's staff retreat and at Capenwray Bible School.

Please continue to pray for the work. In some ways, reaching people with the gospel is easier in this crumbling nation. People are aware that's something is very wrong with the world.



Eric at Festival One

## HAWKE'S BAY

In January Maria took school-age girls on road trips for outreach. In Auckland they used surveys for a chocolate and had good interactions. One lady was keen to hear the biblical answers for the survey. She had been angry at God for the loss of her father at an

early age, but listened intently as Maria shared how Jesus gives

hope even in our pain.



Waitangi Day festivities were back in the local sports park. Kevin was kept busy sharing the gospel with a puzzle board while Maria

was engaging with those who eagerly took Māori Postal literature.

With the recent cyclone it's been all-hands-on-deck to help with cleanup and Kevin and Maria were no exception. The community pulling together in this difficult time is amazing to see, with the connections and

friendships that are developing from it. Maria has been spending a lot of time coordinating volunteer helpers - through this, Christians are getting into the homes and orchards of people they may never have met and showing the love of Christ. It is our heart cry that in the midst of these practical efforts there will be ongoing spiritual input with eternal significance. Please pray with us to this end.

In between the muddy front-line cleanup work, there has also been a focus on outreach on the streets, especially after school, Kevin prepared an open air message with the question, "If God is loving and all-powerful, why did He allow the cyclone?" This sparked some interest.



Kevin preaching after school

## MANAWATU

**Gary Scoggins** 

The last three months have involved a lot of traveling, with opportunities to share the gospel with many people from different walks of life and I have had the opportunity to engage in discipleship with a number of people.

Highlights included: RSE workers in the Bay of Plenty and a short-term mission trip with Pat and Ian Paton to Vanuatu. In Vila the highlight was sharing the gospel with eight JWs who Gary at Waitangi were having a picnic at the beach and an open air at the market place. More recently, we were involved in an open air on the "Bridge of Remembrance" in Christchurch. People are searching, we need to be busy taking the gospel to those who have not heard and teach other Christians to do the same. Please keep praying!





Evan Kangisher

Hi everyone, I appreciate your prayers for this important ministry. My personal health issues continue to have significant impact on my daily activity with mobility quite limited and uncomfortable. I have started to re-engage in some evangelistic activity with a few trips to the skate-park with my son, attending a weekly community meal and resuming some chaplaincy work on a fortnightly basis. I even had the opportunity to preach at another local church with positive feedback. Recently, I was on the streets doing evangelism using a survey in the city with a friend. In an hour in a half, we both engaged in over a dozen meaningful gospel conversations with people with all sorts of spiritual beliefs. I have found setting up a table with free water and offering a survey to find out what people believe is a great way to connect and have meaningful spiritual conversations with people.

The Square - PN

Steve, Marty and Roy

### CANTERBURY

Roy and Marty spoke at Southwest Baptist Tuesday Fellowship recently. Marty used his puppet Boris the Russian bear to talk about Jesus being the good shepherd who will even help us when we are lost and sung *Jesus got heaps of Lambs*. Roy shared a message about Jesus meeting with two followers on the road to Emmaus. We got very positive feedback afterwards. We were also blessed by one young lady who wrote and read out a prayer

during the service that was amazing.

Marty - I recently spoke at Rowley Ave Church family service. My message was how in the journey of life, Jesus is like our own personal expert guide. I shared the gospel using my turtle puppet Ziggy. They are having a church camp later in the year which I have been invited to be involved in.

Steve has had some really good times out in the streets of Christchurch over the last couple of months. One guy he spoke to was very interested in the preaching the team were doing in Cathedral Square one Friday afternoon. Steve invited him to church, and he came and enjoyed the service. He is now helping him find a church close to his home for him and his two daughters and hopefully his wife who is not a Christian yet.

Roy has been facilitating a Life course at his church which is a community outreach. Some folks have come along who have been invited by their friends and their questions

tell me they are genuinely seeking spiritual truth.

Open airs continue to be interesting in the square. Marty, Steve and Roy preached last Friday with hecklers arguing with them. One guy got up and spoke for the first time. He admitted he used to go to church, and his mother was a Christian and taught Bible in schools, he walked away at a young age and challenged them that our faith is blind. They had a respectful chat after and shook hands, so the door is hopefully open for further dialogue. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.1 Peter 3:15



Roy sharing at Tuesday Fellowship

## DUNEDIN



Shane Louie

A good day was had at the Neighborhood Day Teddy Bears Picnic in Brockville on the 4th March. It was good to meet the locals and the other ministries in the area who share a love for the Community of Brockville. This was run by the Brockville

Improvements and Amenities Society (BIAS). We, at Cornerstone, got the privilege of running the BBQ, which was a great way to meet people as everything was free.

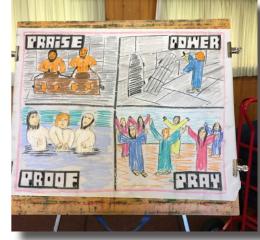
I set up a sketchboard and had a bit of fun with the locals testing their observation with Ray Comforts observation test. We had the opportunity to invite people to the Cornerstone Community Dinner held at Wray Street the following week. We had a reasonable turnout and are hoping people will keep coming as we plan to have a meal once a month and meet each Sunday evening for a time of devotion, fellowship and answering life's big question, followed

by supper of course.

The Discovery Club Children's After School Program has started again. We are using object lessons each week to teach children how we can live for Jesus. We have about 12-15 kids at the moment but I am hoping and praying that more will come as word gets around and we get to know people better.

There is a Syrian community established in Brockville which would be great to reach out to but that will take time because of the language barrier. Kids are back at school so I need to be out and about on the streets around the time school finishes so that I can have those all-important conversations with the students.





#### **OVERSEAS MISSION BRANCH**



Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew.9: 37 - 38 ESV.

Robert Siakimotu I recently had a conversation with a Christian friend who asked me where I believe are the harvest fields today in terms of gospel ministry. Places where people are open and willing to receive the gospel and where Christians are active in proclaiming the gospel. During my recent ministry trip to Fiji I can confidently say that the people that we ministered to in the open air meetings and schools and other places are responding to the gospel willingly and a good number of them trusted in Jesus as their Lord and Saviour and are nurtured by some of the local churches. Certainly, the harvest in Fiji is 'ripe and ready'.

But the problem is, 'the labourers are few'. It is a challenge that is not new. Jesus mentioned the same thing in the scripture verses above.

Samu Civo, our OAC Evangelist in Fiji is very faithful to the Lord Jesus who called him to preach the gospel but, he needs other co-labourers to work with him in the harvest field. Please pray with us for labourers to heed the call of Jesus and join Samu in gathering the harvest that is ripe and ready NOW. Pray also for the resources we need TODAY to gather in the harvest effectively.







Ministering to students in Nadi



The response



foundation course

#### OAC's School of Evangelism Foundation Course

This course is run over three weekends (Friday night and all day Saturday) around the country. If you are interested in attending one keep an eye out on our website. If there isn't one in your region give us a call and let us come to you.

www.oac.org.nz



#### **Our training dates for 2023**

Ten Training Days are planned for 2023. We are hoping to train at least another 100 people this year. People can attend a Training Day without any obligation that they continue to become a Community Chaplain. Some people come to see what it's all about and still benefit from the training.

The registration form is online – scan the QR code to find it. We are encouraged to hear of Community Chaplains finding their own niche at such diverse places as shopping areas, driving cancer patients to hospital, ukelele clubs and Death Cafes! Each Community Chaplain has a unique set of circumstances that fit them to reach people in a particular sphere of life.

Recently Brendan (Otago) had this to say:

"I have visited four local community agencies in Waimate. The first thing I did was to introduce myself then I explained to the appropriate staff members that I was part of a new Community Chaplains' service starting up in Waimate. In addition, I explained what our role in the community would be. They were given an introductory letter. Everyone that I approached was very interested."

West Auckland, 5 March
Hamilton, 29 April
Oamaru, 13 May
Christchurch, 20 May
Hawkes Bay, 10 June
Whanganui, 14 June
Waikanae, 17 June
Auckland Central, 22 July
Auckland North, 12 August
Pukekohe, 9 September

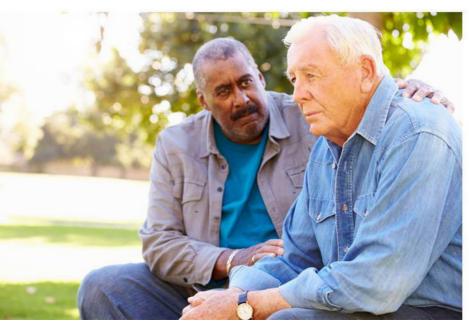


https://www.communitychaplains.org.nz/about/



Connecting communities

Connecting people





#### UNDERSTANDING WORLD VIEWS

## Guilt? Shame? Power? We all see the world differently So how do we reach those we don't understand?

Join us as we look into the way different people groups perceive the gospel and gain understanding on how best to reach them

21-24 August 2023

El Rancho 58 Weggery Drive, Waikanae Beach 5036

https://mailchi.mp/oac/evangelistfellowshipconference2023

#### **Eternal Investment Opportunities - UPDATED DETAILS**

If you would like to support work in an operational sector or the general work in a particular region you can do so via the OAC website, <a href="www.oac.org.nz">www.oac.org.nz</a> (note a small fee is taken from the donation to cover costs), or you can give directly via your <a href="mailto:online-banking">online-banking</a>. (Cheques are no longer accepted)

Please record your name in 'Particulars' and the appropriate code to direct your giving under 'reference' For more information please call Vicki-Lee on 0800467735 or national@oac.org.nz

#### NATIONAL WORK 03-0149-0024916-00

<u>Codes</u>

A National

A1 Community Chaplains
B National Training

#### **REGIONS** 03-0515-0138148-00

**Codes** 

D AucklandF WaikatoG Bay of PlentyH Hawke's Bay

Manawatu Christchurch

M Otago/Southland

O Overseas Mission Branch

#### **EVANGELISTS** 03-0149-0024916-03

Codes

D1 Lew Meyer D2 Philip Booth

D3 Philip Williamson

E1 Robert Siakimotu

F1 Paul Tabrum

F2 Erick Kawaya

H1 Jeremy DempseyH2 Maria Henderson

H3 Kevin Simpson

I1 Gary ScogginsI2 Evan Kangisher

L1 Marty Scheib

L2 Roy Ouwerkerk
L3 Steve Williams

M1 Shane Louie