

# canvas

ISSUE 74 | AUTUMN 2015

f search for truth



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### INTERESTS



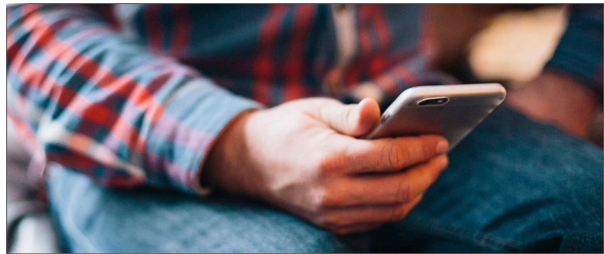
### EVENTS

- Summit - 29 June 2015

**Adam Jeske** asked a question.  
10 mins

## social media: friend or fiend?

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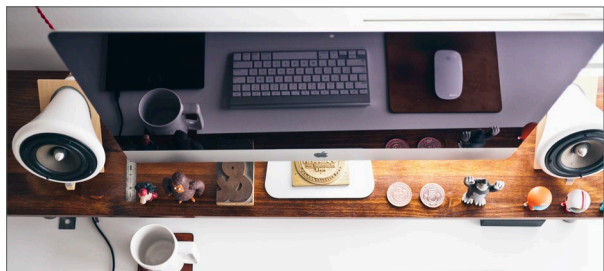


Like • Comment • Share •

**Chris Beard** posted a picture.  
30 mins

## Tune all channels to truth

page 10



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**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.



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Autumn 2015

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Maryanne Wardlaw  
*(cartoon by the late, great Johnny Hart, creator of B.C.)*

**TSCF** is a founding member of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students. It 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](mailto:canvas@tscf.org.nz)

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## “Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.”

– Matthew 12:34

**B**efore I say anything about social media – about effective engagement, fostering true communities, tweeting for the glory of God – I want to flag this verse as foundational. No matter how finely we tune our communication methods, no strategy will overcome the reality that what’s inside us will, eventually, be reflected in what we say and how we say it.

So every page that follows needs this preface: Without good character and a depth of understanding, without love or compassion, we risk becoming Paul’s “clanging gong” whenever our thumbs tap out a status update.

That said, this edition is a testimony to the power of words and images, and to the tools (old and new) that help us create them and consume them. These tools can take our imagination beyond our own world to give us a glimpse of the Creator’s revelation. (Yep, even social media can do that.) God used his own words to create, and uses the artistry of creation and wisdom of the Word to reveal himself to us. This Word doesn’t just inform every corner of our lives, it transforms them.

Our words have weight too, whether we like it or not. They’re easier to broadcast than ever before, which makes them seem cheap and disposable. But they aren’t. We are actually privileged – like no generation before – to have easy access to heaps of tools that can effect God’s redemption and restoration.

So let’s remind each other that Facebook has assets even greater than a stream of mint Jimmy Fallon clips, and Instagram can do far more than broadcast yesterday’s perfect mocha.

We have words of life, and we live in a culture of death. Let’s get to it.

**Maryanne Wardlaw**  
Communications Manager



### Engaged

Fiona Spence, Canterbury ICF, is engaged to marry Jonathan Bateman on 11 April in Brisbane.

### Married

**Nathan Denmead**, former CU president, married **Christina Shewan**, Canterbury staff worker, on 24 January in Geraldine.



### Died

Steve Hayner, former president of Columbia Seminary and IVCF, TSCF's sister work in the USA, died on 31 January of pancreatic cancer.

In an interview with *Christianity Today* in his final months, Steve said, "I've always said all

the circumstances of my life are planned by the sovereign God to help me become what God wants me to be – fully me. Now it's a different set of circumstances, but it's the same me needing to be formed."

### Awarded

Victoria University Professor Jonathan Boston, one of TSCF's Vice Presidents, has received a Fulbright New Zealand Scholar Award. He is researching incentives for democratically elected government to address long-term policy issues.

### Recommissioned

TSCF's former head of Catalyst, the graduate ministry, is now overseeing Ministry Development. Mark Grace has begun his new role training and recruiting staff, contributing to the leadership team and guiding those who are entering and leaving university.

## canvaswanted

**A**re 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 during their university years? Do you relish seeing communities strengthened, pennies dropping, hearts growing, and fleeting opportunities grasped? At TSCF, we are and we do.

### CATALYST TEAM LEADER

Catalyst is TSCF's graduate ministry. It encourages those who are entering the workforce to continue connecting God's word with their calling. Initiatives include local groups, such as weekly lunchtime studies in Auckland City, and one-off events hosting speakers or organising conferences. TSCF is looking for someone to find and lead graduates around the country.

### STAFF WORKERS

If you have a vision to invest in the next generation of leaders in any region of Aotearoa New Zealand, we would love to hear from you. There is a particular need for staff to walk alongside students in Auckland, Wellington and Lincoln, and graduates around the country through Catalyst's ministries.

### TEAM LEADER

TSCF is accepting applications for the leadership of the Wellington team. We are looking for someone who can develop both staff workers and student leaders, helping them build community, study the word and share the gospel.

**Please email [info@tscf.org.nz](mailto:info@tscf.org.nz) for an application form and job description, or telephone (04) 384 7274.**



Students, staff and guest speaker Paul Trebilco (left) play non-stop cricket at Launch 2015.

# Conference caps off summer

**H**eading off to my first national TSCF conference, I didn't know what to expect. When you're a part of a small fellowship at the University of Otago, it's hard to imagine the existence of other groups. But arriving at Launch, there's the immediate feeling that you belong to something much bigger – hustled into cabins with people from around the country and even the world, with school leavers and university students.

It is extremely encouraging to know our brothers and sisters in Christ who God has placed in each campus to faithfully reach other students for Christ. We have made amazing friendships and cross-campus connections. We have been given an awesome opportunity to strengthen the nationwide fellowship, to become more like the highly interconnected early Church seen in Paul's letters.

Through our study of 1 Thessalonians, led by Paul Trebilco from the University of Otago's Department of



Yunyee (right) joins other students in a discipleship group.

Theology, we learned that we are all called to ministry as a collective family. We are supposed to run the good race together and encourage each other.

God has launched me into the year, in the direction he wants and with the encouragement and support of the family I have met.

**Yunyee Szeto**

*For more photos and links to video and audio from Launch, visit [www.facebook.com/tscf.nz](http://www.facebook.com/tscf.nz).*

# Minterns 'launch' into 2015

**T**SCF's ministry interns joined staff and students at Launch to begin their year of study, discipleship and campus work. Staff workers

Ben Carswell and Robyn Drake are mentoring them in this period of full-time ministry, where they will be helping the staff teams in Dunedin and Lincoln. In each case, the time others have spent discipling them has been motivation to take this time out to learn and serve others.

## Hamish Cartwright

I was born and bred in Temuka, South Canterbury. I grew up in a Christian family and committed my life to God at the age of 14. One of my immediate priorities coming to the University of Otago was to find a Christian group on campus to continue the kind of fellowship that had nourished me during school.

This led to me join TSCF in 2011. By the time I went to my first TSCF conference, I was captured by the vision TSCF had for reaching students for Christ across the country. Since then, I have served on my club's executive, as a student representative on the national board, and now with the Minty team.

I'm excited to serve students as I have been served during my time as a student, and greatly anticipate the challenges and joys of the year ahead.

## Adrienne Mangan

I grew up in Christchurch and am now based in Lincoln. I recently finished studying environmental management planning, and was part of Christian Fellowship for three years while studying. I enjoy



From left, Hamish, Adrienne and Rowena.

being outside, in or on the water and surrounded by mountains.

I am doing Minty because of the input TSCF has had in my life. I have been encouraged and challenged by TSCF and have grown in my faith through the friendships and community. I am looking forward to encouraging the students at Lincoln and growing more towards Christ.

## Rowena Woodhams

Kia ora koutou! I am between my third and fourth years studying medicine at Otago. I decided to do Minty this year as a change of tack before returning to medical school.

I'm looking forward to this time to rethink my focus in life and work through how my faith affects every aspect of what I do, with the hope that this will continue as I go back into study.

I'm doing Minty in Dunedin, where I've been studying for the last three years. Before this, I lived in Wellington.

## Otago grad returns to TSCF

**Simon Sim** has joined the Otago team as a new staff worker. He originally came to the University of Otago in 2010, where he completed a Bachelor of Arts majoring in psychology and philosophy. He was involved in the Dunedin Overseas Christian Fellowship (OCF) there, and became a leader in 2012. They were significant years in his Christian walk. “It was where I grew in my knowledge and understanding of who God is and his Word, and the importance of the gospel put into practice in the mission field that he has placed me in: the university, reaching out to students,” Simon said.



Following graduation, he dedicated a year to learning and discipleship through TSCF’s Minty programme. He decided to continue serving students through TSCF when the internship finished last year.

He has both Kiwi and Malaysian connections, having been born in Hamilton and raised in Malaysia. Simon said he is excited to be back in Dunedin.

## Lincoln team grows

**Kate Street** joined the Lincoln team at the beginning of the year. She finished a degree in landscape architecture at Lincoln in 2013, and spent much of last year in Uganda working with Engineering Ministries International. She said that her time out in the community with refugees, and working at a preschool, sparked a desire to continue developing relationships in all areas of life.



## “The call in Matthew 28, to make disciples, has led me back to Lincoln to invest in students in the same way that previous staff invested in me.”

“The call in Matthew 28, to make disciples, has led me back to Lincoln to invest in students in the same way that previous staff invested in me,” she said.

Kate was on the CF leadership team as treasurer, secretary and vice president during her four years at Lincoln. She is looking forward to going back to established friendships and making new ones.

**Chris Hay**, who finished his internship in the Minty programme last year, has joined the Lincoln staff team. He has a bachelor of commerce in

agriculture majoring in rural valuation from Lincoln

University, and grew up on a farm in Southland.



Chris first became involved with TSCF as part of Lincoln

CF. “Being surrounded by older

and younger Christians who were serious about the Lord and their faith, to me it was a no-brainer to get involved,” he said. “I was struck by how the whole group was serious in understanding and believing the Bible, and with that, eager to share the truth of the gospel to friends and other students on campus.”

Following university he farmed for a stint, then returned to Lincoln for practical ministry training through Minty. He said it was a pivotal time for his faith. Last year Chris headed overseas for a few months with friends – “a great experience for a small town Kiwi boy to see the world that God has made. During travel God really reinforced the desire in me to see people from all nations in the universities of NZ come to saving faith in Jesus.”





accessible to people without a Christian background.

“This is a fantastic product that will enable many students to explore the truth about Jesus for themselves,” said Nigel Pollock, TSCF’s National Director.

“We continue to believe that

helping people investigate the eye witness accounts of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection is at the heart of sharing the good news.”

## ‘Kiwi’ Gospel marks bicentenary

A new printing of Luke’s gospel was hot off the press for the Marsden bicentenary celebrations in the Bay of Islands last Christmas. TSCF has produced it in partnership with Scripture Union and the Church Missionary Society.

To celebrate this milestone in our heritage, it focuses on the gospel in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with a Kiwi feel to the design and details that make it

**Mark Grace** presented one of the first copies to **Sir Jerry Mateparae**, the Governor General, at the civic service at Oihi Bay. Many more will be given to students, young people, families, neighbours, team mates, colleagues and friends. If you would like to order some to share personally or as a church, email [gospel@tscf.org.nz](mailto:gospel@tscf.org.nz).

## Head of IFES meets with TSCF staff

Daniel Bourdagné, General Secretary of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students, joined TSCF staff when they gathered in Wellington last November for their annual Staff Training conference. It was his first visit to the work in New Zealand and also Australia, where he attended their National Training event and met representatives from around the South Pacific.

Daniel taught from 1 Corinthians, encouraging staff to see God’s power revealed through suffering, and extend his comfort to others. He shared how students are coming to faith in unlikely places, and challenged staff to remember that we are all reliant on God’s provision – easily forgotten in our more comfortable context.

Daniel spent 16 years with IFES in Francophone Africa before taking up the international role in 2007. He has a PhD in biology. Millipedes were the



**Daniel Bourdagné, right, and Nigel Pollock speak at a public meeting last November.**

subject of his doctorate, and he has said that studying creatures with a small head and many limbs was good preparation for Christian leadership.

A number of students spent time with Daniel, and he spoke at a public meeting in Wellington and at the TSCF National Board Retreat.



# social media: Friend or fiend?

**Social  
media is  
bad for  
our souls.**

**It wastes  
our time.**

How many times have you wanted to just send a message to a friend, but you get pulled across into your newsfeed, only to look up an hour later. “What happened?!?!” Facebook’s infinite scroll is from the Devil.

It distracts us. It makes us restless.

We fiddle with our phones while listening to one another. We glance at the screen to check the time ... and the notifications. We pop in to see what people are up to ... repeatedly. Check. Check. Check. Check.

It isolates us.

We have a hard time getting together. I think social media is partly to blame for The Friendship Crisis.

It makes us more envious, greedy, lustful, proud, lazy, and so on.

Our minds are opened to the lives being lived around us and around the planet. Friends are doing amazing things. Friends have better stuff. Friends are beautiful. Friends make us want to take a nap. It’s all their fault.

It makes us smug.

If I see the Facebook page of Sister Mary Martha’s Home for Poor Poor Children, I like it, so I “like” it. In clicking that button, I am proclaiming my unwavering support for those Poor Poor Children and my admiration for the saintly Sister Mary Martha. “I am proud of what I’ve done. I’ve made a difference!” (No, I haven’t.)

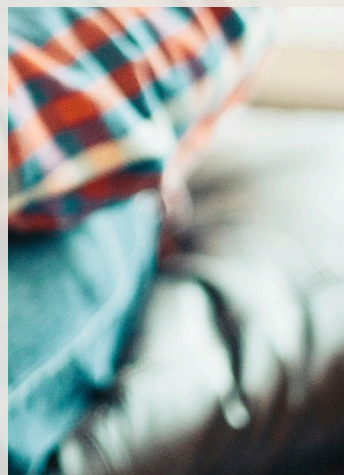
It keeps us from enjoying life.

We are so eager to share the best parts of our life that we’re not actually present to them. We don’t really experience them, let alone enjoy them. Everything is mediated by our devices. This helps welcome others into our enjoyable moments, but don’t we enjoy them less?



**“Social media, for all its benefits and harm to our lives and character, will always be what we make it. Twitter and Facebook and newsfeeds aren’t the danger here – the danger lies with us and only us. So let’s use it to become better – better individuals, better friends, better servants, better followers of Christ.”**

**– Adam Jeske**



## **Social media is bad for our souls. That is precisely why we need to use it.**

Because social media is also bad for our friends’ souls. And we need to love our friends.

We celebrate heroes. Firemen run into burning buildings. Soldiers run into war zones. Missionaries move into slums. We honour people who enter into dangerous situations. This is appropriate.

But somehow facing the temptations and risks of social media in order to care for our friends is just too hard, too daunting. A lot of well-meaning people have started asking if we should keep using social media. An exodus has begun, of people who say the risks are too high, that the cost isn’t worth it.

“We don’t really need to cultivate relationships with others,” is the real message.

I don’t care if social media is bad for our souls. I really don’t care whether you like it or not. I care if your friends like it. And I care if you love them.

**Adam Jeske is the Senior Writer and Content Strategist for InterVarsity, the IFES movement in the USA, and an author. This originally appeared on his blog, [www.executingideas.com](http://www.executingideas.com).**



### **5 facts to remember:**

- Ministry is fundamentally about relationships. So is social media.
- Our Facebook friends want real beauty, real significance, and real truth. Let’s offer that to them.
- People are shallow; Facebook feeds aren’t.
- Social media is where substantive conversations are taking place.
- The dangers on Facebook are the same as the ones we face in real-life interactions.



# Tune all channels to truth

**J**ustin Martyr, Augustine, Boniface, Francis of Assisi, Martin Luther, Matteo Ricci, John and Charles Wesley, Florence Nightingale, Henry Williams and William Williams, Billy Graham and Mother Teresa ... many New Zealand Christians today know their names. What they have in common is their willingness to take themselves into the world in order to serve and share the gospel.

Not only this, they were prepared to use the technology of the day to do so. One or two were not averse to attention-getting, such as Boniface (the Apostle to the Germans) publicly felling an iconic pagan tree, and Luther publicly nailing his

theses on the church door in Wittenberg. Others, such as Justin Martyr and Francis of Assisi, appealed directly to the John Keys and Barack Obamas of their day. Others were unconventional. The Wesleys spent less time in the pulpits so they could take to the paddocks to reach the common labourers, and Florence Nightingale forged a regime of care in harsh theatres of war, pioneering modern nursing.

These people didn't remain in the shadows. They didn't acquiesce to the status quo. They probably sensed that what is, is not what has been, nor is what will be. They had some sort of confidence

## **The gospel – wherever it is communicated, no matter how imperfectly by novices – possesses the power to transform and yield fruit in unexpected places.**

in their God; the one who appeared to Abraham, the one who freed Abraham's descendants from Egypt, the one who revealed himself supremely in Jesus the Nazarene. He is the one who continues to act in history, shape Christian tradition and inspire his sons and daughters through the centuries to the end of the age.

Before sending his disciples to evangelise the Israelites in their towns and villages, Jesus shared these words: "What I whisper in your ear, proclaim from the roofs." Interestingly, his next four words were "do not be afraid." The Rooftops Group, based in Wellington, was formed in 2012 in response to this call. (I hear the collective gasps: can anything good come out of Wellington?)

Why respond to this particular call that Jesus gave to his first followers on their first mission as fledglings? Because the good news remains good news, even for sceptical New Zealanders. Because the gospel – wherever it is communicated, no matter how imperfectly by novices – possesses the power to transform and yield fruit in unexpected places. And because we now have living among us a generation that hasn't heard.

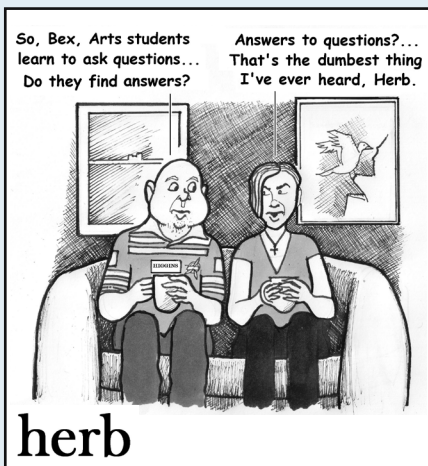
There are times and seasons and a fullness of time, which culminates in a new heaven and earth. In our time and season we have our own blessings, riches, deprivations and challenges. Ours is a culture that was first blessed with the gospel message 200 years ago. But since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century, New Zealanders have experimented with being good without God. In public life we have

killed the Christian God but held onto his morals. If this persists, the Judeo-Christian oxygen that has historically sustained and fuelled public ethics will continue to ebb away.

But there is good reason to believe fresh fire, oxygen and light is coming. The encouragement for Christians – particularly those with a burden for those outside church walls – is that the Christian church has an uncanny knack for resurrecting. The church is like a party trick candle. When you blow hard to extinguish its flame (even for a century or two or three), though it first appears extinguished the flame surprises everyone by flaring back brighter and stronger.

The Christian church has quietly flourished in more unforgiving environments than secular New Zealand. Jesus' references to salt, mustard seeds and yeast working through the dough provide clues here. God is ceaselessly at work. He is the Lord of history. I believe one of the challenges and calls of this age, particularly in the secular West, is to believe this. This is the key to confidence in witness: Knowing God and knowing God is God in space-time history. The trick then for ministries such as TSCF and Rooftops is to discern (even together) how the shepherd is currently searching for the lost sheep and, to use the sheep farmer's lexicon, to get in behind.

Drawing on the resourcefulness and faith of previous generations, Rooftops seeks to imagine what has yet to be imagined and go where others have yet to go. We are earthen vessels. Sometimes it feels like Rooftops' work hangs off a slender thread. Yet our use of words and creativity has found diverse forums: government ministers, commercial and public radio, popular blogs, print magazines, student radio and television news websites. We sent a request to Radio NZ National's Kim Hill and she subsequently interviewed Oxford's Professor John Lennox, who with consummate tact shared the reasonableness of his faith for 40



Chris Beard has personally explored creative ways of sharing truth. Between 1999 and 2006 he contributed a cartoon called “Herb” to several student magazines. They were slice-of-campus-life reflections with some gospel-themed or challenging popular thinking. Herb was a likable character who lacked a bit of self-awareness. One magazine editor wrote, “Herb is a long-term favourite of students all around New Zealand,” and another said the strip “will be remembered for years to come.”

minutes with genteel New Zealand. MPs have come to a Rooftops Hour with MPs to discuss “What place a Christian voice has in a broad-church party.” An article with “post-secular society” in the title was mentioned to a senior politician who subsequently went away and read it. Rooftops writers have written so honestly and poignantly that they have seen unchurched friends become convicted.

Rooftops has sprung up and encouraged young and old who have entered its orbit. We are working on being interdependent to cultivate balance,

good theology and depth. Rooftops will prosper in partnership but will wither and die without churches, missions and ministries alongside it. “Go ye into all the world” – or disappear from the world.

Why go into all the world? Believe it or not, castleford.com.au reported that the most popular “who is” Google search for Australians in 2014 was “who is Jesus?” We need theism in the public square for the sake of a rounded education. If our young people are inoculated against religion, and Christianity in particular, their education, understanding of history, critical thinking and globalism is diminished. They become religiously illiterate in a religious world.

TSCF has been a critical partner for Rooftops. Nigel Pollock helped us stoke the early vision for gospel-as-public-truth. In 2012, graduate Matthew Bayliss led the way with a winsome “Hopeful Cynic” persona published regularly in the student magazine *Salient*. Current Wellington CF president Francis Henrys adds zip and zing to the Rooftops group.

Our prayer is for your prayers, encouragement and support. Come and journey with us on the new Roman roads.



**Chris Beard is director of Rooftops, a group that supports Christians interested in mission to non-Christians. Rooftops focuses on listening, learning and using words to love others. Chris also teaches New Zealand Literature part time at Victoria University. Chris, his wife, Rachel, and their four children attend Karori Baptist Church.**

**Rooftops offers annual scholarships up to \$2000. The 2015 deadline is 25 February, but late applications from Canvas readers will be considered. Please contact Chris at [cr.beard@clear.net.nz](mailto:cr.beard@clear.net.nz) or 021 173 5498.**

# Following students



Once in a while, innovative paths wind through familiar territory. When Matthew Bayliss was inspired by Rooftops, he began writing letters to the editor of *Salient*, the University of Victoria's student magazine.

"I thought, it's something I enjoy, that I have skills in," he said.

He addressed topics from the most recent issue such as justice or the environment. Sometimes they had an overtly Christian worldview, sometimes they didn't, depending on what the topic called for. As a result of his participation, the editor asked Matthew to write a column for the Opinion issue.

One down side of print media is the one-sided nature of the conversation. There is no way to know how many people read his columns, and he doesn't know how they were received. Matthew called it an "exercise in faith," hoping that he has sparked some conversations. Either way, he found it personally beneficial: "It's been able to help me articulate better a Christian point of view."

As the Gospel spreads throughout the world, it is in everyday places, even on your Facebook wall. Social media has the advantage of spreading things quickly and without cost to a large group of people.

I find engaging on Facebook pages, such as "Christianity Discussed," gives us the opportunity to discuss with people we may not otherwise have



the chance to, both Christian and non-Christian.

Sometimes, online anonymity may be harmful, but social media still has great opportunities. YouTube alone has vast potential to share the Gospel – its top video today has a view count of more than 2 billion. What new ways will we find to share the Gospel, ways that haven't been explored before?

– **Brittany Smith, Auckland EU**

Zachary Arden regularly engages with other students on Facebook – many fellow science students – on topics of apologetics. The University of Auckland PhD student and former EU president has also begun posting his poetry, communicating truth in a way that speaks to the heart as much as the mind. This is a segment of one exploring Christ's incarnation:



*How came the splendid king of eternity?  
In poverty, Palestine, humanity  
Weakly, enmeshed, forgoing 'heritance  
God chose to enter human existence!  
From outer light, past mere platonic realms  
Universe-captain stooped down from the  
helm  
In order to search out friends turned away  
Only love could suffice to motivate. ...*

*Here the deep logic behind the cosmos  
Who evolved galaxies for spinning tops;  
Who finely-tuned th' initial expanding  
Growing in height and understanding?  
Here is no imperial dictator,  
No cruel tyrant to avoid or abhor  
Friends, what is your alternative Story?  
None other contains Jesus' glory.*



# Technology & faith: Reflecting the positives

**A**uthor William Gibson once described our society as being “wrapped in media,” and in one of his novels he described cyberspace as a “consensual hallucination.” A few years on and the term “cyberspace” is passé, but the sense that we are immersed or wrapped in technology and media that shapes us and our world is stronger than ever. For Christians, who seek to live as the people of God and followers of Jesus Christ, a burning concern should be how to live wisely and faithfully in such a world. What approaches might we take so that we live in this world, individually and collectively, in ways that bring glory to God?

We could declare that technology and media are ultimately bad things that oppress or demean something essential in the human spirit. Technology brings good things, but the side effects outweigh the benefits. This kind of approach uses terms like “playing God” or building a new Tower of Babel, of starting a “slippery slope” ethically and witnessing the demise of flesh and blood relationships. At its most intense, it leads to a withdrawal from the world that is ultimately fruitless, if creating culture is part of our God-given nature. And for most of us, this isn’t an option since we live and work in the everyday world.

So, should we go the other way and wholeheartedly embrace our new technology and media world? Do we see a divine purpose in this world, where God-given human creativity addresses the human condition and mediates heavenly mercies to this world? We can feed more people, address more illnesses, proclaim the Gospel to the ends of the earth, and have a billion neighbours in Facebook or on Twitter. Surely, if this is the case, then God “baptises” our technology? Or perhaps not. For technology and media accentuate essential human behaviours and values, both positive and negative, leading to simultaneous

Technology and media accentuate essential human behaviours and values, both positive and negative, leading to simultaneous wonder and anxiety about our technological powers.





**Does the way we use technology and media build people up or marginalise them? And do we grow in Christ through its use, or does it become an idol drawing us away from God?**

wonder and anxiety about our technological powers.

Perhaps then technology and media are just neutral tools and their status depends on how people use them? A hammer can be used to build a house or inflict injury on a person, so is it the intention behind the action that is the critical factor?

The answer to that is both yes and no. Yes, the way we choose to use technology and the effects of that define whether it is good or bad. But, on the other hand, technology and media are imbued with the values of those who create them. Television, mobile phones, dishwashers, social media, and pharmaceuticals all exist because individuals and societies value them. And those values then permeate us.

Sometimes we agree with those values, other times we disagree. Sometimes we simply absorb those values as “good” because the product is part of the air we breathe.

So what might we, as people trying to follow Jesus while wrapped in media, do to live faithfully? The late American scholar Ian Barbour called “creative technology that is economically productive, ecologically sound, socially just, and personally fulfilling” “good.” These criteria help when filtered through our relationship with Jesus Christ and our understanding of Scripture. Is the way we use technology and media economically productive in a way that builds not just material capital, but also social and spiritual capital in society? Do we use technology in a way that is sustainable for our communities, the natural world, and ourselves? Does the way we use technology and media build people up or marginalise them? And do we grow in Christ through its use, or does it become an idol drawing us away from God?

These kinds of questions drive us to wise living in a technological world. We won’t retreat from technology and media, but we won’t be dazzled by it either. We will look at what values it promotes, at the stories it tells about human life and about the world we live in.

**Stephen Garner is Head of Theology at Laidlaw College, Auckland. He studied Computer Science at the University of Canterbury, and Theology at the Bible College of New Zealand (now Laidlaw College) and the University of Auckland. He is currently co-writing a book on theology and new media.**



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TSCF staff and students were on site at both Festival One and Cloud Festival over the last weekend in January. Some helped out at The Sanctum, a space for worship and reflection at the Festival One site at Mystery Creek, while others chatted with students and introduced them to TSCF's work on campuses.

TSCF's website has a list of groups that are active at [www.tscf.org.nz/get\\_involved](http://www.tscf.org.nz/get_involved). The local team leaders listed here are also happy to connect new and returning students with others on campus – or help out in any way that they can (...within reason).



This year the food challenge, which ran annually at the now defunct Parachute Festival, involved eating a piece of dry toast in the fastest time.





## Dunedin groups grow

In 2011, a faculty member at the University of Otago asked if we could help the students who were running the Christian Medical Fellowship (CMF). I started meeting with the leaders and attending the weekly meetings. A few months later, a nursing student asked if there could be a similar group for nurses. This was the beginning of TSCF in Dunedin supporting groups based around academic subjects.

We support seven groups around the city now ([www.tscf.org.nz/otago](http://www.tscf.org.nz/otago)). Some contain four or five people and some 20 or more; some meet in

the evening and some during the day; some have speakers most weeks and some have a weekly Bible study; some are at the Polytechnic and some are at the University. But they all share two desires: to help students meet Jesus, and to help students integrate their studies and life with faith in Jesus.

Being a network of small groups brings opportunities and challenges. Gathering around an academic subject means that students can be more focused in outreach plans and topics for their talks and Bible studies. The groups meet in different locations and at different times, so it





is challenging for all of them to meet together, building a strong sense of fellowship and identity across the network.

We hope more groups will form and we find new ways to connect the groups. We have a big outing planned for the end of orientation week and will welcome Dr John Stackhouse Jr from Regent College, Vancouver, for a week of outreach in July.

If you are interested in starting a group or finding out more, then get in touch with me on [james@tscf.org.nz](mailto:james@tscf.org.nz).

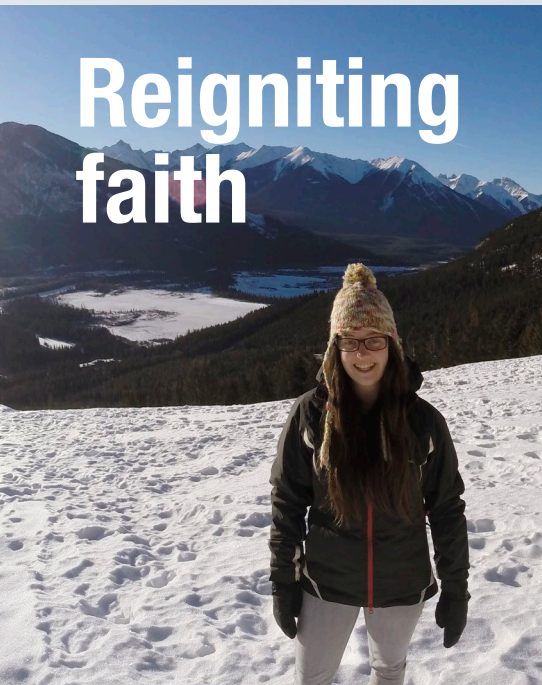
**“Over the years, I have come into contact with lots of Christian uni students who are bright and inquisitive and who want to make their lives count. The few short years they spend at uni are precious ones that can offer them so much – the ideas they encounter, the people they meet and the habits they form can affect them for the rest of their lives. The TSCF small groups are so important in providing these young adults with resources and relationships that point them to Christ and strengthen their faith.”**

**– Jess Palmer, senior lecturer in law at Otago University**

**James Allaway**  
Otago Team Leader



# Reigniting faith



I came to know Jesus when I was 15, through my school chaplain. Since then I have been to youth groups, camps, conferences – anything you can make “Christian,” I’ve probably done it. I answered God’s call to share my testimony with young people through missionary work in Australia in 2012 and 2013, which were solid foundation years. I lived with people who inspired me to understand more about Jesus and the church.

Then I stepped out on my own, and without a strong faith environment at home I lost the desire for more. I became so complacent. I went from spending three hours in prayer daily to barely being able to handle five minutes. I had been surrounded by faith-filled people constantly, but now I was seeing faithful friends once, maybe twice a week. I’d never done it on my own. I was struggling, floating in the deep, feeling like there was nothing to hold on to. The song Oceans by Hillsong became the most listened to song on my playlist – I could really relate.

**Then I stepped out on my own, and without a strong faith environment at home I lost the desire for more. I became so complacent.**

But then I started at Lincoln University and discovered this amazing community of believers. I began to see the joy in faith again. The spark was reignited. I spoke to friends who had also gone from full time missionary work to “normal” life (whatever that is!) and listened to their struggles and advice. Jesus started to become my joy again. I started to ask questions again, trying to understand more.

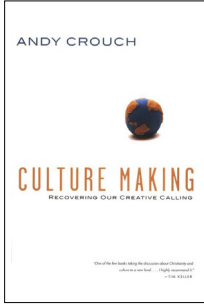
Late last year I flew to Canada for a couple of weeks to see some friends who I’d been on mission with. It is a stunning part of the world with beautiful mountains, stunning natural ice sculptures and beautiful landscapes. I can’t even tell you how much I enjoy mountains! My love for the outdoors overwhelmed me as I saw the majesty of creation and realized again, God created all of this. Faith bubbled inside me again as I stood in the awe-inspiring Rocky Mountains.

While there, I also watched a friend discover Jesus in his life, asking questions, learning, searching. It was beautiful to watch his eyes open in wonder and I missed that in myself. He inspired me to search out Jesus more, to again ask questions.

God knew I needed some inspiration to see him again, and he gave it to me ten-fold, from his marvellous creation and the beginnings of faith.

“In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.”  
Psalm 95:4-5

**Katrina Jackson is studying a Bachelor of Viticulture and Oenology (or as we plebs like to say, “making wine”) at Lincoln University.**



## Culture Making

by *Andy Crouch*

Christians are often perceived by society as old-fashioned, backwards and weird. However in his skilfully written book, *Culture Making*, Andy Crouch argues that Christians should be engaging with various cultural environments through creative forms of expression. He defines culture as “making something of the world,” and points to the mandate in Genesis for

humans to cultivate the earth – our mandate to create culture.

This book gets past analysis and moves on to practicality, encouraging us to use our various mediums of expression, from architecture to music to engineering, not to change the world but to transform our social spheres into places “where good news whispers just a bit more audibly.”

– *Ben Johnston*



## Will You Be My Facebook Friend?

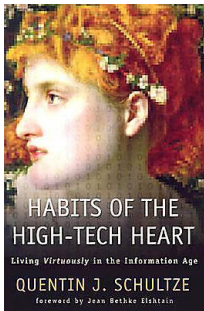
by *Tim Chester*

If you use Facebook you may, like me, spend more time on there than you should. What’s the attraction? What keeps drawing us back?

*Will You Be My Facebook Friend?* gets to the heart of why social media can be so addictive, and how it changes the way we live and interact with the

world around us. He looks at two main reasons we are drawn to Facebook and shows how we are seeking after things that can only be found in the gospel. It’s only a short book and is filled with pertinent questions to help you examine how and why you use Facebook (or any social media). Take 15 minutes to read through and reflect on what pitfalls you’re in danger of and how you can be using Facebook well.

– *Robyn Drake*



## Habits of the High-Tech Heart

by *Quentin J. Schultze*

Schultze argues that our faith in the volume of information that technology makes available to us and our occasionally thoughtless adoption of new technologies is hindering rather than helping us live good lives. Schultze suggests that we look to those who have gone before us for wisdom as we seek to live as human beings in

a technologically driven world, and to develop thoughtful habits around our use of technology. Schultze cautions us to practice moderation in our use and reliance on technology, reminds us that the call to reconciliation that is at the heart of the gospel means that we need to pursue relationships with our physical and virtual neighbours, and calls us to remember that our hope rests in Christ return rather than technology.

– *James Allaway*

LIFE OF A GRADUATE:

# The making of

**M**artin Luther King Jr. once said, “If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way.” This is the famous “I Have A Dream” man, the icon for equality in the USA. It makes me wonder: if the things he did weren’t “great,” then what would be?

What is greatness after all?

With no hope of getting a job in Auckland, I decided it was time to leave. I had knocked on all doors possible, but nothing was happening. Two days before I was to book my ticket back to Hong Kong, I received a phone call. It was a job offer from a prestigious bank. My jaw dropped to the floor, I was dumbfounded at the miraculous working of God. I got a contract that seemed impossible for me.

However grateful I was, I found the job exceedingly difficult at first. My initial resonance with Psalm 18 soon became cluttered with complaints. The systems were too complicated, and customers were too demanding. I aspire to be a writer yet there I was, a bank officer dealing with frustrating numbers. I doubted if the job was really God’s will; wasn’t I supposed to be a great writer influencing mankind with my words?

In the midst of my hesitation, the Holy Spirit reminded me of someone greater: my Lord

Jesus. Before he began his ministry, Jesus was a normal carpenter. He waited on God patiently and faithfully. He grew in wisdom and favour with God while doing an everyday job that seemed to have no connection with his calling. Nevertheless, his greatness was not just the three years “official” ministry at the end. He impacted lives through relationships and dialogues all through his life.

The journey is as significant as the destination. The behind-the-scenes moments are often tests that refine us until the big movie is debuted. As this dawned on me, I began to see my job from a different perspective. I challenged myself not only to shine my character in big moments, but also to build it in small ones. The more effort I put into the job God assigned to me, the more I started to enjoy little works he was doing through me.

On my road to becoming a woman of God, I will continue to let God shape me in big and small ways until His great work in me is accomplished.



**Joyce Yip is a graduate of the University of Otago who is sharing the transition to working life with Canvas.**





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


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











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Stephen Garner posted a picture.  
50 mins

Technology and faith: Reflecting the positives  
page 14



Like • Comment • Share • 



James Allaway posted a picture.  
55 mins

Dunedin groups grow  
page 18



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