



"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

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Mauri ora e te whanau,

This year is racing by. We are one third of 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

Jeremy training interns at Word of Life

## 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 of Life Interns
- 13 CC Training Oamaru
- 20 CC Training Christchurch

### JUNE

- 9 SOE Hawkes Bay starts
- 10 CC Training Napier
- 14 CC Training Whanganui

### JULY

- 22 CC Training Auckland





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.

We had the joy of helping

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?



Eric & Paul

# 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.

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



Mission Bay outreach with Hastings girls



Kevin & Maria

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



Evan & Gary

## 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 JW's who 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!



Gary at Waitangi

## 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



# CANTERBURY



Steve, Marty and Roy

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



Shane Louie

# DUNEDIN

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.



Mangere Market



Ministering to students in Nadi



The response

**HAWKES BAY SCHOOL OF EVANGELISM FOUNDATION COURSE 2023**

Effective gospel communication to family, friends and your community

Jeremy Dempsey - Lecturer

Module 1 (16-17 June) Personal Evangelism

Module 2 (23-24 June) Platform Evangelism

Module 3 (30 June - 1 July) Reaching Kids & Families

RSVP here

<https://form.jotform.com/222818900765>

Photo by Helena Lopes on Pexels

## 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](http://www.oac.org.nz)

Phone: Maria Henderson 022 096 6300  
Email: [m.henderson@oac.org.nz](mailto:m.henderson@oac.org.nz)  
Venue: TBC

Suggested Donation towards costs  
\$25 per module or  
\$50 for full  
foundation course





## 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







2023

# 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, [www.oac.org.nz](http://www.oac.org.nz) (note a small fee is taken from the donation to cover costs), or you can give directly via your [online banking](#). (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](mailto:national@oac.org.nz)

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

#### Codes

- A National
- A1 Community Chaplains
- B National Training

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

#### Codes

- D Auckland
- F Waikato
- G Bay of Plenty
- H Hawke's Bay
- I Manawatu
- L 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 Siakimoto
- F1 Paul Tabrum
- F2 Erick Kawayaya
- H1 Jeremy Dempsey
- H2 Maria Henderson
- H3 Kevin Simpson
- I1 Gary Scoggins
- I2 Evan Kangisher
- L1 Marty Scheib
- L2 Roy Ouwerkerk
- L3 Steve Williams
- M1 Shane Louie

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