



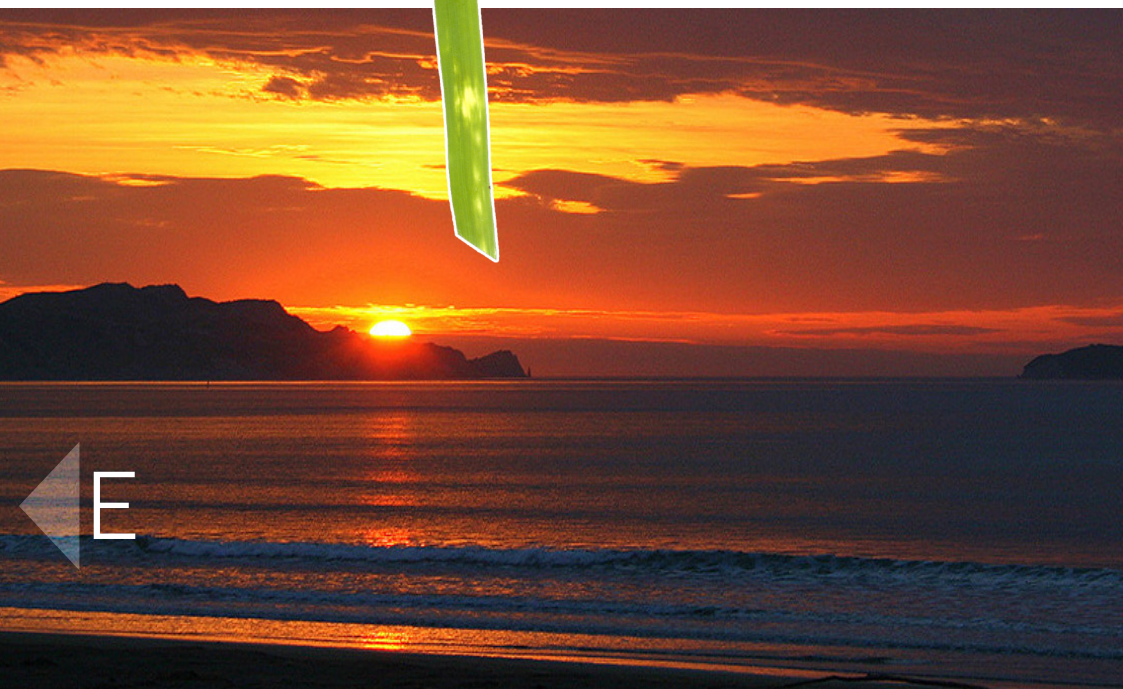
APRIL
2018

Revised - JUNE 2020



City **BY** **City**
AOTEAROA - NEW ZEALAND

Encouraging Unity – Prayer – Mission
in towns, cities and regions
across the nation!



Kia ora / Welcome

to the second edition of the CitybyCity EBook

CitybyCity
AOTEAROA - NEW ZEALAND

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APRIL 2018

Revised - JUNE 2020



‘Sing to the Lord a new song, and
His praise from the ends of the earth’ **Isaiah 42:10**



Zechariah 8:21

The people of one city shall go to another saying “Let us pray before the Lord – and seek the Lord of Hosts.”

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Kia ora. Welcome to the second edition of the City by City EBook.

*‘That they may all be one, as You Father are
in Me and I in You, that they may be one in Us,
that the world may believe that You sent Me.’
John 17:21*

City by City exists to help encourage unity, prayer and transformation throughout New Zealand.

How good it is to see Christians in each town or city worshipping and praying together regularly.

How good it is to see Churches honouring one another, seeking to help meet the spiritual and physical needs of their locality together.

Here are some stories and photos from various towns and cities. Just some of what God is doing to make His wonderful name great in beautiful Aotearoa.

Enjoy!

Colin & Grace Shaw

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City BY City
AOTEAROA - NEW ZEALAND

From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets,
the name of the LORD is to be praised.
Psalm 113: NIV



Auckland > East

The ‘super-city’ of Auckland naturally divides into five regions – North, South, East, West and Central – and within these regions there has been some great steps taken and encouraging progress in recent times.

In East Auckland, there has been a groundswell of connection and unity through the ‘East Auckland Ministers Association’ (EAMA) which aims to connect and serve the leaders of the estimated 70-80 churches in the East Auckland area.

EAMA has two main thrusts – the first are weekly meetings of Senior Pastor ‘cluster groups’ for connection, fellowship and support for those who lead churches. One cluster group of around 8 leaders is running already, another is planned to start soon.

The friendships and unity that form in these groups then provide the backbone for the other main thrust of EAMA – a monthly meeting of Christian leaders from across the region, including full and part-time pastors, church staff, and Christian ministry and para-church groups.

These run in a number of different formats – from connection and prayer events, to specific ministry input from leading pastors in the area, to opportunities to hear from and pray for local government, education and business leaders.

Ps Peter Morton, Senior Pastor of The River Christian Church is the current leader of the EAMA network and has a real passion for gathering pastors and leaders together for the purpose of unity and prayer.

He works alongside an executive team of pastors from the area who plan the EAMA events, and make the time to reach out to pastors individually.



“You can’t just send an email inviting them”, says Peter, “you have to go and knock on their door and meet them and get to know them. Building a strong pastors network really happens one coffee at a time!”

2018 has started well for EAMA – their first event was a pastor’s breakfast hosted by Willow Park Convention Centre and featuring Ps Luke Brough from Elim as a guest speaker.

The event was attended by over 40 pastors who thoroughly enjoyed the time together, and are looking forward to advancing the kingdom of God in this part of Auckland.

Ps. Peter Morton





Christchurch



Seven years on from the February 2011 earthquakes and the city is beginning to feel re-born. Several new or restored church buildings are now up and plans for more are coming together. Whilst the stress and heartache of the last few years is still there for many there does seem to be a new sense of hopefulness and optimism generally across the city and in particular in the church.

A few new churches have been planted and several new congregations initiated in the last few years. Interestingly, it is amongst the more-newly-arrived groups of people (for example Filipino, Chinese, Korean) where growth in the church has been notable.

The church is still pulling together in real ways and **Te Raranga** is playing its part in this happening. Services to mark the EQ anniversaries, the Reformation and other occasions to pray, have been exceptional times of unity and togetherness, and a profound call was recently heard to “re-form” in love and unity. HeadSpace - occasions to meet as leaders to consider the mental and emotional wellbeing of our people and ourselves, have proved very worthwhile; the last occasion focusing on the needs of vulnerable teens.



The Bi-Cultural journey, that so many of our churches have embarked upon, continues to draw people together to learn and grow. This last year we have initiated pathways in which the church can engage in Social Enterprise. Easter Camp is still a major focus for our young people, with 4,500 attending last year.

Late last year, leaders from the denominations and networks that make up the church met to share, pray and dream for the city.

The sense of unity and mutual respect was superb and will for sure bear fruit in the future.

Ken Shelley. Pastor Kings Church

Christmas for the City, held on Ara college grounds, serving the families of the city with fun and entertaining Christmas activities, was a huge success bringing 5000 people together to enjoy Christmas.





Dunedin

Combined Dunedin Churches

Since 2006, Pastors from across the city have been meeting together to pray and seek the peace and prosperity of the city. Under the godly leadership of Bruce Elder, Mark Smith and more recently Peter Cheyne, God has been calling us together in unity.

During that time, we have been holding a combined Easter celebration in the Dunedin town hall which has been a great encouragement.

In 2017 after 5 years of planning and praying, we were blessed to host Ravi Zacharias and his team to the city.

Ravi preached in the Forsyth Barr stadium to a crowd of over 3500. The week-long mission included lunch time meetings in the university and meetings with council and business leaders.

OBITUARY

We would like to acknowledge the passing of Apologist Ravi Zacharias who died Tuesday 19 May 2020 two months after he announced he had been diagnosed with cancer.

He was 74.

Now called home with HIS Lord.

He was our guest here in Dunedin during February March 2020 as per the accompanying article.

A popular author and Christian teacher who was known for his work through Ravi Zacharias International Ministries (RZIM), which focused on apologetic arguments for the existence of God and the reasonableness of Christianity.

We have wonderful memories from his time with us.

RAVI
ZACHARIAS
DUNEDIN VISIT






FEATURING:
JADE TE URI KARAKA
MICHAEL RAMSDEN

TOWN HALL AND OTAGO UNIVERSITY CAMPUS
FEB 26-MARCH 2, 2017



In Recent years an Acts of Kindness trust has been set up to bless the city through a Light Party, Christmas in the stadium and a Christmas lunch in the Town hall.

The founding vision of Dunedin, articulated by Thomas Burns stills fires our common witness to the Lord:

"By the grace of God and with His blessing upon us; may we continue in this region, the planting and cultivating of a well ordered, God fearing community.

In the power of His risen Son, may we stand as a sample of the Kingdom of Christ which, like a light burning in a dark place, we shall bear no indistinct testimony to the Truth."

Stu Crosson: St Matthews Dunedin

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First to see the light

Gisborne



^^^ **CLICK to view VIDEO** ^^^

Gisborne's Pastor Guthrie Boyd with Karaitiana Akroyd.

Tui Keenan

Former Policewoman who initiated the Te Hahi concept.

Te Hahi is a partnership between the Police and a group of local Churches in Gisborne city. This partnership came about when it was realised by the Church that Gisborne has the highest rate of family violence in New Zealand, and that New Zealand has the highest rate of Family violence on a per capita basis for any OECD nation.

The question for the Christian Community was, how can we facilitate change for good in our city and help support the Police in their work as they daily face dealing with families in crisis ?

To that end we now have a group of trained believers who carry a Police phone. When the Police team identify a family that needs prayer, love and some type of practical support the Te Hahi team goes into action.

On most call outs we take a gift of food and we are welcomed into homes carrying some practical love that opens the door for prayer and ongoing spiritual help.

Pastor Guthrie Boyd: Te Hahi Church Co-ordinator





Wa165 Gisborne City Vintage Steam Train rides are ever popular.



Pastor Lance Rickard of the local House of Beakthrough Church had a starring role as a Policeman, much to the delight of his fellowship and many locals.

BROKEN: A FILM about gang violence, revenge and redemption that was shot in Gisborne and Anaura Bay premiered at the local Odeon Multiplex in Gisborne.

The movie **Broken** is based on a true story and marks City Impact Church Pstr. Tarry Mortlock's filmmaking debut.

More than 25 Gisborne people feature in scripted roles in the film. Many locals helped behind the scenes too with scenery, stage crew, accommodation and technical support.

Mr Mortlock was inspired to make the film by New Zealand author Joy Cowley's story Tarore and Her Book. Tarore was the daughter of a chief from a small marae near Matamata in the 1830s. A top student at a mission school, she was killed when a warring tribe came into the area and forced her tribe to relocate.

In mid 2017 a fresh approach was given to 'TeamGisborne' with the emphasis being moved from Church leaders to Secular leaders who have been elected to positions of influence within our local community.

At the same time a small group of prayer intercessors was formed to pray for these leaders of the community whenever the need may be required.

The Bible teaches that we are to pray for those in authority and it had become obvious that many times leaders within the community - once tasked with their role - often come under stress and daily pressure with little support or thanks. Even though they are simply doing the best they can in sharing their various expertise. It can be a thankless job.

This new approach has created the opportunity to build relationship with various city leaders - and whenever specific Christian motivational encouragement can be shared with them - the opportunity is offered.

One such specific occasion during 2017 was the visit by International Evangelist Mark Banyard from Japan - who along with NZ's Jono Turner spent time sharing and encouraging them - as he has had much experience previously in Japan and Canada speaking to Business leadership groups.

Ray Sheldrake: TeamGisborne Admin. www.kcn.co.nz



Greymouth



The Churches of Greymouth enjoy the benefit of a number of long term clergy and pastors who have formed good friendships and relationships with one another combined with newer clergy and pastors who are keen to connect ecumenically. The result is a strong sense of ecumenical unity that plays out in joint activities, responses to issues and good fellowship and prayer at our Minister's Association meetings.

One example of how that sense of unity has worked out long term has been the annual Combined Churches carol service in the local Regent Theatre which has been running for close to thirty years and is a feature for many in the community's Christmas celebrations, Christian or otherwise. It's always a good night of singing, dance, drama, humour and a poignant message towards the end with three to four hundred in attendance.

A more recent example of our unity was our coming together this year (2017) for the new Alpha Film Series where many of the churches were involved from hosting the starting dinner to providing venues for courses. We share leadership across the churches and joined forces for the Holy Spirit Day. We were blessed to see quite a number of people growing in their faith, experiencing healings and more.

The town has struggled economically over the last few years but the consistency and unity of the towns churches have I believe been a point of stability for our community.

Tim Mora. Archdeacon



Rev. Tim & Nicky Mora



In 1999 the Anglican Church of Greymouth and Kumara appointed a new youth worker by the name of Nicky Mora. Her husband Tim had just arrived in the Parish as a trainee priest and both had had experience in youth work.

Very quickly under their joint leadership the youth group grew and expanded into a community based youth project for the young people of the Grey District with administration and oversight support provided by the church.

The church's support also includes the provision of "The Shed," a multi-purpose youth activities centre with an amazing range of facilities. The project has been very successful with around 20% of the High School aged young people in the Grey District currently on the total roll.

The project was put in place because it was recognized that on the Coast young people can miss out on opportunities and don't always have the support they

need to get through the teenage years and the struggles that brings easily. It was in recognition of this that the Greymouth Churches Community Youth Project was established and gathered together an amazingly dedicated team of volunteers.

The aims of the project are to provide weekly and other programmes and activities that meet the needs of the young people in the Grey District in a safe and controlled environment.

These programmes include social, recreational and skills learning activities. Camps and outdoor wilderness activities [often subsidized]. We involve ourselves in community initiatives and run social justice projects. We are members of the West Coast Youth Workers Collective, network with DCYFS, the High Schools, the police and District Council and have twice been awarded the supreme Trustpower Award for overall best community project in the Grey District.



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Hastings

We are really grateful to God for all he is doing in the city of Hastings. A good number of the Pastors in the city gather together once an month on a Tuesday morning to pray, study the Word of God and fellowship.

There have been monthly gatherings where we have had leaders representing 20 different churches present, crossing many different denominational lines. There is growing sense of unity amongst the leaders of the churches, where we are not threatened by one another but are praying for each other, helping one another and choosing to speak well of one another.

Outside of our monthly gatherings we hear reports of Pastors meeting with other Pastors to encourage one another and learn from one another. Some great friendships and levels of trust have developed and are developing, where we genuinely want see each other blessed and see our city transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have had a number of stories of churches blessing other churches in the city, even financially!

One testimony which has happened in the last 2 years is that one church was given \$30,000 by another church in the city.

This gave the church that received the finance the final resources they were trusting God for to buy a building!

So God used one church to answer the prayers of another church to the tune of \$30,000. God is certainly at work in our city and surely these are all the seeds for a city-wide and even region wide revival!"

Cliff Cherry. Pastor.
Redemption Point Church





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Hibiscus Coast

Church unity is progressing very well on the Hibiscus Coast.

Last night we had our 5th combined church prayer and worship service hosted by Rev Steve Down from St Chads Anglican, held in the Kingsway School Events Centre, There were approx. 250 people in attendance from 10 different churches. At the end their was a call for those who wanted prayer and it was well responded.

A man had a sore throat and could hardly speak, he had a very raspy voice. By the end of the prayer he had 90% of his voice back and the discomfort had gone! One young girl approx 9-10 years old came for increased zeal for the Lord. The presence of God came visibly on her and she was touched wonderfully by the Holy Spirit!

Pastors are meeting on a monthly basis and praying together for our district and discussing ways we can further our working together. Different prayer groups continue to prosper.



The “Men of Prayer” group celebrated 15 years of faithful prayer together by having a dinner with wives recently. There is more and more open hearted fellowship and support taking place. Generally churches are reporting increased attendance and increased energy and passion for the Lord among their congregations. Overall, a very exciting season for us on the Coast.

Matt Hagen. Pastor. Mission North Fellowship.

COAST CHURCH COLLECTIVE

*Combined Prayer
and Worship*

Sunday 25th March 7pm
The Events Centre, Kingsway Senior College
100 Jelas Road, Red beach

Join us for food and fellowship before event,
6pm in the Kingsway Staffroom
(Please bring a plate of finger food to share)

COAST CHURCH COLLECTIVE
COMBINED PRAYER & WORSHIP

June 25th 7 pm @ Illuminate Church in
The Events Centre, Kingsway Senior School,
100 Jelas Road, Red Beach.



WE ARE ALL HUNGRY AND
EXPECTANT FOR A NEW MOVE OF GOD
ON THE COAST.

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IN CHRIST

Hibiscus Coast
Church Collective Combined
Praise & Worship





Invercargill

After a time when city church unity was at a low ebb, there has been some encouragements over the last two years.

Every second month 10-15 church leaders gather for breakfast at a local café, hosted by Nyall Paris. The focus on the breakfasts is fellowship and some sharing of coming events.

Every other month, a group of 20-30 church leaders gather for lunch at Invercargill Central Baptist, hosted by Keith Harrington.

This time includes some discussion, relationship building, and prayer. A number of prophetic words have encouraged us that God is doing something new in the South. A new city wide prayer and prophetic group is emerging

At one of the lunches Tak Bhana spoke and this has led to the organizing of a city wide prayer meeting at the Civic Theatre on the 24th Sept. Earlier in 2017 about 600 gathered at the Civic in a combined meeting to hear Shane Willard speak.





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Alongside these a number of senior pastors meet twice a month for lunch to chew the fat, pray and build relationships.

In 2016 Southern Fire hosted a number of tent meetings in a large marquee in Gala St that drew crowds of 100 to 200 over 5 nights. Over 100 people were ministered to after these meetings, and 38 people made a first time commitment or recommitments. A number were healed or set free. The event came together through a number of churches working together in a great demonstration of unity.

There is a sense of a new season emerging in the south, as relationships are built, networks are strengthened and prayer is growing.

Keith Harrington. Pastor
Central Baptist Invercargill





Napier

The Art Deco Capital of New Zealand

The Napier Ministers Network meets monthly over lunch. We have around 15 pastors/ministers from a broad range of Christian churches who regularly come together.

We move around to different churches each month as there is something about going to others peoples “turf” that is important.

We usually spend the first 30 minutes just catching up with each other, then the host pastor/minister leads us in a 30 minute discussion which we then open up for comment from the wider group. The last 30 minutes is communicating up and coming events and prayer for each other. There is a good sense of being different tribes working for the same cause.

Earlier this year we hosted a City by City event here in Napier and invited Hastings to join with us too. It was a great day and a very good turnout. The feedback from the event was very positive and people felt that it really invested into our area well. We have noticed a lift in provision since this day.





We also had the privilege of having Apostle G Maldonado who is an internationally recognized apostle come to Napier, to the provinces instead of Auckland and Wellington which was so great for us.

It was a supernatural encounter conference and we all got great teaching from the Word of God that we got revelation from that encourages us to step out and believe for more from God. We are really feeling challenged at the moment to become more visible in our community as ministers.

Bruce Collingwood Pastor Oasis Church. Napier

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CityBYCity
AOTEAROA - NEW ZEALAND



New Plymouth



Taranaki has just been rated by Lonely Planet as the 2nd best place in the world to travel to and New Plymouth as a vibrant city with artistic, cultural and deep spiritual roots in the heart of this beautiful province.

Each month, church leaders gather for lunch and communion to encourage and connect with one another. Consistent prayer and healthy relationships are keys to our working together for the good of the city and province.

Since 1991, over 25,000 children have witnessed the message of the cross through our bi-annual 'Easter Alive' production. We are seeing a fresh release of chaplains in schools and other arenas. Training events which equip and release people in areas of reconciliation, stewardship, healing, family life and parent coaching are held in various churches.

Collaboration and genuine friendship among the city youth leaders has brought effective strategies and unity with results that have seen more youth being reached and more lives changed.

We have been privileged in recent times to witness reconciliation at Parihaka and in our region between tangata whenua and tangata tiriti with much more to come.

Chris Lee. Pastor City Life New Plymouth



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PARIHAKA RECONCILIATION CEREMONY
A TRIP TO 2 LUXURY TRIPS TO PHUKET TO GIVE AWAY
Page 6

BE IN TO WIN
A TRIP TO Asia
TO PHUKET TO GIVE AWAY
Page 6

GOING ON AN OILY ADVENTURE
Page 14

TARANAKI DAILY NEWS
Saturday June 10, 2017
Established in New Plymouth 1857
Weekdays \$1.80 Saturday \$2.20

A new peace for Parihaka

Stand to reconciliation

May 2014: Taranaki iwi treaty negotiators put settlement on hold until process to develop plan for Parihaka confirmed January 2015. Advisory group, known as Kaitiaki, formed.

May 2016: "Compact of Trust" signed between Parihaka, Papatika Trust and Crown.

Nov 2016: Crown support package offered to trust.

Dec 2016: Series of consultation held around New Zealand.

Mar 2017: Details of support package formally announced.

June 2017: Reconciliation ceremony held at Parihaka.

Parihaka, a settlement on the South Taranaki coast, has been synonymous with peace and non-violent resistance, a legacy created by prophet Te Whiti a Rangahau and Teira Kaitiaki.

Parihaka, a settlement on the South Taranaki coast, has been synonymous with peace and non-violent resistance, a legacy created by prophet Te Whiti a Rangahau and Teira Kaitiaki.

Looking to right

Parihaka reconciliation package includes

A tone
A \$1m (plus GST) development fund

Unite
A deed of reconciliation between Parihaka and the Crown

Bond
Relationship agreements with central and local government

Regret
A Crown apology

Ahead
The creation of a legacy statement

Legislate
To ensure Crown's commitment to Parihaka is legally binding

Weather TODAY: Showers, 16°C TOMORROW: Fine at first, 15°C

Inside AD: 419 Business AD: 419 Magazine AD: 424 Sport

STOCKISTS OF MASSIVE SELECTION OF BEDS

He Puanga Haeata

A New Dawn

Parihaka - Crown Reconciliation Ceremony

Friday 9 June 2017





Photo courtesy © 2013 Destination Northland

Northland

Changes are occurring in Northland - In the last six months, the Maori led Churches of Northland have been blessed by the Holy Spirit, and have come into a wonderful oneness of fellowship and ministry.

Together with this, there are hopeful signs, towards a merging of Maori led Church leaders with the non-Maori Church leaders, in the leadership of the Northland wide Leaders' Gathering, held every three month since 1986, in Te Punawai-Moerewa Christian Fellowship centre, Moerewa.

The November Leaders Gathering was a demonstration of this flowing together and resulted in much joy and thanksgiving.

A second way change is occurring in the North, is that God is granting an increasing number of miracles to confirm the preaching of the Gospel. God is granting increasing faith, to believe for, and expect the miraculous.

Village Church, Hikurangi, is a Church where many are being saved, and where miracles of healing are frequent. Last Sunday afternoon, at Kowhai Park, Kaikohe, Village Church held an evangelistic- healing



gathering, with miraculous healings and people responding to Jesus. Recently, a long-time friend of mine, who had a serious condition of osteoporosis in his vertebrae, was prayed for in his Church, in Doubtless Bay, [Baptist], and the subsequent x-ray revealed that there was no osteoporosis. As he was being prayed for he felt a warm glow go down his spine.

In the last two years at Te Punawai-Moerewa Christian Fellowship Centre, Moerewa, there has been a fourfold increase in the people of the town using the Church facility, as a place of social interaction for many events and fellowship. The community and the Church are meeting together daily. Moerewa Christian Fellowship was established by Howard Edwards in 1979-80, and "Howie" and Vicki pastored the Church until recently, when they transferred the pastoral responsibility to Laurie and Glenda Anderson. Howie and Vicki have picked up our itinerant role in the North visiting many Churches.

Ken Bassett.

A pastor to pastors
in the North.





Special Note:

It was a privilege to celebrate all Ken and Dorothy Bassett have done in Northland at our last gathering of the year.

Over 120 pastors and leaders gathered from around Northland to honour Ken and Dorothy for their 40 years of ministry.

Shaun Foster. Frontline Church Keri Keri.

King's Daughters began In November 2016, celebrating our unity as women of God.

Since then the gatherings have seen on average a hundred women from different churches and towns across Northland, New Zealand, come together for a time of worship, encouraging testimonies, fellowship, creativity and prayer ministry.

Sarah Angus. King's Daughters.



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Photos courtesy © Destination Manawatu

Palmerston North is a hub for the Central North Island.

Palmerston North is an education centre boasting a number of tertiary training campuses. With an energetic heart of youthful zeal and an easy living lifestyle, it's a great place to live. The Manawatu has significant spiritual foundations of unity and Christian mission. There are a number of defining stories in our history that have laid a foundation for God's kingdom work in our city.

Local Maori have a long, Christian, heritage dating back to the early 1800's when Rangitane made peace with Ngati Raukawa, Te Rauparaha's tribe from the Otaki area, and an alliance was formed based on Christian values and beliefs. Te Rangimarie marae at Rangiotū was built in 1858 to commemorate peace between the Ngāti Raukawa and Rangitāne peoples. The meeting house was one of the first in New Zealand, built and dedicated as a place of Christian worship.

Te Peeti Te Aweawe was the key figure who promoted cooperation between Maori and the settlers and Rangitane donated the land known as The Square as a perpetual marae at the centre of Palmerston North. A statue of Te Peeti was erected in 1907 commemorating the support he gave to European settlers in the district.



<http://statues.vanderkrogt.net>

The inscription for Te Peeti Te Aweawe reads:

*I have done my duty, do you likewise.
Kua Kaupapa iau te aroha ma koutou e whakaoti.
I have laid the foundation of friendship for your consummation.*





During the early 1970's a Summer School at Massey University, hosted by Christian Advance Ministries, was a catalyst for many to be filled with the Holy Spirit as part of the Charismatic renewal sweeping the country. Subsequently a number of church leaders and Christian business men hosted trans-denominational conferences at the Awapuni Racecourse, then the Pascal Street Stadium, where thousands would gather at Easter to receive teaching and ministry from a variety of overseas speakers.

Many have been mobilized and launched into ministry from here and it continues today with more than 60 churches cooperating and flowing together with a level of unity that is energized by genuine friendships.

The Christian Leaders Association meets monthly and the Executive leadership team coordinates inter church activities and initiatives. Palmerston North is a vibrant growing city and the Christians that gather for regular worship account for approximately 17% of the population.

Jono Turner. Pastor Gateways Christian Fellowship

In 1997, the Christian Leaders' Association [CLA] of Palmerston North set up a prayer group [City Intercessors] made up of intercessors from a number of different congregations specifically to pray for congregations and para-church groups and their leaders throughout the city and surrounding towns.

The format was for this group to visit a different fellowship every fortnight, to spend 1.5 - 2 hours praying for the needs of that fellowship and their leaders. Typically, the leaders from that fellowship would be present to share their needs.

We all carry a dream that one day [this side of the Lord's return] there will be true unity in our city amongst all believers, as prayed for by our Lord the night before He died as recorded in John 17:20-23.

Robert Sanson.
Co-ordinator City Intercessors



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Rotorua

The Church of Rotorua has gone from strength to strength!

We have seen a continuation of our traditional strengths: the Christmas Day Community Lunch (put on by the combined Churches, local businesses and the Mayor's office) served over 500 of the most vulnerable in our city, and the Combined Good Friday Service saw about 700 Believers from dozens of different Churches worship together once again (not even a tropical storm could put us off!).

Two new opportunities presented themselves to the Rotorua Association of Christian Churches this year that were unique and timely. Wake Whakamua and Te Hāhi.

A community trust based around collective impact was officially launched (after 2+ years of dialogue and strategy). Waka Whakamua (meaning: Moving Forward, Together) is made up of 6 community collectives, including a Faith-Based/Church Collective. The vision of Waka Whakamua is "Transformed communities, full of hope and prosperity!". Having just received significant funding for this charitable trust at the end of 2017, the future is bright for the Church of our city to continue to impact those around us!





When former police woman Tui Keenan moved to Rotorua last year our city was blessed! Tui had started a cooperative between local Churches and local Police to help curb incidents of 'domestic harm' [including domestic violence] in her hometown of Gisborne and wanted to help facilitate the same thing here in Rotorua.

Te Hāhi (meaning: The Faith) began over the holiday period 2017 and is seeing the same fruit in Rotorua as it has in Tairāwhiti. Local pastors, current and former Area Commanders, parishioners, chaplains and many others are banding together to help shift the atmosphere of our city and region!

Exciting times!

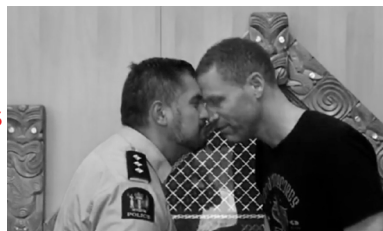
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0HPYxb5jVcw&t=4s>

Scott Clifford. Pastor. Ascend Church Rotorua.



The other significant event we participate in together is the Christmas Day Community Lunch. In partnership with churches [providing volunteers and organisation], government [the Mayor provides the Events Centre out of the Mayoral Fund and local MPs get involved], business [donating food and gifts] and the community [with volunteers and participants] it is truly a cooperative effort!

Last year over 400 folks who would have gone without on Christmas received a top-notch meal with all the trimmings and presents for the children. As I was leaving I noticed one of our MPs still vacuuming away as almost everyone had gone home. Everyone chipped in. We would love to model more events on this type of collaboration in the future!



There is a sign on the way into the city of Rotorua along the State Highway that reads, "Feel the spirit!". The churches of our city are working together to make sure this happens!

Scott Clifford: Chairman RACC

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City by City
AOTEAROA - NEW ZEALAND

Taupo

Easter 2018 has seen Taupo's third annual Easterfest:

A 4-day community festival hosted by the churches of Taupo through diverse expression.



The local town Domain and Great Lake Centre situated adjacent to the towncentre, become a hub for all gospel related activity over the weekend.

EF is for the local community and also, because of our unique location, is a pilgrimage opportunity for NZ Christians to gather together and celebrate the reason for their faith. It is a powerful opportunity to express the gospel to our increasingly secular society.

Easterfest developed from an idea presented to the Ministers Group in early 2015. The group had been strengthened by a desire to build strong relationships between the leaders of the local churches.

EF provided a unity of purpose and we have experienced God's blessing and favour with growing Council support, a Rhema Media partnership and funding from various individuals, community and business groups which has enabled the festival to break even each year.

The ongoing effectiveness of EF hinges on being able to maintain the following components: unity of the Church, centrality of the gospel, a clear vision and focus, effective volunteer base, national exposure and local impact.



Over the last 3 years a concerted effort to pray together has developed particularly for salvation across our community. Citywide Prayer Evenings have been borne out of our need for God to move mightily beyond our abilities and resources.

Our focus in 2017 has been to develop our capacity to disciple and support new believers as most churches have had to re-establish courses such as Alpha and Long Story Short due to growing interest in the community. We are seeing fruit from our prayers and hopefully this is just the beginning.

Unity is a journey of maturity and humility which we are still very much at fledgling stage. May God fulfil His purpose through his Body and may we embrace all that He has for us. In it's first year EF attracted 5000+ participants across the weekend's events. In 2017 we had over 8000.

Teri Walker
Easterfest Coordinator and Founder

Psalm 102 says "and so the Lord's fame will be celebrated... when multitudes gather together..."

ONEVOICE

City-Wide Prayer and Worship Gathering

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Tauranga



Unity and Prayer

For many years praying pastors have met on Thursday mornings with these scriptures in mind, **John 17:20-23** “Father make us one.....” and Isaiah 62:1-10 “.....for ‘Tauranga’s’ sake, we will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn.....”

So when Stephen Hanson shared the vision of ONEVOICE, there was immediate agreement and support. <https://www.facebook.com/kairoscompany222/> ... **James Muir**

“This initiative saw over four thousand believers from at least 22 churches come together from a number of denominations across our city. This included 5 well attended, Sunday night gatherings. There was a special theme for each night. The feedback through the course of the month, and since, was that a greater sense of unity was cultivated in our times together, and the desire expressed by many to continue to meet in 2018. One pastor said ‘we are growing up in love together’.

One Sunday night we had 11 invited guests representing the people of Tauranga in central government, local government, education, the police, and one of our local iwi. Pastors and leaders gathered around these men and women during the meeting and prayed for each of them. It was an incredible opportunity to bless and encourage these people. We received messages of thanks from a number of them the following week. The final Sunday evening saw dozens of spiritual fathers and mothers individually pray and bless many hundreds of people.



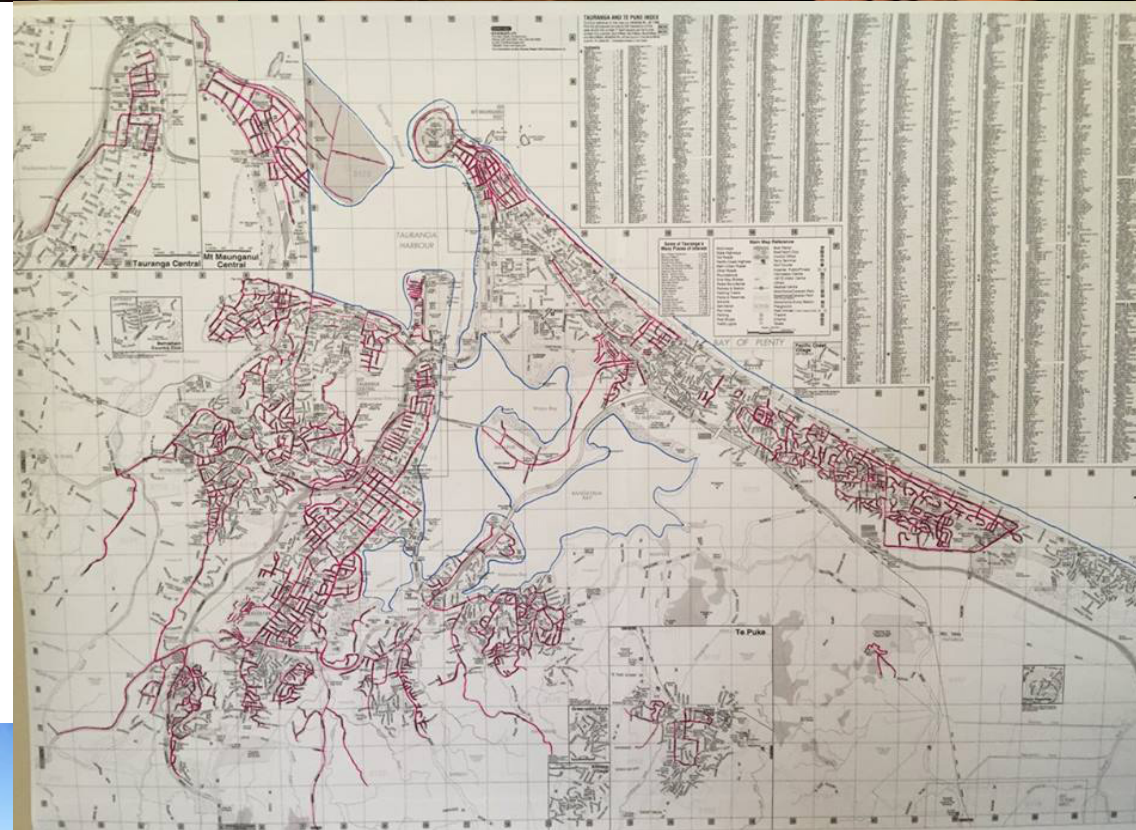
Each week throughout the whole month, we held 3 week day worship and prayer meetings.

These were followed up with fellowship and teaching sessions. Some of the intercessors from different churches have continued to meet weekly to pray for the city. Others have been sharing the gospel and praying for people in the streets.

One of our goals was to prayer walk all the streets in Tauranga. We came close to covering the whole city, whole suburbs that have been covered, with a few areas across the city left.

We're greatly encouraged by what is taking place in our city among the Body of Christ, and consider it a tremendous blessing and privilege to serve our city in this way."

Stephen and Rechelle Hanson





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Te Awamutu

Te Awamutu is a rural service town of about 10,000 people. Its services a rural community of another 3-4,000. It was over 14 years ago that a cross denominational group started praying for the town and the nations. Meeting early in the morning for at least five days a week.

The group size is never large but sometimes up to 15 to 20 people and seldom less than four or five. Currently there is a vibrancy and expectancy as we worship, praise and pray from 6.30 to 7.30am Monday to Friday. As an extension of the group there are four or five that go out into the community, nearly every day. A retired [re-fired] pastor has led this small but enthusiastic team around pretty much every door in our town, over 7 times in the last 15 years or so!

Another initiative that started six years ago is the Day of Blessing for Te Awamutu and District. Most of the Christian churches are involved.

We call representatives from the seven spheres of influence to gather for lunch [Education, media, arts, local government, business, families and of course, church].





We also invite volunteer groups, St Johns Ambulance, Fire Brigade, Police, Medical people etc. We provide subway lunch from 12 to 12.30.

This last year at 12.30 we had a 10 minute keynote speaker. David Graham from the life changing boxing academy in Naenae. Then at 12.40 seven ministers and pastors brought a brief blessing for each of the seven areas.

The day actually starts at 6.30am when a group of 10 gather at the Fonterra site. With permission, we bring a blessing for safe travel for the drivers and anoint the 60 or 70 strong tanker fleet.

This last year we also went to one of the larger agricultural contractors work site and prayed and declared blessing for their workers and work in our community. This year David Graham went into two schools in town and he spoke for over an hour at each, much to the delight of the students.

You can find out more at: www.dayofblessing.co.nz

Bob Sinclair





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Te Puke

From September 2013, one Te Puke church has been 'Open For Prayer' every night. People from all the churches (and no church) have come. Every night has been different and Holy Spirit led..

In February 2015 a "Kingdom Builders Working Party" was established. Again it was a group from across the churches and the goal was to find ways of bringing the Kingdom of God into the seven mountains of influence.

In October of 2016 the Search Party Charitable Trust opened The Daily Cafe, which chose to pour their profits back into the community and provide a meeting place for organizations that serve our community. They have initiated a Transport Collaboration Team, Creating Food nights, and a Vision to Reality Forum bringing together Te Puke's service organizations around common goals.

In June 2016 the Minister's of Te Puke backed the establishment of a new charitable trust called EmpowermentNZ This trust would collaborate to see our community thrive by addressing needs, such as homelessness.

Ten days later Empowerment NZ, not yet registered picked up the Community Care run Foodbank which was closing!! We have five trustees from four different churches, with a variety of skills and a shared passion to be Jesus' hands feet and voice to those in need,





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Every church in town has contributed money, manpower and food. Other businesses and organizations have joined in. There is a foodbank, a drop In centre, social workers, counsellors, ante natal classes, woman's support groups, a 'Family Violence - It's Not OK' group, a 'Grandparents Raising Grandkids' support group, weekly community dinners and monthly 'Sunday At One' fellowship lunches; all operating out of our Empowerment Hub.

There is an awesome bunch of volunteers who know how to love and support everyone who comes in. We now have four employees. People have been healed, some have given their lives to Jesus. Some of the visitors have become valued volunteers. All the furniture and appliances have been donated. What has happened in this short period of time has been above and beyond anything anybody expected. It has been simply miraculous.

The next project is the creation of an Empowerment Village of up to twenty houses in one location, with wrap around services. The aim is to empower families during their stay in the village.

Judy Abrahams





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CityCity
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Wellington > East

Photo courtesy © Positively Wellington Tourism >

Over the last year, our Church network has doubled as we've incorporated pastors from churches further afield in the Eastern Suburbs beyond Miramar – from Lyall Bay, Kilbirnie & Hataitai.

There are now 14 pastors from 10 churches in our network, and we meet monthly for fellowship/friendship/support, discussion on collaborative mission ventures and issues affecting our community and churches, and prayer & worship together.

The Eastern Suburbs is a dynamic part of Wellington, influenced by the movie industry and proximity to the airport, along with great cafes & restaurants, the Roxy movie theatre and great beaches & parks. There are lots of people, but not many attend local churches. So we connect to encourage each other and do some things together that none of us alone is big enough to pull off ourselves.

One of our joint ventures is to share our Sunday services over January. Our people appreciate worshipping out of different traditions [at least once a year!], and it's encouraging to have a full church at a time of the year when we'd separately be very thin on the ground. Sharing services in January also helps each pastor to get a holiday with most of us still having school-aged kids.



A practical hospitality has developed as well. One church, after a series of sermons on generosity, was moved to give another church a totally unexpected and very generous donation. Another gave up one of their worship buildings to accommodate one of our churches who had to move out for earthquake strengthening reasons.

Together, we've managed to put on a Community Christmas Carol event for a number of years, and we join together with our Catholic folk in processing the cross during their Easter vigil. When we were individually approached by a local dementia unit to offer worship services, it seemed natural to form a joint church ministry group.

A Healing Room's ministry has also begun as a cooperative effort.

One church has recently conducted a Community Needs Assessment and through sharing the results with the group, we have been able to work together to ensure the body of Christ is caring for the people in our community. Recently, two new churches to our region were warmly



welcomed and the sharing of resources has enabled great cooperation and mutual blessing.

The key word for our experience of unity is encouragement. And so we thank God for each other.

Paul Prestidge. Rev. Mirimar Uniting Church
Phil Coates. Pastor. Gateway Baptist Church



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Whakatane

Whakatane is an amazing place with an urban population of approximately 17000. We have a strong ministers group, Kiatahi, churches working together, which whilst not including every church has a strong representation of the local leaders. We meet monthly for worship, prayer and catch-up and work together and support each other on a number of projects to bless our community.

The most significant combined event is the annual light party where up to 5000 attend!!!

While we are all focused on fulfilling our God given calls as leaders and churches, it is cool to celebrate others doing the same and to come together when appropriate.

I believe our community is reaping the benefit of this kingdom heart and know that the best is yet to come, by his grace and for his glory!!! We complete each other!!

The Light Party is a fun, kiwi alternative to Halloween and has run for 13 years in Whakatane. Founded in New Zealand in the year 2000 by Wendy Reid, this nationwide event aims to provide a family oriented event which celebrates good things, [emphasizing no witches, ghosts or other scary things commonly associated with Halloween] and promotes fun and family values in a safe environment. The theme for Light Party 2017 was "Super-Heroes"

The event's principle organizer is "Kia Tahī" Whakatane Churches Working Together, and is well supported by local businesses, NGO, media and service groups. The Light Party takes place each year on 31st October from 5.30 to 7.30pm at the Whakatane War Memorial Hall and adjoining Rex Morpeth Park. The venue reflects the enormous success of the event and larger than ever crowds expected.

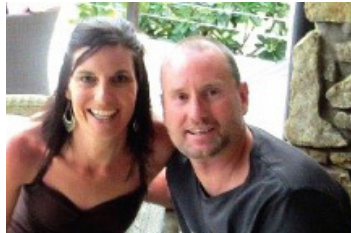




Upon entry to the Light Party, everything is free! Food and drink, and all of the games, competitions, rides and activities: BBQ sausages, drinks, candy floss, popcorn and noodles, face painting, horse rides, competitions, amusement devices, performances by local artists, dance crews, bouncy castles, adventure games, the Ronald McDonald show and much, much more.

The Light Party is promoted amongst Christians as a gift to the Whakatane community from the churches of Whakatane. See <https://youtu.be/4SsCTGAj9eU>

Grant Bateson. Pastor Liberty Life Whakatane



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Whanganui



“Every town/city leader I speak to says more or less the same thing: God is mightily at work in _____!”

Well, it seems God is mightily at work throughout our nation, which is exciting and encouraging, but also challenging. Yes, we believe He is working powerfully in Whanganui but we’re also persuaded that we the churches are not and cannot be spectators.

The Lord is beckoning us to come alongside Him in the work He is doing and I’m absolutely convinced He intends us to do so together, transcending our denominational boundaries.

2017 felt like a year of consolidated growth, with our monthly gatherings slowly increasing and our weekly leaders’ prayer meeting gaining significant traction.

Late in the year we commissioned our new City Prayer Room – the manager’s office of the old National Bank, now a restaurant. This room has been graciously made available by the building’s owner and tenant – both of whom are believers.





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In November, the City Council voted against a proposal to extend Easter Sunday trading hours. As combined churches, we are now planning a community recreational event for Easter Sunday afternoon – a commitment we made as part of our submission to the Council on the proposed policy change.

At the end of January a number of our church leaders will join with City Council in chambers to bless and pray for them and our city. Additionally, we're working on a united Good Friday initiative, along with three 'United for Worship' services throughout the year. God is mightily at work in Whanganui, and across our nation. We're excited to labour alongside the King as His reign and rule are extended day by day in our midst!"

Nigel Irwin. Pastor Whanganui Central Baptist.





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Whangarei

Sub-tropical Whangarei is a small, attractive city with art galleries, museums, restaurants and cafes, bars, library and events. It is Northland's only city and largest commercial centre, a mere two hours drive from Auckland.

According to Stats New Zealand, Whangarei increased in population from 87,700 to 89,700 during the 12-month period, with 42 percent [800] aged 65 and over. This growth is attributed to people selling up in Auckland and buying in Whangarei, where house prices are approx. half the cost.

As with most cities, many of the mainline denominations have declined in number while the more Pentecostal Churches have grown. The WRMA, [Whangarei Regional Ministers Association] meets on the third Wednesday of each month at different Church venues. Ministers meet from a wide variety of Churches at lunch time, informally gathering over a cuppa. The hosting Minister then shares a life story, which forms the basis for discussion. The business is kept to an absolute minimum! The meeting usually culminates with groups of three praying for each other.

The key to the Association is relationship! There is a great feeling of camaraderie between Ministers of a wide variety of Churches.





Last year a number of Churches under the banner of the WRMA co-ordinated together to run Alpha courses.

This year Wayne Johns takes over as President of the Association, and I will support him as Vice President.

Starting in March different Churches are going to host an evening combined Prayer time once a month, to pray for the city. The hosting Church will determine the style and flavour of the event. The first was held at Whangarei central Baptist Church and was well supported from people across the denominational spectrum. This Easter, Churches under the leadership of Russel [Central Baptist] provided a bouncy Castle, sausage sizzle, bubble blowing and a few other games for the general public, in the town basin.

Hope booklets were given away and also “the super cool story of Jesus” was handed to the children – which was really well received. A friendly fun atmosphere! Next year we are looking at adding a prayer tent and getting a few more Churches involved.

Blessings, Greg Bedwell

Greg is the past President of the WRMA and Pastor of Kamo Baptist Church.





YOUR PLACE MATTERS TO GOD

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*IN A CHANGING WORLD,
**CITIES ARE CONNECTING
IN NEW WAYS.***



**WHAT IS GOD UP TO
IN ALL OUR CITIES?**

‘If you have a ‘city-story’
or require more
information ...’

Please contact: Colin Shaw

Email: [colinshaw90@gmail](mailto:colinshaw90@gmail.com)

City  **City**
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Pastor Guthrie & His Excellency Dr. Itzhak Gerberg Israeli Ambassador to NZ

New Zealand and Israeli Flags on top of the Kaimai Range - overlooking Matamata - where an Intecessors group gather weekly to pray for both nations.

Another encouraging 'CitybyCity' example.

In mid November 2017 Gisborne city had the privilege of hosting the Israeli Ambassador to New Zealand, His Excellency Dr. Itzhak Gerberg.

Ray Sheldrake Admin: www.kcn.co.nz

The visit was initiated by Pastor Guthrie of the Gisborne AOG Church and from this opportunity the Church were able to invite the Gisborne Chamber of Commerce, Gisborne District Council and Business leaders in the industry of Aquifer technology to come together.

This was a very practical demonstration of Church and City leaders working together for the good of Gisborne District.

Israeli technology being at the forefront worldwide when it comes to water and the care of such a vital resource for mankind.

The Poverty Bay Flats of Gisborne District are currently receiving an Aquifer system to help replenish and revitalize the underground water resource to protect the future use of this underground Aquifer that sits some 80 metres below.

During his time in the city the Ambassador took time to share on the Sunday evening at a special service where he related the back-story of Israel and their ongoing struggles and blessings.

GDC Mayor Meng Foon was present to also share in the Ambassador's welcome and visit, the Ambassador was also gifted a traditional Maori Cloak to his obvious delight which we have been told is now one of his treasured items.



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Colin & Grace Shaw

Colin and Grace currently live in Whanganui NZ. Born and raised in the Auckland region they met and married in Sydney Australia. They have four children and ten grandchildren.

Together for around forty years they have served the Lord as pastors/missionaries in the Philippines Australia and Canada.

In 1995 Colin reconnected with New Zealand where, over a number of years, he facilitated pastors prayer summits, and then together they led regional gatherings and encouraged vision for unity and corporate prayer.

More recently they relocated to N.Z and together give leadership to CitybyCity which seeks to encourage unity, prayer and transformation in cities and towns in N.Z.

Colin and Grace would like to thank Ray Sheldrake for his vital part in putting this EBook together. It was his brainchild to begin with!

Colin has authored the book 'A House for His Glory' which can be downloaded from his blog site: citybycity.co.nz and **Grace has created a DVD series on prayer;** and an audio series on **Spiritual Warfare** which can be accessed by emailing: yesgraceis@gmail.com



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Once again it has been our privilege to design and create this E-BOOK for
'CitybyCity' in support of the ministry of Colin & Grace Shaw
as they endeavour to encourage prayer and unity for
Aotearoa - New Zealand.

Centred on the
Gospel of Jesus Christ.



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