

tertiary students christian fellowship quarterly magazine

canvas

ISSUE 77 | AUTUMN 2016

what's
the
story?

In an era when the living Word is neglected, its story still has the power to redeem lives. » 7

CANVAS aims to inform and encourage all 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.



Canvas Issue 77
Autumn 2016

Cover image
Death to Stock
Photos

McCahon font
Luke Wood

TSCF is a founding member of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students. It helps students reach students for Christ, so they will grow in faith and understand and communicate the truth about Christ, showing God's love in the student world.

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

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Never underestimate The Story's author

I first heard someone sing the praises of one-to-one Bible study about five years ago. He was a speaker at a conference break-out session, and he ended with a challenge: Ask someone who knows little about Christ to read a book of the Bible with you. This, a year or so before I joined the TSCF team, struck me as the social equivalent of signing up for an Ironman. It was commendable, but seemed beyond either my abilities or inclination.

As it happened, I ran into a friend of a friend that same afternoon and a couple things piqued my curiosity about what she believed. For a week or two this thought kept recurring: I should message that almost-stranger I'd never discussed faith with and invite her to meet up and dip into the Bible together.

I finally did, reasonably sure that she'd say a polite "no" to this non sequitur in our non relationship. But she didn't. God had already been drawing her to himself and she knew that this was one of his threads. (Another, which neither of us had discovered yet, was that TSCF staff in Auckland who had never met her had been praying for her. But that's someone else's story.)

We started with Luke. Over the past few years we've come to know our God and each other much better, meeting up at cafés strategically chosen to make use of free coffee cards and, more recently, attending the same Bible study. Her fresh enthusiasm has mixed with the stored (and too often stale) information that I owe to many teachers. Luke's narrative sparked conversations about Jesus, our work, and the people we love. And we each gained a sister – one for eternity, if you think about it.

I'm prayerfully excited about TSCF's efforts to get Rongopai, "good news" in the form of Luke's gospel, into the hands of students who will commit to reading it with friends. God's word is sufficient, and his plans – his plans are infinitely greater than ours.

Maryanne Wardlaw
Communications Manager





Andy (left) and Nigel Pollock at TSCF's Staff and Families Conference in January.

Farewell

After 22 years in student ministry, most of the past decade with TSCF, **Andy Shudall** has left the Auckland team to pastor Titirangi Baptist Church in West Auckland. You can read more about Andy and the Auckland team on page 18.

Awarded

Luke Stevenson, who finished a Bachelor of Nursing at the University of Auckland in 2015, also won the School of Nursing Award for "the student who has the most distinguished academic performance." Luke also started the Christian Nursing student group.

Born

Mary Judith Mackay was born 24 November, 2016 to Jess and former TSCF staff member Scott.

Matthew and Kate McLaren, former LUCF members,

welcomed **Joel Alexander** on 24 November, 2016.

Milena Ruby Marshall was born on 28 November, 2016 to Blake (former LUCF) and Cheryl.

Dunedin staff workers James and Jen Allaway welcomed their second son, **Wesley**, on 19 December, 2016.

Engaged

Elaine Vun (former Wellington ICF and Mintern) and **Peter Jackson** (former Wellington CF and not of LOTR fame) are engaged to be married in May.

Married

Joy Duncan and **Rob Clow**, both from MUCF in Palmerston North, married in February.

Died

Kevin O'Sullivan has died. He was a lawyer in Palmerston North and a long-time supporter of TSCF who also served as Vice President.

Rev. John Balchin, a long-time friend of TSCF, died March 23. He had been Travelling Secretary for what is now UCCF in the UK and a lecturer at the Bible Training Institute (Glasgow) before he moved to NZ in 1966. He was ordained at First Presbyterian Church Papakura, and served several other congregations in his retirement. His grandson, Ben Johnston, is currently a student leader at the University of Auckland's EU.

BENEATH
the **CROSS** 27 JUNE - 1 JULY
Waikanae, NZ

IFES  **SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2016**

Registration & information: www.tscf.org.nz/sparc_2016

Meet the Minterns

"Minty" is TSCF's ministry internship year. Minterns spend the year being disciplined in practical ministry experience, theological study, and part-time employment. These five grads have joined the 2016 programme.

Alexa Anderson

I was born and raised in Dunedin, where I lived with my family throughout university. In December 2015 I graduated from the University of Otago with a BA in History and Art History. This year, I have ventured into the exciting and mildly terrifying world of flating.

I came to Christ during university, and was baptised in August 2015. The many wonderful young Christians I met through TSCF, with whom I have studied the Bible and formed lasting friendships, were hugely influential in this.

As a Mintern, I am excited to interact with students who, like myself in first year, are investigating Christianity. I am looking forward to growing in my understanding and love of Christ, as well as being able to give back to an organisation that has been truly significant to me.

Bethany Robb

Transition has always been part of my life. I was born in Canada and raised in New Zealand and China. Add in a year on exchange, and I made 11 international moves before my 21st birthday. I look



forward to my eternal home! In the meantime I hope to return to China one day because I love the language and culture. As the second of six kids, I'm used to lots of noise.

While studying towards my BA in Chinese and English at the University of Auckland, TSCF helped me grow spiritually. Before starting postgraduate study or full-time work I want to dedicate a year to intentionally growing in my faith and investing in the lives of students. I'm excited to delve deeply into God's Word and share what I've learned with others. I will continue my involvement with the Evangelical Union, and hope to have time for international student ministry as well. I believe the ministry skills I develop during Minty will be valuable for the rest of my life.

Hamish Cartwright

Born and bred in Temuka, South Canterbury, I enjoyed growing up in my family of four with one sister. I studied chemistry at the University of



The Minty team at Launch in February. From left, Otago Team Leader James Allaway, Hannah Bamford, Interim Auckland Team Leader Robyn Drake, Hamish Cartwright, Alexa Anderson, Peter Brown and Bethany Robb.

Hannah Bamford

I'm from Hurunui in North Canterbury. My family, consisting of Mum, older brother, and my late father, has a sheep and beef farm there. Growing up in a Christian home, I had some knowledge of Jesus.

When I came to Christchurch in 2013 to study psychology and geography I started attending a Bible study run by Christian Union, Canterbury's TSCF group. Through this, God brought me to a deeper understanding of the gospel and what it means to follow him.

Towards the end of my degree in 2015, I spoke with a TSCF staff worker and a friend about the practicality and wisdom of doing ministry training. I looked into ways I could serve in evangelism and discipleship, as well as grow in ministry skills and general godliness. I am excited to serve Christian Union and TSCF this year, with opportunities to teach and learn from God's word.

Peter Brown

I was born in Ashburton and lived in Methven. I studied geology at Canterbury University and graduated with a BSc in 2015. My other interests are playing sports and enjoying God's creation.

I come from a non-Christian background. It was through my first year of university that I investigated the claims of Jesus and put my trust in him.

I am doing Minty because Jesus' resurrection and the hope we have in this inspired me to make non-Christian friends, sharing the good news of Jesus and serving my brothers and sisters in Christ by helping them grow and understand more of Jesus. Minty provides a great opportunity to focus the gifts God has given me and help me better serve students, to encourage them in discipleship and evangelism, be disciplined myself, and learn to better share the good news.

Otago and finished my honours year in 2014.

I had decided to follow Christ at the age of 13 and continued in my walk with God when I arrived at university. In coming to a new city to study I determined to join with Christians in church and on campus. So I spent much of my time studying the Bible with TSCF students, learning and growing at conferences and seeking to be a true witness to my flatmates and classmates.

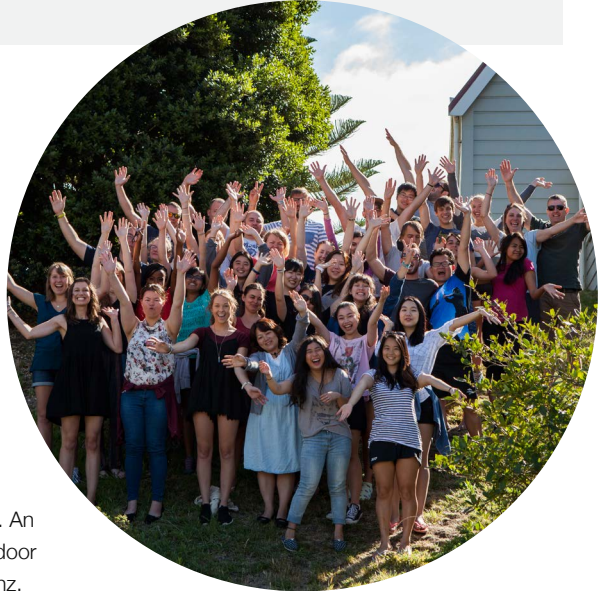
The desire to continue to serve on campus, learn more of who God is and be part of the fellowship drew me to join Minty last year. I'm continuing in the programme to think more about life and faith, serve musically at my church, and reach students on campus with the good news of the gospel.

I'm hugely thankful to TSCF for the opportunities I've had to grow in faith and love over the last five years and am super excited to be serving for a further year in bringing the kingdom of God to students.

Launch 2016

Students and grads kicked off the year at TSCF's summer camp in Waikanae in February. The teaching focused on Luke's gospel, such as how to share what Luke teaches and how the author addresses contemporary challenges to God's revelation.

David and Cathy Walter, staff from Australia's AFES, were among the contributors. Sessions led by David, National Director Nigel Pollock and Canterbury Staff Worker Geoff Robson are available online at www.youtube.com/tscfnz. An album, which includes the week's many outdoor antics, is online at www.facebook.com/tscf.nz.



Urbana Missions Conference

North America's Urbana Missions Conference has been held triennially in December since 1946. More than 300,000 people have come to consider their role in global missions.

More than 30 years ago at Urbana I committed myself to Christ's calling. There I was again last December, with my own daughter, at Urbana in St Louis, Missouri. We listened to engaging and faithful preaching in Matthew by Patrick Fung with 16,000 others. IFES staff represented more than 40 nations.

There was engagement with culture near and far.

Urbana pushed the envelope addressing recent racial tensions in the USA (the conference was only 13 km from Ferguson, Missouri), and discretely showcased believers from other religious backgrounds who spoke on a darkened stage or behind a screen to ensure their safety. We heard how loving Jesus is costly in today's world, yet God is doing amazing things behind the scenes (on campuses around the world too) that mainstream media will never report.

The most profound evening was spent praying for the persecuted church. Large columns emerged out of the floor as dancers with lanterns symbolising the gospel of Christ illuminated other dancers whose lights were unlit. The columns held the names of countries where Christians regularly suffer because they bear the name of Christ. Two hours flashed by as thousands of us prayed over and for these nations, and for the faithfulness of our sisters and brothers in these difficult circumstances.

– Jane Pelz, Auckland International Student Ministry

The story BEGINS & ENDS WITH The Word

We live in frightening times. And no, I'm not talking about ISIS, climate change, or Donald Trump. I'm talking about a fear that troubles many Christians – the fear that our culture's reverence and respect for the Bible is slipping away.

Having lived the first 33 years of my life in Australia, I thought the Bible's place in society had reached a low point. But after moving to Christchurch in 2010, I can confidently say that New Zealand is even further down this path. Quoting the Bible in public debate, or even in private discussion, is a sure way to make yourself look foolish, anachronistic, or "intolerant." Public policy is significantly less likely to reflect Christian values than it was even a decade ago. Within my lifetime, the Bible's place in society has clearly eroded – and this post-biblical world is the only world that most of our students have ever experienced.

But it's not just an increasing disrespect for the Bible. It's also a basic lack of knowledge of the Bible. Among Christians and non-Christians alike, biblical illiteracy is on the rise.

I came to realize that there are still people out there who recognize that the Bible is a book like no other, and who are willing to look into it for themselves. They just don't have a clue where to begin.

This came home to me powerfully at the end of 2014, when I was having coffee with a non-Christian student. "Andrew" is from a completely unchurched background. He started coming along to Christian Union's lunchtime Bible talks early in 2014. He was fascinated by what he heard, but still had many questions, so we started to meet up semi-regularly during the year to get to know each other and discuss what he was hearing from the Bible. Near the end of the year, we met up – I remember he was drinking coffee and smoking; I was drinking water and averting my asthmatic nose. We chatted about plans for the summer. When I casually mentioned that I really look forward to Christmas as a celebration of Jesus'

birth, he gave me a puzzled look. “What do you mean?” he asked. “Christmas – Jesus’ birthday,” I repeated, being a bit slow to grasp what he hadn’t understood. He blurted out with genuine surprise, “Wait – Christmas is Jesus’ birthday?!”

I thought to myself, “I had forgotten that it’s possible to not know that.” But that’s only true in my strange little world – not in Andrew’s world, the world of the average student. I’ve met students who tell me they’ve never even heard of Jesus – and the looks on their faces when I try to talk about him suggests they might not be exaggerating.

In an environment like that, we can easily despair. If I were taking a page from Donald Trump’s playbook, at this point I’d play on your fears and anxieties and try to drive home how bleak things are by using words like “disaster.” I’d say things like, “Christians never win anymore.” But then I’d pivot to the “good news,” assuring you that I have a new, previously undiscovered approach that will fix it all and make everything okay.

That’s one of the dangers for evangelistically-minded Christians (which most of us in the TSCF family are). We see the changes – the rising disrespect for the Bible, the cluelessness about basic elements of the Bible’s story – and we might start searching for new solutions. Maybe we need more apologetics and less gospel proclamation. More insights on how to make an impact in your workplace, but less talk about sin. More “listening to our community,” or more techniques from the corporate world. More causes where the church and the world can work together, instead of the divisiveness of Jesus and his outdated Bible.

Well, I don’t have a new solution. In fact, I have a very old one. In the face of rising biblical illiteracy and reduced respect for the Bible, I want to encourage us to persevere with the Bible. I want

us to redouble our efforts to keep the Bible at the absolute centre of all our ministries, including our evangelistic efforts.

Here are two basic reasons:

1. RESPECT FOR THE BIBLE MAY BE ERODED, BUT IT’S NOT GONE.

I only told you part of Andrew’s story. Back in 2014 when he was coming to our talks, I asked him if he owned a Bible. He said no, so I got one for him and brought it along the next week. This young man, from a completely unchurched background, was genuinely thrilled to receive his own copy of the Scriptures. His face burst into a wide grin, and he flicked through the pages with fascination and, dare I say, reverence. He later told me that he passed that Bible on to a family member who was going through a difficult time and encouraged him to read it. Andrew is still not a Christian, but he’s returned to uni in 2016 where he’s reading Luke’s Gospel with me and thinking deeply about Jesus. (Pray for him, please!) I still remember that priceless look on his face when he first held his very own Bible.

I’ve seen the same attitude among many other students, and I’m sure many of you have similar stories. The culture at large may have turned its back on the Bible, but there is still a resonance or at least an interest that connects with some people. That’s the main reason I wrote a short book called *The Book of Books*, published by Matthias Media and released late last year. I came to realize



Salvation comes only through believing in Jesus Christ – and the only place where we can meet the real Jesus is in the words of eternal life that God has given us in the Bible.

that there are still people out there who recognize that the Bible is a book like no other, and who are willing to look into it for themselves. They just don't have a clue where to begin. My book is a simple attempt to orient people to what the Bible is and how to make sense of it so they can get started for themselves.

I'm also thrilled about TSCF's decision to invest in Luke's Gospel as our primary nation-wide outreach this year. It's not an original idea, but when it comes to gospel ministry originality is highly overrated. Wonderfully and graciously, God has chosen to speak to us in the written words

of the Bible. Any evangelistic strategy that bypasses or overlooks the Bible may achieve something, but it won't be the salvation of sinners. The Bible alone presents us with the crucified and risen Jesus, the only hope for sinners like you and me.

Which leads to my second point...

2. WHERE ELSE HAVE WE TO GO?

In John 6, when many of Jesus' disciples began to turn away from following him, he asked the twelve a pointed question: "Do you want to go away as well?" Peter answers with beautiful clarity and

simplicity, probably saying more than he realized: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God" (John 6:66-69).

Today, those words of eternal life are recorded for us in the Bible. As Peter himself later wrote, "You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for 'all flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever'" (1 Peter 1:23-25). The message of the cross may be foolishness to our perishing world, but it remains the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes (1 Corinthians 1:18; Romans 1:16).

There's nothing wrong with apologetics. There's nothing wrong with learning from the wisdom of the world, or with dialogue with our neighbours, or with Christians working alongside non-Christian neighbours in good causes. But none of those things will save anyone. Salvation comes only through believing in Jesus Christ – and the only place where we can meet the real Jesus is in the words of eternal life that God has given us in the Bible (Acts 4:12; Romans 10:9-17).

Our job is not to reinvent the wheel, or to panic and look elsewhere in the face of our culture's biblical illiteracy. Our job is to find as many ways as possible – new ways, old ways, creative ways, and obvious ways – to bring the Bible to people, and to trust that God will keep doing what he's done for the last 2000 years: drawing people to Jesus as the words of eternal life are proclaimed.

Geoff Robson
Canterbury Staff Worker



RONGOPAI:

Sharing the story

Just over 200 years ago Rongopai, the good news message of Jesus, arrived on these shores. The first message came from the pages of Luke's gospel and lives changed as people on these islands came to know, love and trust in Jesus Christ.

Today, much in the world has changed but the message of "good news of great joy for all people" has not. At TSCF, we still hold the conviction that this message is "the power of God for salvation for all who believe."

In recent years, across our student groups, we have seen a steady stream of students coming to know Jesus for the first time and trusting him as Lord and Saviour. The numbers will never hit the headlines, but as each one commits their life to Christ we rejoice with those in heaven over sinners repenting.

In conversations with church leaders, they frequently ask questions that seek a secret to this "success." I'm not convinced there is a silver bullet – as Jesus himself says, "The wind blows wherever it pleases ... so it is with everyone born of the Spirit." However there are two consistent features of most of the students we have seen come to Christ.

First, they have encountered Jesus in the pages of Scripture. For some, this has meant reading the Bible for themselves, whether a Gideon Bible left



in a hostel or a gospel they have been given by friends. For others, it has been as part of a manuscript Bible study run by one of our groups. We consistently see students opening the Bible and meeting Jesus.

Of course, in our increasingly biblically illiterate age, this is a growing challenge. Students need help understanding some of the basics of Scripture (hearing students speak of "Pontius Pilates" is always a giveaway!) But it is one that we are committed to and one from which we have seen fruit.

Second, they have seen the lordship of Jesus in the lives of their peers. For some, this has been in the context of a group of friends living for and loving Jesus. For others, it has been a bigger group. Almost without exception, there has been some opportunity to see what someone who follows Jesus looks like in everyday life.

As TSCF, we are committed to sharing this good news with all we can and long to see more students come to know the Jesus whom this gospel is



During one-to-one study time at Launch, Lincoln staff worker Kate Street (left) and Annelise Chan dig into Luke's gospel. At right, the cover and an inside page from the Kiwi edition of Luke.

all about. So we have produced an edition of Luke's Gospel that is designed to be personally given by individuals to their friends. This year we are challenging and encouraging students to consider who of their friends they can prayerfully give a copy of Luke to, along with the invitation to read it and the opportunity to study it further.

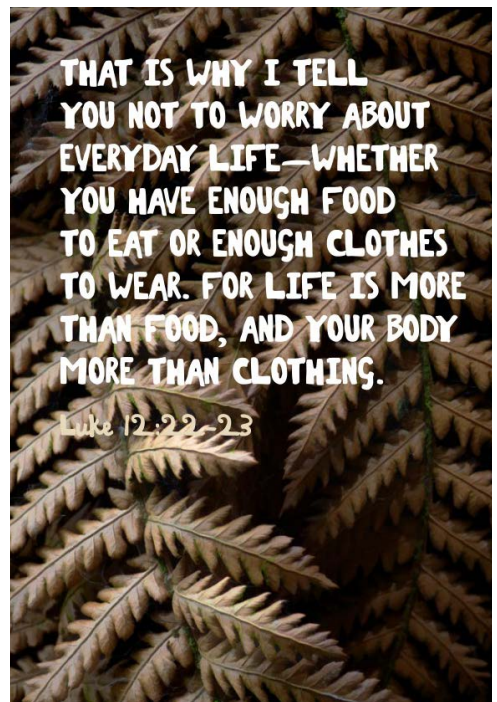
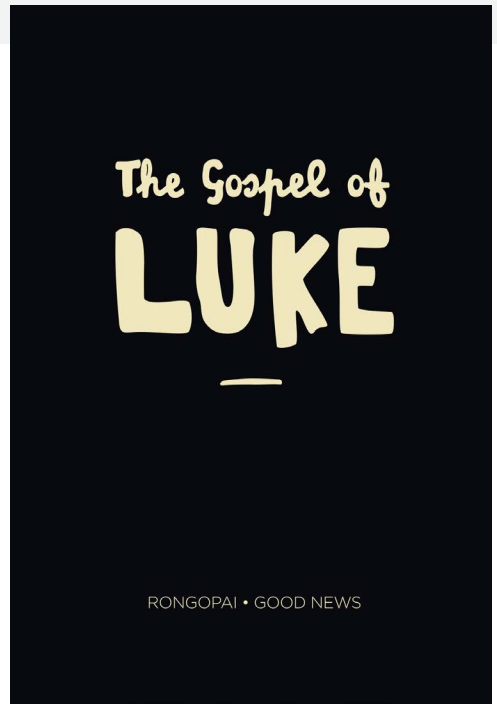
We consistently see students opening the Bible and meeting Jesus.

For most students, the prospect sounds daunting, but many have already taken up the challenge. We are already encouraged to hear about students who have given copies to friends and started to meet weekly to read the Bible together.

In the coming weeks, we anticipate numerous one-to-one studies taking place in student hostels, flats and cafes across NZ. We pray that as students meet Jesus in the pages of Luke's gospel they will also see the impact he makes in the lives of their friends and come to know for themselves the one who came to "seek and save the lost."



Ben Carswell
National Outreach Coordinator



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An afternoon at the beach,
Launch 2016

Eight decades of connections

We're celebrating 80 years of ministry on campuses around New Zealand. Whether your local university is home to EU and CMF or OCF and CNS, or you joined the Love Shack in the '90s and were surprised to hear that Auckland law students now call themselves "Veritas," we hope you'll be celebrating with us. We're hosting events around the country to include as many friends as possible in person.

To connect or reconnect with us, contact a local staff worker or find a list of groups on our website, www.tscf.org.nz.

canvaswanted

STAFF WORKERS & TEAM LEADERS

Are you committed to seeing the gospel worked out in every area of life? Are you excited by the challenges and opportunities that young adults face, and do you like to have fun?

TSCF is looking for staff workers, regional team leaders, and a Catalyst team leader. Email info@tscf.org.nz for an application form and job description, or phone (04) 384 7274.

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Launch 2016 down time

Je suis Donald

(and other challenges of leading toward the light)

The Charlie Hebdo shootings in Paris in January 2015 left 12 people dead. It was not the only attack perpetrated in the French capital that year. After that first incident, people linked arms on the streets, carried placards and posted in the media under the banner “Je suis Charlie.” The intention was to show solidarity on the issues of free speech and freedom of artistic impression. People saw something of value they wanted to affirm through personal identification.

Who we identify with and where we see ourselves in a story can be powerful but we have a tendency to be selective. I am writing this in California during the US Presidential primaries. I have spoken to many people around the world about Donald Trump. The recurring theme is something like, “What is the US thinking? How could anyone think that he could make a suitable president?”

Here is my problem. As much as I believe in freedom of speech, I also tend to prefer my prejudices, opinions and ideas over facts and to dismiss the media or anyone else who disagrees. I am Charlie but I am also Donald.

When I bolster my own position by being critical of those who do not meet the same standards, “Je suis Donald.” When I describe the behaviour and beliefs of others in a disparaging way with the intention of affirming my own, “Je suis Donald.” When I use race, gender, affiliation or culture to marginalise others and promote a unity based on fear and superiority, “Je suis Donald.” When my narrative is marked by racism, sexism, self

How do we build a longer table, rather than a higher wall, and how do we share the good news of Jesus in compelling and credible ways?

importance, superiority and smugness, “Je suis Donald.”

As long as I am infected with this mindset I will not be able to stand against it.

What I find deeply troubling in this is how “Donald” Christian leaders can be. The challenge is not to become more like Charlie but to be more like Jesus. The challenge is to love our enemies, to pray for those who persecute us, to welcome the outsider, to develop and nurture the gifts of the men and women under our care, to show proper respect to everyone, to love the fellowship of all believers, to fear God and honour the King, to be a community that extends hospitality and welcomes all regardless of social class, ethnicity, age or colour, to be devoted to engaging with the Bible, prayer and the breaking of bread, to be ready and willing to take the whole gospel to the whole world and to make disciples of everyone, everywhere, to endure hardship, share money and resources, build God’s kingdom until he comes. When I live like this, “Je suis Jesus.”

I am not there yet and we will not get there in this life. I do not believe there are political solutions to many of the biggest challenges facing humanity.



Nevertheless, I want to support politicians who have a vision to build a better society for everyone. I reckon most of us want to live in a place where equality, justice and prosperity for all are valued, where quality healthcare, nutrition and education are readily accessible and where freedom, peace and security extend beyond our place to those who live in less fortunate circumstances. How do we build a longer table, rather than a higher wall, and how do we share the good news of Jesus in compelling and credible ways?

The big leadership challenge is to grow a new generation of Christian leaders who can make this a reality in the complexity of growing inequality, food and water shortages, religious and political fundamentalism, war, terror, abuse and violence.

We are absolutely at the cutting edge of developing this critical resource, Christian leaders who will see the good news of Jesus proclaimed and the kingdom of God extended in our nation and the world. How do we embody and exemplify the

kind of leadership that is needed in our families, schools, communities and nations? We may well lament the quality of Presidential candidates in the US and the system that perpetuates polarization. But the challenge is to have a style of leadership that is visionary, positive, inclusive, generous and is becoming more and more like Jesus.

Interestingly, “je suis” in French can mean “I follow” as well as “I am.” We are working hard to help students follow Jesus and to enable Christian students and graduates to keep following and to become more like Jesus.

Je suis Nigel. Je ne suis pas Charlie, je ne suis pas Donald, mais je suis Jesus. (I am Nigel. I am not Charlie, I am not Donald, but I follow Jesus).

Nigel Pollock
National Director





A KGK student-led camp

Japan's faithful few

Rosanne Jones, from the UK, works with the student movement in Japan under the umbrella of OMF. She joined TSCF's annual Staff and Families Conference while visiting New Zealand in January, and encouraged the team with news from another corner of the Pacific.

When I became a Christian I was studying Japanese at university in the UK, so people at church started suggesting I should think of being a missionary! I guess they were aware of how little Jesus is known and worshipped in Japan – fewer than half of one percent of its 127 million people. But I had grown up in a context where “missionary” meant working

in a school or hospital in a developing country and that didn't fit with what I knew of Japan. But spending the next summer there set me right.

On a five-day KGK summer camp, I was struck by the loving welcome and eager prayerfulness of the students – but also by how very few there were. There was the same number of Christian students in that whole region as in my college campus group. I wanted to return to Japan as a sister in Jesus who could learn from Japanese Christians, walking alongside them and sharing all I had been given.

I did end up becoming a missionary, a KGK staff

Sometimes a praying Christian presence on campus is mainly what's needed! One day an empty-hearted student, who was afraid to go to church but had a feeling the Bible might have answers to his questions, burst into a KGK club room. A KGK student was napping there after a prayer meeting where they'd prayed for more contact with unbelievers. Over the next few months of Bible study and fellowship, this student was added to the KGK group and to the kingdom.



worker on a team of seven in the greater Tokyo area for three years. I stayed involved as an associate for several years in Sendai, travelling around the northeast region, and more recently working back in Tokyo.

KGK encourages students to start campus activities by praying together, and then inviting friends to evangelistic Bible studies. A handful of the larger groups might have 30 students, be registered as a student society, and have a club room. But with around 1200 students involved on 200 campuses, you can see that some of the groups are small and fragile. Survival year-to-year is often in question. So besides visiting campuses, staff workers give Bible talks at monthly teaching and prayer gatherings from a group of universities, as well as meeting one-to-one with leaders. Training days, over-nighters, spring camps (mainly discipleship) and summer camps (mainly evangelistic) take place on a regional level.

While I love seeing students mature through the fellowship and teaching over four years at uni, it is a greater joy still to have been around long enough to see some of them build on those foundations for lifelong, 24-7 discipleship despite a context that would push them towards timidity and conformity – ex-students who lead weekly prayer-meetings in a government ministry, who serve as doctors (and parents of four) bringing the gospel to a rural com-

munity, or who are working out how to train a new generation of preachers.

Pray for:

- Growth of staff teams in all nine regions. KGK has a new General Secretary, Shigenori Oshima, and six new staff workers who are Japanese, British and Australian.
- Continuing development of the annual National Evangelical Students Training Conference to deepen students' knowledge and love of God and his word, and that they will overflow into witness on campus.
- Full-orbed understanding of the gospel and its working-out in Japanese contexts – including in church and state relations, and engagement in projects in areas hit by the 2011 tsunami.
- The academic year starts in April. Pray for connections with first-year students.

More information about student ministry in Japan is online at www.kgkjapan.net/english.html and the IFES website, ifesworld.org/en/regions/japan.



Rosanne Jones
OMF Japan

Auckland enters a new era

When the TSCF board invited me to come to New Zealand in 2004 I explained to them that, while I was interested in the opportunity, the scale of the challenge was too great for one person to make a significant difference. Out of this conversation grew the idea of a team coming to partner in the regeneration of the vital work that TSCF was committed to growing.

The first name on this team sheet was Andy Shudall. I had known Andy since he was a student; he was one of the first generation of Relay workers with UCCF in the UK, and later succeeded me as Relay Coordinator. I had no doubt that his strategic thinking, Bible teaching, evangelistic heart and commitment to investing in people would be vital assets in this new adventure in Aotearoa. I was thrilled when Andy and his wife, Ines, confirmed their sense of call to New Zealand. From their initial caravan tour of both islands to learning Maori and NZ sign language, Andy has developed a deep love of these islands and their people.

Bringing a group of friends to the other side of the world, the temptation was to base everyone together in Wellington. But it was clear that Auckland's need was greater than Wellington's. Auckland has a third of the country's population and a greater percentage of our student population. Andy, along with Jeff and Jane Pelz, opened up a new front in the City of Sails that has seen significant growth over the past 10 years. One of the early highlights in Auckland was pioneering new and fruitful work at AUT.



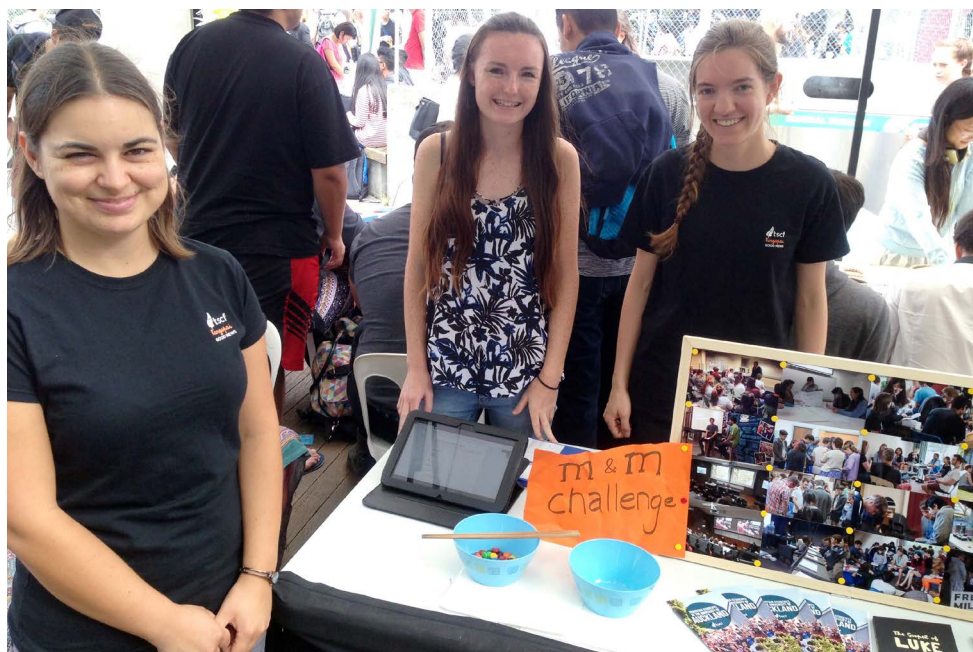
Andy's contribution to TSCF has been immense. Along with Mark Grace and Val Goold, he became part of a national leadership team that contributed significantly to national events and initiatives. This included starting Minty (the ministry internship year), developing staff training, delivering Bible teaching, leading events, contributing to IFES events and initiatives in the South Pacific and internationally and developing staff and student leaders. Andy also had a significant role with Langham training Bible teachers in Vanuatu and closer to home.

A serious head injury several years ago was a major setback but ultimately brought a huge well of experience to draw on pastorally.

Andy has now left TSCF to enter church pastoral ministry. At his induction, I gave him a silver kilt pin with a Celtic cross incorporated into a shepherd's crook. This was to remind him of his calling to be centred on Jesus as he takes care of a flock. Being silver, it tarnishes and needs to be polished regularly to shine brightly.

We rejoice in Andy's new role at Titirangi Baptist Church and firmly believe this is the right step at the right time. His involvement with TSCF and his partnership in the gospel has changed but will continue. Robyn Drake is doing a great job leading the team but Andy's departure leaves a huge hole.

We are grateful for the staff, associate staff, intern and volunteers we have in Auckland but we are just scratching the surface of what we could do. We are urgently looking for men and women who have a vision to invest in reaching students for Christ and changing students for life. This involves developing student leaders, planting new and



Robyn Drake, left, Auckland's Interim Team Leader, during orientation events with student Hayley Wadmore and intern Bethany Robb.

supporting existing groups, training students in evangelism, Bible study, global mission and joined-up discipleship.

The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Will you pray for new labourers in the harvest field of Auckland and consider if God might be calling you to be an answer to that prayer?

We are having a special Celebrate Auckland event on 3 August to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of TSCF and to share new plans for the future. We hope to see you there, and would not be surprised to see a few from Titirangi Baptist with their new Senior Pastor.

Nigel Pollock
National Director



Auckland's campus ministries:

TSCF Massey University Albany

MIT CF

Unitec CF

AUT CF

International Student Ministries
(University of Auckland, AUT, and Massey University Albany)

University of Auckland:

Evangelical Union

Veritas – Christians at Law School

Korean Young Adults CF

Auckland Overseas CF

Christian Medical Fellowship

Christian Nursing Students



From left, Airi, Adrienne, Kate, Nagisa and Manaho. The students are holding advent calendars from South West Baptist Church. It was the first time they'd seen one or thought about the reason for celebrating Christmas.

The Gospel bridges culture, language and beliefs

Every Wednesday at 1pm Christians from across Lincoln University gather together to share food, build friendships and hear about Jesus from a visiting speaker. Typically this group consists of Kiwi students fresh out of high school or in the midst of their undergraduate studies, with

a sprinkling of international students, usually from America or Europe.

Last year three girls from Japan turned up to CF and added a real international flavour. Airi, Manaho and Nagisa came to Lincoln University to learn English. They visited CF out of curiosity and a

desire to make connections. Week after week they came, shared lunch with us, listened to speakers in English (I don't think they understood much!) and had conversations with other students. A few weeks in, we were surprised to discover the girls had never heard about Jesus or opened a Bible.

In a setting where language and culture are barriers to our relationships, I was reminded of the transforming power of God's word. His Gospel speaks to everyone.

After just a few weeks learning about Jesus, his miracles, his interactions with people and his character, each of the girls had started to develop a clear picture of Jesus as Lord, saviour, healer and friend. And they continued to learn so much more about him.

Their reaction to Jesus' death was one of shock and surprise: "He dies?!" We can take the story of the cross for granted, but there it fell freshly on ears that had never heard the good news about Jesus and the new life he offers.

Airi said, "I came to realise Jesus loves us and I thought I should be grateful to God." One afternoon on campus Airi, Manaho and Nagisa each declared that they love Jesus and wanted to follow him.

Time spent with the girls was full of both wonder and frustration – wonder at the way God was working through the barriers of language and culture, and frustration at the times when the "Holy Spirit" or "saviour" couldn't be explained by the words we had. Often laughter ensued as we proceeded to use acting or drawing to convey the message of the gospel.

Numerous times I was struck by their openness and the depth to which they wanted to know Jesus more. A week after committing their lives

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to Christ they had told their families back in Japan about their decision, families who are not Christians.

I am thankful for the sovereignty of God, for the way he works through us to speak to people of all nations, and the way he transcends culture, language and my own doubts to reach the people he loves.

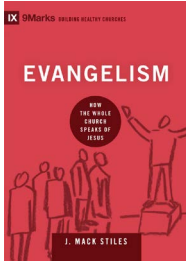
Living as Christians back in Japan is full of challenges. Airi wants to go to church but there is no church near her. Manaho and Nagisa are both at universities that are dominantly Buddhist and live in an environment where Christianity is not encouraged.

I am encouraged that they are not giving up. They are continuing to read Luke's words about Jesus and even see the need to share it with others. "I want to spread what Christianity is, because Japanese don't know it very well," Nagisa told me.

Please pray that they would find communities to belong to and that the gospel message would continue to spread and change lives in Japan.

Kate Street
Lincoln Staff Worker





Evangelism

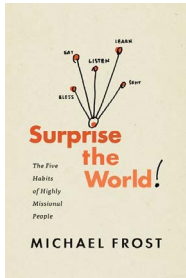
by Mack Stiles

Whether evangelism fills us with dread or excitement, it is an integral part of being a Christian. This book is simple, practical and inspiring. Stiles offers clear definitions of the gospel and evangelism. He approaches evangelism as a culture in which believers encourage one another to make evangelism an ongoing way of life. Real

examples of what biblical evangelism looks like are prevalent throughout the book, which equipped and encouraged me to share my faith.

This book is short. Read a chapter a day to finish in a week, or a chapter weekly to finish in just over a month. Stiles will be speaking in Waikanae at SPARC 27 June - 1 July. Come meet the author and get your copy signed.

– *Bethany Robb*



Surprise the World

by Michael Frost

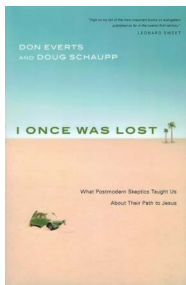
“If you only read the books that everyone else is reading, you can only think what everyone else is thinking.”

Haruki Murakami’s quote sits on my bookshelves as a reminder to be broad in my reading selections. A few months ago, a friend recommended *Surprise the World*, with the subtitle “The 5 Habits of Highly Missional People,” by

an author I hadn’t heard of. I took Murakami’s challenge and found this book to be short, easy to read, practical and challenging.

Frost gives five habits using the acronym BLESS (you’ll have to read it to find them out), and each chapter gives a challenge to put them into practice. I enjoyed the book and found it simple and helpfully provocative.

– *Ben Carswell*



I Once Was Lost: What Postmodern Sceptics Taught Us About Their Path to Jesus

by Don Everts and Doug Schaupp

Who in your life do you think is least likely to come to faith? For many of us, friends and family with a postmodern worldview who are most sceptical about faith seem hardest to reach.

talked to 2000 postmodern sceptics who became Christians to find out more about their path to Jesus. They identified five phases that every person went through. In *I Once Was Lost*, Everts and Schaupp take us through each phase, what it’s like for the sceptic and how we can help. It’s short and very helpful to understand more about where people may be at, and how that should shape our evangelism.

– *Robyn Drake*



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