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**Kia ora tātou,**

## **Matariki and Christian faith**

Many Christians can agree that, in our bi-cultural nation, it is a respectful and appropriate move for our country to acknowledge the Māori New Year with a new public holiday. This is something that will be unique to New Zealand. It will sit alongside all the other holidays, with their own mix of cultural, spiritual, and secular backgrounds.

The generalised principles that are said to be at the heart of the Matariki celebration are certainly consistent with Christian faith and values: giving thanks for the harvest, looking back, looking ahead, sharing stories about those who have passed on, and enjoying food and togetherness with family and others. Just as Christians often celebrate Christmas, New Year, and Easter in their own ways, so too we can develop life-giving ways of recognising this new seasonal holiday.

Traditional Māori mythology saw the Matariki star cluster as atua (spiritual beings), and as providing for human beings' health, harvests, seasons, and entry into the afterlife. In the traditional "hautapu" ceremony, food was cooked and offered to these stars, along with karakia (incantations) to them. Some Māori may still see it that way. Some see it as just symbolic of the close connections between the natural and spiritual world in te ao Māori (the Māori world). Many strongly Christian Māori address their thanksgiving and prayers to God alone.

For Christian believers all over the world, the stars don't in themselves really have any spiritual life or power, or offer us any guidance or help. The Word of God teaches that the Maker of heaven and earth is alone the giver and sustainer of life, the only one to whom prayers may be directed, and the only one who opens the way to eternity. When we gaze up at the stars which God

has created (Gen 1:16), including Pleiades/Matariki (Amos 5:8; Job 9:9-10; Job 38:31), we are reminded of our own smallness and fragility, and moved to awe and worship of the one who made all things and gave us life (Ps 8:3-4,9; Ps 19:1; Is 42:5; Acts 17:24-25, Rom 1:20).

May God help us to constructively navigate the opportunities of this new national holiday.

## An updated version of our article last week

Last week we ran an article on general issues around religious freedom and religious schools. It wasn't about Bethlehem College in particular, but about the wider issues. Here's the slightly changed version that has now gone on the NZCN website. [Read it here...](#)

**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).

Special resource for Matariki



# Te Rongopai and Matariki

WILBERFORCE FOUNDATION

Explore what Matariki is, when it is, with a Christian narrative around Matariki.  
Please feel free to share this with your church connections and staff.

Further information accompanying the video



## 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!



PRAYAS  
ONE NZ  
Christians Uniting for Answers



## Next up... Media Prayer Day



This week, our guests include people working in mainstream and Christian media. They will share the challenges they face, and we will bless them as we pray in our breakout rooms. Help spread the word by letting your church leaders know about it.

## Watch last week's focus



Every few months we set aside a Pray As One gathering to hear reports from, and pray for, persecuted believers around the world. On Monday 20 June, Ewan Cameron (Open Doors NZ) shared a message from John 5:11-12 entitled 'Blessed are the Persecuted'.

### **PRAY FOR...**

#### **The Persecutors**

- that their hearts would be softened to the gospel and they would come to know Jesus.

#### **The Persecuted**

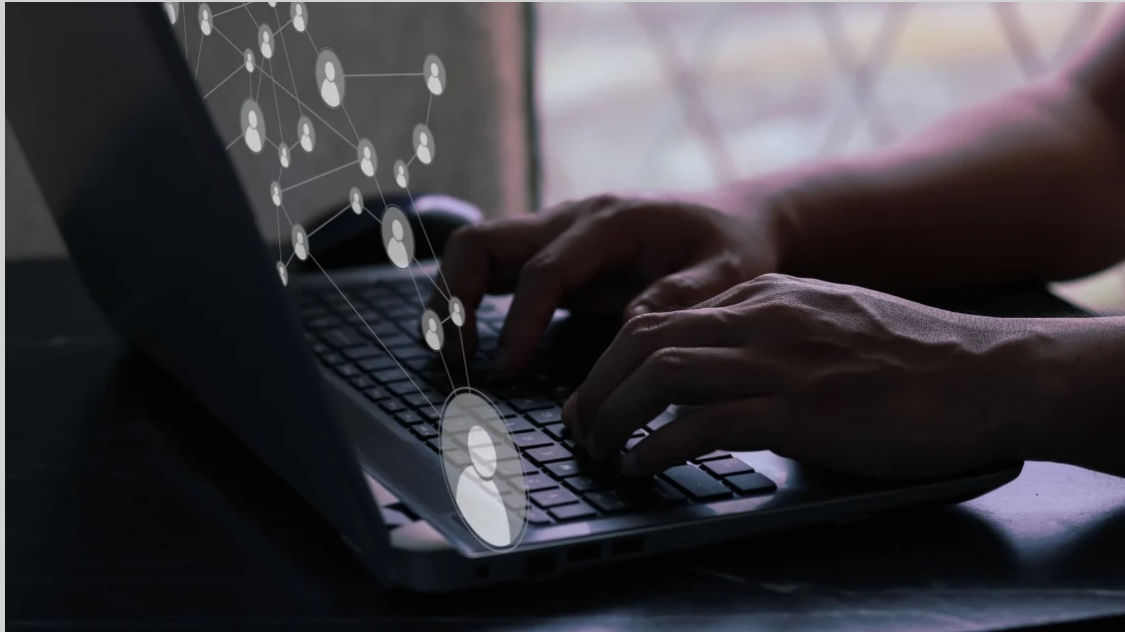
- courage, strength and wisdom in the face of adversity, That their lives would be a testimony to the goodness and grace of God The gospel would spread and lives would be transformed.

#### **The Western Church**

- to realise there's a cost involved in following Jesus
- to boldly live out the gospel message
- be willing to learn from the persecuted church (our brothers and sisters in Christ) who follow Jesus no matter the cost

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





RHEMA

LIFE  
FM

Star

SHINE

THE WORD  
FOR TODAY

WORD  
FOR TODAY

[rhemamedia.co.nz](http://rhemamedia.co.nz)

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\***



MAXIM  
INSTITUTE

### Maxim Institute

Hillsborough, Auckland

**\*Events and Operations Coordinator – Maternity Cover\*** - temporary and part-time (24 hrs/week)



### Sanitarium Health Food Company

full-time opportunities in Auckland unless noted

**\*Territory Development Manager – Café\***

- [Christchurch](#)
- [Wellington](#)

**\*National Category & Insights Manager\***

**Shopper Marketing Manager**



**Christians against Poverty New Zealand**

Penrose, Auckland

**\*New Projects Manager\*** - full-time

**Director of Operations** - full-time

**Supporter Engagement Coordinator** - full-time

**Research Assistant** - full-time



**Christian Community Churches of New Zealand**

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

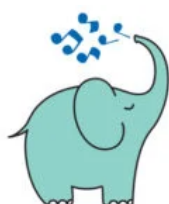
**Regional Coach - Wellington & Surrounds**  
- part-time



**Elevate Christian Disability Trust**

Onehunga, Auckland

**Office Administrator** - part-time



**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*



## 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 (6)

Attend in person (11)

the Arts

Camp/Hīkoi

Community (3)

Denominational

Equip (10)

Fundraising

Outreach

Prayer (6)

## Events

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



LIDLAW  
NGA KORERO  
O TAKURUA  
WINTER SESSIONS

presents

MARK  
SAYERS

28 JUNE AUCKLAND | 30 JUNE CHRISTCHURCH



anglican+  
movement  
DIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

LIDLAW  
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.



SUNDAY 3 JULY 2022

## MEDIA PRAYER DAY

**Calling all churches throughout the country to take a few minutes of their Sunday service to join together in prayer for those working in New Zealand's mass media.**

**Get involved!**



### **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?

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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