

tertiary students christian fellowship quarterly magazine

canvas

Godzone Report

Hamilton: City of the Future

Catalyst Summer Conference

Encountering poverty
and being changed by it

ISSUE 62 | SUMMER 2011

big
change

small
change



CANVAS aims to inform and encourage all those who are interested in reaching students for Christ, and in thinking Christianly about their life and work. It is published four times a year by TSCF.



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Summer 2011

Cover
Greg Mackay

TSCF is a founder member of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students and serves to help students reach students for Christ nationwide by enabling them to reach maturity in Christ, so that they understand and proclaim the truth about Christ and serve God by showing his love in the student world.

Send your thoughts, comments, questions and letters to us at canvas@tscf.org.nz

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canvasgreen

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canvasnotablenotes

Born

Eliot Murray McKenzie to Tim and Mel McKenzie 14 September
William James Edgecombe to Mark and Sarah on 19 September
Caleb Jonathan Stark to Guido and Sarah on 11 November

Engaged

Ian Calder (ex LUCF) and Junita Douglass

Employment Opportunities in TSCF

Are you excited about student ministry? Do you share God's passion for students? Do you want to help facilitate the gospel being spread on university campuses across New Zealand? We have a number of opportunities available within TSCF:

REGIONAL STAFF WORKERS

TSCF is always on the lookout for people passionate about spreading the gospel among students on New Zealand university campuses. If you have a vision to invest in the next generation of leaders and have a heart for biblical evangelism then we would love to hear from you.

COMMUNICATIONS AND SUPPORTER RELATIONS ASSISTANT

Connecting with our wide network of students, graduates and supporters through our publications, social media and website is a vital part of our ministry. We are seeking someone with the skills and passion to build these relationships by assisting us with the production and editing of TSCF publications; the maintenance of our website and social networks; and the development and management of the TSCF database.

If you are interested in any of the above positions, please contact Viviane Ayers, Personnel Officer, for an application form and job description. Telephone 04 3847274 or email viva@tscf.org.nz

canvaseditorial

Poverty, and particularly child poverty in New Zealand, has been one of the issues that has surfaced again during the recent election campaigns. Few of us fail to be moved by the idea of any child living in poverty in New Zealand, or anywhere else in the world. But the poverty of children and adults is such an enormous and complex problem that we often are at a loss to know what we can personally do. In this edition of Canvas Chris Clarke (CEO World Vision and TSCF President) implores us to 'do something, anything' in the face of poverty.

Below and opposite you'll read about opportunities to work with TSCF and our financial needs. It strikes me as we put this edition together than not many organisations would declare their 'toughest year financially' alongside 'employment opportunities' – it reflects our strong belief that God is calling us to move forward despite not having all the answers, not recklessly or foolishly but with the courage to look ahead to expanding the ministry on every campus. There are numerous times in recent years where, despite a lack of resources, we have stretched ourselves to carry out the vision we believe God has for us – and each time he answers providing all that we have needed.

In this edition you can also read about the Catalyst Summer Conference, new staff in Hamilton, some news from our Rugby World Cup 'Godzone' initiative.

Rachel Turner
Communications Manager



On behalf of TSCF, may you have a happy Christmas as we celebrate the coming of Immanuel, our Saviour.

canvasthebottomline

2011 is turning out to be the toughest year financially for TSCF since I have been National Director. We have been working hard to manage expenditure and this has been consistently on or under budget. However, our income is struggling to keep pace with budget and we are currently facing an \$80,000 deficit on our core funding. This is at the heart of our ministry nationally and we would ask you to pray with us as we seek the Lord's provision. We have much to give thanks for and are being given some great opportunities in campus outreach, discipleship and leadership development but our continued growth and impact is dependant on increasing the number of those who stand with us.



Flash Mob: 'You are Good'

During the RWC, 14 of us KYCFers got together to arouse some curiosity about Jesus. We performed our worship dance moves to the song 'You are Good' in several places in town: Queen St, Chancery, Britomart and Albert Park. It was great to see people stop by and watch, and get support from other Christians walking past. Some came into our circle and danced with us, praising His name. As we prayed for the people's excitement of rugby to be turned into a greater joy and passion towards God, this flash mob challenged me personally to have a more compassionate heart toward this land and its people. I hope that more people can share in this vision, and that next time we have more people dancing with us and increase the impact we could have in this land.

Anna Ara Cho, KYCF student



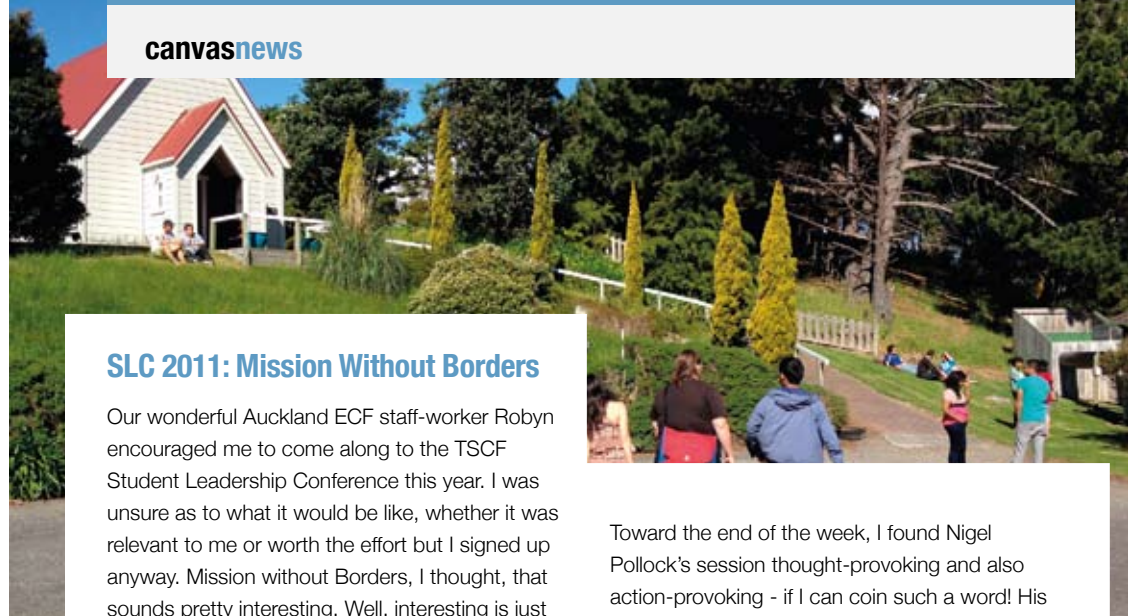
Word Up

Word Up is a new initiative we're starting as staff and students this summer. It is a forum on Facebook for engaging in the Word together. Everyday a new passage is posted up and then there is opportunity to ask questions and respond to what we've read. Responses could range from poetry, music and photography to simple discussion and asking questions.

It's not always easy to read the Bible by ourselves, to understand it or find accountability. We're hoping that reading the same passages and having a place to engage together will keep us going, helping one another to love Jesus more through His Word.

We're starting with 99 days of Psalms for the summer, with Selah days on Sundays, a chance to pause and reflect. Anyone is welcome to join – search 'Word Up' on Facebook!

Gillian Wildgoose and Sarah Kwok



SLC 2011: Mission Without Borders

Our wonderful Auckland ECF staff-worker Robyn encouraged me to come along to the TSCF Student Leadership Conference this year. I was unsure as to what it would be like, whether it was relevant to me or worth the effort but I signed up anyway. Mission without Borders, I thought, that sounds pretty interesting. Well, interesting is just one word I could use to describe the week of my first SLC!

One evening focused on global prayer, considering IFES and groups around the world like TSCF such as CECE in Ecuador. It was encouraging to realise our little CF or CU weekly meetings, our values and mission are shared by tens of thousands of students around the world too. And there was something awesome about praying together for our fellow students around the world and to feel connected with them through IFES and in Christ.

On Wednesday morning we welcomed the Borthwicks, Paul and Christie, who shared with us throughout the week. They each brought different but equally relevant insights on life and mission. Who can forget Paul's message reiterating, 'Whatever you do, don't do nothing!' The question and answer session, where they shared the mic, seemed to resonate with everyone as we could each relate to either Paul or Christie as they told stories of love, loss and learning in their lives and how they keep pursuing their relationship with God.

Toward the end of the week, I found Nigel Pollock's session thought-provoking and also action-provoking - if I can coin such a word! His insights really got me thinking: Who is Jesus and what are some things about him that I would want to share with others? With an 'ordinary' brought-up-in-a-Christian-family type testimony, I found it refreshing to hear that our testimony should be more about Jesus and not just about us and how we changed. I felt empowered to share about the Jesus I know with my classmates and flatmates.

"...we could each relate to either Paul or Christie as they told stories of love, loss and learning in their lives and how they keep pursuing their relationship with God."

The combination of speakers, track time, praying together, group bible study and hanging out with other like-minded students from across NZ was a recipe for a fantastic week. I felt challenged, inspired, refreshed and encouraged for the year ahead at university. Kia Kaha!

Meredith Dale, AECF

Rugby Heaven: The Gospel and RWC

“Approximately 17,000 copies have already been distributed – our prayer is that many of these will have been given to those who do not yet know Christ...”

“For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.” Luke 19:10

TSCF’s desire was to see students using the Rugby World Cup as an opportunity to build relationships and to think about how they could use the event to share the gospel.

From the beginning of the year Ben Carswell, Outreach Co-ordinator, worked alongside staff and students helping them to think through how they might do this. We produced a wall planner in January to encourage students to be praying for the nations that we would be hosting, and in the autumn edition of Canvas we published articles on ‘Make Sport Your Mission’ – how sport can educate, build character and community, encourage discipline and develop perseverance - and also a testimony from world-class rower Debbie Flood on how she integrates faith with sport.

Our major initiative was to produce *Godzone*, a rugby-themed version of Luke’s gospel with testimonies from Christian rugby players for students to give away with a personal invitation to consider and discuss the claims of Jesus.

‘GODZONE’

Godzone is available to student groups, churches and other organisations. Approximately 17,000 copies have already been distributed – our prayer is that many of these will have been given to those who do not yet know Christ with a personal invitation to read it and talk about Jesus’ claims. The gospels is still available for those who wish to receive copies from the TSCF office or through our website.

Godzone has been well-used by Christian groups across New Zealand. A church in Te Puke took 100 people to a match and gave each one a copy of the gospel. A Mainly Music group in Christchurch gave a copy to each of their families. We have also heard of school students giving them to their classmates and teachers. We know that a good number of high-ranking players and officials were given a copy of *Godzone* while they were here and that there were some good conversations about Jesus as a result of this.

We are delighted that the gospels have also been distributed in a variety of countries outside of New Zealand. The Fiji rugby team took 320 gospels to give to their fans. A church worker in Cork, Ireland who helps at a rugby club is giving one to all their coaches as a Christmas gift. We know of others around the world who have used *Godzone* with their friends and team-mates.

EVENTS

We want to see students in our groups develop their passion for reaching their communities, their confidence in the saving power of the gospel and inviting people to find out more about Jesus in a whole range of ways – from reading the Bible one-to-one to hosting large events.

Many of the campus groups hosted an event around the rugby – for some groups this was the first time in this generation of students that a larger event had been put on so it was exciting to see groups trying new things.

We were excited to be able to partner with Fijian Rugby captain Deacon Manu who came to speak at three campus events in Dunedin, Wellington and Auckland and spoke at the final night of the Pacific Students For Christ, Fiji annual conference.

Mike Summerfield, Otago VCF student said, ‘The evening before he played the All Blacks at Carisbrook, Deacon Manu was hosted by Otago VCF to talk about his life in professional rugby and his faith in God. Deacon was as zealous about Fiji’s draw with Wales as he was about things that shaped him as a person: family, education, different cultures and an unfolding realisation of who God desired him to be. Trained as a scientist, he shared how his faith was as much a reasonable response to the Bible as it was an emotional response to the God he encounters in everyday life. The Christian culture that permeates the Fijian rugby team offers him many opportunities for expressing his heart-felt desire to follow Jesus.’



Deacon Manu (right), captain of the Fijian Rugby Team.

‘About 50 people turned up to hear what Deacon had to say, ask questions and speak to him personally at the end of the evening, and we were able to advertise some of our regular meetings; inviting people to see for themselves the God of Deacon’s salvation.’

Meredith Paterson, Vic CU student said, ‘Ben Carswell interviewed Deacon in front of a crowd of

about 60 students. Many were CUers; however, it was encouraging to see the event reaching to others on campus, as a number of people came because of posters or fliers placed around uni.’

‘One of the most powerful moments was when the chaplain of the Springbok team (who were due to play Fiji a few days later), was spontaneously asked to pray for Deacon and the Fijian team; a fitting reminder that faith surpasses all barriers and that, particularly in New Zealand where rugby is an obsession for many, it is God whom we worship, not any game or player.’

“We were excited to be able to partner with Fijian Rugby captain Deacon Manu who came to speak at three campus events”

Reflecting on the RWC initiatives Ben said, ‘*Godzone* has been a positive initiative. We have given the gospel to thousands of people. Several students have taken bold steps in inviting their friends to read the gospel. We are thrilled that it has been a valuable resource for so many churches and organisations and that they have used it so well – we love partnerships like this. We are encouraged that TSCF has made a significant contribution nationally during the RWC and that this is leading to more conversations about how we can work with others to share the gospel with the New Zealand and the South Pacific through sports.’

‘We are thankful that a number of students grasped the vision for *Godzone* and used it with their friends, but we are also aware that many students still need the encouragement and help in developing friendships and seeking to share Jesus in them. We continue to build on existing work we are doing to better ready students to share Jesus as part of their everyday lifestyle.’

Thank you to our wider TSCF family who pray and give to make these initiatives possible.

Rachel Turner, TSCF Communications Manger

‘Hamilton: City Of The Future’?

For the last ten years, since Andrew Shepherd, there have been no TSCF staff based in Hamilton. Over the years, some students have continued to meet with supportive visits from TSCF staff workers from Auckland. Having talked with other groups in Hamilton, they and TSCF feel there are more opportunities for more student ministry. TSCF hope to send Andrew and Li Lian and their daughter Monica next year. This will mean that TSCF will have staff on every major campus in New Zealand. Canvas met with Li to find out more:

Tell us a bit about your history with TSCF and New Zealand?

Maybe the question should be answered the way I have been taught in Maori class, like a mihi that shows our whanau and our connection to the land?

We grew up in Singapore and were both school teachers before we came to New Zealand. I came to study at Vic in 1991 and was OCF President. Andrew came in 1995 and it was at Vic and OCF that we met, even though we had come from the same church in Singapore! Andrew also became President of OCF.

After we married I was a TSCF staff worker and Andrew was the warden of Kia Mia hostel though our roles overlapped and we ministered together. After finishing with TSCF I went on to do my Masters at Vic and Andrew worked as a Librarian at Wellington Teachers College.

At some stage, Andrew became a Kiwi. Coming back to NZ and being able to spend almost seven weekends

in all black this year has been almost a dream, really. In short, our connection with Te Whanganui-a-Tara is strong but we come from Singapore.

“In my mind going to Hamilton is about trying to engage with the complexities of today’s student world—a world labelled: connected, post-church, green, digital, jaded and hurt.”

We returned home to Singapore, and have been there for ten years. Our daughter, Monica, was born in 2000. We have both held a variety of positions. Andrew has been a Business Development Officer for Singapore Management University, a Senior Inspector of Schools and on the NZ Trade Board. I have written assignment books and taught English as a Second Language at the National University of Singapore. As a family we have ministered to students living in Oldham Hall hostel.

If your ties to Wellington are so strong, why go to Hamilton then?

It does seem odd to go to a place where we are amongst strangers. We take comfort that there are a fair few biblical narratives that are about people going on physical journeys and in our recent visit to Hamilton we have been warmly welcomed by TSCF supporters living there. Our hope is that we will make friends who over time will become our new whanau.



Andrew Lian shows his true colours.

Andrew is excited by the pioneering work required for Hamilton. He is keen to learn and develop experience and expertise in training and resourcing student leaders. We are excited by the opportunities to work with other Christians in Hamilton to reach students in the University of Waikato and the Waikato Institute of Technology. These campuses also have international students from Asia, the Middle East and as far as Africa. We seek your prayers as we work with students to develop strategies to bring Christ into their lives.

In my mind going to Hamilton is about trying to engage with the complexities of today’s student world—a world labelled: connected, post-church, green, digital, jaded and hurt. But students are more than labels; each life is precious to God. There are many students coming from rural areas to Hamilton, and a good number coming from Christian homes. We want to give every student the opportunity to grow in their faith in Jesus.

Te Kuiti, near Hamilton, was also the place where my friend and ex-Mintern Linda Caughley and her fiancée died in a car accident in June 1999. The suddenness of her death affected her friends, students and family greatly. As school teachers, their lives exemplified “true witness” as they tried to teach, life and its uncertainties means that it is easy to fluctuate between fear in a handful of dust or certainty in the grace of a loving God.

Perhaps who we are is found at this moment, the now. We are poised between the many uncertainties of starting a new work and home, and the certainty that God wants us there. How does this pan out in the nitty-gritty, messiness of life? We don’t know. Please pray with us. Perhaps a Ministry home, a bi-vocational calling, faculty based studies? At this exploratory stage these are ideas that we hope will further the aims of True Witness, Global Reach, Undivided Life and Deep Thought. With such conceptually complex aims, the temptation is to overly simplify them into techniques of being a Christian.

“We want to give every student the opportunity to grow in their faith in Jesus.”



Andrew and Li Lian

The legacy of TSCF and IFES to us personally has been just that courage to keep things complex, authentic and avoid the pat answers – a courage nurtured within a caring, prayerful and thinking Christian community, a community which includes all you readers out there, seeking to challenge a new generation of tertiary students.

■ What can I do? Please consider supporting Andrew and Li and the work in Hamilton by praying for them or supporting them financially. For more information please contact the office tscf@tscf.org.nz.

ENCOUNTERING POVERTY AND BEING CHANGED BY IT

Recently I read an article in the Huffington Post entitled 'Why Evangelicals hate Jesus'. The writer conceded the title was provocative but argued that a recent poll on religion and public life confirmed popular knowledge – white evangelical Christians in the US were the group least likely to support politicians or policies that reflect the teachings of Christ. The poll found they were far more likely to support the death penalty, punitive punishment over rehabilitation, less gun control, the slashing of taxes and cuts to government spending especially social assistance programmes. He concluded:

'Of course conservative Americans have every right to support corporate greed, militaristic gun possession, and the death penalty, and to oppose welfare, food stamps, health care for those in need etc. – it is just strange and contradictory when they claim these positions as somehow "Christian". They aren't.'

"My generation had a particularly queasy relationship with social justice. As young evangelicals growing up in the 1980s we were often warned of the perils of getting too involved in social issues."

Could the same accusation be made of New Zealand evangelicals? I think not! For a start, our context and history is very different. We were settled by Treaty and not, until later, by gun. We are a small Pacific-facing nation, with little real influence on the world stage. Our equivalent of the American dream is a deep belief in fairness, pragmatism and egalitarianism. Rapidly rising social inequalities are fast eroding the ideal, but nonetheless we still fondly remember the dream.

My diffidence is because like our US counterparts, a growing number of Kiwi Christians have a problem with Jesus! We struggle with His teachings on how society should be ordered and our responsibilities to the poor. We justify our

consumption-orientated lifestyles with the solace that the poor will always be with us – in rather the same way the rich man ignored Lazarus. We sing of seeking God's face, but fail to go looking for Him where He is always to be found – with the poor and dispossessed. We fully claim His promises and selectively His commands.

But we privatise a very public faith at our peril. Jesus reserved His harshest and most public criticism for those who called Him Lord but did not honour His lordship.

Now let me confess I too am a partial product of this thinking. My generation had a particularly queasy relationship with social justice. As young evangelicals growing up in the 1980s we were often warned of the perils of getting too involved in social issues. It was a slippery slope that had taken out many an otherwise 'sound' evangelical. Social action was legitimate where its aim was to win souls for Christ but not as an end in itself. A number of us felt distinctly uncomfortable about the advice and were later to reject it. But at the time it had a big impact on my own thinking and behaviour.

Hopefully we have come a long way since then. It does trouble me, however, that we are quick to speak out when public debate touches on personal morality yet, with a few heroic exceptions, are largely silent when the debate turns, for example, to the future of our planet, child poverty here in New Zealand, the future direction of economic policy and rising social inequalities.

So how do we develop a social conscience and give voice to the voiceless in our own society? Here are some actions I have found helpful.

• **Think theologically** – Jim Wallis of Sojourners Community tells the story of taking an old Bible and deciding to cut out every reference to the poor and poverty. More than 2,000 verses later he was left with a 'holey Bible' that almost immediately fell apart. His point: social justice and the alleviation of poverty are at the heart of

the gospel. It is not an extra-curricula subject for those with a special interest. So start by reading Scripture fully and reading it from the perspective of both the oppressed and the oppressor. There are many helpful books to assist in this task. The classics include N.T. Wright, Ron Sider, Jim Wallis and Brian McLaren. But also look to read majority world writers such as Ruth Padilla DeBorst and Jayakumar Christian who write from within their context of grinding poverty.

“The report died almost overnight, an inconvenient truth in the lead up to the Rugby World Cup and the elections. The Christian voice was notably silent.”

• **Do something, anything** – where best to start the process of transformation than by doing something for others. But do it regularly and incarnationally and not episodically and from a distance. And here’s the thing. Typically we start believing we are the ones doing the helping. Almost without exception we learn, very quickly, that we are the ones being helped. We receive far more than we ever give.

• **Pray widely, deeply and thoughtfully** – Because of my work with World Vision I get to visit a large number of churches. I am alarmed that so few churches know how to intercede corporately. Intercessions are increasingly being curtailed or shifted to a midweek night to allow for a longer sermon or additional songs. It is so wrong. Many a World Vision worker has told me of miracles that can only be attributed to prayer. As I am learning to pray for the oppressed and the oppressor I too am finding that I am far more sensitised and open to God using me to walk with the poor. Imagine whole church communities at prayer similarly touched by God’s call.

• **Read widely** – I have always loved reading biographies. I am struck by the passion and resilience of these men and women who were able to surmount many challenges, including their own failings to be wonderfully used by God to help mend His world. What gives me hope is that most of them were exceptionally ordinary. Blog sites, journals, novels and social media sites such as TED.com are all sources of inspiration for the aspiring social advocate. Think about subscribing to an online journal. Sojourners Magazine is a great place to start for the thoughtful evangelical.

• **Speak loudly** – recently the Child Poverty Action Group (a coalition of some of New Zealand’s leading child health professionals and others) released a report evidencing that 200,000 New Zealand children live in poverty. The report was well researched, dispassionate and actionable, yet it was dismissed as politically motivated and no different from their last report. The report died almost overnight, an inconvenient truth in the lead up to the Rugby World Cup and the elections. The Christian voice was notably silent. Jesus was never afraid to speak up. Nor should we be.

“The TSCF community of students and graduates is uniquely placed to be at the forefront of this new expression of God’s love for this world.”



• **Get our own house in order** – one of New Zealand’s darkest secrets is our appalling levels of family violence. Last month when speaking on this topic I was challenged by a senior advocate in this field to get the Church’s house in order first. It’s a salutary reminder that even the body of Christ is guilty of marginalising, ignoring and in some case perpetuating the oppression of others.

• **Spend wisely** – some of the best advice I got at university was to start tithing when I had little to tithe, so that when I had a lot the discipline would already be established. Great advice. But what about stewarding the money I keep? Even our decisions about the clothes, coffee and fruit we buy can impact for better or worse on the lives of the poor.

“ - one of New Zealand’s darkest secrets is our appalling levels of family violence. Last month when speaking on this topic I was challenged by a senior advocate in this field to get the Church’s house in order first.”

Many social movements are defined by what they are against. Few are defined by what they are for. The initial growth of TSCF was in large measure a reaction to the excesses of liberalism at the time. That ‘threat’ is now gone and in its place I sense a new Kiwi evangelical expression is forming. It remains grounded in Scripture but is more confident in engaging with modern culture and with the challenges of social change. It is

learning to treasure tikanga Maori and at the same time look outwards into Asia and the Pacific. Its heroes are no longer just British and male but now include women, Maori and Pacifica. Its stories are just as likely to emerge from Ashburton and Onga Onga as they are from Cambridge and Oxford. Its expression is being seen and heard in the marketplace and the streets as well as in churches and lecture halls.

The TSCF community of students and graduates is uniquely placed to be at the forefront of this new expression of God’s love for this world. We treasure Scripture. We value scholarship. We stand for truth. We are open to God’s Spirit. We have a global reach and we believe in an undivided life. We occupy, or will soon occupy, positions of real influence in New Zealand society.

Many years ago a young man stood up in church and opened the Scriptures reading from Isaiah:

The Lord’s Spirit has come to me because he has chosen me to tell the good news to the poor. The Lord has sent me to announce freedom for prisoners, to give sight to the blind, to free everyone who suffers and to say this is the year the Lord has chosen.

The young man sat down, all eyes now on Him and simply stated: ‘What you have just heard me read has come true today.’

Would that be our call for Aotearoa New Zealand.

Chris Clarke is CEO of World Vision New Zealand and President of TSCF



OUR LOCAL POVERTY



The first time I came face to face with poverty in Wellington was a few years ago when I walked into one of the units in Newtown Park Flats. A family of five children and a solo mother were living in a one-bedroom flat; three of the children slept in bunks in the lounge and two children with their mother in the bedroom. The entire flat would have been the same area of my lounge at home. The mother wanted to purchase a car as her nine year old son had been diagnosed with bronchiectasis (a chronic and irreversible lung condition), and another child was developing regular bouts of bronchitis. Both children wanted to remain active in sports, but it meant catching two buses in the cold at night. She was so desperate, she had contacted a high interest loan company who, after checking her collateral such as the bunk beds, her own bed, and a third-hand lounge suite, agreed to lend her the money. If she had taken the loan and defaulted, the family would have had nothing to sleep or sit on.

“A faithful position on poverty is one that unlatches the door to our heart and stirs us to faithful and personal action.”

This is one of the thousands of stories of poverty in New Zealand. Poverty is a relentless oppressor; it excludes, it stigmatizes, it generates chronic stress, and locks people into a cycle of hopelessness or entrapment. More importantly, it undermines the life chances of children born into poverty.

Professor Ruth Lister, a director of Children Poverty Action Group (CPAG) in the UK said in her Sambell oration in 2010 ‘A society that condones poverty in its midst is not a fair or inclusive society. So long as a significant minority is unable to participate fully in the life of a community...poverty eradication has to be a primary goal.’

“The first time I came face to face with poverty in Wellington was a few years ago when I walked into one of the units in Newtown Park Flats.”



What groups are impacted by poverty in New Zealand? There is currently a strong political focus in moving working-age beneficiaries into work as one of the key solutions to alleviating poverty. However, according to New Zealand’s CPAG report Further Left Behind, around half the children in hardship are from working families.



While people on benefits proportionally experience greater hardship than those working, families on low incomes are subject to the same relentless stressors of (for example) housing costs exceeding a third of their already-inadequate income. Some of the families we work with here at the Wellington City Mission (through our Mission for Families) have one parent who works during the day and the other at night.

“Poverty is a relentless oppressor; it excludes, it stigmatizes, it generates chronic stress, and locks people into a cycle of hopelessness or entrapment.”

Despite their relentless work ethic and schedules they simply can’t get ahead; a winter’s electricity bill (particularly if they live in low quality housing) can mean compromising their budget for basic grocery items. Can you imagine the hopelessness and frustration of working so many hours, and still not being able to purchase nutritious food or provide three meals a day for your children?

A faithful position on poverty is one that unlatches the door to our heart and stirs us to faithful and personal action. Christ doesn’t call us to an exclusively intellectual understanding of poverty, but one of solidarity. If you haven’t done so already, I encourage you to enter the stories of

families or individuals living in poverty. Go in to your local soup kitchen or drop in centre, and take the time to share a table with the people who are there. What are their stressors? What are their fears? Their dreams and hopes? Allow the experience of poverty to break into your world and disturb your story and identity. This may be an uncomfortable process, particularly if you haven’t experienced poverty in your own life. It will be worth it; it will gift you with the blessing of being alongside the people in our community whom Christ unashamedly prioritizes as the greatest.

“Allow the experience of poverty to break into your world and disturb your story and identity. This may be an uncomfortable process, particularly if you haven’t experienced poverty in your own life.”



Susan has recently become the City Missioner for Wellington City Mission. Prior to that she was the Priest in Charge in the Anglican Church of Aotearoa. She is married to Duncan. Susan is passionate about leadership and mission, especially bring Christ to people affected by poverty, social stigma or addiction.



A Kingly Best-Seller

How many Bibles do you have in your home? In our house of four adults and one baby we have sixteen including two audio Bibles, one children's Bible and two Bible apps.

We are enormously privileged. Approximately 340 million people still do not have the Bible in their own language. 774 million do not have the literacy skills to be able to read it. We have easy access to Bibles, the literacy skills to be able to read and the freedom to believe what we have read. So often we take these for granted.

2011 marks the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Version of the Bible. The first translation of the whole Bible into English was in the 1300's by John Wycliffe. In the 1500's William Tyndale published his New Testament. Following these several other translations were published.

In 1604, King James I convened the Hampton Court conference and a decision was made to provide an entirely new translation from the original scriptural languages, to iron out the differences between the Church of England and the Puritans. The work started properly in 1607 and the first draft was available in 1609, to be redrafted the following year and finally completed for publication in 1611. Coming at a critical point in the evolution of English as a literary language it became the most popular English Bible for hundreds of years and exerted a significant influence on English language and literature.

According to Alister McGrath, Oxford University, 'Without the King James there would be no Paradise Lost, no Pilgrim's Progress, no Handel's Messiah, no negro spirituals and no Gettysburg address...If any one book may be said to have shaped Western civilisation, it is the Bible.'

canvasreport

"2011 marks the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Version of the Bible."

In celebration of the 400th year of the KJV and as an acknowledgement of those who have given us God's word in our own language TSCF and Scripture Union are inviting people to read through the Bible in a year, starting in January 2012. We are hoping that at least four hundred school, college and university students; graduates and supporters will join us on this journey through the Scriptures.

As the early translators and distributors of the Bible took advantage of the new medium of print to widely distribute the Bible, so too do we want to take advantage of the mediums available to us today. We are working to use the technology available to us to distribute readings in as many formats as possible.

We are enormously privileged. Approximately 340 million people still do not have the Bible in their own language."

If you haven't read though the whole of Scripture before, or haven't done it recently, why not join us? Doing it with a friend so you can chat over what you've read is a great way to keep going through the year. Please pray with us that, as people delve into God's word, they would hear the living God speak.

Rachel Turner
Communications Manager



Catalyst Summer Conference

With growing numbers of people attending Catalyst conferences during the year and new groups starting around New Zealand, we wanted to design an event where people could come together, be invested into, encourage one another to move the vision forward and have a ball all at the same time.

"We have the privilege of having a world class team of five with us from Timothy Keller's Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York."

The Summer Conference is for people in their 20s and 30s who want to see the gospel grow in themselves, their professions and their cities. It is running from 7-14 January 2012 in Waikanae on the Kapiti Coast.

We have the privilege of having a world class team of five with us from Timothy Keller's Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York. The team leaders David Kim and Amilee Watkins lead (along with others) the Redeemer's Center for Faith and Work. The Center for Faith and Work is a global centre of excellence for understanding, applying and living out the gospel in personal and professional life. Timothy Keller says of David Kim, one of the Conference keynote speakers:

"I don't think it is possible to make Christian disciples of young professionals without helping them think out the difference Christ makes for their public lives, not just their private lives. David Kim is a pioneer in this area. I don't think anyone is better at this right now than he is."

canvasreport

Each morning we'll be working through the key turning points of the biblical story: the creation, the fall, the cross and new creation. In the late morning David will give an expository talk on the morning passages. After an afternoon of free time, on the beach, down the coast or in the local cafe we will head into panel discussions, small groups and an evening talk helping us apply the gospel to our working lives. Our desire is that it be both nourishing and renewing.

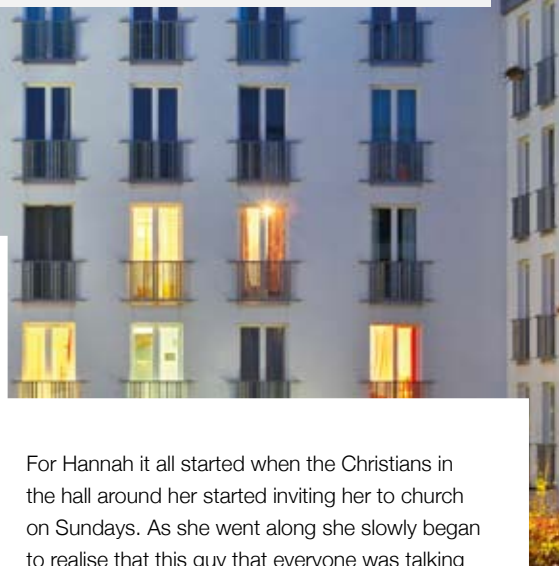


We have deliberately made this a small conference, so there's plenty of time for significant conversations and quality mentoring. It really will be world class input in a small group setting. If you know of young graduates in your churches whom you think would benefit from this input, we encourage you to spread the word. We would love for groups of young adults to come from churches all over New Zealand, along with their pastors. Pray for us as we invest in the next generation of young professionals.

Mark Grace
National Catalyst Team Leader



HALLS OF HOPE



Living in a hall of residence can make a huge difference to your life. You live closely with people that you otherwise might not come into contact with, and these people can influence the way the rest of your life turns out. For two people in Christchurch, living in a hall has turned their lives around in a way they could never have expected...

Hannah McNicol was raised in a predominantly non-Christian home. She is the eldest of three girls, and came to the University of Canterbury to study Chemical and Process Engineering in 2010. It was definitely a scary time leaving home, family, friends and everything familiar to begin the next stage in life and maybe grow up along the way. Luckily she had been accepted into Bishop Julius Hall where she met some wonderful people and was made to feel very welcome. Among these people was Jack Morgan, who studied Computer Science. He had returned for his second year at Bishop Julius as welfare staff. Jack was brought up in a Christian family, but for the most part, decided to ignore what he had heard.

“Jack looked at the Bible again, with a new set of eyes that were a lot older and mature than the first time he had read it, and had been opened through his illness.”

For Hannah it all started when the Christians in the hall around her started inviting her to church on Sundays. As she went along she slowly began to realise that this guy that everyone was talking about, Jesus, might actually have something to say to her. Living in the hall meant that there was a great support base of Christians to help her along her journey. She started regularly going to a Christian Union Halls Bible Study that was held weekly as well as a girls' prayer meeting. Katie, a Canterbury CU member and one of the Resident Advisors (RA) at the hall talked to her about Christ and answered her questions.

“For Hannah it all started when the Christians in the hall around her started inviting her to church on Sundays.”



Hannah McNicol and Jack Morgan



Canterbury Christian Union

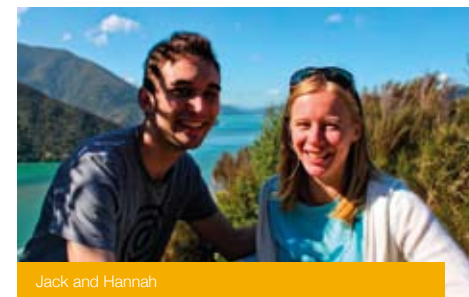
“They are all still living with the ramifications of this decision, but through it her Mum also came to know Christ.”

After talking with everyone, reading the Bible and a lot of listening, Hannah decided that she would accept Jesus as her Lord and Saviour and commit her life to Him. She was nervous about returning to her family that summer as she wasn't sure what reception she would get and how she would cope with continuing her journey. As it turns out, that summer was very different to what she expected in many ways. Her life and her family's were turned upside down when her Dad left unexpectedly. They are all still living with the ramifications of this decision, but through it her Mum also came to know Christ. Hannah is so thankful that God opened her heart before this as He helped her immensely over this time.

Meanwhile, Jack had been getting sick over the summer, as he had just been diagnosed six months earlier with Crohn's disease, a life-long illness. While doctors were figuring out the correct medication to treat the physical condition, Jack was still trying to sort out how it was affecting him mentally. He had been struggling to come to terms with his illness and what it meant for his life.

Both Hannah and Jack returned again in 2011 to Bishop Julius as welfare staff, and they finally got to meet each other properly. They shared their life-changing experiences, and Hannah told Jack

her testimony and helped Jack to reintroduce the Lord back into his life. Jack looked at the Bible again, with a new set of eyes that were a lot older and mature than the first time he had read it, and had been opened through his illness. Jack came across the Christian Union Bible Study group in the Hall run by former CU President Paul Denmead and staffworker Renee Santich. Jack joined over a dozen students from the hall attending church on Sunday nights. He began his own investigations about Jesus and came to the conclusion that Jesus is real, and asked Him back into his life.



Jack and Hannah

“Jack had been getting sick over the summer, as he had just been diagnosed six months earlier with Crohn's disease, a life-long illness.”

Both Hannah and Jack have found that having Christian fellowship in a university hall has been extremely beneficial in their lives. Everything from Bible studies to just talking to other Christians has given them many laughs, many insights, but most importantly is bringing them closer to the Lord with every day. Things don't always turn out the way you plan, but we know that God loves us and cares for us always.

By Jack Morgan and Hannah McNicol

A NEW FOCUS

I had the privilege of being a volunteer in the Fellowship of Christian Unions (FOCUS), which is the equivalent of TSCF in Uganda. My work was mainly administrative, which suited me perfectly given my personality. Yet having said that, I had the opportunity to meet with many students who said that their lives have been transformed during their time in FOCUS. Some of them were back at FOCUS as volunteers while trying to find a job in the difficult economic conditions.

Amongst all the administrative work I was doing, one thing about FOCUS which stuck out to me was the amazing alumni network they had from half a generation ago. Through my work I was able to meet several FOCUS 'oldies' who truly left an impression on me. These Ugandan ex-FOCUS members just absolutely love the ministry because they gained so much from FOCUS as a student. Today they are Christians who love the Lord, love people and are giving back to student ministry and society. FOCUS was facing financial hardship while I was there, and I saw this group of 'oldies' step up and help out with the finances. FOCUS was also going through a transitional phase, and this group stood up and offered help and advice in many ways. Giving back to our student groups after we graduate seemed so logical and natural to me while I was a student and while I was with FOCUS; but having come

back from Uganda, and having started work, it doesn't seem that natural anymore. Sometimes it seems there are no opportunities to help, sometimes it just so happens that due to whatever hurdles, we can't help at a particular time.



Michelle with students from FOCUS

“FOCUS was also going through a transitional phase, and this group stood up and offered help and advice in many ways.”

Many of us are products of IFES student ministry. We feel excited when we think back to how student ministry changed our lives, and at suggestions to help out at the Fellowship. So whatever position you're in, I believe this question is relevant to us all: how do we, graduates, give back to TSCF?

Michelle Ho, ex-AOCF student

IN CHRIST ALONE EASTER 2012

Our Time, Our Region, Our Gathering

BULA Vinaka! Every three years, the South Pacific Regional Conference (SPaRC) brings together student movements from around the South Pacific region. In April 2012 we will be gathering in Fiji. Together we will learn what God is doing across our region as well as around the world as Femi Adeleye, IFES Associate General Secretary, teaches from the Bible. Although a Nigerian, Femi has lived in the USA, Scotland, England, Zimbabwe and now Ghana. He visits and trains students around the world from Sudan, Poland, and Ukraine to Singapore and Fiji; wherever scripture engagement is an issue, Femi is probably there stirring the pot or encouraging it to happen.

“We anticipate more than 200 participants from across the Pacific for SPaRC sharing what God is doing across the region.”

We anticipate more than 200 participants from across the Pacific for SPaRC sharing what God is doing across the region. We would like to see one student from each TSCF group in NZ attend, as well as a diverse representation across the South Pacific including Tonga, Vanuatu and even Samoa.

Behind the stunning beauty of Fiji is a place of real need. This is why a post-SPaRC missions trip

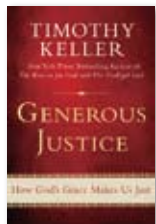
(SPaRC + 6) is planned for working among the poor in Lautoka. We hope for effective partnership between SPaRC and Students International as we reach out in our multi-cultural teams: reaching out at a pre-school, a men's prison, afternoons visiting the elderly at a rest home and helping at a special needs school. In addition to those will be other projects, such as construction, sports outreach and ministry to young girls coming out of abusive situations. One of the highlights, we hope, will be a day at the beach accompanying kids from a local orphanage. We'll also spend time on a university campus where PSFC are involved.

We ask you to join us in prayer for this unique opportunity; do pray for the Bible studies, country-specific presentations, seminars and Bible teaching as well as all the logistics for the host committee. Do also pray for Femi Adeleye, IFES Associate General Secretary, as he speaks around the theme: In Christ Alone.

May our students build friendships across cultures, contribute to and discover more about the global reach of God's mission, and be changed for good.

SPaRC is 5-9 April and SPaRC +6 is 9-15 April. Go to www.tscf.org.nz for further details and registration.

Jane Pelz, Head of World Mission



Generous Justice
by Tim Keller

Tim Keller's recent book is a new front

on the revival of a commitment from evangelical Christians to ministries of mercy. Coming from the coalface of urban ministry in New York, Keller is a sharp evangelist and an insightful pastor. He models a double-listening that engages both Word and world – or in our terms – the value of 'Deep Thought'.

Keller's argument opens a different front to the discussion by pointing out that God's justification of sinners is always reflected in our treatment of others. From the Old Testament prophets to the ministry of Jesus, the point is the same – failure to treat others with the mercy with which God has treated us brings into question the state of our own hearts and ultimately our standing before God.

After the recent Christchurch earthquakes, that leaves plenty of food for thought and impetus to act.

Nick Duke, Canterbury Associate Staff Worker



Good News to the Poor
by Tim Chester

Chester is not one to emphasise

social involvement before sharing the gospel. Rather he points us to the example of Christ, in which the two are inextricably intertwined as a ministry of love towards a world suffering and separated from God. In light of a number of poignant examples of injustice, ranging from child sex-trafficking to domestic abuse, he asks the question, 'what does love require?'. Certainly that we share the gospel with both oppressed and oppressors, but does that exhaust our obligation of love? So often we feel a tension between word-centered gospel proclamation and social involvement that serves to divide our hearts and our churches. If you are hungry for a more robust theology of mission that doesn't leave you feeling that the relationship between evangelism and social involvement is one that is fractured and competing in nature, then I believe this book will be a great boon to your understanding and a great challenge to your heart.

Chris Watterson, Dunedin Minterm



The Irresistible Revolution
by Shane Claibourne

This book is semi auto-

biographical, kind of funny and very challenging. Shane writes from a variety of experiences, including his time in Calcutta with Mother Teresa as well as his community in inner-city Philadelphia, 'The Simple Way'. He weaves in passages of scripture to show what he believes following Christ should look like in today's world. This book is pretty blunt and challenges Christians to take risks for God, to sacrifice and to live in a way that fits with the Bible; not just one that makes us appear as good citizens.

Shane urges us to take an interest in issues such as poverty and injustice. He pushes the point that being in God's family makes us, well, family. To be a brother or sister to someone is not to be indifferent to their suffering, particularly when you have the resources to stop it, and it is definitely not to keep your life separate from theirs just because they are different from you. Shane echoes Jesus' call to put aside our selfishness and love radically.

Polly Dacre, VUWCU student

There are four mission group in the Lincoln and Nelson region:

Nelson

Christian Group:

Over the last two years the small CF group has been fantastic, led well by Jo-Ella, a nursing student, with assistance from a local pastor. It was wonderful to welcome two Nelson students to a TSCF national student conference. However, with several graduations the group is now struggling and with little TSCF staff input it is a hard load for Dirk, the new student leader, to enthuse others about mission opportunities on campus. There continue to be excellent links with Nelson Scripture Union, assisting High School leavers transition to tertiary students around NZ.

Lincoln:

International Christian Fellowship:

The last year has seen a transition from mostly post-grads to mostly under-grads yet the diversity of nationalities and the desire to speak for Jesus on campus as a community remains just as strong. ICF has the best food of any of the TSCF groups! Bernard, Chai & Yehezkiel lead the group.

“It was wonderful to welcome two Nelson students to a TSCF national student conference.”

Christian Fellowship:

Camp for CF was significant as many CFers grasped Jesus' grace to us more fully, and it was wonderful that Nicole, a second year student, became a Christian after flatting with Christians and seeing the difference Jesus makes. Weekly late night toasties continue to be a key opportunity to serve the halls students and talk about Jesus.

Postgrads:

As a new group it's exciting to see how this community is shaping for both mission and support amongst the many postgrads at Lincoln.

We farewelled Sarah Monks to Australia in July and although we miss her, it's exciting to have the very high calibre staff of Simon Rabbidge and Ani Kartikasari (brand new Catalyst postgrad staffworker) doing a great work. The staff team is rounded off by Tim Hodge.



CF, ICF & mates watching All Blacks vs Japan



CFers modelling this season's CF clothing: hoodies with Psalm 46 of the back.

Tim Hodge

Lincoln and Nelson Team Leader



