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Kia ora tātou,

What might Christians hope for from a new government?

OPINION PIECE | Dr Stuart Lange

This week's confirmation of the final election results brings closer the dissolution of the caretaker Labour government, and the forming of a new National-led coalition government. Like any government, the Labour Government leaves office with its own share of good and not-so-good policies, its achievements and under-achievements, and its failures.

What does New Zealand need from any new government? We suggest we might hope and pray for a government that is...

- respectful of God, and of all people whatever their beliefs
- determined to govern with truthfulness, integrity, justice, humility, and a collaborative spirit
- working for good law and order, but not in a way that simply punishes without rehabilitating and which tends to entrench criminality
- carefully managing the economy, for the benefit of all
- willing to use taxes to better fund essential public services, including our struggling health system
- committed to the wellbeing of all New Zealanders, to reducing poverty and social deprivation, and to making New Zealand a more just and equitable society for everyone
- eager to make housing affordable and healthy for everyone
- carefully seeking to foster an atmosphere of intercultural goodwill, reconciliation and partnership, rather than of fear and division

- willing to implement measures to significantly reduce New Zealand's carbon emissions and to reverse other environmental degradation
- more mindful of the sanctity of human life (and willing to review legislation to provide better protections for the vulnerable in regard to both euthanasia and abortion)
- more honouring of traditional marriage, gender, and sexual ethics (and willing to pull back the more extreme aspects of some current legislation and of primary school sex education)
- determined to defend everyone's liberties of thought, belief, expression, and practice

...and more on Gaza

Christians are among who deplore the bloodshed and horrific atrocities of the Hamas attack on Israel. Christians generally uphold the existence of Israel as nation state, and many also see its establishment as a fulfilment of biblical prophecy and a significant end times development. They pray for Israelis to turn to the Messiah.

However, many Christians have growing misgivings about the wisdom and humanity of Israel's current siege, bombardment and invasion of Gaza, and the colossal loss of civilian life. It can be acknowledged that this is an extremely difficult situation, in which everyone has limited options, and there is no obvious middle ground: Hamas is determined to destroy Israel, and Israel is determined to destroy Hamas. But will this tragic war achieve anything other than further inter-generational rage and bitterness among the Palestinians, and among Arabs and Muslims elsewhere?

We can but pray. How magnificent it would be if by the grace of God these two peoples could somehow turn away from hatred and bloodshed, and discover a radically new way of living peacefully alongside each other in the same space, drawing on their common humanity, reflecting most ordinary people's desire to live in peace, and picking up their respective values of justice and mercy. And even better, if they found reconciliation in the Prince of Peace.

Mā te Atua koutou e tiaki e manaaki i ngā wa katoa

May the Lord bless and keep you at all times



Stuart Lange

National Director

Positions available at NZCN



NZ Christian Network

Remote Office (*part-time/contract*)

* **Communications and Content Coordinator** *

* [Administrative and Financial Administrator](#) *

* [Event Coordinator](#) *



Pray as One NZ

Remote Office (*part-time*)

* [Team Leader](#) *

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).



www.nzchristiannetwork.org.nz/congress

Congress videos available online!

A fantastic opportunity to catch up on what many of the speakers shared at Congress.

[Watch videos here](#)

Videos are added to the website as soon as they are available

- **Māori, Te Rongopai, Te Tiriti, and New Zealand church and society**
Bradford Haami, Jade Hohaia, Dr Malcolm Falloon, Dr Alistair Reese, Rev Keri-Ann Hokianga, and Hana Seddon
- **How can Christians speak well in our current context?**
Tim Wilson, Sophia Sinclair, Phil Guyan, Maryanne Spurdle
- **Threats to freedoms of Christian belief, practice, and speech**
Prof Paul Moon, Jonathan Ayling, Alex Penk, and Stephanie Johnston
- **Unity of the Church**
Ps Jonathan Dove, Ps Phil Coates, and Dr Stuart Lange
- **Reaching Aotearoa New Zealand with the Gospel today**
Panel led by Dr Mark Keown
- **Reviving the Church**
Tak Bhana
- **Confidence in the Gospel, in our current context**
Panel led by Professor Paul Trebilco
- **Ideas/Ideologies helping re-shape New Zealand society and church**
Dr Roshan Allpress & Rev Mark Maney

- **The spiritual renewal of the church in New Zealand**
Bishop Steve Maina
- **The Big Picture**
Dr Stuart Lange
- **A snapshot of Christianity and the Churches in NZ**
Associate Professor Geoff Troughton
- **Issues facing the New Zealand church**
Panel of 18 Christian leaders



Final call for Auckland Prayer Breakfast tickets!

The final touches are being put on the **2023 Auckland Prayer Breakfast**, and we're looking forward to gathering with you on Thursday 9th November.

If you haven't got your tickets yet, there is still time! You have until **12noon on Monday 6 Nov** before doors close on this year's Breakfast.

[Get tickets now!](#)



Coming up



If 'CHRIST' is being removed from CHRISTmas – what are we to do? Is a nationally-united vision, to bring change, possible?

Hope Project Christmas represents a paradigm that can work – uniting in an easy goal that we can each pursue our own way.

The goal: To keep the 'CHRIST' in CHRISTmas.

The idea: What if individuals, businesses, churches and churches together all concurrently did creative things to return the Nativity to public view?

Hear about some of the amazing creative endeavours churches and their people have undertaken throughout NZ the past few years. Get inspired!

Join us between 8-9pm on Monday

Last week



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.

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

* **Denotes a new or recently re-listed opportunity.** *



Anywhere (*part-time*)

* [Chaplaincy Tutor](#) *



South City C3

Christchurch (*part-time*)

* [Worship Director](#) *



Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship

Wellington (*part to full-time*)

* [Staff Workers](#) * Vacancies across the country
(*part & full-time options available*)

[Manawatū Team Leader](#) *full-time*

[Wellington Team Leader](#)



Christchurch Community Church

Christchurch (*full-time*)

* [Pastor – 2nd Generation Asian Congregation](#) *



KingsWay School

Silverdale, Auckland (*full-time*)

[Head of Learning Year 9](#) (*full-time*)

[Fixed Term 0.5 FTE Primary Teacher \(x 2\)](#) (*part-time*)

[Fixed Term Middle School Teacher](#) (*full-time*)



Venn Foundation

Hillsborough, Auckland (*full-time*)

[Hospitality & Events Coordinator](#)



Village Baptist

Havelock North, Hastings (*full-time*)

[Associate Pastor – Youth and Pastoral Care](#)



Orama Christian Trust

Great Barrier Island

[Married couple wanted – Operations Support/Pastoral Care & Guest Services & Administration Manager](#) (*full or part-time*)

[Operations Support/Pastoral Care](#) (*full-time*)



Laidlaw College

Henderson campus, Auckland (*full-time*)

Events & Operations Coordinator



Lifeswitch

Wainuiomata, Wellington (*full-time*)

Campus Pastor



Heart Space

Deacon Trust

Christchurch (*part-time*)

Manager



Tearfund

Auckland

PA to the Marketing & Fundraising Director (*part-time*)

Church Engagement Manager (*full-time*)



Replenish Respite and Healing Trust

Okuku, North Canterbury (*full-time*)

*** Faith-based Residential Host Role ***



Pacific Academy for Xcellence

Auckland (*part-time*)

Volunteer outreach worker



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

Regional Enabler: Lower North Island Anywhere

National Administrator Palmerston North

Events & Promotions Manager Palmerston North



Holy Trinity Tauranga

Tauranga (*part-time*)

Accounts Adminstrator



Manna Christian Stores

Auckland

Casual Sales Assistant Mt Roskill Temporary

2 x Casual Warehouse Assistants

Wiri Temporary

Rivergum Christian College

Glossop, South Australia, Australia (*full-time*)

Primary & Secondar Teacher



Event Calendar

Listings by our Church and Christian Organisation members

Please contact event organisers for additional information

Faith and Belief

Exploring the spiritual landscape
in Aotearoa New Zealand

Join us to hear the results of the 2023
Faith and Belief Study and the Church
Life Survey.

Auckland: Wednesday 8th November,
Novotel Ellerslie

Wellington: Monday 13th November,
Victoria University

Dunedin: Tuesday 14th November,
Otago University

Christchurch: Wednesday 15th November,
La Vida Centre



Register
Here



Nau mai, haere mai!

2023 Faith & Belief Study

We all know the importance of better understanding the spiritual landscape of our nation, how Christians are seen in our society, and our life as Christian communities. We are delighted, therefore, to be launching the findings from two key pieces of research, and we pray that they will serve Christian leaders and communities across Aotearoa New Zealand.

The events will involve presentations of the key data from both pieces of research, as well as panel discussions and opportunities to explore with others the implications of the studies.

Each event starts at 9.15 am (with tea and coffee available from 8.45 am), and the events will conclude at 12.30 pm.

Auckland:

Wednesday 8th November, Novotel Ellerslie

Wellington:

Monday 13th November, Victoria University

Dunedin:

Tuesday 14th November, Otago University

Christchurch:

Wednesday 15th November, La Vida Centre

Ngā manaakitanga – blessings

Chris Clarke, CEO

The Wilberforce Foundation

Details and registrations



That they may have *life*
and have it abundantly.

Get tickets now!

Learn more

For the first time ever, we are wrapping an entire Prayer Festival around the Breakfast.

We want to champion, celebrate and encourage all kinds of prayer across our city! Head to the Prayer Festival website to find out more, and to find out how to get involved.

Auckland Prayer Festival



Laidlaw Sturt Lectures

The Trauma Informed Church

1 December | Auckland

Trauma is experienced in many different forms and has a profound impact on all aspects of well-being for individuals, whānau, and communities.

Creating safe environments is recognised as a key contributor to well-being for those living in the aftermath of trauma. Christ has called his Church to be light in this world, and this compels us to ensure our communities are safe spaces to openly discuss and address trauma.



christian blind mission

Midnight, 3–24 December

We invite you to join **cbm** (Christian Blind Mission) online to celebrate the **hope, peace, joy** and **love** of Christmas.

Details for this online advent event



VENN

Summer Conference

A week of learning, conversation, good food, and fun, you too can come to see the truth, beauty, and challenge of the Christian life for 18–30 years old.

5–12 January | Waikato



Thinking Matters Camp South 2024

Made New

Aimed at late teens and young adults ages 15–20, we will take on some of the most challenging worldview and apologetics topics our day.

22–26 Jan | Waihola



Thinking Matters Camp North 2024

Made New

Aimed at late teens and young adults ages 15–20, we will take on some of the most challenging worldview and apologetics topics our day.

29 Jan to 2 Feb | Papamoa



Venn Vocational Programme

For people in their late 20s to late 40s, who want to get better at navigating life's challenges, questions, and opportunities.

Christchurch 9 Feb



Partners in Ministry

Carey Nieuwhof Leadership Tour

Learn from a world class leadership expert and connect with like-minded leaders. Whether you are in business, not for profit, or church leadership, you will leave inspired and equipped to lead and reach your community in a healthy and sustainable way.

19 Feb | Auckland

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](#)



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

Please consider updating your email subscriptions with us to reduce the number or frequency of emails you receive rather than completely unsubscribing.

[Update your subscriptions or unsubscribe](#)