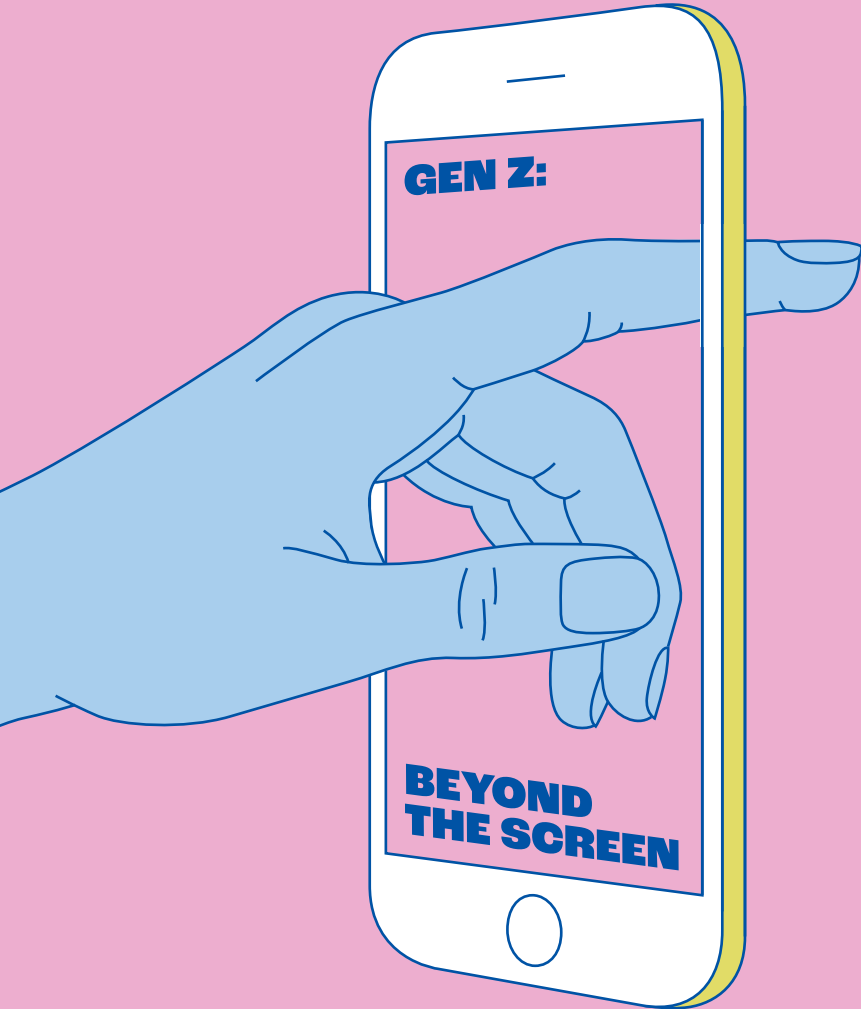


ISSUE 96 | Summer 2023-24

canvas

TERTIARY STUDENTS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP'S MAGAZINE

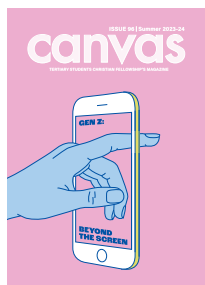




He ākonga ki ngā ākonga hei ara whakawhiti mō te Karaiti.

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).



Editors
Kate Irving
Rachel Turner

Graphic Designer
Tessa Baty

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.

TSCF

PO Box 9672, Marion Square,
Wellington 6141
+64 4 384 7274
www.tscf.org.nz

CANVAS GREEN

If you would prefer to receive a digital version of *Canvas*, please email canvas@tscf.org.nz.

In this issue

- 4** Gen Z: Beyond the screen
- 8** IFES World Assembly 2023
- 11** IFES and TSCF celebrations
- 12** Prayer Matters
- 14** Reflection on *The Mark Drama*
- 15** Regional Spotlight on Waikato / Bay of Plenty
- 20** Lessons from *The Crossing*
- 21** Noticeboard
- 22** Leaving a legacy

Thank you so much for your continued support of TSCF. Your kindness and generosity this year has meant that students across Aotearoa New Zealand have been impacted and challenged by the claims of Christ.

If you would like to make a donation, please scan this QR code or visit www.tscf.org.nz/canvasgive



“For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.”

Psalm 100:5



Kate Irving
Communications Manager

In this issue of *Canvas*, we wade through crisp colours and tech-inspired minimalism to dive into the world of Gen Z, and ask: who are the students God is calling us to reach today? What are their hopes and dreams? What might be their unique contribution as co-workers with God in His mission?

We consider one of our four aims, Global Reach, and hear from students who were part of our Kiwi contingent at World Assembly, and our local initiative, *The Crossing*. We also get to know our Waikato / Bay of Plenty staff members and campus groups, and hear how God has been at work amongst students there.

I pray that this issue will be an encouragement to you, that you would see God at work in our students past and present, and that it would give us great confidence in his ongoing work among the students of Aotearoa, NZ.



Gen Z: Beyond the screen



Kate McClelland
TSCF National Leadership Team
(Lincoln)

Born in the Screen Age, Gen Z are today's 9 to 24 year olds, they are the largest generation in the world, with an annual purchasing power of over \$150bn globally. They will make up 27% of the global workforce by 2025 as they take over the reins of the world economy from millennials.¹ The so-called "selfie generation" has also been dubbed the "open generation". But what makes Gen Z unique? What are their anxieties and their ambitions, and how might we encourage these young people to find their unique part in God's big story?

At the recent NZ Christian Leaders Congress, Josh Irving (Auckland Team Leader) and I led a workshop on reaching Gen Z. Together we presented the material below including some voices from students in tertiary education from both Auckland and Lincoln.

1. Growing up slowly

Today's Gen Zers are taking longer to embrace adulthood in both the responsibilities and pleasures. This seems surprising in a world that appears to race the growing up process! Access to porn, sex education and trends are all happening at seemingly younger and younger ages.

I remember turning 15 and my birthday present was sitting my driver's licence. Freedom, independence and my own sense of control... I couldn't wait! Today obtaining a driver's licence and other rights

to adulthood are increasingly delayed as young people put off these milestones. With the overwhelming number of options available for careers and life choices it is thought that many young people want to take a breath.

Whether a young person grows up slowly or quickly, there are unique opportunities to come alongside them as they transition to adulthood: to be part of their lives, to offer support with the numerous decisions they are making and to point them to Jesus.

***"Most of my friends are Christian and trying to know him more. It's hard at times and I think it would be helpful to have more mentors in our lives."* – Marion**

Reflection: What opportunities are there to come alongside and mentor young people as they transition to adulthood, discipling them in following Jesus?

2. Virtually connected

Gen Z grew up with cell phones, and by cell phones I mean smart phones. Facebook and Instagram were part of their adolescent years and with the invention of Google they never needed to flick through shelves of encyclopedias to find out if whales sleep (they do!). Gen Z are incredibly virtually connected. Their social lives and connections with people thrive through the numerous apps at their fingertips.

However, this has often been at the expense of in-person relationships, "I'm with you, but only virtually". Smartphones are never out of sight and often accompany us wherever we are, even in the company of others. A Gen Zer commented to me recently how much she enjoyed talking with people older than her as they weren't usually scrolling on their phones as they chatted.

Despite the increasing online presence, Gen Z have a longing for in-person relationships. It's a self-perpetuating cycle where more screen time results in less in-person social interactions, which results in more loneliness, leading a person back to more screen time.

There are opportunities to engage with young people through modelling hospitality and healthy diverse communities. Or as one

Gen Z student, Daniel, said, "Experiencing the love of God through discussions, sharing of food and sharing our lives with one another".

We might conclude that screen time and social media are all bad. However, this isn't the full picture. Phones and the apps they contain bring connectivity and resources. It is near impossible to ignore the impact they have in our day to day lives as we use our phones in personal, work and study life.

Reflection: What opportunities are there for technology as a tool to reach others for Jesus? How can we encourage safe spaces for young people to learn being present in-person with one another?

3. Anxious and insecure

The dark side of the impact of social media is, of course, the impact on young people's mental health.

This generation looks so happy on the surface, posting smiling pictures with their friends on Snapchat and Instagram. But, dig deeper and all is not as it appears. Insecurity, anxiety and depression are increasingly on the rise, and it comes as no surprise that research points to social media and technology as a significant contributing factor, on top of the worries of climate change, the economy, housing, and stability in the job market.

"There are many people who are looking for their fulfilment in material things, such as an achievement, but once they get it, they feel empty because it didn't meet their expectations, and this can lead to mental health problems." – Olivia

Reflection: The Bible prepares us to face loneliness, anxiety, depression and sadness in life. How might we equip Gen Z and each other from the hope in God's word and the big story they are part of?

4. Seeking authenticity

While it may seem that the increase of social media leads to a lack of connection, Gen Z long to be connected. Not just on the surface, but deeply and genuinely connected, and in relationship with people.

I recently heard a story of a youth pastor being told by a young person in their community, "Oh, you are just paid to be my friend". There is an underlying scepticism and doubt of organisations and churches, and their true intent in relationships with young people.

Gen Z long to be part of communities which are honest and vulnerable.

Reflection: How can we connect with others in genuine relationship?

5. Seeking impact

The "selfie generation" care deeply for the world around them. Whether poverty, mental health, racial injustice, sexual abuse or climate change. Their response is often, "How can I bring my unique value to this situation?" as opposed to a collective response.

"I think one of the greatest causes of hope is the possibility of change and being either its catalyst or a partaker of it. Many people I know, myself included, desire to bring change in the communities we live and serve in for the betterment of life. I think this is because everyone is burdened by a need they see, and if it is in their power, seeks to address it and make living easier both for their neighbour and themselves. Many people seek to be a beacon of hope and have relevance to the world, being and doing good." – Luyanda

Reflection: As Christians walking alongside young people how can we model both theology and practice of justice together?

Although there are some challenges today that are new for Gen Z, there are also many that generations before have faced. Values and desires may shift but the need for authenticity and action, for community and justice, and to find answers to the big questions about the meaning of life are shared.

As we seek to reach this generation for Jesus, and to equip them to reach their communities, we look to understand their unique circumstances as well as apply the timeless truths of the gospel that never change.

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/jun/07/power-hungry-hedonists-survey-reveals-what-drives-generation-z>



IFES World Assembly 2023

Every four years IFES hold a global gathering of representatives of the student movements across the world. It is a joyful celebration of the unity we have in Him and how He is working through us. Each World Assembly TSCF send a delegation of staff and students to represent New Zealand and to bring back all they learn and experience to share with us.

At World Assembly 2023, in Jakarta, Indonesia, TSCF was represented by: Christina Bateson, Ethan Tattersall, Hannah White, Liam Hunter (Student participants); Kate McClelland (who also represented TSCF on the World Assembly programme team), David Hodgkinson, KJ Millar, Ani Kartikasari (Staff/Associate staff); Ben Carswell (National Director); Tom Broughton (TSCF Board); Animoa Goold (outgoing IFES Board Member and current TSCF Vice President); Paul Windsor (IFES Board Nominee, now elected, and current TSCF Board Member).

We asked Hannah, Liam, Ethan and Christina to share with us what they learnt and experienced and the memories that they will treasure.

What was a favourite new dish or snack you tried?

H: Indonesian fried noodles were a highlight. They were served for breakfast, lunch, and dinner with a variety of noodles, seasonings and vegetables. They tasted great!

L: I never would have thought that I would be eating fried rice for breakfast, but by the end of the conference I was fully on board with the idea!

E: There was so much good food, but the fish dishes and tropical fruit were amazing!

C: I enjoyed all the fruit that was available at every meal. Many of the people I met shared snacks from their home countries. These included snacks from America, the Netherlands, Europe, Thailand, Mexico, and Finland.

What was one session or part of the conference that you wish you could have brought your campus group to and why?

L: I wish I could have brought my whole fellowship to every main session because they were filled with so much wisdom from the Psalms. One of my favourite sessions was when Reverend Kuzipa Nalwanba from Zambia spoke from Psalm 90 and challenged us to think about what it means for a student to gain a heart of wisdom. The Psalm helped us to understand that time is a gift, human life is only meaningful when guided by God and that's God's greatness puts human finitude in perspective.

E: The "Engaging the University" session by Vinoth Ramachandra was very impactful for me. He gave great advice on how to engage students on campus, by "changing the conversations that change the world."

C: We met in small groups to discuss sessions, I think I would have liked to share that experience of discussing important topics with people who have the same aim, but a different cultural background and approach. It was an opportunity to hear

other perspectives that I usually wouldn't and to think about where my perspectives (and those of my TSCF campus group) come from.

H: One part I would have loved to bring everyone from Christian Fellowship to would be the night sessions. There was a range of topics such as creation care, mental health, justice, and a few others. It was a chance to delve into how God had intended us to look after the planet, our minds, and all people and although we fall short, and sin has taken captive of so many people, there is hope and we serve a just God who cares for us.

Tell us about somebody you met at World Assembly. What was it that struck you about them?

E: I met a staff worker from Latvia who shared an amazing story of how they found Jesus.

C: I met a student who lived in a country where it is very difficult to be a Christian. He was the only Christian student on his campus. His perseverance was inspiring.

H: I met a student from Canada. She was raised in a Muslim family. She decided to go to church where she gave her life to Christ. This impacted her whole family and now they are all Christians. She is a kind and caring person always putting others before herself she is a great role model and truly inspiring.

L: Charlie was one of my roommates and is from the Philippines. He had such a heart for God and his passion for ministry and sharing the gospel was infectious. He was eager to learn about NZ and what my fellowship was like and was awesome to share stories with and hangout with during the conference.

Hannah White (third from left) from Lincoln University with other WA delegates at a main session.

What is something that was surprising or unexpected about World Assembly?

C: With everyone being from different nations and contexts, I expected that we would all be dealing with very different issues on our campuses. While for some that was true, there were lots of questions asked by students from nations very different to New Zealand, that I think were quite relevant to what we deal with on our campuses.

H: One thing that surprised me was the diversity and large representation of people at World Assembly. Not only was every continent represented, but over 160 countries were there. I found myself having deep conversations with people I just met, and I loved how everyone was so open to praying for each other too. It was a great time of encouragement as we heard from new movements that have been established and of others that have seen incredible growth.

L: I was really struck by was the overall unity of the conference. There were 845 delegates there from all different walks of life and vastly different cultures and yet we were all united by Christ. The only way to describe the conference was it was truly a little slice of heaven, where people of every tribe and tongue gathered to worship the Lord and share in fellowship.

E: I was surprised at how consistent the theology and values were for everyone I met at the conference. I found it easy to connect and talk about deep issues (particularly in the small groups) with students and staff from around the world regarding their respective contexts. It revealed to me how universal and relevant Jesus' teaching is to all people. It was like we were citizens of an invisible kingdom, with a very special connection through the body of Christ.

What is one lesson you will hold on to?

L: I came home with a new perspective on global ministry and the work that God is doing throughout the world. But something that really struck me was what we learnt in the session on Psalm 105 and 106 which painted the picture of our unfaithfulness and God's faithfulness. I will continue to trip up, but I can be certain that God is always watching over me and his faithfulness will never fail me.

H: One lesson I learned is that God can use each one of us to plant seeds in those around us. Time is short, and we must unite as a body of Christ to expand God's kingdom. So, I have learned that I need to be ready and available to allow the Holy Spirit to work through me. God wants a relationship with all humankind and as a Christian, it's important to answer tough questions and be open to spreading the gospel wherever we are.

C: Don't worry so much if you can't do ministry in the same way that others can. Find what you can do and do it well.

E: The main quote that stuck with me was 'Think Global, Act Local'. This will encourage me in the future to remember that the acts I do in my local community can have global effects, and it is important to keep that in perspective.



Student participant Christina Bateson (second from left) enjoying the company of fellow delegates after a meal.

IFES and TSCF celebrations

In November, PSFC (Pacific Students for Christ) celebrated their 50th anniversary. We thank God for sustaining and growing this movement, and for the gospel partnership we have shared through short-term mission trips, the South Pacific Regional Conference (SPARC) and through some of their students attending our national conferences. We pray that they will continue to flourish and that we will be a mutual blessing and encouragement to one another.



Delegates from PSFC and IFES celebrating with the PSFC team.

Massey University Christian Fellowship also recently celebrated a significant milestone of 75 years! The anniversary celebration overflowed with stories of God's faithfulness through generations, from students past and present.



Some of the legendary staff workers over the years, from left to right: Ian Reid, Scott MacKay and Mark Grace

National

Global Reach

- Pray for students who have joined short-term teams to explore God's mission in other parts of the world over summer.
- Pray for international students preparing to come to Aotearoa to study in 2024 to experience a warm welcome from Christians on their campus leading to an openness to the gospel.

Minty

- Pray that God would continue to guide us as we review the Minty programme.
- Pray that Minty would be a year which invests in graduates well and helps them to be faithful and fruitful for God for a lifetime.

The Well

- Thank God for the 2023 community hosting so many students.
- Thank God for local churches investing in the residents.
- Thank God for donations that have gone towards paying down mortgage.
- Ask God for the 2024 team to gel well, especially those new to Lincoln.
- Pray that there would be a continued focus on hospitality, outreach and discipleship.
- Pray for a good working relationship with a newly appointed property management company.

Resource Team

- Give thanks for the growth in the team this year. Pray for continued formation of this team over the coming weeks and months.
- Pray for our annual staff and families camp in January, for a fruitful time of fellowship and prayer as we look to the year ahead together
- Pray for strength and clarity for the finance team as they prepare to close off the financial year at the end of December and beginning of January.

Regional

Auckland

- Thank God for three Auckland students who've made first-time commitments to following Jesus and pray they would connect deeply with God and Christian community over the summer.
- Pray for God's blessing upon students who are travelling and/or working over the break, that they will know God's peace and rest ahead of their return to campus.
- Pray for Auckland's 30 student leaders who will lead our region's campus groups into 2024. Pray that they would know God's wisdom and vision as they prepare for mission on campus.

Waikato/BOP

- Pray for students to find rest and renewal over the summer break, getting into life-giving rhythms of worship, prayer and reading God's word.
- Festival One is set to run in the Waikato over Auckland anniversary weekend (end of January). Pray for TSCF students and staff to make great connections with students that we welcome into the TSCF Student Lounge.

Palmy

- Thank God for a student who became a Christian after attending the Hope Explored course, and one-to-one Bible studies with Scott.
- Thank God for both Marina and Scott who have both wrapped up their time on staff. Thank God for their faithful service ministering to students. Pray for the next steps, that they may continue to know God's guidance and grace for each new chapter.
- Thank God for His faithfulness throughout 75 years of ministry in Palmy! Thank God for a chance to reflect on and celebrate this.
- Pray for God to provide new staff to continue His work in this region.

Wellington

- Pray for a staff team leader for the Wellington region who will strengthen and encourage student leaders to serve God, equip them to make Jesus known and help them grow in confidence in the gospel.
- Thank God for the stability of returning leaders and that they would be refreshed in their own walk with God over the summer and inspired with fresh vision and enthusiasm for the mission ahead.

Otago

- Praise God for the new and continuing student leaders for next year. Please pray for them as they prepare to serve on mission to their campus next year.
- Please pray for students who will be away from their Christian community during the summer months, that they will continue to keep close to God.
- Please pray for Simon as he embarks on his sabbatical and continues with his study. Pray that he will be able to balance his time, priorities, and commitments well. Pray for him and his family as they travel to Malaysia, that their time will be fruitful, restful and restorative.

Christchurch

- Thank God for an encouraging semester with around 25% of students involved in CU Life Groups investigating Jesus.
- Pray for the CU 'Summer series' reading through a chapter of Acts each Wednesday night. Pray that students would continue to invite friends and come to put their trust in Jesus.

Lincoln

- Praise God for the great work that He has done on the Lincoln campus throughout 2023 including a handful of students who have committed to following Christ.
- Praise God for the group of students committed to *The Well* for 2024.
- Please pray for the Lincoln students who are dispersed throughout NZ many doing practical work for their studies. Please pray that they would learn to work well for God's glory and that summer would be a helpful time for their love and service of God.

Pull me out and put me on the fridge to keep TSCF in your prayers!

Reflection on *The Mark Drama*



Mufan Zhang
Studying Master of Teaching English
to Speakers of Other Languages (MTESOL)
University of Canterbury

It was truly my honour to participate in *The Mark Drama* in September this year. *The Mark Drama* is a fast-paced and theatre-in-the-round performance of Mark's gospel, one of the accounts of Jesus' life and work.

Several months ago, when I first learned about *The Mark Drama*, the scheduled performance had to be cancelled. Though I was disappointed, who knew I would later join this wonderful acting group and be a part of it?

I'm an introvert and feel reluctant to step out of my comfort zone, even for something I'm passionate about. God knows my personality: He has patiently guided me along the path through the influence of two people. Angelia was a classmate in an elective course I took several years ago. After the first lesson, she asked the Christian lecturer many questions regarding testimonies shared in the class, giving me the courage to join their conversation. This was the start of my faith journey, and over the course of the following year, as I investigated the Bible with the lecturer, I became convinced that Christianity was true and gave my life to Jesus.

As well as Angelia, my partner, Tina, inspired me to join *The Mark Drama*. She kept encouraging me to engage when our director, Claire, was looking for the cast. I eventually agreed, despite having some unpleasant memories of the public stage! I prayed and put my trust in God.

It turned out that the performances (one at the University of Canterbury and one at Lincoln University) were a great success. I played many different roles, including a pig farmer, one of the Twelve, and Simon, the host of the Last Supper. As I experienced these stories in a dramatic way, the roles I played really deepened my understanding of Mark's Gospel.

Furthermore, our performances immersed both the actors and our audience in an intimate atmosphere. As we act out the gospel story, we see the authority of Jesus, and we feel his great love for all of us. In Him we grow, in Him we find salvation, and in Him we gain eternal life. We pray that seeds were planted in the audience's hearts and that in the future, by God's grace, they will grow, even into skyscraping trees.

Thanks to Tina, the team members, and everyone involved, especially our director Claire, who once put so much effort into directing us. Together, we have made a significant impact, and I look forward to our continued journey of sharing the good news.



Mufan in action at the University of Canterbury.

Growth and change in TSCF Hamilton group



David Hodgkinson
Waikato/Bay of Plenty team leader

STORY
OF
CHANGE

When I began with TSCF in 2017 I picked up the reins from Andrew and Li Lian Lim, leading TSCF's work in the Waikato, but with a significant difference: being based in Tauranga to pioneer student ministry in the Bay of Plenty. I'm grateful to God for providing colleagues Nick Goodwin and Nadine Liddle to oversee TSCF's work in the Waikato. This story of change focuses on the TSCF Hamilton group at the University of Waikato, in recent years.

True Witness – Growing in boldness to engage the campus

Over time TSCF Hamilton students have grown in their confidence in the gospel and desire to reach out to students. A key catalyst for this was performing *The Mark Drama* in 2021 and 2022. Through this, students grew in courage to be true witnesses.

The TSCF Hamilton group has increasingly used Orientation Weeks to connect with students creatively. This year they carried a 'Student Survival Kit' around campus. Students were invited to enter the draw to win it and the online entry form invited students to meet with a TSCF student to discuss Christian faith, with over 60 students being open to this.



Students carrying a "Student Survival Kit" around campus. / Close up of the Survival Kit.



Home Base community gatherings – weekly on campus

Students attending the weekly *Home Base* gathering have become part of a vibrant group of Christian students. Inductive Bible study following lunch together, has become a regular rhythm. Following the Covid-19 pandemic, time has been needed to allow students to re-form friendships. *Home Base* has enabled this, with average attendance increasing from 12 to 22 students per week.

Deep Thought events, one-to-one discipleship

Deep Thought is one of TSCF’s four aims and is encapsulated by Romans 12:2: *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind....”*

Forums on Science and Faith, and talks on Suffering and Evil have sought to help students work through some of the big questions of life, as have Alpha course content. Current student leader Liam Labuschagne reflects, “attending the Waikato Student Union Club awards and being nominated for a community award made me very proud of our club and reminded me of how important a voice for Christ is on our campus.”

Developing students into leaders

Raising up a new generation of student leaders is an ongoing focus of TSCF. Recent Club President Christina Bateson comments, “TSCF has offered lots of opportunities to practice and develop leadership skills. I have attended retreats and workshops that focused on evangelism



Students and staff at 'Live Life' regional camp in April this year.



Students and staff on a walk through the Kaimai Ranges in March this year.

and had support from Nadine and Nick and the other student leaders while learning how to help run a functioning club, chair meetings and run events, all while keeping the focus on our mission.”

Salvation and faith commitments – we rejoice and pray for more, in a sea of lost students

We’ve had a small but steady, and we sense long-lasting, number of students making commitments to follow Jesus in the last few years. Newly-saved students have been welcomed into the existing group and encouraged to join a church.

All this has been really exciting for our student leaders to see and participate in. We sense that each month, semester and year over the last seven years, and even before that, has contributed to where things are at now.

We rejoice and pray for more, realising that whilst we have enjoyed growth in our campus group, there remain thousands of students to reach with the gospel on the University of Waikato campus, and on many other campuses across the nation.

The Faces & Places of TSCF Waikato/Bay of Plenty

Staff profiles



Dave Hodgkinson

Waikato/Bay of Plenty Team Leader – Tauranga (Full-time)

Dave has served with TSCF since 2017 and was part of TSCF's Victoria Christian Union group as a student. Having come to faith in Jesus as a 1st year student in Wellington, he loves helping students deepen their faith in the Lord through studying the Bible. Previously a high school teacher and project manager, Dave enjoys golf and mountain biking.



Nadine Liddle

Campus staff worker – Hamilton (Part-time)

Nadine has been serving with TSCF since 2018. She grew up in California and has worked in student ministry in the USA, South America and Europe. She married a Kiwi and is now part of the team here! Nadine's passion is to see students come to Christ and grow in the Lord. In her spare time Nadine enjoys walks and heading to the beach.



Nick Goodwin

Associate Staff Worker – Hamilton (Part-time)

Nick has been serving with TSCF since 2017. He is a PhD graduate of Waikato University and previously worked in the healthcare field. He is Associate Pastor at Raleigh Street Christian Centre in Cambridge and Assistant Chaplain at Waikato University. Nick loves to help Christians relate their faith to their studies and seeks to equip students to present Christianity in a credible way in the university context. In his spare time Nick enjoys gardening and music.

Existing TSCF Campus groups

HAMILTON

TSCF Hamilton – at University of Waikato

Our region's largest and longest running TSCF group, with an established student leadership team. Regular rhythm on campus revolves around Wednesdays, with prayer before *Home Base* (12-2pm – lunch and chats during first hour, followed by Bible study).

TAURANGA

Te Pūkenga/Toi Ohomai Christian Fellowship – Windermere

TSCF's first group in Tauranga (started 2016). Usually meets on Tuesday lunchtimes. Student numbers have fluctuated over the years but there has always been some students keen to meet, though no formal student leadership team. Part of the IFES *Breaking New Ground* initiative

TSCF Tauranga – University of Waikato CBD campus

Began in 2019 when New Zealand's newest university campus began operating, in Tauranga's CBD. Meets Wednesday lunchtimes and has had a small but dedicated group of students since its inception. A key initiative is a monthly pancake night at the nearby student hostel, Selwyn Street Studios.

Potential TSCF Campus groups

We are keen to pioneer student groups at the following campuses:

Please contact daveh@tscf.org.nz if you know of people at these campuses, who could benefit from or help lead a campus group:

Te Pūkenga/Wintec – Hamilton CBD

We have had a small group run here in the past and would love to re-start this group.

TSCF Rotorua – Te Pūkenga/Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology – Mokoia

We've run Orientation Week stalls here on and off since 2017, trying to connect with students. However, nothing has taken root firmly.

TSCF Tauranga – BTI (Bethlehem Tertiary Institute)

No formal student group runs currently, but a warm invite has been extended for students join to TSCF Tauranga gatherings in recent years.

Te Wānanga o Aotearoa – Waikato & Bay of Plenty campuses

Keen to pioneer here if there is interest or demand.

Lessons from *The Crossing*

A Global Reach Initiative



Ayolabi Martins
Auckland University Student
Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Laws Conjoint
and Diploma in Languages – Chinese

Shortly after starting university, I was presented with the opportunity of joining the TSCF community to join an annual Global Outreach initiative; aptly titled: *The Crossing*.

As an inquisitive mind, passionate to learn more about how best to spread the gospel, I willingly signed up and several weeks later I attended our first online session. The next few months flew by and at the end of the programme, I was genuinely left wanting to learn more. From teachings on the importance of engaging with a diverse array of cultures, to understanding the value of meeting people's physical needs and finally advise on joining local and global mission teams, the content of *The Crossing* initiative was truly jam-packed.

We were given the privilege of hearing from speakers and leaders in the field who blessed us with many wonderful insights and an abundance of wisdom regarding how best we could all individually utilise our God-given gifts to touch others and ultimately transform lives for the benefit of God's kingdom.

On a personal level, embarking on this initiative has played a pivotal role in my journey as a Christian. I surrounded both

by like-minded and driven individuals excited for the plans God had for them, and I was also surrounded with voices of encouragement that propelled me to step outside my comfort zone and share the gospel with those around me.

After completing a session activity we were encouraged to do a reflection which really helped me to understand my thought process (fears and anxieties) and the subsequent outcomes of my endeavours to share the gospel with others. This deeply reflective process also allowed me to plan for future outreach efforts which over time, and through marginal gains, dramatically shifted my style from one of timidity to one of complete confidence.

Hosted by Global Outreach Coordinator, Kim Shaw, and the wider TSCF team, *The Crossing* is a brilliant crash course that teaches how we can all engage with our communities and wider societies to further propagate the gospel. Whether you're already a seasoned speaker at church or just a new believer, there's something in this for everyone and I highly recommend it.

The Crossing is TSCF's annual Global Reach initiative. It consists of six 90-minute sessions during the tertiary semesters. If you are a student or know of any students who would like to join us in 2024, please email Kim Shaw, our Global Reach Co-ordinator at kims@tsmf.org.nz to register your interest and receive more information early next year.

Farewells...



As the year comes to a close, we are sad to farewell Scott Mackay from the TSCF staff team but rejoicing as he leaves us take up the role of pastor of Christ Sanctuary, the church he and Jess have been part of in Palmerston North for the last four years.

Scott was a student and student leader in Palmy (2004-2005), on staff in Christchurch (2006-2009), and then returned to the position of Team Leader in the Manawatū in 2019 after studying at Moore College and working as an Assistant Pastor.

"I first met Scott when he was a university student in Palmerston North, nearly 20 years ago. Since then, it's been a joy to see him, in various roles, 'do the work of an evangelist' (2 Timothy 4:5). Scott takes this injunction seriously. I've seen so much evidence of that with Scott as a TSCF colleague, and I've every confidence God will continue to work in and through him in his new role as local church pastor. Scott moves from TSCF staff to TSCF supporter, and we'll miss him on the TSCF staff team, but we're delighted that he's continuing to labour for God's Kingdom in the Manawatū." Tim Hodge (TSCF Head of Training and Development)

...and welcomes.

We are delighted to welcome to the staff team Wilma Reinders and Alaina Eckert.

Wilma has joined the Resource Team as PA to the National Director. Wilma writes, "I was married to Andrew for 26 years and we were blessed with four wonderful children – the younger two are still at home with me, one is living in Christchurch, and one is flattening close by. In God's sovereignty, He called Andrew home in 2016. It's been a journey since then, but God has been gracious and kind and has upheld me and the children wonderfully well – God is good!" Wilma loves crafting, swimming in the rivers and sea, and walking their Golden Retriever. We are delighted that Wilma has joined the team to assist Ben as he leads.

Alaina joins us as an Associate Staff Member in Lincoln. A Lincoln graduate, with a Masters in Nature Conservation, Alaina loves doing life with students as they walk through big questions and engage with God's word. She also loves good books, baking bread, tramping, and SCUBA diving.



Leaving a legacy



Sue Godbaz (née Howell)
TSCF Graduate and former staff worker

In 1979, I didn't know that I was the sort of person that people in TSCF were praying for. On my first afternoon on the Lincoln campus, the orientation table was staffed by Jenny Somervell. She was a friend of my sister and her Mum had taught me French. She had just completed her Bachelor of Horticultural Science, and I was on day one of mine! She invited me along to the CF group that week. I only said 'yes' so as not to offend her but was actually intending not to do any church stuff now I'd left home.

Many of the Lincoln CF-ers became enduring friends. I attended a weekly cell group and in God's goodness, it was the perfect group for me. There was one week when I realised that they took the Bible super-seriously. Being a stubborn woman, I had to be honest and said, "I know the Bible is a big deal to you guys, but it's over 2000 years old, therefore redundant and I don't take it like you guys do". Bill Adam, the leader, paused and quietly said, "That's ok and we're just glad that you are a part of our group". In



the ensuing months, my cell group buddies' accounts of the reality of the Lord speaking to them through Scripture and in their day-to-day lives left me flabbergasted! God knew that if anyone had directly challenged what I believed, I would have run a mile. Yet, while their range of denominational views was clearly divergent, they all had a united mandate to major on the major things of Christianity and had agreed to disagree about any other issues.

In some ways, I was a bit like CS Lewis, feeling like the most reluctant convert in all of New Zealand. This was partly since it was definitely un-cool to go against the grain of the average Kiwi secular humanist mores.

Since graduating with BHortSci in 1983, I've worked with MAF, been part of the TSCF staff team, been a full-time Mum at home, completed post grad study, worked in local government and become a resource consent planner.

Over the last 40 years I've been involved in a number of churches as work or marriage

moved me round New Zealand. These solid local churches have been fantastic at practicing corporate worship and giving a real sense of manaakitanga in small home fellowships. Though much of my spiritual formation has come from the local church, and I am very grateful to my loving parents (who both died tragically before their time) and sisters who have given a stability that I now realise is not that common, I need to say that TSCF has taught me so much that would not have come with any clarity from elsewhere.

I feel I owe my life to TSCF in that this was the first real presentation of Jesus to me that got through. It has shown me the relevance of our Lord in every aspect of daily life. TSCF has hugely influenced the course of my life choices through:

- Social Work Internship Scheme (SWIS): taught me tolerance of those different to me.
- Teaching me that we severely limit God's work on earth if we over-admire or mimic our favourite Christian 'heroes'.
- The overnight Hui at various Marae where the disenfranchising of Māori has been explained by Māori Christians.
- Clearly teaching me to major on the major points of the gospel in church life and wider fellowship.
- Showing me a huge range of inspiring biblically literate role models and setting a high view of Scripture in my core.
- The sex talks at TSCF conferences were the only ones that I had heard from any Christian entity!
- Canvas magazine has been a great resource for me as a grad.

In the meantime, God has led me to give to TSCF financially and through intercessory prayer. About ten years ago

TSCF supported Ric Foxley to approach graduates to consider leaving a legacy to TSCF. The idea sat on my back burner, then in 2014, when I was revising my will, I felt God's invitation to remember TSCF. It became abundantly clear that a legacy is a complete matter of joy to me. It fills me with thankfulness, that even when I shuffle off this mortal coil, that our Lord can still be using me, outside of the construct of time for the good of student mission. The core TSCF values of influencing our culture in New Zealand through students and grads that live an undivided life, for student-led mission on campus, for biblical literacy, for servant leaders in society who become independent thinkers and not parrots of their Christian gurus.

Maybe you, dear reader, might wish to join me and put a legacy to TSCF in your will?

Become a Legacy Partner

By remembering TSCF in your will you will help future generations continue the task of reaching students for Christ. If you would like to leave a gift to TSCF in your will, please scan this QR code or for more details visit www.tscf.org.nz/leave-a-legacy/



Image on left: Sue and the CF Cell Group she led in '82 / Image on right: CFers all dressed up and having fun!



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)