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Ngā mihi ki a tātou katoa,

2022 challenges

Warm greetings from NZCN to all our subscribers and members, as we move into 2022.

2022 already promises to be just as challenging a year as last year, but in its own way.

Front of mind for many church leaders is how our churches may best navigate the complications of life in the Red setting, showing love and respect to everyone while also trying to keep all our people as safe as we can. Covid and the lockdowns have had a negative effect on many churches, in terms of distraction, weakened engagement, reduced attendance, and disunity. But some churches have found many opportunities for spiritual and relational growth, innovation, renewed small groups, and mission.

Beyond all that, there remain some deeper challenges for church and society in Aotearoa New Zealand, such as...

- The accelerating climate crisis, and widespread unwillingness to accept effectual changes
- Worsening social inequity
- The unaffordability of home ownership for so many people
- A prevalence of broken marriages and temporary relationships
- Much violence, abuse, and family instability
- The harm caused by various drugs
- Stress, loss of hope, and mental health issues
- Suicide (especially among youth)
- More understanding, peace, and reconciliation needed between cultures

- The preoccupation of many New Zealanders with their own choices, comforts, and pleasures
- The pervasive and often negative influences of social media
- Much confusion in society (and sometimes in churches) about God, truth, and the Gospel
- A prevailing loss of confidence in the Bible or the Christian message
- A general unawareness of the positive influences of Christian values in NZ, past and present
- A growing disdain for committed Christian faith, and its marginalisation in many quarters
- Many churches' loss of younger generations to faith and Christian commitment
- The struggle of churches to connect well with unbelievers and help them find faith in Christ
- The politicisation of radical moral views on sex, gender, abortion, euthanasia, hate speech, and 'conversion therapy', and their increasing imposition upon society
- The susceptibility of some Christians to unbalanced and less-than-biblical ideologies

If that is all the case (or even some of it), there is a lot for us to do in 2022!

Mā te Atua koutou katoa e manaaki, e tiaki,
(God bless and keep you all)



Dr Stuart Lange
National Director



Gayann Phillips
General Manager

and the NZCN Team

A necessary postponement

Late last year, because of Covid uncertainties, NZCN announced the postponement of the *New Zealand Christian Leaders' Congress*, which will now take place 22–24 March 2023. For the same reason, we now also need to **postpone the one-day Christian leaders' forum** which we had scheduled for this March, likewise in Wellington. We are working on alternative plans, so watch this space.

--- Churches united in cities ---

- INVITATION -

Hear two champions of unity in the UK share stories

about what churches are doing together right now.

- > Be encouraged <
- > Find the ideas that might work for you



DETAILS

Thursday 24th February 2021
New Zealand - 11am
Australia (Brisbane / AEST) - 8am
Address: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/304590871>



INVITATION

Hear current stories from two champions of unity in the UK

Brought to you by NZ Christian Network, City by City & Shining Lights Trust

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Find ideas - and take what might work for the pastors of your city or town!

What they will share includes things churches are doing in outreach *with success during Covid.*

Who this is for: Pastors who serve or facilitate unity in their cities and towns across NZ and Australia.

Freely invite other pastors who serve unity alongside you in your city or town.
(We can raise up leaders by exposing them to vision!)

Details: For NZ this is **11am, Thursday 24th February** on Zoom

[Download the flyer here](#)

Zoom link

Employment Opportunities



Communications
Manager

Wellington preferred,
other locations
considered
Full-time / Part-time



Staff Workers

**Auckland, Christchurch,
Dunedin**, with vacancies
across the country
Full-time / Part-time



Office Administrator
and Receptionist
Wellington
Part-time



Partnerships &
Fundraising Manager
Based anywhere
Full-time / Part-time



Office Administrator
ELEVATE CHRISTIAN
DISABILITY TRUST
Onehunga, Auckland
Part-time



Partnership &
Development
Manager
MISSION WITHOUT
BORDERS
Auckland
Full-time



Senior Minister
ST ALBANS PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
Palmerston North
Full-time

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Help spread the news...

New Zealand society is in a period of significant change, much of it away from the Christian faith and values. Christian voices in society are either ignored or scorned.

We need Christian voices which are positive, sensible, reasoned, well-informed, and clear.

Forward to a friend



NZ Christian Network

PO Box 16004, Sandringham, Auckland 1351

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