

MMM New Zealand News

Issue 4 2020

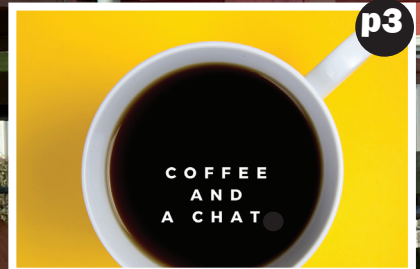


Building ...
Empowering People



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We remember before our God and Father
your **work** produced by **faith**,
your **labour** prompted by **love**, and
your **endurance** inspired by **hope** in our
Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Thessalonians 1:3

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Front Cover; Roy Hogan on the Tairua
Anglican Church Project

Letter from the Director

December 2020



There is no denying it, it has been a strange old year!

I love Christmas, sitting on the couch at night with all the house lights out, watching the coloured lights blinking and sparkling on the pine needles and tinsel. There is something peaceful about it.

I was listening to talkback radio on the way into town the other day and they were discussing when people put up their Christmas trees and decorations. There were the 'normal' ones (like me) that would put them up at the beginning of December, long enough to enjoy the Christmas spirit but not to get tired of it. Then it was surprising how many people already had theirs up (mid Nov as I write this) but there were some ringing or texting in to say that this year

they had decorated their homes in October, yes October! The earliest caller had started his on the 2nd Oct. And the main reason for starting so early this year was.... Covid 19! In their desire to see the end of the year and hurry it on to completion they had dug out the Christmas tree, to dispel the despondent feelings of lockdowns they were dangling tinsel, to break free from the restrictions and see hope for the future they were stringing up the fairy lights.

This year has not been the way it usually is under normal circumstances with the day to day flow of people's lives. This year, more than ever, people are hurting, they are fearful and matters of life and death are central to their thinking. You could be forgiven for thinking that a new year, with a vaccine on the horizon, is just what we need. However, my joy in the season hinges on more than the decorations and the prospect of a new year approaching.

We have probably all read or heard Luke 2:11 many times, "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord". There it is, that's what the world needs - A Saviour... who is Christ the Lord. One who will save us from the penalty of our sin, from judgement of a God who is just, a Saviour who will take away the fear and give us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3).

This Saviour gives us a reason for serving the great churches and ministries throughout the year. A message of salvation and hope that uses our skills for eternal purposes. We give thanks to the Lord for the opportunities he gives us to serve in MMM

There you go, go ahead and enjoy Christmas for what it truly is!

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

COFFEE AND A CHAT

"Why do you do what you do?" You may have to read that sentence twice! It's not an easy sentence, or an easy question, but one worth the time it takes to answer it. The following conversation, had by an MMM Volunteer at a coffee shop, shows a great reason of why we at MMM do what we do.

Val and I were having coffee at a cafe in Te Kauwhata recently with an acquaintance from the local gym. She is definitely not a Christian but she is a nice person.

In the course of our conversation I snuck in some stuff about MMM (always a good non-confrontational way to get our Saviour into the talk!). Later on she asks "So, did you ever work on that camp out the back of Ngaruawahia - I think it's a religious one?".

"Why, yes," says I, describing two sweaty weeks of sanding the underside of varnished bunks when we were refurbishing six of the bunkrooms.

"Well" she says, "that is a great camp. A few years ago I dragged one of my sons there to spend a week because I'd heard it could smarten him up, and boy, did he need smartening up. He really fought not to go but I didn't give him the option - it was now or never. When I went back to collect him he was a different boy, he



went there as a 14 year old brat and left a week later as an 18 year old young man, and he hasn't looked back. Before that he was lazy and careless. This year he started a computer science degree course at Auckland Uni. It only happened because of that camp!"

I remember that job. I remember lying on my back sanding the bunks with my eyes, ears, nose and throat full of sweat and dust. I remember thinking to myself, "In two weeks time a bunch of kids are going to be in this bunkroom. They will be totally oblivious to the fact that it has been completely refurbished. Their enjoyment and their experience of this consecrated place will be all the better for what MMM is doing here now. They won't know, but you know God, and I know, and that's what makes MMM special, that's what makes MMM such a blessing. Thank you God, you're the best!"

Just thought you'd like to know, the blessing that MMM is.

- David Holmes

MMM has 10 Core values and number seven is, **Encouragement**: "In obedience to God's word, we are committed to caring for one another, emulating God's Holy Spirit by coming alongside each other through the ministry of encouragement." When we received this email from David we forwarded it to the CYC Ngaruawahia camp. The person who received it was having a "Why do I do what I do?" moment and was indeed encouraged!

MMM JOURNEY

MMM warmly welcomes David and June Gennard (Short-Term Volunteers) who have made the move to the MMM Centre, with Dave taking the role of Project Co-ordinator. Here June shares

Dave's first experience with MMM was in 2012 at Ngatiawa River Monastery, on the Kapiti Coast in the Wellington region. We had heard about the organisation whilst attending Parachute Music Festival a few years earlier. At Ngatiawa he spent the week helping the MMM Team to build an extension to one of the properties at the Monastery. This lit a fire in Dave's heart for MMM, so much so he wanted to sell up the family home and go on the road! At this stage I wasn't too sure about this and the idea was put aside. However, I did go on the next project with Dave the following year!

Whilst I was away visiting family in the UK, Dave invited Howard Robinson (MMM Director) for a meal. On my return from the UK, Dave suggested we should start a prayer group at our house. So, Dave set about contacting supporters of MMM in the Wellington area inviting folk to come along to our home once a month to pray. In 2013 a small number of people joined us to pray

We wanted the group to be about prayer and hospitality so we decided we would begin each evening with a sweet treat - thus the group became known as 'Pudding and Prayer'. Although we didn't sell up and go on the road straight away, we have spent our time praying for the work and those who regularly volunteer on jobs.

As well as praying for the work of MMM, Dave and I would spend part of our annual holidays working on projects around the North Island.

Recently, one of the items we regularly prayed about, was for the need for a Project Co-ordinator. Dave would often comment how he would love to do this. However, he had a job, and we would

have to relocate to another part of New Zealand, to Pirongia. June was reminded that when you pray, God

may prompt you to realise you may be the answer to the prayer. For various reasons Dave decided to take early retirement from his job with NZTA. Meanwhile, our children had been encouraging us to downsize and to buy a smaller property. But where to live? We couldn't decide where we wanted to live, but we did feel it was the right time for us to work with MMM for a season. In January 2020 whilst working on a project in Hamilton, we had a conversation with Howard and Ave about working with them and moving to Pirongia.

After a few renovations on our property it went on the market in March, 10 days before level 4 lockdown. We had few people view the property but with the uncertainty around Covid-19 no offers were made. We decided to leave the house listed during the various levels of lockdown. Eventually, the house sold at the end of June; six weeks later we moved to Pirongia just as Auckland was going back into level 3 and the rest of the country went into level 2. We have moved to the MMM Centre into a two bedroom unit called, "Zambia" - that's helped with our downsizing a lot!

Although we are mainly based at the MMM Centre, we hope to be involved in a few projects.

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."
Jeremiah 29:11

- David & June Gennard



IF YOU WANT TO WALK ON WATER ... YOU GOTTA GET OUT OF THE BOAT!

Does MMM intrigue you? Have you always wanted to step out in faith and do something kind of big for God? Use your skills and passion to serve Him? But maybe it seems a little too crazy to actually do it? Our challenge to you is just do it, get out of the boat and give it a go ... what do you really have to lose?!

It was a bit of a journey for our family working towards becoming full time volunteers for MMM. It was something we had definitely felt God calling us to for a while. But does leaving paid employment and the comfort and security of our own home and community to 'live by faith', travelling around the North Island before moving to Fiji really make sense? The answer, by worldly standards is, "No, not at all" ... but when God is in it, it makes complete sense.

This year, for our family, it has been all about getting out of the boat to walk on water. We have often felt we have had a whole bunch of people watching us do this too; watching to see if we would walk or sink. As the year has gone on we see more and more that as long as we keep our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, though the storms may rage around us, we will keep afloat.

Right back when Roy first started his building apprenticeship, he did it so he would have a trade he could use to serve God with. Working in the commercial building world never really gave him any satisfaction.

Last year we spent a month in Fiji, taking leave without pay to go. We were able to completely change peoples lives in that month. We thought it was going to be a bit of a financial sacrifice for our family but figured that the benefits would outweigh the sacrifice. Yet somehow we came back with exactly the same amount of money we left with, despite spending a month there with no pay.

God continues to amaze, surprise and bless our family in our experiences and in our finances (even in a global financial crisis).



I have come to be more and more secure in the fact that God has got this; the finances are sorted. We joke that even when we try to give money away, we can't. We have had experiences this year of giving money away generously, only to be blessed with more ourselves.

It's not all about the money though and there are definitely still hard and tricky times, but we know that when we keep our eyes on Jesus and are obedient to His call when He says "Come" we can walk on water!

Obedience isn't easy, it doesn't come naturally. Stepping out in faith is scary. There are a lot of "what if's?" but it's not until you take the "faith step" that God can work.

Don't wait until you know all the answers - that may never happen, your ducks may never all be in a row. Give your firsts to God. The Bible speaks many times about how he always equips those that he calls.

This year our family haven't been the only ones to start with MMM. After Leif Pedersen stepped out in faith to be a full time volunteer with MMM his thoughts were, "How come nobody else has done this? Where is everyone else?" realising it was a lot easier than he first thought. James Pask who has worked for MMM for six years states, "I wish I had done it earlier".

What's in your hands? Are you willing to get out of the boat?

- Rachael Hogan

MMM has 10 Core Values and number six is **Dependence on God** - Prayer forms the basis of our ministry. Personal and corporate prayer is essential to moving forward with faith and vision. Timing, relationships, provision and protection, all come from our relationship with and dependence upon our Father.

**MMM Volunteers, they don't just take tools to a project;
there is the weekend for experiencing New Zealand too!**



Serving on MMM projects is a great way to meet new people, support Christian ministry and see New Zealand.

This caravan belongs to a volunteer who makes the most of the adventures to be had in the places MMM serves!

Team

MMM RETREAT

As the month of October wrapped up, the MMM Full-Time Team and Board had a weekend away at CYC Ngaruawahia. It was a wonderful time for the members who work in different places of New Zealand, to spend time together and with the Board.

Joseph Bateson (WEC Director) spoke to us on "Laying down" from Philippians 2:1-11, "... make my joy complete by being like minded ... looking out for the interests of others." From this passage he broke down the steps to unity as:

- 1) Having the same mind-inner purpose
- 2) Having the same love
- 3) Being united in Spirit.
- 4) Having the same purpose.

With "attitude" being what under girds



these steps. Christ was God and yet he lay down his right to glory, his right to majesty, his rights, his right to be served, his right to live, all for the interest of others.

In the second session Joseph spoke on "Picking Up", what's ours to carry. Whose burden do we carry? From Galatians 6:2 we read, "Carry each others burdens ..." leaving us with the challenge, "What is my burden?" - where is the Lord asking me to serve by sharing another one's burden? Some really great challenges for the team to consider.

Throughout the weekend there were plenty

of mixing, get to know one another games and activities. We enjoyed the camps hot pool, lake and activities and we had a pretty hilarious Photo Scavenger Hunt but, we are not publishing winners here!

On Sunday morning we enjoyed a time of thoughtful worship and communion led by Roy and Rachael Hogan and Lejf Pedersen.

We all left feeling blessed and encouraged by our time together and hopefully better burden carriers for one another.

- Ave Robinson

MMM COFFEE AND DESSERT



2020 has been a difficult year to plan events. However, in October we went ahead with a Coffee and Dessert evening in Palmerson North and were encouraged with a good number attending. We were grateful to the Crossroads church for use of their facilities and for friends who provided a delicious dessert. We were encouraged to hear from a project recipient, Terry Carr, who had a team serve on his church at Bunnythorpe.

Rachael Hogan shared their family's journey to working with MMM, Howard shared the international work of MMM and Doug Carson spoke about Farmers Fellowship and the need for more grazing for donated stock that blesses the work of MMM.

All in all it was a great evening where it was a blessing to catch up with friends and supporters in the area.

MANY THANKS TO COLIN AND BARB FUNNELL

If you have ever stayed at the MMM Centre, you would probably be familiar with the 'Marshall Heater' - a water heater whereby you light a fire in a fire box under the cylinder and it heats the water.



For the last 25 years, the Marshall Heater (photo left) has, if lit, faithfully heated the hot water for the MMM accommodation units. Recently the Marshall Heater had developed some 'issues' and it was decided it was time to move on to gas. Thank you Colin for the time you gave to make that possible and also negotiating a good price on the required units. Now we are heating with gas!



Thank you FARMERS - we appreciate you!



We have had a record number of calves donated this year. This is fantastic; thank you so much! With more stock we are looking for more feed, if you can help graze some of them we would love to hear from you!

CAN YOU HELP GRAZE SOME OF OUR STOCK?

Contact: Maurice Turner 027 498 4993 or Doug Carson 027 455 0100



PROJECT REPORTS

Full-Time Team: James Pask, Roy & Rachael Hogan, Leif Pedersen.



St Francis, Tairua

The project at St Francis Church in Tairua was to build a foyer on to the existing church. The project had great support with the new foyer being a great asset to the church. *Team Leader - Roy Hogan, Malcolm McAlister, Ken & Eileen Ogden and Ronnie McArthur.*



Hope Centre, Levin



Maintenance is a relatively big word in length - that can cover a lot. The team at the Hope Centre, had the task of restoring and painting all the windows and external doors, some of which were unable to be opened or used. They even had to remove and restore the church stained glass window which featured in a 1972 Christmas postage stamp. Well done team! *Team Leader - Roy Hogan, Ronnie McArthur, Stephen Douglas, Dave and June Gennard, Pauline Jeffs, Murray and Anne Packer, Owen*

Hamilton Samoan AOG



This project was to paint the exterior of the church and roof. With the Health and Safety requirements not allowing workers to be on the roof it was decided the best approach for this project was to use a cherry picker. This allowed James and Leif to water blast and spray paint the roof without standing on it. *Team Leader - James Pask, Glen Bavister, Anita Pedersen, Leif Pedersen, Graham and Colleen Stokes and Mervyn Taylor.*

Narrows Park Christian Camp, Waikato

The Pirongia Team spent time at Narrows Park Christian Camp roofing a large tank the camp had to ensure water supply and continuing the upgrade of the main hall. Last year we added a 'pallet wall' special feature; this time the team painted the exposed beams. Many thanks to all who served on this project. *Team Leader - James Pask, Glen Bavister, Stephen Douglas, Taylor Firth, Roy Hogan, John Jackson, Pauline Jeffs, Wayne MacCarthy, Ronnie McArthur, Leif Pedersen, Graham and Colleen Stokes and Caden Vande Laak*



See the back page for projects you can serve on.

Serving those who serve...

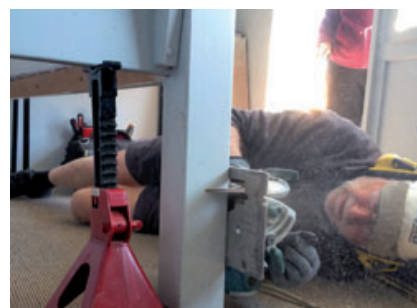


En Hakkore Retreat Centre, Ranfurly



The En Hakkore project to build a three bay shed had the added challenge of happening during the snow season. A message came to the MMM office that there was currently a snow blizzard at En Hakkore, "MMM Projects, never a dull moment!" The team still diligently worked to get the project completed. *Team Leader - Alan and Rosina Mitchell, Peter and Andrea Cooper, Stephen Pope, Keith and Marion McQuillan*

Lakeland Park Christian Camp, Queenstown



The latest project at Lakeland Park was to lower 14 sets of bunks by 200mm to allow for easier access. The team who took on the task reported that, "A small but happy team had to work out the best way remove all the bunks, which were nailed and screwed to the walls. The first day was slow but after that they got faster at the removal of each bunk. Then it was a matter of sawing off the 200mm and repositioning them to the walls." While the guys worked on the bunks the women were busy painting the cabins as they went. The team report they were well looked after by the camp managers having some interesting and happy times at smoko's and lunches while enjoying the amazing view from camp! *Team Leader - Clem and Glennis Jessop, Peter and Andrea Cooper.*



Ian Cross Wanganui

During October a team of volunteers assisted Ian Cross, a recently retired MMM Full-Time Team member, with house maintenance. MMM offers Full Time Team members assistance with house maintenance as often they have had their home rented for a number of years and they need some love and care. Praise the Lord for supplying the right number of folk with the skills needed, the required accommodation and suitable weather to complete the priorities. Ian reports that, "Basically the work achieved saved me three years work. I can now see an end to redecoration/repainting - hopefully well before it becomes a grind." *Team Leader - Rodney and Betty Morse, Gordon and Glenys Harkness, Eric and Ruth Jack, Pauline Jeffs, Ronnie MacArthur, Des and Wendy Magee*



Cambridge Baptist Church, Cambridge

The team returned to Cambridge Baptist Church and were happy to see a good number from the church who came and worked with them. The church was keen to see their project done and got right behind it. The project was to paint the exterior of the church building and the interior of the hall. They had such a good team - up to 15 some days, this meant they had time to paint the exterior of the admin block as well. Drive past sometime, it is looking very sharp. *Team Leader - James Pask, Wayne MacCarthy, Leif Pedersen, Colleen and Graham Stokes and Taylor Firth.*

Note: Due to COVID-19 preventing international travel, we have no overseas projects at present. If serving on overseas projects is something that interests you, please register your interest with the MMM office.

We are Fundraising CAN YOU HELP?

We are seeking to purchase a vehicle but due to the increased cost of low mileage, good condition vehicles our vehicle fund has not met the rising cost.

If you would like to contribute to a van, gifts can be given to: acc 030442 0148838 00, or via cheque marked van donation.

We are seeking \$35,000.

We have found Toyota Hiace Diesel, to be very reliable and are looking for something in that line.



Upcoming Projects in NZ

 <p>NORTH ISLAND PROJECTS</p>	<p>30TH NOV - 11TH DEC MANAWARU BIBLE CHAPEL</p> <p>412 Manawaru Road, Manawaru 3391</p> <p>Replace two windows and paint interior of hall.</p>	<p>7TH - 18TH DEC TE AWAMUTU BIBLE CHAPEL</p> <p>110 Chapel Drive, Te Awamutu</p> <p>Repair and replace rotting cladding, flashing and repair internal damage.</p> <p>NOTE - MORNING AND AFTERNOON TEAS AND LUNCH PROVIDED ON MOST PROJECTS.</p>	<p>WHAT'S NEXT?</p> <p>TO KEEP UP TO DATE ON PROJECTS EMAIL PROJECTS@MMM.ORG.NZ TO BE ON THE UPDATE LIST, OR CHECK THE WEBSITE WWW.MMM.ORG.NZ</p> <div data-bbox="1234 447 1469 596"> <p>CREATE CHANGE!</p> <p>SERVE ON AN MMM PAINTING PROJECT!</p> </div>
<p>18TH JAN - 29TH JAN HAMILTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL</p> <p>1 Micah Place, Rotoruna, Hamilton</p> <p>Repair planters, fence, painting and concreting.</p>	<p>2ND FEB - 12TH FEB KATIKATI BAPTIST CHURCH</p> <p>2 Wedgewood Street Katikati</p> <p>Painting the exterior of the Church.</p>	<p>4TH FEB - 30TH APRIL HAMILTON SAMOAN AOG</p> <p>179 Mahoe Street, Melville, Hamilton</p> <p>This is a large extension to the church. Enlarging the kitchen, creating a toilet and storage area and entrance extension. This will be a large project so plan to come along and join the team for this project, for whatever time you have available.</p>	
<p>SOUTH ISLAND PROJECTS</p> 	<p>25TH JAN - 5TH FEBRUARY</p> <p>J & M NIEHAUS STUDENT LIFE TEAM LEADERS, HOME</p> <p>182 Gladstone Road, Dalmore, Dunedin</p> <p>Paint the exterior of a solid plaster home and make necessary repairs.</p>	<p>CAM & GRACE MACKENZIE STUDENT LIFE</p> <p>9 Brunel Street, Mornington, Dunedin</p> <p>Installation to doorway to stairs to retain heat.</p>	<p>A BIG THANKS!</p> <p>TO ALL WHO SERVED WITH MMM IN 2020! SEE YOU IN 2021!</p>

SITUATIONS VACANT

**MMM ARE SEEKING
 FULL-TIME TEAM LEADERS
 AND WILLING VOLUNTEERS**

**WE HAVE THE PROJECTS, WILL YOU HELP US
 SERVE THOSE WHO SERVE?**

MMM is seeking servant hearted people who desire to work for the Gospel of our Lord Jesus, serving His church.

Check www.mmm.org.nz for details or
 Call Howard on 021 910 172

MMM Prayer Fellowships

Porirua 7.30pm with supper
 2nd Monday of the month,
 Ossie and Jenny Fountain
 3/63 Main Road
 Titahi Bay, Porirua 5022

Tauranga 1.45pm
 Afternoon tea
 2nd Tuesday of the month,
 Norm & Jean Hockly
 1 Burrows St., Tauranga

Hamilton 6:15pm
 Pot-luck dinner
 2nd Thurs of the month,
 David & Jenny Halse
 5 Huntington Drive
 Huntington, Hamilton 3210

Phone the MMM office for
 more details, 07 871 9161

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 HOWARD: 021 910 172

projects@mmm.org.nz

HELPERS WELCOME, CARAVAN PARKING

AVAILABLE ON MOST PROJECTS