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# canvas

TERTIARY STUDENTS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP'S MAGAZINE



**PASSIONATE ABOUT  
PARTNERSHIP**

CANVAS aims to inform and encourage all who are interested in reaching students for Christ and changing students for life, in thinking Christianly about their life and work.



## Canvas Issue 87

Spring/Summer 2019

Design  
Rachel Hay

TSCF is a founding member of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students. We help 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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# 'DON'T FORGET YOUR ROOTS' — PASSIONATE ABOUT PARTNERSHIP

BEN CARSWELL, NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Six60 is a Kiwi band that epitomise the best of student experiences. They formed while studying in Dunedin in 2008, and chose the name Six60 in recognition of house number they lived in – 660 on the infamous Castle Street. Lead guitarist, Ji Fraser said of the house *"That's where it all began. It was the beginning of everything. It was a place that meant so much to us."*

Their triple platinum single 'Don't Forget Your Roots' reached number two in the NZ charts. The song articulates the importance of not forgetting where you've come from –

*Whoa, whoa, yeah  
Don't forget your roots, my friend  
Don't forget your family, yeah  
Don't forget your roots, my friend  
The ones who made you  
The ones who brought you here  
Don't forget your roots, my friend, yeah  
Don't forget your family, yeah*

It's a simple, yet important message, for any student, individual or organisation - know where you've come from.

For the last 12 years, I've called NZ home. There is a familiarity about these islands. They're where I belong. My family are all NZ citizens, yet, we proudly remember our roots; where we come from. I frequently describe my whakapapa as 'a Yorkshire Kiwi'. Don't forget your roots!

TSCF is a student-led movement reaching this generation of students with the gospel of Jesus. Since our formation, our roots have been in partnership. In the 1930s, partnership led to Howard Guinness visiting NZ from Britain, and eventually in

1936, to the foundation of what is now TSCF. As TSCF, we are a partnership of students with staff and supporters.

**"SINCE OUR FORMATION,  
OUR ROOTS HAVE BEEN IN  
PARTNERSHIP."**

The Apostle Paul talks about partnership in Philip-  
pians 1 when he writes to *"all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi..."* He recognises that Christians are inextricably joined together in Christ. It's why elsewhere Paul speaks of Christians as a body, all working together as one.

Paul takes time to thank God for each of the believers, saying it is *"because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now..."* He expresses joy that comes from partnering with other believers, explaining, *"all of you share in God's grace with me."* Partnership is an expression of God's grace – His undeserved favour expressed in Jesus.

Paul's prayer continues, asking that their *"love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God."* Christian partnership brings a greater love, knowledge and depth of insight and helps us discern the best in readiness for the day of Christ.

TSCF has always sought to develop gospel partnerships with like-minded believers. Partnership is at the heart of who we are and all we do. Our earliest leaders believed that 'together we are stronger'. We believe the same.

We are a partnership of students, from different kinds of Churches, joining together around the essential truths of the historic Christian faith. It is powerful when groups of students unite together to proclaim the good news of Jesus on their campus. It is a remarkable witness to the watching world, which questions a lack of unity amongst Christians. We seek to grow the Kingdom, not an empire.

TSCF is committed to a national partnership of students with other students. Our Maori tagline 'He akonga ki nga akonga hei ara whakawhiti mo to Karaiti' captures the essence of this – students with students making a bridge to Christ. We bring students together for camps and conferences, which is both a strategic commitment, and an ongoing challenge, given our geographical spread across NZ. With rising travel costs and increasing financial pressures, bringing students together isn't easy. I regularly meet former students who tell me TSCF conferences were formative for them and so we are committed to investing in them. We continue to explore the best ways of national and regional collaboration and value your prayers for this.



catalyst for growing partnerships. Our close connections with PSFC, Fiji (Pacific Students For Christ) have developed through staff and students visiting and we have a team serving there this year. In our 2019 TSCF Staff Training, we had IFES guests joining us from several Pacific Islands. We are committed to growing partnerships, particularly as we look at possibilities of new student movements being established in the region.

Further afield, we are committed to partnership with the wider IFES family. For many years, our partnership with UESI (Union of Evangelical Student of India) has contributed to many training scholarships for their staff. More recently, we've built the partnership with CECE (Comunidad de Estudiantes Christianos del Ecuador), Ecuador. We're delighted that TSCF graduate Ruth Hicks will be the next General Secretary of CECE, succeeding her husband Josue. Our partnership with GBU (Gruppi Biblici Universitari), Italy has grown through the work of TSCF's Zac & Alice Smith pioneering student ministry in Pisa.

Six60 sang it well: 'Don't forget your roots'. As TSCF, we want to ensure we never forget our roots. We thank God for where we have come from. Our roots are in student collaboration and partnership in NZ and around the world. Our roots of partnership between students, staff and supporters make us stronger. We thank God that you are part of the TSCF partnership by reading Canvas, praying for the work around NZ and through generous financial support. We pray that *"He who began a good work in you, will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 1:6)

**Ben Carswell,**  
National Director



New Zealand today is increasingly secularised. Many perceive Christianity as irrelevant and are disillusioned with the Church. We want to provide a different narrative. We passionately believe in the Church and its vital place in the life of every Christian. We want to build on existing partnerships, developing and growing new partnerships with Churches, so that together we invest in and disciple students. As a mission agency, we are the student mission arm of the Church across NZ. We are in partnership with the Church, not in competition.

We are not just committed to partnership with the Church across NZ, but to what God is doing around the world. TSCF is proudly a founding member movement of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES). Our commitment to this global fellowship continues to be significant for us.

We have close partnerships with IFES movements in the South Pacific. Recent South Pacific Area Regional Conferences (SPARC) have been a

## HOPE IN A WORLD OF WORRY



Many students arrive on campus. As students and young people, we have a lot we can worry about: our careers, relationships, climate change, wars and super viruses. The TSCF groups at the University of Auckland had the great privilege of joining together and sharing the hope that Christ gives us. Our goal was to point out that all this suffering is the result of sin and ultimately, we need a solution to sin to give us hope. Our message was that Jesus takes away sin and we can have hope by trusting him.

**"I'M DEEPLY HUMBLLED BY HAVING HAD THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THE GRACE GOD HAS GIVEN ME WITH OTHER PEOPLE AT MY UNIVERSITY."**

In the middle of both the City and Grafton campuses we handed out free hot chocolates and asked people to show on a pinboard graph what they thought of the human story: More hopeful or hopeless? More comedy or tragedy? In many of my conversations, people said things like: "Trying to remain hopeful stops me despairing," or "I feel hopeful but I don't know why." I could really sense that people wanted more than the superficial hope they had; they were looking for someone to trust in. One conversation that stood out to me was one with someone who was interested in a

variety of faiths and said he wanted to see people work together in "pursuit of truth". We talked for a long time.

Everyone was invited to an event at the end of the week with a short talk explaining the gospel, a panel answering questions from the audience and three students sharing their testimonies. I was really encouraged by the way that people across our four TSCF groups came together and really got behind the mission week. I think it was because we understood that reaching out to the lost is something God cares about.

If someone seemed keen to continue the conversation, we asked for their contact details then followed them up with the aim of introducing them to Jesus by reading the gospel of Luke together. This meant there was a seamless flow from the first conversation, to reading the Bible with someone and being invited to church.

I am really pleased with what we did and how it turned out. I'm so proud of the team that I worked with and I'm deeply humbled by having had this opportunity to share the grace God has given me with other people at my university.

**Michael Nuysink,**  
Student at University of Auckland





# SUMMIT

*Summit is TSCF's national conference for equipping and training student leaders from across Aotearoa New Zealand. It is a great opportunity for groups to come together and share encouragements, challenges, to build friendships and encourage one another. In 2019 we gathered in Whangaparaoa, Auckland, where we spent time together being challenged around what it means to go from the ends of the earth with the good news of Jesus. We asked fourth year student Victoria Whisker (pictured above) to share about her experience.*

Summit is all about community. I once asked a wise man what the meaning of life is. His words were 'To love God and others'. Never have I seen this more clearly than at the Summit Conference, where I was surrounded by fellow believers in the shared love of God. There was some anxiety around this; we so often seek the acceptance of others before Jesus, particularly when we are all thrown into conference together. However,

Summit is the time where I have seen God consistently show up and move powerfully so that His true nature shines.

Each Summit a guest speaker comes to share from the Bible. This year Steve Maina (newly appointed Bishop of Nelson) spoke from the book of Acts about the church ignited through the power of the Holy Spirit. We had time to share feedback in small groups in the main session, and it was an encouraging time to hear how God was moving about the country. The tool we have to use is prayer! We must pray for our brothers and sisters, our campuses, each other. Summit never fails to give perspective on how we are not fighting alone but as partners across Aotearoa.

Yes, Summit is about laughs and games, the late-night yarns and the TSCF hoodie hype. But it's more than that. It's about doing life together, and while we may be apart in terms of campus across

the country, we are united in prayer. God placed a group of us in the airport, after a fun conference of bonding, and shocked us into prayerful action. It was through the timely word of Steve, the guidance of TSCF staff, and the unity we have in Christ, that God showed up after the conference and moved in a powerful way.

**"IT'S ABOUT DOING LIFE TOGETHER, AND WHILE WE MAY BE APART IN TERMS OF CAMPUS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, WE ARE UNITED IN PRAYER."**

I was at Auckland airport with a group of sleep deprived students who had all been at Summit 2019 when suddenly my friend received an S.O.S prayer request from a woman in need. My friend shared the message with me, and we mutually decided to ask the group to pray with us for her. Within just a moment, students from Dunedin and Lincoln and Wellington were united in prayer. Everyone stopped what they were doing, caught out of the sugary haze that is Krispy Kreme, and focused on the need at hand. There was a sense of urgency as we gathered in a tight group amongst the chairs and began praying for God's deliverance. I was so touched that TSCF students responded to the need for prayer. I could feel their support for a fellow believer, struggling with aspects of the hidden but real supernatural world.

There is something so special about praying together in public like this. In an international airport, people are mingling around, and the intercom is repeating messages overhead. In a small huddled group, TSCF students are praying against spiritual attack and for the deliverance of

God. This is the power of consistent community and radical unity at work.

God prepares the way and grows us for moments of listening to Him and being called into action. It was through His impeccable timing that a dozen students became prayer warriors. Those same students who met at Summit conference and prayed together in the airport are continuing to pray for my friend, and we still share our other prayer needs with each other.

*Next year Summit conference will be heading to Queenstown, 29 June – 3 July 2020. Keep an eye out on Facebook and our website [tscf.org.nz](http://tscf.org.nz) for more details!*

**Victoria Whisker,  
Student at Victoria University of Wellington**



STUDENTS AT SUMMIT FUN NIGHT

VICTORIA WHISKER



# THE MARK DRAMA

*The Mark Drama is a 90 minute theatre-in-the-round dramatic telling of the entirety of the gospel of Mark. It has no props, no lights, no costumes and the only script is the text of Mark's gospel. It's fast, punchy, immersive, and leaves the audience asking 'who is this Jesus?' – which is precisely the point. Over the last few months TSCF has been partnering with churches and universities across Aotearoa. Claire Bresler is one of two trained Mark Drama directors in New Zealand and reflects on her experiences over the last two years:*

I first heard about the Mark Drama from TSCF staff worker Tim Hodge; we're members of the same local church. He knew I was interested in using creative arts to spread the good news of Jesus and invited me to consider directing the Mark Drama, something I'd never heard about. Two years ago he suggested I go for a few days to Palmerston North, where Claire Haworth (from CUI, the IFES movement in Ireland) was directing performances in a local church and Massey University. I was

invited to join in as a shadow director. To be honest, because the flight and hire car costs were covered, I had in mind to enjoy a few days' holiday in Palmerston North (yes, it can be a holiday destination!), see this Mark Drama thing, come back and say "it was nice but not for me". However, that weekend God grabbed my attention!

My work was full-on and I hadn't devoted any time to preparing for the weekend, merely reading through Mark's gospel on the plane up to Palmerston North. The first rehearsal was awkward as I didn't know anyone, and, as a surprise, I was thrown into the acting team as they were one cast member short. Actually, I now know that taking part in the Mark Drama before becoming a director is a pre-requisite. God used that to blow my mind. It was incredible. The whole book of Mark came alive to me in a way it never had before. I found it to be gripping and phenomenal and structured so well. Using just the text of Mark, 15 inexperienced

but willing people can retell the story of Jesus in such an imaginative way.

That weekend I grew so much in my own faith. I've been a Christian since the age of 9, and still parts of Mark (some parables, certain words) jumped out in fresh ways. God used that Mark Drama in

**"PARTNERSHIP IS GOOD: IT'S WONDERFUL TO SEE LOCAL CHURCHES AND TSCF WORKING TO STRENGTHEN MISSION BOTH ON CAMPUS AND THROUGH THE LOCAL CHURCH."**

Palmerston North to reignite in me a passion for Jesus and the reality of Jesus dying on the cross for me. From that moment I had a desire to help in any way I could to drive the Mark Drama forward across New Zealand, sharing the message of Jesus in a visible way in a visual society.

Since then, I've trained as a Mark Drama director and have directed productions in Lincoln, Christchurch, Dunedin and in Tauranga, including at NZ's newest university campus, The University of Waikato Tauranga campus, which was fantastic. I've loved each of them. They've all been hard, but I've seen God at work in the cast and audience.

The aim is for a local producer to assemble a cast of 15 who, six weeks prior, learn the structure of

Mark either through reading and rereading it, or going through *The Mark Experiment*.

Meditating on the work of Jesus through those six weeks is an incredible experience. The cast then gather on a Thursday night, maybe for the very first time, and dive straight into the action of Mark. As director, I cast roles as we go, getting to know each cast member and enjoying creative improvisation around the structure of the whole gospel. Another rehearsal takes place on Friday night, then all day Saturday, with the first performance on Saturday night, with further performances on Sunday and Monday. Each production is unique which is a joy but it's an intense few days! One of the common responses from the audience is "Did you all really do all that having just met two days ago?". With God's help, yes!



JORDAN SIMMONDS

CLAIRE BRESLER





*to be involved in sharing the gospel being autistic and being considered different. Through being a part of the team for the Mark Drama in Tauranga, I have learnt that anyone is capable in sharing the gospel and that God uses anyone who is willing."*

I've had the joy of one of my sons and husband being part of the Mark Drama in different places too; both kindly agreed at the last minute to be part of the cast. My husband reflected that taking communion back home, using words from Mark, was so much fresher and more tangible after his experiences in the Mark Drama.

There is a huge amount of faith to say yes to the Mark Drama, both for the cast and for hosting churches. For the cast to say yes to 'come and act in a thing you've not seen' is hard; the Mark Drama is not a product you can try before you buy. And for the hosting churches it can be hard too, not fully knowing what they're signing up to. Partnership is good: it's wonderful to see local churches and TSCF working to strengthen mission both on campus and through the local church.

Cast members often feed back that the Mark Drama has transformed their own faith, as learning Mark's Gospel sticks in minds and hearts forever, with the joy that all the effort (and it is hard work!) is for God's glory. Karleigh Jones, who acted in the most recent production in September, and is a student at the University of Waikato, Tauranga campus said:

*"Thank you so much for a way to allow me to be included in sharing the gospel. I have found it hard*

I am hoping and praying for the work of the Mark Drama to be used increasingly throughout the nation by students and local churches. So if you're interested in training to be a director, or a church looking to host a production, or a TSCF group wondering if this could be part of what you can do on campus in 2020, please get in touch!

*We're so thankful to Claire for her enthusiasm and skills in directing several editions of the Mark Drama in 2018 and 2019. If you're interested in what God may do in and through you with the Mark Drama in 2020, do contact Tim Hodge [tim@tscf.org.nz](mailto:tim@tscf.org.nz)*

**Claire Bresler,  
Mark Drama Volunteer Director**

JORDAN SIMMONDS, WITH FELLOW ACTORS ANTHONY HUTCHESON & ELAINE CHUDLEIGH

# STORIES OF CHANGE



*Alec Willis is completing his first year of a Bachelor of Agriculture degree at Lincoln University. Here he discusses his story with TSCF staff Tim Hodge*

**Well done on getting to the end of your first year! How did you come to be studying at Lincoln?**

I worked as a full-time shepherd in Wairoa, Hawkes Bay for three years after leaving school. I was always keen on the idea of going to uni but I wanted to work beforehand, both for the money to minimise my student loan, and for the experience to apply into my studies.

**You're a Christian, and part of Lincoln University Christian Fellowship, one of the TSCF groups at Lincoln. How did you find out about TSCF?**

I was at Festival One in Hamilton and went to a few seminars, run by TSCF staff and Minterns (Ministry Interns), about thriving as a student. I'd never heard of TSCF before but was intrigued and welcomed. Chris Hay (TSCF staff in Lincoln) was there, and, unknown to me, had said, "I'm happy to be at Festival One promoting TSCF, but given the location, I only ever meet students heading to uni in the North Island. If I meet a Lincoln student, I'll sell one of my kidneys." Well, I'm that Lincoln student and I'm still waiting for Chris to follow through on that!

**So after Festival One, you started as a Lincoln student?** Yes, after a couple more weeks I drove from the Hawkes Bay to Lincoln. I'd never even been to an open day, but I knew I wanted to study at Lincoln because of the reputation of the Bachelor of Agriculture degree programme.

**How was it adjusting to life as a student after life as a shepherd?** Big changes! I was surrounded by people, which was very different to a lonely shepherding life. I live in a hall on campus; the other people around me in my hall aren't Christians but are a great bunch. As for study, it's been great too. I've always been interested in learning, and now I'm learning the theories of agriculture. I can see how that relates to the practical side of farming that I know and love.

**Have you joined any university clubs and societies?** Yes. Meeting Chris at Festival One meant I had an easy intro to the Lincoln University Christian Fellowship (LUCF), and I'm also part of the Hunting Club and the Young Farmers Club. It's important for Christians to be connected in all areas of campus life, not just TSCF groups, as we're called to be salt and light for Jesus.

**What has the LUCF meant to you?** Many, but not all, in the CF are Christians, and it's been hugely

ALEC WILLIS





influential to me have a good group of Christian peers, I've never had that before. I've learnt how appropriate the four TSCF aims are:

- **True Witness:** I've become bolder in my faith and not worrying about what others think, inviting mates to church and CF events on campus
- **Undivided Life:** I've been thinking a lot on this one, with a key verse from CF camp earlier in the year Colossians 3:23 *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.* It's easy to be a Christian with Christian mates around me but so much harder on my own.
- **Deep Thought:** I've been getting into the Scriptures more with on-campus Bible studies and living out 1 Peter 3 about having reasons for faith in Jesus.
- **Global Reach:** We've been going through the Great Commission in the CF Lads' Bible study, and I've seen that we have a role to go to all the world, including to the many nationalities represented at Lincoln.

**You were part of the TSCF group representing NZ at the IFES World Assembly in South Africa last July; how did that happen?** Around Easter Chris Hay just outright asked me to go. I blurted

out 'why not?' My approach to life in Lincoln has been to say yes to stuff and give things a go. I had no idea what IFES was. With two months planning, I had to get a passport and a visa, and set off to South Africa on my own. I'd never been as far as South Africa before. It was a loooooong flight, I wondered if we'd ever get there. On the flight, I was seated next to people from IFES in Fiji! That was a wonderful God-incidence.

**"IFES WORLD ASSEMBLY HAS HELPED ME LISTEN OUT MORE FOR THE CALL OF GOD TO WHATEVER HE WILLS AFTER I FINISH MY STUDIES."**

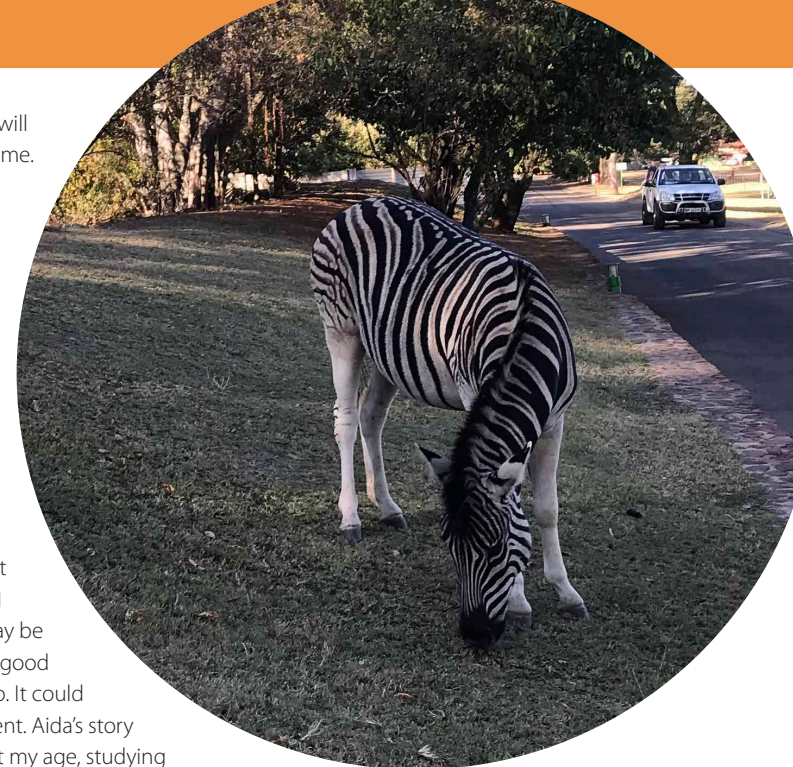
**In what ways has God changed you through the IFES World Assembly?** A gathering of 1200 believers from all over the world opened my eyes to God being for all people. I knew that in my head, but experiencing that first hand was amazing, although it was embarrassing meeting people from countries I've never heard of! A cool aspect was that everyone there was focused on serving Christ in universities and polytechs all over

the world. That big picture will stay with me for years to come.

God used the whole event to refocus me on my true purpose in life – to live God's story, not my own story. Before the IFES World Assembly, I had life all planned out – uni, then farming, with God fitting into that. But God has changed me. My plan has changed to following God's plan, putting God first and doing His will. So now I have no idea after uni. It may be farming, which would be a good and honourable thing to do. It could be something totally different. Aida's story really struck me: she's about my age, studying in Barcelona in Spain. Whilst involved with GBU there (TSCF's sister movement in Spain), Aida has been actively exploring returning to a country she grew up in, Equatorial Guinea in Africa, to pioneer student mission there (*You can read more on this blog: <https://ifesworld.org/en/blog/aidas-dream/>*). This this is not what she had planned, but she heard the call of God and obeyed it. IFES World Assembly has helped me listen out more for the call of God to whatever He wills after I finish my studies.

**What's the best way Canvas readers can pray for you?** Thank you, I'd be honoured if any Canvas readers would pray for me:

I'm aware that lots of students stagnate spiritually over summer away from uni. Please do pray that through my field course work on a dairy farm in rural Canterbury that I'll be spending time with God every day, and that I meet God's people. I know that Christian community will look very different to that on-campus and in term-time church, but I'm keen to meet other believers as



iron sharpens iron. So if you know Christians in/ near Mt Somers, let me know! Thank God for grabbing me and taking me places I would never have thought I'd be, from Lincoln Uni CF to IFES World Assembly. All thanks to God!

**Alec, I'm sure many Canvas readers would be delighted to pray for you, having been encouraged by your story. Thank you so much for taking the time to tell us of God at work in and through you in the whole of life.** You're welcome!

**Timothy Hodge,  
Head of Training and  
Development**







# WORLD ASSEMBLY

You know those global events you see on the news that are kind of sad, but very distant? All of a sudden, they had faces, the faces of students just like me: Sri Lankan bombings, Hong Kong riots, Cambodian genocide, Islamic state oppression.

For 11 days at IFES World Assembly, in South Africa, Christians from 170 different countries gathered together to learn, be encouraged and plan the future of reaching students at universities around the world. There were talks, seminars, songs, small group time and lots of food. We four Kiwi students didn't just observe, we were full-on sponges, completely dunked and immersed! In particular, those 11 days were saturated with stories.

A staff worker told me how he came to follow Jesus after he had a vision of Jesus walking into his room, sitting beside him and saying, "Come follow me." In the midst of a Muslim country, he was kicked out of home, denied jobs and is no longer welcomed by much of his family. Now, with limited support from a local church, he is able to reach many others seeking Jesus after similar experiences. Throughout our conversations, I kept having to pinch myself, 'wait, that's the Jesus I know too!'. A Christian from a Muslim country facing enormous persecution with a little Kiwi who'd grown up in a Christian home - our stories couldn't be more different, yet Jesus Christ is the same. It was a whole new context that I had never really thought about. It was ironic I'd recently had a conversation with a friend who was really hung up about the idea of not everyone knowing God exists. Yet here was a real example of the truth in the Bible: even people who have never met a Christian or read a Bible are sought by Jesus.

In a meeting for IFES strategic planning, I remember being completely struck by one man with a red name tag (indicating he's from a sensitive country where safety is a serious concern) who said their movement prayed students would go on exchange to openly hear the gospel. I live in a hall of residence, 80% of which is



made up of international and exchange students. It hit me that the presence of Christian voices, clarity of the gospel, and unity in our actions matters when students often only catch a glimpse of Christianity.

Our time gathered with the other South Pacific countries was an incredible highlight for me.

Together we celebrated the affiliation of two new movements joining IFES: the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Of course, all the affiliations were exciting, but these two especially because of the partnership with TSCF and others in the region. It was such a privilege to see the fruit from people faithfully depending on God, long before I even started uni.

One of my favourite times was when a student named Ali from New Caledonia spoke about going to SPARC (South Pacific Regional Conference) and coming away so encouraged that he, along with another student, went back to their university to pioneer a new student group. In his French translated to English we heard his astonishment that their group grew. He said later it made complete sense: there were so many people praying for them!

What did I learn? Despite the different social settings and persecution thrown at those who trust in Jesus, the only way for people to know the true unchanging Christ is through his Word. His Word is sufficient to last time and distance and work powerfully. All ages, stages and settings need God's Word.

Our big dreams for new places to hear the good news about Jesus is worth asking our Father for.

**"IT HIT ME THAT THE PRESENCE OF CHRISTIAN VOICES, CLARITY OF THE GOSPEL, AND UNITY IN OUR ACTIONS MATTERS WHEN STUDENTS OFTEN ONLY CATCH A GLIMPSE OF CHRISTIANITY."**

I'm halfway through my degree so thinking about anything in the future beyond uni usually freaks me out. So often I focus on praying only for myself, or maybe the next year at a stretch. When was the last time you prayed years in advance, for people you don't see day to day?

I was reminded that there is a unique role of student ministry to prompt and encourage future gospel workers. In a talk, Nigel Pollock (former National Director of TSCF) spoke about feet.

Beautiful feet! Those who take the gospel far and wide for God's glory. While we wrestle hard fusing our studies with our faith, how easy it is to prize a degree certificate over God's Word. If not our

student groups and churches, who will be the voice to train and encourage students to count even a dream career as loss for the sake of the gospel?

In my first year of uni I vaguely remember hearing about SPARC and how that was a cool opportunity. My attitude was pretty 'meh' towards it, so I didn't think much about it. Besides, I'm a student, I don't have money to travel, and there are much

less costly ways to grow as a Christian, right? Yet, how amazing to see the quite literally life changing outcomes of conferences like SPARC. To be honest, that's almost the same attitude I had towards going to World Assembly. By God's grace through my local staff worker Robyn's persistence and the generosity of my church in Hastings, I am beyond grateful to have travelled all 11,554km and met many people who I probably won't see again on earth but will be reunited with in eternity.

**Holly Davison,  
Student Leader at University of Auckland**

TOP: DANIEL BOURDANNÉ, IFES GENERAL SECRETARY 2007-2019

BOTTOM: GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS AROUND THE FIRE





# GLOBAL REACH JOURNEYS

In late 2019, two TSCF teams will be heading out to Nepal and Fiji on our Global Reach Journeys. A group of students who are joining these journeys recently attended a weekend of training together, getting to know one another and discovering what it means to enter another culture. We shared about seeing the world through the eyes of others; being prepared for some of the cultural differences they will encounter; and renewing their confidence in the gospel.

Fiji Journey team leader Chris Hay has been on a couple of trips before to connect with PSFC (TSCF's sister movement in Fiji) and is excited about our ongoing, growing relationship between them and TSCF. They will be visiting new student groups in Labasa and Nadi as well as some local ministries of the churches there.

Kim Shaw will be leading the Nepal Journey along with Sean Marston from International Nepal Fellowship. The students from IFES in Kathmandu are hosting the team while they explore the spiritual and cultural landmarks and enjoy local food and hospitality. We hope that the students can share the realities of being Christian students in their own context and be able to encourage, learn from and pray for each other. We are eager to see these TSCF students

experience life-changing discoveries that grow in them a life-long commitment to mission – whether it be through giving, prayer or considering going out from New Zealand to be involved in potential long-term overseas mission. There will be much they will see and observe. We recognise that as short-termers we have little power to bring about change, but it's our prayer that the students' hearts are stirred to invest long-term in ministries that can and do bring lasting change in the lives and communities of those they meet.

**"IT'S OUR PRAYER THAT THE STUDENTS' HEARTS ARE STIRRED TO INVEST LONG-TERM IN MINISTRIES THAT CAN AND DO BRING LASTING CHANGE IN THE LIVES AND COMMUNITIES OF THOSE THEY MEET."**

*"I would value the opportunity to observe and learn from how the practice of Christianity and the pursuit of the Kingdom is worked out in another culture. I have also thought about doing missionary/engineering development work in less developed countries and this would serve as a useful taster of sorts to see how I handle a radically different environment."*

– student on Nepal Journey

Another outcome we hope for the students is that they will see God through different eyes, and understand new aspects of His character.

*"I hope to be humbled and see how incredible God is. To see how he is working in another country and learn how I can apply that to my own walk."*  
– student on Fiji Journey

Please be praying for these Global Reach Journeys in all aspects of the practical details as well as all God will be doing in their hearts and lives.

**Kim Shaw,**  
Global Reach Coordinator



## NEWS

# INTRODUCING: RACHEL HAY

**"WE'RE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME RACHEL TO THE TSCF TEAM. RACHEL BRINGS A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE FROM HER MINISTRY AND GRAPHIC DESIGN BACKGROUNDS. HER COMMITMENT AND DESIRE TO SERVE GOD THROUGH HER CREATIVE TALENTS IS A REAL BLESSING TO US. WE'D ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONSIDER SUPPORTING RACHEL AS SHE BEGINS THIS NEW ROLE."** -BEN CARSWELL, NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Christianity has always been a well-known narrative for me. From appearances, it would have been hard to argue that I wasn't a committed believer growing up. Ask any of my peers at the time and they would have agreed. But I never gave my faith enough of a position in my heart to impact my life. As a result, I always fell back into the same habits that left me with no real change. I felt dissatisfied and often confused.

When I left high school to study Communication Design at Otago Polytechnic, I made a more conscious and personal decision to commit to Christianity. I was able to connect with a Christian ministry who faithfully shared their lives and the gospel with me. This witness significantly impacted my faith and for the first time my heart and life began to transform.

My time as a student was a significant time for me to explore who God was and what that meant for my life. The best decision I made as a student was to partner with people ready to walk with me and

help me to understand what it means to be a true witness and ambassador of Christ. This led to a one-year student ministry internship, after which I moved to Christchurch to pursue graphic design. My experience at university shaped my goals and motivations as a graphic designer. I see God as the creator and reference of all of colour, form, and perfection. I can see God's perfect hand not only in the design of creation but in the design of our story of salvation. I am passionate about creating beautiful graphics because we as Christians have the most beautiful message to share.

I am now excited to have the opportunity to partner with TSCF as part of the communications team. I recognise the impact organisations such as TSCF had in my life as a student. I'm passionate about serving within a ministry that partners with students to see their lives transformed by the gospel.

**Rachel Hay,**  
TSCF Graphic Designer





## INTRODUCING: SCOTT MACKAY

My first exposure to TSCF was the first national conference I ever attended. It was the year 2000, and I was still in my final year of high-school! A student leader from my church in Palmerston North had invited me along to the conference. And so, I found myself crammed into a van full of zealous Christian university students from MUCF on my way to Auckland during the school holidays. In retrospect, it was an excellent recruitment strategy!

The TSCF experience continued into the early 2000's. I studied engineering at Massey University. After graduation I moved to Christchurch and worked as a TSCF intern in partnership with a local church, and then as a TSCF staffworker at the University of Canterbury. My wife, Jess, also grew up in Palmerston North, but studied medicine at Otago, and moved to Christchurch where we started our married life. We have three daughters and a baby boy who was born in July.

After training for pastoral ministry, I had the joy of serving as an assistant pastor in Christchurch for more than five years. In one sense the shift back to student work is an unusual move. Many campus workers shift into church ministry after a time. However, I've gone 'back' in the opposite direction; although I certainly don't think of it as a backwards

step. Working in mission with university students is such a joy, and a significant opportunity to shape future Christian leaders.

I'm thankful that so far the Lord is using this experience to remind me of the urgency of gospel proclamation, and the importance of intentional training and discipleship for the next generation. The Massey and other campuses in the city are filled with opportunities for the kingdom. The Massey campus has a cosy 'village' feel to it, but still a substantial number of students – around 9000. Most domestic students are from regional New Zealand, where faith communities can tend to be more conservative. There is also a sizeable international student population, and the Overseas Christian Fellowship has connected well with this group in the past.

We are looking forward to getting stuck in and working alongside student leaders in the Manawatu. God has done wonderful things in the past through this small campus. We are praying that he will be merciful in the future as well, by revealing himself through the gospel of his Son, and bringing people to full maturity in him.

**Scott Mackay,**  
Manawatu Team Leader



SCOTT AND THE MACKAY FAMILY – MINUS BABY HUI!

## INTERESTED IN WORKING FOR TSCF?

TSCF is always looking for staff to join our teams around the country. We are particularly looking for workers to join the teams in Auckland, Manawatu and Otago, but if you're interested in getting involved anywhere else around the country we would also love to hear from you! For more info and for other vacancies take a look at [www.tscf.org.nz/vacancies](http://www.tscf.org.nz/vacancies)

## ALL BLACKS SHIRT

Former TSCF Lincoln student, Jack Goodhue has kindly donated a signed All Blacks shirt to raise funds for the TSCF Global Reach journey to Fiji and to support the work of Pacific Students For Christ, Fiji. So, we're auctioning off a RWC2019 jersey personally signed by the All Blacks squad, coach Steve Hansen and assistant coach Ian Foster.

Funds raised go towards the global reach journey to Fiji and supporting the work of Pacific Students for Christ in Fiji. Check out our website for more details.  
[tscf.org.nz/auction](http://tscf.org.nz/auction)



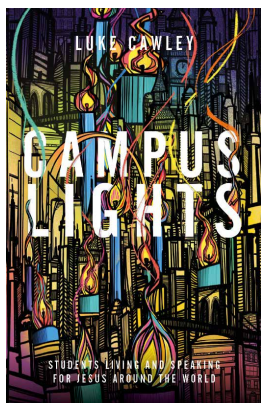
## FINANCIAL UPDATE

There are many ways you can join us as TSCF financial supporters. Take a look at [TSCF.org.nz/give](http://TSCF.org.nz/give) to see what we are raising funds for.

TSCF finances have been encouraging over the course of the year. We are thankful for new partners and supporters who have captured the vision, many of whom have connected or re-connected with TSCF through new team members this year.

We are also grateful for the continued financial support coming in towards The Well building project in Lincoln. TSCF have been the recipients of a generous matching fund donation towards the project, which means that for every \$1 given, the matching fund will add in a further \$2, up to \$150,000. If you feel this is something you might be interested in supporting you can find out more at [www.tscf.org.nz/plans-for-the-well](http://www.tscf.org.nz/plans-for-the-well)

We are continually thankful for all we are able to do through the Lord's generous provision through His people. Thanks for being a part of this journey with us.

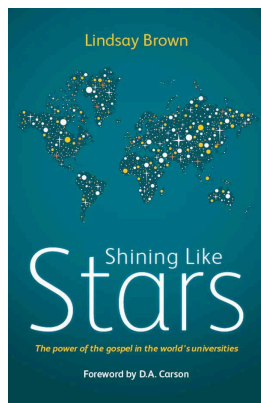


## CAMPUS LIGHTS

By Luke Cawley

*Campus Lights*, published this year and released at the IFES World Assembly in July, is a gripping read of Christian students taking a lead in making the good news of Jesus known in their contexts throughout the world. It's delightful to have South Pacific mission featured, with the birth of the student mission movement in the Solomon Islands highlighted, along with stories from countries as diverse as Indonesia, Guatemala, USA, Sri Lanka, UK, Mongolia, South Korea, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Romania and St Kitts and Nevis – all very different, but all about students with a vision to speak for Jesus and live for Jesus as campus lights. It's gospel partnership in the student context. Luke Cawley does a tremendous job of highlighting how IFES – the international movement of which TSCF is a founder member – is structured and in partnership with churches, individuals and movements all over the world. Cawley shows how God has used, and is using, IFES all around the world for His glory. It's nice too that TSCF gets a few mentions! Do buy two copies, one to read yourself and one to give away!

**Reviewed by**  
Tim Hodge, TSCF staff

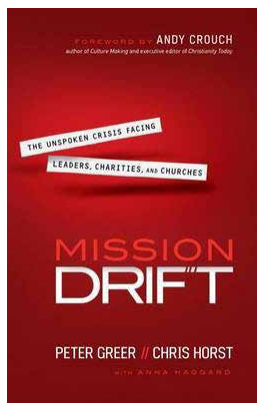


## SHINING LIKE STARS

By Lindsay Brown

*Shining Like Stars*, written by former IFES General Secretary Lindsay Brown, is a journey of IFES, sharing stories of encouragement, trials and creativity of students as they work to evangelise students right around the world. Brown highlights the importance on history through the book and incorporates the story of four students in the Bible, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. He uses their story of how they stand out, being courageous, persevering, and influential in a country and culture different to their own and compares it to modern day Christian students as they too strive to spread the good news to students on campus in different ways so that all cultures can be reached. *Shining Like Stars* is a must read if you are passionate for both domestic and international student mission and want to read amazing stories of evangelism and how mission today ties in to mission in the past.

**Reviewed by**  
David Beukes, TSCF Mintern



## MISSION DRIFT

By Peter Greer and Chris Horst

"Without careful attention, faith-based organisations will inevitably drift from their founding mission." This is the opening sentence of *Mission Drift* by Greer and Horst. In the increasingly secularised postmodern society we live in, the truths in this book are even more relevant and crucial for Christian organisations, churches and Christians themselves to understand, wrestle with and ideally adopt.

This book details research that Greer and Horst undertook on dozens of organisations around the world. It gives practical tips about how Christian organisations can stay true to their core God-mission. But it also gives lessons from organisations that have drifted or moved away from their original God-mission and become just like any other secular organisation in society.

I fully recommend this book to you. It challenged me to the core in my own thinking about the organisations and ministries with which my wife and I serve. It challenged my own walk in Christ and how I remain salt and light in Aotearoa. I encourage you to read this book and I'm sure it'll challenge you as well. Viia le Atua i mea uma - Praise God in all things (Samoan)

**Reviewed by**  
Ronji Tanielu, TSCF Board Member



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