

# MMM New Zealand News

Issue 2 2020



Building...  
Empowering People

LIFE IN LOCKDOWN p3



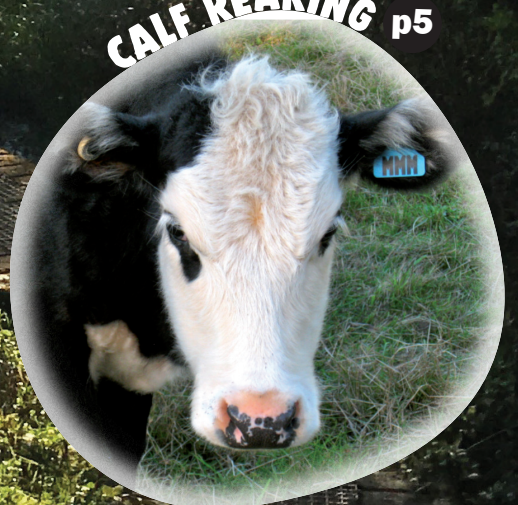
HIS DIVINE  
POWER HAS GIVEN US  
**EVERYTHING**  
WE NEED FOR A  
**GODLY LIFE**

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Printed by: FusionPrint, 24 Norton Road,  
Hamilton

Front Cover: The photo was taken by Jordan  
MacCarthy, looking from the  
Pirongia Esplanade toward Mount Pirongia.

## Letter from the Director June 2020



You are about to read of a miracle! No, really you are! Given that for last seven weeks MMM, like New Zealand, like most of the world, has been in Lockdown, what could we possibly have to share in our quarterly magazine to encourage you? Well, good news, as it turns out quite a bit! Before Lockdown there were some projects completed by the incredible, hardworking, faithful volunteers of MMM, thanks guys and girls! One article you will read describes those volunteers as, "knights of old riding in on white stallions to save the day", we liked that!

Lockdown of course created challenges. How are we to plan projects that support Christian mission and outreach when no one can go anywhere or work with anyone?! We are not unique in our wonderings as with Covid-19 we are all in the same boat and storm. However, thankfully Lockdown came at a time when we were planning to work at the MMM Centre and it's been an amazing blessing to see work continuing. We just see God's hand going before us in that we had the funds to buy the materials and volunteers on site to get some of the property 'to do' list onto the 'done' list! As we read in Proverbs 19:21 "Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand."

Now that we have moved to Level 2 we are looking forward to having Roy and Rachael Hogan, Joshua, Gabrielle and Caleb, move to the MMM Centre in preparation for serving with MMM Fiji. Please be praying for this family as they begin the transition to working with MMM.

Going forward we will get back to practically serving and supporting Christian mission and outreach when and where we can. If you are keen to be on a project just give the office a call to ensure we are where we said we would be. Serving on an MMM project is a great way to show love and support to front line Christian workers, learn new skills and enjoy fun and fellowship with other believers.

*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

# Lockdown

## LIFE IN LOCKDOWN AT MMM

Hi! My name is Jordan MacCarthy, I'm thirteen years old and I have just arrived in New Zealand from living in Cambodia for a year.

I have really enjoyed lockdown at the MMM Centre at Pirongia, in our big bubble! We frequently get together for a bubble dinner and board games. We've enjoyed a bubble movie night and every Sunday morning we get together for online church. My sister Brianna, my brother Austin and I have also been helping around the MMM Centre moving the firewood and mowing the lawns! My new sport since being here is biking and I have been on some big bike rides with Ronnie (MMM Volunteer), a funny dude from Ireland! I love the space at MMM and the many trees! It's so quiet here. I love hearing the birds singing and watching the high trees waving in the wind like a dancing flag. Such a contrast to our home in Cambodia, where there is a lot of noise, dust and heat. Having said that - I'm missing Cambodia too!

Shout out to our awesome MMM bubbly bubble!



## MMM'S ROLE REVERSAL

December 17 2019 was a momentous day for the Manawaru Bible Chapel, which is located in the eastern Waikato, nestled at the base of the Kaimai Range. The church leadership for some time had a vision to create a Community Centre in their small rural farming community, with the Hillview Trust having purchased the disused dairy factory situated on the main road in Manawaru a number of years previously.

On that day a number of significant events occurred which only God could have orchestrated – the Trust received its major resource consent for the Community Centre after 11 months of processing; negotiated and purchased the ex-factory manager's house and the adjoining section (right next door to the dairy factory); they received an application for the position of Community View Manager and Youth Worker and the offer of a house available for rent in Te Aroha, which subsequently proved to be a Godsend.

The application for the Youth Worker role was successful and he and his family arrived to take up the appointment in Manawaru. The plan was for the family to live in the ex factory house so they would be close at hand to what was to become their main role in the church's activities – overseeing the Community

Centre which is to include a café, climbing wall, museum, auditorium and motorhome park - all located adjacent to the Hauraki Rail Trail.

However closer inspection of the house revealed that in reality it would need major work – over the past 100 years the activities of the borer beetle had taken a significant toll on the woodwork. It was therefore decided to sell the house for removal and purchase a transportable house that would fit on the same site. The availability of the house for rent in Te Aroha took on new significance as the family could live there while all this took place.

Unfortunately there were not a lot of prospective buyers interested in making a purchase, so the decision was made to demolish the house. This then posed a question – what to do with all the items that were still of some value?

Stuart Bay (one of the trustees) approached MMM NZ offering the mission the opportunity to go and salvage whatever was of value to reuse or sell as MMM saw fit.

As time was important, it was fortunate there was a gap in MMM's Work Program in late February, so a team of eight over a period of three days stripped the house



of the near new corrugated iron roof, windows, doors, fireplace, kitchen and bathroom fittings, as well as some of the original Kauri weather boards. It took numerous trailer loads to transport all the plunder back to the MMM Centre at Pirongia!

As the last items were being loaded on to the trailer, Stuart was at the controls of his excavator ready to demolish the remains of the house – this was when his fun began!! MMM is thankful for the opportunity to be involved with this church in Manawaru and wish them God's richest blessings as they seek to serve their community – and also to be the recipients of their generosity.

*The Team was: Bruce Alchin, Doug Carson, Bob Fraser, Ronnie McArthur, James Pask, Howard Robinson, Graham Stokes, Graham Wright.*



# Far From Home Volunteer

## RONNIE'S STORY

Ronnie McArthur calls Belfast, Ireland home but has spent the last three months volunteering on MMM projects in New Zealand. We have found out a few things about Ronnie, for instance, he doesn't like celery but, as James pointed out, he didn't need to worry because MMM doesn't have celery/salary! Read on to learn about our far-from-home volunteer.

**How did you come to find MMM New Zealand? It's a long way from Ireland!** Well, that is a good question. I had looked online before for Christian organisations where I could go abroad and do voluntary work, working with my hands. For some reason I had never found MMM before. It's only this year I found you and I don't know why? It always appealed to me to do something like this. I have done voluntary work for various other Christian organisations in the past. MMM was an obvious choice really because I like doing practical work, plus I could get away from my winter!

### Then what happened?

So, through Google I found the website and then the rest is just standard; I sent an email to Howard and he sent me an application form, I then put the application in and Howard said, "Yeah, come on over." I was fortunate enough to get across here before the Lockdown kicked in. I arrived on 31 January, which was the same day, funny enough, that President Trump closed down America to Chinese visitors. That was the start of countries closing down. Covid-19 was being talked about then, but no one thought it would spread this far.

### What work did you do in Ireland?

I'm a retired police officer. In Ireland they work their police officers pretty hard, so we get to retire early. Before coming to New Zealand, I had just finished working on a house that I was doing up to sell. It was a rental I had that I wanted to get rid of, which sold at the end of November. This freed me up so I could come. I will look for full-time work again when I get home.

### Have you always enjoyed practical work?

Yeah, I do. I have done a beginner course in joinery just in the evenings and I come from a mechanical engineering background as well before I went into the police force.

### What MMM Projects have you worked on here in NZ?

I started work on the Eden Christian Hostel for students, then Belmont Baptist manse, then the Hamilton Samoan Assembly of God church and then the Carisbrook Bible Church, Katikati and now I've been working on insulating and lining an MMM unit.

### Has working with MMM been what you expected?

That is a good question! I would have to say I think things have gone better than expected. Everything has just fallen into place. Even staying here with the Lockdown and just carrying on working. I have been to New Zealand three times before this but, as far as working with an organisation goes, working with MMM has worked out really well.

**Thanks, Ronnie, for joining the little bubble of MMM! You have been great company and it's been wonderful to see work continuing on the MMM property!**



Ronnie on the right, alongside volunteer Tommy. Tommy is also from Ireland but has been in New Zealand since the 60's. For many years Tommy did the maintenance on the Belmont Baptist Church and was still keen to help out, although now he is in his 90's! That may be a record for the oldest volunteer we have had on a project. The two Irishmen enjoyed working together.

### What have you enjoyed about those projects?

I enjoyed the Katikati project, not only because of the people, but because it was a different part of New Zealand I hadn't been to

before. I had been to Hamilton before. I took the opportunity to drive down to Tauranga and have a look around. I also borrowed a bike and got to ride some of the nice mountain trails over that direction I've really enjoyed the cycling I've been able to do - it's so great to get away from the winters back home!

### Yeah, Ronnie you have mentioned those winters!

You think the winters are bad down in the South Island, you should see them in Northern Ireland! There is just all this dampness about them you know.

### During Covid-19, it's a difficult time to be so far from home. How have you found being in

### Lockdown in NZ?

If I was back home, I would be self-isolating, whereas here I have been with a community of people, so it's worked out much better for me. The fellowship and having everyone else around me here, whereas back home I would be just self-isolating in my house with my boarder. He's a great fella and all but it's just been so great to be here.

**Would you recommend the MMM experience to others?** Oh, very much so! Especially if they like working with their hands. If they have any skills and want to use them practically; definitely! The fellowship's great, the people you meet are great, the experiences are great, the comradery is great. I have found it all very good.





# With Thanks

## BELMONT BAPTIST FEELING BLESSED

The following article was written for the *Baptist Magazine* and is reprinted here with permission.

I want to say they are like knights of old riding in on white stallions to save the day. But trade the horse for a couple of campervans and sword for skill saw and paintbrush and you have the quintessential champions of maintenance and ideal handywoman/handyman team.

Belmont Baptist Church might be typical of a smaller church community that has suffered through the pains of rising and falling membership and buildings that dearly need love and attention. Although there was a willing crew to attack the sizeable jobs, the need for skilled and well-organised assistance was the missing ingredient. Enter MMM New Zealand, a unique ministry of skilled professionals serving the body of Christ in a super-

practical, super-generous model.

Belmont Baptist relies heavily on the rental income from an old villa, now divided into two flats, to supplement the generosity of its faithful membership. Although weekly expenses are modest, pastoral staffing and maintenance of a large property would be impossible without the additional revenue stream. Time has taken its toll on the church's fixed assets and a significant property improvement report in 2018 indicated an alarming ongoing and remedial cost to bring the buildings up to date.

When Malcolm, the MMM Team Leader, arrived with Pauline and Ronnie in tow for a two-week project, they immediately



assessed, assembled, and jumped into action. Ably assisted by Belmont stalwarts, Franz, Tom, Leanne, Martha, Don and Rose (and backstage crew of lunch makers, home bakers and hospitality givers), the MMM crew stripped, chipped, sanded and prepped the building for a shiny new coat of paint.

The fiscal blessing, massive. The experience, incredible. The legacy, immeasurable. The conversations, inspirational. The willingness, heart-warming. MMM really are well-grounded heroes! *Team Leader - Malcolm McAllister, Pauline Jeffs, Glenys Munn, Ronnie McArthur*

## FARMERS FELLOWSHIP

So how is the Gospel being spread in New Zealand? The lady who wrote this article was new to my district, she saw the calves in my front paddock, she saw the ones with the "blue MMM tags" and asked about them. When the story was told of who MMM are and what they do, she asked if she could do an article for the newspaper.

This is a reprint of the article that appeared in the *Coast to Coast* newspaper Feb 2020.

Matamata farmer Maurice Turner can have a number of 'orphan' cattle on his Morgan Road farm at any time. Whether they stay until they are fully grown or they are fostered out to another farm varies.

Maurice is the co-ordinator for MMM New Zealand's livestock donating scheme.

An international-based organisation. MMM's vision is to see the "Church equipped with adequate facilities appropriate to God's mission". The New Zealand branch was established in 1994 and has an office in Te Awamutu.

Money raised from the livestock donating scheme is used to support maintaining church buildings, churches, residential facilities of church workers, orphanages, or youth camps overseas.

Maurice could be considered the backstop for the animal donating programme. "If there is a calf-rearer who has completed the rearing job and cannot carry the animal



for any longer and I cannot immediately find someone to graze it, then the animal will come to my place. Sometimes I carry them until they are finished but I try to find another home for them."

Currently, 18 farmers either donate a calf, rear a calf, or graze an animal until it is finished.

Most supporting farmers are from the Waikato or Te Puke at this stage, but they could come from anywhere in New Zealand.

Maurice says some people do the job from beginning to end. "Sometimes it is people

on small holdings who rear the calf and it is then moved onto a farm to finish off. Donated milk powder and calf meal makes the job easier."

MMM is also well supported by stock carriers, who move cattle around promptly and efficiently. The abattoirs will credit any animal with the MMM eartag directly to the organisation's trust account.

Maurice has been co-ordinating the programme for the last six years. "In that time we've seen some growth, partly because we know there is more awareness and more people are donating an animal, but [the growth] is also due to an increase in the beef pay-out."

"And people do this out of the goodness of their hearts. It may be they want to donate and support a good cause but they are cash poor and donating an animal works well for them."

*So why do we do it? Our aim is to help those that serve. In the past 12 months we are pleased to have raised \$17,310.00 for helping MMM Fiji and MMM Zambia. We have also been able to provide meat for staff and MMM events like the end of year appreciation barbeque and farewell for long serving staff member Ian Cross.*

*While it could have been just as easy to put our hands in our pockets and find the cash, it has been great to have others involved*

*in our ministry who otherwise might not.*

*As Covid 19 has been in the forefront of the news some people may be asking how can we help? You could donate a calf, you could rear a calf, you could raise that calf to a one year old or to a two year old. You could sell a beast and have the proceeds credited to MMM.*

*- Maurice Turner*

**Contact Maurice, on 027 4984 993 to get involved.**



# Serving those who serve....

"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly-kindness; and to brotherly-kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."  
2 Peter 1:5-8

## Belmont Baptist, Auckland

For the story of how this project went, have a read of the article on page 3. It was great to have *Malcolm McAllister* as the Team Leader for the first time.

## Carisbrook Bible Church, Katikati



**"I confess in my mind, I pictured a motley collection of left-over old paint tins, with rusty lids, and hardened paint."**

A week prior to the MMM team arriving on site at the Carisbrook Bible Church in Katikati, Bill and I (MMM Project Leaders) met with Ron Loudon (Church Project Coordinator) to discuss the project. There were a lot of jobs on the "to do" list and a finite budget to achieve it with. The biggest job was to paint the exterior of the building. Ron said they thought they would go with a light grey type colour and planned to go to the paint store in the next couple of days to choose the colours.



A day or two later I received a phone call from a friend who was aware that we were involved in assisting various community groups and our connections with MMM. (Actually, I just realised she was the same lady who asked us if we knew a good home for her pre-loved bbq, which was re-housed to MMM!!!) She asked if we had a need of some left-over paint. I confess in my mind, I pictured a motley collection of left-over old paint

tins, with rusty lids, and hardened paint. She said she could drop it off to us next time she came to town. Imagine my surprise when she arrived with twelve 10 litre pails of Trade based paint in "Resene Paper-bark" left-over from painting their house (that's another story)!

I rang Ron, saying: 'You've probably got the paint for the Carisbrook project, but now we have some paint here and you may not like the colour – it's kinda mauvy, taupy, greyish, '. No – he hadn't got to it yet and came round to check it out. 'It'll be great' said Ron. Unbeknown to us, they had seen a couple of houses nearby and decided to look for a colour very similar to what we now had!

The project was a great success. MMM team members and locals completed the exterior paint job within the first week. One woman in the congregation had her heart (and faith) set on having the interior of the hall/social room painted too, but it was going to be a stretch of both time and budget to achieve it. However, time and paint were on our side, so by mixing the exterior colour with equal parts of white paint the team were able to do "... exceedingly abundantly more than what we all envisaged" (Eph 3:20).

Praise the Lord for his provision and timing!!! *Team Leader - Bill and Pam Todd, Ronnie MacArthur, Pauline Jeffs.*

## Hamilton Samoan Assembly of God



The team spent two weeks painting the Assembly of God manse, exterior, roof and doing repairs like removing a rotten window from the garage and infilling it. The weather was just perfect for an exterior paint project. Praise the Lord. *Team leader - James Pask, Ronnie McArthur and Mervyn Taylor.*



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

### MMM New Zealand, Pirongia, Shed project

MMM had a very old original shed where we parked the lawnmower and stored donated goods like lengths of timber and doors. We need the storage. However, this shed had definitely passed its use-by date with its dirt floor and leaking roof.

Last year, MMM was blessed to receive a shed for removal and it was decided to remove the old shed and replace it with this donated shed remodeled for our needs. This project began just prior to Lockdown on the 16th March. The demolition part of the project is done and the sand arrived but that is where the project sat during Lockdown. *Team Leader - James Pask, Stephen Douglas, Brian Gillingham, John Jackson, Eddie Jamison, Des Magee, Graham Stokes.*



### MMM Centre, Pirongia, Unit Project

Here at MMM we took Lockdown very seriously, even blocking up a door! The door was into the Hong Kong unit which was being renovated so the second door, which was never used, was blocked up. When the Lockdown was announced we got in a good supply of gib-board and insulation so that work on the unit upgrade could continue. We have been very thankful for the work which was able to be done and the wonderful folk that have been on the MMM property during Lockdown. *Team Leader - Not sure really?! Howard Robinson, Wayne MacCarthy, Ronnie McArthur.*



### Cobden Runanga, Anglican Church

The project started with a typical wet West Coast day - great for getting the wash down done. However, that exposed a lot more rot and rust than first seen. My thought then was, "Oops, how can we possibly get this done in two weeks?" But, with this team, as fast as boards were replaced they were being painted. The weather cooperated (thanks God!). It rained during the night three or four times and apart from one light shower when the team wouldn't stop for lunch and the rain drove them inside, we had good weather! The first week, there were five MMM couples, second week three MMM couples and lots of local volunteers. The job we'd come for was essentially finished by Friday but the Coopers and Jessops stayed on to finish some extras in the third week. For instance, when cleaning out the gutters, which could have been cut for hay, it was found that the roofing iron had rusted and in places didn't reach the gutter. No problem to this great team!

Thanks team and thanks Cobden Anglican. *Team Leaders - Mike and Melody Nicholls, Peter and Andrea Cooper, Des and Marilyn Fielding, Clem and Glenis Jessop, Gerrard and Femmy Van Leeuwen.*



#### A note from the Cobden-Runga Minister:

The team are packing up and heading home tomorrow after a tremendous job at the Church. You couldn't have cut it closer. We have once again been so blessed by MMM tackling a job that we both lacked financial and volunteer resources to accomplish. It takes the worry about our facilities away and enables us to put our energy into other things. Thank you again.  
- Tim Mora



Get on the road with MMM, for serving and fellowship!



# Upcoming Projects in NZ

 <p><b>North Island Projects</b></p>	<p><b>14TH MAY - 19TH JUNE</b>  <b>MMM CENTRE</b>  1 Kane Street, Pirongia</p> <p>Rebuild 6mx11m storage shed the plans are ready.</p> 	<p><b>22ND JUNE - 3RD JULY</b>  <b>YWAM AUCKLAND</b></p> <p>12 Lenore Road, Favona, Auckland</p> <p>Renovations to toilet and bathroom areas, create a wheelchair accessible unit.</p>	<p><b>6TH - 17TH JULY (SCHOOL HOLIDAYS)</b>  <b>TYNDALE PARK CHRISTIAN SCHOOL</b></p> <p>206 Murphys Road, Flat Bush, Auckland</p> <p>Renovation of library and renovation of boys and girls bathrooms.</p>
<p><b>6TH - 17TH JULY (SCHOOL HOLIDAYS)</b>  <b>MATAMATA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL</b></p> <p>91A Smith Street, Matamata</p> <p>Build gable roof extension and a clearlite roof over large deck.</p>	<p><b>20TH JULY - 14TH AUGUST</b>  <b>ST FRANCIS ANGLICAN CHURCH</b></p> <p>248 Main Road, Tairua</p> <p>Addition to the church to create a new entry/foyer area.</p> <p><b>NOTE - MORNING AND AFTERNOON TEAS AND LUNCH PROVIDED ON MOST PROJECTS.</b></p>	<p><b>27TH JULY - 14TH AUGUST (TO BE CONFIRMED)</b>  <b>CHRISTIAN YOUTH CAMP NGARUAWAHIA</b></p> <p>148 Waingaro Road, Ngaruawahia</p> <p>Paint interior of family units and cabins.</p>	<p><b>31ST AUGUST - 18TH SEPTEMBER</b>  <b>HOPE CENTRE</b></p> <p>3 Kent Street, Levin</p> <p>Prepare and paint exterior joinery of church and additional maintenance.</p>  <p><b>Bring the camper!</b></p>
<p><b>South Island Projects</b></p> 	<p><b>8TH - 19TH JUNE</b>  <b>MISSION WORKERS HOME</b></p> <p>Little River, Banks Peninsula</p> <p>Insulation and lining of interior of home, prep and paint. install second-hand kitchen.</p> 	<p><b>JUNE (TO BE CONFIRMED)</b>  <b>LAKELAND PARK CHRISTIAN CAMP</b></p> <p>496 Peninsula Road, Kelvin Heights, Queenstown.</p> <p><b>Come bless this top location!</b>  Alterations to bunk beds to make compliant. Some interior and exterior painting.</p>	<p><b>19TH - 30TH OCTOBER</b>  <b>J &amp; M NIEHAUS, STUDENT LIFE TEAM LEADERS, HOME</b></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>

## FIJI PROJECTS!

**Island Encounters** (Cross culture missions)  
Bunkroom addition to team facilities

**His International Mission** (Bible Training)  
Project to finish block work

**Cost: \$1900**

Yes, we have planned projects for Fiji, if you are interested please notify the MMM office. Currently, due to Covid-19, we do not know when we can resume serving Fiji.

## Serving those who Serve

MMM is offers a great opportunity to practically support churches and Christian ministries.

If would like to serve, MMM is seeking full-time and part-time team members.

Come and bless, learn new skills, meet great people and encourage God's church.

**Phone Howard 021 910 172 for details**

Would you like to know more?  
Check out our website  
[www.mmm.org.nz](http://www.mmm.org.nz)

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



PHONE OR EMAIL HOWARD: 021 910 172

[projects@mmm.org.nz](mailto:projects@mmm.org.nz)

HELPERS WELCOME, CARAVAN PARKING

AVAILABLE ON MOST PROJECTS