

MMM New Zealand News

Issue 1 2020



Building...
Empowering People

WHERE WILL YOU GO?

WHOM WILL YOU SERVE

IN 2020? >>>



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Letter from the Director March 2020



Our editor and designer does an amazing job of putting this magazine together, always with encouraging stories of God at work in people's lives, challenging points to spur us to action and opportunities to out work that commitment. You need to read Ian's story, Roy and Rachel's testimony and David's reflections to be inspired. As we know faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead! James 2:17 tell us this. Dead! That is a pretty serious question to ask yourself. Has your faith translated into action? Is what you say that you believe actually what you believe, or are you like the demons in James 2:19 and

believe that God is God but you won't let that affect your life or cause you to step into something unknown?

This magazine poses the question on the front cover, "Where will you go? Whom will you serve in 2020?"

On page five you will read, "Every project is a journey of faith. Are you ready to join the journey?" "Every project is a journey of faith" is a true statement. We are constantly evaluating applications, agreeing to projects, believing it is something worthwhile to partner together in, seeking support to see the project happen and then thanking the Lord that yes the volunteers did come along to enable the project to be completed. Does that mean you can sit back on your laurels, (what a weird sort of a saying is that – just looked it up. Laurel wreaths were awarded to the winning athletes in the Pythian games and it means that you get lazy or complacent about what you could achieve because you're too busy basking in the memories of former glories.) and not come and help because the job always gets done? No. You need to be part of the answer, you need to continue to put your faith into action. Challenge yourself financially and show that you trust God and see him provide in miraculous ways. Just like Ian, Roy and Rachael and David have done.

I thank all those who when the need is made known, don't rest on their laurels but decide that they can be involved or they can support. That is faith in action!

Howard Robinson



Vision: To see the Church empowered and equipped with adequate facilities appropriate to God's mission

Mission: MMMNZ exists to enhance the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the ministry of building, both people and facilities to serve Christian work and workers in God's global kingdom

Farewell

Ian Cross

Ian Cross has served with MMM for 16 years. He has 'lived' at the MMM Centre, Pirongia and traveled to projects, frequently being hosted in someones home and being away during the week. As Ian finishes serving the Lord with MMM, here are some of his reflections on that journey.

I see myself as a kid from Castlecliff, Wanganui, who one day prayerfully said to the Lord "I will do what you want, use me as you wish and take me where you want." He listened and I followed His direction.

Why I served with MMM? Good question. The short answer is: God gave no other choice. It all started in 1999 when Malcolm Rea, from my home church in Wanganui, gave me a copy of the MMM News. As I was already searching for practical ways for God to use me, MMM appeared to be where God was leading me. Four years later I joined the mission full time.

On my first project, Maungaraki Baptist Church, Lower Hutt, we served alongside an older gentleman, Murray Kendon. After World War 2 Murray was instrumental in starting MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship). Many decades later God was still using this man. Truly inspirational, especially right at the beginning of my MMM journey.

Hundreds of MMM projects in New Zealand took me from Kaitiāia in the north down to Island Bay, Wellington, and Taranaki in the west over to Hawkes Bay in the East. Projects have ranged from one day to three months. Old buildings, new builds, right from the foundations up to the roof. Rot and rust is a common problem to deal with. Working on a yacht in a couple of North Auckland boat yards was also memorable. Praise God that He has given me the ability to adjust to the variety. Nearly forgot, only once I had a work visa for a project in the South Island.

Serving the Lord overseas was a real bonus. MMM projects were in Australia, Croatia, Fiji, Hong Kong, China, and Russia. Using leave that was available the Lord led me to also serve Him short term with other Christian missions in India, the Philippines, South Africa, Ghana and Togo. Also I sailed for a couple of months on the Doulos from Fremantle, West Australia to East Timor, Singapore, northern

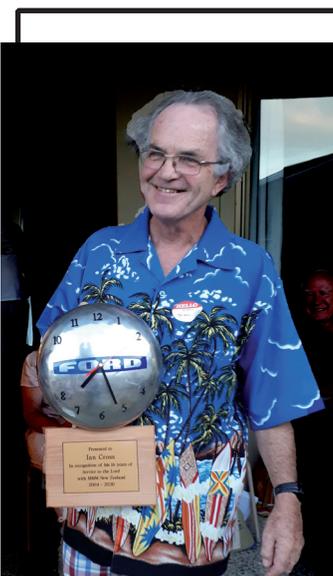
Borneo and finished in the Philippines. A year later this ship was decommissioned.

There have been many challenges, twist and turns, which God has carried me through. A cherry picker accident, a head on crash in the MMM van, a pinched nerve in my neck, life threatening cancer, evacuated on an air force Hercules after a catastrophic typhoon while in the Philippines, two hernias, carpal tunnel in both wrists, blood pressure issues, a few minor fractures, stitches to hold bits back together and sciatica. And thrown into this mix have been various interesting folk. Never a dull moment!

The most memorable and impacting MMM project that I was involved with was in Croatia. This was for Operation Mobilisation (OM). They had purchased an old ferry from the Faroe Islands and it was getting a complete rebuild. I was fortunate to be used by the Lord twice, 2006 and 2007. Working alongside well experienced marine engineers was a humbling experience - my only real training in practical skills was Form one and two woodwork and metal work. The Logos Hope was one of those "chance in a life time" opportunities. This ship may be in operation for up to 30 years, ministering to up to a million souls each year, and God gave me a very small speck in this potential 30 million mission. When God again brings a similar opportunity to use me, I will be more than willing to be involved.

Finally, here are a couple of verses that briefly sum up both my season with MMM and my journey with the Lord. **Psalm 37: 23 - 24, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way, though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand. Amen."**

-Ian Cross



On Saturday the 29th February friends and family of Ian Cross gathered to bid him a fond farewell. Around 80 attended and enjoyed a great barbecue feast and many memories.

Ian was given a Ford hubcap, being a "Ford man" that had been made into a clock with an attached text which read, "Presented to Ian Cross, in recognition of his 16 years of Service to the Lord with MMM New Zealand 2004-2020."

Are you ready to step out and venture with God?

MMM is seeking full-time and part-time team members.

Where will you go?

Whom will you serve?

MMM is urgently seeking mobile team leaders who are willing to go and serve God by practically supporting ministries.

Phone Howard, 021 910 172 for details



HOGAN'S FIJI JOURNEY

“On our last night in Savusavu last year, one of our good Fijian friends said to us, “You have done enough to help our family and village, it’s time to help the rest of Fiji”.”

Bula Vinaka, we are a family of five, Roy, Rachael, Josh, Gabrielle and Caleb... though if you ask Caleb, that is his “old name” and he is actually Kelepi. I guess when you go to Fiji three times in the first three years of your life, some things stick.

Our story about how we came to be involved in MMM started in 2006. We were working at Totara Springs Christian Centre, where Roy was working in the Property Team and doing his building apprenticeship and Rachael was in the Ministry team. We were asked to join a MMM team heading to Savusavu, Fiji, to help build a mission guest house.

This trip may have only been two weeks, but the impact of our time there has gone on to shape the direction of our lives and those around us ever since.

We were billeted out with a Fijian family and enjoyed getting to know the culture, language and people so much that we returned six months later.

On our last night of that second trip, the family we had stayed with and were able to help as well as the initial project, laid out an amazing traditional Fijian lovo for our team. The words of gratitude said to us from the patriarch of the family, in his broken English, really struck us, **“Thank you for what you have done here, we can never repay you.”**

Over the next few years we made a few more trips to Fiji. One of these trips was for a month to Coral Coast Christian Camp where we served on a MMM team and then stayed on afterwards, other trips were to help and visit friends. But after having kids, we had to place ‘building in Fiji’ in the too-hard basket.

Cyclone Winston which devastated much of Fiji hit in February 2016, the week before Caleb was born. Straight away our hearts were for the people of Fiji, especially our friends. We knew houses in their village had been completely destroyed with many being damaged, with the people not having the knowledge or materials to know how to repair them.

God continued to stir our hearts and open doors. When Caleb was three months old we ended up in Fiji for 10 days helping rebuild a village hall that had been badly damaged.

Returning from this trip we were asked by our church if we would help take a team to Fiji. This ended with us 18 months later taking a team of 20 to Savusavu. This was a big learning curve of what it looks like to manage a team in Fiji. We faced lots of challenges; including buying and ordering materials in Fiji, what to do when brown water starts coming through the tap and getting to know the Fijian medical system when our toddler ended up on a drip for dehydration. But we still felt God calling us for more.

Although we had been doing these more recent trips to help friends and their village, MMM was always on our radar. We knew there was a Fiji Coordinators position being advertised, we had stayed at the MMM base in Sabeto on our first trips. We had talked about wanting to do a longer stint in Fiji one day when we didn’t have preschoolers.

Last year we spent a month in Fiji as a family, during this time we were able to help lots of people with jobs that were completely out of their reach otherwise. One family house we worked on was able to be waterproofed, which before we worked on it had water from the shower and toilet running through the house and frogs living in the walls!

We continued to see the Fiji Coordinator advertised, we knew that this was what God was calling us to. On our last night in Savusavu last year, one of our good Fijian friends said to us, “You have done enough to help our family and village, it’s time to help the rest of Fiji”. With this etched deeply in our minds we came home and the next day started the process to join MMM, that has led us to where we are today.

God has clearly shown us that we have a unique set of skills and passions we can use in a practical way to serve Him in building His Kingdom in both New Zealand and Fiji with this role.

We are now busy getting our house ready to rent, raising support and preparing for a new phase of life. We are looking to head to Fiji early next year, about the time Caleb turns five. -Rachael Hogan

**WE STILL FELT
GOD CALLING
US FOR MORE**

The Hogan family have to raise support to serve with MMM. If you would like to partner with this family in this way with either a one off gift or regular support, contact MMM. MMM issues tax-deductible receipts.

YOU NEVER KNOW!

**“It was great getting involved on three levels...”
What were those three levels? Read on to find
why David enjoyed serving on a MMM project!**



In late January 2020 I had the privilege to work on an MMM project renovating parts of the Eden Trust Hostel buildings in Lovelock Avenue, Mt Eden, Auckland.

I had heard of MMM some years ago and the suggestion came up with a group of friends around March 2019 that we should try to volunteer as a group to assist in a project sometime soon. Some of us subsequently registered with MMM indicating our availability and the skills we thought we could bring to a project. Three of us, Roger Tyler, David Bennett and myself, were able to contribute to the Eden Trust project over three days at the end of January.

This particular project had several points of significance for me. Firstly it was a great pleasure to meet and work with some of the MMM team and get to know a bit more about their ministry. I continue to be impressed by their vision and commitment.

The second dates back to March 1967 when I became one of the first intake of boys/young men to stay at the newly opened Boys Hostel at No. 3 Lovelock Ave. Roger Tyler was also in that first intake.

Mr and Mrs David Hill were our hosts or house parents. There were about nine residents, working men, university students like myself, and a senior student at Auckland Grammar, along with the son of our hosts. Most of us were from Brethren families so we gravitated to nearby Eden Chapel for our spiritual home and the very active Youth Group. Many long lasting friendships were made there as well as among the ‘Hostel Boys’.

Around the middle of 1967, a Girls Hostel was opened at No. 9 Lovelock Ave, which was previously known as The Auckland Missionary Home. This added a new dimension to the social scene in Lovelock Ave and of course in the Eden Chapel Youth Group.

My time at the Hostel ended when the University semester closed for 1967 and my parents returned from overseas to Auckland. I returned to the family home, continued my studies, and continued to fellowship at Eden Chapel and maintain those valued friendships. As new groups of ‘boys’ and ‘girls’ arrived at the Hostels through the early 70s many of them joined the Eden Chapel Youth Group, and also became close friends. Several very successful marriages resulted from those friendships in the early 70s.

It was at a reunion of 11 of us ‘boys’, and our respective wives, in March 2019 where the idea of approaching MMM as a group came up.

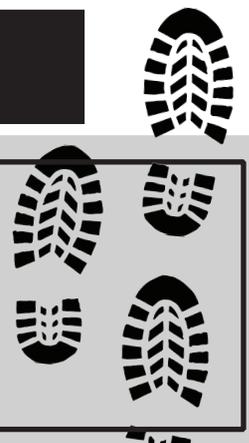
The Boys Hostel at No. 3 has now moved to No 7 and the old No 3 and 5 sites are now occupied by the Rosa Dene Rest Home, also an Eden Trust operation. Our work in January was mainly in one of what we knew as the Missionary Cottages, little home units alongside No 9 where missionaries on furlough were able to stay until they returned to their mission or settled back into life back in New Zealand. They are now accommodation for Hostel staff and for some of the Hostel residents. Incidentally, these cottages were built in about 1970 by the late Mr Archie Elliott, who may be familiar to a number of older MMM members. I worked for Archie as a carpenter for most of 1972.

Thirdly, it was great to share the ‘Volunteer Experience’ with two of those old friends, Roger and David, all of us now retired. We reminisced at length and enjoyed many laughs, and we did get some work done. It will be great to do it again sometime soon.

So, you never know what memories might arise and connections re-joined when you volunteer for a MMM project! - David Wilson

**Have you ever been blessed by Christian camp or ministry? Serving with MMM is a great way to support that ministry that blessed you.
See the back page for upcoming projects!**

Every project is a journey
of faith!
Are you ready to join the journey?



Serving those who serve....

"We have different gifts... if it is serving then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement...." Matt 25: 35-40



Full time team members - Ian Cross and James Pask

Carswell Project, Wellington



Back at the end of last year the team spent a couple of weeks painting the exterior of the home of Ben and Jenny Carswell who are full-time workers with Tertiary Student Christian Fellowship. The project was memorable for it's windy weather, but hey that's Wellington, right? On a good day you can't beat it! *Team Leader - Ian Cross, Steven Douglas, David Gennard and Pauline Jeffs.*

Hamilton Christian School



With a growing roll the Hamilton Christian School needed a former office block converted to a classroom before school started. The team removed internal walls, tidying them up and getting a fresh coat of paint on for the new year. James also did some investigation as to why water was getting into a classroom and found drains blocked and water flowing back into the room. Other rooms were also tidied up with some fresh paint. *Team Leader - James Pask, Ian Cross, John Dudli, Dave and June Gennard, Pauline Jeffs, Des and Wendy Magee and Josh Tritscher.*

Eden Christian Hostel, Auckland

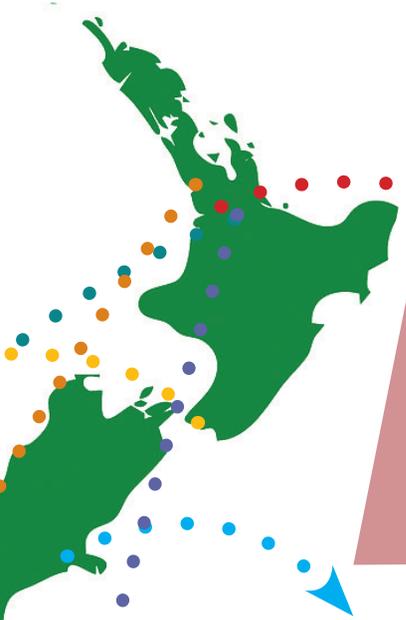


Eden Christian Hostel provides accommodation for full time first year tertiary students who are moving away from their family for the first time and coming to Auckland city to study. The Hostel focuses on connecting students to Jesus Christ, to each other and to a new church fellowship in Auckland. It provides a safe place for the students to succeed in their studies. The project was working together with a local builder and painter in the refurbishment of a bathroom, two bedrooms and interior and exterior painting. All this was done during the holidays so as not to be a bother to the students. See the article on page five for more of the story. - *Ian Cross, David Bennett, Ian Cross, Pauline Jeffs, Ronnie McArthur, Rodger Tyler, David Wilson.*

Caperunway Bible School Cambridge



Caperunway Bible School, Cambridge is one of 25 such centres around the world where young people are given the opportunity to study the Word of God, enjoy practical service and a lot of fun, while discovering who they are in Christ. The MMM team were asked to go and resolve a long-term water leak issue on a flat roof. Caperunway wrote, "We have been unable to find any roofing contractors willing to do the repairs." Our team went and lifted the flat roof, increased the fall laid new ply, laid the sheet membrane and replaced ceilings that had been damaged. Then they lowered the verandah to create more run off for the rain. We are however, still waiting on the rain to check their work! *Team Leader - James Pask, John Dudli and Graham Stokes.*



How can you help? Check the back page for projects you can lend a hand on!



MMM Centre, Pirongia

A week was taken to do some maintenance around MMM. House number one also received it's overdue roof paint. *James Pask and Pete Simmons*

Waipara Adventure Centre, Amberley

This has been an ongoing project over the last few years and it's exciting to see it reach the paint stage! The recent team prepped and painted the interior and exterior of a four bunk room accommodation with a toilet block. it was great to have new volunteers join in on this project. *Team Leader - Gerard Van Leeuwen, Samuel Ghoorah, Dave Festing, George Patterson, Steve Pope, Malcolm & Wendy Falconer, Keith & Marion McQuillan.*



Don't forget there are also overseas projects you could join, see below or check out the back page!



MMM loves volunteers, but would prefer our volunteers don't arrive in a vehicle like this! Thankfully the skills of the firemen were not required on a recent project when the gas torch being used ignited something it should not have! However, thanks to our fast thinking Team Leader the problem was short lived!

Many thanks to all those who pray daily for safety on our projects. God hears, God answers!

TEAM MMM ZAMBIA

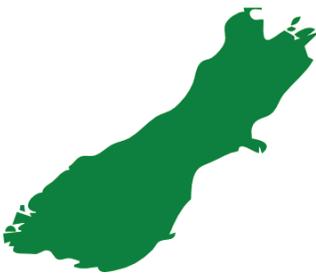
Be on the team!

MMM Zambia began 32 years ago to support Christian missions in Zambia when some missionaries working in Zambia saw the benefit of practical support. Today MMM Zambia runs a Vocational Training Centre and strives to give a learning opportunity to those who would not otherwise have one. To accomplish this it needs to generate funds. For this reason they are building an accommodation facility in which they can rent rooms to students from the nearby university.

To assist with this development MMM is sending a team in July. The team will be tasked with putting down the floor and building block walls alongside the students. Come join the team! The trip includes a trip to the majestic Victoria Falls. **Winter in Zambia? Sounds great!**
Contact MMM for more information.



Upcoming Projects in NZ

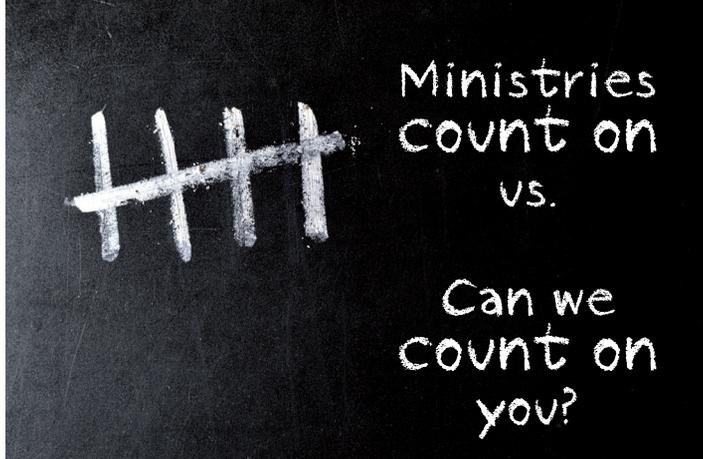
 <p>North Island Projects</p>	<p>2ND - 13TH MARCH CARISBROOK BIBLE CHURCH</p> <p>30 Carisbrook Street Katikati</p> <p>Painting exterior of church building with repair work as required.</p>	<p>2ND - 13TH MARCH HAMILTON SAMOAN AOG</p> <p>35 Priscilla Cres, Melville, Hamilton</p> <p>Paint exterior of church manse for the pastor – do any necessary repairs.</p>	<p>16TH MARCH - 3RD APRIL 18H MAY - 13TH JUNE</p> <p>MMM CENTRE</p> <p>1 Kane Street, Pirongia</p> <p>Upgrade the MMM Units – strapping, insulating and lining walls, replace kitchens, plastering, paint throughout. Rebuild 6mx11m storage shed the plans are ready.</p>
<p>14TH - 24TH APRIL TYNDALE PARK CHRISTIAN SCHOOL</p> <p>206 Murphys Road, Flat Bush, Auckland</p> <p>Renovation of library and renovation of boys and girls bathrooms.</p>	<p>14TH - 24TH APRIL (SCHOOL HOLIDAYS) MATAMATA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL</p> <p>91A Smith Street, Matamata</p> <p>Build gable roof extension and a clearlite roof over large deck.</p> <p>NOTE - MORNING AND AFTERNOON TEAS AND LUNCH PROVIDED ON MOST PROJECTS.</p>	<p>4TH MAY - 13TH JUNE MI CAMP</p> <p>100 Rawhira Road, Turangi</p> <p>Have you ever been blessed or encouraged by being at a camp? Then here is a great opportunity to return the blessing!</p> <p>A project to build 8 bathrooms onto cabin accommodation.</p>	<p>22ND JUNE - 3RD JULY YWAM AUCKLAND</p> <p>12 Lenore Road, Favona, Auckland</p> <p>Renovations to toilet and bathroom areas, create a wheelchair accessible unit.</p>
<p>20TH JULY - 14TH AUGUST ST FRANCIS ANGLICAN CHURCH</p> <p>248 Main Road, Tairua</p> <p>Addition to the church to create a new entry/foyer area.</p>	<p>South Island Projects</p> 	<p>6TH - 17TH APRIL J & M NIEHAUS, STUDENT LIFE TEAM LEADERS, HOME</p> <p>182 Gladstone Road, Dalmore, Dunedin</p> <p>Support ministry on the university campuses of New Zealand! Come help paint the exterior of a solid plaster home.</p>	<p>18TH - 28TH MAY LAKELAND PARK CHRISTIAN CAMP</p> <p>496 Peninsula Road, Kelvin Heights, Queenstown.</p> <p>Come bless this top location! Alterations to bunk beds to make compliant. Some interior and exterior painting.</p>

FIJI PROJECTS!

Island Encounters (Cross culture missions)
Bunkroom addition to team facilities
25th March - 11th April and then
11th April - 25th April
(School Holidays)

His International Mission (Bible Training)
Project to finish block work
30th May - 13th June

Cost: \$1900

Ministries
count on
vs.
Can we
count on
you?

Would you like to know more? Check out our website www.mmm.org.nz

Be sure to phone before arriving on a project to ensure it is on schedule, thanks!

 **Find us on Facebook**
MMM New Zealand

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projects@mmm.org.nz

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