

# MMM New Zealand News

Issue 4 2023



**MOBILE TEAM**

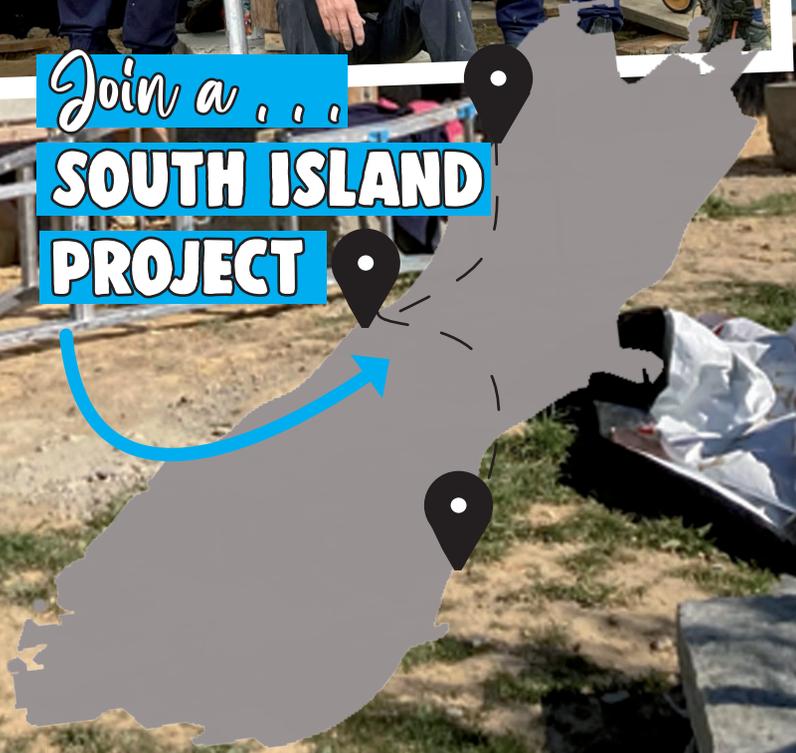
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**MEET ELLIOT**

p5

Join a . . .  
**SOUTH ISLAND PROJECT**





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Printed by: SCG, 24 Norton Road,  
Hamilton

Front Cover: The team photo from the  
Norsworthy project, Upper Moutere

# LETTER FROM THE

*Director*

December 2023



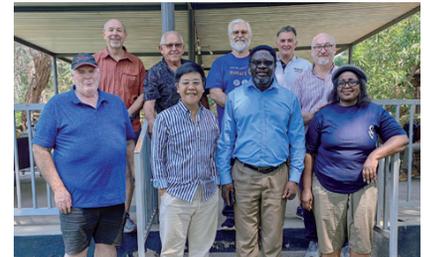
How good is God, bringing us through another year? What a blessing to look back and be thankful for the year of action that has seen many people engaged in the various areas that make up this organisation.

On the following pages you are going to read some great testimonies about people and projects but I also want to acknowledge the great Board who serve us. We can now say that they have all been on at least one project overseas. Well done Lloyd Port for finally making it there - see Lloyd (right) taking care of the MMM Board Minutes while on a project in Fiji! They all bring a passion to serve the ministry, desiring to see the ministry go forward by implementing the MoMentuM internship program to train young people, upgrading of the MMM centre in Pirongia, encouraging the purchasing of property for the development of an MMM (Fiji) centre and pursuing the digital age with development of integrated systems in behind the website for applications, projects, the database and health and safety - areas which are part of the strategic plan they have developed. There is always more that could be done, but we are heading in the right direction.



The ministry of MMM is happening not just in New Zealand but also in Australia, Fiji, Hong Kong, South Africa, Thailand and Zambia. These countries come under the umbrella of the MMM International Alliance. You and I are part of an alliance working together to enhance the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ, a collective through which the broader MMM community around the world agrees to relate, operate, support and fund (where appropriate) the ministry.

This past month saw Doug Carson (MMM Chair) and myself attend the MMM International Alliance Board meetings held at the MMM Centre in Zambia. A certain amount of relationship building can be done digitally but there nothing like being together face to face (which we do once a year) to develop, enhance and appreciate relationships and gain understanding of the various centres and their challenges, and thereby support each other in a greater way. It was great to have Ave join us for the trip.



Back row - Howard Robinson, Doug Carson, Patrick Coleman, James Lacey, Terrence Baxter  
Front row - Dale Richardson, William Wong, Pastor William, Florence Kaniki

Thank you to everyone for playing your part, not for our own glory but to the praise of God's glorious grace – his saving grace in the past, his present sustaining grace

*Howard Robinson*  
MMM New Zealand  
Director



Practical Ministry

People Ministry

Spiritual Ministry

International Ministry

### 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

# Mobile Team

## WILLING AND AVAILABLE, NOT JUST THE SKILLED AND ABLE

For three months the MMM Mobile Team (Chris and Jen, Hudson, Thea and Abi McLean, Marty and Robyn McKone) served the Vertical Horizons' camp in Inglewood, Taranaki. They were renovating a relocated building into accommodation with ensuites. There was a lot of work to be done and wonderful volunteers served alongside MMM's Full-Time team members, with God providing the right help at the right time!

At times, on the Vertical Horizons' project, the building work felt slow and tedious - going back and forth between the architect, council and specialist fire proofing companies, trying to come up with a plan that satisfied all parties. When we finally reached the point of booking a council inspection, there was a real sense of nervousness given the previous issues. As the date approached, it looked like there was more work to finish than volunteers, so Chris (Team Leader) decided it was obvious to delay the inspection... but something still stopped him! The date loomed closer and closer but still Chris held off. Then, a few days before the inspection we got a call from some new friends from this year - the Fosters (from Highland Home Christian Camp in Pohangina valley who we served in March). They wanted to help for a day. When? They were arriving tomorrow! It was so great to see our friends again (Hudson bolted for the door as soon as he heard the car arrive, very excited to see his friend), and within a day with three extra sets of hands the ceiling insulation was completed and the inspection was go!

Thanks to Chris' diligence in communication with suppliers and the architect and the extra hands to finish all the tasks, the eagle eyed inspector couldn't find any fault with the work and the final inspection we needed, for our stage of the project, was done! The Fosters had no idea that their timing was crucial to our inspection time frame, and Chris would have cancelled the inspection the next day without their arrival. But this is how God seems to use people; He is after the willing and available, not just the skilled and able! - Jen McLean



What a fabulous facility they have at East West College, in Gordonton, a little north of Hamilton – a purpose built teaching and accommodation premises for those dedicated to serving overseas as missionaries, to wherever God sends them. Some of the students are there for two years and have come from all over the world.

MMM was there to help with a concreting project over a two-week period. The college had done a lot of ground work preparation but it was down to our team to finish levelling and boxing, etc. We had concrete to lay, a carport to erect from a kitset, another carport type structure to build from scratch, iron to attach to the roof and some walls to put on.



It never ceases to amaze us how people and skills come together to complete a project. We always have the right people and the exact combination of skills needed to complete the project on time. Carpentry, joinery, concrete site prep, roofing, etc, are just some of the skills this job needed.

Specialised equipment was required to do the job properly, and, of course, there was an 'overloaded' van there stuffed full of

everything we needed – boxing pegs, concrete floats, laser levels, a compactor, reinforcing steel benders and cutters, etc, along with a wealth of knowledge and laughter.

Some of the students had free time and were put to work helping with wheel barrowing the concrete to the harder to reach places, to the great relief of some of the MMM team!

Even our ladies were put to good use helping alter and repair some of the curtains around the accommodation, as well as being in the kitchen. All our meals were in the dining room with the students, where we got to talk to many of them and find out why they were there and where they hoped to be serving once they leave. It was great

to see so many with a heart and passion to serve.

**Reader, maybe you might like to join one of the MMM teams on a future project and enjoy the great fellowship, laughter and good fun, along with being hugely blessed by 'serving those who serve.'**

- Associates Des and Wendy Magee

# MMM Fiji



In the last MMM magazine we shared about the 'A' Team - the Aged Team (three members were over 70) who went to Fiji and they shared how "lasting friendships were formed ... and they had an experience that will be with them forever." This article is from a Young Adults group who went to Fiji. It seems you are never too old or never too young to serve.

Earlier in the year our group of Young Adults at Lifezone church, Tauranga, proposed the idea of going on a missions trip to Fiji. At the time there was very little known about the trip, where we were heading and what we were going to be doing there. Being a group of young people, most of us were unsure if the finances would come together. Despite these unknowns, our team was willing and excited to do what it took to make the trip a reality. Once we were seated on the plane, we still had no idea what our time in Fiji would look like!

We arrived in Fiji to the warmest welcome from our host church, Anand AOG, near Nadi. We were blown away by the hospitality of the people we met in Fiji. Our hosts provided good food, good conversation and many opportunities to experience Fiji's culture.

Our team were given the task of fixing the roof of a pastor's home that had been leaking for years. Each day working on the roof was better than the last, learning new skills, growing closer as a team and having lots of fun. Each member of the team was able to get stuck in and use their skills and strengths to get the job done.

Our team really enjoyed working on the roof and we were proud to have finished the job well by



the end of the week.

**Although the intent of our trip was to bless the church we were serving, we left Fiji feeling so blessed ourselves.**

In the evenings we were welcomed into the church home groups, prayer service and youth group. It was a privilege to experience the ways that the church passionately loved and served God. It was also a privilege to share our stories and love for God through being invited to be a part of the services.

Although the intent of our trip was to bless the church we were serving, we left Fiji feeling so blessed ourselves. We headed home feeling physically shattered but so full of God's love. As a team we were able to take lots of learning and inspiration home from our time in Fiji. We are so grateful for the all provisions of God and the good work of MMM that made our trip to Fiji better than we ever imagined. - Team member, Cassie Welsh

**MMM FIJI**

**IN THE YEAR 2023**

**7 TEAMS FROM NZ TO FIJI**

**64 VOLUNTEERS SERVED IN FIJI**

**8 MINISTRIES AND FAMILIES SERVED**

**WELL DONE FIJI!**

**SEE YOU ON A PROJECT NEXT YEAR!**

**DON'T WASTE YOUR BEST CHANCE**

**JOB VACANCY**

**OVERSEAS TEAMS COORDINATOR**

We are seeking someone to coordinate overseas teams from New Zealand. This would be a part time role. The right candidate for this role would require great communication skills, a high level of accuracy and integrity. The role requires booking overseas tickets, managing budgets, communicating with teams across New Zealand and preparing them to serve.

It promises not to be boring job, with great opportunities to see God at work.

All job positions in MMM are non-salaried, i.e by faith. Our team testify to God's faithfulness, will you trust him?

# Introducing Elliot



Meet the Marshalls!



Kia Ora!

My name is Elliot Marshall, and my family and I currently have the privilege of serving with MMM part time as an Associate with the local Waikato team. I am married to my lovely wife Jo, and we have three school aged children. It is a wonderful bonus that recently my teenage son has also been able to serve with our MMM team as a volunteer. Prior to joining MMM, we had been serving as full time missionaries in Mexico.

Mexico was our home for six years where we worked helping develop a camp and ministry centre and also worked with the local Mexican church. More recently, we served for four years in Aotearoa as short term mission coordinators as well as being members of a team equipping people for long term cross-cultural missions.

## What a privilege to be part of the body of Christ, being his hands with a hammer in them!

2021 brought huge changes for us, and God changed our direction! Suddenly we needed to be back in paid secular employment. During this time we were praying and seeking God about what he was wanting us to do as a family. We had a strong sense that the Lord wasn't asking us to 'abandon' the call to

serve in missions. During this time we were also considering the gifts and skills that God had given us and how we could use them here in New Zealand, as well as our experience in missions. Before we went to Mexico, I was working as a builder and had completed my cabinetry joinery certificate. As we were seeking God about our direction, we were able to meet and talk with MMM about working one day a week, and about MMM's vision for different ministries. God's hand was definitely on our circumstances and within one year, I was able to finish my building apprenticeship and start working with MMM. Working one day a week with MMM is going well. There is a full time team based in and around the Waikato that I join each week.

The team has been working with different churches and ministries like Eastwest College, Hamilton South City Baptist and Capernwray Bible School (to name a few). It is great to have a time in my week that I can give back and help support these different ministries and churches. What a great thing it is to see people from these ministries being blown away with the practical help that, as a team, we can offer.

MMM also have started an internship program with a couple of young guys, who give one day a week to MMM and then work four days with a builder. I have been able to work along side these guys each week when we have different building projects on. It has been awesome to see them develop their building skills and grow in their spiritual life throughout the year.

Working for both a builder and MMM for the last few years has been a real blessing and very enjoyable. It has allowed me to upskill, keep me up to speed with the codes and regulations within the building industry and to stay connected with the guys in my secular job, as well as serving God with an awesome bunch of people one day a week. On this day, I have been able to pick up

skills and grow in other areas that I don't get the opportunity to otherwise, as well as teach others in the MMM team different building skills and techniques that I am learning in my secular job. The only down side is that with only serving one day a week with MMM, I sometimes can't get 'my teeth' into a project!

Serving God with MMM is an awesome opportunity. What a privilege to be part of the body of Christ, being his hands with a hammer in them! God is using me in areas that I am trained in, and using the gifts He has given me to bless others by helping them do something they can't or aren't able to do.

**A challenge from our family to yours is to consider your direction in life. Trust him to provide your needs and jump into an adventure with God. If you wonder what he could use you for, remember He has the ability to use what you have to offer, in creative and wonderful ways. - Elliot Marshall**



## GREAT OPPORTUNITIES!

Come join the MMM Team!  
We are seeking:

volunteers, handimen and women,  
builders, painters, mobile team  
leaders, willing men and women.

We are also seeking a Property  
Manager to maintain the MMM  
site and vehicles.

**JOIN TODAY**

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



# PROJECT REPORTS

## WAIKATO PROJECTS

Capernwray, Cambridge



The team removed and repaired the wooden windows in the homestead of Capernwray Bible School, replaced two new showers and completed some interior and exterior painting. All this was done while the students were away doing ministry. *Team Leader - Leif Pedersen, Wayne MacCarthy, Des Magee*

## East West College, Hamilton



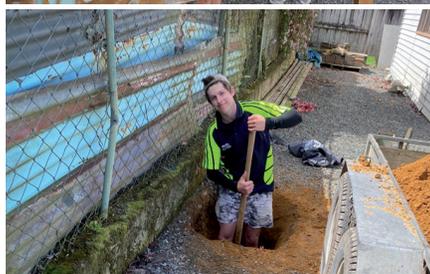
New carport, new paths, new shed, a new coat of paint inside and out. So much was accomplished by the team and they were blessed and encouraged by spending time with those training to serve at the East West College. (See article on page 3, "East West College.") *Team Leader - Leif Pedersen, Taylor Firth, Harry and May Joe, Wayne MacCarthy, Des and Wendy Magee, James Pask, Elliot Marshall, Sam Trebilco*

## Orini District Church, Orini



The team served this rural church in the Waikato, repairing timber and giving it a coat of paint. Leif was able to light up the cross at the front of the building. *Team leader - Leif Pedersen, Marty and Robyn McKone, Ken and Eileen Ogden, Wayne MacCarthy, Sam Trebilco*

## Matamata Christian School, Matamata



At Matamata Christian School we were asked to do the paint prep before the painters arrived. This involved replacing rotten barge boards, repairing soffits, replacing the roofing nails with screws. We also put up a kitset carport. - *Team Leader Leif Pedersen, Taylor Firth, Wayne MacCarthy, Sam Trebilco*



## SOUTH ISLAND PROJECTS

Greymouth Baptist Church, Greymouth



The project at Greymouth Baptist Church was primarily building new storage cupboards in the main church building, with the old manse next door also needing much attention. The building of the storage was quickly whipped up by the skilled volunteers with MMM volunteer and electrician Mike Nicholls also travelling from Nelson to do all the wiring within the first week of the project. While there was still painting and odd bits that were needed to complete the storage cupboards over the following weeks, the attention turned to the old and tired manse. As often happens when painting a hundred year old wooden building, when the building was surveyed, it was found that many rotten boards and trims needed to be removed and replaced, borer issues addressed, old paint scraped and sanded back before we could even think about painting. With many hands, both MMM volunteers and the local church members, we were pleased to make as much progress as we did in the time frame available, with all the rot replacement completed as well as most of the building getting primer and a first coat of paint on. *Team leader - Chris McLean, Jen, Hudson, Thea, Abbey McLean, Pauline Jeffs, Simon, Cora, Aria, Azriel, Abi, Caleb Moore, Ephriam, Mike Nicholls, Ross and Catherine Pettigrew, Gerard and Femmy van Leeuwen*

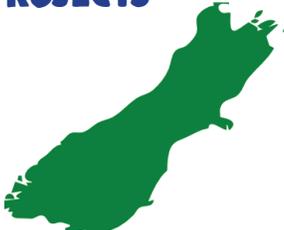


# Upcoming Projects in NZ

 <p><b>NORTH ISLAND PROJECTS</b></p>		<p>17 Jan - 2 Feb <b>Festival One</b> Karapiro</p> <p>Every year MMM promotes at Festival One, the Christian Music Festival held in the Waikato. This year they have asked for help with set up and pack down.</p>	 <p>Fellowship and food are a high priority at MMM; every day there is a devotion and prayer time!</p>
	<p>7 - 17 February <b>MMM New Zealand</b> Pirongia</p> <p>Summer time is paint time! Come help paint house number 1 at the MMM Centre.</p>		<p>19 Feb - 8 March <b>Totara Springs Christian Centre</b> Matamata</p> <p>Stripping wallpaper in motel units and painting.</p>

Wherever you are in New Zealand you are welcome to join a project!

More applications have just come in, watch the website for More details.

 <p><b>SOUTH ISLAND PROJECTS</b></p>	<p>5 - 16 February <b>Camp Iona</b> Oamaru</p> <p>Painting, interior and exterior of cabins 4 and 5</p>		<p>19 Feb - 8 March <b>Karamea Community Church</b> Karamea</p> <p>Do you know where Karamea is? Make it an adventure! Come along with your paint brushes for an exterior painting project.</p>
	<p>11 March - 5 April <b>Celebrate Messiah</b> Punakaiki</p> <p>Replace exterior cladding on accommodation in Punakaiki</p>	 <p>RECENTLY OVERHEARD ON A PROJECT: "WE LOVE IT WHEN MMM COMES BECAUSE THEY DON'T JUST WORK BUT TAKE THE TIME TO SHARE A DEVOTION AND PRAY WITH US TOO!"</p>	

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?  
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE  
[WWW.MMM.ORG.NZ](http://WWW.MMM.ORG.NZ)

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



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HELPERS WELCOME. CARAVAN PARKING AVAILABLE ON MOST PROJECTS