

ISSUE 99 | Summer 2026

# canvas

TERTIARY STUDENTS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP'S MAGAZINE

WALKING

WITH

JESUS

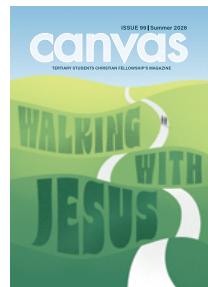




**He ākonga ki ngā ākonga hei  
ara whakawhiti mō te Karaiti.**

Reaching students for Christ,  
changing students for life.

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



**Editors**  
Kate Irving  
Rachel Turner

**Graphic Designer**  
Tessa Baty

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

Send your thoughts, comments and questions to us at:  
[canvas@tscf.org.nz](mailto:canvas@tscf.org.nz)

**TSCF**  
PO Box 9672, Marion Square,  
Wellington 6141  
+64 4 384 7274  
[www.tscf.org.nz](http://www.tscf.org.nz)

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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.



If you would like to make a donation, please scan this QR code or visit [www.tscf.org.nz/canvasgive](http://www.tscf.org.nz/canvasgive)

**...the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.**

**Micah 6:8**



**Kate Irving**  
Communications Manager

In these pages you'll find reflections from *Summit '25* in Ngāruawāhia; a student exploring creative expression as worship; a story of mission in Italy; and a spotlight on Lincoln University. Each piece shows what it looks like when ordinary steps of faith become part of God's bigger story. Our hope is that as you read, you'll be encouraged to keep walking with Jesus in your own context – whether that's in your flat, the lecture theatre, at home with the kids, the workplace, or overseas.

On a more personal note, this is my final issue as Communications Manager for TSCF. It has been a true joy and privilege to help share what God is doing in the lives of students throughout Aotearoa. I'm deeply thankful for everyone who has contributed along the way, and I'm excited to see how God continues to work through TSCF in the years ahead.

Enjoy the read – and keep stepping forward with Him. ■





# Made to last



**Alaina Eckert**

Lincoln Staff Worker

## How do you summarise a TSCF Summit Conference?

Is it in songs sung or biscuits consumed? Do you summarise it by how late students stayed up playing games or how many dances were danced during the ceilidh? Do you spend time rehashing every minute of the large-group sessions, or do you ask students what stood out to them the most?

It is easy to forget, amongst the details, those things that happen during *Summit 2025* which are eternal.

While the staff spend months before *Summit 2025* planning registration, content, and how to transport equipment halfway across the country, it would mean absolutely nothing if Jesus were not at the centre. Therefore, it is the people who have walked with and met Jesus that are the gleaming gems of *Summit*.

It was people like Animoa Goold who brought honest stories from the Waikato – stories of *tangata whenua* responding to the gospel of Jesus and working out their faith, even in the midst of war and displacement.

It was those like Fern, Dominic, Anna, and Wei who were brave enough to look back at their lives before walking with Jesus and tell their peers how they have been changed, shaped, and transformed by knowing Jesus. Students who boldly shared the challenges of doubt and resistance they face amongst their families and peers.

For some who have walked with Jesus for decades, like Brydon, Robyn, and Annette, there are trials in life that are sometimes too deep for words. Hearing the stories of those who have been disappointed, grieved, and found hope in how God can use painful situations for good brings relief to students in similar situations.

Likewise, it was people like Darryl Ward who urged us to look at Jesus through the book of Mark to see Him for who He is – the God of the seen and the unseen. We were each challenged to consider whether we believe this about Jesus. Do we “frown” at Jesus, thinking Him a bit of a “mad man,” are we interested in Jesus but not committed to what He might call us to, or might we recognize our ultimate need for Him and walk with Him, step by step, as He leads us



eternally? This is a critical question to ask ourselves, as how we view Jesus impacts the very fabric of our lives.

In different ways these people encouraged, inspired and challenged us to consider: how do we have faith that endures hardship and defies the pull of this life to be comfortable?

And the answer was this: we stay connected.

**Jesus says, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, his it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."**

(John 15:5)

We stay connected to the one who nourishes us with His Word and Spirit.

We are not alone – a single branch waving solitary in the breeze, but we are many branches, connected to the same vine. Therefore, we stay connected to each other

in fellowship as the many branches of the vine that brings abundant life.

And this is something that is so valuable and so intrinsic to *Summit*. It is why we do not pre-record the large-group sessions at *Summit* and sit behind our computers, secluded and cut off from those who would encourage us to stay connected to the vine.

It is why Lizandro and Wendy, staff members from TSCF's sister movement in Ecuador, called CECE (Comunidad de Estudiantes Cristianos del Ecuador), braved the chilly New Zealand winter (and 24 hours of air travel) to come and share their stories of the gospel spreading in Ecuador. Lizandro and Wendy work alongside students who fear that when they leave the house to attend university, they may never return. These students do not bring their laptops or valuables to school as they are likely to be mugged or held at gunpoint on their way to class.

It was with sombreness that Lizandro told us that over 100 young people had been

killed in his city in the last year due to local violence and fighting between the mafias. But when he crosses the street, the violence seems to stop for a moment because they know Lizandro is a man of peace. In their respective communities, Lizandro and Wendy are a courageous representation of the hope of the gospel, ministering to those who need it amid deep wounds and fears.

These were brothers and sisters suffering for the sake of the gospel, bringing the joy of Christ to those on the other side of the world. It was a great gift to see their faithfulness and trust in what the Lord is doing amongst their friends and families.

Lastly, it is because of the students, individually and collectively, that we meet in fellowship. It is when they see others struggling alongside them, hoping in the same gospel as them, discovering Jesus for the first time, just like them, that they catch a glimpse of the beauty of Jesus. It is in small groups discussing the everyday walk of faith or the quietness of sitting in silence with a newfound friend who's hurting. It is in the

spontaneous verses of *Amazing Grace* that bubble up while around the campfire.

Why does this reveal a glimpse of the beauty of the God we worship? Because the God we worship is a God of relationship, of love and of unending community and when we see this in our communities, we experience something of Him.

This is why the things that happen at *Summit* are eternal.

**So, yes, we might have eaten 1000+ biscuits at afternoon tea, stayed up until 3 AM, and danced our hearts out at the ceilidh, but that is dim compared to the fact that the gospel will be carried forth by people at *Summit 2025* into eternity. ■**

# Celebrating 25 years!



## Interview with **Mark and Renée Santich**

**TSCF celebrates a significant milestone this year as Mark and Renée Santich completes 25 years serving TSCF in Christchurch. Currently on sabbatical, they kindly took the time to share some reflections.**

Mark and Renée, it's with great thankfulness to the Lord that we look back over all that he has done in you and through you, and through the different members of your team that you have led.

### **What have some of the highlights of those years been?**

Most of our highlights are people and people coming to know Jesus and growing in Him. Christian Union recently put on an event celebrating our 25th year of ministry at Canterbury and it was amazing to see so many people still flourishing in their faith, loving and serving God. Some CU grads are serving in mission overseas, Bible translation projects or pastoring local churches throughout NZ. Many are serving in leadership and teaching roles within their churches (in NZ and overseas) and they are still talking to their friends and work colleagues about Jesus and raising their

children to know and love Him. What a joy to see God at work through the decades!

Our role has always been to point people to Jesus, to help equip them to read and understand His word and to send people to serve Him in His world. We continue to thank God for that privilege of being a part of His work over this time.

### **What are some of lessons you have learnt along the way?**

At one level mission and ministry is not that complicated: it's simply prayerfully entrusting people to God, helping them to meet Him and know Him through His word, the Bible. God grows people to maturity through the simple gospel message: the amazing news of Jesus, his life, death and resurrection and calling us to entrust ourselves to Him. Students have changed over time, and everyone is different, but the good news of Jesus remains the same.

A lesson we have learnt is that it is wonderful to serve God sacrificially. God moved us to consider leaving our family and friends in Australia to serve Him overseas in student ministry. We initially didn't want to serve in NZ, but God has sustained us as we sought to serve him despite the costs.

We are called to take up our cross and follow him: it means we get opposition, hardship, loneliness, and suffering, yet our Saviour is with us. He comforts us, provides for all our needs, and He sustains us in our weakness as we seek to persevere in ministry for Jesus' glory.

### **What do you think are some of the major changes that you have seen on campus over that time, and what are some of the trends that are shaping your ministry at the moment?**

The University of Canterbury campus has physically changed a lot during our time, especially because of the 2011 earthquakes and the 2019 Mosque shooting, yet in some ways students are always the same and need to hear the good news of Jesus. The Christian heritage that this nation had, was beneficial in many ways, but as we move away from that students have less general knowledge about Jesus and the Christian faith. However, this has led to more gospel opportunities as many have never read or seen a Bible, and some are more willing to investigate who Jesus is without a lot of misconceptions.

At the same time there is more hostility and opposition from some faculties towards Christianity and there has been attempts to remove us from talking about Jesus on campus. God has provided help to us with Christian lecturers and chaplains who

support us and the gospel, so we are still able to reach students for Christ and meet on campus.

### **What has kept your passion for student ministry, and how have you been sustained in that?**

The good news about Jesus that He is at work in the world saving people from an eternity under God's judgment and offering forgiveness and life to the full with Him forever is what keeps us passionate. Students are uniquely placed, taking some time before life gets busier with work and families to study and think, this provides an opportunity for them to have time to consider who Jesus is and shape their lives to serve him in sacrificial ways.

The biggest thing that has sustained us over this time, other than God and his Word, is hundreds of people praying for us and the campus ministry. This is not our work or even the student leaders' work, it is God's work and the people on the frontline of this work are those who commit to praying for God's work on campus. Many of these people have been a great encouragement to us over many years – individuals and churches in Australia and New Zealand (and elsewhere too) partnering in this work, some of them for as long as us.



## **With your wealth of experience in student ministry, what advice or encouragement would you give to Christian students, or those who will be students next year?**

Be radical for Jesus is our advice! Jesus is returning soon!

Focus on living radically for Jesus and make the most of the opportunities at your campus ministry: to be trained to handle God's word correctly so you can teach and train others, to be trained in sharing the gospel, learn how to disciple new believers, or read the Bible with people who want to meet Jesus, and be active and serve in your Bible-believing and Bible-preaching churches. Be willing and ready to talk to your friends, work colleagues and families of who God is and how life in Jesus is the best life ever, even when it's hard and costly.

Also, beware of false teachers who say there is no cost to following Jesus, that Jesus loves us just as we are and does *not* require us to change. Jesus died so we could be saved from our sin and rebellion against God, and that means repenting of living life our way and learning what God's good is for us from His word and that covers *every* area of our life – how we study, relationships, our sexuality and gender, how we work and use our money, the things we sacrifice for Him.

## **And what about those who are considering student ministry?**

As a Christian loves and serves God and loves their neighbour, they are doing ministry, and the main way we love people to by helping people know and grow in Jesus.

The big question is how deliberate are you in taking the gospel to the world? What can you do this week to bring the good news to your flat, or hall, your workplace, neighbourhood, region, city and churches?

We also need gospel workers to sacrificially serve, to forego careers, home ownership, great pay and conditions and be trained to take the gospel to the world.

God has gifted each one of us differently and to consider the gifts he has given us and pray about where God would have us serve and for some of us we need to count the cost of giving up our career and security and consider vocational ministry either in student ministry or in churches... especially if we want to reach New Zealand and the world with the good news of Jesus. Pray about this today!

## **Looking through some of the messages students and graduates have sent celebrating this milestones, a common theme is how welcome people have felt in your home, how they have felt included in your family. Has this ministry been a family affair? How have you balanced the needs of your family with your ministry?**

Renée and I were both convicted to consider why *not* do university student ministry when we were at uni. We were hugely influenced by the power of the gospel to change people by seeing the uni ministry we were modelled back in the 1980's and 90's in Sydney. God helped us both be united in considering how we could serve him together in NZ as a team.



When we arrived in NZ in January 2001 we had three children under four years of age. In the early years Mark headed onto campus, and we sought to use the home as we were able depending on what seemed manageable in our crazy household.

The ministry within the home has looked different over the years, but there has always been leaders' meetings and dinners held at our place, and some years groups met in our place. Each year we would review how it was working for the kids and their needs and change the plan accordingly.

I think part of being hospitable in the home is trying to share what we have with relational warmth and joy, rather than be concerned about entertaining people and having a perfect home. I can remember many times of adding more pasta or rice to mix through with whatever meat we might have to feed the extras who might be there at the time and praying over the food that it would stretch to meet the numbers of students there on a night (as well as coaching the students on starting with a small helping so everyone can get something).

## **What can we pray for you and for Canterbury CU in the coming year(s)?**

Please pray that there will always be gospel proclamation on campuses and a continued openness amongst students throughout NZ despite the increased hostility we are facing.

Please pray the gospel would be proclaimed confidently and that there would be many who would want to investigate who Jesus and would follow him.

Pray for current staff (Mark, Jordan, Renée and Jaden helping too) and that God would raise up more workers, particularly young grads to take the gospel to the campus and the world.

Pray we would persevere in delighting in Jesus, that we would be united and strengthened in our marriage to keep serving Him together for many years ahead. ■

## National

### On Campus

- Praise God for students who attended Summit. Pray that they would be able to apply what they learnt, in both their personal walks with Jesus and in evangelistic efforts on campus.
- Pray for new and returning students as they begin the new academic year. Pray for a warm welcome to TSCF groups and for orientation events.

## regional

### Auckland

- Give thanks for multiple outreach initiatives led by Auckland campus groups in Semester 2, including a collaboration with other student ministries at UoA. Pray for the new students who have connected through these, that they would find a place of belonging and encouragement to trust and follow Jesus.
- Ask God to provide suitable student leaders for each of our campus groups going into 2026. Thank God for several students who have already put up their hands!

### Waikato & Bay of Plenty

- Thank God for all the students we have connected with, witnessed to and discipled this year.
- Ask that God will use our humble efforts for His glory.

- Thank God for the TSCF groups re-pioneered at Wintec and Toi Ohomai Rotorua last year. Pray they continue in 2026.

### Manawatū

- Pray for a staff worker (not only for us but for the future of MUCF).
- Pray for us to balance studies, relationships, ministry and other things well as we juggle various priorities.
- Pray that we would be able to connect with more Christians on campus – and build community.

### Wellington

- Praise God for Esther and Will Chu who have arrived from St Louis, Missouri. Will will be here as Wellington Team Leader, Esther will be a Staff Worker and will also be helping out in the office with Special Projects from time to time.
- Pray that they will settle in well and be well supported to begin their journey of student ministry in Aotearoa.
- Pray that God would soften the hearts of students on campus to receive the message of the gospel.

### Canterbury

- Praise God for the students really building a camaraderie and taking on more responsibilities this semester.
- Pray for Mark and Renée as they return from their sabbatical to ministry in Canterbury. Pray that their time of refreshment would be a blessing to them as they continue to serve.

- Praise God for the support of Jordan Simmonds, assisting the work in Canterbury and pray for others to join the team.

- Praise God that a number of students exploring Christianity have thoroughly enjoyed the community at Christian Union. They are sticking around to hear more about Jesus and how he's the reason for our loving community. God is working on one man in particular who joined Christian Union in Term 3 and over the five weeks has bought a study Bible, attended every event, and is now going to church. Pray that he would continue to seek truth, accept the gospel message, and experience a personal relationship with God. Praise God for His word and His power to transform people!
- Pray that the handful of graduates will finish their studies well and prepare themselves for working 'unto the Lord' in worship.
- Pray that the new exec team would bond well during an overnight retreat and be excited to lead Christian Union with humility and servant hearts.

### Lincoln

- Give thanks for the many people eager to read the Bible and investigate Christianity. It seems that the harvest is truly plentiful.
- Please pray for the Christian students on campus. While evangelism has been very encouraging, building a depth of community with Christian students has proved particularly difficult. Pray that students would see how essential it is to do life together on campus.

### The Well

- Please pray for wisdom regarding how we best utilise *The Well* in coming years. We want to see future generations of students using it to further God's mission at Lincoln Uni.

### Otago

- Give thanks for the Otago Christian Fellowship's meetings to explore the *Long Story Short* course (which was like an NZ version of Alpha). The course was helpful, and the students engaged well with it.
- Pray for our staff worker, Simon, and his family who are on study-leave at Regent College, that they would continue to know God's guidance and connect well with those they meet.
- Ask God to grant us a sense of His presence as we learn to follow Jesus where we are. ■



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

# Introducing new staff

We are delighted to welcome four new members of staff to our team!



## Will and Esther Chu

Wellington Team Leader and Wellington Staff Worker/Special Projects Officer

Will and Esther come from St. Louis, Missouri. Will grew up in Boston, Massachusetts while Esther grew up in Phoenix, Arizona. They met through InterVarsity (IFES movement in US) and have been married since 2013. Their families immigrated to the US and are from China (Will's parents), Hong Kong and Taiwan (Esther's parents). They come from families with a history of being ministers and missionaries.

They moved to Wellington in August 2025 with new hopes and fresh dreams but the same calling to continue serving God in campus ministry. They both love seeing students encounter Jesus through prayer and reading the Bible.

Will and Esther both enjoy short and long walks; board games; visiting museums; and eating delicious food. Will enjoys sports, movies and documentaries. Esther loves watching Korean and Chinese dramas; solving crossword puzzles; and Rubiks cube.



## Anita Nolan

Finance Manager

Anita writes, "I have joined TSCF as Finance Manager bringing over 25 years of finance experience. I am enjoying using my skills as part of the National Resource Team to support the wider team. I enjoy spending time with my two adult children, walking in the beautiful creation God made and various crafts when time allows."

## Abigail Ninham

Admin Assistant

Abigail writes, "I've been part of the TSCF team in Wellington since April. It was such a blessing to receive a warm welcome from everyone! I've just completed my final year at Victoria University, studying a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Accounting and Taxation. Originally from Norwich UK, I moved to New Zealand in 2013 with my parents and brother. I grew up in Whanganui and moved to Wellington in 2022 to begin university. I now live in a wonderful Christian flat with other girls and love this city. I have a heart for serving others and a passion for mission, so I'm truly grateful to be part of a Christ-centred organisation like TSCF." ■

Save the Date

Summit is returning to Queenstown in 2026!

Sunday 28 June - Thursday 2 July 2026

Speakers:  
Reuben Munn & Emma Stokes

Lakeland Park Christian Centre

# Undivided Life



Interview with  
**Luyanda Ngwenya**

**Luyanda is an international student studying Fine Arts at AUT in Auckland. We asked her to share with us her experiences of being an international student and a Christian artist.**

## **What was your first semester like as an international student?**

So many of those memories sit in my mind like indents in steel. Everything was new: the food was new; everything tasted a little waterier than I was accustomed to. The people were new; they were polite and kept mostly to themselves. I remember going through nearly the whole spectrum of emotions: excited, anxious, hopeful, lonely, happy, stressed.

## **How did you get involved with AUT Christian Fellowship?**

I found out about AUTCF through the Student Communities' website at AUT. When I started my classes, I was surprised by how few people shared the Christian faith. In Zimbabwe, most of the population identify as a Christian so this was probably the greatest difference I had to adjust to when I first began studying. I was so excited

to see that there were Christian student communities available for me at AUT.

## **What connections do you see between your work as a student-artist and your life as a Christian?**

While I was deciding on a course of study, I thought and heard a lot about Bezalel and the rest of the artisans in Exodus 31. I was in awe of God, and the way He used artists to create beautiful pieces that reflected His glory, His care, and His work towards the redemption of His relationship with mankind.

My art and faith are inextricably connected. Art by nature communicates what we think, how we understand, what we feel, what experience, how we perceive the world and what we believe. My work as an artist reflects what my Christian life is navigating and vice versa.



*Images courtesy of Luyanda Ngwenya*

## **How do you normally approach the creative process?**

I begin with prayer, reflection, and reading the word of God. Collating what I learn and observe from each of these practices, I sketch out images that relate them to me. It is a mapping of understanding, and it follows my learning about God and how to exist and respond to the world. From there, I choose a medium, usually some form or derivative of printmaking, but sometimes sculpture and painting, and I make a more refined version of the sketch.

## **How would you want others to engage with your art?**

My work for the graduating exhibition currently explores the concept of lament, understood as the expression of sorrow and grief before God and people. I believe the practice of lament is a healthy way for us to process the pains of life with God, and to allow others to walk with us. We can also process communal grief through lament. By drawing what I lamented, I spoke to God about what confused me, hurt me, angered me, and created in me a sense of despair and hopelessness. My work was deeply personal, but going forward, I want to expand my work beyond my own lament. My future work looks more into scriptures of lament like the psalms of lament and creating visual language for those. My hope for when people look at my work is that they would feel and have room to wonder about another's grief, and their own. I hope, that in their wondering, they wonder about God, and what God's word speaks about their wondering and grief. One day, I hope they never get to wandering that far, then I hope that they simply enjoy the work for its visual merit and gain a sense of hope. ■

# On coming home



## Interview with Zach and Alice Smith

### Zach, tell us about your connections with TSCF and how you came to work in Italy?

**Zach:** In my first year at university, I met Ben Carswell through football. We connected because he knew I was interested in mission, so we started meeting weekly to study the Bible together. In 2012 Ben invited me to go to the Urbana missions conference, which was my first real experience of IFES. It was there that I felt a call to do IFES Interaction in Italy. On my return to NZ, I started attending TSCF at Vic Uni and after working a couple of years after uni, I flew to the other side of the world to start a crazy adventure!

### In your ten years there, what were some of the biggest differences you saw in student ministry and the lives of students?

**Zach:** I think the biggest difference in Italy is that students don't have much free time. University there is much harder than in NZ and so students are constantly studying and doing exams. They have significantly more exam sessions than us. In student ministry it is a constant challenge to find time for

meetings and to get believing students involved in the ministry. Universities in Italy don't all have campuses, for example the University of Pisa has a lot of different building complexes all around the north side of the city. Only a few universities have public spaces where you can strike up spiritual conversations with students.

### What changes have you seen during the ten years you have spent there?

**Zach:** A positive change that I saw happen in Gruppi Biblici Universitari was the increasing interdenominationalism. It is a movement that claims to be interdenominational, but in its early years was mostly Brethren



or brethren-adjacent churches. Over my ten years in Italy there was a real growth in participation from lots of different evangelical churches, which is fantastic.

Culturally, COVID had a big effect on Italy, as it did everywhere. We used to kiss everyone on the cheek when greeting, but that is less common. Hopefully it will come back!

### As you reflect on your time in Italy, what are you most thankful for?

**Zach:** Some highlights for me were going out weekly to speak with students with my friend Ewoud that was serving with *Operation Mobilisation*; mission weeks in Latvia and Malta run by the local movements, that we went to serve with a group of GBU students; having Zachary Ardern (TSCF Alumni) give a talk on "Does Science Point to God?" to a full lecture theatre at Università di Pisa; and seeing my close friend Gianluca come to faith and get baptised.

### What can we pray for GBU Italy?

**Zach:** GBU has a new General Secretary (National Director), Francesco Schiano. He is a talented speaker and apologist, GBU alumni and staff, but he is filling some big shoes. His predecessor, Johan Soderkvist, did a great job for many years and was a real servant leader. Pray for Johan as he takes on an IFES Europe role and for Francesco as he takes on national leadership.

### You have just returned to New Zealand, what are your plans?

**Zach:** At the moment we are focussed on getting settled and raising our daughters. Alice is looking for a job (not easy in this current climate) and serving in our local church – Epuni Baptist. I'm enjoying my



job for Garphill Games, and I enjoy leading worship together with Alice and occasionally preaching. We aren't yet sure if this move will be permanent or just for a time, so we are trying to slowly understand that as well.

**Alice:** I am currently a full-time mum. The girls and getting them settled are my priority but I am trying to start my own business as a wedding planner and event designer. My dream is to bring a touch of Italian style for NZ weddings and events. I strongly believe that as a family we can be an example in the local community, and I truly desire that my daughters may come to know Jesus as soon as possible, above all else.

### Alice, what are you sad to leave, and what are you excited about in coming to NZ?

**Alice:** Leaving Italy and my beloved family was the most difficult decision for me, but this is a condition that one of us (me or Zach) must live with. Something I love about NZ is the slower pace of life, compared to the pressure of a frenetic European life. I am looking forward to learning more about this beautiful country and its people: Kiwi people are so friendly and welcoming. ■

# Regional Spotlight: Lincoln

## Chris Hay

Lincoln Team Leader

**Lincoln University is New Zealand's smallest university, located just outside of Christchurch. The university has around 5,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students from all over the world. The campus has a very rural feel, with many of the subjects focusing on stewarding the land in the rural sector.**



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Lincoln Clubs Day

## Staff Profiles

Currently, we have four staff seeking to reach students for Christ and change students for life: Myself, Alaina Eckert, Kate McClelland, and Ani Kartikasari.



### Chris Hay

Chris is full time at Lincoln and has been on campus for coming up 10 years. He originally grew up on a farm in Southland and got involved in the CF group as a student. He loved it so much that he decided to join staff and is now the team leader.



### Kate McClelland

Kate also has spent a lot of time around Lincoln, firstly growing up here and then deciding to study landscape architecture. Kate has been on staff with TSCF juggling a number of roles. She now works part time being involved with our international fellowship IFES, some national projects with TSCF as well as supporting ministry amongst women on campus.



### Alaina Eckert

Alaina originally grew up in Wisconsin USA and came to Lincoln a few years ago to do postgraduate study in marine biology. While here she became very involved with the Christian Fellowship club. There was an opportunity for her to help out by being in *The Well* as a community coordinator which she prayerfully took on. She has since joined staff and has been helping oversee *The Well* and the new postgrad fellowship.



### Ani Kartikasari

Ani originally came to Lincoln from Indonesia as a PHD student. She volunteered part time with TSCF focussing mainly on the postgrad Christian fellowship. She now is working full time as a lecturer with the University and still assists with the postgrad fellowship as well as being an associate chaplain on campus.



### Tim Hodge

Tim AKA Mothy has been a stalwart at Lincoln University for over 20 years. For many of those he was the team leader as well as taking up national responsibilities. He now works part time with TSCF helping out on a national level.

# Campus Groups

## Lincoln Uni CF

The CF is the main group on campus, and has been operating for many years. Like other TSCF groups around the country, the CF is seeking to encourage students to reach their friends with the gospel (prompted by Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20). Our mission field is where we spend most of our time, and for students, that is their classes, flats, and sports teams. There are several weekly events, including Bible studies, prayer meetings, and talks on how we engage culture as Christians. There are also many one-off events that are scattered throughout the year, like bonfires, sports, and board games nights.

## Postgrad Fellowship

One exciting development this year has been the renewed input into the postgrad fellowship on campus. Over recent years, Lincoln University has invested significantly in its postgraduate courses. With that input, many students have come to Lincoln to study, particularly international students. In recent years, we have met individual Christians in the postgrad world. Currently, there is a group of 5-6 who meet weekly to study the Bible. This year we hope to see that community grow. This year we prayerfully hope to see that community grow.

## The Well

Another encouraging aspect of ministry at Lincoln University is *The Well*. *The Well* is a house that TSCF has been able to build just a few minutes' walk from the campus. The

vision for *The Well* is to encourage students to live undivided lives: to live out what it means to be Christian in all areas of life and to do that together with others. Alaina lives in *The Well* alongside eight students and seeks to encourage the group in achieving the vision.

## Stories of Change

We recently had our changeover of leadership, which led me to reflect on the team that was finishing up and just how much they had grown during their time on leadership. It can be easy to take for granted how much students grow and develop, particularly when given the opportunity to lead. We, as staff, are privileged to see and experience student leaders deepen their love and faith in Christ.

I asked two of our finishing leaders to reflect on their time in leadership and how they have grown, so you can get a glimpse at what is happening at Lincoln and across TSCF groups around the country every year.

### Emily

When I started going to the LUCF, I didn't enjoy reading Scripture aloud, praying aloud, speaking in front of people, or even sharing my thoughts on the Bible. But as I became a leader and served those of the CF, I became more confident in sharing my thoughts and just becoming more confident in my faith.

Serving in the CF has made me realise the importance of fellowship with one another. The area I have grown the most is in my confidence speaking in front of others. Just one year ago I was scared to even tell the CF why I wanted to be on exec. But speaking in

front of others is more natural now. Overall, I love to reflect on our vision from this year, which was welcoming all to know and love Jesus. All glory to Him for this growth.

### Emma

Serving on the leadership team has not only been a great way to serve my club and university, but it has also been a point of major growth in my character and in my relationship with God. As the treasurer of the club, I have been able to witness firsthand how God has a plan that we cannot comprehend.

At the start of the year, when we had our leadership meeting, we decided that we wanted to emphasise being a community that will welcome all sorts of people to come to know and love God. In my mind, I thought this would mean reaching international students who may have never heard of the Bible or do not have English as a first language. As the year started, people began coming to events and Bible study, but not the kinds than I expected. I was disappointed and thinking that we had failed in our goal, but halfway through the year, I had started to see that God had been working in a different way than the way that I was thinking. We had students

find community in our club from all sorts of backgrounds, ranging from Indian and American international students to students from the rugby club. Seeing the club become a place where people can not only find community in each other but also find Jesus and come to love Him has been so encouraging.

Serving on the leadership team has helped me see more of Jesus in the things we do and the people who attend our events. Before I joined the leadership team, I saw time and money as things that I did not value and wasted them away day by day. I have come to learn that money and time are a gift from God, and I have been busier with managing them intentionally, but I do not regret this busyness because I find it to be very rewarding.

As I mentioned before, this is just a glimpse into the Lincoln CF group. Stories like this encourage me and the local staff at Lincoln every year along with other TSCF groups across the country. Thank you for your prayer and partnership in helping students grow in their faith, love, and service of Christ. I hope you are as encouraged as I am. ■

*Lincoln CF Bonfire, Bible Study at The Well*





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



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