



Kia ora tātou,

Biblical faith or contemporary culture?

A recent Barna study of American pastors from across the denominational spectrum (including, for instance, Catholics, traditional Black churches, and Pentecostals) questioned 1,000 pastors on their beliefs. It concluded that only 37% of American pastors now hold a biblical worldview, and that most pastors were syncretistic – mixing Christian beliefs with those of secular culture and other religions. Many American pastors, the report asserted, “have abandoned even the most basic and hallowed biblical teachings for those which now permeate our culture”. Instead of the church influencing culture, culture is now reshaping the church. Many pastors now assume, for example, that truth and morality are matters of individual choice, and that having faith is more important than who or what you believe. The study found that a many “evangelical” and “Pentecostal” pastors have likewise been heavily influenced by secular culture and have sometimes slipped their biblical moorings.

Society and church in the USA and in New Zealand are significantly different, and the Barna study has some weaknesses. But such a studies do indirectly raise questions about the state of Christianity in New Zealand.

How many of our New Zealand pastors – and church people – continue to profoundly believe that there is only one true God, that Christ is fully divine, that in Christ and the Scriptures God has truly spoken, that the Word of the Lord endures forever, that human beings are born sinful, that without repentance before God and faith in Christ we are lost, that Christ died for our sins, that Christ rose bodily from the grave and is alive for ever more, that Christ is the way, the truth and the life, that Christ sets us free, that the Holy Spirit works in believers to transform us, and that Christ is coming again to judge the living and the dead and to make all things new?

To what extent have Christians in New Zealand succumbed to worldly culture, dumbed down the faith, reduced it a few slogans or rituals, and filtered the Scriptures to accommodate our own doubts, ideas, and wants?

Biblical faith or contemporary culture? How can Christians respect their context, and speak well into their surrounding culture? How can they remain biblically faithful, rather than surrender to the assumptions and pressures of the culture they live in? From the beginning, Christians everywhere have always struggled with such dilemmas.

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

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

[FORWARD](#)

[ABOUT](#)

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)



Coming up...



Monday 3 October – Antarctica!

Daniel has joined us from McMurdo Station over the winter season. He wrote to us a couple of weeks ago, asking to share the prayer needs for the 5000+ scientists and workers arriving on the continent for the summer season, as he is about to leave.

Mike Cullen will lead us in communion to close.

"I believe prayers could be used for the turning of the researchers and trades workers to think about greater more eternal things here at Scott Base and McMurdo Base on Ross Island."

[Click here to join us on Zoom, 8–9pm Mondays](#)

Last week...



Pona Solomona is the Regional Manager for Central Region prisons and currently a prison Chaplain based in Whanganui prison. Pona has been working in Mt Crawford, Rimutaka, Mt Eden, Springhill and currently at Whanganui prison for over 21 years. He is passionate about working with people in prisons, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ which transforms lives.

Prisons are the battlefields where God is transforming many and at the same time, Satan is trying to destroy many.

Hear from Pona share some key prayer points with us regarding prison ministry.

Prayer Points

1. Pray for smooth pathway for the Word to reach people in prison.
2. Prayer for spiritual growth of the people in prison.
3. Prayer for more workers in the prisons.
4. Prayer for restoration of people from prisons back to the community.



Pray As One NZ

Every Monday night, from 8–9pm, we run a national prayer meeting on Zoom with 70–80 participants joining from throughout the nation. [Come join us!](#)

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

NZCN

New Zealand Christian Network



NZCN

[Pray As One NZ](#)



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



Christian Community Churches of New Zealand
Palmerston North

"Events & Promotions Manager" - 32-40 hrs/wk

National Administrator - 40 hrs/wk

Executive Assistant - 32 hrs/wk



Sanitarium Health Food Company
Royal Oak, Auckland

Insights Manager - full-time

Assistant Demand Planner - full-time



Maxim Institute
Hillsborough, Auckland

Junior Researcher - full-time



Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship
all either part/full-time

Wellington Team Leader - Wellington

Staff Workers - Auckland, Wellington, Dunedin and across the nation

Communications Manager - flexible location



Christians against Poverty New Zealand
Penrose, Auckland

Client Support Adviser - full-time

Head of Client Services - full-time

Administrator - full-time

People and Culture Director - full-time

Debt Solutions Coordinator - temp, full-time

Head of Employee Relations - full-time



Alpha NZ
Auckland

Funding and Donor Engagement Lead
full / part-time



International Students Ministries of New Zealand
Nation-wide

Fundraising Manager – *contract, part / full-time*



Bible Society New Zealand
Wiri, Auckland

Financial Controller – *full-time*



mainly music NZ Trust
Ōtautahi (Christchurch)

Session Facilitator – *part-time*



Scripture Union NZ
Wellington

Fundraising Coordinator – *part / full-time*



Raumati Beach Church
Raumati Beach, Gradon

Senior Pastor – *full-time*



Event Calendar

Numbers in brackets indicate the number of events currently listed in that category until the *end of November*.

Some events have both online and in person options to attend.

Events

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



THU 17
NOV

EDEN PARK \$35 EARLYBIRD

aucklandprayerbreakfast.nz



AUCKLAND
CHURCH
LEADERS

NZ CHRISTIAN 
NETWORK
Ka mahi tahi, ka ora

Releasing HOPE

Across the city, people and communities are facing many challenges. The cost of living, their mental and emotional health, the pressure on businesses, the strain on families. We realise many are doing it tough in this season. Yet we believe in a hope-filled God, who can bring peace & prosperity to Auckland.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

We invite you to join hundreds of others in praying over Auckland; in releasing hope for our communities. The 7th annual [Auckland Prayer Breakfast](#) will bring together believers from across the city at Eden Park. It's a morning of prayer, worship, connecting with friends new & old, and good food & coffee.

Together, let's release hope over the city.

Healing of our COMMUNITIES

Opportunities for BUSINESSES

Prosperous relationships for FAMILIES

Empowering FUTURE GENERATIONS

Earlybird tickets \$35 (limited)

Attend in person (6)

Attend online (9)

the Arts

Camp/Hīkoi (2)

Community (2)

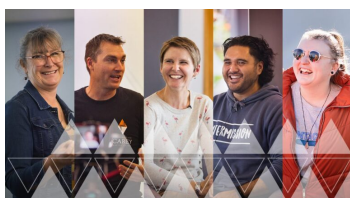
Denominational

Equip (3)

Fundraising

Outreach

Prayer (11)



Carey Open Day

4:30–6pm, 4 October, Auckland

Carey Open Days and Evenings are an opportunity to join us for a relaxing and informative time to help you discern where God may be calling you to study.

Come, hang out, and:

- Hear from our Principal, Dr. John Tucker
- Learn about our teaching team and their passions
- Chat with current students about how studying theology has transformed them
- Find out more about our formation tracks (Pastoral and Youth
- Pastoral Leadership, Mission, Ngā Pou Amorangi)
- Get answers to your questions



Informed Apologetics Camp

21–24 October | CYC Waihola

Equipping the next generation with a comprehensive biblical worldview that resonates with them and makes them active champions of it.

Aimed at late teens and young adults ages 15–20 (school year 10 and up), we will tackle some challenging biblical worldview and apologetics topics—worldviews in conflict, sexuality and gender identity, and the origin of life and Darwinian evolution.

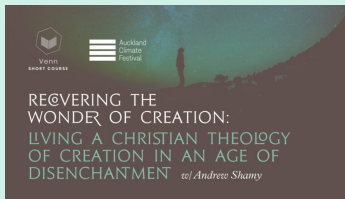
Family Camp

21–24 October | MiCamp Taupo



MiCamps much-loved family camp is a great way for you and your family to spend the long weekend.

Some of the highlights include; great speakers, worship, kid-free time for the adults, fun for the kids, amazing food, free time for your family, and comfortable accommodation to fit your budget.



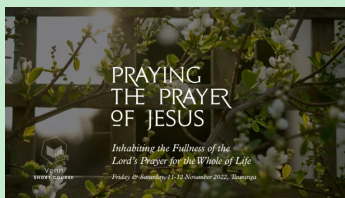
[Recovering the Wonder of Creation](#)

28-29 October | Valley Road Church, Auckland

Wonder and grief. For many of us, these are the entwined poles of our experience of creation. We feel the wonder of deep space and deep time and of an earth teeming with life, but also the scars and absences left by our hewing and delving, our restless consumption of nature's "resources."

The Christian doctrine of creation helps us make sense of these realities, and shows us ways to live rightly and well in this glorious and yet groaning world. But too few of us are familiar with its treasures. We are, in Christopher Thompson's delightful phrase, "indoor Christians." We don't see, feel, experience, or care for the natural world as Christian faith would have us. We need to take our faith outside.

This two-day course is about learning to see creation as it really is—full of wonder and mystery and life, seen and unseen—and about learning to live well in this reality. We will explore these topics in the company of voices ancient, modern, and non-human.



[Praying the Prayer of Jesus](#)

11-12 November | Holy Trinity Tauranga

Many of us struggle to pray regularly and with confidence amid our everyday lives. Oftentimes, this is because we don't know how to pray when we encounter the diverse challenges, obstacles, and opportunities in our homes, workplaces, churches, and communities. We are not alone in this struggle!

In this Venn Short Course, Praying the Prayer of Jesus: Inhabiting the fullness of The Lord's Prayer for the whole of life, you will have the opportunity to explore the pattern of prayer that Jesus gave to his disciples, and to learn to pray alongside others. You will consider what it looks like to worship and serve God in every aspect of your life, to seek the reign of God for the good of your communities, to ask for God's daily provision, to practice forgiveness, and to resist evil.

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](#)



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).

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

You received this email because you signed up on our website or made a purchase from us.

[Unsubscribe](#)

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

[FORWARD](#)

[ABOUT](#)

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)