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Kia ora tātou,

There is more than one side to the abortion issue

The decision of the USA's Supreme Court to overturn *Wade v Roe* and the nationwide "constitutional right" to abortion has been met with dismay and outrage by many people, both in the USA and beyond. Many are understandably upset at the winding back of what they consider an inalienable woman's right: the right of any woman to end any unwanted pregnancy with an abortion.

The public and political rhetoric in the USA and in New Zealand has tended to be quite one-sided, with an emphasis on women having autonomy over their own bodies and about abortion being simply a women's health measure.

We acknowledge that many women who seek an abortion do so with distress, because they feel alone or abandoned, or because they feel it is too difficult for them to proceed to birthing and raising their child.

The claim, however, that abortion is purely a woman's health measure is clearly untrue. Abortion can never be just a woman's health measure, because abortion invariably involves another person, an unborn human being whose life is being deliberately ended by those who have already been born. Whatever the law of any country may say or allow, abortion remains a profound ethical issue. Particular societies, ethicists, and individuals may weigh differently the competing rights of women and unborn babies, but the moral issues are not in any way erased by legal and parliamentary decisions, or by the pronouncements of politicians.

New Zealand's previous abortion legislation at least tried to balance the rights

of women and the unborn. In practice, however, we ended up with something very close to abortion on demand. New Zealand's new abortion law in 2020 was passed by the margin of 68 to 51. Sadly, the new law contains no recognition at all of the rights of an unborn child. Politically, the new law may endure. But the deep ethical issues around abortion continue, and public discourse needs to be more generous in acknowledging that.

Family First and charitable status

Earlier this week New Zealand's Supreme Court announced its decision to uphold the deregistration of Family First's charitable status, on the grounds that Family First's "advocacy" for traditional marriage and family is "discriminatory" and not working for benefits to the general community, that its purpose is mainly "political", that it had "crossed the line between education and advocacy", that "its research reports lacked the balance that is required to further an educative purpose", and that its "advocacy is not fair, balanced or respectful, so its advocacy is not charitable".

Some of that seems not very convincing. Marriage and family is good for society, and every human society has always believed so. It is quite a stretch to argue that advocating for marriage and family is somehow "discriminatory". Surely, too, it is legitimate for Family First to speak out in the public interest against trends and policies which it sees as socially harmful.

Some people dislike Family First's views or object to its particular style. But that does not establish the conclusion that Family First is therefore "not charitable". On the contrary, it seems self-evident that Family First's motivation is to speak out for what it sees as the benefit of general society. How is that not charitable?

Ironically, many other "advocacy" groups – some of them highly politicised, but with opposite views to those of Family First – retain their charitable status. But Family First has been deregistered as a charity.

While people might not agree with every single thing that Family First has ever said, or how they may have said it, we should nevertheless absolutely defend their right to say it.

The wider principle is that, in a free society, the State should refrain from trying to restrain those groups whose views it finds unpalatable. The State should be careful not to discriminate.

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... A pastoral message



Pastor **Paul Cornish** joins us from Hāwera to bring a message to encourage and build us, as believers in Christ. We will also be sharing communion to close our meeting. We look forward to having you join us!

8-9pm Monday 4 July on Zoom

Watch last week's focus



Phil Guyan, Petra Bagust and Frank Ritchie from Christian Broadcasting Association, together with **Luke Weston** from Rhema Media, shared **how to pray for New Zealand media and those who work in it – both Christian and non.**

PRAYER POINTS:

1. **Pray for all people who work in NZ's media:** presenters, writers, editors, directors, journalists, designers, actors, producers, industry executives, etc.
2. Pray for the **well-known people** and **those behind the scenes.**
3. **Pray for wisdom and discernment,** for those who create content, curate news, tell stories, make entertainment, and those who post and comment on social media.
4. **Pray that media decision-makers and content-creators would be sensitive to the needs of their audiences and our communities** – using their craft to touch hearts and engage people's minds towards goodness, truth and beauty.
5. **Pray that our media would be used for good** – to shine light where there's darkness, to comfort those who are suffering and bring joy to the lonely.
6. **Pray for a greater openness to God's Spirit,** that more people in the media would look to God for wisdom, inspiration and guidance.
7. **Pray that followers of Christ would seek to bless, love, serve, and pray** – rather than criticise.
8. **We pray for New Zealand's media to be raised to its highest purpose;** to be a vehicle for the flourishing of God's world.
9. **We pray that our media would be a blessing in this nation.**

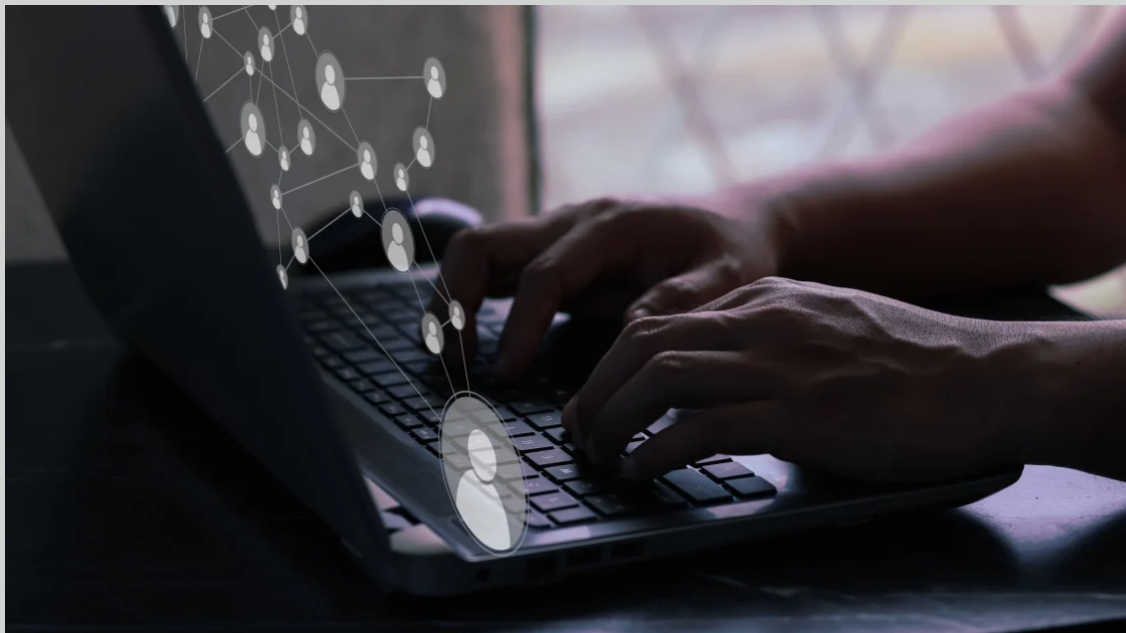
Media Prayer Day – Sunday 3 July

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.

[Learn more how to pray for the media!](#)



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



[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

full-time opportunities in Auckland unless noted

Marketing Assistant

Full-time 12 months fixed term

Territory Development Manager – Café

- [Christchurch](#)

- [Wellington](#)

National Category & Insights Manager



**MAXIM
INSTITUTE**

Maxim Institute

Hillsborough, Auckland

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



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



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 (7)

the Arts

Camp/Hikoi

Community (1)

Denominational

Equip (6)

Fundraising

Outreach

Prayer (5)

Events

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



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

Carey Conversation with Dr Willie Jennings on "Overcoming Racial Faith"

Thursday, 14 July, 7:30–9pm

In-person (Penrose, Auckland) AND online

We Christians have inherited a faith that has been damaged and diseased by race and racial



reasoning. We need a renewed vision of what it means to be Christian that grasps the gospel power of radical life together. This lecture will explore both the problem of racial faith and the possibilities of joining that is at the heart of the gospel



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

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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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