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# canvas

TERTIARY STUDENTS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP'S MAGAZINE



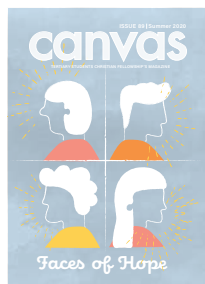
## Faces of Hope



**He ākonga ki ngā ākonga hei  
ara whakawhiti mō te Karaiti.**

Reaching students for Christ,  
changing students for life.

TSCF's vision is to help students in  
New Zealand become servant leaders  
of character through the transforming  
gospel of Christ. TSCF is a founding  
member of the International Fellowship  
of Evangelical Students (IFES).



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**Canvas** is for all who are interested in  
the work of TSCF in helping students  
reach students for Christ. It seeks to  
stimulate deep thought and provide  
encouragement in the undivided  
Christian life, promoting true witness  
and the global reach of the gospel.

Send your thoughts, comments and  
questions to us at:  
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digital version of *Canvas*, please email  
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Ashley Bloomfield: For many New Zealanders he is the "face of the COVID-19 response," jumping from relative obscurity to household name in a matter of days. His face became a regular feature in our lives in this COVID-19 social-distancing, hand-sanitising, mask-wearing, alert-level-changing year.

After frequent appearances on our screens, and even on t-shirts, tote bags, ear-rings and hand towels, this reserved, steady doctor, the Director-General of Health (and follower of Jesus) became a face of hope and comfort for many. One writer described his press conference updates as "a daily dose of reassurance, delivered with the kind of calm, compassion and certainty we needed." His sage advice helped to mobilise our "team of five million" to reduce the impact of the virus.

On the other side, we have seen the faces of the pandemic represent uncertainty, loss, fear, even death. We have seen the dejected faces of exhausted, despairing doctors, the anxious faces of those lining up for hardship benefits who can no longer afford necessities, the pleading faces of those who desperately long to spend precious moments with dying loved ones, but cannot travel to be with them.

Culturally and globally people can quickly become the "face" of something. It's a known fact that

we respond to human faces, whether through the marketing of celebrity endorsements, or the promotion of various political and humanitarian figures, such as Mother Teresa and Martin Luther King, Jr. These people represent certain values, and inspire us to live and act in certain ways. For many they are bearers of hope. They are stories that are told and retold.

In times of difficulty and discouragement, and especially in times of uncertainty, we search for the face of someone to connect with, someone in whom we can trust.

In 2 Corinthians 4:6, Paul writes: "For God, who said, 'Let there be light in the darkness,' has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure."

As followers of Christ, we carry this light of the good news in our hearts; we are bearers of hope. We are not defined by negative experiences. We know this is not all there is. Our faces reflect the glory of Christ and the hope we find in the gospel.

As a Christian student movement, TSCF is a community of hope. As a team (of less than five

#### **Bex Allen · Communications Manager**

million), we have sought to reflect the hope of the gospel amongst students during the hard months of social distancing, lockdowns and online meetings. In this issue of *Canvas*, we share stories of hope from students and staff around the country – stories that highlight the hope that anchors us.

Sarah Visser and Dave Hodgkinson share how God worked through Summit 2020: The Heavens Declare – our first ever national conference held online – and the beauty of his creation reflected in Psalm 19. Simon Sim and Otago students share the joy of seeing people encounter Jesus through the Mark Drama while in Alert Level 2. Scott Mackay describes the Spirit stirring amongst seeking students in the Manawatu. And students from around the country share their experience of God working in their lives during lockdown.

In the midst of the pandemic, our mission continues – to share this great treasure, the good news of Jesus Christ, with students throughout Aotearoa. To accomplish this mission, we need to tell our stories of hope. Let's be faces of hope for each other, reflecting the glory of Christ. In him, "This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls." (Hebrews 6:19a) 🌟





# The Heavens Declare

Sarah Visser & Dave Hodgkinson

*From Zoom backgrounds depicting da Vinci's "The Last Supper" with the heads of the Canterbury CU replacing disciples, to human sculptures of stars and the Auckland harbour bridge, Summit 2020 was unique and entertaining! Across the country 140+ students, graduates and staff came together online and in regional hubs for TSCF's first ever online Summit. The theme – "The Heavens Declare" – encouraged participants to reflect on Psalm 19 and the glory of God in creation. Thanks to the wonderful efforts of the organising team – Dave, Chris, Mark, Robyn, Rosie, Daniel, Sarah and Zara, Summit 2020 was a special and memorable experience. Sarah and Dave from the team share their personal experiences:*

"When I heard Summit was moving online I was a little sad we weren't going to Queenstown, but I embraced change as it gives us opportunity. I was blessed to be assisting the Summit planning team, and was pretty excited to see how TSCF were going to pull it off!

I felt quite emotionally invested as this was my third Summit, and I've got to know the TSCF staff very well over the last three years. I was super excited to be reunited with new and old students from across NZ (and playing games with them)!

The first session of Summit on Zoom was epic! Seeing everyone's beautiful faces on the screen gave me sparkles of joy. I was very grateful to be MC with Matty (Matthias Loong, Wellington Team Leader), to help people smile and feel welcomed. I was very moved by the mihi whakatau given by Keri-Ann Hokianga and Lyndon Drake; it really set the scene for whanaungatanga and kotahitanga – establishing relationships and unity.

Reflecting on Psalm 19 during Summit gave me new depth of understanding and peace that God was in as much control designing the universe as he is now during COVID-19. I loved the focus on God's glorious creation, celebrating his achievements rather than our own.



Talking to people in small groups online was an enriching experience. And oh the creativity! I was in my element expressing thoughts and feelings through drawing, walking outside, and finding a treasure to share with my group. I absolutely enjoyed the creations from other students; it was very inspiring how glory and praise was reflected in different forms.

In the evening sessions I enjoyed hearing more from our speakers' personal lives, and their experiences of God moving in ways that they initially couldn't see and understand, but worked together for good in God's perfect timing.

Our Summit hub was the icing on the cake, putting into perspective that a community of united students actually were attending Summit, and I wasn't just watching a video. The competitiveness was on! I won't be forgetting those times of laughing and singing.

I'm grateful that God made a way where there felt like no way, and for more opportunities to reach students who might not have made it to Summit if it was in person. I'm elated to have been part of something so much bigger than myself, shaping the lives of over 100 students. All glory to God!"

**Sarah Visser**, Undergraduate Conservation & Ecology, Parks & Outdoor Recreation Student, Lincoln University



"In mid-April Ben Carswell confirmed we could not hold Summit in Queenstown due to COVID-19. He asked me to pull together a planning team to create an online gathering instead. At that stage we had no idea what it would look like!

As our planning team met together (online!) we grew excited about the possibilities. We became united around the idea of honouring God by creating a unique Summit online experience. As the Alert Levels relaxed in June, the idea of





experiencing Summit in regional hubs developed, which we felt would add a lot to the experience – seeing what other students were doing together across Aotearoa.

I went to several TSCF conferences in the mid-90s when I was a student – they were the highlight of my uni years, so it was humbling and exciting to bless today's generation of students by putting the conference together. It was special to run it online, enabling us to connect with a wider range of students, some who might be new to TSCF.

The first Summit session was a bit of a blur with all the busyness of getting things up and running, especially technology-wise! It was good to slow down and reflect on Psalm 19 during the week. The three parts to the psalm stood out to me: God revealed through the creation; God revealed through holy Scripture; and in the final part, the invitation to consider carefully how we respond to God's revelation of himself to us.

There were many highlights for me during Summit. Ben Carswell and Renee Santich's talks

were compelling, encouraging and challenging. The post-talk Q&A sessions on Slido were engaging, and I enjoyed co-hosting the final evening session as a late substitution!

I think Summit was unique and quite special, and united students at a difficult time. It surprised and delighted me that we only had a few minor technical glitches – praise God! Most importantly, the feedback we received from the students/delegates was very positive.

I'm grateful for everyone who participated and contributed in many different ways, large or small. A special thanks to our planning team of TSCF staff and students, who did a heap of work to bring Summit 2020 to life this year. God-willing we can meet in person for Summit next year. I encourage students to make every effort to come – as it is an even better experience when we're all together in one place!"

**Dave Hodgkinson**, Waikato/  
Bay of Plenty Team Leader &  
Summit Planning Team Lead



Vic CU Wellington in their Summit "hub"



## Living the Story of Christ

Simon Sim & Otago Students

The Mark Drama is a 90-minute immersive, interactive performance of the story of Jesus found in Mark's gospel. Over three nights from 15–17 August, a cast of 15 people from different churches and Christian groups in Dunedin shared the story of Jesus through this evangelistic outreach. Across three performances, we had around 200 people attend (including the cast). We were really encouraged that the best turnout was on the final performance on campus – where under Alert Level 2 we maxed out at 100 people!

In a year where many things did not happen, we are grateful that the Mark Drama could take place. We experienced God at work through the way many things came together for the outreach. We were grateful that under the Government restrictions we could still go ahead (albeit with contact tracing, physical distancing and limited numbers). We were excited that the cast would be able to tell the story of Jesus, and be transformed themselves by the story they were inhabiting. We were hopeful for the people who would invite their non-Christian friends, and prayed that they too would be transformed by the experience. Most of all, we were thankful for the opportunity we had

for True Witness to continue in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis. Here are some of the stories from students on the cast:

*Signing up for the Mark Drama was way out of my comfort zone! Yet, what started out as a hesitant decision became one of gratitude and delight. Acting in the Mark Drama was so rewarding – seeing each person tuned into the Word of God was a powerful thing. What impacted me most was that gathering together with Jesus both in the gospel of Mark, and still today, leaves us changed and renewed. The gospel story is very much alive and calls to all people! Being part of the story of Christ has rooted Mark's gospel within us, and I now see the wideness and graciousness of Jesus' love, even for an unbelieving generation (Mark 9:17-27). ~ Breezy Finlay*

*Acting in the Mark drama challenges both your ability to act and your understanding of the gospel stories you may have heard repeatedly at church. The biggest impact was the humility God granted me. It helped me forget about what people see in me when I am up there performing, and to focus on presenting The Story of Jesus that is capable of transforming lives. I believe God's Word is living, but seeing it acted*



*has made it a lot more alive. I have learned to place my faith in God, regardless of the situation I am in.*

**~ Majd Aldawahrah**

*This opportunity to share the story of Jesus in a creative way was amazing. It was so encouraging to see so many people wanting to engage with the gospel. What I found most impactful was first acting out the scenes where you've been chasing Jesus, being healed by him and witnessing these miracles; then you become the ones condemning him to die. It was quite confronting to be the ones both praising and crucifying Jesus. I have studied the gospels with various groups before, but the Mark Drama allowed me to feel a personal connection with the people and to discover more about the character of Jesus. What I want to take away from this experience is the attitude that sharing the gospel can be fresh and exciting.*

**~ Esther Williams**

*Acting in the Mark Drama [for the third time] was a wonderful experience. I grew a lot in my faith as I prepared. Learning every word Jesus says in Mark has allowed me to see the repetition and emphasis like never before. The patience Jesus has for his disciples*

*as well as his unending compassion for everyone he meets is remarkable. This, of course, meant acting this part was a huge challenge. Especially so when trying to convey his rich emotions: to be so furious with the teachers of the law for their blindness while also pitying them that they missed the whole point of following God. Going forward, I'd love to remember all of the words of Jesus I have learned. I now regularly hear a phrase that reminds me of something Jesus said, and it brings me joy to hear his teaching wherever I am.* **~ Jamie Payton** (acted as Jesus)

By living the story of Christ in Mark's gospel, we see God at work literally, as the life, teaching and ministry of Jesus is re-enacted right before our eyes, reminding us of who he is and what he came to do. We saw God at work impacting the lives of the students who participated, having immersed themselves in Mark's gospel, discovering more about Jesus. We also saw God at work through the stories we heard of people discovering who Jesus is for themselves, some for the first time, as they witnessed his life, death and resurrection through the Mark Drama. 🙌



Otago Team Leader Simon Sim at one of the Mark Drama performances



# Regional Updates

## Wellington

Lockdown was difficult in Wellington. It was a challenge to do ministry on Zoom with varied student engagement. We had a good turnout for an online conference combined with Manawātū. However, we learnt that nothing can really replace in-person meetings, and were thankful to get back on campus in the second semester.

## Auckland

After a couple of weeks on campus in each semester it was relatively easy to shift our group meetings online during the two lockdowns. We had daily devotions at 9 a.m. for a few weeks, and organised a couple of regional events online. Students on opposite sides of the city enjoyed getting to know each other and were encouraged. Their commitment to studying the Bible together this year has deepened their relationships with God and each other.

## Canterbury

With much of the university year being held online for students, we have similarly had to adapt with variations of online and face-to-face meetings. While outreach has been more difficult this year, Christian Union has grown together as a group, depending on God more and supporting each other better.

## Waikato & Bay of Plenty

During lockdown we took our weekly gatherings online. Our Waikato University group ran their Bible studies on Zoom, widening the invite to Tauranga students. These meetings grooved a rhythm of staying connected. At a time when the student world got smaller, we wanted to keep things simple. It's been great to have a more normal second semester!

## Lincoln

This year we adapted how we engage with one another and reach out through testimony videos and online activities. We're thankful for technology! Our group maintained the relationships that were already formed pre-lockdown, and those deepened significantly upon our return to campus in Semester Two.

## Manawātū

We saw significant growth early this year as the result of a really successful orientation campaign. Most of our groups continued online during lockdown, although the rest of Semester One was tough and some groups died or lost contact with people. But we had a wonderful new group of enthusiastic leaders in Semester Two!

## Otago

It was challenging transitioning to online meetings during lockdown, as groups were just getting started. While online meetings helped maintain a sense of connection and community, it was harder to invite and connect with new students. The Harbour Light Base community has been an encouragement this year; the residents built good relationships as they shared life together and supported one another.



# prayermatters



Reaching students for Christ, changing students for life.  
He ākonga ki ngā ākonga hei ara whakawhiti mō te Karaiti.

## Auckland

- Students at the University of Auckland have twice had to cancel their mission week. Please pray students would continue to seek and make the most of opportunities to share Jesus with their friends, despite the challenges of doing that online.
- A number of the groups have struggled to find student leaders for next year. Please pray God would raise up godly leaders for each group who are captured by the vision of reaching students for Christ and changing students for life.
- Please pray for more staff to join our team in order to better support the current students, and to reach more of the 110,000 students in Auckland.
- Praise God for the 3 students who have come to Christ this year.

## Waikato/Bay of Plenty

- Please pray for the student leaders as they serve, learn and grow – that God would bless and use their efforts and initiatives.
- For various reasons the TSCF groups at Toi Ohomai and Wintec polytechnic campuses have struggled this year. Please pray that God raises up committed students with a heart for campus mission in 2021.
- There are still thousands of students to reach with the gospel.

## Manawatu

- Praise God that student leaders have been taking real initiative in evangelism, being willing to meet up with non-Christians to study the Bible, or invite their friends to “Grill a Christian” evenings.
- The Overseas Christian Fellowship has been in decline over the last few years, and we need to re-engage in mission to international students. Please pray for this area.
- Praise God for the 2 students who have come to Christ this year.

## Wellington

- Thank God for a growing hunger for the gospel in some of the students and a desire to reach our secular campus.
- Student evangelism is an area that needs significant growth. Please pray that staff and students would be captivated by God’s heart for the lost.

## Canterbury

- Like every campus, we don’t really know what next year will look like with ongoing COVID questions about uni being face-to-face or online. Pray for student leaders and staff as we start planning for 2021. Pray we would be creative in planning online and face-to-face events.
- Pray for a good rest for students over the summer break, with the added stress this year has brought on both students and staff.
- Pray for the handful of international students who are unable to return home over the Christmas break.



## Lincoln

- Please pray about tiredness and mental health challenges among students and staff.
- Pray for fresh ways to reach out and meet new students amongst online studies and a lack of opportunities to meet people.
- There will be more international students living on campus over the summer school period, who are unable to return to their home countries. Pray for opportunities to invite students to be part of a Bible study or gathering, particularly in the lead-up to Christmas.

## Otago

- Please pray for students whose studies have been impacted this year, and for those who will be graduating as they think about their next steps.
- International student ministry has been severely affected this year; please pray for international students hoping to be here, and that we can connect with and support those who are already here. Please pray that international student ministry and mission will continue to grow and thrive in the midst of these uncertain times.
- Please pray for the new student leaders as they begin to plan for the coming year, and grow their vision for reaching students for Christ.

## Minty

- We are talking to a number of students across the country who are thinking about doing Minty next year. Please pray for us as we seek to see if Minty is the right thing for these students in 2021.

## Global Reach

- Please pray for ways to continue developing a global reach perspective in ministry in New Zealand.
- Pray we will remain connected with our South Pacific and wider IFES partners.
- Pray that God would continue to expand students’ mindsets for his mission to the world, a mission we are called to be part of.

## National

- Pray for the recruitment of NZ-based staff to work with students around NZ in 2021.
- Pray for the ongoing impact of the Mark Drama being used in outreach in 2021. Please pray that students would encounter Jesus through these performances and turn to him as their Saviour and Lord.
- Pray for TSCF’s Minty programme, led by Chris Hay. Pray that God would use it to develop and disciple graduates for the long haul.

**PULL ME OUT AND PUT ME  
ON THE FRIDGE TO KEEP  
TSCF IN YOUR PRAYERS!**

# Psalm 19: Creative Reflection

<sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
<sup>2</sup> Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.  
<sup>3</sup> They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.  
<sup>4</sup> Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.  
 In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.  
<sup>5</sup> It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course.  
<sup>6</sup> It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other;

nothing is deprived of its warmth.  
<sup>7</sup> The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul.  
 The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.  
<sup>8</sup> The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.  
 The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.  
<sup>9</sup> The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.  
 The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous.  
<sup>10</sup> They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;

they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.  
<sup>11</sup> By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.  
<sup>12</sup> But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.  
<sup>13</sup> Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.  
 Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.  
<sup>14</sup> May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

## Activity 1

The first six verses of Psalm 19 are filled with the wonder of God's creation and reveal much to us about God's nature – who he is.

Go outside and find an object that is part of God's natural creation, for example: a flower, leaf or piece of bark. Spend a few minutes closely examining your object. Notice its shape, imperfections, texture, details and colours. What is it like to touch, smell, maybe even taste?!

### Ponder these questions:

- How does your object declare God's glory?
- What does it tell you about who God is?

## Activity 2

Choose a verse from this psalm to reflect on and creatively respond to. The way you respond to the verse is completely up to you.

### You may like to:

- Spend time memorising the verse;
- Act the verse out;
- Create an artwork, collage or drawing;
- Write a poem, prayer or song;
- Find different items representing the parts of the verse, and put them together.

Use your creative response in prayer over the coming days, or share it with someone close to you.



## True Witness: Evangelism Online

Scott Mackay

Despite COVID-19 halting various activity around the world, the Spirit of God continues to work in the hearts of students in exciting ways here in the Manawātū. We have seen real growth this year in the number of non-Christian students wanting to know more about Christianity. At least a dozen non-Christian students have attended evangelistic Bible studies this year, with several MUCF students doing one-to-one introductory Bible studies.

A memorable experience was the week I had eight non-Christian guys willing to meet up on campus, but not enough Christian students to meet with them. One of those students was "C," a first-year mechatronics student who had a hunch that there must be a God. One of the MUCF students and I had the opportunity to hear his story and share the gospel with him. They are now doing a weekly Bible study together, and he is seriously considering the evidence for Christ. Students from CF are also meeting with three other non-Christians who are exploring the faith.

Earlier this year OCF ran a weekly Explorer Group, which was a real encouragement. During the first week of the COVID-19 lockdown, when most people were having a break from everything, the

non-Christian students were still keen to meet to study John's gospel! One of the group members, a Buddhist student from Vietnam, offered to host the group on Zoom. I co-led the Explorer group with a Masters student from China, who came to know Christ at Massey just last year. We also had a Hindu student and a Chinese student in this group. These kinds of opportunities are at the heart of our work on campus.

A growing number of students are actively involved in evangelism. I had to start a second evangelism training group during lockdown because the interest was so high. It's been encouraging to see God opening the eyes of our student leaders to the power of the good news of Jesus.

In August two students came to faith in Christ, which was so exciting to see. Both are students in the halls, and had attended one of the "Grill a Christian" events that MUCF had put on for halls students.

Despite the unusual happenings of this year, God continues to amaze me with the way he is moving in the lives of students.





# Stories of Hope from a Turbulent Year

*TSCF students share their experiences of what it was like to be a student in Aotearoa during lockdown*

"I knew living in Harbour Light [TSCF's residential community in Dunedin] would make the first semester different for me – that was far from the only thing that would be. Lockdown brought many challenges. The flexibility in time meant I struggled to attend lectures even more than usual, as well as struggling with the stress that comes with being 'stuck' on the other side of the world.

However, there were many encouragements too. Previously, in the flat we struggled to find regular times each week for spiritual practices and meals together. Being in lockdown gave us the freedom to have both a meal and a spiritual practice every single day. This was a blessing on multiple fronts. Firstly, I'm aware that many struggled with loneliness during lockdown, and having times together as a bubble allowed us to care for one another by intentionally sharing our journeys.

Secondly, it encouraged me to spend much more of my free time with God. Both the quantity and quality of time I spent reading books, listening to sermons, reading my Bible, and praying, all increased. I'm confident this wouldn't have happened if I wasn't surrounded by my brothers and sisters in Christ, encouraging me.

Community was refreshing during lockdown. A global pandemic is daunting; I know many are lonely. But the fellowship I had with the five others in my bubble was a relief. Knowing we were centred on Christ and his love truly was a light shining through the darkness."

**~ Jamie Payton, International Student, Otago**

"Lockdown has been challenging, both personally from a convenience standpoint, and internally trying to grasp at the scale of loss and suffering resulting from this virus. I've been very thankful for my flatmates, and the Veritas and church communities which continued through lockdown.

But mostly, I'm grateful for Christ. He's shone through as I've reflected on the things that could cause despair during lockdown – things which I think are summed up well by Solomon's confronting words in Ecclesiastes 2:10–11:

*I denied myself nothing my eyes desired;  
I refused my heart no pleasure.  
My heart took delight in all my labor,  
and this was the reward for all my toil.  
Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done*



*and what I had toiled to achieve,  
everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind;  
nothing was gained under the sun.*

I believe that the things we've lost or missed out on due to this virus and lockdown are incapable of providing the true riches Christ offers (1 Peter 1:3–4): *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you.*

It is through Christ that God provided hope for me."

**~ Andrew Fermor, Law Student, Auckland**

"I didn't know what to expect at the beginning of this year. I was hoping for community and a supportive flat environment, and that I would grow as a follower of Jesus. I think I've got all these things in different ways. What I didn't expect was a country-wide lockdown that made 'community' quite different.

For me, lockdown involved establishing new routines. Our flat established new rhythms of prayer, dinner, and exercise (everyone needed a bit of motivation to get out of bed at 7:30 in the morning). There was lots of jamming on guitars, pianos and my flute, and creating a spoof cooking show. We had great conversations about theology, family, church, and lots of stupid jokes. We became a family of sorts.

In the lockdown, I missed. We all did. I missed my friends, my family, the routines of church, the kids I volunteered with, and studying in labs. I even missed work. I missed tramping and the freedom to move, having a life that extends beyond a small radius.

I grieve for the deaths and exacerbation of inequality here and around the world, because of COVID-19 or because of our response to it. We're lucky to have a safe place to live, enough food, entertainment and lots of green space around. That doesn't mean it hasn't been hard, and it hasn't stopped me asking God 'Why, why, why?' But I'm grateful for the opportunities lockdown gave us." 🍀

**~ Shar Mathias, Ecology Student, Otago**





## Rubee Yee

*Rubee Yee grew up in Otaki, trained as a medical laboratory scientist (specialising in microbiology and immunology), and works for the Hutt Valley DHB. She has also completed training in biotechnology and biblical studies. She has a keen interest in child and youth ministries as well as cross-cultural mission.*

Rubee has given years of passionate, committed service to student ministry with TSCF, especially international student ministry. Most notably, Rubee was instrumental in the merger of the Overseas Christian Fellowship with TSCF. Her involvement with international students has spanned the generations, meaning she is both well-loved and highly regarded by many TSCF students and graduates around the world.

Speaking of Rubee's involvement with TSCF, former national director Nigel Pollock said he "couldn't begin to count the many international students [Rubee has] welcomed, fed, driven around and befriended." Speaking of her time as a board member, he added

"Rubee doesn't always say a huge amount, but what she does say is always worth listening to."

Current National Director Ben Carswell added this tribute: "Rubee is recognised by many in TSCF as a legend. Over the last 40 years, she has shown a consistent commitment to and advocacy for international students. Whilst she has never been an 'up-front person', Rubee has faithfully and humbly worked behind the scenes to ensure our commitment to reaching international students and investing in them has remained central to our identity as TSCF."

Judge Andrew Becroft honoured Rubee as someone who "embodies what TSCF is all about in terms of living out her faith in a demonstrable way that attracts others to Christ," and expressed his desire to live up to this. Nigel added, "It is a significant legacy that you have left in the life of many, and we will miss you."

We know Rubee plans to remain very much involved with TSCF and international students, so it is absolutely fitting that she has become one of our vice presidents.

Giving thanks for Rubee Yee and Andrew Becroft's faithful service to the TSCF Board

# Changed for Life: A Celebration of Service

*At the TSCF AGM in September, we expressed our deep gratitude to two people for their key roles of service to TSCF: Rubee Yee for over 40 years on the TSCF Board, and Judge Andrew Becroft for his 15 years as TSCF Board Chair. We want to thank them again for generously giving themselves to serve the Lord in student ministry.*

## Judge Andrew Becroft

*Andrew Becroft was born in Malaysia and educated at Rongotai College, Wellington. He graduated with a bachelors degree in Arts and Law, and helped to establish the Mangere Community Law Centre. He went on to serve as District Court Judge to Whanganui and Principal Youth Court Judge, before becoming Children's Commissioner.*

Since joining TSCF as a student at the University of Auckland and then becoming the EU president, Andrew has been wholeheartedly involved in and passionate about TSCF's mission and ministry. In his 15 years as TSCF Board Chair, Andrew's contribution has been immense and his commitment unwavering, despite an increasingly demanding work schedule.

Three generations of TSCF national directors have acknowledged and paid tribute to the significant role Andrew has played in supporting them and the wider work of TSCF. Andrew Saunders has described Andrew Becroft as "my chief fundraiser when I was [TSCF] General Secretary," ensuring that his role was fully funded during the 10 years he led the movement.

Nigel Pollock described some of the significant contributions Andrew Becroft has made to TSCF, including: 1) helping to strengthen our bicultural identity through incorporating te reo Māori, powhiri, and developing relationships with Māori and Pasifika students; 2) his commitment to discipling and investing in future leaders, and 3) his conviction that the Bible should remain at the centre of who we are and all we do as TSCF.

National Director Ben Carswell holds Andrew in the highest regard: "If it wasn't for a 'chance' conversation

with Andrew in 2006 in Wellington, I wouldn't be in NZ and serving in the role I am now. Andrew and I clicked from the moment we met, and he has been a loyal friend and supporter since then. His constant encouragement, wise words and timely challenges have been crucial in my spiritual growth and involvement in TSCF."

"Andrew's faith in Jesus has shaped his work and every part of who he is. I deeply respect him for that and regularly hear from many people who hold him in the highest regard. I know he has been inspirational to many students and graduates, as well as his own peers. Both for myself and on behalf of TSCF, I want to express our sincere thanks to Andrew, his wife, Pip, and their family for all they have brought to and sacrificed for the work of TSCF. We are delighted that Andrew has agreed to become TSCF President, and remain involved in and committed to our mission."

Andrew expressed his own gratitude for his involvement: "Whatever I've given to TSCF over the years, TSCF has given me much more. I would not be in the role I'm currently in...without...the transformative influence of TSCF."

## Additional Thanks

We are so thankful for all those who currently serve or have served as president or vice presidents. We appreciate and value Paul Trebilco's years of input as president, as he moves to a vice president role. We express our special gratitude to Marilyn Withers, who is moving on after serving as a vice president for a number of years. We gratefully welcome Roger Moses onto the board after his years as a vice president. 🙌

# Join Us in Auckland!

There is huge scope for reaching students for Christ in Auckland, where a third of Aotearoa's tertiary students are based. The shape of ministry is very different from other regions for a variety of reasons – in particular, geography and living situation. Students are spread far and wide across multiple campuses all over the city. They also tend to live at home for longer, which means they're already connected with their home communities, and the length of their commute discourages them from staying on campus after classes. It's difficult to find common meeting times for relationships to develop. Then there are the almost 6,000 students living in halls of residence. It's a diverse and complex mission field.

**"We need more staff to train leaders because that frees us up to focus on reaching students with the gospel"**

~ Holly Davison, TSCF Auckland Student Leader

Our staff team in Tāmaki Makaurau are passionate and committed but they are almost all in part-time roles. We need more staff to better reach the 110,000 students. The impact of helping spiritually hungry students to build a solid foundation on Christ goes beyond them, to those they share the gospel with, and to the workplaces and churches they end up in after university. Please pray for God to bring many more workers to this ripe harvest field. Please also pray for the current staff to be creative and effective in supporting and equipping student leaders, despite often feeling stretched.

## Financial Update

You may be aware that in anticipation of a decline in income, TSCF applied for the Government's COVID-19 wage subsidy. We are thankful to report we were able to return the subsidy in full, as we did not meet the threshold of a 30 percent decline in income. However, over the course of 2020, due to the effects of COVID-19, we have seen an ongoing and steady decline in our income, which is currently at around an 11 percent decrease. We continue to trust God to provide all our needs, to enable staff to support students in reaching their peers with the good news of Jesus. We are very aware of the generous partnership and support of so many people in uncertain and challenging times, and are thankful for each person who is part of God's work amongst students in NZ.

TSCF National Director Ben Carswell writes, "Please pray as we adjust to the realities of the impact of COVID-19 on student ministry. Our situation in NZ is much better than many are facing globally, but we have experienced a tangible decrease in our regular income. We are keen to ensure that the uncertainty surrounding 2021 doesn't reduce the impact of student mission across NZ. Please pray that God would provide the finances needed to resource our mission teams on campus. We also ask you to prayerfully consider if there are ways you might support TSCF to meet this financial need."



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