

An Army of the Ordinary

TSCF Annual Review





2023 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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Designer Grace Finnigan

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 2023 year.

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An Army of the Ordinary,

'We need to raise an army of the ordinary'. These simple words brilliantly summarise the remarkable story of Sir Nicholas Winton, who was for many years at the centre of one of the most unknown and unheralded rescue stories of all time.

Nicholas Winton's story had largely gone unnoticed by the world, but that all changed in 1988, when he was invited to the BBC television programme *'That's Life!'* and his story began to be told and recognised. This past year, Sir Anthony Hopkins played Winton in the feature film *'One Life'*, which told the remarkable true story of his life and particularly his efforts rescuing Jewish children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia.

In 1938, Nicholas Winton, a young British stockbroker, visited Prague on holiday. Whilst there, he became involved in welfare work as he saw Jewish families at risk from the Nazis. For three weeks, based out of their hotel in Prague, Winton and several accomplices arranged for the rescue of Jewish children and evacuation to Britain, travelling across an increasingly fraught European continent.

Seeing an immense need, Winton responded to the call. He had a vision to save as many as he could, protecting and providing for their immediate need and long-term futures. Calling on the help of many others, remarkably, Winton ultimately found homes in Britain for 669 children, most of whose parents were later killed in the Auschwitz concentration camp.

Winton draws together ordinary men and women, to achieve his vision. Together with friends, they work alongside the Czechoslovak Refugee Committee and the British Committee for Refugees from Czechoslovakia to bring foreign volunteers together for his mission. To rescue the children, they

God of the Extraordinary

need to raise funds, seek the permission of several governments for travel, provide practical resources to enable as many children as possible to be moved to the safety of Britain and then to source families and homes to take the children in and care for them. It truly is a case of 'an army of the ordinary' working together to achieve something quite incredible.

The vision of raising 'an army of the ordinary' to participate in an incredible rescue is one that resonates for TSCF. For more than 80 years, TSCF have sought to raise an army of 'ordinary' people to be part of God's work, as students are witnesses for Jesus on the campuses of NZ. We're nothing special, but like the Corinthians Paul describes,

'not many were wise by human standards, not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not

– to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before Him.' (1 Cor 1:26-29)

In fact, humanly speaking, we may feel and seem entirely 'ordinary'. At times, we can feel discouraged by the relative weakness of our force, or overcome by the scale of the task, but under God are used extraordinarily to achieve His mission.

Time and again in Scripture, we read of God taking and using something that is quite ordinary and using it to accomplish His purposes. The stories of Jesus feeding the 5000 and 4000 are recorded by both Matthew and Mark in their Gospels. As we read their accounts of Jesus feeding hungry people, there's much we can learn from the stories told.

In both situations, a large crowd gathers around Jesus. One is in a Jewish setting and the other amongst the Gentiles, but in both the crowd are hungry and have nothing to eat. Jesus' response to the crowds is telling. He is far from ambivalent to their plight.



Ben Carswell
National Director



Auckland students praying for each other at Summit '23.

He has compassion for the people because of their situation. With the 5000, Jesus asks His disciples to source food, which He then multiplies. Whilst with the 4000, the disciples, perhaps mischievously or maybe forgetfully ask, “Where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?” The answer tells not so much ‘Where can we feed them?’ as ‘Who can feed them?’ In both stories, the story is all about God’s miraculous provision in the face of a bleak situation. The One who owns every animal in the forest and the cattle on a thousand hills (Psalm 50:10) could have taken matters into His own hands and made food from nothing. But instead, he takes the meagre resources of just a few loaves of bread and a few small fish and multiplies it for the masses. And in doing so, the people who were hungry, eat and are satisfied.

While God chooses to use ‘an army of the ordinary’ to help feed the masses, we are reminded that the main point really is about ‘a God of the extraordinary’ who takes our limited

resources and multiplies them for His glory. Our God is not simply a God who provides, but a God of abundance. We worship and serve the God of plenty — the One who accomplishes far above and beyond what we ask or imagine.

As we look back on the past year, we recognise that God is at work even in what seems to be very ordinary or mundane. After the frustration of Festival One being cancelled due to heavy rain and flooding, we were delighted to be back in person on campuses connecting with new and returning students at Orientation weeks across the country. Whilst student numbers have been generally down, the level of interest and engagement of those who are around seems to be markedly higher.

Student camps and outreach events were back on the radar. It was good to be back doing the ‘bread and butter’ of student mission. It is so often in these ‘ordinary events’ that we see God do His extraordinary work. In Lincoln, ‘*The Well*’ continues to grow in its identity and impact, as

students understand more of what we are doing and join in with the community. It’s been thrilling to hear reports of students meeting regularly to study the Bible and pray together, as well as using ‘*The Well*’ as a base to connect with students from the university.

We continue to use the ‘*Mark Drama*’ to connect with students and creatively share Jesus from the pages of Scripture. Kim Shaw has ably led ‘*The Crossing*’, an initiative which help students think about Global Reach and consider their part in God’s global mission.

At times, it feels like our resources are scarcer than we would like. We would love to see our staff teams grow across the country, and we are particularly stretched in Wellington and the Manawatu. In both regions, we are looking for Team Leaders and staff to support the work. Elsewhere, some of the groups still feel the impact of the pandemic and are smaller in number than we would like. Sadly, this seems to have been a trend for many student clubs and

societies, but thankfully is not true everywhere.

Our annual student conference, *Summit* was another highlight in the year. For various reasons, it is becoming increasingly challenging to get students to attend, but those who do frequently speak of the life-changing impact these gatherings have. We were delighted to have current IFES Vice Presidents, Cassells and Hazel Morrell speaking on the theme of Grace from the book of Galatians. It was also a real joy to reconnect with the global IFES family at the ‘*World Assembly*’ held in Jakarta, Indonesia. It was great to take a team of students, staff and Board members, to listen and learn from our brothers and sisters around the world.

After many years praying for the work in Auckland, we’re excited to have seen the team grow. The arrival of Katie and Lance Knight, who have joined the Auckland team from ‘*InterVarsity Link*’ in the USA, is a great example of partnership with our IFES family. Our year started with the flooding at Festival



Top: Lincoln students at Orientation week.
Bottom: Students gathered at Launch Waikato/BOP

One and finished with a significant flood in our national office in Wellington. Although it could have been much worse, the freak weather event meant a large amount disruption for our office support team in their vital work. Along with changes to the area around our office, this incident highlighted the need for us to seriously consider relocating our office elsewhere. We are actively seeking suitable premises that will enable us to support the wider work for the next season of ministry. We ask for your prayers that 'the God of the extraordinary' would provide just what we need in a miraculous way.

Winton's story was largely unknown, until nearly 50 years after the event, when Winton's wife found a detailed scrapbook in their attic, containing lists of the children, including their parents' names and addresses of the families that took them in. He gave the scrapbook to Elisabeth Maxwell, a Holocaust researcher and wife of the media magnate, Robert Maxwell. From there, Winton was invited as a member of the audience of the BBC programme, *'That's*

Life!, where his scrapbook was shown, and his achievements explained. During the show, in a memorable moment of television, the host introduced Winton to some of the children he had helped to rescue with whom he had lost connection. Winton was subsequently invited to a follow-up episode, where the host asked whether anybody in the audience was among the children who owed their lives to Winton, and if so, for them to stand. In an incredibly moving moment of television, more than two dozen people stand and applaud. The host then asked if anyone present was a child or grandchild of one of the children, and the rest of the audience stands.

We would love to see the work of student mission grow, recognising we may never know the full extent of the fruit this side of eternity. Over the next five years, we are looking to God to help double the number of students attending and involved in TSCF activities, double our staff team and double our funding to resource this work. It seems a mammoth task for this

'army of the ordinary', but for 'the God of the extraordinary', all things are possible. When the Lord Jesus returns, we hope that there will be many who were saved through His work through TSCF, and many more saved through them. We cannot imagine the possibilities of what God can through obedient, willing acts of faith.

Our 'army of the ordinary' is far more than students, it's also our supporters, local churches and our growing staff team, who join together to see His rescue mission on campus fully resourced. Thank you for playing your part in God's extraordinary work and we invite you to join us as we look to Him to take what we are able to give Him to allow Him to work, multiply and satisfy for His glory.



Left: Canterbury CU farewell gathering for graduates.
Right: Students at Summit '23



Otago Report

“Student ministry is all about passing it on and sharing the good news of Jesus, and it often begins with small sparks of light.”



Simon Sim
Otago Team Leader

“It only takes a spark, to get a fire going, And soon all those around, can warm up in its glowing, That’s how it is with God’s love, once you’ve experienced it, You spread his love to everyone; you want to pass it on.”

I remember this song from Sunday school; it communicated a real and deep truth in words that a child could understand. The gospel, the message of God’s love that has come to us in Jesus, is like a spark that starts a fire, which spreads and grows to bring light and hope to those around us. Student ministry is all about passing it on and sharing the good news of Jesus, and it often begins with small sparks of light.

As I reflect on the year at Otago, it has been a year of small sparks and shimmering lights.

On Wednesday evenings, the Otago Christian Fellowship (OCF) meet for their weekly Bible study. It’s been great connecting with new international students as they return, and to see the group steadily grow through our initiatives at Clubs Days. This year, we explored the topic of mental health and how the gospel brings light and hope in the darkness.

Over at the medical school, the Christian Medical Fellowship (CMF) meets each week to read the Bible together. We have been going through the book of Daniel. It has been helpful and relevant, as they seek to follow Jesus and be faithful in the secular and ethically complex world of healthcare.

Some highlights of the year include the *Reflect Conference*, where medical professionals and students gathered for a one-day conference in Dunedin to engage with this year’s theme of *Imago Dei* (Image of God), and how it relates to their vocation and God’s mission. The student leaders also organized a field trip to *Servants Health Centre*, a clinic founded by Christians which provides free healthcare to

the community and demonstrates God’s love through their service and care.

Across the road at the Otago Dentistry School, a new group of students formed a group called *Seeking Light*. The group meet weekly in the common room for a short Bible study or devotion and prayer. One of the True Witness highlights was packing and distributing study snacks to their classmates, sparking conversations and invitations to join the group.

For the new student leaders, it has been a learning experience. One of them reflects:

“Leading isn’t easy. It requires preparation, organisation, and inviting people... but what I was most afraid of was that all my actions would be put under a magnifying glass, and they could affect peoples’ view of Christians. I used to be afraid of misleading someone or not knowing enough about the Bible. But when will you ever be fully prepared? With God, our hearts matter first. If we are willing to be used by Him, to passionately seek Him, and to humbly listen and learn from others then God will equip and provide.” – Youyu, dentistry student

God of mind and body... God of study and snacks

We are grateful for our growing team! This year, we welcomed Timothy Marshall and Matthew Woodfield to the Otago team as associate staff. Both are TSCF graduates, and it has been wonderful to have them join us.

Finally, we thank God for the support and partnership of others. We are grateful for the TSCF Support Group which meets for monthly prayer meetings, many of whom were involved as students. The Otago Combined Christian Groups has been a network and outlet for gospel partnerships, where the love of God shines brightly.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:15 that ‘no one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket’. It is always shared, passed on, and it illuminates everything. Though the sparks are small, their impact can be great. Under God’s good hand and with His help, we pray that we may continue to see the sparks ignited and the light and warmth of the gospel being passed on to students on campus.



Top: OCF staff and students on the Pineapple Track.
Bottom: Students Luke, Isaac and Gabrielle at OMF Reflect conference.

Lincoln Report

"It has been very refreshing to serve alongside brothers and sisters in Christ all longing for the same thing: for Christ to be known and glorified at Lincoln University."



Chris Hay
Lincoln Team Leader

When I think of Spring, I think of new life. I think about all the lambs, calves and animals being born, I think about the cherry trees blossoming and plants sprouting to life. Things which were dormant are now bursting into life. That's kind of how things have felt at Lincoln this year.

It won't come as a surprise but student work over the past few years has been increasingly difficult, COVID certainly played a part in that, but I don't think that was solely to blame. There was still much to be thankful for and much good that God did, however it certainly felt like there was a lot more resistance and lower student engagement. This year it has felt like things shifted a bit.

One verse that has been on my mind for many years has been Matthew 9:37-38,

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'the harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'"

I have mainly been thinking about the first part of the verse, 'The harvest is plentiful' I genuinely believe that there are many students at Lincoln who are keen, eager, longing for answers that the good news of Jesus provides. That the harvest is in fact plentiful.

This year however I have been reflecting on the latter part of the verse, 'The labourers are few' the thing that has struck me however is the Lord of the harvest seems to be answering the prayers of many and sending more gospel labourers to Lincoln. We have, over the course of the last few years, had a number of faithful brothers and sisters reach out to say they want to help to build God's kingdom at Lincoln. This has led to a beautiful gospel partnership with others on campus. Every Wednesday lunchtime we gather in the small chapel on campus to pray for Lincoln, there are people from many different organizations: Navigators, Athletes in Action, TSCF, Lincoln University Chaplains,

God of gospel partnerships... God of food and chat

Lincoln students and staff. This time has been incredibly rich and has been a pleasant reminder that it is the Lord's work, and he will provide the labourers. It has been very refreshing to serve alongside brothers and sisters in Christ all longing for the same thing: for Christ to be known and glorified at Lincoln University.

Another way which ministry life seems to be flourishing is our weekly Bible study. Each week we have had 15 or more people gather at 'The Well' (see p.26). We eat, we chat and then we study the Scriptures. The Bible studies have always had high engagement, often ran overtime, and always had a mixture of Christians and non-Christians. It seems quite simple but it's incredibly encouraging. It's a joy to see students grow in a love for God's word and have eye-opening moments as God speaks and shapes them through it.

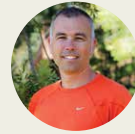
I wanted to especially thank those who pray and give to 'The Well'. I am confident that one of the reasons for the Bible study flourishing has been the blessing of having 'The Well' over the road.



Top: End of year dinner for The Well.
Bottom: The Lincoln CF leadership team and Chris bonding at an escape room.

Canterbury Report

“2023 has been such an exciting year with so many people exploring Jesus, this has increased our trust in God as we trust Him to do his work by his Spirit to help people see Jesus for who he is.”



Mark Santich
Canterbury Team
Leader

A vibrant campus again

This year has been a refreshing change with the campus feeling vibrant once again with the bustle of students. There have been many encouragements this year at CU. Two students who joined us this year had recently become Christians and a third new student became a Christian in first semester. One of these new students had been investigating Jesus with the Wellington TSCF group last year and moved to do postgrad at UC, it is such a joy to partner in the gospel like this. Each one of them has been growing rapidly in their love for Jesus and love for the lost which has been a delight.

International students

This year has also seen an increasing number of international students return to campus. We started a small group, headed up by Eli and KJ, as part of our Wednesday night CU Life Groups to help students with lower levels of English comprehension. This group grew steadily throughout the year making up around a quarter of our group by the end of the year. Most of these students knew nothing or very little about Jesus, or Christianity, when they joined us but have grown in their understanding. We have had students from many different countries: China, India, Taiwan, and New Zealand. It is a reminder that the gospel is not bound by culture or country. One student was gob-smacked by Jesus' resurrection, when asked what he thought he said, "I will need to think about this more, I have never heard anything like this before". Six weeks later he brought a friend along telling him that he had to come along to learn about God too. Please pray that God would continue to work in the lives of these students.

Being flexible

At the beginning of this year the student leaders and staff had planned out our teaching programme for the year, but we had to change our plans for the third term to do the Christianity Explored

course to cater for the number of people wanting to explore Jesus. Students used the opportunity to invite friends along to CU and it was an encouraging time with great discussions. Students with atheist, Hindu and Muslim backgrounds came along, as well as people with no religious background.

We also had the joy of being able to perform the Mark Drama with Lincoln CF in Term 4 at both Canterbury and Lincoln Universities with around 100 people attending each performance. It was fantastic timing having just been through Mark's Gospel with Christianity Explored. We had three non-Christians join us in the cast. They loved it. One student especially has grown immensely through the experience, asking many questions and enthusiastically reading the Bible. Please pray that God would help these students to put their trust in Jesus.

An increased desire for training

With so many people exploring Jesus, the Christian students at CU were keen to learn how

to better share their faith with their friends. It has increasingly become difficult to find times when everyone can meet for training due to timetable clashes amongst students. To address this, we ran six different training slots. We deepened our understanding of the gospel, learnt to share our faith using 'Two Ways to Live' and spent time praying for our friends and for opportunities to share our faith.

Trust in God

It has been a joy to have KJ serve with us in Canterbury for the last three years and we are sad to farewell her, but we are thankful that she will continue to serve God with TSCF in Auckland in 2024. 2023 has been such an exciting year with so many people exploring Jesus, this has increased our trust in God as we trust Him to do his work by his Spirit to help people see Jesus for who he is. Please join us in praying that God would complete his work in the lives of these students that they would know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.



God of every nation... God of drama

Top: Mark Drama rehearsal.
Bottom: Renee, Mark and KJ.



Left: Seeking Light dentistry group at Otago Dentistry School distribute snacks.



Top right: Canterbury CU students.



Bottom right: Wellington students at Summit '23 and student discussion at Summit '23.



Left: Students from Palmerston North at Summit '23.

Top right: Victoria CF students at a retreat.

Middle right: Waikato/BOP students at Summit '23.

Bottom right: Lincoln Christian Fellowship Bible Study held at the Well.



Wellington Report

“With travel having become much easier again, we started to see a slow trickle of international exchange and longer-term students. We sought to offer gospel friendship and hospitality as well as opening the Bible with them.”



Kim Shaw
Global Reach
Coordinator

Rebuilding

Victoria Christian Fellowship started to rebuild their club from the ground up with a few faithful leaders who continued to be committed to seeing Jesus be made known among the students there. With travel having become much easier again, we started to see a slow trickle of international exchange and longer-term students. We sought to offer gospel friendship and hospitality as well as opening the Bible with them. Having a more culturally diverse group was refreshing as we heard different perspectives and questions which helped the group's social and spiritual growth.

Establishing

Committed to growing a community of hope, the group met weekly on Tuesdays for Bible studies and dinner. We started the year with a study of Mark's gospel discovering the foundational, trustworthy truths of God.

Flourishing

Going away to a Wairarapa farm for a weekend camp in May was certainly a highlight giving the opportunity for friendships to grow and for the vision of the group to be grasped.

The student leaders took a plunge in the deep end and decided to set up a cake and chat space in the hub last week for a chance to connect with the wider student body and start up conversations with whoever was keen for it. There were some good conversations and it happened to also be “Sex Week” on campus, with a lot of other groups seeking to offer students resources for safe sex, and probably promoting a wide range of ideologies in this highly diverse space. This meant there were a lot of people around in the hub at the time, which made it easier to have a presence, even though they were obviously not connected with the agenda of “Sex Week.” Being present and offering alternatives to

God of starting again... God of reaching out

the trending ideologies takes courage so this was a great learning opportunity for them as well as planting further seeds in the conversations they had.

Persisting

As the trimester went on, maintaining the connection and traction for mission with the new students became challenging and the second trimester was another restart following a similar pattern. A consequence of the pandemic years is that students who had not had any kind of normal school experience did not have sustained energy for extra groups. However, the student leaders persevered and took the group through Rebecca McLaughlin's book “*Confronting Jesus*,” introducing students to the different titles Jesus has: Jew, son, king, healer, teacher, lover, servant, sacrifice, and Lord. Each of these gave students fresh perspectives on who Jesus is and how they can relate to him.

Reflecting

We look back on the year with gratitude as it is in the small things that we often observe the significant working of God. Many seeds were planted which we trust will grow over the years to come. Seeing one of our former students make a commitment to Christ at the start of the year and actively participate in the Canterbury University Christian Union as a post-graduate student was so encouraging. Meeting a Muslim international PhD student enquiring how she can know more about Christianity and getting involved in the second trimester was also a real joy and privilege.

One student had the opportunity over Christmas to serve on a mission team in South Asia with two other TSCF students, had her eyes opened to the challenges and opportunities for future mission.



Top: VCF stall at Clubs Expo, Feb 2023
Bottom: VCF retreat on a farm in Wairarapa

Manawatū Report

“We had six guests who aren’t Christians, and all of them are continuing to actively explore the Christian faith.”

Massey Manawatu is a relatively small university campus (approx. 5,000 students). But it has an enthusiastic student leadership team with an active presence on campus. In 2023 the MUCF had a core of around 20 students, but easily had contact with over 100 through different larger events and one-to-one Bible studies during the year. The OCF, our international group, had around five to ten connected on a Friday evening for dinner and Bible study.

In 2023 we also had a ministry trainee working with us on campus, Marina Theron, a recent graduate of the university. Marina spent a lot of time meeting with female students for discipleship and led Bible studies with non-Christian students.

Some highlights from 2023:

- **Big Ideas Night** is a fun outreach event we ran six times during the year. It includes a quiz, a speaker and discussion around tables followed by a Q&A. The most popular topic was ‘Why does God care who I sleep with?’, 50 students attended including seven or more non-Christian students.
- **Hope Explored** is a three-week course with a similar format to Alpha: dinner, video content, and discussion around tables. Three weeks was a great length for our context, as most of the people we are reaching are not ready for a longer commitment. We had six guests who aren’t Christians, and all of them are continuing to actively explore the Christian faith.
- Earlier in the year, we had our annual **Autumn Camp** on the topic of gender identity. Robyn Drake from Auckland and myself gave the talks. Around 35 attended, and the majority were first-year students.
- A **leadership info session** for the MUCF had eleven students in attendance, eight of whom aren’t currently on the executive committee, which is a healthy sign for the future.



Scott Mackay
Former Manawatū
Team Leader

God of changed hearts... God of quizzes

- There has been a steady trickle of **students coming to faith**. One student, a 3rd year engineer, professed faith in Semester 1 this year.

The MUCF has contact with a lot of different students. The main challenge is seeing casual contacts become committed members of the group. First-year students are drawn in quickly because of our relatively active presence during Orientation and through the various events throughout the year. But many of these students drift off, I think because they find church-based ministries more comfortable relationally. A lot of our activities are focused on engaging the campus and developing Christians as leaders in the public sphere.

Unfortunately, our international group, Overseas Christian Fellowship, had to merge with the MUCF at the end of this year. There were no students willing to lead the group, and numbers had been dwindling since 2020. I’ve observed that having a separate group is much more effective in reaching internationals, even if it’s a small group within the larger TSCF group. I hope this work can be revived in some way in the future.

Significantly, I finished my work with TSCF at the end of 2023 and am now pastoring at a local church. In September, the Christian Fellowship voted for a new student leadership team. They had known it was possible they’d have no local TSCF staff support as they carry the mission forward at Massey. But that didn’t dissuade them one bit. I’m so impressed by that — although perhaps they’re just looking forward to the extra freedom! The mission is in good hands, but we hope and pray for a new staff member to support the groups at MUCF, alongside church ministers and pastors.



Top: MUCF executive committee for 2023/2024
Bottom: MUCF Autumn Camp 2023

Waikato & BOP Report

“A highlight was a fortnightly meal and Bible study together on Monday nights.”

True Witness is the ‘first among equals’ of TSCF’s four aims: to proclaim the truth about Jesus and lead students to personal faith in Christ. As the impact and restrictions of COVID lessened last year, True Witness came to the forefront more. Hamilton and Tauranga are two quite different contexts, with TSCF groups there at different lifecycle stages.

Hamilton

Home Base runs on Wednesdays at Waikato University, with time for lunch and chats followed by an hour of Bible study time – John’s Gospel and Hebrews being the focus last year. With a committed team of student leaders, well equipped by our Waikato-based staff workers, Nick Goodwin and Nadine Liddle, *Home Base* has blossomed this year. The average weekly attendance has increased, with as many as 30



Dave Hodgkinson
Waikato/Bay of
Plenty Team Leader

students attending. Just as encouraging was students’ growth in character and desire to share Jesus with other students.

“The gatherings on a Wednesday lunch time provide a much-needed break from my studies halfway through the week and helps me to continually reset my perspective on the things that God wants for my life and for our campus.” (Liam, student leader)

Students also participated in *Alpha-Blast* Saturday sessions (viewing several Alpha course videos over half a day), evangelism and Bible training sessions. These led to some encouraging apologetics events on campus including one in partnership Kiwi apologetics movement, *Thinking Matters*.

In Hamilton, we saw one student come to faith in 2023 and another one renew their faith. We praise God for this and continue to pray for more! Two of our students attended IFES World Assembly in Indonesia in August. It was inspiring for them, and they have inspired others since through sharing about it!



Top: TSCF Hamilton students at Wairere Falls – Day hike in March.
Bottom: Live Life Waikato/Bay of Plenty regional camp 2023

God of change... God of pancake nights

Tauranga

In the Bay of Plenty it was a more challenging year and things ran on a smaller scale. A highlight was a fortnightly meal and Bible study together on Monday nights. We ran this at our house, to provide a common space for Toi Ohomai and Waikato Uni Tauranga campus students to meet and help them see they are part of something bigger.

At Waikato Uni’s Tauranga CBD campus, we had a small but faithful group of students meeting on Wednesday lunchtimes. We have found the low foot-traffic on campus to be an ongoing challenge to growing our group, this is largely due to the number of lectures delivered online (before and during COVID) as well as CBD car parking costs and availability. This is prompting us to adapt our ministry approach on this campus.

Engaging the campus events at Uni of Waikato’s Tauranga campus included hot cross buns and a resurrection quiz at Easter, a *Grill-a-Christian*

event in May (again, linking with *Thinking Matters*) and a *Should you vote? Would Jesus vote?* event, prior to last October’s election. Monthly pancake nights in the nearby and new student hostel have continued in 2023.

At Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology in Tauranga, we had more students this year, which was heartening after a quiet couple of years. However, a challenge was student availability for lunchtime meetings, due to lectures over-running and short breaks. I often ended up facilitating sessions twice-daily, due to student breaks not aligning.

Despite this the Lord gave us a number of students who have been engaged much of the year and have grown in their Christian faith.

“Since joining TSCF in Tauranga, I have grown in faith and confidence to share my beliefs. I have read Bible verses to a non-believer on campus and spoke about my beliefs to a sceptical friend - things I would have been too fearful to do not too long ago. TSCF has been a place of belonging

and growth in my Christian faith.” (Jenique, Toi Ohomai student)

For our smaller groups, the regional and national gatherings help them see the larger network in which they serve. Waikato University’s Tauranga Club President, Amy, commented, “I always love the regional and national events such as *Live Life!* regional camp and *Summit*, so I can connect with other Christian students.”

We have a committed group of students to work with in 2024, many in Hamilton and a smaller amount in Tauranga. We pray the Lord will send more labourers to help with the harvest in 2024 (Matthew 9:35-38).

Auckland Report



Josh Irving
Auckland Team
Leader

“The Connect Christian group at Unitec has worked their way through the parables of Jesus, and they’ve been joined in this by new students from various faith and non-faith backgrounds.”

‘Rebuilding’ is one word to describe TSCF’s work in Auckland this past year. In part, that’s a result of COVID’s long shadow and the challenge of regaining momentum after online-only learning. However, with more students returning to campus, 2023 also afforded our groups important opportunities for ‘renovation’, finding new and timely ways to extend their reach and engage their campuses with the good news of Jesus. While some parts of the ‘build’ have sprung up quickly, this year’s norm has been slow — yet significant — progress.

Curiously, it’s been some of our long-established Auckland groups that have struggled the most for momentum. At the University of Auckland, both the Christian Union and the Overseas Christian Fellowship have contracted, each to about ten regular members. Seeking to be more visible, these groups combined efforts for several wintery days of “Hot Choc and Chat”. While handing out hot drinks, our students posed the question, “What keeps you going?” This was a stretching experience for some, but all were heartened by the responses from others and the general openness to then consider the same question from a spiritual perspective.

“It’s sometimes discouraging when group attendance is low or inconsistent. But who knows what seeds are being planted in the lives of a few and how that may impact many others in the months and years to come? Personally, I’ve been challenged to reach out to others more. Our “Hot Choc and Chat” event definitely got me out of my comfort zone!” — Jerem

Conversely, some of TSCF Auckland’s historically smaller campus groups have gained more traction. The Connect Christian group at Unitec has worked their way through the parables of Jesus, and they’ve been joined in this by new students from various faith and non-faith backgrounds. It’s been excellent to see student leaders stepping up and thinking missionally about their context.

“Our Unitec group started off small this year, with only two or three people; it was almost disheartening. But by Semester Two, more people started attending and we’ve all become great friends! We love coming together to open the Bible and learn about Jesus. It’s exciting to think how our wee family will continue to grow and impact the campus.” — Meems

With international student numbers steadily recovering at Massey University, TSCF’s Albany group saw an opportunity to welcome new friends from around the world. So, in addition to their usual lunch-time Bible study, they experimented with interactive evening gatherings; they organised beach trips; and they partnered with the chaplaincy team to throw a Christmas party! In all of this, the group has experienced encouraging growth in faith, in friendship, and in overall involvement from both international and local students.

“Being part of TSCF Massey has been one of the best decisions I’ve made since moving to study in New Zealand. I was so warmly welcomed and cared for; no strings attached. We’ve since had heaps of fun exploring Auckland, sharing deeply,



Combined UoA OCF/Massey CF excursion at Long Bay Beach

and growing in our knowledge of Jesus. I've made friends for life." — Daniel

AUT's North Campus has been the biggest surprise. After many years without a steady TSCF presence on this campus, it's been exciting to see a fledgling Christian Fellowship take flight—especially as it started with just two willing students. With open Bibles, a Spikeball set, and thoughtful connection with the student village, they've been faithful and creative in their collective witness, and they too have seen significant growth. One of their newest members has come to faith in Jesus! And others have developed a deeper confidence in the gospel.

"When I first started going to AUTCF (North Campus), I didn't expect how beneficial it would be for me. I was at a very rocky point in my faith, and meeting weekly with a group of other Christians was a great foundation. I felt comfortable to ask questions. And I've been encouraged by the growth of others too. Our group started with a few students only a year ago; it's now more than triple that!" — Mereana

The re-build continues on the staff front. From December 2023, Auckland will have six employed staff workers and four volunteer associates to cover the region's ten campus groups. In particular, we thank God for the most recent additions of Lance and Katie Knight (from the United States), and Kathryn Millar (returning to Auckland from Canterbury). And on top of that tremendous provision, another answer to prayer: the team is settling into a new office base, leased as part of the 'Missions Hub', alongside Interserve, OMF, and the Leprosy Mission. This new space has already accommodated nearly 30 student leaders for a day-long retreat post-exams—a brilliant end to 2023!

With these foundations laid, and a boost in workers for the task ahead, 2024 promises to be an exciting year for student mission in Auckland. Above all, we look to God, the Master Builder, to bring His kingdom work to fruition.



Student Leadership Retreat at Auckland office



Top left: BBQ at Long Bay Beach
Left: Auckland contingent at Summit
Right: Induction of new student leaders



The Well Report

“Nine people lived in The Well in its first year, and 2023 saw another nine people living with the ups and downs of community living.”



Tim Hodge
Head of Training and Development

‘The Well’ is an intentional residential student community right opposite Lincoln University. Named after the account in John 4 where a woman and her town are transformed after encountering Jesus, *‘The Well’* in Lincoln is a place of outreach, hospitality and discipleship.

Thanks to the generosity of many in the TSCF family, *‘The Well’* was built in 2020-21. Nine people lived in *‘The Well’* in its first year, and 2023 saw another nine people living with the ups and downs of community living. Drawn from five local churches, the team of 2023 have been fantastic, opening their home to so many over the year, with various Bible studies, meals and activities.

A focus on outreach has meant that many Lincoln students who aren’t yet Christians have taken steps closer to Jesus through engaging with the Bible. A focus on hospitality has meant hundreds of meals and coffees have been consumed on site, with several people and groups being hosted overnight, including Tauranga students on the way to TSCF Summit in the middle of the year. A focus on discipleship has meant myriad early mornings memorising Scripture and praying together as residents.

It obviously hasn’t been without challenges, but we continue to thank God for all who have lived in *‘The Well’* in 2023, praying with gratitude that that through their efforts many students have got to know Jesus better. At the end of 2023 we farewelled and commissioned three of the student residents moving on. Five loved it so much they are forming the core of the 2024 residents, being joined by three other wonderful people.

Chris Hay, TSCF Lincoln Team Leader, has given great support to all the residents. TSCF Associate Staff Penny Keast (at the beginning of the year), and Alaina Eckert (at the end of the year), have been

wonderful, giving shape to the community by living on site as part of *‘The Well’*. Penny is now serving God in overseas mission in Central Asia, giving *‘The Well’* residents an opportunity to learn about God at work in that part of the world. Alaina, having recently completed her Masters in Lincoln as an international student, is proving adept at helping all in *‘The Well’* not just flat together but be an intentional community together.

Thank you to all who play a part in making this mission of *‘The Well’* a reality: those who pray, those who donate money, those who advise, those who live there and those who visit there and ask great questions about Jesus.

‘The Well’ is all about lives transformed by encountering Jesus, just like the woman at *‘The Well’* in John 4. It’s about True Witness, Undivided Life, Deep Thought and Global Reach. All glory be to God!



Bible study and kai at ‘The Well’

Global Reach

“The experience of discovering the reality of the need for the gospel around the world and how God is at work is transformational and can open many doors for mission in the future when students are captivated by the vision of God’s love for all the nations.”



Kim Shaw
Global Reach
Coordinator

There is a real enthusiasm among our students to explore ways to be involved in the global mission of God.

On our campuses, we are seeing the return of international students, opening up opportunity for the gospel to be shared with people from different faith backgrounds, many of whom have had no exposure to the Bible before and are curious and open-minded to understand what the Christian faith is about.

The Crossing Global Reach Initiative ran for the second time with students and recent graduates meeting online six times throughout the year to learn and grow together in confidence, competence and conviction for the work of building cross-cultural cross-centred friendships in their places of study and work. The opportunity to hear from leaders in our country’s mission community was a real asset and has opened doors for some to continue serving with one of the organisations.

We are grateful for the input of the various mission organisations who attended our Summit conference, where students were exposed to the types of work they could be involved in to respond to the varied needs around the world with the gospel of Jesus.

Sending a delegation of students, staff and board members to the IFES World Assembly in Jakarta was another significant moment in our year. The livestreaming of the main sessions meant we also had groups gathered around computer screens in hubs around the country, sharing the experience from afar. New and old connections with other IFES movements will lead to ongoing opportunities for students to visit and host our international friends in coming years.

God of the local church... God of the global church

For the first time in four years, a small contingent of students joined a short term team to serve the overseas workers’ children with one of our partner organisations in December. There is also a team preparing for our first Global Reach Journey to Vanuatu over Easter 2024, with students showing great enthusiasm for an opportunity that has been unavailable during the pandemic years. We are grateful for the support of local churches, friends and family of our students who have contributed towards the financial costs of these trips. The experience of discovering the reality of the need for the gospel around the world and how God is at work is transformational and can open many doors for mission in the future when students are captivated by the vision of God’s love for all the nations.



Top: Staff worker Dave Hodgkinson, Ethan and Christina Tattersall at World Assembly 2023
Bottom: Team TSCF and the CECE Ecuadorian contingent at World Assembly

Finance Update



Caitlin Ormiston
Chief Operating Officer

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18)

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

These words from Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians have been a helpful reminder throughout 2023. The National Director’s 2023 strategic priorities were to Reconnect, Refresh and Rebuild. The TSCF Board approved a purposeful deficit budget for 2023 (~\$30k), a signal of intent to take a purposeful step of faith towards growth in the 2023 budget.

It is with thanksgiving that I present to you TSCF’s financial accounts for 2023, which show a year-end surplus of approximately \$82k, which we will seek to steward well.

Rejoice:

- The funds received have enabled TSCF to provide another year of support to students on the ground, through staff input, training, facilitating outreach events and, ultimately, equipping students to share the gospel with their peers.
- Thank you for your generous response to the Summit fundraising appeal. 48 students and graduates to attend Summit ‘23. Our national conferences continue to be an integral part of the TSCF student journey and it’s wonderful to see so many of the wider TSCF whānau contribute towards this for the next generation of students.
- 2023 provided opportunities for reconnection with partner movements around the world. We were privileged to send twelve participants, including four students, to the IFES World Assembly in Indonesia. Through the event, these participants were captivated by what God is doing around the world and brought renewed vision and energy back to their campus groups. Thank you to the many of you who contributed towards this.

God of the practical... God of provision

During the year we also reduced our mortgage on The Well. Through generous donations, we were able to repay \$100,000 in February 2023, as well as continue paying our regular instalments. By 31 December 2023 we had successfully reduced our mortgage from \$535k to \$356k. We hope to reduce this by a further \$50k in 2024.

Pray continually, giving thanks in all circumstances. (5:17-18).

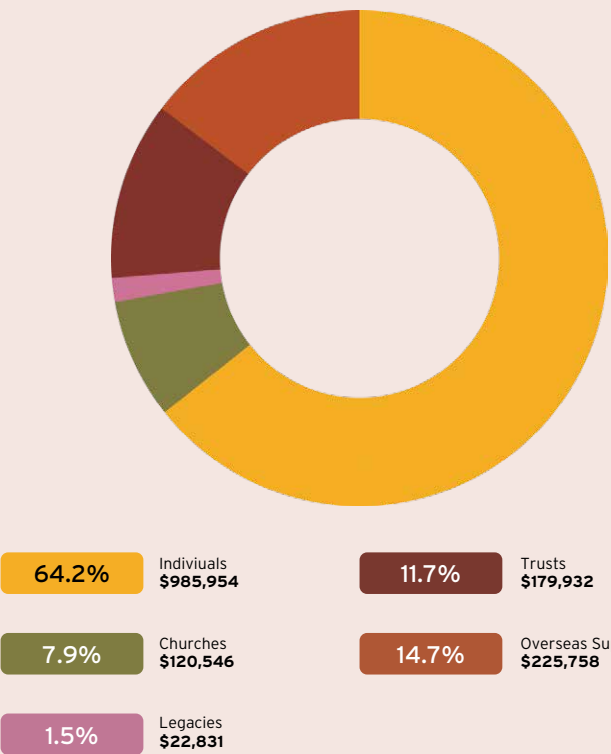
- Though reducing outgoings are normally seen as a positive, we have experienced a few challenges this year which account for the year-end surplus.
- Recruitment: We were thrilled to make some key appointments to grow both office and field teams, including Auckland staff, Communications Manager and PA to the National Director. We continued with reduced staffing through much of the year, especially in administration. This reduced our costs, but it also substantially restricted our capacity to rebuild. Please pray for God to continue to provide workers for the harvest field, especially in the Wellington and Manawatu regions.
- Gospel project: We would like to produce another Gospel project, however capacity limitations meant it was not prudent to begin production this year. Please pray that we would be able to move forward with this vision in 2024.
- On 12 December 2023, during an adverse weather event, the TSCF Office in Wellington suffered substantial flood damage. Thankfully, the repairs have not significantly impacted either finances or ministry at this stage, but are ongoing, which has again limited the administrative team’s capacity. Pray for God’s provision of suitable repairs to the building and for a more settled 2024.

We give thanks: Please joining us in praising God for his continued gracious provision to TSCF in this work of helping students reach their friends for Christ. Pray that God would continue to provide all that is needed for this ongoing work in universities and polytechnics across New Zealand.

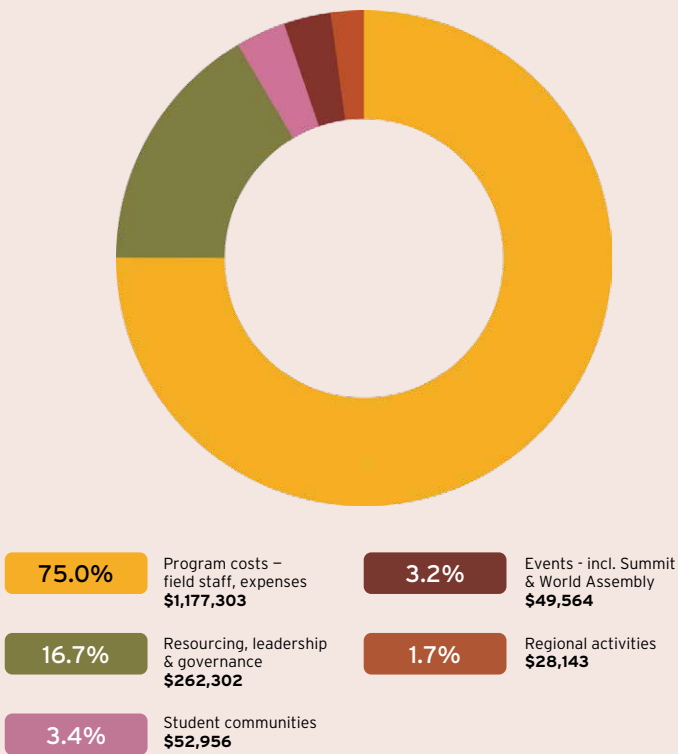
Finally, I want to give thanks to God for you, the faithful TSCF family, for holding TSCF in prayer and financial support. We are so grateful for you!

2023 Financials

Donations by Source



2023 Expenditure



Income	2023	2022
Donations	\$1,535,020	\$1,504,808
Revenue from ministry activities and student communities	\$106,238	\$98,090
Revenue from events	\$10,196	\$12,864
Total Income	\$1,651,454	\$1,615,762

Expenditure	2023	2022
Program costs - field staff, expenses	\$1,177,303	\$1,156,503
Resourcing, leadership & governance	\$262,302	\$262,419
Student communities	\$52,956	\$56,010
Events - including Summit & World Assembly	\$49,564	\$15,304
Regional activities	\$28,143	\$17,614
Total Expenditure	\$1,570,267	\$1,507,850
Surplus	\$81,187	\$107,912

The Well: Donations and remaining mortgage	2023	2022
The Well donations	\$24,813	\$132,208
Remaining Mortgage at 31 December	\$356,085	\$481,486

If you would like to receive a copy of our full accounts you can request these from John Riley at johnr@tscf.org.nz

God of income... God of expenditure

Meet the Team

Staff Team



Ben Carswell
National
Director



Caitlin Ormiston
Chief Operating
Officer



Chris Hay
Lincoln



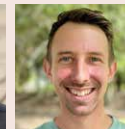
David Hodgkinson
Waikato/BOP



Ian Reid
Manawatu



John Riley
Finance Officer



Josh Irving
Auckland



Kate Irving
Communications
Manager



Kate McClelland
Lincoln & IFES
World Assembly



Kim Shaw
Global Reach
Coordinator



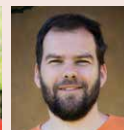
KJ Millar
Canterbury



Leisha Rhianon
Admin &
Projects Officer



Mark Santich
Canterbury &
True Witness
Coordinator



Mike Doragh
Systems &
Projects



Morna Lorden
Finance
Assistant



Nadine Liddle
Waikato



Renee Santich
Canterbury



Robyn Drake
Auckland & Head
of Resource
Development



Simon Sim
Otago



Tim Hodge
Head of Training
& Development

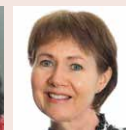


Wilma Reinders
PA to National
Director

Associate Staff



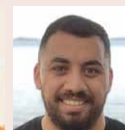
Ani Kartikasari
Lincoln



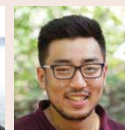
Annette Lane
Auckland



Bena Tanielu
Auckland



Dwayne Tongamaheona
Auckland



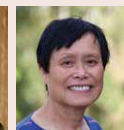
Hanli Liu
Auckland



Jeff Lane
Auckland



Matthew Woodfield
Otago



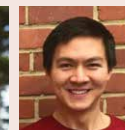
Mei Rideout
Wellington



Michael Drake
Auckland



Nick Goodwin
Waikato



Timothy Marshall
Otago



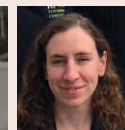
Farewelled



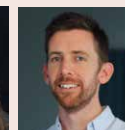
Italia Tiatia
Office
Administrator



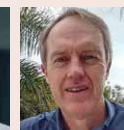
Maggie Barker
PA to National
Director



Penny Keast
Lincoln



Scott Mackay
Manawatu



Andrew Wilks
Auckland

WITH THANKS TO

Rachel Turner
David Lawson

OVERSEAS

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

BOARD

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Janice Cheng (Vice Chair)
Ben Carswell
Dennis Fountain
Paul Trebilco
Paul Windsor
Rachal Aspinall
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(President)
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Efeso Collins (1974-2024)
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Hilary Hague
Jessica Palmer
Jonathan Boston
(resigned Sept 2023)
Rubee Yee
Stuart Lange
Animoa Gool

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

