



Some Christian reflections on transgenderism

BY DR STUART LANGE

Until very recently, all human cultures believed – and many still do – that, apart from very rare cases of biological intersexuality, all humanity is comprised of two biological sexes or genders, male and female, and that it is not possible to move from one to the other.

In recent decades, however, transgenderism has sprung up, and in many western societies has become extremely prominent. Transgender ideology asserts that gender identity is distinct from biological sex, and that human beings may adopt gender identities that differ from their sex at birth. Many who transition to a new gender identity say they do so because they feel deeply uncomfortable in the biological body and sexual identity they were born into, and undergo chemical, hormonal, and surgical procedures to make their bodies more similar to that of their desired gender identity.

The premises of transgender ideology are not strongly grounded in biological science, but are nevertheless widely accepted and promoted – in education, media, legislation, and corporate policies. Children and young people can be presented with a smorgasbord of sexual preferences and gender identities, with the implication that they should choose. Some children are encouraged by parents to identify with a gender that differs from their biological sex. Some adolescents are given puberty blockers.

Out of deference to “trans women”, many politicians are now bizarrely unwilling to acknowledge the previously unchallenged and universal truth that a woman is an adult female person. Also, if someone now advises someone else against becoming transgender, they could be acting unlawfully.

Those who question transgenderism are increasingly considered as bigoted, offensive, and inducing harm or suicide among transgender people.

In the face of all this, how might Christians respond? Here's some suggested approaches to think about and discuss...

1. On the authority of the Bible, Christians believe that humanity is created male and female, in the image of God, and these are foundational beliefs about both the nature of God and the nature of humanity. In a free society we must continue to be free to hold and articulate such beliefs and to live in accordance with them.
2. In a free society, we must also accept the right of adults to seek to change their "gender identity" if they so wish, and allow space for them to live their own lives.
3. In keeping with the biblical mandate to love others as much as ourselves, Christians must absolutely show love and compassion towards all those who for whatever reason have become transgender, and must show them kindness and respect as fellow human beings. A good question to ask ourselves is, how would we want these people to be treated if they were our son or daughter, brother or sister? Would we want them subjected to mocking or hostility?
4. We need to recognise that it is far from an easy road for transgender people. Some have underlying issues of self-acceptance, anxiety, depression, and mental health challenges. Chemical, hormonal and surgical interventions may change people's overall appearance, but cannot ultimately change their biological sex. They will usually affect their ability to have children, and may involve ongoing medical problems. Some later regret their earlier choices, and attempt to de-transition.
5. As Christians, we utterly deplore all violence or incitements to violence against anyone, including transgender people.
6. On the basis that children and young people need to be protected against making major life decisions that they cannot possibly fully understand, we have profound ethical concerns about the promotion of transgender ideology among children and teenagers. Parents need to be aware of what their children are being exposed to, protect them, and nurture them well.
7. Because an extremely high percentage of cases of gender dysphoria are resolved with the onset of puberty, we do not agree with the use of puberty blockers.
8. We empathise with those women who feel unsafe with "transwomen" having the right to use women's facilities, and favour separate facilities being made available where practicable.
9. On the grounds of freedoms of belief, opinion, and expression, we believe that no one should be placed under pressure or coercion – in law, employment, or the public square – to accept transgender ideology, including the very contestable claims that gender may differ from sex at birth, and that there are many different genders.
10. We insist that in rejecting many of the premises of transgender ideology we do not in any way "hate" transgender people, but just see some important things differently. In a free society, people's rights to hold different viewpoints must be scrupulously upheld.

11. As Christians, we believe that ultimately our true identity, transformation, and meaning are not to be found in sexuality or gender, significant though those are, but in fellowship with God through living faith in Christ.

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BECOME AN ACTUAL MEMBER OF NZCN

Individuals, couples, churches, and Christian organisations may all officially join NZCN. Becoming a member carries some benefits (see [here](#)), but is primarily about making a statement that you are firmly committed to biblical Christianity and to working together with other Christians.

Not sure if you're already a member? [Click here](#) and if you can't log onto the site, chances are you aren't currently a member. You might have a customer account to manage purchases, but members can watch Te Rongopai online.



[NZ Christian Leaders' Congress](#)

19-21 Sept – South Auckland

An opportunity for Christian leaders from across the country to meet and confer on some key matters affecting NZ church and society. All Christian leaders are welcome. As this will be following the heads of churches (NCLANZ) meeting, we hope most denominational leaders will be present.



[Christian Surfers](#) has been running

24/04/23



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Join us between 8-9pm on Monday

Anzac Day
25 APRIL 2023



A night of encouragement as we rise up together in prayer,
for the glory of God to flood our nations.

Join the Aussies 9:30pm on Tuesday 25 April

Last week...

DR STUART LANGE



NZ CHRISTIAN NETWORK



Dr Stuart Lange will share the vision and challenges NZCN faces as well as some of the projects we undertake to build unity across the Christian church in Aotearoa New Zealand, which includes:

- NZ Christian Leaders' Congress
- Prayer Breakfasts
- Pray As One NZ



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!](#)

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this email to others



Directory of members

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

Featured promotion with one of our members

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



MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS

We are a Christian charity reaching the poor and marginalised in Eastern Europe.

Across Eastern Europe, people are living in serious poverty. They have limited access to services and their health and wellbeing is under threat. It is a problem that affects families for generations and in the six countries we work in, it is a problem that is destroying communities and children's futures.

We work across Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine to help people break the destructive cycle of poverty. We provide tailored support packages that often include several generations of the same family and cut across several programme areas. Our integrated and responsive method of working means we are uniquely placed to provide a holistic, whole-person approach to meeting people's needs.

Mission Without Borders

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

Denotes a new or recently re-listed opportunity



St Peters in the City

Tauranga, Bay of Plenty (*full-time*)

Ministry Assistant – Children, Youth & Families



Raumati Beach Church

Raumati Beach, Kapiti Coast (*full-time*)

Lead Pastor



Orama

Great Barrier Island (*part/full-time*)

Married couple wanted – Pastoral Care/Ministry Engagement/Operations Support & Guest Services Manager



Hope Education Trust

Mataura, Southland (*part-time*)

Hope Oscar Supervisor



Cross Roads Christian Community Trust

Paraparaumu (*full-time*)

Property Maintenance / Christian Ministry



Christian Blind Mission Internationa NZ

Albany, Auckland (*part-time*)

Financial and Administration Assistant



Crossroads Church Mangatangi

Pokeno (*full-time*)

Mission Outreach Leader for Pokeno

**Tasman Church**

Nelson Bays (*full-time*)

[Pastor](#)

**Christian Community Churches of New Zealand**

Palmerston North (*full-time*)

[National Administrator](#)

[Events and Promotions Manager](#)

**St Margaret's Church**

Hillsborough, Auckland (*internship, part-time*)

[Musical Worship Intern / Co-ordinator](#)

**Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship**

all flexible as part/full-time

[Office Administrator](#) - Wellington

[Wellington Team Leader](#) - Wellington

[Personal Assistant to the National Director](#) -
Wellington

**Christians Against Poverty New Zealand**

Penrose, Auckland (*all full-time positions*)

[People and Culture Business Partner](#)

**Tearfund**

Auckland

[National Church Engagement Manager](#)

- *full-time*

[Future Giving Fundraising Manager](#)

- *part-time*

**Jireh Christian School**

Avondale, Auckland (*part-time*)

[Maintenance Person](#)

Mairangi Bay Community Church

Auckland

[Children's Ministry Coordinator](#) - *part-time*

[Senior Pastor](#) - *full-time*



Bethlehem College

Bethlehem, Tauranga (*full-time*)

[Head of Secondary](#)



Christchurch Community Church

Minister primarily to, and reach out to, second and third generation Asians living in NZ, and to the wider English-speaking Community

[Encounter Congregation Leader/Pastor](#)

– *full-time*



Laidlaw College

Henderson, Auckland

[Finance Operations & Systems Manager](#)

– *full-time*



Manna Christian Stores

Auckland region

[2 x Warehouse Assistants, Manukau](#) (*full-time*)

[Distribution Centre Inwards Goods Controller, Manukau](#) (*full-time*)

[Sales Assistant, Albany](#) (*fixed-term*)

[Casual Sales Assistant, Mt Roskill](#) (*part-time*)



[Alpha NZ](#)

Wellington & Otago/Southland (*full/part-time*)

[Regional Coach – Wellington & Surrounds](#)

[Regional Coach – Otago & Southland](#)



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**.



[Spiritual Formation School](#)

24 April – 14 July, Residential Camp held at Orama, Great Barrier Island

Come and step aside – let Jesus reinforce and deepen your foundations in Him – in preparation for the rest of your life.



[Community Chaplains Training](#)

29 April – Hamilton

Communities are built on connections. Yet these days, too many of us live lonely lives. We help rebuild those connections by getting out into our local communities and meeting people in their place and time of need.

National Gatherings/Huis

Listed on our [Calendar](#) by our Church and Christian Organisation members. In chronological order

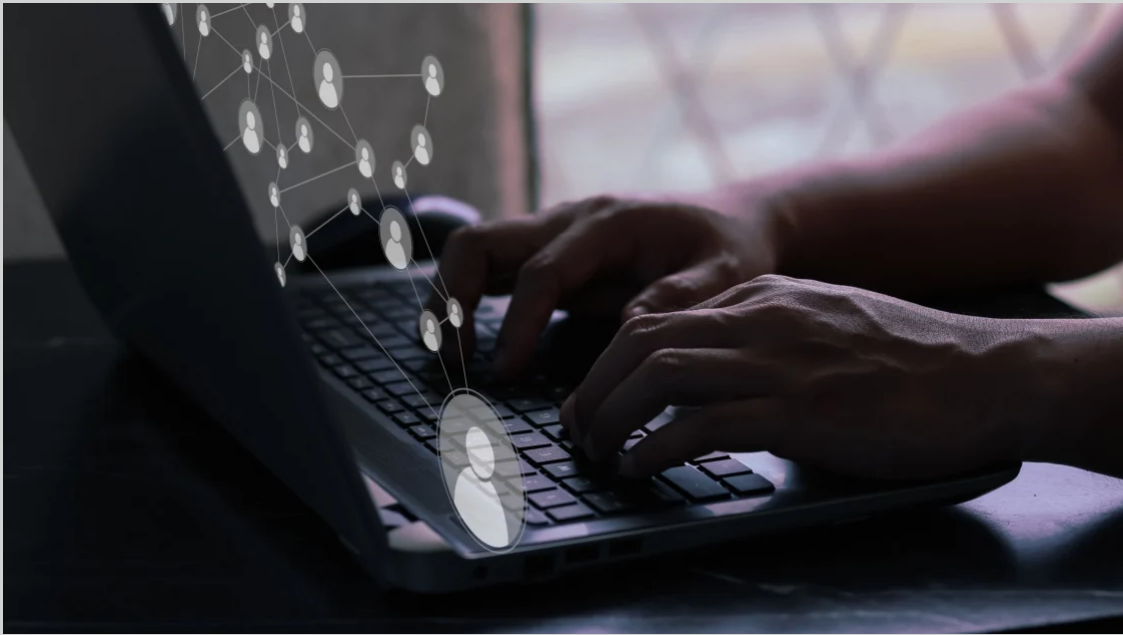


[Sports Chaplains National Hui](#)

27–29 Oct – AUT Millennium, Auckland

A national gathering to encourage and equip of Sports Chaplains from around the country.

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

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☐ 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.

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NZ Christian Network

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