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**Kia ora tātou,**

## Christians and parliament, parties, and voting

OPINION PIECE

In a pluralistic society such as New Zealand, we can always expect a wide range of different worldviews to be evident in Parliament. But Christians should definitely be part of the mix. We need capable Christian MPs in as many different parties as possible, people who are able to be both excellent MPs and faithful Christians, in any part of the political spectrum. There are some parties where the Christian presence needs to be strengthened, and some where it may need to be established.

Politics is a highly demanding and complicated environment. Those Christian MPs who are already in Parliament very much need our support, especially in prayer.

Christians who are worthy candidates in the upcoming election may also need us to vote for them.

Since the introduction of MMP, in 1996, there has also been a slight possibility of so-called “Christian” parties getting into Parliament. There have been many such Christian-values or Christian-friendly parties, including some current contenders.

When Christian Heritage and the Christian Democrats campaigned as a coalition in 1996, they together polled 4.33% of the party vote. The only time a Christian-values party has reached the 5% threshold was in 2002 and 2005, when Future New Zealand joined with the United Party, whose leader Peter

Dunne held an electorate seat; their 6.7% polling in 2002 resulted in an additional seven Christians entering Parliament (reducing to two in 2005, and none from 2008).

All this suggests that Christian-values parties face an extremely steep challenge to get into Parliament, that those who work with others may do better, and that parties with a centrist stance may possibly do best.

As Christians, we should not see politics as the primary answer to New Zealand's problems, and we should avoid confusing or compromising the Gospel with worldly political ideologies. But with prayerful and careful voting, let's do what can do to strengthen an appropriate Christian presence and voice in our Parliament.

### **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



### **NZ Christian Leaders' Congress**

19-21 September in 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.

### **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.

# Join

to become an actual member of NZCN

# Pray as One NZ

Under the umbrella of NZ Christian Network



## REGIONAL PRAYER FOCUS

Q **Canterbury**

12 JUNE 2023



### Unity in Christ and a New Reformation

Rick and Joanne Smith are our speakers this Monday, as we pray for Canterbury region. Joanne works for City Mission and Rick works for Sumner Redcliffs Anglican Church as a Pastoral Care Worker.

Join us between 8-9pm on Monday

## Last week...

Prayer points available in the video description



# ANNE MORROW

## GENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS



### 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!](#)

## Forward

this email to others



### Directory of members

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



### 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\***



### **Dignity Freedom Network New Zealand**

New Zealand (*part-time*)

**\*DFN National Co-ordinator\***



### **Christian Community Churches of New Zealand** (*full-time*)

**\*Regional Enabler: Lower North Island\*** anywhere

**\*National Youth and Young Adult Enabler\***

anywhere

**\*National Administrator\*** Palmerston North

**\*Events & Promotions Manager\*** Palmerston North



### **The Runway Foundation**

Pukekohe, Auckland (*part-time*)

**\*ADDventurers Kids Club Facilitator & Youth Support\***



### **Mission Without Borders**

Auckland (*contract*)

**\*Marketing and Fundraising Coordinator\***



### **Hillcrest Chapel**

Hamilton (*part-time*)

**Youth Pastor**



### **Alpha NZ**

Auckland (*part-time*)

**Events Lead**

**Regional Coach – Wellington & Surrounds**

**Regional Coach – Otago & Southland**



### **mainly music**

Hutt Valley (*part-time*)

**Session Facilitator for mainly music sessions**

**Schools Administration Coordinator**



**MiCamp Trust**

Taupo & Whakamaru (*full-time*)

**Head Instructor** – Taupo

**Grounds/Maintenance Position** – Taupo

**MiCamp Whakamaru Site Manager**



**Jireh Christian School**

Avondale, Auckland (*part-time*)

**Maintenance Person**



**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*



**Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship**

Wellington (*flexible as part/full-time*)

**Wellington Team Leader**

**Personal Assistant to the National Director**



**Mairangi Bay Community Church**

Auckland (*full-time*)

**Associate Pastor**



**Mangapapa Union Parish**

Gisborne – Tairāwhiti (*full-time*)

**Church Leader**



**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](#)

**FreedomLife**  
Te Nikau

**Cross Roads Christian Community Trust**  
Paraparaumu (*full-time*)

[Property Maintenance / Christian Ministry](#)



## 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.

## Featured conference

**BUILDING THE CHURCH FOR TODAY... TOMORROW**  
CONFERENCE 2023

**GOVERNANCE**  
WHAT IS FRUITFUL STEWARDSHIP?

**SPEAKERS**

REV. FRANCIS (FRANK) RITCHIE  
Lead Chaplain  
Media Chaplaincy NZ

VEN. DR. LYNDON DRAKE  
Archdeacon of  
Tāmaki Makaurau

KIRSTEN (KP) PATTERSON  
Chief Executive  
Institute of Directors

JENNY COLLINGS  
National Director  
Christian Medical  
Fellowship of NZ

STEVEN MOE  
Partner  
Parry Field Lawyers

CHRISTCHURCH  
AUG 30  
WED

AUCKLAND  
SEP 06  
WED

WELLINGTON  
SEP 13  
WED

**HOSTS**

CHRIS CLARKE  
CEO  
Wilberforce

DAN MAZENGARB  
CEO  
Christian Savings

Christian Savings is excited to be hosting our annual Church and Charities Conference!

- [Christchurch on Wed, 30 Aug](#)
- [Auckland on Wed, 6 Sept](#)
- [Wellington on Wed, 13 Sept](#)

We are passionate about equipping churches and charities to have robust and effective governance. This year our governance theme is 'Fruitful Stewardship'. We will be taking a closer look at some of the key stewardship issues our churches and charities are facing in this climate.



Our conference is designed to help trustees, elders and officers understand their governance duties better.

We have an amazing lineup of speakers, including Rev. Frank Ritchie, Ven. Dr. Lyndon Drake, Kirsten Patterson, Jenny Collings, Steven Moe and others. Come along and learn more about stewardship of finances, property and people.

Event website

Register now!

## Events

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



Connecting  
communities

Connecting people



### Community Chaplains Training

In a time of diminished community connections, the Community Chaplains scheme has been set up in order to restore that sense of belonging and aid each individual on their journey towards more complete physical, emotional, and spiritual maturity.

Come to a training day and learn how you can become a Community Chaplain.

10 June - [Hawkes Bay](#)

14 June - [Whanganui](#)

17 June - [Waikanae](#)

22 June - [Auckland Central](#)

### [How To Share Your Faith With Children](#)

16 June - Massey, Auckland

Hope for Kids is a dynamic way to reach children for Christ and equip them in their faith.

Over the last decade Hope For Kids



"EVANGELISM EXPLOSION NZ PRESENTS"

# HOPE FOR KIDS WORKSHOP



**WE EQUIP ADULTS TO**

- Explain the gospel clearly to children
- Bring children to faith in Christ
- Equip children to share the gospel with others

**WORKSHOP FEE \$50 PER PERSON**

Register today by calling / texting Lewis or Raj

**Workshop Info**

16 & 17 June, 2023

Friday 7-9pm & Sat 9-5pm

Massey Community Church

8 Vadam Rd, Massey, Auckland 0614

0273 767 136 (L)  
021 733 615 (R)

rajmynz@gmail.com

[www.ee.org.nz](http://www.ee.org.nz)

ministry has been reaching thousands of children for Christ all over the world and equipping them to share their faith with kids their age and others. One Hope Ministries has been publishing the Scriptures for global distribution to children.

# TILL & SOW

Kōrero exploring purposeful work for the good of our city



**Till & Sow:** Kōrero exploring purposeful work for the good of our city

Our Christian faith calls us to work for the Lord, to do everything for his glory. But what does this look like on the ground, in our day-to-day working lives? What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ in law, business, the arts, social justice, international development, and entertainment? And, is our work actually meaningful in the Kingdom of God?

We warmly invite you to this collaborative initiative between Laidlaw College, Venn Foundation, and the Auckland Church Network, where to hear from business leaders, social justice advocates, and international development experts as they share the challenges and opportunities they've faced as disciples of Jesus Christ in their work.

### [A kōrero with Phoebe and David Atkinson](#)

19 June – Auckland

# NZ FORUM ON THE FAMILY



BUILDING A ~~CANCEL~~ COURAGE CULTURE

### [Building a Courage Culture – not a Cancel Culture](#)

30 June – Due Drop Events Centre  
Manukau, Auckland

Last year sold out... [Register now!](#)



## OAC Evangelist Fellowship

### Conference

22 Aug – El Rancho, Waikanae Beach

#### UNDERSTANDING WORLD VIEWS

Guilt? Shame? Power?

We all see the world differently so how do we reach those we don't understand? Join us as we look into the way different people groups perceive the gospel and gain an understanding on how best to reach them.



## Maxim Institute | Sir John Graham Lecture 2023

15 September – Auckland CBD

**REBUILDING TRUST | POPULISTS, ELITISTS,  
AND THE FUTURE OF OUR DEMOCRACY**

**Trust** has declined steadily in the developed world over some decades; more sharply in recent years.

The great economic and socially liberal consensus of post-WW2 governments has shattered, exposing a political climate that is increasingly fevered and volatile.

Over a banquet dinner, in the 2023 Sir John Graham Lecture, Associate Professor Tom Simpson will explore whether our future is one of increasing polarisation, or whether a new consensus can be forged, with trust at its core.

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

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