

tertiary students christian fellowship quarterly magazine

# canvaS

ISSUE 83 | AUTUMN 2018

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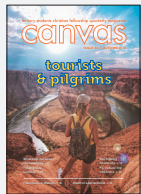
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**CANVAS** aims to inform and encourage all who are interested in reaching students for Christ, and in thinking Christianly about their life and work. It is published three times a year by TSCF.



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Riadh Drif

**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](mailto:canvas@tscf.org.nz).

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# Tourists and pilgrims

Christians make the best travellers. I have zero research to back this up, but think about how the Bible describes God's people: Sojourners. Pilgrims. Strangers. We're sent to and called out, in but not of. We welcome those who are separated from their own homelands, and send some of our own to live in foreign places for the gospel's sake.

Kiwi Christians could be the best travellers of all. Again, I have no evidence, and there's a qualifying "could be" since it wouldn't be very Kiwi to claim that absolutely. We're a travelling people, both Tangata Whenua and Pakeha, and the itch to see foreign corners first-hand hasn't diminished yet.

But if we go overseas just because others are or because our Facebook pages need a little colour, we're wasting jet fuel. Without a little perspective, both biblical and historical, we could become the worst travellers of all: An entitled lot who live as though leisure time away from home is a basic human right.

As Christians, we know who to thank for the recent luxury of safe, fast and affordable travel. And we know who to thank for this spectacular creation, for God's image-bearers of all races creating rich cultures, and for his Spirit revealing salvation to all peoples.

Christ's ambassadors see opportunities that other tourists don't. We set priorities that demand sacrifices and don't just provide pleasure. Being purposefully in the world but not of it keeps us from the trap of trying to "find ourselves" in new contexts instead of in relationship with our Creator, or from becoming consumer tourists who buy into the "you only live once" mantra. ("YOLT" may never catch on as an acronym, but as lifestyles go it's far more freeing.)

Whether we plan an OE, spend decades on the mission field or never go further than the family bach, Psalm 139:9-10 reminds us that a trip is only as good as its guide: "If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."

**Maryanne Wardlaw**  
Editor



# Festival's summer Sanctuary

*TSCF staff and students created and hosted two venues at Festival One—the Student Lounge and a space for prayer and reflection called the Sanctuary. The annual event, which celebrates music, art and Christian community, took place 26–29 January just outside of Hamilton. Otago Staff worker Rosie Sim gives us a glimpse behind the Sanctuary's stained-glass-coloured entrance.*

**F**estival One, on a good day, brings the words “vibrant, community, and colourful” to mind. On a more cynical day, the words are “hot, loud and tiring.”

I was mainly based in the incredibly crafted Sanctuary, where I spent 6 to 8 hours each day approaching strangers with a smile (which would fluctuate from genuine to fixed depending on how far into the 30s the temperature in the tent reached). Conversations always started the same: “Welcome to the Sanctuary...”

Exchange pleasantries, comment on the heat, comment on the music that occasionally threatened to drown us out, point out the various stations for prayer and reflection.

But then would come the time to take a risk, to dig a little deeper, to find out why they decided to walk through the door.

Sometimes I'd ask if they wanted me to pray with them, sometimes I would ask if they had anything on their heart they wanted to talk about. Sometimes it was clear they needed solitude with God.

There were polite and indifferent “No thank yous,” equally polite and indifferent “Okay, sures,” but far more often than I would have thought, someone took a seat and began to share something of

their life. There was the girl overwhelmed by school, trying to be the best she could be. The woman struggling with her eating disorder. The man who was so lonely in his church that he had stopped going. There were also the passionate sisters looking to encourage young Maori in their faith through Kapahaka. The young couple who weren't Christians but said they were seeking. Even a boy who wanted me to pray for his three pet goats.

Yes, the Sanctuary was vibrant, it was a community, it was full of

colourful characters. And yes the days were too hot, and loud and tiring.

But I got to see a glimpse of God's heart for these people, his people: the hurt and healing, the lost and found. And we got to be part of that, providing a little space for sanctuary in the heat and noise of the festival.





# The TSCF team grows

## Rosie makes it official

Rosie Sim's introduction to student ministry came through her now-husband and Dunedin staff worker Simon Sim. However stepping into the role of staff worker herself, nearly two years after their marriage, has been 25 years in the making.



She came to faith early in life, growing up in a Christian family and in a church community. But Rosie said that she struggled to own a faith that at times felt more like an inheritance than a relationship.

"Thankfully, I was surrounded by people who helped me express my doubts, worked through my questions, shared my burdens and pointed me back to Jesus when other options and interests seemed so much more appealing," Rosie said.

"I want to be that person for students coming to Dunedin, whether they are like me, figuring out what a practical and personal faith looks like in the 'real world,' or if they are still in need of that first introduction to Jesus."

Rosie was born in Dunedin and wants to prove to new students that it isn't "just some grungy student town" but a place to learn, grow and connect. And also—"a place for some pretty awesome cafes, beaches and bush tracks."

As a registered nurse, Rosie will continue to work two days a week in Dunedin Hospital. Rosie and Simon have joined James and Jen Allaway living in The Quarters, TSCF's student community of

four adjoining houses. The opportunities there for hospitality and late-night chats particularly appeal to Rosie.

She and Simon share an interest in stories, whether in book, movie or video game form: "It comes in handy when connecting not just to students with pop culture references but to the greater story of the gospel," Rosie said.

## Wellington office welcomes back a familiar face



Nigel Pollock, TSCF's National Director, has been reunited with one of his first Personal Assistants. Sarah Stark worked with Nigel and as TSCF's Communications Manager in 2006. Since then, she and her husband have had three children.

At the end of 2017, the TSCF team farewelled Shani Vaughan-Broome after two years in the PA role and this summer Sarah has stepped back into it.

"She clearly feels that ten years of childcare have added value in preparing her for working with me again," Nigel said.

"I'm thrilled to be serving TSCF," Sarah said. "I firmly believe in the truth of the gospel and in the importance of nurturing and growing communities of faith. I love that this is at the heart of what TSCF is about."

Sarah's first connection with TSCF was as an English and linguistics student at Otago University.





TSCF staff and family members in Nelson, January 2018.

## Waikato team doubles

Nadine Liddle has joined Nick Goodwin in TSCF's ministry to students at Waikato University and Wintec.



The international American came to New Zealand in 2011 when she married Bruce, a Kiwi widower with four children. She has been involved in mentoring students from Capernwray Bible School, and prior to living in New Zealand worked in ministry full time.

Nadine recalls hearing the words "You do it!" when, as a student, she cried out to God to send someone to her university in 1992 to support students and lead them in studying the Bible.

"As a relatively new Christian, I was hungry for God

and saw a great need. The Lord called me to meet that need," she said.

That ministry is continuing all these years later. In 2000 Nadine pioneered a university group for a church in Venezuela, then worked with Students For Christ in Spain from 2001 to 2011.

"My passion is to see students come to Christ, grow in the Lord and fulfil the call he has on their futures," she said.

## Student leader joins TSCF board



Annelise Chan is the newest addition to the team of three student representatives who sit on TSCF's board. She is a Malaysian-born Aucklanders who studies law and

accounting at the University of Auckland. Annelise has been involved with TSCF since 2016.

"I've loved the chance to discuss campus-wide issues in EU and connect with fellow law students through Veritas," she said. "These groups encourage conversations that broaden my perspective and allow me to engage deeper with my study."

Annelise said she has gained a better understanding of how faith influences perspectives on law, values

and society. "I'm incredibly thankful to be studying a degree that seeks to understand cultural norms and has the ability to change them." And she sees the potential for Christian student groups to apply faith to all of life: "We need to empower ourselves to inform others about Jesus and challenge what it means to live an undivided life. I hope to encourage others to actively search for the unique opportunities for dialogue and witnessing on campus. It's up to us to make the effort to connect with other Christians, faculties and cultures."

## campusnews

### AUCKLAND OCF

One of our highlights last year was graduation night, where graduating students shared their testimonies of their walk with God and their time spent in OCF.

The Summer Impact Groups run on Saturdays, where students have been coming together on campus to study the book of Galatians and share dinner afterwards. We have also had Worship Workshops where we hope to inspire more students to serve in worship and understand the purpose of worship.

We are planning for our committee retreat and our stall at the Lantern Festival, which is our largest fundraiser for OCF's annual camp.

We would really appreciate prayer for wisdom for our leadership team and that our events will glorify God and help students come to know him for themselves. We don't want to have a group where students just come to hang out; we want them to be grounded in their walk with God, build relationships with others and share his love with them.

– Shannon Murphy

### AUCKLAND CMF

Last year was fantastic for CMF at Auckland University. Our community-building activities continue to fill the need we have for connection with others walking similar paths in life. Dinners with the Doc continue to be attended to capacity. Praise God for the community we do have, and pray he would strengthen us further!

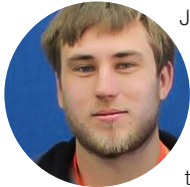
Our main focus at Grafton Campus has been teaching others the good news about Jesus, with the aim to persuade. We have shared this gospel through events such as Jesus Week, but we believe small group Bible studies, one-on-one coffee dates and conversations with friends are more significant than any big event we could put on.

We are humbled to have introduced people to Jesus this way. Conversion is usually a journey, not a moment, and we trust in our God's Holy Spirit to guide these friends. Of all that CMF did last year, encouraging a culture of evangelism is by far the most important.

– Callum and Thealyssa

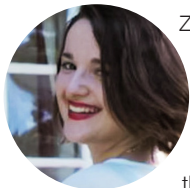
## Ministry interns contribute to Canterbury and Otago teams

One student and one recent graduate are taking up TSCF's ministry internship programme (dubbed "Minty") this year. Alongside theological study and part-time work, they will be working with student groups while being mentored by staff.



Jaden Stokes finished studying psychology and philosophy at the University of Canterbury last year. "Being part of Christian Union over this time has been a huge encouragement to me and helped

me to grow in my Christian faith," he said. After five years as a student, he is back on campus working with the Christian Union to learn more about God, become better equipped to serve him, and to encourage others.



Zoe Ogilvie is taking a break between her third and fourth years studying medicine at the University of Otago to serve alongside the team there.

"It seems like a great opportunity to serve the organisation and student groups that have been so important to me, and to have more time to learn and think about some of the issues in the Christian faith," she said.

Zoe has also joined staff and students living at The Quarters, TSCF's student community, having been part of the Treehouse in 2016.

"I love how these intentional communities allow me to get really close with my flatmates and how we support each other in faith," she said. Her other aim for the year is to have more time devoted to reading and writing.

## Engaged

Kimberley Eccles and Christopher Isaac Barry, both former Veritas students, got engaged on 10 November 2017.

Hayley Drown (former EU leader and Veritas member) and Selwyn Fraser got engaged on 13 October 2017.

Jerome de Vries, former Veritas leader, got engaged to Nikki Hooft on 3 November 2017.

## Married

Sarah Worboys (TSCF Tauranga) married Max Tuinanuya (from Fiji) on 3 December 2017. After a year-long battle for a visa, Max arrived the day before the wedding. They are grateful for all the prayers, and now live in Fiji.

Pete Brown and Hannah Bamford (both TSCF Minty 2016 and former Canterbury CU) married 4 November 2017.

Timothy Gray and Emma Neilson, both former EU leaders, married in Auckland on 20 January.

## Born

Hanli Liu, Auckland associate staff, and his wife Sarah welcomed their first child, Amelia En Yu, on 12 December 2017.

Sadie Ruth McLaren was born in Invercargill on 25 January to Matthew and Kate, both former LUCF members.

## Awarded

Lincoln University awarded "Outstanding Contribution to Campus Life" to Lincoln CF in 2017. This is not the first time that the university has recognised CF for the way its members serve other students, notably cleaning up after the annual Garden Party and helping sober up and care for drunken students.



# What bugs me about the travel bug

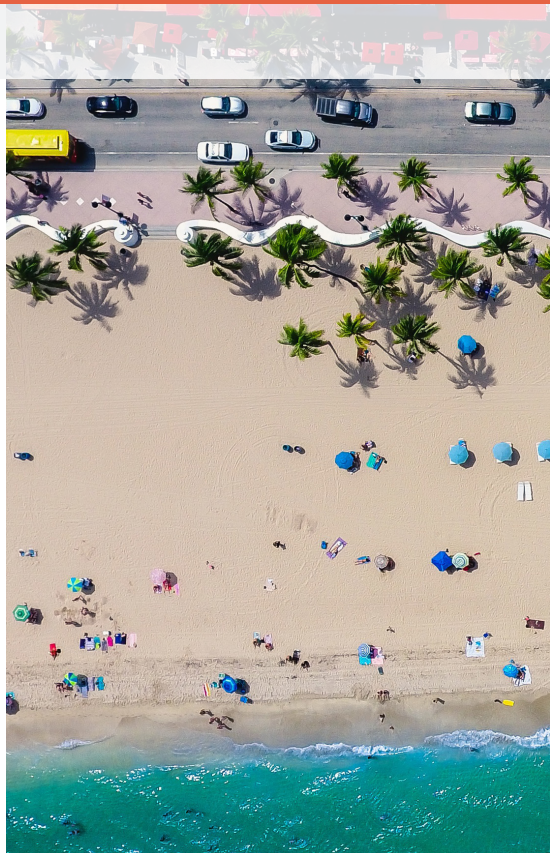
“If you’re not a different person by the end your trip, you haven’t done it right.”

**W**hy does our generation place such a spiritual emphasis on travelling? In a world of millennial wanderlust manufactured by bloggers and social media, I’d like to question why we expect travel to shape our identities more than the everyday stuff that actually makes up the bulk of our time on earth.

I should first point out that I love travelling and that I believe it’s valuable for everyone, regardless of their worldview. However we tend to put travel on a pedestal—which is essentially idolatry—and let it colour how we perceive the less exciting areas of our lives.

Looking back on conversations that led up to my first big trip alone, I recall subtle pressure to have “the best trip ever.” Although my friends’ wishes were well-intentioned, on some level they felt like a burden. Months before my departing flight, I was already lugging around emotional baggage packed with the projected expectations of others. The more people I talked to, the more it felt like I wasn’t even travelling for myself.

Why does travel have to affect you at a fundamental level (à la *Eat Pray Love*) before you can



consider the trip to have been worth doing? It’s great to see God working in all corners of his world and we praise him for reigning supremely, whichever country we’re in. But all of that says something great about God and what he is doing. All we did was get on a plane and survive Customs.

As I intentionally chose not to over-spiritualise my 2016 holiday, it became clear that there’s no need to succumb to others’ expectations. A trip is what you make of it; you’ll measure the success of your travels differently than others.

Do you want a deep and meaningful spiritual experience?

Do you want to step out of your comfort zone and rub shoulders with the locals?

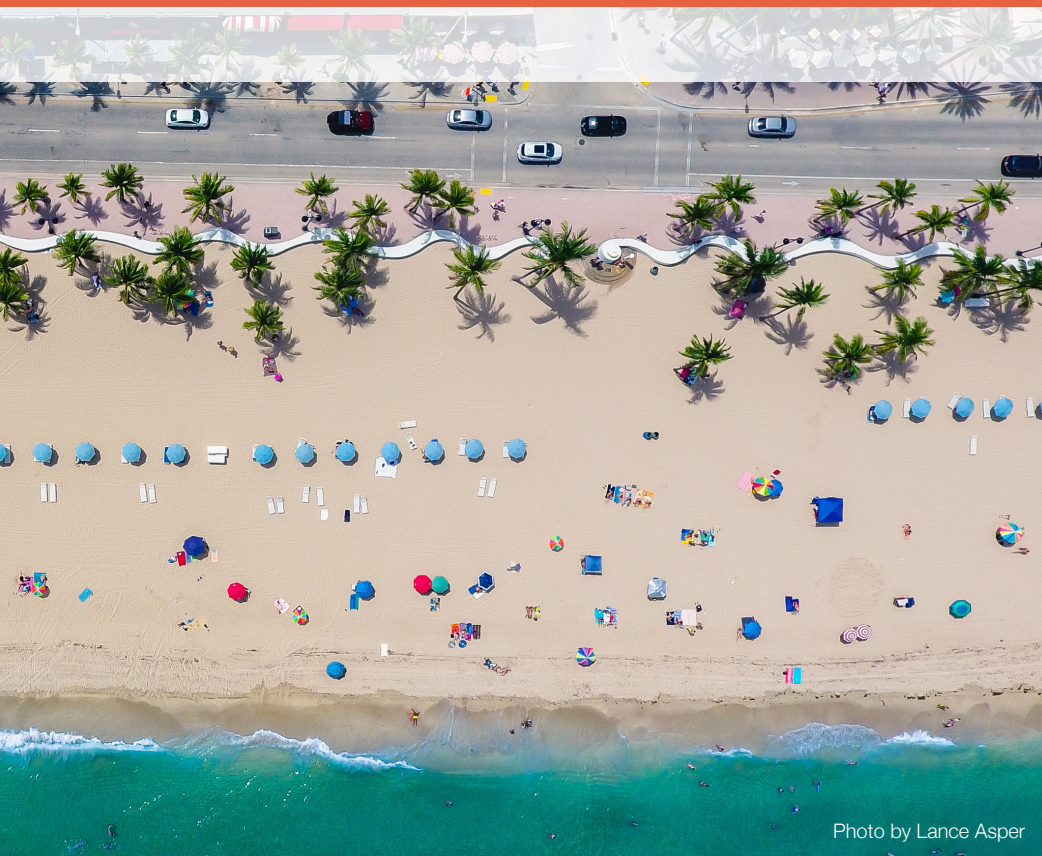


Photo by Lance Asper

Or do you want a premium version of familiar lifestyle—just in a different climate?

All of those goals and many others are all fine. The Bible doesn't give us specifics about travel planning so, assuming our adventures don't involve immoral pursuits, travel is not a moral issue. We should apply general tenets such as living as Christ's ambassadors and exercising God-given wisdom; aside from that, travelling is an area where we have freedom over what to do and how to do it.

It took a few years for me to realise that I don't need an overseas experience to authenticate my worldview. Travelling can't be the only way I'm informed about the world; when it comes to appreciating God's designs, engaging with the human

experience through routine and familiarity is just as important as learning from short-term highlights.

So let's be careful we don't put travel on a pedestal, and remember that God is also transforming us and revealing himself through the mundane events of our daily lives. Having an open mind about the world starts well before the plane ride.



*Raymond Tiong is a designer-turned-strategist based in Auckland who served in AUTCF and contributed to TSCF's graduate ministry in Auckland. His qualifications in graphic design, advertising, and art history have informed his interest in culture, creativity, and ethics.*



# Finding wide horizons



I used to want to be a missionary. When I was at university, every summer I would go to a different developing country to help however I could.

The first time I went overseas just for a holiday, it felt kind of selfish. I was used to making my trips as meaningful as possible, so I wasn't sure whether a holiday for my own enjoyment would be

a good use of resources.

Since then I have realised that God is also with me in my times of rest (what a surprise!). In the process, I have experienced the beauty, holiness, purpose and healing of rest and adventure. It has formed part of a larger theological shift in my life from legalism and striving to freedom and grace.



St Irenaeus is misquoted as saying, “The glory of God is man fully alive.” Whether it was him or urban legend, the concept resonates with me.

God has created rest, adventure, and beauty for us to experience, and travelling can be an opportunity to immerse ourselves in those things. This is how God has used travel to reveal himself to me.

## Rest and healing

As we walked up the stone stairway and turned a corner, the view took my breath away. The canyon of yellow stone that gives the park its name carved a rugged pathway to a waterfall in the distance. I was overwhelmed by the greatness of nature and the frailness of man.

I had just finished a life chapter that left me feeling insignificant compared to others. But in that moment I knew that everyone is small, which was a comforting and healing thought. Travelling can be a great way to end one chapter before starting another. The key is to know where you find rest or healing—nature or urban discovery, being active or being still—and choosing the right travel companions.

## Adventure and faith

Being a natural planner, I enjoy having everything booked and in a spreadsheet before I hop on the plane. But the best things that have happened to me while travelling were unplanned. From staying in a log cabin and having bear meat for lunch, to seeing the world’s tallest filing cabinet, to hitchhiking around Europe, spontaneity allowed for chance encounters through which I grew.

There is a place for preparation but also a place for stepping out of our comfort zones. This has taught me to listen and to learn how to give up my need to be in control.

For others, planning might be out of their comfort

**I am convinced that God has given me some over-the-top awesome experiences as reminders of his goodness and his abundant generosity.**

zone. Travel is one way to stretch ourselves and practice trusting God.

## Beauty and mountaintops

Life can be hard. Haha, just kidding ... life is hard. But it’s not all hard, and sometimes we need to remember that. I am convinced that God has given me some over-the-top awesome experiences as reminders of his goodness and his abundant generosity. I’ve been blown away by his provision and blessing, and these mountaintop experiences have given me perspective during subsequent valleys. The brightness and freedom and joy we have tasted remind us that no valley lasts forever, and one day we will be on the eternal mountaintop.

God has used travel to remind me that he is good, and that I do not need to fear life. I do not need to control everything; I can trust him. I can ask him to blow my expectations out of the water; colours, flavours, people, stary skies and all other expressions of beauty in this world point to the Creator.

There is a time for sacrifice and a time for rejoicing, a time for structure and a time for freedom, a time for work and a time for rest. Here’s an encouragement, if you struggle with feeling like the work is never done: God created this great, wild, beautiful world for us, and then God rested. Enjoy his world, enjoy his rest.

*Carmi Louw is a 30-something office-dwelling adventurer with too many hobbies. She is known for throwing legendary pancake parties.*



# Day tripping for eternity

**W**hen Gunn from IFES Norway pioneered a movement in Luxembourg, we of Ichthus Vlaanderen in Belgium were enthusiastic. Since she was all alone there and it's not far from Belgium, we included her in our staff retreat and got to know each other better.

A new movement needs prayer. So I took the train to Luxembourg and sat with Gunn and a German student named Sarah. We developed a tool called WeekendLux to encourage Belgian students to:

1. Visit Luxembourg. It's beautiful, it's really close, and travelling is great for community.
2. Pray for Luxembourg—for the country, the new movement, for Gunn, for the students and for Christians.

One student designed a box filled with cards for us. There are around 40 cards divided into four categories: practical, cultural, engaging with the gospel, and food and drink. Each has a picture, practical information, and a category called "going deeper."

We want to help students think holistically and see, for instance, that eating is not necessarily less spiritual than evangelising. The Portuguese restaurant Popkorn is in the category "food and drink." Its card tells us: "About one fifth of the population in Luxembourg is of Portuguese descent and an even larger proportion of the Christians. This has its roots in a revival among the Portuguese immigrants in the 1960s that led to the start of the

Portuguese-speaking Assembly of God church."

Then we suggest this: "Pray for the Portuguese population in Luxembourg. Pray especially for the Portuguese Christians, that they will share the gospel with the Luxembourgiens."

As they go to a museum, they can reflect on how the first people in the Bible described as "spirit filled" were artists. We propose they hitchhike to Luxembourg and, as they get picked up, tell the driver that they are going to pray for Luxembourg.

Wouldn't it be great if students took up the challenge to make something similar in their own countries and this was used by travelling students all around Europe? (Sorry, New Zealand. It's a bit easier in Europe where you can close your eyes for a second and accidentally arrive in another country!)

We hope they will learn to look at travel and prayer holistically. We hope this will open possibilities for them, that they might start applying this in their daily lives and travels. We hope they will learn to look at countries with spiritual eyes.

We hope they will learn to love Luxembourg and will be moved by the story of the little, new IFES movement. We hope they will pray for them more often and even consider going there long term.

And of course, we believe prayer really works!

*Lara Creemers is a staff worker with Ichthus Vlaanderen, the IFES work in Belgium.*





TSCF's team ready to depart, from left: Kate, Becky, Riven, Chris, Michael, Christina, Annelise and Caesar in front.

## Two weeks in Fiji hits home

**B**ula vinaka! When exams finished last year, we set off on a different kind of adventure with six students and grads, two staff and a bunch of wonderful Fijian hosts.

TSCF has a long, close relationship with Pacific Students For Christ, our sister movement in Fiji. However this two-week cultural trip to Suva was our first specifically partnering with PSFC. The purpose was to experience Fijian student life as we learned more about God and crossed cultures together.

During the first week we were billeted with Fijian students, fully immersed in their family life and culture. The second week we joined together, both Kiwis and Fijians, to visit the local prison, orphanage, women's refuge and other ministries.

Rebecca, Christina and Caesar explain why they went and share what surprised or challenged them, where they saw God at work, and how the trip changed them.

*Rebecca Tuckey is a fifth year medical student living in Christchurch. She spent her first three years in Dunedin and was a part of CMF there.*

I joined the trip to take me outside of my "bubble," and I knew I would learn a lot. I've also been wanting to go on a missions trip for many years; it was one of the reasons I decided to study medicine. I loved that it was a trip with a purpose.

I love Fiji too. I've been there before and wanted to learn more about the culture.

I was surprised by the amazing hospitality and generosity shown to me by the people I met. They were so humble and selfless.

I was challenged by the need to reshuffle priorities and the time I devote to things. My time needs to reflect how I view success. Success, to me, is becoming more like Christ and loving his children.

Another challenge is giving all control over my life



to God. I had no control over most of what I did, what I ate and when everything happened in Fiji.

I saw God at work in conversations I had with people—I felt honoured by their honesty and how they shared their testimonies with me—and in the reflections and discussions within the team. Another way I saw God at work was how he matched each of the team with a great host family.

Personally, I was confronted by my own sinfulness. I loved seeing the generosity and kindness of the Fijian people and want to leave people feeling as loved as I did when I was with them.

I have been working on being wise with how I spend my time, and trusting God as he is never changing and completely worthy.

***Christina Wilson is a student leader at Massey Albany in Auckland.***

I'm studying Social Anthropology, learning about different cultures, so what better way to travel overseas than to go with a team of Christian students and staff workers on a cultural trip?

I've also struggled with anxiety, mainly a fear of being trapped, and I avoided aeroplanes like the plague. This was the first step in trusting God and beginning to overcome my fears.

My greatest fear is not pursuing a life of service to God because I'm too scared to travel to the people and places he called me to serve. Signing up was saying, "Not through my strength but yours alone, Lord."

The disparity of wealth was the most shocking thing about Fiji. Some homes in the villages were shacks and close by are houses like those in New Zealand.

I thought the most challenging part would be the aeroplane but I was wrong. I struggled to feel grateful during my time with my original host in



Caesar and Michael at a children's ministry in Fiji.

the village. I was challenged by a lack of gratitude while my host was always so thankful to God for everything she had. After choosing to leave the village and return to Suva, I felt as though I had failed and had disappointed all those I met there by not coping with life in the village.

The hardest part was not getting to say goodbye to Asinada, a girl I had connected with during our time in prayer at the church. Her complete devotion to God impacted me, and it pains me that I didn't explain why I was leaving and thank her. She would walk barefoot in the pouring rain, crossing a bridge that was deemed unsafe for us to cross, to pray for two hours for the local church community, the village and church leaders, both at night and in the morning. That was a devotion like I had never seen before.

I learned a lot about areas I need to work on in becoming more like Christ—who God has called me to be as his daughter and the characteristics and qualities I need to grow as a woman of God.

It was a privilege to see the way God was working through the lives of others. The sisters at St Christopher's Home are devoting their lives in service

to the most vulnerable and precious children. We heard of the sacrifices two of the women had made choosing to follow Jesus and saw them so filled with joy, love and trust that God would provide.

God was also at work through prayer. There were entire churches praying for our trip and the flights we took to get there, and all was well! Praying over sickness, sunburn, fears, struggles with pride, for courage, guidance, safety, for people to come to know God, to seek his presence at work each day—that was how God moved.

When we went to Fiji, I couldn't sleep or get my heart rate under control from the morning before I flew to Christchurch. But during the flight home I barely noticed it taking off. I was too consumed thanking God for every way he had moved. For the first time in years I felt as though I could serve God wherever he leads me and not fear the journey.

The trip made me realise how important actively pursuing God is, to be devoted in prayer and reading scripture daily. So many friends have fallen away from faith. It has also challenged me to rethink the purpose of my degree, how I can align it with my faith and use it to serve God. I noticed how I took all I have for granted. I encountered so much joy and love in the people we met and that became my prayer in returning to New Zealand: That my flat may be a place where kindness, grace, joy and servant-heartedness reside.

***Xia Tian, also known as Caesar, studies agribusiness and food marketing at Lincoln University.***

I believed this trip could help me observe this world in a different angle and learn about God's plan in a different culture. Before this trip, I attended a course called Kairos. It opened my eyes to the need to devote myself to giving the gospel to more people. I reckoned this trip could bring me from

the course to the real world.

I was surprised by the transformation in this country. We visited the Fiji National Museum and learned Fiji had their local religion which was like the dark magic belief. Since the first missionary came to Fiji, Christianity spread to everywhere. Fijians have a great passion for worshipping God and a great love for sharing the gospel.

Some experiences left a deep impression on me. In the Sunday service in the World Harvest Centre Church in Suva more than 2,000 people attended. Their passion shocked me.

The second thing was a big billboard beside the motorway that said, "Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven." I never saw this kind of advertisement in my country or in New Zealand.

On this trip I was challenged by my old self. I always want to stay in my comfort zone. I am afraid to go into the deep water and trust God. In the trip, many times I wanted to rely on my strength but neglected to pray and rely on God's strength.

I saw God at work in the Homes of Hope, a shelter for the victims of forced sex in Fiji. People come to help them with great love from God. They protect them and give them hope to start a new life.

This trip reminded me to put my faith in God and trust in him. I am trying to get out of my comfort zone and rely on God in my daily life. For example, I am usually afraid to discuss my faith with my parents when we video chat because they are not Christians yet. I started to share some stories from church and read the Bible to them and encourage them to find a church in their city. And I also keep praying for them. Those things I would have struggled to do before.

I thank God for giving me more strength to trust him.



# Fresh faces in Waikato

**Why do I exist?**

**Why is the Bible so controversial and open to individual interpretation?**

**How does feminism fit into a biblical worldview?**

Students at Taurima Hostel looked into these tricky questions, along with a range of other issues, as part of a hostel-based study group running during the second semester of 2017. Around half

a dozen students got together on a Monday night over 10 weeks to consider scriptural responses to these topics, which they had chosen themselves. It has been a good start to a partnership initiated between Taurima Hostel and TSCF during the second half of 2017.

Taurima is a Christian hostel near the University of Waikato. It is open to those studying at the university, Wintec and other tertiary institutions, and to students with or without Christian faith. For





Staff and several students from Waikato and the Bay of Plenty attended Summit 2017 in Christchurch.

most students who participated, it was their first involvement with TSCF.

This represents broader developments in the Waikato over the past semester. While three existing Bible studies at the University of Waikato and Wintec have offered continuity, there has also been some reorientation and new beginnings. Part of this is because Dave Hodgkinson and myself, as new staff, have begun to find our feet and work closely with student leaders. This year Nadine Liddle, who was introduced earlier in this issue,

has joined us.

A new student leadership team has also arrived to carry on and develop the good work from previous years. During the mid-year study recess, the new leadership team met and committed to priorities such as one-to-one discipling, reaching out to those with no Christian faith, and greater visibility on campus.

Several leaders benefitted from involvement in an elective at the mid-year Summit conference in Christchurch last year. It provided guidance and examples for reading scripture regularly with other students, including non-Christians. Five University of Waikato students and four Wintec students attended. The outcome has been encouraging. One student, for instance, began meeting regularly to read scripture with another enquiring student whom they met during campus clubs day.

Another new direction for TSCF was last year's inaugural daytime worship session at the University of Waikato campus chapel. It's a joint initiative with some other Christian student groups. This is not only an opportunity to display Christian unity, but another way to witness to the gospel publicly on campus. Attendance was very encouraging. Because the chapel is near some main routes for foot traffic, a number of interested people not involved with any of the student groups attended. There are plans to make this a regular event.

More generally, there has been quiet cooperation between TSCF and other Christian groups on campus in the latter part of the year, such as participation in Alpha courses on campus, assistance with a debate on euthanasia and a seminar on the environment.

**Nick Goodwin**  
Waikato Staff Worker





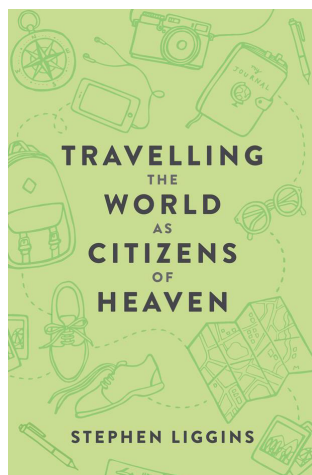
## Flying Kiwis: A History of the OE

By Jude Wilson

Otago University Press, 2014

In *Flying Kiwis*, Jude Wilson has written a fascinating history of the OE, the overseas experience. Wilson was on her own OE for 20 years, which she recognises is far longer than the usual 2-3 years. On her return to NZ she researched the OE as a New Zealand cultural phenomenon. She traces its development throughout the 20th century and into the 21st, discovering that the OE is uniquely Kiwi.

Until recently, Wilson worked at Lincoln University as a tourism researcher. She has written a delightfully engaging book that is a thorough yet accessible reworking of her PhD research. She includes colour illustrations, photographs and cartoons as she tells stories of hundreds on their OEs since the Second World War. The book explores why they left NZ, what they did, for how long, and the drivers of returning to NZ. She explores, and debunks, the myth of a “classic” Kiwi OE: 15 people crammed into a tiny London flat, working in a pub. Wilson emphasises that there is no classic



OE, despite many assuming so.

Wilson is not a Christian, so there is no attempt to discuss the gospel implications of OEs. However she is a very able guide for New Zealand’s cultural history, one that continues to shape our nation. I commend *Flying Kiwis* to all those interested in understanding this significant part of New Zealand’s culture.

– Tim Hodge

## Travelling the World as Citizens of Heaven

By Stephen Liggins

Matthias Media, 2017

Travel advice from a Christian perspective is rare, so one well-travelled Australian pastor has attempted to remedy this. Stephen Liggins provides helpful frameworks in which to consider whether and how to travel.

It’s an easy read, interspersed with many anecdotes from his own life and ministry. The principles, many of which he repeats, apply just as well to life

at home. However he makes a good case for these being even more crucial away from our community and routine: prioritize time in God's word, in prayer and with his people; resolve to live as a Christian; be ready to share the gospel.

This could be a much shorter book without the repetition and the heavy reliance on anecdotes. On the plus side, it is neither shallow nor prescriptive. The advice is sound, and despite being detailed it applies to all types of travel and travellers. Liggins gets to the heart of matters related to leisure. He reminds readers that creation exists to display God's glory and that he has ordained rest for our good, while reminding us to use our time and finances as if they belong to God. (Because they do.)

"What would it mean for you—in terms of your prayers, money, time and ministry—to prioritize the Great Commission?" he asks at one point. Far from putting a damper on travel plans, Liggins' eye for gospel opportunities allows him to present richer possibilities for our adventures than we may have originally imagined.

Liggins' emphasis on in-person relationships is a refreshing, recurring theme. He cites 1 Timothy 4:4 and 6:17 to make one of his key points: "relationships are central to God's purpose for the world." He uses personal examples of how long-term, gospel-focused relationships grew from travel interactions that were pursued intentionally and sacrificially (however randomly they first occurred), and points out that these encounters should be prayed for.

Intentionality runs through all of his advice. Both preparation for and follow-up after are part of his equation for making the most of the apparently random human interactions that happen on the road.



## A travel checklist

### Do

1. Consider your budget, pace and companions
2. Research and ask for recommendations
3. Know your strengths and weaknesses
4. Find churches, missionaries or other believers to connect with
5. Think in terms of service
6. Consider how others will impact you
7. Be kind and flexible interacting with people
8. Plan how you will spend time with God
9. Pack light
10. Get travel insurance

### Don't

1. Travel because everyone else is
2. Travel to escape
3. Travel just because you can
4. Idolize pleasure
5. Assume you'll be immune to temptations
6. Forget to thank God for the places and people you encounter
7. Lose touch with home

*Adapted from "Travelling the World as Citizens of Heaven"*

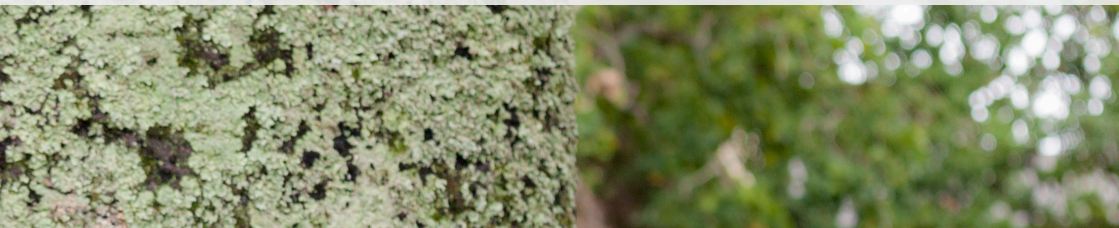


**“I believed God existed. I even believed Jesus was God. But I had never once repented of anything. The fact that I looked so close—I was sure I was a Christian—was why I was so far away.”**

**– Callum Hammond**







# Death of a perfectionist

*Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:7-8*

I was born into a Christian family, but I believe that my testimony begins at school. I succeeded in the school system. In fact, I won so many little competitions in primary school I had a drawer full of the lollies I received as prizes. At high school, too, I succeeded in pretty much everything I set my hand to and became Dux at 17. I had enormous confidence that I could succeed at anything I committed myself to.

Stupid as it sounds, I wanted to succeed to show everyone how perfect I was. Of course, the truth is that I'm not perfect—I'm sinful. But I thought I was perfect and could see no reason to consider the feelings of others when I spoke. At times, what I said was deeply hurtful. I now see a pattern: I was self-righteously relying on the talents graciously gifted me by God instead of on God himself.

Outwardly, I was a Christian. I was almost indistinguishable from a born-again believer filled with the Holy Spirit. I said all the right things, stayed away from big sins (so I thought) and went to church

every Sunday. But I had never understood the gospel or internalised the joyful news of salvation from sin by Jesus Christ. I used to switch off when the word "gospel" was spoken. I remember hating both Parachute and Promise Keepers because people talked about trusting God and surrendering to him. I thought I didn't need to repent like others needed to. I believed God existed. I even believed Jesus was God. But I had never once repented of anything. The fact that I looked so close—I was sure I was a Christian—was why I was so far away.

I praise God because, even though I had no desire to know him or his love and ask forgiveness for my sins, he saved me. About half way through my last year of high school, a girl in my class was converted. It had nothing to do with me and, looking back, I am embarrassed at the comments I made. But it was astonishing to see the change in her. On my first day at school she had cheekily asked me if I knew what oral sex was. Now, she had stopped going to parties and swearing. I knew that I had never experienced a power like that and I began to feel that I had missed something.

When I came to Auckland University in 2015, God brought me almost immediately to the Evangelical Union. I was drawn to the people in the club. They seemed content and satisfied, even when they

**“God helped me realise that I was sinful, that all my so-called ‘successes’ were meaningless, and that everything I needed was to be found in Jesus, who had died to redeem me from my sin and risen from the grave.”**

didn't succeed. I attended EU's Bible studies and was shocked to see how little of the Bible I actually understood.

God definitely has a sense of humour. He used my competitive desire to be the best at understanding the Bible to get me to start reading the Bible, starting at Matthew. Some of the words Jesus spoke really struck me: “Men hated the light because their deeds were evil.” “I have come that you may have life.” And, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father—except through me.”

As some of the Bible's messages hit home, I began to pray for the first time in my life. Somewhere in those months of reading the New Testament and praying, God helped me realise that I was sinful, that all my so-called “successes” were meaningless, and that everything I needed was to be found in Jesus, who had died to redeem me from my sin and risen from the grave, defeating death. Step by step, God helped me release my need to be self-sufficient. The Holy Spirit stepped in to fill the gap in a way more beautiful than I could have thought.

My grades went down in the second semester, but I was surprised to find I didn't care. A Bible study group began to meet in my room and I started to care about other people for the first time in my life. I found myself gladly helping friends with their work, even when mine was due, and trying hard to comfort them when things went wrong—both things I had never done before.

Realising that something had changed in my heart and that I had truly become a Christian, I

went to the pastors of my church and asked to be baptised. At my baptism I said that I felt like Cornelius in Acts 10—a man whom God mercifully led to Jesus even though he looked saved. Now, I can't listen to a song like Starfield's “Reign in Us” without tears blurring my view of the words.

Mercifully, God chose not to alert me to the extent of my self-righteous attitude until a few months ago. I found out that comments of the sort I have been making my whole life had caused someone to relapse into an eating disorder. I had a glimpse of how fraudulent and sinful it is to assume that you are too good for Jesus. It was painful to learn that I had hurt her, and maybe others too, incredibly deeply. Praise God, because the Holy Spirit is leading me to tackle that prideful mess that I allowed to grow in my heart for 20 years. I trust that God, whose crazy love for me drove Jesus to die for my sins on the cross, will never give up on me, and that because of Jesus' great sacrifice I am redeemed in his sight and will stand worshipping God on the last day.

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you lived when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ... But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.”  
Ephesians 2:1-2, 4-5

*Callum Hammond is a fourth-year medical student and former co-leader of the Christian Medical Fellowship at the University of Auckland.*

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