

HE IS RISEN

EASTER

GOING ON A NEW ZEALAND PILGRIMAGE

Julia Lee



In January our family did a pilgrimage in Northland to learn about the development of Christianity in New Zealand.

We visited the Marsden Cross where after 10 years of planning, the Reverend Samuel Marsden proclaimed the first Christian message in this country: ‘Behold! I bring you glad tidings of great joy’ on Christmas Day 1814. This cross marked the moment when Christianity began in NZ. Without Marsden’s initiative and that of the missionaries that followed, Christianity would never have taken root. It was a challenging task and yet they persevered and saw a steady growth in the number of local Māori following Christian beliefs.

On the 1st Sunday of 2018 we visited NZ’s oldest working church, Christ Church, Russell (Te Whare Karakia o Kororāreka). The missionaries purchased land from the local chiefs to build a church to minister to the people of Russell, a rough seaport, nicknamed ‘The Hellhole of the Pacific’. The first service was held on 3 January 1836. Many tourists now attend services and the day we visited there were over 40 visitors.

The service celebrated Epiphany when the Magi visited Jesus. The reading, “O God, help us remember that your people were strangers in Egypt; ... the magi were outsiders who came to honour Jesus because of their insights; ... there are no strangers, foreigners, or outsiders, for you have made us all, and in you we are all one,” was very thought provoking.

We also visited Pompallier Mission and Printery which is NZ’s only surviving pioneer printery and tannery. Bishop Pompallier commissioned it in 1843, for he firmly believed that the power of the printed word could be used to help convert Māori to Christianity. In only three years the missionaries printed an impressive thirty thousand publications in Te Reo.

This pilgrimage showed me that without the hard work of the early missionaries, Christianity would never be firmly planted in New Zealand. Their contribution made a lasting impact that should be commended. I pray that God will make me bold in obeying His Great Commission to share the gospel with others.

Julia Lee attends CACC. She was inspired to write this after reading Rev Andrew Marshall’s article about the Marsden Cross in the first issue of the Alliance News.

CONTACT

Aihua CMA Church

@ Blockhouse Bay Community Church
76 Dundale Ave, Blockhouse Bay
Sunday 2.00pm

Blockhouse Bay Community Church

76 Dundale Ave, Blockhouse Bay
Sunday 10:30am

Chinese Alliance Christian Church

60 Ben Lomond Cres, Pakuranga
Saturday 7:30pm - Mandarin
Sunday 9.00am - English
Sunday 10:30am - Cantonese

**Central Christian & Missionary
Alliance Church**

193 Greenland West Rd,
Cornwall Park District School
Sunday 10.00am

Mount Eden Church (Korean)

@ St Barnabas Anglican Church
283 Mt Eden Road, Mt Eden
Sunday 2:30pm

West Harbour Church

145 Moire Rd, West Harbour, Massey
Sunday 10:30am

**West Harbour Chinese Alliance
Christian Church**

145 Moire Rd, West Harbour, Massey
Sunday 2:00pm

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ALLIANCE NEWS

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*"Prayer should
not be regarded as a
duty which must be
performed, but rather
as a privilege to be
enjoyed, a rare
delight that is always
revealing some new
beauty."*

- E.M. Bounds



*Building Healthy Churches in
New Zealand and Overseas*

ON MISSION TOGETHER



The annual **Alliance Prayer Retreat** in February is strategically positioned as the first Alliance event of the year and draws prayer warriors from all our churches. Starting the year with prayer demonstrates the value we place on this vital spiritual discipline and it’s encouraging to have close to 50 people investing their time to attend each year.

We were back this year at Cornerstone Park in Whenuapai with a day blessed with sunshine and mild temperatures. The beautiful scenery and spacious grounds provide the perfect environment for prayer. The day started with worship led by Pastor Dan Forest (BBCC) followed by a time of silent meditation guided with people encouraged to find a quiet place outside, guided by the material provided. The emphasis is on slowing down and listening to God - the One who is never in a hurry. Here’s one notable quote we were given: “Let me invite you to meditate on the words of Jesus to Martha, someone who was a leader who also had more things to do than time allowed. He said, “*Only one thing is needful*”(Lk.10:42).” You might want to take a look at this passage to see what Jesus was talking about, if you’re not too busy.

Morning tea broke the silence and the second half of the retreat had us all in groups praying for a wide variety of needs throughout the world and in our local churches. Our Prayer Retreats are a precious time and one that I hope many more will have the courage to embrace next year.

Rev. Andrew Marshall



Alliance Youth and Young Adults bring us Mission 48 from the 13-15 April. The event kicks off on Friday night at BBCC, includes a serving project on Saturday, Quiz Night Fundraiser on Saturday night for 21+, and 48 acts of kindness throughout the weekend. This year we’re raising funds for Lifewise Trust who’re tackling homelessness in Auckland and Remember Nhu (Thailand) working to end child sex slavery through prevention.



Pray With Me

Stay awake
For just one hour
And pray with me
To God, Almighty God
Creator of all things
In heaven and earth
For you I live
To you I give
My heart, my soul, my all
Pray with me
For those who lead us
For those who teach us
To stay true to God's Word
Pray with me
For believers in unity
To know God intimately
And stand firm in their faith
Pray with me
For the lost, the sick, the lonely
To find peace and grace
And healing in this place
Pray with me
As we seek God's face
His power we embrace
And share from heart to heart
Stay awake
For just one hour
And pray with me

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A NEW BEGINNING FOR KOREAN MINISTRY



After 20 years of ministry in the Blockhouse Bay area, my wife and I took a year long Sabbatical in 2017 for rest and renewal. As we prayed for direction and guidance throughout the year, our hearts were moved towards starting a church in another area of Auckland, somewhere with many Korean residents, but little or no Korean churches. My family and I each prayed as the Spirit guided, and on January 7th, the first Sunday of 2018, we shared our prayers.

I prayed for [a church with] a circular area for Holy Communion during our Sunday service. Esther prayed for guidance to a suburb with Korean residents but no Korean church. My son, Hanbin, prayed for a worship team member - specifically, a keyboardist. My daughter, Yebin, prayed for her best friend to return to church from a three year break.

Unexpectedly the next day, Pastor Oh who had been doing ministry at St. Barnabas' Anglican Church in Mt Eden, called and informed us of her ministry coming to an end. Within a few days, we got in contact with the Vicar, Robert Hornburg. And on January 25, we were handed the keys to the church.

Miraculously all our prayers were fulfilled. The church building itself is 140 years old and in a traditional Anglican style, with stained glass windows and a beautiful circular area for the communion table/altar. Our first official service was on February 4th and we adopted a new name: Mt. Eden Church, following the name of the suburb. During the service, the pianist who served at Pastor Oh's church came to visit us. Soon afterwards, she gladly decided to serve at our church and answer to Hanbin's prayer. That same day Yebin's closest friend also came to visit. She decided then and there to attend our church together with Yebin. Yet another answer to prayer.

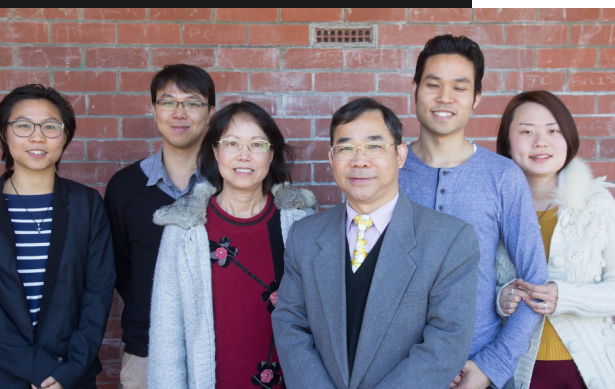
On Sunday 25th February, we held a special service for the official opening and thanksgiving of Mt. Eden Church. Around 90-100 attendees came to congratulate and rejoice with us.

Rev. Joshua Lee



Rev Raymond's Retirement

Re Shu Kay (Raymond) Leung from Central CMA Church has announced his retirement as Senior Pastor effective from the end of August 2018. Rev Leung has served at CCMAC since May 2006 and his retirement will enable him to provide greater care to his elderly mother in Hong Kong. Please pray for Rev Raymond during the season of transition and for the church as they look for a new Pastor.



A planning meeting will be held for our India Vision Trip on Sunday 8th April, 7.00pm at Blockhouse Bay Community Church, 76 Dundale Ave, Blockhouse Bay. People interested in joining the trip to India should email andrew@alliancechurches.org.nz for more information immediately as flights need to be booked.

Please note – we are now considering a slight change of dates for this trip bringing it forward by 1 day – leaving Friday 28 September – back in Auckland Friday 12 October.



We had planned another Mission Trip to Tonga in April this year but our team leader, David Nuualitia has been unwell for the past few months so we've decided to cancel this year's trip. Rev Andrew Marshall (Alliance Director) will be visiting our ministry partners for a few days in May and we hope to have a team going back in 2019.



JEHOVAH JIREH

June Mak



“0 to 8 year-olds? I thought it was 0 to 18!

What have I got myself into?!” That's what I exclaimed when I opened the first email from my supervisor for my recent mission trip with Overseas Missions Fellowship (OMF). OMF holds month-long orientation courses, four times a year at the headquarters in Singapore, for their new missionaries. At each of these courses, they need volunteers for IT services and to run KidsZone, the program for the children of the missionaries. My better half, Danny signed up to volunteer for IT services, so I thought, I love working with teenagers, maybe I should sign up for KidsZone as well! I served with teenagers in various capacities over the years but I have no experience in children's ministry. This explains the shock I had when I received the email from my field supervisor! After the initial shock, I prayed to God for his guidance, to help me to serve faithfully and humbly and to use me to benefit others however he sees fit.

One of the first task we did with the children was a treasure hunt – the children searched around the OMF campus for various things, including a banner that says “Jehovah Jireh”, then the leaders had to explain what that meant – God will provide. Looking back, God really provided for me during this trip. Our field supervisor, being a grandmother of missionary kids herself, gave us insights into the children's minds during this time of transition, feelings that the children may not yet be able to verbalise. She also encouraged me to reflect on my own journey, moving to New Zealand as a teenager, how God has faithfully led me through the ups-and-downs, and to share with the children. My teammate loved everything outdoors, so he gladly took charge of all outdoor activities, while I took charge of story-telling and crafts and we worked like a well-oiled machine. God also provided us with an incredible and almost instantaneous bond with the children we are responsible for, and we give thanks to God that we could be part of their journey.

Congratulations to Aihua Christian & Missionary Alliance Church (formerly Avondale Alliance Church) who moved to Blockhouse Bay Community Church in February. Please pray for this new season of ministry in this relatively new church.

