

# MMM New Zealand News

Issue 4 2019

Building ...  
Empowering People



CHRIST THE  
CORNERSTONE



...25th Anniversary Conference 2019...



CHRIST THE  
CAPSTONE



CHRIST THE  
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Front Cover: Photos from the recent MMM  
Conference at CYC Ngaruawahia.

## Letter from the Director

December 2019



missions, equipped with buildings that are effective for the mission of God to the world. How will you invest in the kingdom of God over the next years, or is investment into the things of this world more important?

Earlier this week I read Psalm 115 which starts off with "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness" We cry the same words as the Psalmist that in all that we do, the name of God is glorified.

I know that all you have invested hasn't been done for your own benefit but because you have sought to see lives changed by the love and grace of God through Jesus Christ but at the same time I trust that you have been changed and encouraged.

Invest your life, invest your skills, invest your time in prayer, invest your finance, invest your character, invest your heart— this is how you can bring a blessing and glory to Almighty God.

*Howard Robinson*



### INVEST IN MINISTRIES AND LIVES TODAY!

MMM is currently seeking  
a **Project Coordinator** and  
**Project Team Leaders**  
Part-time or full-time

Phone - Howard 021 910 172



**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

## "God answered our prayers for help"

**Bula from Fiji!** We are Ray and Laura Pittman, serving in the areas of community development, kid's ministry and student missions programmes through our non-profit, Island Encounters ([www.islandencountersfiji.org](http://www.islandencountersfiji.org)). Island Encounters exists to demonstrate the love of Christ by meeting practical and spiritual needs across cultures through the context of relationships.

We have lived in Fiji for 19 years, given birth to our three daughters here as well as having gained Fijian citizenship. We love hosting young people through our missions programmes at Oasis Farm, as well as hosting volunteers in our home. We usually have one or two young people living with us, coming alongside the ministry and being mentored/discipled.

This year, our rental home of a decade was sold, and we were faced with a seemingly impossible deadline to move out. Since we could not find another rental that would fit us and our budget, we looked for a piece of native land to buy and build upon. We bought a farm with a dilapidated cement house on it and figured we'd "fix it up," thinking, "how hard can it be?" (Famous last words!). We eventually found ourselves far over our heads in problems, lack of funding and skilled labour, etc. We cried out to MMM for help, and they came through for us by sending us two teams this year.

Over our 19 years in Fiji, we have hosted many missions groups/teams and helped to set up many projects for the groups. We have loved seeing God work in and through these teams, and the projects they have worked on. It was an entirely different experience to have the MMM teams come to help us *personally*, to build our OWN house this year! We felt incredibly humbled and blessed to have so many people give of their time, talents, and resources to come build our home in Fiji. For the first time in our lives we are living in a home that we own, and that is an indescribable feeling, especially considering the labour of love that it has been - a gift from God.

God's gifts are not always easy, and this house build has been a difficult project indeed. We have been challenged on every side, with the seemingly impossible deadline to move out of our rental home, supplies scarce and costly, and local workers (hired on a budget) that were not experienced enough to do the work required.

God answered our prayers for help through the MMM teams. One team came to lay the blocks for the cement portion downstairs (extending the existing building, plumbing, etc.), another team came to frame the top level and get it ready for the roof. The week after serving with an MMM team, one team member even came back again with a plumber friend to help us finish off the roof and plumbing! Each time God provided people who had the skills that were needed at that time, and provided expertise and skill in areas that were lacking.

It is truly amazing that we were able to meet our deadline and move into the home (although unfinished) in October. We still have a lot to do, but we are thankful that each day brings us one step closer.

Tonight I was cooking dinner in my lovely new kitchen, opening cupboards and doors fitted with hardware donated and hauled across the ocean from New Zealand, then neatly designed and fitted by an MMM team member. My heart can hardly handle the joy I feel and the blessing that it all is. God is so good. We pray that this home is a blessing and a light to many. We have named it "Haven," in faith that one day it will be a place of rest that many will come to visit and find refreshing from the Lord. The view is magnificent, a testimony to the goodness and kindness of our God.

We are looking forward to hosting another MMM team in late March 2020, to help us expand the guest house at the Island Encounters ministry farm (Oasis Farm) as well. Our student programme is expanding and we need the extra space. If you'd like to come see what God is doing here in Fiji, please consider joining a team.

Thank you to the MMM workers who have come alongside what God is doing here in Fiji. We appreciate you and the ministry of MMM more than we can say.

- Laura Pittman







**He aha te mea nui o te ao. He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata**  
What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people.

**What was there not to love about Conference!?** The weather was perfectly sunny, wonderful people, excellent messages from the book of Colossians, overseas guests, 25 years of ministry, long serving Full-Time team members - a lot to celebrate and did I mention the great time we had with wonderful people?

Conference began on Friday night with a welcome and mixer game. Before Howard introduced the revised Associates programme we enjoyed a good sing song. Throughout Conference our guest speaker Dave Firth, shared with us from the book of Colossians on our theme of "Renovate". Dave is from the UK, has worked with Capernwray for many years and is the CEO and Founder of Authentic Christian Trust, which produces the Authentic Magazine. Dave's topics included "Christ as our Cornerstone" - the foundation. The measure. The starting point. Colossians 1:15-16 When all is stripped away- we have Christ. He is the foundation. The Rock. Once you have got the starting point right then you have to follow the instruction as Jesus said, "If you love me you will keep my commands." In his second session Dave moved on to, "Christ as our Capstone - our finisher" Colossians 1:19-20. In Genesis we see God turns the unfinished into the finished and once finished he rests. Do we trust that God's work is finished in Christ? Christ is the capstone, the completion. In Dave's last session the topic was, "Christ as our Keystone." The keystone is the last piece of the arch, it holds the system together. Christ is the binding agent between God and man. Without God's sustaining power as Job said, "all humanity would perish together, and mankind would return to the dust." Dave reminded us that there are things that stop us being bound together such as pride and unforgiveness. If we don't live a totally surrendered life, we will never be who we should be; we need to allow Christ to shine out of us. In closing we were reminded, Renovation is building something new on a foundation of something old. Our lives on the eternal Christ. 2 Cor 5:16 "The old has gone, the new has come."

We were also blessed at Conference to have some of the leaders from around the world. From MMM Australia, Terrence Baxter

(CEO) and Dale Richardson (Board Chairman). From MMM Zambia, Florence Kaniki (Director) and Patrick Coleman (Board Member). Representing MMM Fiji was Praveen Chand (MMM Fiji Board member), from MMM Hong Kong, Andrew Wong (Director) and Chair of MMM International Alliance Rod McGarvie from Australia. During the conference each of these Centre's gave presentations to MMM New Zealand recognising their 25 years.

On Saturday afternoon there were electives, Howard led one on 'Getting to know MMM' for the newbies at conference, Richard Crawford led a brainstorming session sharing ideas of how MMM can grow and develop. Ruth Carson gave a floral demonstration with each of the ladies making a table centre which was then used on the tables on Saturday night.



The weather was just perfect and it was wonderful to be able to get outside and enjoy all that the venue Ngaruawahia CYC had on offer, such as bush walks, hot pool and paddle boats on the lake. Just lovely.

Throughout Conference a great children's programme was run by Annalise and Sophie Burgess, thanks girls!

The sound of the bottles of grape juice popping as dinner began on Saturday night certainly added to the festive atmosphere as MMM New Zealand marked 25 years! We were honoured to have founders of MMM New Zealand, Charlie and Ruth Sundgren (*continued on next page*)





## Welcome

to Roy and Rachael Hogan, Joshua, Gabrielle and Caleb

We are excited to be welcoming Roy and Rachael Hogan, Joshua, Gabrielle and Caleb to MMM NZ as Fiji Project Coordinators! Roy and Rachael have served in Fiji many times over the years and are excited to be taking up this position. Please pray for this family as they prepare and seek to raise the prayer and financial support they will need in this role in Fiji. Initially the Hogan's will serve with MMM New Zealand before relocating to Fiji. You will hear more from the Hogan's journey in the next issue - for now praise the Lord for this couple's willingness and pray for them as they prepare for this move.



### MMM International Alliance Meetings

Following the MMM Conference the leaders from different MMM Centres met for meetings in Mount Maungauni. They were very grateful for the use of some holiday homes that were close together to accommodate them and enjoy the beauty of that area. These meetings happen annually and are vital for maintaining the connection between the centres. As the leaders meet and talk together they ignite once again their common goals. All centres serve in a practical way supporting Christian outreach but that looks a little different in some places. Australia operates committees in different states that complete projects. Thailand project manages. MMM Zambia trains people through a Vocational Training Centre, MMM Fiji operates by teams going from New Zealand. Yet there are common goals - to build renovate and maintain facilities used in Christian outreach. With meeting together, support is shared and encouragement given to those with different challenges. Aside from the annual meeting they also meet via video conference several times a year. *Photos right - The Board Members took in the sites of Rotorua and enjoyed a ride on the Skyline with the guys doing the Luge!*



### His International Mission

Bible Training Centre

**Fiji Project**  
June (to be confirmed)  
\$1900

HIM (His International Mission) has a Bible training centre in Lautoka and has been operating from a rented building but are working to complete their own building.

**Join this team and lets get their building finished!**

All welcome - block laying and plastering skills needed.

## COME TO ZAMBIA!

July 2020

Join a team to help with the further development of the MMM Centre in Zambia.

MMM Zambia seek to become self sustainable by building an accommodation facility.

**Come bless the people and see the world!**

(Continued from previous page) at the Conference along with Peter and Kay Brown from Australia, who came to help establish MMM here back in 1995. The cake was ceremoniously cut by Ben Allen, an MMM New Zealand Board Member whose parents established MMM in Zambia. In the photo he is watched on by Charlie and Ruth Sundgren (left) and Peter and Kay Brown.

Conference was also significant for a couple of long serving team members, Howard and Ave Robinson were honoured for their 20 years with the mission and Ian Cross for his 15 years.

In keeping with the MMM prayer-at-morning-tea-time tradition there were Prayer Stations in allocated places around the dining room. After everyone had a drink and a bit of a chat, casual groups gathered at a "Prayer Station" for a time of prayer. A timer was begun and after a few minutes of prayer the timer would sound and each group would move clockwise around the room to another station and pray over the various points listed. One station

was designated for each of the MMM Centre's around the world and one was simply, "Pray for one another in your group." It was wonderful to be able to cover the ministry and one another in prayer in this way.

Another tradition was maintained of some "building skills" competitions for fun. Husbands were pitted against wives, Board Members against volunteers, in screwing hinges and hand sawing. A bit of fun but no one recorded who won so we are all still friends!

All too soon it all came to an end and the farewells began. We had been encouraged from the Word to go in Christ in whom we are firmly built upon. With friendships renewed and newly found there were suggestions of meeting again and promises that it might even be on an MMM project.

Till next time – haere ra!



# Serving those who serve....

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink... 'I tell you the truth, just as you did it for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it for me.'" Matt 25: 35-40



Full time team members  
Ian Cross and James Pask

## Hamilton Combined Christian Foodbank Trust



"On behalf of the Board of Hamilton combined Christian Foodbank Trust, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for your support for our work through the building work you completed as part of our walk in freezer and premises upgrade project.

While there were numerous parts to this renovation, we were really impressed with how well all the contractors worked together and the seamless way the work was carried out. Thank you for your contribution to this.

We are extremely happy with the end result. The renovations have made a vast improvement to the flow of the foodbank and towards being able to meet our clients' future needs."

- John Brooks Trustee HCCFT

Team Leader - James Pask, Graham and Colleen Stokes and Ben Wooding

## CYC Ngaruawahia



Kitchens are a vitally important part of any camp and CYC Ngaruawahia were redeveloping their kitchen to bring it up to the required standards. Walls were battened and lined and an office was added under the existing verandah. With such a great team there were also some accommodation units painted. Team Leader - James Pask, David Halse, Pauline Jeffs, Dave McDonald, Malcolm and Anne Ragg and Amy Walsh.

## Te Awamutu Bible Chapel



The steel frames that hold up the Te Awamutu Bible Chapel's main auditorium had peeling paint and were a bit of an eye-sore. It was not a good look and definitely a deteriorating problem which required fixing. However, that was not easy as the sound and lighting equipment and cabling needed to be taken down before the paint could be stripped and new paint applied. Even though the paint was peeling in places to remove it all required toxic chemicals meaning that those who worked on it needed appropriate safety gear. Safety was a high priority as always when working at height and with toxic chemicals. The finished outcome of the matt black painted frames looks very sharp! Team Leader - Howard Robinson (first week) James Pask (second week) Ben Allen, Doug Carson, Ken and Margaret Frances, Pauline Jeffs and Des and Wendy Maggee.

## Narrows Park Christian Camp

This project at the Narrows Park Christian Camp gave the team the opportunity to line the last of the cabins and the main dining room. Could the lining of Narrows Park Cabins be truly completed? Watch this space. I'm sure the campers enjoy a warmer, drier environment.

Team Leader - James Pask, Mark and Heather Burnan, Ian Cross, Graham and Colleen Stokes.



## CBM - Camp Raglan

Being by the ocean makes Camp Raglan a popular destination with scenic views, but it is a harsh environment for buildings. This project was to replace the soffit and barge boards on the seaward side of the meeting room, creating new horns and finial to complete the building. The team also modified a bathroom to be wheelchair accessible. Team Leader - James Pask, Ian Cross, Pauline Jeffs and Eric Jack.





## Kauaeranga Valley Christian Camp

The team got stuck into demolishing the kitchen and bathroom and stripping the wallpaper that was, "accidentally applied with Aradite we think!" Aye, things at camps were often put there to last! A renovated bathroom and kitchen was the outcome with the Team Leader saying, "Again, what a privilege to work with such a great team. We were well cared for by the camp staff and enjoyed our time immensely." Team Leader - Rodney Morse, Des and Wendy Magee, Gordon and Glenys Harkness.



## Motueka Baptist Church

### How to be a Blessing!

In October a team got together to paint the exterior of the Motueka Baptist Church. This team was ably led by Mike and Melody Nicholls who were joined by Peter and Andrea Cooper, Don Grant, Clem and Glenis Jessop, Ross Mclay, and Gerard and Femmy Van Leeuwen. Following the project the MMM office received the following letter from the churches Project Coordinator.

Hi Howard,

being very open to the ideas we had and being great at directing the team while making the whole thing seem easy, fun and relaxed.

Yes, I had a fantastic time with the MMM crew and thoroughly enjoyed working with them. There were many highlights including; praying together and sharing devotions at morning tea time; hearing about other MMM projects and praying for those teams and the MMM leadership; the lunch and tea times; laughing and chatting and getting to know them all; seeing our Church people get on so well and work side by side with the MMM crew. I said to Mike at the end of the time that it was one of my highlights for the year. There was a fantastic sense of camaraderie, working together to get a big job done, team-work, unity in the Body and a strong sense of God's presence.

I would also like to comment on the speed at which the team worked. They got a lot more done than I had hoped for and we are truly grateful. It certainly was "God's-speed!" They also looked out for fix up jobs along the way and with a bit of extra organising we could source the equipment or timber etc. and get timber replaced or improvements done as the painting was being done. This will help to future proof the building rather than just "painting over it all."



It was also great how my family could get involved in the project as well, including my kids who were keen to do some baking for the painters and my son Jayden who really enjoyed spending Labour Day painting alongside the team. They were keen to hear about how things were going at dinner time at home. Mike's magic tricks were an unexpected bonus and had us wowed, and I'm still scratching my head wondering "how did he doooo that!"

I think you guys at MMM are a professional outfit that made project managing the job from my side a real dream. Your intro pamphlets made it easy to get information on what you do and what we needed to provide, and the signup sheets saved me or one of the team needing to reinvent the wheel and make our own. The opportunities to talk over the phone to you Howard, weeks before the project, to allow me to plan and report back to the leadership team about what we needed to get ready, to ask specific questions regarding the project, what equipment I should prepare etc. was excellent and I immediately felt in good hands after speaking with you and I was clear on what I needed to have prepped.

Communication during the project was outstanding, with Mike



The H & S matters were carefully implemented over the course of the project and I felt assured that MMM put safety first at all times. They were also excellent at working around a busy Church family life schedule, being happy to move out the back for smokos on some days when the usual space was being used for ministries, doing a fabulous job at packing away painting equipment for Sunday's or where required, and allowing me to ensure other Church activities could continue as far as practical through the three weeks.

We had a lot of support from the Church family, and big projects like this create a sense of purpose and striving together for a common goal. With the Lord's blessings on it all, you have certainly left us with so much more than just a freshly painted and fixed up building (which of itself is amazing) but also as Pastor Paul shared the other day, there is an excitement about what God is calling us to use this blessing of a refreshed building for His purposes.

We certainly feel incredibly blessed by the folks at MMM and are so glad that you are all out there doing this important work for the Kingdom.

- Paul G

**Note: MMM is seeking a Project Coordinator. If you would like to be the person who coordinates blessings (maybe we should call it the Blessing Coordinator!) Call the office.**





# Upcoming Projects in NZ

 <p><b>North Island Projects</b></p>	<p><b>9TH-19TH DEC 15TH - 23RD JAN</b> <b>HAMILTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL</b></p> <p>4 North City Road, Rototuna, Hamilton</p> <p>Renovate office area to become a classroom- remove walls and make good, paint interior of renovated area.</p>	<p><b>20TH JAN - 7TH FEB</b> <b>EDEN CHRISTIAN HOSTEL</b></p> <p>9 Lovelock Ave, Mount Eden, Auckland</p> <p>Bathroom and bedroom refurbishment in student and house parent accommodation- relining walls, insulation, new windows, painting.</p>	<p><b>3RD - 21ST FEB</b> <b>CAPERENWYR BIBLE SCHOOL</b></p> <p>3553 Cambridge Road, Cambridge.</p> <p>Repairs to flat roof over kitchen -replace sub-roof ply and rubber membrane, other repairs and maintenance.</p>
<p><b>24 FEB - 13TH MARCH</b> <b>BELMONT BAPTIST CHURCH</b></p> <p>Cnr Lake Road and Westwell Road, Belmont, Northshore, Auckland</p> <p>Repairs and maintenance to exterior of church building and manse, paint exterior of buildings</p>	<p><b>2ND - 27TH MARCH</b> <b>MMM CENTRE</b></p> <p>1 Kane Street, Pirongia</p> <p>Upgrade the MMM Units – strapping, insulating and lining walls, replace kitchen, paint throughout.</p> 	<p><b>23RD MARCH - 3RD APRIL</b> <b>CARISBROOK BIBLE CHURCH</b></p> <p>Carisbrook Street, Katikati</p> <p>Painting exterior of church building with repair work as required.</p> 	<p><b>14TH - 24TH APRIL</b> <b>TYNDALE PARK CHRISTIAN SCHOOL</b></p> <p>206 Murpheys Road, Flat Bush, Auckland</p> <p>Renovation of library and renovation of boys and girls bathrooms.</p>
<p><b>South Island Projects</b></p>  <p><b>NOTE - MORNING AND AFTERNOON TEAS AND LUNCH PROVIDED ON MOST PROJECTS.</b></p>	<p><b>9TH - 20TH MARCH</b> <b>COBDEN RUNANGA ANGLICAN CHURCH</b></p> <p>93 Ward Street, Cobden</p> <p>Repairs and paint exterior of church manse, replace veranda and internal painting.</p>	<p><b>2020 (TO BE CONFIRMED)</b> <b>LAKELAND PARK CHRISTIAN CAMP</b></p> <p>496 Peninsula Road, Kelvin Heights, Queenstown</p> <p>Alterations to bunk beds to make compliant. Some exterior painting to the main building.</p>	 <p>Have you moved or changed email addresses lately?</p> <p>Don't forget to update the MMM office!</p>

**MANY THANKS FOR THE GRAZING!**

MMM is very thankful for those who offered grazing to our cows. Farmers Fellowship is a great financial support to MMM's overseas work. Phone Maurice 0274 984 993



**SITUATIONS VACANT**

COME AND SUPPORT GREAT CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES BY WORKING WITH MMM NEW ZEALAND!

SEE [MMM.ORG.NZ](http://MMM.ORG.NZ) FOR DETAILS

Please see page 5 for overseas opportunities.

*Merry Christmas!*

Thanks to all who served on projects, prayed and supported the ministry in 2019, see you next year!

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!



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HELPERS WELCOME, CARAVAN PARKING

AVAILABLE ON MOST PROJECTS