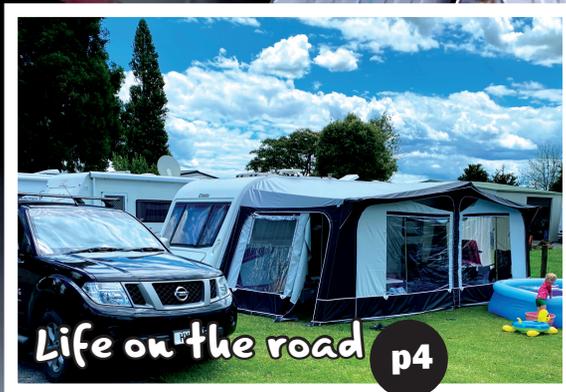


MMM New Zealand News

Issue 1 2023



THIS ISSUE



Life on the road p4



Welcome back to Fiji p5

MEET MMM'S INTERNS

TRANSFORM
Together
MMM Conference 2023
28 - 30 April

**Book
today!**
p3



CONTACT DETAILS:

NEW ZEALAND

1 Kane Street
Pirongia 3802
Phone: +64 (0)7 871 9161
Email: mmmnz@mmm.org.nz
Web: www.mmm.org.nz
Bank Account: 030442 0148838 00
Westpac

AUSTRALIA

5/621 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham
Victoria 3132
Australia
Phone: +61 (0)3 9837 2700
Email: admin@mmm.org.au
Web: www.mmm.org.au

HONG KONG

Unit A 10/F Viet Luen Factory Building
126 Wai Yip Street,
Kwun Tong, Kowloon
Hong Kong
Phone: +852 2605 4813
Email: mmmhk@mmm.org.hk
Web: www.mmm.org.hk

FIJI

PO Box 225
Sabeto
Fiji Islands
office@mmmfiji.org
www.mmmfiji.org

SOUTH AFRICA

Postnet Suite # 115
Private Bag X1, Menio Park 0102,
South Africa
Mobile: +27 (0)76 2010499
Email: info@mmmsouthafrica.org

THAILAND

PO Box 103
Bandu
Chiang Rai 57100
Thailand
Phone: +66 (053)705 595
Email: mmmthai@mmm.org.au

ZAMBIA

PO Box 73624
Ndola
Zambia
Phone: +260 (0)974 998368
+260 (0)955 103343
Email: mmmzambia.office@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

5/621 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham
Victoria 3132
Australia
Phone: +61 (0)3 9837 2700
Email: terrence@mmm.org.au
Web: www.mmminternational.net

Printed by: FusionPrint, 24 Norton Road,
Hamilton

Front Cover: L-R, Sam Trebilco and Taylor
Firth, MMM's Interns, serving at Hope Rising
Farm Ngaruawahia

LETTER FROM THE

Director March 2023



Welcome to the first edition of the MMM magazine for 2023!

Recently I read Psalm 127 which begins with the well-known verse, "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain." Then, later in the day, when our team met, we asked the question, "Why does MMM exist?" Ave and I had discussed our answers to this question and found our answers to be very different. I, being the more literal one, answered, "MMM exists because a guy had a vehicle that broke down on the side of the road in Australia. He was helped by a couple Christians who listened to the needs of the missionary man and decided to form a work team to go to help, so I would say, MMM exists to meet needs." That was my answer. Ave's answer, surprisingly, was a lot shorter, "MMM exists to support Christian work and workers with their practical needs" Okay, so our answers are similar but we still thought it would be interesting to ask our team and we were right! When we took this question to our team we got these great answers, here are some of them -

- To serve those who serve! We support those who don't have the skills, using our abilities and skills God has given us.
- We are a testimony to God's love as a community of believers supporting one another
- To be a blessing
- Because some guys came over from Australia and started it!
- Using our skills to glorify God is the overarching goal
- MMM exists because buildings don't take care of themselves! Also we want the next generation coming to have facilities where they can meet and hear about God
- Take the pressure off the organisation we are serving so they can do what they do best
- Although MMM is about practical help it is really more about encouraging the people
- MMM shows God's love in a practical way

These were all great answers, and we think a great reason to get out of bed in the morning and go and serve. The verse I began my day with echoed through all our team said, - unless we build for God we labour in vain, come join us!

Howard Robinson
MMM New Zealand
Director



MMM Team with new shirts!



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

Intern Programme

MEET TAYLOR AND SAM

In the last issue of the MMM magazine we advertised the new programme MMM has begun - "MoMentuM" The goal is to expose apprentices to serving missions, at the same time including formal building training. Because MMM does all kinds of maintenance, including quite a lot of painting, for an apprentice to be trained through MMM we have built a relationship with Christian builders who are willing to take on our apprentices for four days a week to get consistent building experience, and they volunteer with MMM one day a week.

We have had two young guys sign on for the year. Taylor Firth and Sam Trebilco. Taylor was home-schooled and began volunteering with MMM three years ago. He is now one of our apprentices. I asked Taylor, Why? Why sign on to serve with MMM for a year working along side the Christian community?

Taylor - "I wanted to do a normal apprenticeship, easy and simple. But when I looked into it more, I loved the MMM connection with the ministry side of the projects they work on. It's easy to fall away into the secular world when you are in it. But working within MMM is massively different because the environment is so much better with

guys you work with at MMM. This way I won't be full-on with the secular building site because of the times with MMM. I think this creates a good balance. I'm sure I will hugely value the internship with MMM through this year and beyond."

Sam Trebilco was featured in *MMM News* last year as a young guy who was raising calves for MMM. He had heard about MMM through his grandparents. Sam writes:

"I've known about MMM for a long time and loved what they do, serving the church in New Zealand and overseas. After I finished school I wanted to learn the skill of building. The MMM Apprenticeship was a perfect mix of both: learning and serving. I've only been on the MMM jobs a couple of weeks but I'm really enjoying it and learning heaps. It's really cool to serve but also get a formal apprenticeship at the same time I'm looking forward to the coming years."

Welcome Taylor and Sam. We hope you enjoy your time working alongside MMM Teams and are inspired by the amazing missions, ministries and churches we serve.



MMM APPRENTICESHIP INTERNS



Sam Trebilco and Taylor Firth



MMM Conference 2023
Woodend Christian Camp, Christchurch
28 - 30 April

Conference is a wonderful time of community, learning together from God's word, fellowship and fun!

Our speaker for the weekend is **Michael Thomas**, Director of Celebrate Messiah. Thomas and his wife Teresa have been involved in Messianic ministry for nearly two decades. Michael and Teresa immigrated to Christchurch from Washington, D.C in 2017.



We are sure you will be encouraged by the messages Michael brings.

Cost \$130 Children under 12, \$99 this includes accommodation and meals, campervans are welcome!

Scan the QR code to register or go to www.mmm.org.nz and click the link.

Kids welcome!



Michael Thomas



Mobile Team

LIFE ON THE ROAD WITH THE MOBILE MCLEANS

Chris and Jen McLean are from Dunedin and in January moved to the North Island with their caravan and three gorgeous children, Hudson (8), Thea (6) and Abbey (3). Chris is a builder and they are leading a Mobile Team alongside Robyn and Marty McKone, currently serving in the Auckland region.

Well, here we are now a month into our journey on the road travelling as a mobile team with MMM. It has not been what we expected so far - flood events and a cyclone definitely weren't in our expectations of life on the road!

There are parts of life that haven't changed much - we still need to eat, sleep and work - it's just what that looks like is now a bit different and has required some adjustments. Some of these changes are welcome - getting to visit new churches and meet new people, seeing new places, and the kids have been loving the frequent swims with the warm weather. Some of these changes have been hard - getting the kids to go to sleep in the heat in a crowded space, trying to be mum and teacher, and getting used to a new 'online' school system has taken some time.

I (Jen) asked the family some questions about how they have found the past month of travelling on the road and living in a caravan. Here are some of our answers:

What has been your favourite part about living in a caravan and travelling so far?

Chris: I love working with my teammate, Marty McKone. He is always full of joy and laughter and it makes the jobs fun to be on. I love the tangible blessing we can be to those in ministry that are doing work that is often intangible.

Jen: I love seeing new places and meeting new people. It is always encouraging to meet the body of Christ in different places and have that instant connection because of Jesus. I'm also enjoying the warm weather (minus the rain and cyclone!)

Hudson: Going to new places and exploring.

Thea: Visiting new places.

Abbey: My new bed.

What has been the hardest part?

Chris: Working in the heat and humidity up north!

Jen: Getting all the kids to sleep in such close quarters.

Hudson: If we have to stay in the same place for a long time.

Thea and Abbey: Mosquito bites (not an issue in the South Island!).

What has surprised you about this new way of living?

Chris: I'm surprised how well the kids have adapted to all this - we often treat kids as if they need to be bubble wrapped and work life around them, but they do well when they are just made to come for



the ride; they don't complain about what we leave behind as they are focused on today.

Jen: Sometimes living in a caravan is a blessing - at Festival One when it started to pour down we felt like we were living in luxury in our caravan while others were stuck in tents. Also with the recent cyclone and power cuts our caravan kept running with solar and gas - the only thing we couldn't do was charge the laptop or use the microwave!

Thea: I've got to see rabbits.

Have you learnt anything new or been reminded about anything from God through this experience?

Chris: The Lord is trustworthy and generous, far more than we can ever be! And it's great to just put gloves on and go and serve in a physical way, helping in practical needs for Jesus' sake, as well as being a spiritual encouragement.

Jen: We are constantly being reminded of God's provision, often through his people, whether it is accommodation, food, finance or other things!

Thea: God will look after us and we should obey God.

What are you looking forward to this year?

Chris: Meeting new people at various projects, getting to teach new volunteers and hear people's stories as we work side by side. Also, cooler weather!

Jen: Making new connections, seeing how God is working throughout Aotearoa and seeing new places.

Thea: Meeting new people.

Abigail: Seeing beautiful things (trees and birds).

- Jen McLean



Photos - top: caravan and awning set up at the MMM Centre. Above: Family. Left: Chris on the job at Donald's bathroom renovation. Chris taking the kids for a ride to do a small repair on a bridge at the property where their caravan was parked.



The latest exciting news for MMM (Fiji) is that Fiji is now open to all! All Covid mandates and requirements have been dropped at the border, so now everyone is welcome and able to come. We are looking forward to having more teams join us soon!

In February we were grateful to have Mike Taylor, Terry Meads and Daniel Slabbert come over to help us out

Our family has been in Fiji for over nine months now. Our kids are in school, they have after school activities, Youth group and Sunday School. We are making new connections all the time, which is always super helpful in Fiji.

We are in the middle of the rainy season where getting flooded in or out of home is the norm and washing mud off the trucks is a regular job. We haven't let the rainy season hold us back too much and have been able to achieve a lot.

The MMM Pajero is a constant project but is proving a reliable workhorse. The MMM trailer had a major makeover and is roadworthy again after needing some rust, leaks, locks and registration seen to.

We spent two weeks in Nacekoro Village in Savusavu doing some cyclone repair work to a guest house that had been left without a roof for over a year after Cyclone Yasa. Unfortunately, there was no one local with the skills to fix it.

Another project was at Anand AOG church, Nalovo, Nadi, where a great team of willing volunteers always helps out. Roy assisted them by installing flashings, gutters and downpipes and we were honoured to be special guests at their church Christmas party.

We have been able to spend time working with an American missionary family - the Seehusen's - who are building a house here. They work for the Bible College in Lautoka, helping to strengthen churches in the South Pacific by providing training, resources, equipping and discipleship. Roy has been able to advise them through the planning of their build and liaising with their architects and contractors, as, unfortunately, a lot of people get taken advantage of here.



Top down - Team on day out, Mike Taylor, Daniel Slabbert, Terry Meads and Roy Hogan.

Mike Taylor building new kitchen bench for Homes of Hope.

Terry Meads and Roy Hogan adjusting gutters for the Anand AOG church.

with some small local jobs, more gutters and downpipes at Anand AOG church, as well as spending a week at Homes of Hope in Suva. There they worked on a staff house that now has a new kitchen bench, new front doors and improved wastewater plumbing. However, there are still a lot of water issues there, with all three bathrooms needing a complete renovation - planning has begun for this to be done later this year.

There is never any lack of building and maintenance work needing to be done in Fiji. The problem is that the ministries most in need don't have the finances required to purchase the materials, which is also a major contributing factor to the issues arising in the first place.

Living in another culture, far from family and friends isn't always easy. There are many daily struggles and frustrations you become accustomed to. It is a huge encouragement to us when we have teams come from New Zealand to come alongside us and support what we are doing on our journey. It is at these times that I am reminded that the core of what we do in MMM is supporting Christian work and workers on their journey. I know personally what it can mean to a person or a community in a hard place and I am truly grateful that we can do that for someone else.

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

- Rachael Hogan

Full-Time Volunteers on projects in New Zealand: Wayne MacCarthy, Chris and Jen McLean, Robyn and Marty McKone and Leif Pedersen



PROJECT REPORTS

Kaukapakapa Bible Chapel, Kaipara

What an amazing project we were involved in just before Christmas.

MMM accepted a request from the Kaukapakapa Bible Chapel to assist them in upgrading their well loved but getting old church. This involved painting three quarters of the interior of the Chapel, building a deck and fencing the site. The church team had ripped out the old kitchen and we made up a new kitset kitchen and fitted it. We built a new storage cupboard and painted the water tank so the children could do a mural. A playground was also moved onto site and a garden shed built, oh and a new garden surround put in, and a part of the roof redone!

It was a big job but the team did it all really well.

The church team kept us completely overfed with all their goodies and we made some incredible lasting friendships.

If you are considering joining an MMM project, I can only encourage you. The camaraderie is incredible and the sense of a job well done sticks with you forever. The thanks of the recipients makes the hard work so worthwhile. - *Robyn McKone*

Team Leader - Mike Taylor, Terry and Rhonda Meads, Des and Wendy Magee, Marty and Robyn McKone, Graham and Colleen Stokes, Leif Pederson, Caleb, Glenis Munn and the roofers Brian Scott and Cameron Bennett



Norm and Liz Silcock, Cambridge

Our team enjoyed a few days building a new entrance way for Norm and Liz. Norm and Liz have worked alongside smaller churches supporting them for years. It was wonderful for our team to be able to support them. *Team Leader - Leif Pedersen, Geoff Crawford, Ken Porter, Graham Stokes.*



Thank you to all those who served with MMM making these projects possible!

Hope Rising Charitable Trust, Ngaruawahia

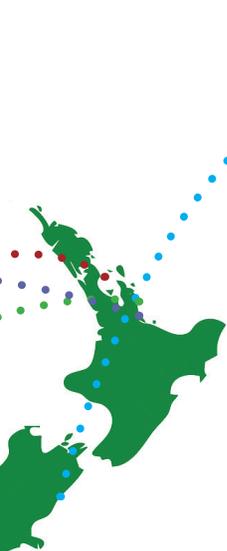


It was good to be back at Hope Rising Farm and to see that the work we did there last year had been a blessing to them.

This time the main job was turning a half-round shed into a workshop. We put up walls, windows, roller door and created a mezzanine floor for storage. We also painted the exterior of the main barn, installed a couple of windows, lined some of the interior walls and built more storage in the Tack room.

There was a great sense of fellowship and mutual encouragement between the Hope Rising Team and the MMM team.

Team Leader- Leif Pedersen, Robert Atkins, Bruce Clow, Taylor Firth, Marty McKone, Chris McLean, Graham and Colleen Stokes, Sam Trebilco



St Paul's Presbyterian, Kaikoura

This project was on our schedule for quite a while. Coordinating around Covid restrictions and the availability of volunteers was tricky. However, in the end a wonderful team came together to serve this church right on the beach in Kaikoura. The project was to paint the exterior of this board and batten church. Following the project, the Team Leader Mike Nicholls wrote:

What an incredible time, seeing God at work. Some of the team arrived on the Sunday. The forecast was for heavy rain and thunderstorms for the next three days, and throughout our three weeks the evening forecast on average was rain for half the time. One morning it rained until 8 am, we started painting at 8.30 am and on the last day we finished painting at 2.45 pm and it started raining at 3 pm but the paint had already skinned and no damage done!

Thursday morning of the first week we were making such good progress I said to Martin that if he could organise a cherry-picker or scaffolding, we could do the high parts as well. A local man had a cherry-picker and he was given the name of a Christchurch firm for scaffolding. They said they would be in Kaikoura on Saturday and would include gear for us. Three men with a truck load of scaffolding started putting it up at 3 pm on the Monday, were back at 7 am the



Photo L-R: Gerrard and Femmy Van Leeuwen, Alan and Rosina Mitchell, Mike Nicholls (Team Leader), Clem and Glennis Jessop (Not in the photo - Pauline Jeffs, Ronnie McArthur, Cathy, Mindy, Neomi Creak)

next day with another guy and more gear that he'd bought up from Christchurch. They finished at 2 pm and we were ready to start on it (God's incredible timing). They then said it was free!

Seeing God's provision of the right team at the right time always amazes me. Thank you all.

The usual great morning teas, lunches and fellowship was extended into most evenings with the local sushi shop providing dinner one night a week, fresh crayfish, fresh fish and a couple of barbecues from the locals.

All expected jobs were done and we ran out of the while-you're-here-jobs as well!

Thanks again to all the team, locals, and other support. What a privilege it is to be part of this.

- Mike Nicholls



NEW WINE AND FESTIVAL ONE

MMM was promoted at these two events that were held in January. New Wine was the third weekend in January and this year was in Masterton and Festival One was held near Cambridge on the fourth weekend. These events are great opportunities to meet new people and share the vision of MMM.

The photo on the right represents Festival One nicely - lots of rain drenched people in jackets and coats.

Festival One was previously held at Mystery Creek, near Hamilton. This year was the first one to be held at Hartford Farm, Cambridge. It was a lovely setting for the festival but as it is farm land, once we had a significant amount of rain and thousands of people walking on it, all that farmland turned to mud. This resulted in the festival, which began on Friday, being cancelled on Saturday morning by 10 am! This was very sad for all those involved in the big set up but, due to the weather not improving it was decided the event had to be cancelled. By then, however, we had already had great conversations with festival goers.

On Saturday morning a young guy wearing a waterproof coat, like everyone, was walking by the stand saw the "MMM" signage and slowed a bit. Howard asked him, "Have you heard of MMM?" He looked around

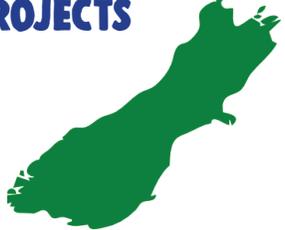
our booth, saw the MMM magazine cover, the one with the MAF plane on it, laughed and said, "Yeah! I was the electrician at MAF!" He then said, "Oh, so you guys are MMM! Something that was really cool on that project was we would stop and read a devotion and pray. I really liked that. Usually when I'm on a regular job everyone just has their own morning tea and everyone looks at their phones. I really liked the way the MMM guys stopped and prayed and talked together. Yeah, that was really good." It was such a great unexpected testimony from a festival goer. You just never know what a person will say when you ask, "Have you heard of MMM?"!

Although Festival One didn't run its full time, we had told anyone who signed up to receive MMM's quarterly magazine that they would go in a draw to win a tool belt. Well, we did that - the winner was Levi, who responded warmly, when we contacted him. He had seen MMM at work when he worked at a Christian camp. It was great to get such a positive response.

Although the weather was wet and mud was prolific, we loved our time there because of the great people we met!
- Ave Robinson



Upcoming Projects in NZ

 <p>NORTH ISLAND PROJECTS</p>	<p>Fellowship and food are a high priority at MMM; every day there is a devotion and prayer time!</p>	<p>6 - 15 March</p> <p>Hoatu Kaimua Lodge, YWAM</p> <p>282 Old Kaimai Road, Lower Kaimua</p> <p>Renovate bathrooms and upgrade bunk beds</p>	
	<p>20 March - 5 April</p> <p>Highland Home Christian camp</p> <p>Pohangina Valley, Ashurst</p> <p>External painting of main hall and maintenance of manager's house</p>		<p>11 April - 10 May</p> <p>Titoki Healing Centre</p> <p>Poroporo, Whakatane</p> <p>Repair and maintain a one bedroom cottage</p>
<p>28 - 30 April</p> <p>MMM Conference</p> <p>Woodend Christchurch</p> <p><i>Come to conference, stay for a project!</i></p>		<p>15 - 30 May</p> <p>14th Avenue Gospel Centre</p> <p>Tauranga, Bay of Plenty</p> <p>Painting the interior of the main hall</p>	
<p>6 June - 23 June</p> <p>St Andrews Church</p> <p>New Plymouth</p> <p>Building internal wall and installing decorative battening painting</p>	<p>26 June - 1 Sept</p> <p>Vertical Horizons Camp</p> <p>Inglewood, Taranaki</p> <p>Renovation and remodelling of a cabin complex with covered veranda</p>	<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 10px;">  <p>TRANSFORM Together</p> <p>MMM Conference 2023 BOOK NOW!</p> <p>Woodend Christian Camp, Christchurch</p> <p>28 - 30 April, \$130</p>  </div>	
<p>SOUTH ISLAND PROJECTS</p> 	<p>23 March - 5 April</p> <p>Jane Troughton - Missionary</p> <p>Little River, Banks Peninsula</p> <p>Renovating a small house, internal painting</p>	<p>24 April - 5 May</p> <p>Woodend Christian Camp</p> <p>124 Woodend Beach Road RD1 Kaiapoi 7691</p> <p>Come serve the camp by helping with camp maintenance and painting</p>	<p>22 May - 16 June</p> <p>Grant Norsworthy - ministry</p> <p>SPEAKER AND MUSICIAN</p> <p>Upper Moutere, Tasman</p> <p>Construction of a small cabin for ministry office and music studio</p>

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.MMM.ORG.NZ

Volunteers are welcome on projects. Just call Dave first to check the project is on schedule! Thanks!



PHONE OR EMAIL DAVE: 021 272 1562
projects@mmm.org.nz
HELPERS WELCOME. CARAVAN PARKING AVAILABLE ON MOST PROJECTS