

ISSUE 92 | Summer 2021

# canvas

TERTIARY STUDENTS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP'S MAGAZINE

**THE BEST  
IS YET TO COME**





**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).



**Designer**  
Rachel Hay

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

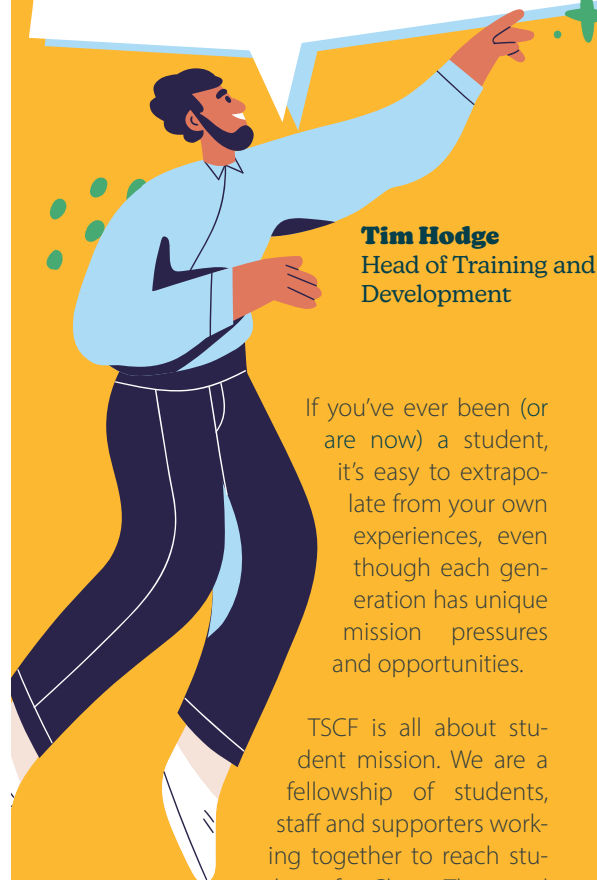
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# THE BEST IS YET TO COME



**Tim Hodge**  
Head of Training and  
Development

If you've ever been (or  
are now) a student,  
it's easy to extrapo-  
late from your own  
experiences, even  
though each gen-  
eration has unique  
mission pressures  
and opportunities.

TSCF is all about stu-  
dent mission. We are a  
fellowship of students,  
staff and supporters work-  
ing together to reach stu-  
dents for Christ. The good  
news about Jesus never  
changes, but the context is  
always changing. Several of my  
colleagues have recommended Jean  
Twenge's recent book *iGen* as one way to  
continue to understand our mission field.  
Although Twenge isn't (yet) a Christian, she  
does a good job at understanding the times  
in which we live. The subtitle of *iGen* is *Why  
Today's Super-Connected Kids Are Growing  
Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy*

- and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood -  
and What That Means for the Rest of Us. Whilst  
it is a very long subtitle, it does describe in  
a nutshell her thesis: that the young adults  
of 2021 are unique and not like previous  
generations.

TSCF works in the strategic mission field of  
tertiary students, whatever their age. The  
majority of students with whom we are  
engaged are in the 18-25 age range, so it's  
always good to observe cultural change as  
we seek to take the unchanging gospel to a  
changing world. As can be read throughout  
this edition of *Canvas*, we believe that the  
best is yet to come.

**“When we have Jesus  
as our firm foundation,  
we will be strengthened  
in the faith, and we  
will exhibit lives of  
gratitude.”**

Twenge helps us observe this generation  
and we believe that for them the best is yet  
to come in at least 3 ways:

**1. Alleviating insecurity:** Students can be  
insecure in themselves, yet the gospel tells  
each person that their worth is immense as  
Jesus died for them, giving them a secure  
identity in him.

**2. Removing isolation:** Students can be  
isolated, knowing very few others on their  
campus and although plugged in and con-  
nected to various media channels rarely  
interact personally with others. Yet the gos-  
pel makes each Christian part of the family  
of God wherever they go.

**3. Answering indecisiveness:** Students  
can struggle to make decisions in a world  
with a plethora of choices. Yet the gospel  
proclaims that God is sovereign over all  
things, including decision-making, so the  
pressure is off because Jesus is alive.

Colossians has long been a book that  
holds me, that gives me confidence in the  
firm foundation that is Jesus. It's always a  
joy to read Colossians with students, both  
Christian and non-Christian. In chapter 2  
verses 6 and 7 we read:

*“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as  
Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted  
and built up in him, strengthened in the faith  
as you were taught, and overflowing with  
thankfulness.”*

Paul is highlighting, to the Colossians and  
to us, that the way in to faith is the way  
we also continue on in faith. To become a  
Christian is to believe in Jesus; to continue  
as a Christian is to believe in Jesus. If we're in  
Jesus we are deep-rooted, or changing the  
analogy, we are like a strong building. Both  
images suggest permanence, solidity and  
longevity. When we have Jesus as our firm  
foundation, we will be strengthened in the  
faith, and we will exhibit lives of gratitude.

Student mission has always been about  
inviting students to meet Jesus, the firmest  
of all foundations. The context and meth-  
ods change, as they should. For the current  
generation we know that the best is yet  
to come, as TSCF students, supporters and  
staff work together to reach students for  
Christ and change students for  
life. Thank you for being part  
of the adventure! 🍀



# WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD LEADERSHIP!

## **Tom Broughton** Chair

Studying at university was a key time in my life and journey of faith; with Christian classmates, TSCF staffworkers and faithful people from the local church all playing significant roles. And I loved getting involved in the campus CF! It was such a great group of people from all different backgrounds and

studying different courses, living in a way that made me want to get involved. Being welcomed and having lots of fun, reading the Bible together, considering life's big questions, who Jesus is and what difference He makes, and all the while seeking out ways to serve other students... it was a compelling combination!

Those years laid a great foundation for my life as a Christian: convictions and practices formed during that time made a huge impact on what I have done with my life since, and on who I am today. This is not just in terms of the big decisions, but also in aiming to live and speak for Jesus in the day-to-day. Of course this is always a work in progress! But God is gracious, and there have been many times where this has been a deeply fulfilling path. My working life has taken me to Tanzania, Kenya, Southland and back to Canterbury where I grew up; which are all places I love, full of people I love, and with each providing rich experiences in the

joys & struggles of Christian life. So I am very thankful for the influence TSCF has had in my life, and I trust that you are too as you reflect on your own journey of faith, how connections with TSCF have shaped your life and continue to have an impact today. It is a great privilege for me now to continue with TSCF as part of the National Board.

I love meeting students and hearing what life is like for them here and now. I am always in awe of our amazing staff team who do such a great job of supporting them. The wider TSCF family is strong too with many wonderful friends and supporters. I look forward to connecting with many of you as and when we are able, COVID restrictions permitting. I'm excited about the future as we all work together, sharing in the joys of connecting with students, introducing them to Jesus and building them up as they follow him. Please continue to pray that we would remain faithful in holding out the good news of Jesus Christ; but also that we would

be quick to listen & learn, full of grace & compassion, and that we would be thoughtful & effective in engaging with students in each new generation. Join with me in giving thanks for all those who have contributed to TSCF in so many ways over many years, and for students who have gone on to live lives of fruitfulness for God, both in New Zealand and across the world. God bless you all. 🙏



"TSCF is committed to developing godly leaders for future generations. Tom & Janice are great examples of the outworking of this vision."

**-Ben Carswell,  
National Director**

## **Janice Cheng** Vice Chair

As a fresh-faced, hopeful and eager 18-year-old, who moved to New Zealand despite not knowing very much about the country, I never anticipated I would reflect on my university years with so much fondness and gratefulness. Fondness because it feels like it was just yesterday; gratefulness because of what that season has cemented in me, especially in areas of my faith.

I grew up in a Christian environment in Penang, Malaysia and chose to follow Christ when I was 12. However, your allegiance to Christ gets tested when you are farthest away from the "watchful" eyes of your

family and community. You really could be anyone. You could literally recreate yourself.

But it was the rigorous Bible studies, wrestling with the Word and what it means for me as a student, interspersed with great humour, food and deep friendships through TSCF that anchored me deeper in my faith in Jesus as my Christ. As an international student, I was involved in Wellington International Christian Fellowship, and had the great privilege of learning biblical truths alongside friends from diverse cultural backgrounds.

I was part of the first cohort of students

who lived at Rongopai, a community flat at Victoria University of Wellington, where I learnt that sometimes loving one another comes in simple ways such as doing each others' dishes.

While pursuing my PhD, I also co-led Catalyst, a ministry of TSCF, meeting with young professionals passionate about being true followers of Christ in our workplaces. My time at Catalyst shaped my view of work and vocation in the context of the entire story of the Bible. This season remains a cairn that I reflect on at crossroads of my career. 🙏



# prayermatters



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## National:

### General Mission:

Give thanks for the students who have explored faith with us this year. Praise God for those who have made a commitment to follow him. Pray that as we head into the summer and many students disperse around the country, these students would continue to pursue Christ.

### The Well:

Thank God for people: for those donating funds to enable construction, for the builder and tradies working on site, for the designers, for those students who have applied to live in it as the pioneer cohort in 2022, for those who've prayed about mission in The Well over the next 50+ years, and for those who will come to faith and have faith in Jesus deepened in the months and years ahead.  
[www.tscf.org.nz/the-well](http://www.tscf.org.nz/the-well)

### The Crossing (A Global Reach initiative):

Pray for students who have taken up personal challenges to cross cultural boundaries and build relationships with a gospel focus this year to continue to develop these and have courage to bring Christ into their friendships with grace and wisdom.

### Minty:

Pray for those finishing their internship, that God would guide them in what is next, and for those considering Minty next year that they would seek God's kingdom whatever their year may look like.

### Resource Team:

Give thanks for God's gracious provision over the past year. Pray that God would provide the

"The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."  
- **Philippians 4:5b-6**

resources needed to continue to fund the ministry, and for members of the team as they work on the 2022 budget.

## Regional:

### Auckland:

Thank God for continuing to be at work through the groups despite lockdown and online learning for most of Semester 2. Pray for new student leaders to be equipped over the summer to reach students for Christ in the new year.

### Waikato & Bay of Plenty:

Give thanks for all that has happened in our campus groups this year. Pray for God's guidance and for unity/vision during our November planning retreats for leaders, which are key for shaping 2022 activities on campuses.

### Manawatu:

Praise the Lord for the students who have shown leadership in mission this year. Pray as

the leadership team meet for a planning retreat in November, that they would dream big gospel-shaped dreams!

### Wellington:

Give thanks to God for our Vic CF student leaders who've laboured so hard in the work of the gospel over the last two years; pray that our new committee would continue in faithfulness to this work.

### Canterbury:

Thank God for an encouraging year, even with Covid disruptions, with a number of people investigating Jesus with us. At the time of writing this two seem close to becoming Christians,

with others still investigating. Pray they would trust in Jesus as their Lord.

### Lincoln:

As many Lincoln students head out to the regions across NZ for summer work, pray that they would find faith communities to engage well with and opportunities to bring glory to God through both their work and rest.

### Otago:

Please pray for the student groups and Harbour Light Base residential community to finish the year well. Pray for the groups as they elect new leaders and plan for the coming year. Praise God for His work and faithfulness through the ups and downs of 2021.

## NOTICEBOARD

## JOB VACANCIES

*Do you want to see students come to know Christ and be transformed by the gospel? Would you like to be part of student mission in New Zealand?*

### STAFF WORKERS

We are particularly looking for staff to join the teams working directly with students in Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin. We have vacancies in other locations too.

### COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

We are looking for a passionate communications manager capable of overseeing a diverse range of projects. You will be a core part of our team, developing, implementing and integrating strategies for our publications, website, social media and publicity as well as assisting with promotion of TSCF staff and core fund needs.

### PARTNERSHIPS & FUNDRAISING MANAGER

We are seeking a fundraiser to support our work towards growing our funding. This is a key role where you will have particular focus on developing our core funds, as well as supporting the wider team with growing partnerships and support, helping us to strengthen our ability to continue to reach students for Christ for many years to come.

Visit [tscf.org.nz/jobs](http://tscf.org.nz/jobs) or email [personnel@tscf.org.nz](mailto:personnel@tscf.org.nz) to find out more.





## Regional Spotlight

Mark Santich Canterbury Team Leader

### Canterbury Staff

My wife Renée and I have served with TSCF in Canterbury for the last 20 years. Although Renée grew up in Sydney, I moved there for university study from outback Australia. We moved to Christchurch in January 2001 to serve with TSCF and continue to love student mission and ministry at the University of Canterbury.

We've seen many changes over our time with TSCF, including all our children growing into adulthood. I've noticed students at university are open to hearing and responding to the amazing news of Jesus, but fewer students now have any foundational knowledge about the Bible – even amongst Christian students. Students struggle to find hope and seem more anxious and rudderless when trying to navigate life than 20 years ago, while society keeps stripping away Christian values. The contrast between the hope and joy found in Jesus compared to the world around us is rapidly growing, so opportunities for student mission are greater now than ever!



### Farewell to Geoff and Liz Robson

It's been wonderful to have Geoff and Liz working with us for the last 8.5 years. Geoff became a Christian at the end of his time studying journalism at university in Sydney but has always seen the value and opportunity of student mission on campus.

In July, Geoff finished his time with TSCF to put his writing gifts to greater use, taking a full-time role serving the wider church through writing, editing, and publishing resources for Matthias Media. He and Liz are still living in Christchurch, with their four children. While we're sad to see them move on, we know Geoff will be well suited to this role and we look forward to seeing God continue to work through him. 🙌



Mark and Renée Santich



Students from the Canterbury Christian Union

## Groups on Campus

### University of Canterbury Christian Union (UCCU)

In 1933, an Evangelical Union was started at the University of Canterbury. The EU's focus was to affirm the centrality of Jesus' death and resurrection, and the importance of the Bible in faith. Later, in the 1980s, the EU changed its name to become the Christian Union.

Currently the Canterbury CU has its largest gathering on Wednesday nights on campus for dinner together and Life Groups. Students (both Christians and those investigating Christianity) are reading through the book of Acts, seeing the news of Jesus rapidly spread to the ends of the earth. We also have various small groups meeting

throughout the week on campus, are helping run a group in one of the residential halls, and are supporting students reading a Gospel with friends investigating Jesus. CU also helps equip students in mission and ministry on campus through various training sessions.

Christian Union seeks to engage the whole campus publicly with larger events on campus. Some of CU's events recently were Science and God (a Q&A panel with UC lecturers), a panel discussion on philosophy and faith (with the philosophy club), and the Mark Drama. With COVID lockdown requiring a bit more creativity, CU has hosted some online events: Resurrection: Hoax or History (with Rory Shiner) and Rational Faith (with John Lennox). 🙌





## Story of Change

**Kathryn Millar** Ministry Intern

After finishing her degree at AUT in Auckland last year, Kathryn Millar relocated to Christchurch as part of TSCF's ministry internship programme (Minty). In this story of change Kathryn reflects on the Holy Spirit working in the life of a Christchurch student and the journey she has been on this year to learn more about God and his Word.

A real highlight of Minty is meeting and reading the Bible with students who are seeking to know more about Christianity. Early in the year at our Christian Union welcome BBQ, I met with a psychology student called Emma\*. Her family is not religious, and although Emma had some experiences with church, she had little understanding of the gospel. She thought the Bible was only written by people, and discussed it intellectually rather than having a personal relationship with God.

Throughout the year, we have connected regularly through our one-to-one Bible

studies and the CU weekly events. Emma has loved reading God's Word in small groups on Wednesday nights, and it's been great to see her ask questions and wrestle with what it says. She shared with me that she joined TSCF's Bible study because she felt that joining the group would be a way to really get to know the Bible and this would help her as she considers following Jesus. The welcoming atmosphere and encouraging community are part of why she started to attend the meetings regularly. She writes, "I enjoy being a part of such a great community of people who want to follow Jesus that are just generally friendly and welcoming... I don't really find that anywhere else."

I love how Emma isn't afraid to ask big questions. One night last semester while we were cooking a vegan curry together for a Christian Union night, she asked me, "Do you think it's ok to eat animals? Where in the Bible is that?" As we drove to the Christian Union Bible study, we continued our

conversation, which was the beginning of many great chats! Since then, we have discussed the significance of the resurrection of Jesus, the nature of the Holy Spirit and a bit about different Christian traditions.

It's been encouraging to see how God has captured Emma's interest. At one of our meetings, we read about the hope we can have in the resurrection of Jesus, and these verses from 1 Corinthians 15:17,20-21 really hit us.

*"17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins... 20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive."*

We were both amazed at how, because Jesus was raised, those that believe in him will also rise. In a lost world that is seeking hope, it is such amazing news to know that Jesus offers life with him, now and forever!

Emma now believes that Jesus is God. She wants to orient her life around him, meet with other Christians, study the bible and ask questions about practical ways to apply the passages she reads. Would you please pray for Emma that her young sprouting faith would continue into lasting confidence and love for Jesus? Praise God for his continued work in the lives of students on campuses across Aotearoa who are searching for hope. Pray they would find it in Jesus. 🙌



## What's happening on Campus?

This year UC Christian Union has been trying out different approaches to engage our friends with the good news of Jesus. Each term we have held an event with a meal to which we can invite friends. In Term 1, just before Easter, we did a talk on 'Hope Beyond Death', followed in Term 2 with a Zoom talk by Rory Shiner (Perth) 'Resurrection: Hoax or History'. Recently we also screened the Case for Christ movie on campus. These

events complement students inviting their friends to investigate Jesus themselves through reading Mark's Gospel or inviting them along to our Wednesday evening Life Groups. It is super encouraging that two students seem close to faith this year. Please pray for them and for the other four or so students still investigating and many others who have come along to events. 🙌

\*Name has been changed



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