

MMM New Zealand News

Issue 1 2021



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Front Cover: On the project at the Hamilton
Samon AOG, (L-R) Roy Hogan, two local
helpers and Malcolm Ragg. (In case you are
wondering, Malcolm's T-shirt reads, "I'm not
arguing I'm just explaining why I'm right!")

LETTER FROM THE *Director* March 2021



Why a person does what they do is always an interesting question. In this issue of the MMM Magazine some who have been serving with MMM will share their journey and what motivates them. You will read phrases like the "The joy of serving," "Work experience" and "Serving God." Motivation is an interesting word because it needs a reason. What drives you? Moves you? When I was just a child my father went with a group from our church to Fiji to help build a classroom at a Christian school. I thought it was a cool thing to do and decided at age ten I wanted to be a builder when I grew up so I could help others. My Dad inspired me. When I met my wife (to be), I told her, on about our first date that I wasn't a normal builder with grand house plans, I was builder to build for God. (She may have decided there are few other 'not normal' things about me since, but I haven't asked!) MMM arrived in New Zealand a few years later and the opportunity to use my skills for God's Kingdom was right there.

Today there are a few more things that motivate me. I love to hear how MMM supports and blesses ministries, how MMM gives opportunity to those with practical skills to be involved in mission. To be able to work in a ministry that supports and encourages Christian ministry is truly a gift. These days I'm not on the tools myself but I am still encouraged by the ministry, as I see need and skills come together.

As I write this, we are about to celebrate Easter. It's always good to remember what God has done and that his motivation was love.... "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son" John 3:16

Maybe it's time to ask, "What is your motivation?"

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

TAYLOR'S STORY

Taylor Firth is 15 years old, lives in the Waikato and has been working with the MMM Waikato team over the last few months because he enjoys practical work and wants to get some work experience. It is great to have a young man wanting to serve in this way. We are grateful for Taylor's willingness to lend a hand.

So, Taylor- tell us a bit about yourself, what do you do to fill a day and what do you enjoy doing?

I'm homeschooled so I normally finish school around lunch time! I'm a very relaxed guy. I don't like to do too much in a day. Sometimes I just like to be home and do nothing, but I do enjoy outdoor games and activities. I enjoy hanging out with our homeschool friends. I also enjoy sport, specifically Football (soccer). My brother and I played the last two years for the Hamilton Christian School.



How did you hear about MMM?

I think I heard of MMM mainly through my Dad, and he encouraged me to give it a go. We knew Leif Pedersen, and so when Dad heard he was joining MMM we thought it'd be cool for me to join him and get some work experience.

Why does a young guy like yourself get out on an MMM project?

I enjoy work. I like getting away from the house and doing physical work. I want to start getting some work experience now because I know that

it will help me in the future.

What projects have you served on and what did you do?

I've worked at Narrows Park Christian Camp, Cambridge Baptist Church, Manawaru Bible Chapel, Te Awamutu Bible Chapel and now I'm working at the Hamilton (Samoan) AOG Church. In the past, I've done a lot of painting and some building repairs. However, at the Hamilton AOG Church we're doing a building extension, start to finish.

What have you enjoyed about working on MMM projects?

I enjoy the Christian community. I get to work with great guys and I like that we have a devotional every day at morning tea. It's a great, safe work environment for young men like myself. I also like using power tools and building things.

What didn't you like?

Well, there isn't really anything I have disliked, but there were things that I liked less than others. I'm not hugely fond of painting, but I

Continued on page 5



HOGAN'S FIJI UPDATE!

Roy and Rachael, Joshua, Gabrille and Caleb joined MMM at the beginning of last year to take up the role of MMM Fiji Project Coordinators. The plan was always that they would serve with MMM New Zealand before departing for Fiji but with the advent of the term COVID, that timeline has changed. Here is an update from the family.

MMM NZ usually sends short term teams to Fiji regularly between March and October each year. This works best when MMM have Full-Time Team members in Fiji assessing projects and leading the teams. Due to COVID, we are now in a place of not knowing when MMM can send teams back.

At the start of 2020 MMM had nine projects lined up in Fiji. Some only to be cancelled weeks before leaving due to COVID.

However, our family has already been on a long journey in this call to Fiji and we don't plan on letting COVID stop us.

Fiji has been hit hard by COVID, with many of their population relying on tourism for employment. Added to that, with a couple of decent cyclones thrown in which have destroyed buildings and crops Fiji is still in real need of help.

Although Fiji still has its borders closed to tourists, they are currently letting in people on various visas including New Zealanders on 'volunteer work permits'. We have taken that opportunity and submitted our application for work permits and

are waiting to hear back.

This has been a bit of a process and there are still many things to be worked

out to get us there, but we are hoping and praying that our family will be able to get there this year.

Once our work permits are granted and we are able to go to Fiji, we will be able to work on projects with locals giving us the opportunity to encourage, support and teach them new skills. We will look forward to having teams from New Zealand join us when able.

Please pray for our family for the process and timing of relocating to Fiji.

- Rachael Hogan





"DO IT TO SERVE GOD"

JAMES PASK'S FAREWELL WORDS

"Don't do it just to serve MMM, because MMM is just an organisation, but do it to serve God. You have to do it because God has called you and he wants you to do it." This was James Pask's response when asked what advice he had for anyone considering serving with MMM.

answer, "Grumpy people." Fortunately, in MMM we don't have too many of those!

At the farewell dinner, Howard Robinson, the MMM Director, made it clear James always did a top job and recalled the way James would speak of, "The joy of serving".

In response to the question, "Has your Christian life grown or has there been any answers to prayer over your time with MMM?" James replied, "I would like to hope my Christian faith would have grown regardless of whether I was in MMM or not. I think pushing into the Word and praying, the morning tea times when we all share have been really great." He mentioned that there have been many answers over the years and recalled going to a project in Whanganui at a time when it was forecast to have thunderstorms and flooding. The MMM Project Coordinator was telling them not to go but James said, "We have planned to go, so we are going, we are just going to trust God." They all sat down and prayed and once on the project they only had one day when they couldn't work; the rest of the time they could keep going and they got the job done. That project was the Wai Ora Christian Community Trust. God is good!

On Saturday, 13th February, around 70 people gathered at Te Awamutu Bible Chapel for a dinner to farewell James Pask, who has been serving with MMM Full-Time since 2015 and volunteering for a number of years before then.

We had to do some archive digging to find out just when James first volunteered with MMM and concluded he was on a project back in 1999! Since then he has served in Fiji and in New Zealand, going as far North as Kaeo and as far south as Woodend just north of Christchurch.

When asked if there was a project that stood out as a favourite, James didn't hesitate to say it was the Matamata Christian School, not because of the project itself but because of the Christian unity that was there. Even when James first went just to look at the project, the first thing they did was to all sit around a table and pray. That's when James knew it was going to be a great project.

James says that he has always enjoyed working with MMM because you are working with the Christian community and for the Christian community. He enjoys leaving a place you are serving better than you found it. When asked what he didn't like, there was a very short



James did admit there has been a cost to serving with MMM. There is more rust in his van now than when he began and many of his tools have needed replacing but James concluded, "If you are going to serve the Lord you have to count the cost; before you go, and who cares what it cost, the thing is you have been obedient to God and got out and served him." In his final word James added that MMM needs to be intentional and not scared to

step out in faith, "Look what happened when you (MMM) stepped out and bought the property. We can never underestimate God's power." - Ave Robinson

Thank you, James. Your many skills have blessed Churches and ministries around New Zealand and MMM is grateful for your faithful service over the years. May God continue to bless you in the future.



Give now to receive your receipt at the end of this financial year

MMM changes lives by providing building services for places where lives are transformed. MMM is a faith mission; this means MMM does not charge for its services.

All gifts to MMM New Zealand are tax deductible.

MMM Bank Details are:

Westpac: 03 0442 0148838 00

You can also donate through Givealittle MMM New Zealand or our website.

NEW WINE AND FESTIVAL ONE

"You're MMM? Cool, you are coming to work on my Church!" was the exuberant comment we received from a Festival One goer which was a great reminder of why we attend these events – to meet the people!

Some of the MMM team began the year in a new way by attending and promoting MMM at the New Wine Festival, Kapiti and then the following weekend were at Festival One in the Waikato. This is an event MMM has promoted at for the last eight years.

New Wine (bottom photo) is described as a Festival where many voices worship the One. With the vision to see the nation changed through Christians and church groups being filled with the Spirit, alive with the joy of knowing and worshipping Jesus Christ, living out his Word and doing the works of the Kingdom of God.

David and June Gennard, and Roy and Rachael Hogan who are working with MMM and are now living at the MMM Centre, had attended New Wine before and were keen for MMM to be one of the missions represented at the four-day event. Howard Robinson attended for the first time and found the event and the variety of electives very good with plenty of opportunities to talk to people about MMM and share the vision.

This year the Festival One missions' area was set up outside under open, colourful parasols (top photo). The team were excited to see an outdoor venue allowing for plenty of through traffic and lots of engagement with Festival goers. This year Roy had the idea to put out a tangram puzzle with the challenge to build a house. That created a point of interest to stop by and have a go at making the house, for which we rewarded people with M&M's of course! The team enjoyed an encouraging time talking with Festival goers. - *Ave Robinson*



Taylor's Story continued from page 3

don't mind it and recently I've been doing a lot of digging! I don't mind digging, but it is hard work! (Depending on how much you're digging)

How has your relationship with God grown since working with MMM? Have you experienced any answers to prayer? To be honest I haven't really noticed much 'spiritual growth' (so far) during my time at MMM, but I enjoy our little prayer time that we have every day and that really encourages me. It is pretty cool to see guys getting together and praying, thanking God for what He's doing through MMM.

Have you learnt any new skills on a project?

I've learnt multiple things during projects, from how to paint a wall (properly) to things like operating a drop-saw!

What is the number one best thing about serving on an MMM project? The food! Nah. Actually that's a hard one. I'm not sure I can choose just one, but I'm a very creative person so I like the building stuff. e.g. building a wall. I like the locations we work at. Mostly church buildings. It's really great that we do all this to help people.

Would you recommend serving on MMM projects to others?

I think if you're a young guy like me looking for some work experience (or even if you're an older fella) then MMM is a great place to start! So YES!

- *Thanks Taylor, we trust and pray you keep learning and growing and seeking to serve God.*

Calving time is coming!
CAN YOU DONATE ONE OF THESE?



MMM is very thankful for the funds raised through Farmers Fellowship which supports MMM's overseas work in Fiji and Zambia. If you would like to donate or graze stock, please contact
**Maurice Turner 027 498 4993 or
Doug Carson 027 455 0100**

PROJECT REPORTS

Full-Time Team: Roy and Rachael Hogan and Leif Pedersen.

Did you know MMM relies on volunteers? Currently we have amazing volunteers serving in the Waikato and that's great, but we have plenty of requests from other areas seeking MMM assistance. We could do more, with more help. Do you have a passion to serve God and support Christian mission? Do you enjoy practical work? Do you live outside of the Waikato?

Associate Pastors, Auckland

The Aiken family home in Mt Wellington, Auckland needed a paint, so an MMM team replaced several cracked cedar weatherboards, washed and primed the old stain, and top coated with a dazzling white gloss. The weather included some rain days, but the painting was hardly affected as work could continue on the sheltered side or in the basement prepping the new boards. The work was completed in 8 of the allocated 15 days. A contractor working on the house next door asked who the Aikens' painting company was as he was impressed with the professional job. A real pat on the back for the team and an opportunity to spread the word. *Team: Malcolm McAllister (Team Leader) Pauline Jeffs, Ronnie McArthur and Ken Ogden*



Manawaru Bible Chapel, Waikato



The team enjoyed the beautiful scenery at Manawaru, looking at the stunning view of the Kaimai Ranges. We were asked to remove a couple of windows and paint the interior of the chapel. We had a good number of volunteers, so we got the job done in half the time. We then moved on to

painting the walls in the youth hall, toilets and hallway.

The highlight was painting the front wall of the chapel. The wall was made of panels and we painted the panels with three different colors, with white lines between each panel. It was a real joy to see the wall finished. *Team Leader: Leif Pedersen, Dave and Taylor Firth, Paulene Jeffs, Justin Kim, David King, Wayne MacCarthy and Carl Rix*



Te Awamutu Bible Chapel, Waikato



The team spent two weeks removing and replacing rotting cladding on the classrooms at the Te Awamutu Bible Chapel. They really did a top job of making it look like a new building from something that was worn out. *Team Leader: James Pask, Glen Bavister, Wayne MacCarthy, Taylor Firth, Carl Rix, Graham and Colleen Stokes, Kenny Zheng*

SEE THE
BACK PAGE FOR
PROJECTS YOU CAN
SERVE ON.

Paeroa Youth Centre, Waikato



The end of December saw the team helping with framing, insulating, painting and doing the electrical work for the Carehouse, Paeroa community Support Trust. *Team Leader: Roy Hogan, Gordon Harkness, John and Helen Coatsworth, Ronnie McArthur, Bruce McKerras and Leif Pedersen*

14th Avenue Gospel Centre



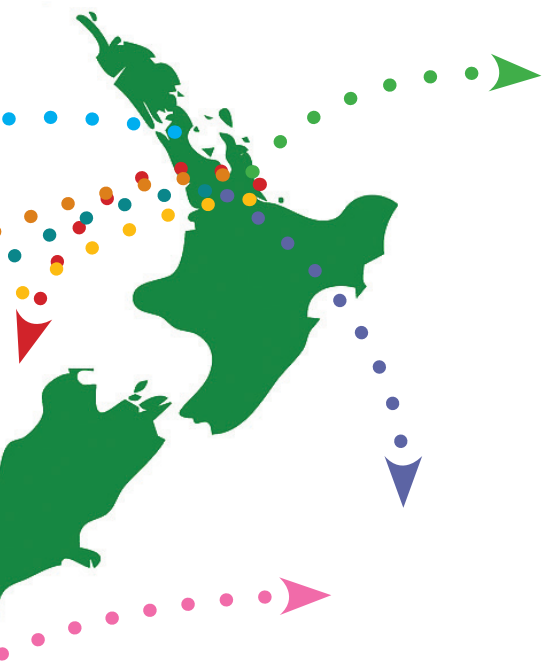
A note of thanks: *Thank you so much for the excellent job you and your team did painting our Church. It looks a million dollars and we have had a lot of compliments on it. We are thrilled with it.*

Your workmanship is superb and we have no hesitation in recommending you to anyone who is looking to painting their Church.

The fellowship we had with each person was encouraging to each one of us. Because of Calvary,

*-14th Avenue Gospel Centre, Tauranga
Team Leader: Lionel and Ngaire Stokes, Pauline Jeffs, Stephen Douglas, Marty and Robyn McKone*

Serving those who serve...



Katikati Baptist Church



Bill and Pam Todd have served and supported the ministry of MMM for many years. MMM recently worked on their Church. They write: "For us personally, it was a pleasure to be involved with MMM again – this time on the receiving end. The team was a huge blessing We achieved far more than we ever thought we would. Something happens when MMM teams come on site, they bring with them an enthusiasm and energy that is catching. With their help, church members were energised to become involved and even though many members are past the "Three score years and 10" mark, they found renewed energy working with the MMM team. The team ministered to us personally too – praying for and encouraging us.

"What a great team that worked well together and achieved a lot, also with some fun and ribbing thrown in.

Thanks for a great effort."

Cheers, Dawson Beets, Katikati Baptist Church Project



Hamilton Christian School

We had a good time at Hamilton Christian School. It was good to meet some of the teachers and to hear how they seek to impact the students with the gospel of Jesus. We constructed concrete mowing strips, repaired retaining walls around some of the playgrounds and painted fences. This was Marty's first project and he proved himself to be very handy with his welding and mechanical skills. He managed to get the old ride-on mower going. It had not been going for a few years, so the caretaker of the school was very thankful to see it running. Another job was to weld, rust treat and paint the big soccer goals. *Team Leader: Leif Pedersen, Taylor Firth, Pauline Jeffs, Ronnie McArthur, Wayne MacCarthy, Marty McKone*



We were able to paint the exterior of the office portion of the building, paint the auditorium walls, much of the foyer area, and the Pastor's Office. The Portico roof which was leaking, was repaired. The staircase and children's ministry rooms were repainted and the leak repaired there too." *Team Leader: Bill and Pam Todd, Ronnie McArthur, Marty and Robyn McKone*

"I was certainly impressed with their (MMM) work ethic, willingness to do anything that was requested, their friendliness and, of course, their love of our Lord which shone through. I just loved the atmosphere, wished I was a tad younger and fitter to do what they do."

Lynette Bendrey, Katikati Baptist Church Project

Student Life, Dunedin



It was wonderful to have Alan and Rosina back leading a project and getting the house of Student Life workers, the Niehaus family, painted and looking much better. They were thankful for fine weather, just what you need when the paint cans are open! Thanks team! *Team Leader: Alan and Rosina Mitchell, Erin and Giles Graham, Chris Pynenburg*

**We were Fundraising
& you did it!**



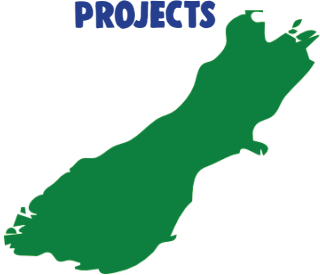
Thank you!

Great news- the funds have been raised for a new van to keep our MMM Teams on the road.

We are so grateful for your support. Thank you!



Upcoming Projects in NZ

 <p>NORTH ISLAND PROJECTS</p>	<p>4TH FEB - 30TH APRIL HAMILTON SAMOAN AOG 179 Mahoe Street, Melville, Hamilton Church extension that includes kitchen, toilets, storage and entrance.</p>	<p>7TH - 23RD APRIL MMM CENTRE 1 Kane Street, Pirongia, 3802 Project is to landscape around new shed, remove the pile of dirt and cobblestone courtyard.</p> 	<p>3RD - 7TH MAY PONUUI ISLAND (SCRIPTURE UNION CAMP) Ponui Island, Hauraki Gulf Renewing the kitchen floor and general maintenance projects. NOTE - MORNING AND AFTERNOON TEAS AND LUNCH PROVIDED ON MOST PROJECTS.</p>
<p>31ST MAY - 11TH JUNE SCOTT & LORI SILSBEE (PASTORS) Rukuhia, Hamilton Assist with renovations to a relocated house, changing windows and doors, internal remodelling.</p>	<p>12TH - 23RD JUNE TYNDALE PARK CHRISTIAN SCHOOL 206 Murphy Road, Flat Bush, Auckland, 2019 Library refurbishment</p> 	<p>14TH JUNE - 2ND JULY TAUWHARE GOSPEL CHAPEL East of Hamilton Renovations to Youth/Sunday School building. Replacing windows and doors, lining, finishing, painting, paths, installing spouting and downpipes.</p>	<p>JULY/AUGUST CAPERNEWRY BIBLE SCHOOL 3553 Cambridge Road, Cambridge 3495 Kitchen refurbishment. <i>Come and help Capernwray be ready to accept students soon!</i></p> 
<p>SOUTH ISLAND PROJECTS</p> 	<p>10TH - 21ST MAY TASMAN BIBLE CHURCH 6 Williams Road, RD1, Upper Moutere, Nelson External painting and lower roof, repairs to internal ceiling.</p> 	<p>"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." James 5:16 MMM VALUES YOUR PRAYERS! Come pray with us at one of our Prayer Fellowships or receive our monthly prayer calendar, "Prayer Force." Contact the office for details.</p>	



LOOKING FOR PURPOSE IN YOUR WORK?

COME JOIN THE MMM TEAM!

MMM is seeking qualified builders to lead our teams and anyone who enjoys serving and building God's kingdom.

Contact the MMM office, today!

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!



PHONE OR EMAIL DAVE: 021 272 1562

projects@mmm.org.nz

HELPERS WELCOME, CARAVAN PARKING

AVAILABLE ON MOST PROJECTS