



HERE COMES THE SUN

2022 Annual Review



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

Reaching students for Christ,
changing students for life.

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Front Cover: 'Deliverance'
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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.

The **Annual Review** is for those who partner with us in our vision and mission to reach students for Christ. It reports on what God has accomplished through TSCF in the previous calendar year, as well as looking to what he is building for the future. This work is made possible by the grace of God and the generosity of our partners. This is a review of the 2022 year.

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Here comes the sun



Ben Carswell
National Director

Whenever I have the opportunity to fly somewhere I'm always hopeful that I'll be sat next to someone interesting who's keen for a bit of a chat. Recently, I was travelling in Europe and was transiting through Reykjavik. The passenger next to me was Icelandic, a country that I've met very few people from. As we flew together to London, we started chatting, exchanging the usual pleasantries. He was escaping the country's winter for some Middle Eastern sun.

The conversation itself was largely uneventful until the plane slowly turned, and gradually warm sunlight flooded the cabin. With a broad smile on his face, my fellow passenger turned and said to me "That's the first ray of sun I've seen and felt in a while."

As our conversation continued, I learned more about the importance of darkness

and light in Icelandic culture. What is known in summer as 'the Land of the Midnight Sun', feels more like a Land of eternal darkness in the depths of winter.

For two months each year, in the Northwest of Iceland, there is a small fishing village of Ísafjörður, where the sun does not rise above the surrounding high mountain tops, leaving the villagers with limited daylight. In late January each year, the residents of Ísafjörður, celebrate 'Sólar dagur' or 'sun day' as the sun finally makes its reappearance after the dark and gloomy winter months.

Around Iceland, the festival of *Sólarkaffi*, literally 'sun coffee' is celebrated. It's a happy occasion, enjoyed with pancakes after a long winter with no direct sunlight. It's a simple, but meaningful tradition, as Iceland farewells the darkness and looks forward to longer

and brighter days ahead. As I later reflected on our conversation and my Icelandic companion's joy as he expressed the delight of enjoying his first sunlight for some time, the similarities of his experience and the motif of darkness and light resonated with me. For the last few years in NZ, we have experienced what have felt like darker times. Whilst we have not experienced sickness or death on the scale of many around the world, the sense of living under the shadow of its impact is palpable.

Life in the shadows

Since 2020, we have had three years of COVID severely restricting our everyday lives and more specifically student mission on campus. Uncertainty about the future, cancellations and changes in the present, restrictions and requirements have all taken their toll. Border closures have meant international

student numbers have plummeted, whilst lockdowns have meant friends and families have been isolated from one another. Restrictions have brought division and led to reduced time on campus for many students. In my role as National Director, the past year was the most challenging of all three COVID years, as we responded to frequent cases of COVID amongst staff and students and the inevitable disruption this brought. Sadly, many of our student groups have experienced the significant impact of COVID and reduced in number with fewer students on campus and less likely to join in extra-curricular activities.

The light still shines

It is easy to look back on darker times with a gloomy perspective, but that would be far from the whole story! It is important to remember that the light hasn't gone, even

if we can't always see it clearly. Despite the challenges of the last few years, we have continued to see a small, but steady stream of students coming to a saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Similarly, from Auckland to Otago, we have seen students who have strengthened their walk with God and deepened their trust in Him as they have applied their relationship with Christ to all areas of their lives.

Looking back, it is truly remarkable that God provided for 'The Well' in Lincoln to be both built and opened in 2022, despite ongoing lockdown restrictions causing numerous complications. We have a continued commitment to creative initiatives that enable students to work out and live out their faith in community with others, so that students are both proclaiming the good news of Jesus and practicing it in their everyday lives.



It has been tremendous that, despite all that has happened, in each of the last three years, we have seen *The Mark Drama* presented on campuses around NZ, introducing students to the gospel of Jesus in a unique and compelling way. COVID restrictions meant we had to adjust quickly, trying online activities instead of in-person. Whilst we understandably prefer to meet face to face, it has been good to experiment with new ways of doing things, learning as we go along.

Over the last few years, we have been encouraged to see NZ students join our MINTY programme and a couple of those joining our staff team. Over recent years, it has been terrific to see a new generation of younger Team Leaders develop from within NZ, with all but one of our Team Leaders being 'homegrown'.

Whilst we sometimes may wonder 'what is God doing in the midst of a pandemic?', it

has been clear that the light still shines, even in the darkness.

Here comes the Sun

But like the people of Iceland celebrating *Sólardagur*, we are ready to say 'Here comes the sun!' and to celebrate a new dawn! As COVID moves from being a pandemic to endemic, in 2023, we are excited by the bright prospects of the future. For the first time in three years, students are able to meet

in person around the country for Orientation Weeks and Clubs Days. We are excited to be able to reconnect face to face! With international students able to return to our country and campuses, we are also delighted to reconnect with such a vital part of our mission and ministry.

As students from all over NZ and around the world return to our campuses, we are ready to continue our mission with a renewed sense of energy and excitement. At our core, we want to be 'reaching students for Christ and changing them for life'.

Whilst the experience of seeing my travelling companion's joy as he felt the warmth of the sunlight resonated with my experience of the pandemic and where we are now, it also reminded me of some deeper spiritual realities that are of greater consequence.

People are still in darkness

On my recent travels overseas, I met numerous people who commented "We'd love to live in NZ. It seems like paradise." And whilst it is true, we live in a beautiful country with so much of God's beautiful creation as our playground, we know there are also many

issues facing New Zealanders that make it far from 'paradise'.

A simple look at statistics on levels of consumption of alcohol, drug abuse and sexual promiscuity in NZ reveal a darker picture. We see each of these having a significant impact in the student context. The rise of wider social issues in society such as domestic violence, child poverty and youth crime highlight that all is not well in our world. Census statistics have tracked a steady decline in those describing themselves as Christian with more people describing themselves as having 'no religion' than any other religious affiliation. The decline is more rapid in Generation Z, to which many current students belong.

Whilst we have so much going for us as a country, the reality is that without Jesus, students are still lost in darkness.

People still need the light

Whilst it may be self-evident, when people are in the darkness without Christ, the solution they need is light and not just any light, but the light. In recent years, we have seen a significant proliferation of cults actively

recruiting students to join their darkness and causing widespread destruction in their wake. As TSCF, we unashamedly hold to the firm conviction that many students are in the darkness and in need of the light. We are 'Jesus people', proclaiming Him and Him crucified.

In my years of serving in student mission, it has consistently been one of the greatest joys to see students who have been '*called out of darkness into God's wonderful light*'. (1 Peter 2:9) Our prayer is that this year, across these islands, there would be many more students who would see the light and be drawn to it.

We have the light

As we read Scripture, it is clear that as Christians, our message is to call people '*to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me (Jesus)*.' (Acts 26:18)

Our message is simple. The light is Jesus! As Jesus said of Himself, '*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in*

“We want to see a generation of students ‘shining brightly like stars’... in our tertiary institutions”

darkness, but will have the light of life.’
(John 8:12)

Our message is about Jesus – the One who is the light, who exposes things in the darkness, who illuminates and transforms, leading us and guiding us.

As we move into a new dawn of student mission, we must not forget, we have the light and that light is Jesus. As student groups across NZ, there are all sorts of good things that we can be involved in as we share this good news, but in all we do, we keep this truth central – the light of the world is Jesus and if we follow Him, we have the light of

life. One of the incredible privileges of being involved in student mission is to hear students time and again sharing their experience of coming to know Jesus for the first time and we pray there would be more this coming year!

We are the light

One of the incredible truths of Scripture is that not only do we *have* the light, but with Christ in us, we *also become* the light. As Jesus said, *‘You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way,*

let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.’ (Matthew 5:14-16)

Jesus calls those who follow Him to be His lights, shining the light of Jesus brightly before others in the world and letting them see our good deeds so they glorify our Father in heaven.

Helping Christian students see the light, but also to know that they are called to be the light is at the heart of our discipleship of students. We want to see a generation of students *‘shining brightly like stars’* in the residence halls of our tertiary institutions, in

classes and lectures, seminars and labs, in the sports clubs and social groups, as they *‘hold firmly to the word of life’ in the midst of ‘a warped and crooked generation.’* (Philippians 2:15-16). And as they shine, they join a myriad of students around the world as part of our IFES family shining brightly in many dark places.

In Wellington where I live, two of the local Colleges (which have produced some of our students, staff and graduates) have as their motto *‘Lumen accipe et imperti’*, which translates *‘Receive the light and pass it on!’* Our prayer for students across NZ in this new dawn is that they would receive the Light and pass it on.

We know that some have been deeply impacted by COVID or are still living with the effects of the pandemic. Others may feel that they are moving on with life and do so with great joy. We are thankful for the wide and diverse family that makes up TSCF, and are grateful for your prayerful support in our mission. In whatever circumstances this finds you, I trust that the Lord is at work in your life making his light shine brightly within you for his glory. 4



Students at the Well, Lincoln.



Auckland



Josh Irving
Team Leader

"While 2022 saw a loosening of COVID restrictions, things were slow to pick up in Semester 1; our weekly meetings weren't well attended. But towards Semester 2, as more students returned to in-person learning, God increased our number and enabled us to build meaningful relationships within our group. In particular, the group was an important help to some who've been shaky in their faith or expressing doubts. Weekly times of sharing, Bible study, discussion and prayer greatly strengthened our belief in God. I am super grateful for the ways TSCF has encouraged us as uni students to be strong in Christ, and to remember our mission as Christians on campus."
Ichthus Choo, President of TSCF Massey Albany

These words from one student leader were a fair reflection of student mission right across Auckland in 2022. Although each of our nine groups experienced their own challenges and opportunities, the ebb and flow of the year was much the same for everyone. Semester 1 was largely—and, for some, entirely—online, making it difficult

to connect with new students and generate momentum. Semester 2 was a breath of fresh air, with a steady return of students to campus, and clubs expos attracting more students than usual. Each of our groups were pleased to add a few new members. AUT Christian Fellowship, which had struggled for numbers at the start of the year, effectively doubled!

Having been forced online for a considerable chunk of learning, for the third year in a row, many of our Auckland students expressed tiredness and reduced capacity. Learning through screens made it difficult to make new friends. Overall, the year became one of re-establishment and consolidation of existing relationships, more than organised outreach. However, for the Auckland contingent that attended TSCF's mid-year *Summit* in Queenstown, a week in 1 Peter provided a timely injection of missional impetus ahead of Semester 2.

Riding the momentum from *Summit*, four of our University of Auckland groups combined for Jesus Week. As hot chocolates were given out, students were invited to consider a question about 'hope'. In the conversations that followed, a surprising number of students were willing to hear more about the hope found in

Jesus. Further encouragement came through Jeremy, who subsequently attended the Christian Union's *Hope Explored* course; Taylor, who read Luke's Gospel with a staff worker; and Reece, who now has a Christian bus companion and is asking questions about Jesus and the Bible.*

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Weekly gatherings also presented gospel opportunities. At the Christian Medical Fellowship, Robyn Drake shared a personal story of how the gospel brings hope in chronic illness; Veritas (Christians at Law School) held an apologetics series; a 'relationships' panel was hosted by the Overseas Christian Fellowship; and English conversation and Bible classes were undertaken at Massey Albany. It is a joy to witness students digging deeper into Scripture and applying a gospel lens to the issues they are facing.

*Names have been changed to protect privacy.

Twenty Auckland students stepped up to lead their groups in 2023—many of whom have a good couple of years remaining in their studies. Once final exams were over, a number of these students gathered at Glenbrook Beach for a training retreat.

In Colossians, the Apostle Paul exhorts those who have *"received Christ Jesus as Lord"* to *"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"* (Colossians 2:6-7). We thank God for our TSCF students at Massey Albany, Unitec, AUT, and the University of Auckland, for the work of Christ in them, that they might live wholeheartedly for him and become more like him. We pray that, in 2023, many more of their friends and classmates would *"receive Christ Jesus as Lord."*

Finally, we give thanks for two additions to the Auckland staff team. In June, I stepped into the role of Team Leader (with Robyn Drake moving into a national role as Head of Resource Development). In August, Andrew Wilks joined as an associate staff worker. We continue to look to God for the provision of more workers for Auckland. 🙌

Waikato & Bay of Plenty



Dave Hodgkinson
Team Leader

"He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ." (Colossians 1:28)

A key focus last year was holding gatherings that were highly relational and fun – as well as enabling Christian faith to be explored. We wanted to provide extra time for students to develop friendships, given that spending time together has been less common in recent years, due to COVID.

In line with this approach, a new initiative at University of Waikato in Hamilton was moving our traditional evening meeting to a lunchtime. The first hour was lunch and chats - easy for students to invite others to. The second hour focussed on Bible study. Overall, it has been a real success, with a regular group of students attending. Through initiatives like these, we sought to embed TSCF's aim of Undivided Life, providing opportunities within friendships for students to see Christian life lived out, which can prompt questions, dialogue, and interest in exploring faith in Jesus.

Food and hospitality have been a key feature too. Last year the University of Waikato's Tauranga campus opened its first student hostel, housing 90 students. Our TSCF campus group ran a monthly pancake night in the hostel, to connect with students. Often such initiatives can be door-openers to friendship, and conversations about Christian faith.

A highlight of 2022 was Live Life! camp soon after Easter. Students from Hamilton and Tauranga headed to Taupo for a weekend of hanging out, outdoor activities, chats, board games, worship and learning together. We grappled with campus mission, focussing on the Holy Spirit, intercessory prayer and engaging students in conversations about faith.

We had an encouraging start to Semester 2. At the Clubs Day in Tauranga, our stall offered students a pack of Tim Tams in exchange for a short survey on faith, meaning and Jesus. This was well responded to and gave us a good number of students to follow-up. In Hamilton, our TSCF students developed a Student Survival Kit, inviting students



to fill out a quick online survey and enter the draw to win it. This gained plenty of attention on campus and resulted in several follow-up meetings where we walked through a four-session discussion of Christian faith. This both challenged and encouraged our students.

As always, Deep Thought has remained central to our efforts this year. Studies in Acts, Mark's Gospel, Jonah and presenting the gospel have provoked discussion and growth. Student leaders have grappled and been equipped to lead Bible studies and discussions. Over in Tauranga we held a four-week *Big Ideas for Lunch* discussion series in September. We publicised it well on campus and met new students who popped along to hear and discuss the environment, science and faith, shame and guilt, and identity.

We enjoyed thinking about Global Reach by joining two online national events last year, prompting us to think about the return of more international students to our campuses in the coming years.

Throughout all of these initiatives, our primary aim has been True Witness: proclaiming the unchanging good news of Jesus in word and deed, to students in a fast-changing world. A large-scale example was students performing *The Mark Drama* in Tauranga and the Waikato in August, to more than 700 people over three performances, and one faith commitment being made. Additional benefits were seeing our student groups strengthened in faith and vibrancy from being in the acting cast, and strengthened relationships with churches who hosted it.

In Tauranga in particular, campus foot traffic remains quite low. But it was a delight to see a Toi Ohomai student confess their faith in Christ in June and I had the privilege of meeting with them to explore Christian faith and discipleship regularly during the year.

We remain soberly aware of the thousands of lost students studying on campuses in the Chiefs region of New Zealand. On the back of the COVID pandemic we need to respond to the changing dynamics of campuses and students, whilst strengthening our groups, raising students up into leadership and most importantly, keeping Jesus and the Cross central in all we do. 4

Manawatū



Scott Mackay
Team Leader

I was chatting to a young adults pastor in the city recently about the tension between building community and engaging in mission. Often Christian students are looking for a warm supportive community and a place to make friends. And there's nothing wrong with that. But the idea of a witnessing community that is actively engaging the campus with the gospel, is just not what a lot of Christian students are looking for or ready for.

It's often tempting to create a small comfortable Christian bubble on campus. But that would be a mistake for a TSCF group. Firstly, students need to find a home church as their primary place of Christian community and discipleship. That's the best pattern for long term spiritual health. But secondly, it makes it much harder for TSCF groups to engage meaningfully with the student world. A smaller group of committed student 'missionaries' may actually have a bigger impact because of their clear sense of purpose. In this way TSCF groups can serve the church by acting as a bridge between the church and students.

At Orientation in 2022, despite the various obstacles (including the cancellation of Clubs Day, and most Massey lectures being online), we made around 300 contacts through our pizza voucher giveaway. We actually ended up with similar numbers of students at welcome events compared to the previous year, due to a better follow-up process. Over 20 new Christian first-years connected with us during Orientation, and we met up with about the same number of non-Christians individually.

Throughout the year, we've had various creative ways of connecting with seekers and sceptics. In particular, our Big Ideas Nights have developed into fun themed events on topics which intersect with the Christian faith. We had a very successful event on the topic *Does Marriage Have a Future?* with around 50 attending, and another called *You are What You Watch* on movies and TV consumption. We've also held *Grill A Christian* nights in the Massey halls and an Easter Bun giveaway.

Students from across the North Island.



Among our committed core team there is a genuine sense of Christian encouragement and deep relationships developing. Student leaders have also said they've appreciated the TSCF value of Deep Thought, that they've been challenged to think deeply about the Bible, theology, and the world, in a way that they haven't before.

We have had a few students profess faith for the first time this year. One was contacted by Melissa (a student leader) during Orientation, and only four weeks later she had decided

to give her life to Christ. While we continued to meet with her help her get established in the faith she made this comment, "I've realised recently just how empty most people's lives are. It's since I've become a Christian. I've realised people aren't living for anything!" What a blunt assessment of our secular age! At the same time, we praise God that this young woman has found a true and living hope in Jesus.

We had around fifteen non-Christian students doing evangelistic Bible studies in 2022. Towards the end of the year, we were

contacted by a first-year living in the residential halls on campus. She sent a message through our Facebook page saying that although she had no Christian friends and family, "I was wondering if engaging with some kind of faith would be a good idea". It shows amazing courage for a non-Christian to reach out like this. The student leader who has been meeting with her to read the Bible told me it's been an amazing experience, and something she has never done before. These are the experiences that create life-long Christian leaders. 4

Wellington



Matthias Loong
Team Leader

In Wellington, we began 2022 with the most campus restrictions ever experienced during the pandemic. Orientation week and Clubs days were severely limited in terms of people allowed at our stall and within indoor spaces overall. Yet, we were so thankful to God for our student leaders and their existing relationships.

Kim Shaw launched a new initiative called *Lunch with Luke*. Praise God for her tremendous work in starting a hospitality and Bible reading group in the Hub. What an amazing opportunity for students, not only to experience Christian community over a meal, but encounter Jesus in the Gospel of Luke. It was encouraging seeing students coming each week. Furthermore, Vic CF put on a movie screening of *The Case for Christ*. Thanks be to God for the opportunity students had to invite their friends to hear about the claims of Jesus and his resurrection.

By mid-year, campus restrictions were removed. As a result, there were more sign ups and interest in CF than ever before during this time of the year. I was struck by how important an in-person community is for students! Praise God for Kim and the student group who ran a retreat at Raumati. It was a time of encouragement, edification and refreshment.

Our dear brother in Christ, friend and colleague, Max Rideout went home to be with the Lord. We praise God for his faithfulness to Jesus and passion for the gospel. It was my privilege to serve in student ministry by his side. Many students testify to the impact he had on their lives. Mei continues to lead the Friday night international Bible study. In addition, she's discipling a student in China over video chat! I'm so thankful for her joy and perseverance in spite of all the hardship she's faced this year. Grief is a process. And our hearts

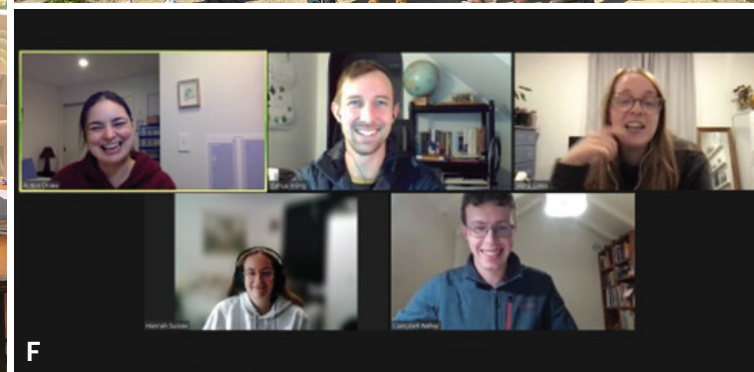
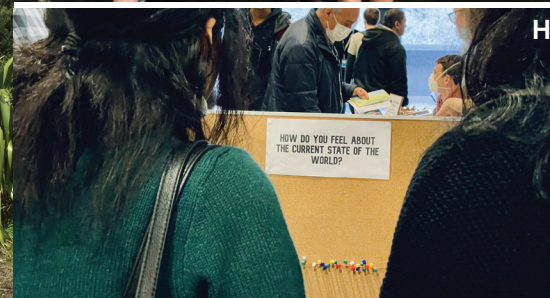
continue to go out to Mei and the rest of the Rideout whānau.

In the second half of the year, I had the joy of meeting up with the Vic CF grads each week. As a group, we looked at many challenges facing Christians in the workforce. It was a delight to see what the Bible says about a range of issues including the importance of belonging to a Church, its relationship with social action, a theology of vocation and facing doubt (just to name a few). Lively discussion abounded and God's word was confronting at many points. I'm so thankful for how God's Spirit is at work in our lives as the Scriptures are unpacked.

As I reflect over the year, there is one passage that stands out. Paul says, *"...In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace"* (Colossians 1:6). I'm so thankful for the commitment of staff and students to the work of the gospel on campus despite all the challenges of this year. May we continue to labour in this work in the years to come. 4

Lunch with Luke at Victoria University







Christchurch



Mark Santich
True Witness Coordinator and
Team Leader

In football they often talk about a game of two halves, and this last year has felt a lot like that at the University of Canterbury Christian Union. The first half of the year fell under the COVID shadow, with all its challenges yet there were still encouragements, the second half has shown glimmers of light at the end of the tunnel.

These last couple of years have felt eerily like the aftereffects of earthquakes in Christchurch in 2011 with the lack of first year student engagement for a few years. The first weeks of the year were extremely

CU exploring the Canterbury region.

challenging, at times down to one staff (KJ) and most student leaders needing to isolate for Clubs Days and our welcome events. Thankfully a number of students stepped up at the last minute to run everything in these first key weeks. This seemed to set the theme of the first half of the year. Students continued to step up during the first half of the year by inviting friends along to small groups, welcoming new people, and leading small group studies at CU at the last minute when people were sick or needed to isolate. Although students were trying to cope with all the added stresses of online learning they continued to serve when needed even often beyond their own comfort zones.

Throughout the year we sought to engage students by addressing questions of hope, meaning and purpose. During Term 1 we wrestled with the challenging wisdom and observations of the world in the book of Ecclesiastes and the meaning of life, followed by a series in Term 2 titled *What Really Matters?* During this first semester we sought to deal with the big topics that students were asking about hope and meaning with the impacts of loss of community

with online learning and a global pandemic affecting the whole world. It was encouraging that during this semester a few new students joined us and we had several visitors each week. During Term 2 we showed

“Although students were trying to cope with all the added stresses of online learning they continued to serve when needed even often beyond their own comfort zones.”

the movie *The Case for Christ* on campus and invited other Christian groups on campus to join us. It is a movie about an investigative journalist who tried to disprove Christianity but ended up being convinced by the evidence of Jesus’ death and resurrection that he became a Christian. We screened this movie in 2021 through which Joanna (a postgrad student) became a Christian and this year she gave her testimony before the movie.

During the second half of the year, we engaged with problems people have with Christianity and ‘the church’ using a series of short videos, discussion questions and Bible studies called *For the Love of God* by

John Dickson. It was helpful to deal with issues like slavery, religion and war, witchcraft and women, and grasp some positive contributions Christianity has had on western society (like human rights and humility as a virtue). The final term of the year we looked at various Psalms which helped us think about how we can cry out to God in our angst and difficulties and praise him for his ongoing goodness and faithfulness through trouble.

Through this year God continued to work in people’s lives with a small group of unbelievers meeting with our student president Matthew and KJ to investigate Jesus through Luke’s Gospel. It was also exciting to start to see some international postgrad students arriving back in the country and keen to learn about Jesus. Even though our group feels small, and we have quite a number graduating, we look forward to this new year with prayerful anticipation for what God will do amongst us and through us. Please pray for our ongoing faithful witness at UC. 4

Lincoln



Chris Hay
Minty Team Leader
and Acting Team
Leader

The start of 2022 in Lincoln University was very similar to previous years, excitement about a new year and the opportunities that it could bring. What might God do this year? Who might we meet? How will students be reached for Christ and changed for life? That excitement was also tempered with a reservation, the last two years have been disrupted, what might happen this year? Will there be in nationwide lockdown again? Will things be back to 'normal' again, whatever that means?

I've found James 4:13-17 an anchor over recent years, confirming that we never really know what tomorrow will bring, even though sometimes we have an illusion of control. The reality is we just don't know. Knowing this frees us up to simply be faithful to God with today and whatever it brings. We can stop wrestling with God in trying to know and take control over life. So that's what we did at Lincoln throughout 2022.

There were many encouragements through the disrupted year:

One encouragement was the start of the new residential community. *The Well* is an intentional student community across the road from the university. We are seeking to encourage community, Christian living and mission amongst students. *The Well* was a real blessing to all things Lincoln Uni Christian Fellowship, it was great to have a warm house so close to campus where we could have both formal and informal opportunities for mission.

The Well was also vital in the success of our Monday night Bible studies and training nights. In terms of student engagement this was the highest attended activity. Every Monday from 7.30pm till late 15-20 students would gather at *The Well* and simply open up the Bible and wrestle with what it says. We went through 1 and 2 Peter, Lamentations, 2 John, 3 John and Jude to name a few. It was a joy to see a regular hunger from students to study the Scriptures, including having non-Christian students get stuck into studying alongside Christian students.

The Lincoln University Christian Fellowship AGM for 2022.

One new thing we tried last year was a combined event with Christians in Science titled *Christ, Cows and Kereru*. The event sought to tackle the question of what does the Bible say and think about the environment? There is a clear emphasis on the environment at Lincoln campus now that wasn't as strong in the last 5-10 years. Students are regularly hearing about the environment, how it has been damaged, how can we better care for it. Should Christians care for the world, for animals, for the land? The highlight of this night was a number of non-Christian students coming simply because they had seen a poster hung up in the toilet. We had great discussion with these students throughout the night.

Although there has been much encouragement in 2022, we can also say that this mission work is seemingly more difficult now than it was before COVID. Reaching students for Christ and changing them for life in 2023 does not look the same as before. The times change but the core vision using the Bible to invest into and reach out to students at universities and polytechnics across the country with the gospel does not.

Thank you for your ongoing prayer and financial support that is making a difference in Lincoln University. 🙏



Otago



Simon Sim
Team Leader

"Be strong, all you people of the land," declares the LORD, "and work. For I am with you," declares the LORD Almighty... "And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear." Haggai 2:4-5

These verses in Haggai 2 provide encouragement in these times. As God's people return from exile and start again, they felt lost, weak, and fearful. God reminds them of His constant presence and gives them words to strengthen and embolden them. The task of rebuilding will take a lot of work, but God's Spirit will live with them. As we survey the Otago campus landscape after three years impacted by COVID, we also feel like we are starting again, rebuilding the groups, and re-engaging the campus. The work ahead is daunting, but God continues to remind us that His Spirit lives with us too.

The start of year was impacted by COVID, with many Orientation Week events cancelled, and students moving in and out of self-isolation. We began the year with online meetings, which made for slower start to the year - student groups were smaller, there were fewer opportunities to connect, and the added stress and fatigue on well-being. Despite the challenges, we are grateful for the students that have continued to meet and engage in the Bible studies, and for the opportunity to care for students during these times. We are also thankful that the second semester was less disrupted and provided opportunities to regroup and reconnect with our campus.

One of the changes this year was the formation of the Otago Christian Fellowship, a new student group formed by combining the Overseas Christian Fellowship and the Varsity Christian Fellowship. The Otago Christian Fellowship has been a small but engaged group - reading through Luke's gospel in Semester 1 and going through a series on *Big Questions* in Semester 2 - looking at topics such as truth, justice, and happiness, and what the Bible has to say.

Students share pizza and look at the Bible at the CMF Welcome Event.



jellybeans' competition.

The CMF (Christian Medical Fellowship) is run in partnership with CMFNZ. Despite starting the year online, the group has been able to connect with a good number of second year medical students.

One of the highlights was students organizing a *Saline Process Witness Training* event : a course designed to equip Christians in health-care to share their faith in a respectful, loving and truthful way. It was encouraging to see students equipped for evangelism and excited

to share their faith in Jesus to people they will encounter in their careers.

This year, we restarted the Dentistry Christian Group. The Dentistry School is a hive of activity, as students from different high-pressure courses make their way from class to class. The business is one of the main challenges we face in getting students to come to the weekly meetings. Nevertheless, it has been an encouragement to meet each week to read the Bible with the few regular students.

The task of rebuilding applies to our Otago staff team too. One of the changes is Rosie Sim

formally finishing her time as a staff worker with TSCF, as she spends more of her time in her new role as a mother. She continues to support the work informally as my partner. Please pray for more staff to join the team. We would love some company!

There is still much rebuilding to do as we think about the start to the new year, but we remain confident and hopeful, as God's Spirit promises to remain with us. 4

The Well



Tim Hodge
Head of Development
and Training

The Well is TSCF's new residential community for students which facilitates outreach, hospitality and discipleship. It's right opposite Lincoln University, named after the woman at the well in John 4. After meeting Jesus, her life and those of the whole town are transformed. That's the same aim for *The Well*: for it to be a place for many Lincoln students to meet Jesus.

After hard work from builders and contractors, 1st February 2022 was the day the Selwyn District Council granted final consent, and it was also the day the first residents moved in. Nine students have lived together in *The Well* in 2022, ably supported by TSCF Associate Staff Penny Keast as Community Coordinator. Those living in *The Well* commit to at least three faith-building activities a week, such as morning prayers for classmates, a Bible study and intentionality around inviting classmates to meals and Bible studies. Those activities, and the general posture of all residents to be outward looking, come from *The Well's* foundational verse: We pursue peace and the building up of one another (Romans 14:19).

It's not always been easy, but there has been so much joy:

- To have construction completed on time (just!) and on budget, despite COVID-induced building delays.
- To see students who know nothing of Jesus engage with God's word in *The Well*.
- To see Christian students living in *The Well* work through joys and frustrations of community living.
- To see the purpose-designed and purpose-built house perform as expected, both in terms of warmth and in terms of use.
- To have so many TSCF supporters throughout New Zealand, and all over the world, enthusiastic about *The Well*
- To have local churches so supportive.
- To have many in Lincoln help with planting the gardens and celebrate God's goodness on the Open Day
- To see the residents of 2022 changed to be more like Jesus and to see the residents of 2023 excited about what God might do in them and through them in the months ahead.

We're so grateful to God for all those who've been part of the establishment of *The Well* through praying, donating, working and visiting. Thank you! 4

Global Reach



Kim Shaw
Global Reach
Coordinator

After two years of closed borders, students were eager to embrace opportunities to connect with the world beyond our shores. In 2022, we have run two national, online Global Reach Initiatives to facilitate this as we transition back towards more face-to-face interactions with international travel options restarting.

In June, *The World at Your Table*, with Emma Brewster from SIM in South Africa, encouraged students to prepare for the arrival of international students in Semester 2, offering hospitality and friendship as expressions of the good news of Jesus. Students responded with ideas of signing up with the university's international student buddy programme to help new arrivals settle in. Others became more intentional about inviting international students for dinner or a coffee.

In Wellington, a hospitality initiative called *Lunch with Luke* gave the opportunity to invite new students to connect with the radical good news stories of Jesus in Luke's gospel over soup and rolls. Amanda, a student from Vanuatu who had just arrived at Victoria came along. She writes, "Meeting new people every week with the same passion to know more about the wonderful works of Jesus, and how He broke through barriers in people's lives through the simplest form of hospitality, a meal! In a world that's broken, a meal (just soup and rolls) could be the healing someone is searching for!"

In September, *A Night in the Pacific*, joined student groups from TSCF and Fiji's Pacific Students for Christ (PSFC) to share stories of God's work on their campuses and to pray for each other. Students were excited to hear about the prospect of future *Global Reach Journeys* and *South Pacific Regional Conference* (SPARC), with the opportunity to meet in person.

At our annual missions expo at *Summit*, students enjoyed meeting representatives from various mission organisations and hearing about the people and places where they could serve overseas with the training they are currently pursuing. Giving students a taste of the many and varied ways God uses his people to bring hope and transformation to the peoples of the world is such a key part of helping them look at the future with a Kingdom of God mindset. 4

Finance



Caitlin Ormiston
Chief Operating Officer

It's been another unusual year, hasn't it?! With COVID overriding plans early in 2022, we anticipated that ministry would be significantly impacted again, and did not know what the financial implications would be. Consequently, we were so pleased to be able to run all three national gatherings through 2022: our annual Staff and Families camp, Staff Training at the end of the year, and, most crucially, Summit, our national student conference, in July. *Summit* was impacted by high costs of travel with the price of fuel impacting the whole travel industry, but despite slightly smaller numbers, the level of engagement throughout the week was incredible. It was clear again the high value of putting this training on for TSCF's students and groups.

The Well was our biggest change to the financial picture of TSCF. The building work was completed at the end of January and the building fully compliant on 1 February, just in time for our first students to move in that same week! The costs of running *The Well* for the year were break-even, meaning that we were able to run the residence at an appropriate rental rate and meet the needs to keep it functional, whilst providing support to see it develop as an intentional Christian community.

Of course, *The Well* also leaves us with a mortgage to repay, which exists as a liability on our balance sheet, but this is managed by the existence of the significant fixed asset that comes from having a completed building on the land. At the beginning of 2022 we took out an additional \$85k onto our mortgage to cover the final costs of completion. This meant that we started 2022 with a mortgage of \$535,000. We give thanks for so many generous donations towards the building that continued through the year, such that we received a further \$130,000 towards *The Well*. In mid-2022 we repaid a lump-sum \$35,000 off the mortgage. Although relating to the following financial year, I am pleased to report that due to the additional donations received we were in a position to repay a further \$100,000 off the mortgage at resettlement in February 2023.

Maggie's farewell



All this means over the past 12 months we have reduced our mortgage from \$535,000 to \$377,000. Thank you so much for your partnership in this! If you would like to contribute to the continued reduction of our mortgage, so that we can ensure that operating costs are returned directly into ministry, you can do so by visiting tscf.org.nz/the-well or phoning the office (04 384 7274).

Much like 2021, 2022 was a year in which income stagnated and expenditure was managed carefully to ensure we could meet our

costs. Our staff team contracted slightly, which has impacted both our income (much of our support is connected to specific individuals) and expenditure (reduced by virtue of fewer salaries and expenses to cover). We have also seen a small decrease in income year on year (when donations to *The Well* are removed), against rising costs of inflation.

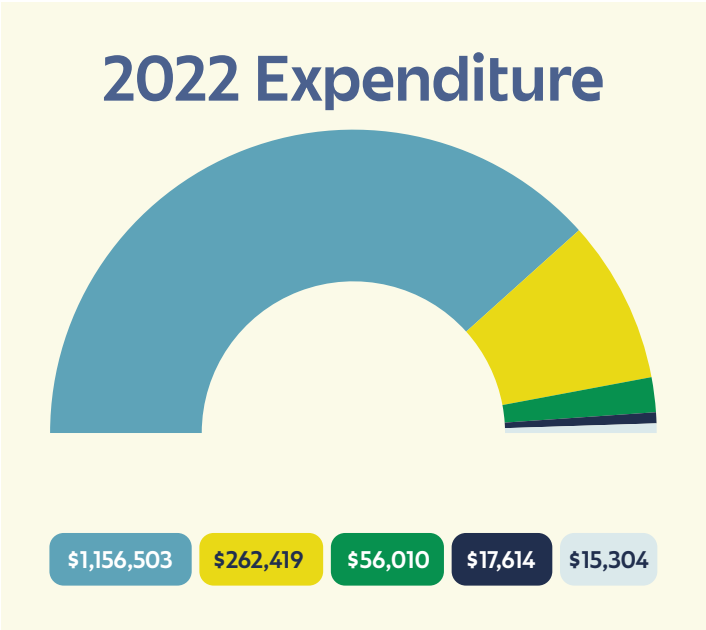
Working hard to ensure we don't spend has become a necessity in the COVID era, but this is not a long-term sustainable mode of ministry. We are looking to grow our funds, in particular

our core funding. We seek to reconnect and rebuild, but it requires funds to have more to flex to grow – whether that's by having seed funds in place to help new ministry staff coming on board, supporting new on campus group initiatives or equipping our communications team with funds to appoint vision-led staff.

Thank you so much for your donations, gifts, and prayerful partnership which enables students to reach their peers for Christ. We couldn't do this without you. 4

Finances

The bulk of TSCF income comes from donations received from individuals supporters, partner churches and trusts. A portion is also generated by core activities, events such as our national Summit conference, and student communities income, The majority of these funds are spent directly on the costs of the project they are generated from, or on related projects.



- 77% Staff Ministry Costs**
Making up a large part of our annual expenditure, these funds enable staff to work with students on the ground and contribute to the national vision and strategy of TSCF.
- 17% Ministry Support, Office & Leadership**
This includes governance and the administration required to run national projects and events, and the resourcing of field staff for ministry.
- 4% Student Residential Communities**
These exist to provide intentional gospel-focused community. The expenses relate to our provision of the residential properties, community activities, pastoral support and training events.
- 1% Regional Activities**
Includes camps and local activities tailored to the specific region.
- 1% Events**
Includes our Summit national conference for training and equipping students for the mission on campus



Income	2022	2021
Donations	1,504,808	1,595,606
Revenue from Ministry activities and student communities	98,090*	203,691
Revenue From Events	12,864	16,520
Total Income	1,615,762	1,815,817

*Income and expenditure has decreased from 2021 due to the cessation of the Harbour Light Base accommodation ministry in Dunedin.

Expenditure	2022	2021
Staff Ministry Costs	1,156,503	1,221,426
Ministry Support, Office and Leadership	262,419	287,528
Student Communities	56,010	223,948
Regional Activities	17,614	22,385
Events	15,304	23,473
Total Expenditure	1,507,850	1,778,760
Surplus	107,912	37,057

The Well	2022	Mortgage
The Well Donation Income 2022 (not included above)	132,208	
Surplus from The Well Operation	503	
Mortgage balance at 1 January 2022		(450,000)
Borrowing to complete construction & fitout		(85,000)
Principal repaid via monthly installments		18,514
Payment to reduce The Well Project borrowing 2022		35,000
Payment to reduce The Well Project borrowing 2023		100,000
Mortgage balance at 31 March 2023		(381,486)



Partner with us!
Every donation to *The Well* will reduce the interest burden on *The Well* operating costs and enable increased ministry at *The Well* and beyond.

If you'd like to support The Well or our work amongst students more widely, please visit: tscf.org.nz/ar22

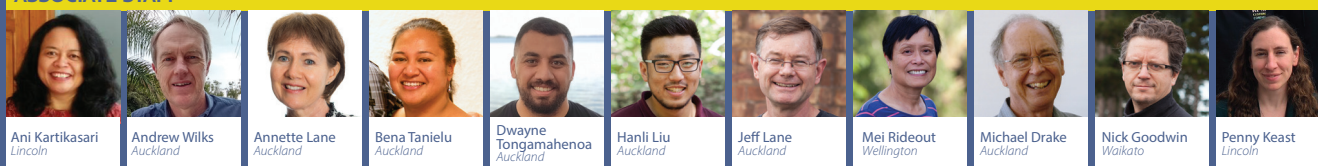
As you read this we trust and pray that it encourages you that God is at work in the lives of students being impacted by TSCF. If you would like a copy of TSCF's full accounts please email John Riley, Finance Officer at johnr@tscf.org.nz

Meet the team

STAFF TEAM



ASSOCIATE STAFF



Find out more about our staff and their regions by visiting tscf.org.nz



FAREWELLED STAFF



CALLED HOME

WITH THANKS TO

Rachel Turner
David Lawson

OVERSEAS

Ruth and Josue Hicks
de Olmedo
(CECE Ecuador)
Alice and Zach Smith
(GBU Italy)

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Stuart Lange
Animoa Gool



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



[tscf.nz](https://www.tscf.nz) [tscf.org.nz](https://www.tscf.org.nz) [tscf.nz](https://www.tscf.nz)