



WORKING TOGETHER

CCCNZ ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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Photo: Leaders connecting at an Auckland Leaders' Dinner in 2023



Devastation in the Esk Valley in the wake of Cyclone Gabrielle

WORKING TOGETHER

MARK GRACE | AMBASSADOR'S REPORT

Cyclone Gabrielle was a national tragedy. 11 people lost their lives. Hundreds, if not thousands, lost their homes. Many more livelihoods were upended.

At its height, Cyclone Gabrielle ripped through the Esk Valley in Hawke's Bay. Locals Chris and Luciana Barber and their kids clambered desperately into the roof cavity of their house as floodwaters rose rapidly around them. Their furniture began smashing into the ceiling and logs slammed into the outside of the house. Cold and wet, they frantically made repeated SOS calls to 111, hoping someone would come to save them.

At daybreak they heard a small motor and called out to three men in wetsuits who had arrived on a small boat.

"Are you guys from the navy?"

"Nah, we're just three Māori boys".

These six words became New Zealand's 2023 quote of the year, with this "raw and unscripted" response summing up the grassroots, get-on-with-it approach to rescuing people in dire need during the cyclone.

Mikey Kihi, Rikki Kihi, and Morehu Maxwell knew there would be people in trouble and gave what they had. In the early hours of the morning they launched an inflatable boat and set out to rescue people stranded on the tops of their houses, vehicles, and trees. They didn't wait for an outside group with resources. They didn't wait for the Navy or the Army. They saw a need and they got on with the rescue.

Together, they rescued the Barber family and went on to rescue 50 others and several dogs.

In the worst of conditions, at great risk to themselves, these men were committed to the rescue of others. Working together as a team, they were able to offer what they had to save the lives of people around them.

As a movement of churches, we too are involved in a great rescue.

CCCNZ doesn't see itself as the 'Navy' or the 'Army'. We do see ourselves as a small group of locals in the background helping churches to work together on the front line of the rescue.

We have the privilege of seeing ordinary women, men, and children who get on with the task using what they have to serve God by loving and serving the communities where God has placed them.

Our vision is to see churches (and the regional campsites and national ministries that support them) working together to point people to Jesus through the gospel from the Bible.

In Philippians 1:27 – 28 Paul writes: “Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents”.

As we look back on 2023, it is a profound privilege to see how churches, regional camps, and national support ministries continue to work together, side by side in the rescue.

WE CAME TOGETHER TO WORK TOGETHER

In 2023 we celebrated the linking-in of Pathway Christian Centre, Christchurch Korean Church, The Lighthouse Church Masterton, Wainuiomata Gospel Church, Auuso Kerisiano Ōtara (Ōtara Brethren Christian Fellowship), Tauwhare Gospel Chapel, The Embassy @ North Beach, and Greerton Bible Church.



At the Auckland Leaders' Dinner, hosted by Auckland Bible Church

WE WORKED TOGETHER IN CYCLONE RECOVERY

We saw CCCNZ/Open Brethren Heritage churches across New Zealand come together in simple and yet profound ways as part of the 2023 disaster relief in Northland, Auckland and on the East Coast. Throughout the year, 45 churches, 130 individuals and 9 organisations contributed to the GCAid fund. They gave \$300,000 to support those affected by Cyclone Gabrielle and the Auckland floods.

WE WORKED TOGETHER TO REACH COMMUNITIES THROUGH CAMPING

In March, 44 church leaders from 22 churches, representing 21 campsites, came together at Silverstream Retreat Centre in Lower Hutt, Wellington to discuss how churches and camps can work together to see the gospel grow.

“It was an incredibly special time praying together for people to come to Jesus, through the gospel, from the Scriptures”

WE WORKED TOGETHER AS MĀORI, PĀKEHĀ, AND PASIFIKA PEOPLES

In May, almost 80 leaders from roughly 20 churches came together at Willow Park in Auckland for the second annual Māori and Pasifika Leaders' Dinner.

Over Matariki weekend, four Waikato churches held a shared dinner together: Hillcrest Chapel, Chapel Hill Community Church, Northgate Community Church and Rukumoana Marae. They were welcomed by Rukumoana church leaders, and the Rukumoana church family provided the hangi.

WE WORKED TOGETHER AT EASTER

The strength of relationships between youth pastors in our movement was particularly evident at Easter.

The North Island Easter Camp continued at Tōtara Springs in Matamata, and it was a delight to see the lower North Island Easter Camp beginning with four churches represented.

WE WORKED TOGETHER IN DISCIPLESHIP

In May, 12-year-old Susannah Hodge from Springs Community Church (with the help of her mum Liz) wanted to start a youth group. With the support of Matt Meek, Canterbury Regional Youth Enabler from Riccarton Community Church, Susannah and Liz started a youth group with seven of Susannah's friends regularly attending.

WE WORKED TOGETHER IN EVANGELISM

In November 2023, 15 members of Redemption Church and Rutland Street Church re-enacted the gospel of Mark in the form of The Mark Drama for their communities and churches.

WE WORKED TOGETHER ONLINE

724 church leaders, many of whom are volunteers, regularly discuss important issues, explore and share resources, and encourage one another through six ministry-orientated Facebook groups.

WE WORK TOGETHER THEOLOGICALLY

In 2023 the CCCNZ Pastoral Theologians Fellowship held two Dinner & Doctrine evenings in November. Around 70 elders and leaders from 24 churches across Auckland and the Waikato gathered to explore how they can be thinking biblically about applying theology in their churches.

WE WORKED TOGETHER REGIONALLY

Five Regional Summits saw 337 ministry leaders from 73 churches explore how they could work together to point people to Jesus. What a delight to see seven churches in Northland participate in their own Regional Summit in October for the first time. Ministry Leaders came together for other regional gatherings across Auckland, Waikato, and Canterbury throughout the year.

WE WORKED TOGETHER IN PRAYER

In March, 23 people from 17 churches gathered for our National Prayer Zoom Gathering. It was an incredibly special time praying together for people to come to Jesus, through the gospel, from the Scriptures.

WE WORKED TOGETHER IN GOVERNANCE TRAINING

In October, board members from Teapot Valley Christian Camp Trust, Bridge Valley Christian Trust, and Pinnacle House Charitable Trust (connected to Grace Church in Nelson) came together for governance training run by Peter Allen. The training was supported by the Ian Elliott Scholarship.

WE WORKED TOGETHER IN THE MOVEMENT OF THE WORD

The Movement of the Word teaches a simple but significant way of interpreting the Bible and training leaders that is highly relational and involves nothing more than an open Bible. Leaders from the top of the South Island and leaders from the Waikato and Auckland came together in March and August, respectively, to learn how to train people for Christian ministry through the Bible.

WE WORKED TOGETHER AS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES LEADERS, YOUTH, AND YOUNG ADULT LEADERS

In November, 50 leaders from 18 churches were involved in the NextGen Summit. Leaders explored what intergenerational discipleship could look like in local church contexts.

SUPPORTING YOU AS YOU WORK TOGETHER

As a Service Trust, it's our privilege to be supporting you as churches and church leaders while you work together to lead the rescue.

It was a privilege for Julie McKinnon, on behalf of Lichfield Lands, to distribute \$11,000 from the Church-School-Camp fund to three churches in order to see children and their families reached with the gospel. In 2023 the Ian Elliott Governance Fund distributed \$17,325 to individuals and camp



Youth, Young Adult and Children & Families Ministry Leaders together at the 2023 NextGen Summit

boards for governance training. Mark van Wijk and the PastorLink team distributed \$36,000 from the Pastoral Support Fund to 26 pastors. Scholarships Enabler Liz Hodge assisted Lichfield Lands, Longview, and Hillview Trusts in distributing \$464,000 to more than 100 people from 38 churches and campsites.

It was a joy to share with over 2,000 of you through eight regular newsletters—recounting stories of how you and your churches are working together in the rescue. We loved serving 57 pastoral leaders and their spouses at the annual PastorLink Retreat in Taupō. We are grateful for the opportunity to support 149 of you from 72 churches for marriage celebrants' renewal.

Across the year, what excites us most is not what we've done, but what you are doing as churches and church leaders as a result of joining together with camping leaders and support ministries at local, regional, and national gatherings. We are hearing from NZ Rally of new rallies starting. We are hearing that approximately 10 churches are discussing planting and revitalisation.

We are so grateful for what you and your churches, campsites, and support ministries are doing to point people to Jesus through the gospel from the Scriptures. We consider it a profound privilege to serve amongst you.



Lower North Island Regional Summit 2023

WORKING TOGETHER

GORDON FOUNTAIN | THE CHAIR'S REPORT

CCCNZ was formed with the vision to support the movement of Open Brethren Heritage churches, camps, and support ministries working together to point people to Jesus, through the gospel from the Scriptures.

In his letter to the Ephesians Paul reminds us that Christ makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love (Ephesians 4:16).

Our passion for working together is undiminished, and as I step down from my role as Chair later this year, I'm grateful for regular glimpses of working

together in action. Some highlights from the past few years include:

- The Regional Summits across the country that continue to bring local churches together for a day of learning, sharing, and fellowship in the task of sharing the gospel from the Scriptures
- Seeing church plants like Franklin Bible Church (Pukekohe) and new Pasifika assemblies in the Auckland region flourish
- Taking part in the camping huis that brought camp chairs and operatives together to realise the potential of Te Maru to enable our camps to operate more effectively and work together



Auckland Regional Summit 2023

- Our 2023 Annual General Meeting wonderfully hosted at Te iti O Hauaa, Tauwhare Marae and the ongoing important kōrero in our bi-cultural journey
- Regional Enablers connecting church leaders in their locality for fellowship and support
- Regular newsletters and communications keeping the movement informed in our national journey together

These are just some of the ways we have been working together.

OPERATIONS

CCCNZ continues because of the generous financial support of our funders. Throughout the 2023 year we were pleased to be able to run multiple events to connect churches across the regions.

These include more formal events like summits, and less formal gatherings such as regional leaders' dinners. Our funders also helped us support churches and individuals in theological and governance training, pastoral relief, and community outreach to local communities and schools, as our Ambassador has already reported.

In 2023, the full annual effect of resourcing our team intersected with the economic challenges we all face in Aotearoa New Zealand. This has brought us to working more closely with our major funders to agree on deliverables for the funding provided.

The CCCNZ Board values Mark Grace serving as Ambassador, with a team of dedicated staff who make CCCNZ what it is today. In 2023 we welcomed Paula Almada as Executive Assistant to the Ambassador, Grant Birks as Waikato/Bay of Plenty Regional Enabler, Tim Hodge as South Island Regional Enabler, and Nick Goodwin on secondment from Raleigh Street Christian Centre as Pastoral Theologians Fellowship Coordinator.

At the start of 2024, we were particularly glad to welcome Craig Barrow as Youth and Young Adults Enabler, and Jan De Lange as National Advisor. Craig served in church ministry and as Pathways College Principal prior to joining our team. Jan comes with a wealth of church ministry and organisational leadership experience. Both these roles have been critical in serving the growing needs of the movement.

“This year we are pleased to establish our Vision Fund—inviting individuals, churches, and charitable entities to support us where they see value in what we do”

The year’s end (31 December 2023) saw the organisation’s outworking of the vision to be regionally focused and nationally funded, with the use of its reserves and the agreement to align our funding requirements on a more actual cost basis. While our biggest resource is our staff team, the delivery of regional services comes at a greater cost than running a national office, as our annual accounts show.

The annual report includes some of the key deliverables:

- Hosted five regional summits with 337 delegates
- PastorLink Retreat
- NextGen Summit
- Serving 175 churches through the year, with 91 churches linked in
- Co-ordinating celebrant registrations and copyright licencing

This year we are pleased to establish our Vision Fund—inviting individuals, churches, and charitable entities to support us where they see value in what we do. Our goal is to raise supplementary income, starting with \$250,000 in 2024. Our aim is to share together in the work of CCCNZ and come alongside our funders who have regularly supported us since CCCNZ began.

We continue to be grateful for the funders’ support, and believe others will join them, working together to fund the sharing of the gospel in New Zealand. If you would like to learn more about the Vision Fund please visit: www.cccnz.nz/vision-fund

BOARD

Trustees are permitted under the CCCNZ Trust Deed to serve a maximum of nine years’ service. The remaining founding trustees are due to step down from the CCCNZ Board next year.

This AGM sees me enter my ninth and final year on the CCCNZ Board, along with Bruce Stormer and Graham Fletcher. I have agreed with the Board to step down as Chair in October, following the return of our Ambassador, Mark Grace, from his well-deserved sabbatical period. This will be my last AGM as Chair.

At its April meeting, the Board appointed Chris Broadbent to the role of Deputy Chair, and Chris will become the Chair at the October meeting. Chris is a human resources consultant during his regular work life, and with his family attends Northcross Church. I’m delighted that Chris is taking up this leadership role in the Board. He has the full support of the entire Board to become Chair. I commend him to your prayers as he leads the Board forward.

This coming election has one additional seat to elect, carried over from last year’s outcome. Graham Fletcher was designated to be elected as the only nominee standing, and consequently there is a vacant seat to fill at this year’s election.

Gillian and Alan offer themselves for re-election.

I’m grateful for each member of the Board who give of their time and energies for the work of governing CCCNZ. It’s been an absolute pleasure to lead you and serve with you, and I look forward to joining you as we support Chris as our new Chair.

Let’s continue to work together.

WORKING TOGETHER ACROSS THE MOTU



CCCNZ Regional Enablers and Staff reflect on how churches, campsites and national ministries came together in 2023

Ministry Leaders Debbie Bosse and Anelli Morla at the Auckland Leaders' Dinner hosted by Northcross Church



AUCKLAND

Auckland Regional Enabler Richard Fountain

God has been faithful in bringing Auckland and Northland churches closer to work together in ways we could not have imagined.

At the beginning of 2023, parts of Auckland were hit with significant flooding, followed two weeks later by Cyclone Gabrielle. It was so encouraging to see how churches came together from around the region and across Aotearoa NZ to help one another and to offer help.

Local knowledge kicked off a community-focused response in Kelston. Kelston Community Church Pastor Paul Long serves as chairperson of an independent local NGO, Kelston Community Hub. His local insight, along with the work of GCAid, helped connect CCCNZ churches (including Kawerau Bible Chapel, The Orchard Church, Tāmaki Community Church, Papatoetoe Bible Chapel and New Lynn Bible Chapel) so that they could donate and support the great response work carried out by the team at Kelston Community Hub. “It was encouraging to see many CCCNZ churches and organisations in the list,” says Paul, “Thank you, CCCNZ, for your partnership”.

A desire to train youth leaders brought Northcross Church, Orewa Community Church (both Auckland) and Clark Road Chapel (Whangārei) together for a watch party at Northcross. A group of youth leaders from the three churches watched Word of Life training together. Northcross Youth Director, Isaac Claasen says, “The event was well run and it’s led to some good conversations”. God has answered prayer to strengthen and encourage these young



2023 Auckland Regional Summit

leaders as they serve in their local churches to help young people grow in obedience to Christ.

We love to see churches working together to support each other in teaching and preaching. Over Easter, several local Māori assemblies in the Waikato gathered for combined meetings at Waharoa, near Matamata, and enjoyed hearing visiting speaker Robert Siakimotu from Onehunga Bible Chapel who spoke on the book of Acts.

Elders and leaders from across Auckland gathered together several times in 2023 for dinners. At the North and West Auckland Dinner in October, Associate Pastor Mark Wallace (Northcross Church) shared a model for equipping and encouraging home group and small group leaders to provide holistic pastoral care with the aim of making pathways accessible to people looking for support inside or outside church.

It was encouraging to see elders and leaders reflecting on their shepherding responsibilities and learning alongside other church teams.

We’ve seen North and West Auckland churches working together over summer beach missions as well. Together they had the joy of serving the motor campers and taking opportunities to present the gospel creatively to families. Angela Meyer (New Lynn Bible Chapel) says: “Our teams are made up of people from different churches including New



Church Leader Pati Fa'aiuaso talks to Richard Fountain at the 2023 Auckland Regional Summit

Lynn Bible Chapel, Kelston Community Church, and Takapuna Bible Chapel”.

In 2023, we saw a large number of churches from across the greater Auckland region come together to enjoy a great day of worship, mutual encouragement and teaching, fun, fellowship, and great food at Willow Park Christian Camp at the Auckland Regional Summit.

We were delighted to be joined by 106 leaders from Mt Wellington Community Church, Au Uso Kerisiano/Mascot Bible Chapel, Auckland Bible Church, Birkdale Bible Chapel, Birkenhead Community Church, Clark Road Chapel, Eden Christian Hostel, Eden Community Church, Ekalesia Au Uso Kerisiano Samoa New Lynn, Family Worship Ōtāhuhu, Franklin Bible Church, Howick Community Church, Kelston Community Church, LifeChurch Manurewa, Lincoln Road Bible Chapel, Marsden Bay Christian Camp, Massey Community Church, Northcross Church, Orewa Community Church, Pakuranga Christian Fellowship, Ekalesia Au Uso Kerisiano Papakura, Ranui Open Brethren, Tāmaki Community Church, The Chapel, and Wiremu Street Bible Chapel.

The Summit is a highlight of the year for everyone. “Summits provide an opportunity for us to have a kai together and then kōrero about what is important for our people in the future,” says Willow Park and Tāmaki Community Church’s Jerome Edwards. We’re thankful that God continues to use this time to help us all grow relationally and spiritually as a diverse group of churches.



WAIKATO-BAY OF PLENTY

Waikato-Bay of Plenty Regional Enabler Grant Birks

As I have gotten to know elders and pastors throughout the Waikato–Bay of Plenty regions I have sensed a desire for working together and a desire to support each other and partner with others as they reach people for Christ and disciple them.

In 2023, several churches came together for the regions’ first *Movement of the Word* Bible study training in Cambridge—the result of a desire to increase biblical literacy among churches. At the training, people expressed just how needed this was in their churches and a desire to work together for future trainings.

These desires became a theme again at the first Pastoral Theologians Fellowship Dinner & Doctrine event held at Raleigh Street Christian Centre in November. 40 elders, pastors, leaders and theology enthusiasts from 11 Waikato churches came together to explore the process of how theological reflection can benefit their churches.

A sentiment expressed at *Dinner & Doctrine*—that I have heard often from elders, pastors and church leaders—is the need for theology to direct churches’ responses to contemporary challenges. I was particularly encouraged by the wide variety of churches represented and the sense of unity in recognising the need for greater theological literacy in our churches, as well as their desire to learn from each other despite their differences.



2023 Waikato/Bay of Plenty Regional Summit

For someone newly-returned to Aotearoa NZ, a Matariki public holiday was a first for me, so I was thrilled to be able to join Hillcrest Chapel, Chapel Hill Community Church and Northgate Community Church for a combined Matariki dinner, hosted by the wonderful folks at Rukumoana Marae.

People I spoke with expressed how great it was to come together. Out of this event has also come a desire of several elders to explore how their church can more closely connect with the Māori Brethren assemblies in the area. This was a theme continued into 2024 at the Waikato-Bay of Plenty Regional Summit, as Paul Samuels from Rukumoana presenting a workshop on the subject.

Churches have not just been working with each other, but they have also been partnering with camps and other organisations. Mount Bible Chapel has been hosting an I-Care programme for several years, and this year it expanded as The Orchard Church in Te Puke started a programme.

Raleigh Street Christian Centre (RSCC) partnered with Tōtara Springs Christian Centre to run a week-long 'day camp' during the school holidays. Children headed out to the camp during the day and came back home each evening. To use the

words of Hilly Goodwin from RSCC, a partnership like this "allows the party to keep going" and helps "the kids make friendships" and evangelise their friends.

Where does this church interaction and partnering lead? A great example is a recent church plant out of Te Awamutu Bible Chapel. With support from elders at Morrinsville Bible Chapel and Manawarū Bible Chapel, a small and passionate team has planted a church in Morrinsville, meeting in the previous Morrinsville Bible Chapel building.

Several months before this started I met with elders from Morrinsville Bible Chapel who expressed a desire to see God's people meeting again in the building. Even as we met, Te Awamutu was looking for a building, and Manawarū was considering a Bible study group in Morrinsville! I am excited to see the way God brought them all together in his perfect way and encouraged by the ongoing partnership between them as they reach out to the Morrinsville community with the gospel to see people come to Christ.

I think that is what we are all about: God's people working together to point people to Jesus, through the gospel, from the Scriptures.



SOUTH ISLAND

South Island Regional Enabler Tim Hodge

Churches working together is always a joy to see! Here's a snapshot of that across the South in 2023.

Just south of Nelson, Teapot Valley Camp once again hosted Hope Community Church, Grace Church, and Tasman Church for an Easter Sunday where the three churches celebrated and rejoiced together in the resurrection of Jesus. The partnership between these three churches and one of their local campsites reflects many, many years of relationship and connection developed between the churches—through elders and leaders getting together and the churches' desire to reach their wider region with the good news about Jesus.

Moving south through the island, churches in Canterbury enjoyed regular connections across the year, including the CCCNZ Canterbury Regional Summit that was hosted by Rutland Street Church in September. The Summit brought together elders and ministry leaders from churches across the region and beyond—with some from Nelson joining the day. It was a special time spent sharing stories of God at work and creating paths and connections for continued gospel partnership. At the end of 2023, The Embassy @ North Beach (New Brighton, Christchurch) became officially linked in with CCCNZ, formalising connections with several local churches over many years.



Alistair Falconer (Bryndwr Chapel) and Jason Winslade (Redemption Church Christchurch) at the CCCNZ Canterbury Prayer Gathering 2023

In Otago, towards the end of 2023, Cornerstone International Bible Church in Dunedin and Riverside Chapel in Henley worked together to innovatively share in employing Jeff Coleman to train the churches in evangelism, discipleship, and Bible teaching. We're grateful for all that Jeff and the wider Coleman whānau have given to the CCCNZ movement, and are praying with them as they have returned indefinitely to the USA.

In Southland, people from different churches came together in May for the Invercargill Bible School. It was great to see around 60 people joining for different parts of the event, which was organised by a committee of people from Elles Road Bible Chapel and Rosedale Bible Chapel to encourage the wider Church in the region.

In the latter part of 2023, I formally joined the CCCNZ staff team and began to get to know more CCCNZ and Open Brethren Heritage churches across the South Island. It has been a great honour and a joy to meet the men and women faithfully serving in churches across the South Island, and to see churches working together to speak for Jesus and live for Jesus in their local context.

“One of the highlights of 2023 was seeing churches work together in a myriad of ways toward a strong and flourishing prayer culture—recognising our dependence upon God and one another”



PRAYING TOGETHER

CCCNZ Prayer Enabler Jackie Millar

We see the necessity and strength of interdependence all around us—whether in plant or animal life, from the smallest of organisms to the largest of species. While interdependence can be observed in nature, it is a key characteristic of the Church. In this working-together manner, the world can see and know the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 13:14).

One of the highlights of 2023 was seeing churches work together in a myriad of ways toward a strong and flourishing prayer culture—recognising our dependence upon God and one another.

The weekly Zoom Prayer Hour began during Covid lockdown and continues today to draw people from a dozen CCCNZ/Open Brethren Heritage churches across Aotearoa New Zealand. People with a passion for praying for churches, camps, regions and beyond join together via Zoom to bring these things before the Lord each week. Similarly, the CCCNZ Prayer Team, represented by just as many churches, continues to faithfully pray through the various prayer requests received from churches and camps throughout the year.

In 2023 the online National Prayer Gathering saw 17 CCCNZ/Open Brethren Heritage churches join in prayer for churches, camps, regions and the

nation, with a focus on praying for those areas affected by Cyclone Gabrielle.

When Rukumoana Marae hosted Chapel Hill Community Church, Hillcrest Chapel and Northgate Community Church over Matariki we enjoyed a combined time of fellowship, learning, and prayer for unity and collaboration between the churches and various ministries.

Across the motu, the five Regional Summits saw various speakers lead us in prayer workshops. This group included Sarah Chalmers (Hillcrest Chapel) and Brigitte Crowe (Howick Community Church), and others who worked together to share their stories and ideas with others with the hope of supporting and encouraging churches to pray for their regions.

It was encouraging to see leaders from different CCCNZ/Open Brethren Heritage churches gathering to attend the interdenominational Prayer Breakfasts in Auckland and Hamilton—intentionally sitting at tables with each other and praying together for their regions.

Coming together in prayer was also a uniting motivation for the leaders who attended the combined churches CCCNZ Prayer Gathering in Canterbury. People from eight different churches gathered at Westchurch in Christchurch to pray for the region and for God’s continued work among the churches.

The CCCNZ Prayer Facebook page and regular prayer newsletter provided more opportunities for churches to work together by sharing prayer resources used or developed by churches, or by sharing prayerful reflections to encourage one another. This was especially evident during the General Elections.

“And as he taught them, he said, ‘Is it not written: “My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations”? But you have made it a den of robbers” (Mark 11:17).



Youth, Young Adult, and Children & Families Leaders at the NextGen Summit 2023



WORKING TOGETHER YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

CCCNZ Youth and Young Adults Enabler Craig Barrow

It has been an immense honour to join the CCCNZ team. I've had the privilege of engaging with numerous youth and young adult pastors and workers nationwide, all of whom sincerely appreciate the unifying work of CCCNZ.

These dedicated individuals often find themselves in isolated roles, whether part-time or volunteer, and can sometimes miss out on connecting with like-minded peers. CCCNZ's pivotal role in fostering these connections enables these remarkable servants of Jesus to work more effectively together, thereby amplifying the impact of their service.

During 2023 this impact was seen in the different youth Easter camps run around the country. It was incredible to hear of youth pastors and leaders

"I have heard amazing story after amazing story of the way the Lord worked through these camps to draw youth closer to him"

forming teams to work together to plan these wonderful camps. I have heard amazing story after amazing story of the way the Lord worked through these camps to draw youth closer to him.

As you are aware, in 2023 Murray Brown transitioned from his role of supporting and encouraging our CCCNZ youth and young adult workers and pastors around Aotearoa. Now, as I take up this work in 2024 and travel around the country to meet with key youth and young adult leaders, a recurring theme I have encountered is Murray's innate ability to cultivate leadership in anyone. Murray's skill in drawing people together and encouraging them to faithfully follow Jesus is a legacy worth continuing!



Scholarship recipient Bivin Mathew (Manurewa Bible Church) with Dennis Wilkinson (Franklin Bible Church)



WORKING TOGETHER WITH SCHOLARSHIPS

3TRUSTS Scholarships Enabler Liz Hodge

The 3TRUSTS scholarships are the fruit of three trusts—Lichfield Lands, Longview and Hillview—with a heart for building the New Zealand Church.

In 2023, we worked toward that goal by providing financial support for people serving across our churches for their theological education through many different stages in their study journey. From a few students diligently pursuing their PhDs, through to people pursuing Masters, Bachelors, Diploma and Certificate level qualifications, to several people involved with different styles of church internships. All up, over 100 students were encouraged and supported in as they took Paul's injunction in Romans seriously—to be transformed by the renewing of their minds.

Bivin Mathew from Manurewa Bible Church is studying full-time toward a Master of Arts in Biblical and Theological studies online through Western Seminary in Portland, USA and says:

“I am learning that character matters just as much (if not more!) than giftedness”

“As much as Western is helping me be a more competent and careful student of Scripture and culture, my professors and classmates are, more importantly, shaping my heart to love God and neighbour well. Also, I am learning that character matters just as much (if not more!) than giftedness”.

Bivin has appreciated how his studies have helped inform his teaching as he co-leads a weekly Bible study, and takes his turn on the preaching roster at Manurewa Bible Church. He has also been able to share the fruit of his labours more widely as he preached with Whitiara Bible Church and Takapuna Bible Church.

As well as supporting those working at Masters level, it is also always a joy to see young people starting out on a life-long journey of learning and serving by taking time to really dig into the study of God's Word.

We were thrilled to offer internship support gifts to upcoming leaders in our movement from: Church on Vogel, Crossroads Church, Feilding Bible Chapel, Hillcrest Chapel, Hukanui Bible Church, Kaipaki Bible Church, Lifeswitch, Mount Wellington Community Church, Northgate Community Church, Te Awamutu Bible Chapel, and Whitiara Bible Church. This is especially encouraging as we know that each one of the 29 young people who undertook an internship at one of our churches or campsites has a team of godly people behind them who are discipling, mentoring, encouraging, feeding, teaching and praying for the student. We pray and trust that the grounding in God's Word in the context of their community of faith during the internship will continue to see them grow into servants and leaders in our churches.

One recurring theme in feedback from students reflecting on their studies this year has been gratefulness for the godness of God, and the ways in which they now feel even more empowered to share and to serve in the contexts where God has placed them.



The National Camping Hui at Silverstream Retreat in March 2023



CHURCHES AND CAMPS WORKING TOGETHER

CCCNZ Camping Enabler Richard Davis

As I reflect on 2023 I am encouraged by the stories of churches and camps working together for the sake of the gospel in Aotearoa New Zealand.

In 2023, youth from Orewa Community Church (north of Auckland) and Clark Road Chapel (Whangārei) came together to serve with Marsden Bay Christian Camp, who continue to fulfil their vision to reach the children of their community through kids camps.

Hope Community Church, Grace Church and Tasman Church in Nelson continue to build their connection with Teapot Valley Christian Camp as they strengthen church involvement at the camp board level, and make the most of the camp's facilities for combined Easter services, church camps, and more.

In 2023 Tōtara Springs Christian Centre in Matamata brought together a ministry team from

alumni, churches, board and staff with the intention of building strong and lasting relationships with local churches.

CCCNZ held two breakfasts gathering together local church leaders in Auckland and Waikato to talk about how they could be working in partnership with local camps. It's encouraging to hear these discussions continuing into 2024.

I'm equally heartened by the desire of camps to seek ways to ensure camping remains a distinct part of the outreach of CCCNZ/Open Brethren Heritage churches well into the future. This was evident in the National Camping Hui at Silverstream Retreat in Lower Hutt in March 2023 which brought, for the first time, all the chairs of camp boards together to discuss the future opportunities of Christian camping in the Open Brethren Heritage movement.

The hui was a result of a small group who worked on a camping project with the aim of discerning whether there is a better way to collectively do camping. In late 2023, Te Maru was established. Te Maru, meaning 'Shelter of The Most High', taken from Psalm 91:1—*whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.*

We eagerly wait to see and participate in what God is doing as camps seek to serve churches, and we look forward to hearing the stories of what occurs when we partner together for community outreach.



Jacob Ohlson and Reuben Porter at the 2023 PastorLink Retreat



WORKING TOGETHER IN PASTORAL MINISTRY

CCCNZ PastorLink Enabler Mark van Wijk

Having joined the CCCNZ team in late in 2022, it was a joy to spend much of 2023 connecting with a range of pastors across much of the country.

Over many café tables and in various meeting spaces it has been a privilege to spend time with these leaders as they lead and serve our churches and surrounding communities. I particularly love hearing how they're seeking to support and encourage each other, and to work together.

Pastor Jonathan Hong, who has served Christchurch Korean Church since 2007, shared about the good relationships he has with other local churches like Bryndwr Chapel and Redemption Church, and how much they appreciate being able to hold their Sunday services at Wairakei Road Bible Church.

“It was a privilege to explore what it means to be making disciples amongst our young people, and to see many new connections made”

Pastors Daryl Bay (Hope Community Church), Peter Somervell (Grace Church), and Greig Caigou (Tasman Church) partnered to run a combined Easter service at Teapot Valley Christian Camp with a focus on inviting friends who don't know Jesus.

As I led my first ever PastorLink Retreat in 2023, I was conscious of its valuable history of bringing pastors and their spouses together. Kicking it off in 1997, Pastor Russell Grainger (Mt Wellington Community Church), with the help of many others along the way, established a vital annual gathering that has seen hundreds of people refreshed, encouraged and well-fed! I was delighted to see nearly 60 people attend the retreat in 2023 as Rowland Forman ministered to us all and to see relationships being formed and strengthened.

Later in 2023, Willow Park Christian Camp hosted the CCCNZ NextGen Summit—an extension of the long-running Youth Summit, which saw an expanded invitation to pastors and leaders serving and working with our next generations. Alongside Pastor Kerry Rickard (Kingston Community Church), and Julie McKinnon (CCCNZ Children and Families Enabler), it was a privilege to explore what it means to be making disciples amongst our young people, and to see many new connections made and existing relationships strengthened among the 50 attendees from across the country.



WORKING TOGETHER WITH CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

*CCCNZ Children and Family Ministries Enabler
Julie McKinnon*

As we reflect on 2023, it is encouraging to see the growing collaboration among leaders of children and family ministries.

Leaders are generously sharing their wisdom, experience, and resources with others. Many churches benefitted from the generosity of Massey Community Church as they shared child protection documents and processes. Liz Hodge from Springs Community Church was immensely grateful to Matt Meek from Riccarton Community Church for his help and advice when she and her daughter Susannah sought to start an intermediate girls' youth group in Christchurch.

The fostering of relationships between leaders has been a highlight, notably through regular monthly Zooms for children and families leaders and volunteers. This online space has promoted community among like-minded passionate people, offering much-needed encouragement and support. It has been such a joy to see these relationships continue offline with leaders sharing resources and ideas, and friendships.

The online EQUIP training courses have also played a pivotal role in cultivating both new and existing



At the 2023 NextGen Summit at Willow Park in Auckland

connections. Cohorts of leaders met fortnightly to discuss one chapter of a book they were all reading. While wrestling together with new ideas and sharing their own experiences and contexts, leaders developed each other and grew together.

NextGen Summit provided another opportunity for connections, old and new. One participant was grateful for “the network of like-minded passionate people” to discuss and learn and grow with. A first-time attendee loved the opportunity to form “new connections to others in similar roles”, while a returnee commented that “the networking with other churches was, as always, very worthwhile”. It was truly a privilege to watch leaders from diverse ministry backgrounds engaging in conversations about discipleship and ministry within their respective contexts whether it be with children and families, youth, or young adults.

As we look towards 2024, our prayer is that these relationships continue to flourish as leaders work together for the sake of the gospel.

“While wrestling together with new ideas and sharing their own experiences and contexts, leaders developed each other and grew together”

SERVING THE MOVEMENT IN WORKING TOGETHER

Financial Report

In 2023, working together meant refining our goal of being ‘regionally focused and nationally supported’. Knowing the way regional connections strengthen the ability of churches to work together, CCCNZ appointed two Regional Enablers to serve the movement in Waikato-Bay of Plenty and the South Island.

Being a service trust, resourcing the CCCNZ Staff Team was a key focus in 2023, with \$938,086 or 59% of our total expenses going towards salaries (2022: \$768,258 or 63%).

After seeing the greater effectiveness of engaging key volunteer leaders at the one-day, in-person regional summits, we continued to grow our efforts to run these events. This resulted in 73 churches gathering together over five regional summits. This was a significant jump in engagement, up from 66 churches represented at four summits in 2022.

In addition to events hosted by the CCCNZ Service Trust, we also provided support for our churches to come together to host Easter Camps, and in 2023 we supported 13 key leaders to attend the IBCM Conference (which occurs once every four years). This came at a net investment of \$142,427 for the year (2022: \$24,880).

We also continued leveraging the efficiencies of online events, such as prayer gatherings, Zoom catch-ups, and EQUIP online training.

A key aspect of bringing churches together is the sharing of the stories of God’s work among people through our churches, campsites, and support ministries. This sharing of stories continued to be a critical focus of our team.

This takes place through the ongoing development of our website and growing the private ministry-specific Facebook communities to over 724 members in the past year. We also sent email newsletters to ministry groups within the movement, which had more than 39,302 unique opens across the year. Our publication costs, including website-related items, increased to \$31,852 (2022: \$27,110) for the year as we continued our move towards digital communications.

We are thankful for the individuals and churches who are choosing to work together to point people to Jesus, through the gospel, from the Scriptures by giving one-off and regular donations of \$19,713 in 2023 (2022: \$11,360). Thank you for your ongoing commitment to supporting the growth of the gospel in this way.

Our partnership with, and the support from Lichfield Lands Inc., Hillview Trust, Soul Purpose Trust, Longview Trust, and GPH Charitable Trust continued—for which we are very grateful. Together they provided funding support of \$784,000 in 2023 (2022: \$1,136,000).

During the year we initiated a change in strategy to broaden our funding base. This will both mitigate some of the risk relating to our existing funding base and give rise to additional funds to enable us to further grow our level of activities. This change in strategy included depleting our reserves and we ended the 2023 year with a deficit of \$661,575 (2022: surplus of \$20,589), as reflected in our annual accounts.

Let us continue to serve God faithfully, proclaiming the gospel from the Scriptures, and inspiring people across our country to put their hope and trust in Jesus in the new ways that are increasingly being made possible for us.

Our full accounts are available at the Charities Commission (CC54332) or by request from our Operations Manager, JC Marais, jcmarais@cccnz.nz or 027 303 2914.



JC Marais
Operations Manager
jcmarais@cccnz.nz

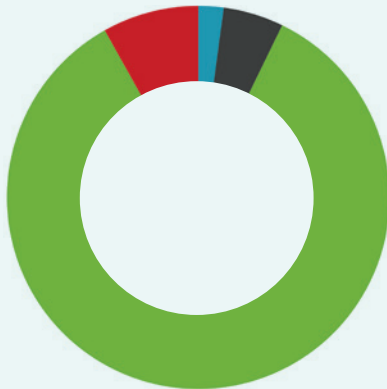


Bruce Stormer
Chair of Finance Committee
Bruce.Stormer@markhams.co.nz

REVENUE

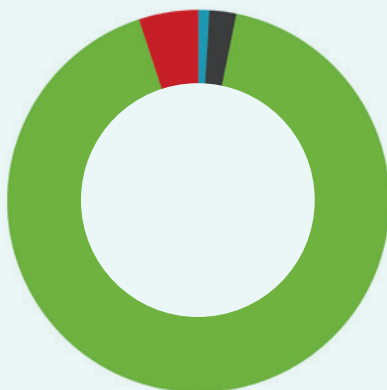
2023

DONATIONS \$19,713
EVENTS \$47,218
GRANTS \$784,000
OTHER \$75,295



2022

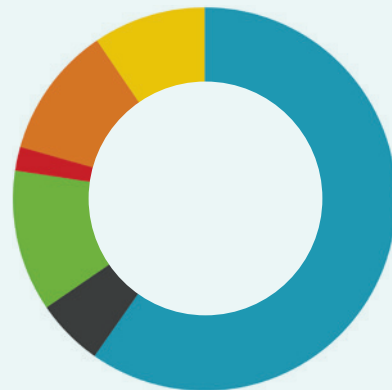
DONATIONS \$11,360
EVENTS \$28,165
GRANTS \$1,136,000
OTHER \$62,324



EXPENSES

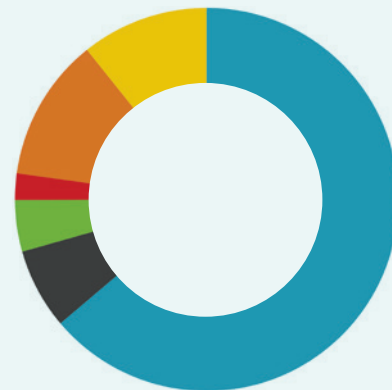
2023

STAFF \$938,086
TRAVEL \$90,468
EVENTS \$189,645
PUBLICATIONS \$31,852
OFFICE \$176,417
OTHER \$161,333



2022

STAFF \$768,258
TRAVEL \$82,722
EVENTS \$53,045
PUBLICATIONS \$27,110
OFFICE \$146,945
OTHER \$139,180





WORKING TOGETHER

All staff and linked-in churches current as of 20 June 2024

LINKED-IN CHURCHES

Northland

Clark Road Chapel
Raumati Crescent Chapel

Auckland

Amatakihoa Gospel Church
Auckland Bible Church
Auckland Japanese Christian Church
Birkenhead Community Church
Eden Community Church
Franklin Bible Church
Howick Community Church
Kelston Community Church
LifeChurch Manurewa
Lincoln Road Bible Chapel
Manurewa Bible Church
Massey Community Church
Mt Wellington Community Church
New Lynn Community Church
Northcross Church
Orewa Community Church
Otara Brethren Christian Fellowship
Pakuranga Christian Fellowship
Papatoetoe Bible Chapel
Rossgrove Chapel
Samoan Open Brethren, Ranui
Takapuna Bible Church
Tāmaki Community Church
Terry Street Bible Chapel
Wiremu Street Bible Chapel

Waikato

Agora Church
Chapel Hill Community Church
Church @ 109
Hillcrest Chapel
Hukanui Bible Church
Kaipaki Combined Church

Manawarū Bible Chapel
Matamata Bible Church
Northgate Community Church
Paeroa Bible Chapel
Putaruru Gospel Chapel
Raleigh Street Christian Centre
Tauwhare Gospel Chapel
Te Awamutu Bible Chapel
Whitiora Bible Church

Bay of Plenty

Fenton Park Bible Church
Greerton Bible Church
Kawerau Bible Chapel
Lifezone Church
Lakes Church (Rotorua)
Mount Bible Chapel
Paengaroa Bible Chapel
Redeemer Church
Roosevelt Road Chapel
The Orchard Church

Taranaki

New Plymouth Community Church

Hawke's Bay

Heretaunga Community Church
Onekawa Bible Church
Riverbend Bible Church

Manawatū-Whanganui

Church on Ingestre
Church on Vogel
Crossroads Church
Feilding Bible Chapel
Kingston Community Church
Queen Street Chapel - Levin
York Street Chapel - Levin

Wairarapa

The Lighthouse Church

Wellington

Church @ Cedarwood
Coast Community Church
Onslow Community Church
Heretaunga Christian Centre
Pathway Christian Centre
Porirua Gospel Chapel
The Anchor Church
Titahi Bay Community Church
Wainuiomata Gospel Church

Nelson-Tasman

Grace Church, Richmond
Hope Community Church
Tasman Church

Canterbury

Bryndwr Chapel
Christchurch Korean Church
Church Street Bible Chapel
EAUKS (Ekalesia Au Uso Kerisiano Samoa)
Glentunnel Chapel
Redemption Church Christchurch
Riccarton Community Church
Rowley Bible Church
Rutland Street Church
Springs Community Church
The Embassy @ North Beach
Wairakei Road Bible Church

Otago

Anchorage Church
Caversham Community Church
Cornerstone International Bible Church
Orwell Street Church
Riverside Chapel

Southland

Rosedale Bible Chapel

REGIONAL CAMPSITES

Northland

Coopers Beach Youth Camp
Marsden Bay Christian Camp
Moirs Point Christian Camp

Bay of Plenty

Lakes Ranch Christian Camp
Pacific Park Christian Holiday Camp

Manawatū-Whanganui

Foxton Bible Camp
Highland Home Christian Camp

Auckland

Chosen Valley Christian Camp
Sonshine Ranch Adventure Centre
Willow Park Christian Camp

Wellington

Forest Lakes Camp
Silverstream Retreat

Nelson and Tasman

Teapot Valley Christian Camp

Canterbury

Woodend Christian Camp

Waikato

Karakariki Christian Camp
Kauaeranga Valley Christian Camp
MiCamp Ruapehu
MiCamp Taupō
MiCamp Whakamaru
Tōtara Springs Christian Centre

Marlborough

Curious Cove

Otago

Lakeland Park

STAFF TEAM

Mark Grace
CCCNZ Ambassador
Full time

Paula Almada
Executive Assistant to the Ambassador
Full time

Craig Barrow
Youth and Young Adult Enabler
Full time

Jackie Millar
Prayer Coordinator
Two days per week

Sophia Sinclair
Communications Manager
Two and a half days per week

Liz Hodge
Scholarship Enabler
Two and a half days per week

Jan De Lange
National Advisor
Full time

Richard Fountain
Auckland Regional Enabler
Full time

Grant Birks
Waikato/Bay of Plenty Enabler
Full time

Tim Hodge
South Island Enabler
Four days per week

Julie McKinnon
National Children and Family Ministries Enabler
Three days per week

Richard Davis
Camping Enabler
Full time

Mark van Wijk
PastorLINK Enabler
Full time

Nick Goodwin
Pastoral Theologians Fellowship Coordinator
One day per week

JC Marais
Operations Manager
Full time

Ray-Anne Cahill
Accounts and Team Support
Full time

Teri Lauder
Special Projects
Two days per week

BOARD MEMBERS

Graham Fletcher (Southland)
Murray Frost (Canterbury)
Rick (Auckland)
Bruce Stormer (Wellington)
Gordon Fountain, chairperson (Auckland)
Shannon Samuels (Auckland)
Ane Ponifasio (Auckland)
Richard Goodwin (Waikato)
Alan Aitken (Canterbury)
Chris Broadbent (Auckland)
Gillian (Auckland)

NATIONAL MINISTRIES

We would like to acknowledge the many ministries and regional camps supporting the wider movement. We would particularly like to acknowledge Stewards' Trust, GC3—Global Connections in Mission, and Pathways College of Bible and Mission.



WORKING TOGETHER

We'd love to connect with you and keep you up to date with prayer requests, stories and news from our movement.

Join us on Facebook: [@ChristianCommunityChurchesofNZ](https://www.facebook.com/ChristianCommunityChurchesofNZ)

We have a number of email newsletters available—from our Weekly Wrap (a round up of stories and encouragement from the Ambassador) to specific Auckland, Waikato/Bay of Plenty, and South Island Community newsletters, and ministry role-specific newsletters: PastorLink, Youth, Prayer, Children and Families, and Admin.

Email sophiasinclair@cccnz.nz to sign up.

Receive Rongopai, our magazine, by emailing your mailing address to: office@cccnz.nz

Visit our website: www.cccnz.nz