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canvas

TERTIARY STUDENTS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP'S MAGAZINE



GOOD NEWS ON THE GO



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

Reaching students for Christ,
changing students for life.

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



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

Send your thoughts, comments and
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CANVAS GREEN

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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.

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Jesus said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation"



Kate Irving
Communications Manager

There is nothing static about the good
news of Jesus. By nature, the gospel is on
the move; it is for all times and places and
peoples and cultures, indeed for all creation!
And God, in his grace and mercy, invites us
not only to receive the gospel for ourselves,
but to step towards the world that he loves
and to preach the gospel, by life and by lip.

In this *Canvas* issue, we're excited to share a
few stories of "good news on the go" in the
student sphere and beyond. Our first stop is
Queenstown, the backdrop for this year's
national *Summit*: "Meeting Jesus in Mark's
Gospel". We hear students' own reflections
and their stories of courage and connection
from the week at camp through to witness
on campus.

We widen our scope to hear stories of
mission in Aotearoa through the eyes and
whakapapa of Māori evangelist Keri-Ann
Hokianga, one of our *Summit* speakers. And
we discover, too, how a gospel seed planted
in an international student has borne fruit
overseas.

In our Regional Spotlight, we celebrate
all that God is doing amongst students
in Canterbury. We pray alongside them
for continued renewal in the lives of our
students and their friends on campus.

Summit: Meeting Jesus in Mark's Gospel



Josh Irving
Auckland Team Leader



At the end of June, 120 students, staff, and guests travelled to Queenstown for TSCF's annual student Summit: the biggest we've had in over a decade! Our theme, "Meeting Jesus in Mark's Gospel", was also our major prayer. Through gathering to open God's word, as well as our lives and our campus groups to one another, we wanted students to meet Jesus, and then return to their respective campuses equipped and inspired to help others do the same.

Ben Carswell, TSCF's National Director, delivered the main talks from key passages in Mark's Gospel, covering the identity, mission, challenge, and call of Jesus, framed by Jesus' own question: "Who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:29). This question became the steady drumbeat through all the week's activities, from workshops to student panels to sung worship.

Wish you had been there? Friends, you can come too! What follows is an attempt to (retrospectively) fly you all to Queenstown, so you can enjoy the sights and sounds with us and absorb some of our students' reflections on the week.

The beginning of the good news

We've arrived. Weariness from early flights and long drives soon gives way to wonder, as panoramic mountains set the scene for a familiar lyric: "Indescribable, uncontainable!" How good it is to hear the Fellowship in full voice!

The mihi whakatau (formal welcome) lifts our gaze higher still, to the Matariki star cluster, a new season, and the God who

created and sustains all things. And we sing, "You placed the stars in the sky and you know them by name!"

Ben brings us to Mark's Gospel, "The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God" (Mark 1:1). Ben's encouragement is to meet this Jesus and to heed His call: "Come, follow me," Jesus said" (Mark 1:17).

"Singing together while God's magnificence as Creator was on display right out the window was a taste of heaven! I was encouraged by meeting so many people transformed by Jesus and who were boldly sharing the good news on their campuses!" – Danielle

"This year was the first time I'd been to Summit, and a big highlight for me were the talks. It was really encouraging, during a busy university year, to dive into the Gospel of Mark and be struck by who Jesus is, and the sacrifice he has made that transforms how I live. It was also awesome to connect with students from across the country and hear the ways God was working through them to share the gospel on campus, even when it was hard." – Anne



Snowballs and student mission

The sun sets over white peaks, throwing a purple blanket over the Wakatipu Basin. The lake is still. Students are back from their afternoon adventures, swapping stories of snowball fights, the Skyline luge, and the famed Fergburger.

Everyone now piles into the meeting hall. Four student panellists wait in the glow of fairy lights. Perched on couches, they ready themselves to speak on the highs and lows of sharing Christ on campus.

Meanwhile, a Lincoln lad gets the hot chocolate going in a giant pot on the stove. And before long, steaming mugs warm the hands of students around the room, as the panel continues with refreshing honesty.



"Before Summit, 1-1 Bible studies were tough-going, with little success. But Summit reminded me of how good and powerful the gospel of Jesus is, and I was encouraged to press on. Maybe not everyone will say yes to reading the Bible with me, but someone will. Now, back at uni, I'm seeing the power of the gospel work as I meet with a new friend to read Mark together. I can see the work of the Lord in his heart."
– Sam

"I was initially sceptical about Summit's emphasis on 1-1 Bible reading; that's way too intimidating! However, another student threw me a question: 'What would be less intimidating for an unbelieving friend: going to a church full of people he doesn't know, or meeting 1-1 with a mate?' Stumped by this, I ended up asking my mate if he'd be willing to study the Gospel of Mark together. Spoiler alert: we're on our third week now and we've both been enjoying it!" – Daniel

It doesn't end here

We've reached the final morning, when students begin to wonder whether all-night boardgames and music jams were sensible ideas. In any case, campers begin to stumble out of their now tidied bunkrooms, dragging suitcases behind them.

We gather once more. Our time of sung worship is full-hearted, though textured by a few more hoarse voices. It's good to stop and pray, thankful for new connections and learning from the week, but also to pray for the weeks and months ahead. That's Ben's final challenge too; it doesn't end here. And he invites each of us to consider our response to Jesus and to go and share this with others.

While the South Islanders fill cars in convoys headed home, the North Islanders wait for their flights to be called and they spill their thoughts on the week. In the din of Queenstown Airport, one student shares that he's come to believe in Jesus and wants to follow him. A staff-worker and another student help to lead this young man in prayer, and others join in celebrating by adding their names to a small memento.

It doesn't end here...

"The community at Summit was awesome. I met so many people who were exploring faith in Jesus, as well as believers. I was able to learn so much about Jesus and what it looks like to follow him. I even learned how to pray." – Ting-Wei

"Summit was fantastic! As well as being in Queenstown, my biggest highlight was meeting and learning from students from all around the country. We all face similar challenges, but coming together like this gives me hope that we can keep striving together, supporting each other in faith and in our mission to introduce Jesus to others." – Josiah

In the field: Summit student panel

A highlight of *Summit* was a student panel sharing the highs and lows of campus mission. We were encouraged by the stories of God working through weak and broken people as they shared the good news about Him.



Faith O'Hagan

English and Psychology student, Hamilton campus, University of Waikato

What's something you've tried in student mission this year? How did it go?

At our Leaders' Retreat at the end of 2023, we identified connecting with students and visibility on campus as our strong suits but decided we were not so strong in reaching out and sharing the gospel message. Therefore, going into 2024, we decided to start up what we call *The Lab*: a period from 12-1pm on Thursdays dedicated to experimenting with different ways of doing evangelism. We have tried a number of events including: lectures, lunches, talks on science, walk-up surveys, grill-a-Christian, dumpling social night and Food Rescue where we give away free food that is past its best before date but still okay to eat. These events are in addition to our main Bible Study.

The biggest success has been the faith conversations we've had. We have talked to people with faiths such as Islam, Paganism and Sikhism, and have gathered following *The Lab* to pray for them.

How do you think *Summit* prepared or encouraged you for mission in Semester 2?

I found *Summit* really challenging. We heard from people across various campus groups about the cool stuff they were doing on campus. I felt like an imposter on the panel! However, I know that God's strength shines through my weakness. My main takeaway was that being a Christian and reaching out to people is not always easy, but I am called to take up my cross. I particularly loved Ben's messages on Mark and the Identity and Bible Overview electives.

How can the wider TSCF community pray for your campus?

As the year wraps up, it would be helpful to pray for the students' exams, assessments and decisions for next year. Please pray for our leadership team as we organize events, including a ball and a CV-building workshop, and for our group as we continue to reach out to people on campus. Continue to pray for the students themselves, that they'll grow deeper in their knowledge and love of God.



Eddie Millichamp

Agriculture student, Lincoln University

What's something you've tried in student mission this year? How did it go?

This year I have been reading Mark with a flatmate who had never read the Bible or been to church. It has been going well, with him always being keen to read each week.

How do you think *Summit* prepared or encouraged you for mission in Semester 2?

Hearing others stories and meeting other Christian students gave me energy to be keen for mission in Semester 2, hearing that other students have the same fears and problems when evangelising was also encouraging as it shows we are all in the same boat and can all help each other in our struggles.

How can the wider TSCF community pray for your campus?

That the Lord may give us all boldness when witnessing to others on campus and that the LUCF may be a light shining God's love to the rest of campus.



Adrienne Malinao

Health Psychology student, Victoria University, Wellington

What's something you've tried in student mission this year? How did it go?

Before the Easter break, VCF had a stand giving away hot cross buns. We set up in a spot where there was lots of foot traffic and gave our buns away in a paper bag with a flyer about Easter and a flyer about VCF. We had some other related resources available if people wanted them, and a short video about Easter playing on loop. Interactions would vary from people simply accepting the gift, to others who stopped to have a conversation about Easter and why we were stationed there.

How do you think *Summit* prepared or encouraged you for mission in Semester 2?

I didn't think about reading the Bible with a peer too much prior to *Summit*, but hearing other students talk about their experiences with reading the Bible with others was an encouragement. It's made me feel as though doing a 1-1 is doable and I have been praying about who I can read with.

How can the wider TSCF community pray for your campus?

John 13:35 "By this everyone will know you are my disciples, if you love one another." Please pray for a stronger sense of community, connection and friendship at Victoria University.



Summit Guest: Meet Rev. Keri-Ann Hokianga

Ben Carswell
National Director, TSCF

The first time I met Rev Keri-Ann Hokianga, she described herself as ‘a modern day Ruatara’, the Maori Chief who translated Rev Samuel Marsden’s message when he first brought the gospel to NZ. As someone who proudly comes from the same village as Marsden, Keri-Ann and I quickly connected, and realised we shared the same desire: to bring the good news of Jesus to Maori and Pakeha in NZ. Keri-Ann has a unique and winsome way of being able to weave waiata, word and haka together to tell our gospel story out of her own whakapapa.

It was out of TSCF’s vision and values that I invited her to join us as one of our plenary speakers at TSCF’s Summit

conference. Keri-Ann gave generously of her time, investing in the lives of students and staff, and sharing in one of the most memorable TSCF student meetings I can remember. Our desire was that this may be one more step along TSCF’s bi-cultural journey as we seek to be Tangata Tiriti in our witness amongst students. Her session stimulated many conversations and I have already heard of students describing life-changing moments as they realise the opportunity to share the gospel with all people, including those in our neighbourhood. Keri-Ann’s input into Summit was a small and significant step in our journey, but we also pray that it will be part of an ongoing journey together. We have invited Keri-Ann to share in Canvas as an extension of our what our students enjoyed at Summit.

Rev. Keri-Ann Hokianga Māori Evangelist

Ko te mea tuatahi, korōria ki te Atua i runga rawa. Ko ia te Atua o ngā Atua, te Kīngi o ngā Kīngi.

All glory to God who is the King of all kings and Lord of all lords. I acknowledge the wonderful team at TSCF and pray that the Lord would continue to bless the work that each of you do to advance the kingdom of God here in Aotearoa.

The TSCF Summit 2024 was a lovely event for me to attend, thank you so much for having me.

I hail from Manutuke on my father’s side, he is the Reverend Rapiata Hokianga, my mother is the Venerable Archdeacon Fran Hokianga (nee Karaka) who hails from Papatūria in Kaitiaki. I am fourth generation in my family to be ordained as a priest in the Māori Anglican church in Te Taitokerau. We have partnered with NZCMS allowing me to hold one of two roles as a Māori Evangelist, my mother holds the other role as a Māori Evangelist in the far north Kaitiaki. Our roles have been formed as a result of the 2018 census results regarding Christian faith, and the massive decline in numbers of Māori attendance and participation in the Christian faith and church.

In the four years of being in this role, I have been invited by our people onto marae, homes, workplaces, hospitals, kura, prisons, corrections, online, tangihanga and it has been enriching to learn from the beautiful Māori and non-Māori people that God allows me to meet.

It has been a blessing to be able to build authentic relationships, to learn to listen with

the intent to understand, and to respond in genuine love for the needs of the other. This approach has created an openness from whānau to be willing to share their personal stories which are sacred and which we see as a taonga.

The openness of the whānau partly shown in their willingness to invite me to share a perspective of the gospel’s arrival to, and spread throughout, Aotearoa. This includes the invitation from some Māori from the Ngāpuhi tribe for the missionaries to bring the gospel to Aotearoa. I also share some of the Bible teachings that were shared by missionaries with some of our Māori ancestors, which led to the spreading of the word of God all across Aotearoa by Māori to Māori, and saw transformation of many Māori in that time. This has been news to most of the whānau, and it has given them another perspective of Christianity and the gospel to consider.

At Summit I was privileged to share a song called *Te Hari a Ngāpuhi* and this was the response from Māori to the first sermon preached to Māori from the gospel of Luke. In 1814, Christmas day, Rev Samuel Marsden of CMS was invited by some Māori chiefs in Ngāpuhi to preach the gospel in Aotearoa. The sermon was translated into te reo Māori by Ngāpuhi chief Ruatara. Ka nuku nuku Ka Neke neke is part of some of the words in this hari, it has one meaning: that this was Māori shifting and making space in their hearts and mind for the gospel to come into their lives and world as they knew it in 1814. Please pray that there would be a shifting and a making of space in the hearts of Māori and non-Māori alike as their response to the gospel we share with them in 2024 and beyond.

National

On Campus

- Please pray for students as they take exams, that they would live out Christ-like confidence and peace when they are under pressure.
- Give thanks for all the students who attended *Summit*, pray that they would take back the lessons learnt, and enthusiasm for sharing the gospel to their various groups. Pray that the momentum gained would strengthen student mission throughout Semester Two. Pray students would invite friends to read a gospel with them.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would guide as leaders are appointed for each campus group going into 2025. Ask God to provide men and women of vision and faith. Pray that leadership handover would go smoothly. Pray that new leadership teams would have lots of new ideas to help continue to engage students with the good news of Jesus in the coming year.
- Pray for all those who have graduated from their studies and now in the workforce to continue to be salt and light and committed to knowing and following Jesus.

Resource Team

- Pray for preparations for our annual staff training taking place in November, this year we are inviting young staff from across the IFES South Pacific region.
- Pray for the preparations for our 2025 budget, that it would be built around vision, faith, and faithful stewardship of the resources we are given.
- Pray for growth in our core funds which are critical for supporting the administration of TSCF.

MINTY

- In the past, we have run MINTY as a discipleship training year. For various reasons, we have explored what changing our graduate input could look like and we are looking to launch something fresh in 2025. Please pray for Chris Hay and the team working on this.

Global Reach

- Pray for students who participated in *The Crossing* and the *Vanuatu Global Reach Journey* and the *Mission Expo* this year to continue their journey growing in love for people from other cultures and seeing opportunities to grow gospel-centred friendships and making gospel-minded decisions about their future.
- Thank God for staff who have led these initiatives this year and for the volunteers from other organisations who have given their time and expertise to share with our young adults.
- Pray for God's leading and wisdom as we plan for *Global Reach Journeys* in the coming couple of years.
- Thank God for international students connecting with our TSCF groups and pray for seeds that are planted to be watered and grow, bearing much fruit.

Regional

Auckland

- Praise God for significant engagement from international students. Pray for the various gatherings, excursions, Bible studies, and *English Corner* events; that these would convey both the hospitality and hope of Jesus to our international friends.

Waikato/BOP

- Praise God for *Grill-a-Christian* and other events run by TSCF Hamilton and Tauranga since Summit conference. Pray Jesus would reveal himself to the students that attended and that Christian students would be caring friends and channels of God's grace and truth
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide plans for weekend retreats in 2025.

Manawatu

- Pray for staff to join the team to support the work in Palmerston North.
- Pray for fruitful conversation in the new campus ministry (public interactions with students around a thought-provoking question on campus).

Wellington

- Thank God for the enthusiasm and energy of new first year students who are committed to praying for and serving their community.
- Pray for staffing needs in Wellington to be met quickly for the coming year.

Otago

- Please pray for us as we prepare for a year in Canada for Simon to complete his theological study, and for the student work to continue to grow and flourish while we are away.
- Please pray for boldness, courage and confidence in the gospel as students seek to be witnesses for Jesus in their classrooms and communities.

Canterbury

- Thank God for an encouraging time at *Summit* for the 17 students who were able to go. They

came back to campus keen to share what they had learnt and encourage our group. Thank God for an encouraging year this year at CU with many new students joining us on our Wednesday night dinners and small groups with quite a few new students being new Christians themselves and a number keen to learn more about Jesus.

- Please pray for a number of students who are still investigating Jesus that they will come to put their trust in him this year.
- Thank God for the new exec team serving CU – Emily, Peter, Aniela, Gabby, Nick and Ashleigh.

Lincoln

- Praise the Lord for the many students being bold in reading the Bible with their friends.

The Well

- Praise the Lord for a very encouraging year within *The Well* and its community. Please pray for the current cohort that they would finish their year well, and that God would bring a faithful group together for 2025.
- Please pray that the students living at *The Well* would bring their friends to come and meet Jesus during Bible study, flat dinners and LUCF events, just as Jesus met the woman at the well in John 4.
- Please pray that our students at *The Well* would be filled with the Spirit of God and excited to share the good news of the gospel with their own families.
- Please pray that, above all else, Jesus's name would be praised as we model Romans 14:19 in our daily service, care and compassion for one another as flat mates.

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

Seasoned with Salt

Miya Wang came to New Zealand from China in 2017 to study as an international student, she shares with Kim Shaw (Wellington Staff) her story of how she came to know and love Jesus, and how she is living for Jesus as an independent filmmaker living in back home in China.

"Before I came to New Zealand, I had already been working as a creative director in the advertising industry in China for six years. In 2016, I decided to study abroad.

When I worked in China, I was young, successful and proud. But when I came here, my English was not good, and I felt so frustrated by the language barrier. One day, Max (former TSCF Staff worker) gave the English Proficiency Programme students an introduction to *Newswatch*. I wanted to practice my speaking at that time, so I went and I found the people in this group were very supportive. At *Newswatch* we watch and discuss the current news, to help develop language skills and an understanding of New Zealand culture.

One day, I asked if there were any other opportunities, and they invited me to the TSCF group. I was not a Christian, but I was welcomed in. A small group was made for international students and one of the leaders told us lots of stories from Bible. I felt very

interested but, I didn't think I would become a Christian. I had lots of questions, which Kim Shaw encouraged me to keep asking. After about a year I became a Christian.

Before I became a Christian, I was proud. I thought people can do anything, as long as they worked hard, but I learnt this is not true. When I needed help those who were willing to help were Christians. And they are so patient. I can recognize some people pretend they have patience, but the Christians are different, I could see Jesus in them.

I think that God sent me to an English-speaking country and then gave me a big lesson about being humble. The success I had in China was nothing. It made me think, "Who am I?" God broke me down and then rebuilt me. When I went back to China after graduation, lots of my old friends told me they found me humble, and more caring, so I changed a lot.

My values have changed, as well as my character, I think the biggest change would be how I define success. In the past, and like many young people now, I thought success meant having a good job and earning a lot of money. But I became an independent filmmaker. I just own one little studio and this gives me the freedom to choose what I work on because God wants us to be the salt on the earth.



Miya featured in Victoria University of Wellington's prospectus for the Miramar Creative Centre. Photo belongs to Victoria University of Wellington.

Being an independent filmmaker has allowed to glorify God in my work in several ways. Firstly, I have the freedom to choose what I work on, I can say 'no' to projects that are not honoring to him. The Chinese name of my studio called is SALT. And there's a little cross on the logo, because I want to remind myself of this all the time.

Secondly, I can share beliefs and my values through the projects I work on. I also share a lot about my beliefs on social media and because I work independently no-one will tell me I can't do this.

Finally, because of my background, I have had the freedom to go on mission trips to restricted access countries. It's not easy for us to go to these places because it takes a lot of time to travel to the rural areas. And most of the people in our church have daily work, so they have to ask for leave, and not many people can do that."

Canterbury Regional Roundup

Staff profiles

Mark and Renée Santich have been serving students and TSCF at Canterbury Uni for the last 24 years. At various times we have had other staff and interns on the team, but currently it is just us, having said farewell to KJ who moved back to Auckland to serve with TSCF last year after three years on the team here. We both love Jesus and students and really enjoy seeing students' eyes light up as they grow in their understanding of God's word and their desire to share the good news of Jesus with their friends.



**Mark
Santich**

Renée tells me I'm an 'active restler', I am pretty active on the weekends building things like outdoor tables, raised garden beds, cutting down trees, planting fruit trees, and we still try to head out to watch our young adult children play football on Saturdays occasionally too. I would like to get out fishing more than I currently do and enjoy holidays by water.



**Renée
Santich**

Renée loves the outdoors and is halfway through walking all of the NZ Great Walks over 10 years. Renée juggles working with TSCF and also working a couple of days with our church as a women's trainer along with a day of counselling in her private practice. Renée enjoys reading, various sewing projects, swimming and gym and a bit of gardening.

Pray that Renée and I would continue to love and serve Jesus as we encourage and equip students to trust in Jesus, love their friends and invite them to meet Jesus too. Pray too for us as living in NZ means we don't get to see our family in Australia much as our mothers get older and frailer and our siblings go through tough times.



Campus Group: UC Christian Union

Christian Union remains the one TSCF group on campus at the University of Canterbury after the ICF stopped at the time of the earthquakes in 2011. CU is now made up of internationals and domestic students who are both working together to reach campus. This year we have been joined by many new students, quite a few of them are young Christians and are still learning a lot about what it looks like to live as a Christian. It is super encouraging that every week there are new people visiting, especially many who aren't Christian but keen to find out more. We aren't a big group, with just over 30 people regularly coming along to our Wednesday night dinners and small groups but we are friendly and welcoming.



Stories of Change

There are so many stories of change that we could tell in the lives of people.

There is a Masters student from China who knew nothing about Jesus but started coming along to Christian Union 18 months ago because he noticed that all of the people he met in NZ who were friendly and warm towards him were all Christians. He wanted to find out what it was about Christians that made them this way. He was gob-smacked when he read about the resurrection of Jesus, and said he had to go away and think about it: he had never heard anything like this before. He is not yet a Christian but is seriously weighing up the cost of following Jesus, please pray he would put his trust in Him.

Gabby became a Christian 18 months ago largely through a Christian friend around the time she started coming along to Christian Union towards the end of her degree. She is growing in leaps and bounds and has a real

passion for evangelism. Gabby has joined the CU exec this coming year. While she takes a short break between undergrad and postgrad studies she is volunteering some time outside of her work hours to serve with CU and her church. There are a number of new Christians at CU have a real love for Jesus and for others that has been a great encouragement for our group in helping us continue to invite others and love those who come along to various CU events and our regular CU dinner and Life Groups on Wednesday nights on campus.

One of the great stories of change is for our CU group as a whole. We meet on campus in a study space that we are able to book. We gather together for dinner at 6pm before breaking up into small groups to look at the Bible from 7pm until 8:15pm. The dinner is a great opportunity to invite friends along to meet others at CU, people don't need to stay for the small groups afterwards. It is easy to invite friends along for free food,

and as they meet others at CU they are intrigued and interested at what makes this group of people do what they do. Many guests choose to hang around for the small groups and this last term we have been looking at some passages from Luke's Gospel to help people meet Jesus. Sometimes the small groups turn into Q&A type discussions as people have lots of questions about Jesus, not just from the passage, but because they don't know anything about him. Often students are a bit afraid of 'doing evangelism' on campus, especially since many are shy, but we encourage people to see that helping people meet Jesus isn't scary especially when we can do it together and just be ourselves. Please continue to pray for CU and for groups like ours across the country seeking to help others meet Jesus.



Left: CU Camp August 2024. Right: CU Life group gathering

Bottom right: Lots of students, new and old, at the CU Welcome BBQ

Campus News

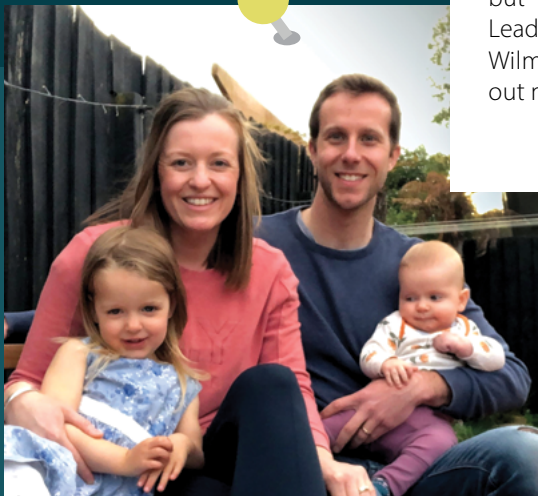
Christian Union had our annual camp at the end of Term 3 where we looked at the book of Job and thought about God's sovereignty, trusting God and his glory and suffering. It was an encouraging time with 20-25 students heading away together wrestling with some big topics. There was lots of fun and relaxing time too at the beach and playing board games and chatting.

We also had 17 of us from CU at *Summit* this year in Queenstown. It was a fantastic time with students from all over the country as we dug into Mark's Gospel and considered how we could help our friends meet Jesus by reading Mark's Gospel with them. We spent the term after *Summit* looking at Luke in our CU small groups and many people have invited their friends to join us, but please pray that students at CU would take the opportunity to read a gospel with a friend.



TSCF Family News

Kate McClelland (Lincoln staff), and her husband, Alex, are delighted to announce the arrival of Austin McClelland on Friday 28 June. Kate writes, "Austin made a very speedy arrival in the early hours of Matariki morning at 38 weeks. A healthy 3.33kg, he's a beautiful wee man and we are all doing well as a family of four. Sofia is loving her new big sister role and we think Austin is enjoying her cuddles and kisses too!"



Job Vacancy

Manawatū Team Leader

We are looking to appoint a new person to lead our Manawatū Team. Leading the ministry amongst students at Massey University, Te Pūkenga and Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, we are looking to grow our reach among local students and continue to develop the work amongst international students, especially as we begin to see new international students arrive in New Zealand again.

The Team Leader is responsible for a small team of staff and volunteers in the region, but also plays a role on the National Leadership Team of TSCF. Please contact Wilma on personnel@tscf.org.nz to find out more.

Fa'anānā Efeso Collins

27 May 1974 to 21 February 2024

Former TSCF student, Board member and Vice President

I met Efeso in the early nineties when he was leader the 100 strong Pacific Students for Christ who congregated at the University of Auckland's (UoA) Maclaurin Chapel. I was visiting as TSCF 'General Secretary'. Efeso led the worship, gave the Bible message and drew in others with his warmth, charisma and smile. We have been friends ever since.



Efeso was a visionary who paved the way for the emergence of Pacific Christians meeting on Campus. In 1998 he accepted my invitation to join other Kiwi's at the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES) World Assembly in Seoul. Dressed in a lavalava Efeso taught 400 delegates from over 120 countries that prayerful ditty 'Jesus is the winner man.' In the years that followed Efeso became a significant leader in TSCF. He led the worship at two national conferences (1998 and 2000) before lengthy spells on both the TSCF board (2010s) and the fellowship's advisory committee (2020s).

In early 2023 Efeso and I worked together (pic) to review the Wilberforce Foundation Scholarship Program. He was the first Pacific man to receive a scholarship (2011). Since then, over 180 scholars, largely Pacific and Māori students, have benefited from this fund to complete theological studies.

Efeso's leadership skills also drew him into public office. He was the first Pacific president of Auckland University Students' Association (1999), and his subsequent

work for the UoA focused on the support of young Pacific men and women. Efeso entered local body politics in 2013 and he soon (2016) began serving as an Auckland City Councillor. In October 2023 Efeso was elected to parliament as a Green list MP. He announced 'I have come to this House to help', in his maiden speech. I believe Efeso could do that!

Sadly, for his family, the Christian church, Parliament and all New Zealanders Efeso was called home earlier this year. He died as he lived – giving to others, when he collapsed at a charity event while carrying water to emphasize the need for clean water in the Pacific Islands.

Efeso leaves his daughters Kaperiela and Asalemo in the care of his beloved wife Fia and their respective families. Together they have lost a wonderful father, husband, brother and uncle. We have lost a humble, gifted and forthright leader, the likes of whom are rarely seen. Rest in peace brother!

Andrew Saunders



Global Reach: Vanuatu Reflections

In March, five students and two staff travelled to Vanuatu on a *Global Reach Journey*: an opportunity for students to connect with students from GNYF Vanuatu, another IFES movement and to learn and grow in their understanding of God's heart for the nations and some of the unique opportunities and challenges there are in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in places quite different from New Zealand.

Our students and staff were blessed to stay with Joel and Tiff Atwood and family, who serve with GNYF and CMS, and then in an in SIL Bible Translator Housing. In the 10-day trip they visited local churches, spent time in a rural village and visited the Bible College. Liam Hunter (Lincoln CU) shares with us some of what they experienced:

"Vanuatu has been a predominately Christian nation for some time now. Still, the church is battling cultural Christianity as people claim to be Christian, but their lives are not a reflection of their Christian identity. However, as the Lord works through pastors, churches, student groups, and missionaries, like the Atwoods, the gospel message continues to be spread through the Vanuatu islands. We heard how many ni-Vanuatu are faithful believers, but many don't have a strong theological grip on the doctrine of the gospel message. We saw how a strong focus on teaching the core doctrine of the gospel message in both churches and especially on the university campus is bringing transformation.

This experience for me was quite significant a certainly a way I saw God at work in the Vanuatu church. In addition to this, the

GNYF student groups at University of the South Pacific (USP) encouraged me as I saw how God is present in the university space. Both the international student group and the main student group were small, but it was encouraging to see the groups committed to meeting together as it seems that most Christian activity in Vanuatu is conducted in churches rather than places like the university campus. The existence of GNYF in itself is a testament to how God is moving in Vanuatu.

Many of the people we met in Vanuatu had little in the way of possessions yet they were so generous and hospitable to our group. They shared their time, resources, and food with us, and even though they didn't have much they had a heart of generosity. This has impacted the way I think about generosity in my context and also what it means to be hospitable. A big focus for me back at university has been how can I open my flat to others and how can I love others with my time, my money, and my food. I have been living in *The Well* flat these past two years and my trip to Vanuatu has certainly shaped the way I think about how I can use my time and resources to bless others using *The Well*.

My fondest memory of this trip was sitting in the *Joy Bible Institute* chapel after we had attended a theological lecture. During chapel time our group joined the rest of the school for a time of worship and a sermon. The worship session was such a beautiful and moving experience where these men sang their hearts out with nothing but a guitar and their voices. The sound of the congregation echoed around the small wooden chapel as they poured out their joy for the Lord. This moment was a truly special moment for me on the trip."

The journey to Vanuatu gave both staff and students opportunities to learn and serve within the context of what God is already doing though and among His people there, it developed their understanding of mission and influenced their spiritual formation. We look forward to developing friendships and partnerships with students in Vanuatu with an ongoing commitment to encourage and pray for each other as we seek to share the gospel in our own contexts.

"What a privilege it was to be shown around to different churches, Bible studies, groups, communities that all have a passion for our Lord and Saviour" Emilie Boeke (Uni of Canterbury CU)

"The kids I met at Nguna Island will always hold a special place in my heart. The genuine joy on their faces, the way they used the vines from the bush on the beach as their skipping rope and their eagerness to hang out with us after I invited them to where we were staying. We went on walks, sang songs, played games, played soccer and talked about Jesus and all the stories in the Bible. Unforgettable memories!" Natasha Ah-Hing (Veritas, Auckland University)

From left to right: Pastor Shem Tamara, Chaplain of Onesua Presbyterian College, students Emilie Boeke, Danielle Brown, Adrienne Malinao, Liam Hunter, Natasha Ah-Hing and Rossie Caleb, Principal of Onesua Presbyterian College



Reaching students for Christ, changing students for life.
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