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Kia ora tātou,

Religious schools should be free to uphold religious beliefs and values

According to the New Zealand Bill of Rights (1990), every New Zealander is entitled to...

13 Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion, and belief, including the right to adopt and to hold opinions without interference.

14 Freedom of expression

Everyone has the right to freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and opinions of any kind in any form.

15 Manifestation of religion and belief

Every person has the right to manifest that person's religion or belief in worship, observance, practice, or teaching, either individually or in community with others, and either in public or in private.

In principle, such rights of belief and expression are for people of all beliefs, persuasions, and lifestyles. Increasingly, though, in western societies some beliefs and practices are being exalted above others, and some beliefs and practices (including some Christian ones) are being decried as dangerous, objectionable, and worthy of suppression.

These days, for instance, it is often now claimed by some that it is "discriminatory" for Christians to believe or say that marriage is about the union of a man and a woman. But such a belief is by no means unusual or extreme: it has been held by human societies since time immemorial, across vast numbers

of cultures and religions, and it remains a basic moral assumption of many people, including many Christians. In our free society, it is a belief that Christian people, churches and schools should remain free to uphold, express, and practise. Other people remain free to disagree with Christians on this or any other matter. But they are wrong when they feel they have the right to proscribe what Christians (and others) may believe, say, or practise.

Sure, in recent years (2013) the New Zealand Parliament extended the legal scope of marriage in this country to allow for marriages between same-sex couples. We fully accept that as a legal reality, and as providing greater options for some. The decisions of the New Zealand Parliament cannot, however, restrict what people may or may not believe about the nature of marriage, according to their own beliefs, religion, and culture. Maybe it is time for Christians to refer to “how we understand marriage”, or “how we understand Christian marriage”, in recognition that there is a wide range of understandings of marriage.

Christians have a right to believe, express and follow their own biblical moral values. They also have a strong biblical responsibility to hold and practise those Christian values in a loving way, with grace and respect.

In the last week, Bethlehem College (in Tauranga) has been under criticism in the media from LGBTQ+ advocates. Among other things, they object to the clause in the College’s statement of belief that “In the beginning God created male and female. Marriage is an institution created by God in which one man and one woman enter into a relationship intended for life, and that marriage is the only form of partnership approved by God for sexual relations”. They also report that, following a complaint, the Ministry of Education has asked the school to remove that clause, because it was not part of the original integration agreement in 1999.

It seems a very obvious thing to us that Christian schools should be free to express and practise their Christian beliefs and values. The whole basis of the integration of “special character” schools was that their “special character” would be genuinely protected. Parents have chosen to send their children to such schools precisely because of that special character, and the Government must continue to respect that.

Some of you may wish to consider this [invitation](#) to sign a petition, in support of Bethlehem College’s freedom to state and uphold its own beliefs.

Grace and peace,

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
National Director



Gayann Phillips
General Manager

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. an editorial or article(s).



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...



BLESSED ARE THE PERSECUTED

Every few months we set aside a Pray As One gathering to hear reports from, and pray for, persecuted believers around the world.

8-9pm Monday 20 June on Zoom

Watch last week's focus

REGIONAL PRAYER FOCUS



Waikato



13 JUNE 2022



Pastor Peter Foster, Regional Leader Baptist Churches Waikato (and Bay of Plenty), led our focus for the Waikato.

We are believing for a greater release of the Holy Spirit for this diverse and important region. "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." Jer 33:3

PRAYER POINTS:

1. **Pray for pastors in region** – they are tired, and they have decision fatigue from all the decisions that needed to be made over the last 2 years
2. **Pray into confidence** – I have sense that because of what is going on – that we have lost some confidence – in the gospel, in the Spirit. Let's pray that all followers of Jesus can get that back again
3. **Church planting opportunities** in areas where there is new housing happening – Peacocks Road area Hamilton, Ngaruawahia / Huntly area
4. **Farmers and Agriculture** in region
5. **Hamilton City**: for unity among pastors and planning the annual Hamilton Prayer Breakfast

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



TE KĀRETI IRIRI O CAREY
CAREY
BAPTIST COLLEGE



Carey is one of New Zealand's leading theological colleges. Since 1926 we have been training Christian leaders to bring gospel renewal in churches and communities across Aotearoa and around the world. With a campus in Auckland, regional hubs throughout New Zealand, and a vibrant online programme, you can journey with Carey wherever you're located.

While Carey belongs to the Baptist churches of New Zealand, we serve all the churches of New Zealand, offering a range of NZQA qualifications in the areas of Bible, theology, ministry, and mission. Along with these, we provide a world-class leadership formation programme for those who have a calling to pastoral or missional leadership. Through our Centre for Lifelong Learning, we also provide a suite of resources to support the professional development of Christian leaders.

[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



Palmerston North

Pastorlink Enabler - part to full-time (2-5 days)

National Administrator - full-time (40 hours)

Executive Assistant - full-time (32 hours)



Alpha NZ

Engagement & Team Manager – Auckland
full-time

Regional Coach – Otago & Southland
- part-time

Regional Coach – Auckland
part-time

Regional Coach – Wellington & Surrounds
- part-time



Elevate Christian Disability Trust

Onehunga, Auckland

Office Administrator - part-time



Sanitarium Health Food Company

Royal Oak, Auckland

Shopper Marketing Manager - full-time



Christians against Poverty New Zealand

Penrose, Auckland

Director of Operations - full-time

Supporter Engagement Coordinator - full-time

Research Assistant - full-time



mainly music NZ Trust

Auckland

Session Facilitator/Wellbeing Co-ordinator
part-time



Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship

Staff Workers - full-time / part-time

Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, and across the nation

Communications Manager - *full-time/part-time*
Wellington preferred, other locations considered

Office Administrator - part-time
Wellington

Finance assistant - *part-time*
Wellington



Scripture Union New Zealand
Wellington

Fundraising Manager - *full-time*



Carey Baptist College
Auckland

Lecturer in New Testament - *full-time*



The Runway Foundation
Pukekohe, Auckland

ADDventurers Student Support - *full & part-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 (8)

Attend in person (11)

the Arts

Camp/Hīkoi

Community (4)

Denominational

Equip (11)

Fundraising

Outreach

Prayer (7)

Events

Listed on our [Calendar](#) by our Church and Christian Organisation members. In chronological order with listings added this week highlighted.



[Disability Awareness Sunday, 19 June](#)

Disability Awareness Sunday (DAS) is observed on the third Sunday in June. It is an opportunity to be intentional about disability awareness but it's not just about raising awareness. It's also about celebrating and encouraging people with disabilities in their gifts and ministries.



[Laidlaw Theology Online Open Night](#)

7:30–8:30pm, Wednesday 22 June on **Zoom**

Explore your study options for semester 2, 2022 and beyond with our School of Theology staff.

LAIDLAW
NGĀ KORERO
O TAKURUA
WINTER SESSIONS
presents
MARK
SAYERS
28 JUNE AUCKLAND | 30 JUNE CHRISTCHURCH

anglican+
movement
DIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

LAIDLAW
centre for
CHURCH
LEADERSHIP

MARK
SAYERS
LEADERS' LUNCH

28-30 JUNE
AUCKLAND | WELLINGTON | CHRISTCHURCH

Laidlaw College is excited to host Mark Sayers for a series of events in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch at the end of June.

The **Leaders' Lunches** will be an opportunity for pastors and leaders of christian organisations to hear from Mark Sayers as he shares some thoughts on how “grey zone” dynamics affect institutions in new ways, and will explore how the challenges leaders face can be the catalysts for renewal.

AUCKLAND

WELLINGTON

CHRISTCHURCH

Laidlaw will also be hosting Mark Sayers for **public events** in **Auckland** (28 June) **and Christchurch** (30 June).

AUCKLAND

CHRISTCHURCH



Community Chaplains Training

[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.



TSCF Auckland Supporter Prayer

Tuesday, 12 July, 12:15–12:45pm
in-person AND online

Repeats on 2nd Tuesday of every month



Two events with Carey as part of Flourish

Flourish Conference

18–19 July (9am–4pm)

Flourish Dinner and Public Lecture: Autism in the Flourishing Church

18 July (6:30pm)

Parnell, Auckland

Like what you see?

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SUBSCRIBE



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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