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Kia ora tātou,

What NZ people believe, in both society and church

In recent weeks, two important reports have come out.

1. The *2023 Faith and Belief* study was commissioned by the Wilberforce Foundation and conducted by McCrindle, a social research organisation. It explored the attitudes of New Zealanders towards faith and spirituality, with an in-depth survey of 1009 people drawn from the population at large.

Some interesting points we noted...

- 81% of participants resonated with some form of spiritual belief (and of those, 37% believe there is an ultimate purpose and meaning in life, 35% believe there is one god, and 27% believe in the spiritual realm)
- Two top factors that attract people to explore spirituality include a personal trauma or major life change, or seeing at first-hand those who live out their faith authentically.
- 31% consider themselves Christian, another 26% are warm towards Christianity, and 13% are neutral. Only 30% are cool towards Christianity.

- Gen Z people (aged 18-28) are the least hopeful generation, and are also the most spiritually open among the younger generations
- Over 90% have a positive view of Jesus, and know at least one Christian
- Most people have a positive view of churches, especially their good works

All of that suggests that many New Zealanders are more open to spirituality (and to Christian faith) than we may assume, and that loving, respectful sharing of Jesus by those Christians who live out their faith with authenticity can still be very effective.

2. The *2023 Church Life Survey* was an internal survey across many Christian denominations, with 20,357 respondents. Some findings...

- Many New Zealand churches are ageing, with a median age over 70 for respondents in several denominations (compared to 44 median age in NZ for those 15+). But independent churches, evangelical churches, and most likely Pasifika and Asian churches, the median age is much lower
- Migration is helping rejuvenate some churches
- 95% of respondents believe the Bible is the Word of God
- 20% look for opportunities to share their faith, 55% are happy to talk about faith if it comes up, and 34% have invited family or friends to church in the last year
- When it came to what priorities respondents wanted for the church, good community within the church and fostering spiritual growth were among the most preferred
- the least preferred priorities were ministry to children and youth, care for the needy, and encouraging people to share their faith.

The first of these bullet points, and the last, are particular cause for reflection. Are they connected?

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

How often do you want to hear from us?

☐ Weekly, even if it's just notices

☐ Only when there is an editorial



Coming up...

GIVING THANKS

1 DECEMBER 2023

Join us for our final session of Pray as One NZ for 2023, as we look back over the year and give thanks for what the Lord has done through our time together, praying for our nation.

[Watch previous sessions](#)

Join us between 8-9pm on Monday

Last week...

RICHARD BRUNTON



BLESSING: ANOTHER LOOK



Opportunities



Listings by NZCN Church & Christian Organisation members for employment, internships, or voluntary roles.

This can include looking for people to join governance boards or to fill a need for a specific skill/project.

Become a member to list opportunities



Arise Church

[Campus Pastor](#) - Palmerston North | Full-time
[Location Team Leader](#) - Masterton | Part-time

His plans - Your future
headspace

GC3

New Zealand | Full-time

Headspace Co-Ordinators



KingsWay School

Silverdale, Auckland | All part-time

Specialist Teacher Aide

Itinerant Music Teachers

Director of Human Resource Operations

Finance Administrator



St Albans Presbyterian Church

Palmerston North | Full-time

Youth Pastor



Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship

Various locations

Wellington Team Leader Full/Part-time

Staff Workers Full/Part-time

Manawatū Team Leader Full-time



Rhema Media Inc.

Auckland CBD | Full-time

Media Sales – New Business Development



Snells Beach Baptist Church

Snells Beach, Auckland | Full-time

Sole Pastor

AlphaCrucis College New Zealand

Anywhere | Part-time

[Chaplaincy Tutor](#)



SOUTH CITY
C3 CHURCH

South City C3

Christchurch | Part-time

[Worship Director](#)



Christchurch Community Church

Christchurch | Full-time

[Pastor - 2nd Generation Asian Congregation](#)

village baptist

Village Baptist

Havelock North, Hastings | Full-time

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



Orama Christian Trust

Great Barrier Island

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

[Married couple wanted – Operations Support/Pastoral Care & Guest Services & Administration Manager](#) Full/Part-time



Lifeswitch

Wainuiomata, Wellington | Full-time

[Campus Pastor](#)

Deacon Trust
Christchurch | Part-time

[Manager](#)

tearfund

Tearfund
Auckland

[PA to the Marketing & Fundraising Director](#) Part-time

[Church Engagement Manager – Major Partnerships](#) Full-time

Upcoming Events



Listings by NZCN Church & Christian Organisation members

Please contact event organisers for additional information

Become a member to list events



christian blind mission

Advent 2023

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

Midnight, every night from 3-24 Dec | Online



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 Jan | 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 Jan - 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 - 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.

9 Feb | Christchurch

26 April | Auckland



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



Strengthening the church of *Aotearoa* NEW ZEALAND

Ka mahi tahi, ka ora

From united work comes fulfillment

As a member of the New Zealand Christian Network you'll be part of something bigger. It's a privilege to serve the NZ church by helping to bring thousands of individuals, churches, and organisations together.

[Learn more](#)

NZ Christian Network

PO Box 16004, Sandringham, Auckland New Zealand



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