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Kia ora tātou,

God absolutely loves his creation. So should we!

God's creation is superb. God's creation is vaster than we could ever comprehend, it is intricate, it is ordered, it is infinitely varied, it is full of energy, it is profuse with life, and it is magnificently beautiful.

The splendours of this created universe reflect the much greater glory of its sublime Creator. Human awe for creation can lead to awe of the living God who made it all: 'since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made' (Rom. 1:9).

God's creation established his complete and unchallengeable authority over everything and everyone that exists. The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it' (Ps. 24:1). That means this is God's world, not ours.

The whole Bible, from Genesis 1:1 onwards, gives testimony to God's absolute delight in his creation. The Creator gazed upon his completed creation, and saw that it was 'very good' (Gen. 1:31). God continues to actively watch over his creation, sustaining all things by his powerful word (Heb. 1:3). If God loves his creation so much, so should we!

Humanity is the pinnacle of God's creation, created to fellowship with God, and also set among the rest of God's created order to enjoy and care for it (Gen. 2:15).

The bad news. Because of humanity's waywardness towards God, creation has been placed under a deep shadow of brokenness, suffering, and death, and it groans as it awaits the day of salvation (Rom. 8: 18-22).

The good news. The Cross of Jesus is at the centre of God's plan of salvation, reconciling us to God. But Cross also looks forward to the liberation and restoration of God's creation, at the coming of the Lord (Col. 1:20; Rom. 8: 21; Eph. 1:10; Rev.21:1-4).

Some reasons why Christians should care for God's creation...

1. We should love what God loves: his creation.
2. We should honour God by respecting what he has given us.
3. God asked humanity to care for creation (Gen. 2:15): to benefit from it, and work it, but not to exploit it relentlessly or junk it.
4. We should remember that while God's humanity is central to God's creation, we are all dependent on the rest of creation for our own human health and flourishing. Human greed, selfishness and apathy is now putting God's creation under very strain.
5. Caring for creation is not at the centre of the Gospel. But that does not mean it is not important, or that we can ignore it.
6. It is the poorest people and the poorest nations who are the worst affected by pollution, famine, and climate change: the Bible consistently urges believers to show both justice and mercy, and to live others as ourselves (Mt. 25:37-40). This applies globally.
7. Yes, the believer's future is secure in God, and we look forward to the Lord's return, but we do not know when that will be.
8. Christians currently have a great opportunity to give a good example in these matters, and to let the light of Christ shine.

"I used to think that top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that thirty years of good science could address these problems. I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy, and to deal with these we need a cultural and spiritual transformation. And we scientists don't know how to do that."

- Dr Gus Spelth

Mā te Atua koutou e tiaki e manaaki i ngā wa katoa,
May the Lord bless and keep you at all times,



Dr Stuart Lange



Gayann Phillips

and the NZCN team

How often do you want to hear from us?

- ☐ Weekly, even if it's just notices. I like to know what's going on.
- ☐ Only when there is a message i.e. like the article above.



Pray As One NZ

Every Monday night, we run a national prayer meeting on Zoom with 70-80 participants joining from throughout the nation. Come join us!



Next up...

REGIONAL PRAYER FOCUS



Northland

23 MAY 2022



Pastor Howie Edwards, regional co-ordinator for the Northland Leaders Gathering, will be sharing about the needs of the region

- Lack of Housing & Employment and its destructive consequences
- Christians proactively "going" to our communities where they hurt
- Regional Christian Training Strategies
- Unity Maintained & Increased

8-9pm, Monday 23 May on Zoom

Watch last week's focus



Would you like to have your organisation featured in our newsletter, post employment opportunities on our job board, or list events on our calendar?



You can! These are benefits we make available to Christian organisations and churches with current membership

[Click here to learn more](#)



Directory of members

Helping to build awareness of different parachurch organisations serving the church in New Zealand and overseas.

NZCN featured member

Listed on our [Directory](#) by our Church and Christian Organisation members



Theology | Teacher Education | Counselling | Internship | Leadership

Laidlaw College is the largest interdenominational theological tertiary institute in Aotearoa New Zealand, offering qualifications from certificate to doctoral level, in the areas of theology and biblical studies, mission, ministry, counselling and teacher education.

Laidlaw College has at its core a deep commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ to which the Bible bears witness and to an encounter with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as we learn together. Our programmes bridge the gap between faithful reflection on God and a deep engagement with the world.

[Visit the website](#)

[Listing on NZCN](#)



Job Board / Situations Vacant

Connecting people for employment, internships, or voluntary roles in Christian organisations and churches. This can include looking for people to join governance boards or to fill a need for a specific skill/project.

Employment Opportunities

Listed on our [Job Board](#) by our Church and Christian Organisation members

Denotes a new or recently re-listed opportunity



Sanitarium Health Food Company

Royal Oak, Auckland

Store Person – full-time

Packaging Technologist – full-time

[Assistant Brand Manager](#) - full-time



Christians against Poverty New Zealand

Penrose, Auckland

[*Management Accountant*](#) - part-time

[*Finance Director*](#) - full-time

[Budget Solutions Adviser](#) - full-time

[Administrator](#) - full-time



Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship

[Finance assistant](#) - part-time

Wellington

[Office Administrator](#) - part-time

Wellington

[Staff Workers](#) - full-time / part-time

Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, and across the nation

[Communications Manager](#) - full-time/part-time

Wellington preferred, other locations considered



Christian Community Churches of New Zealand

Palmerston North

[National Administrator](#) - full-time

[Executive Assistant](#) - 32 hrs/wk

[Pastorlink Enabler](#) - part-time to full-time



East City Wesleyan Church

Botany, Auckland

[Senior Minister](#) - full-time



Elevate Christian Disability Trust

Onehunga, Auckland

[Office Administrator](#) - part-time



Baptist Churches of New Zealand

Penrose, Auckland

[HR Advisor](#) - part-time



Hillcrest Chapel

Hamilton

Pastor of Hillcrest Chapel – full-time



Event Calendar

Numbers in brackets indicate the number of events currently listed in that category until the *end of the next month*. Some events have both online and in person options to attend. The map on the calendar identifies locations.

Attend online (12)

Attend in person (10)

the Arts (0)

Camp/Hīkoi (1)

Community (5)

Denominational (0)

Equip (9)

Fundraising (0)

Outreach (0)

Prayer (5)

Events

Listed on our [Calendar](#) by our Church and Christian Organisation members



School of Evangelism Foundation Course

Hamilton – This course runs over 3 weekends

One – Personal Evangelism (12-14 May)

Two – Platform Evangelism (19-21 May)

Three – Reaching Kids and Families (26-28 May)



Confident Christianity Conference 2022

Tauranga & online – 20-21 May

We will help you overcome some of the toughest questions facing Christians today. This year's speakers aim to give you confidence in the rationality of your faith and worldview, helping you better engage with our current culture. Something we know sits in the heart of every believer.



Laidlaw Open Night

[Manukau](#) – 25 May,

[Henderson](#) & [Christchurch](#) 26 May

Are you wanting to deepen your faith or prepare for ministry? Or would you like to serve others through healing hearts, minds and relationships as a counsellor? Maybe study is your next step!



Laidlaw Counselling Workshops

Henderson, Christchurch, and online

28 May, 9:30am – 1pm

As we embark on a journey of healing and restoration after long periods of stress and isolation, it's important to grow in our understanding of how we can connect and communicate with others in healthy ways.

If you are a youth worker, community worker, involved in pastoral care, or intending to work in these areas, or simply interested in your own development in this area, then this could be the workshop for you!



Laidlaw Online Open Night

31 May, 7:30pm on Zoom

You're invited to explore your study options with Laidlaw staff at our Online Open Night.

Presentations will be made about our programmes in theology, counselling and teaching, and then we'll have staff available to chat with you in programme-specific break-out rooms.



AFFIRM/Bishopdale Theological College

[Living the Gospel](#) with **Rev Mark Beale**

7pm, Wednesdays 1, 8, & 15 June on **Zoom**

When world and Gospel Meet – Mission in today's world



Laidlaw Research Seminar with **Darrell Bock**

Wednesday 8 June **online**

This lecture will look at the gap between the events of Jesus and the recording of the gospels. How did this work in an ancient oral culture? How can we be confident in the result? Why was it decades before gospels were written? We will consider oral culture, the role of eye witnesses and the nature of memory.



MiCamp Leaders Training Weekend

7pm Friday 10 – 2pm Sunday 12 June

Leaders training is not only for those who lead at camp currently, but for those interested and for those who are just wanting up their leadership skills.

We believe that serving is a great calling and we want to help equip you to do the work God has or is calling you to.



Community Chaplains Training

[Waikato](#) – 11 June, [Wellington](#) – 2 July, [Nelson](#) – 6 July, [Palmerston North](#) – 9 July,

If you're passionate about building connections and creating real change in people's lives, particularly assisting them on their spiritual journey, this may be just the opportunity you've been looking for.

Like what you see?

Sign up to receive NZCN News—It's free

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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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