

# HOPE for all

**THE HIDDEN POWER**

See our nation's history through different  
eyes, and take a fresh look at the future.



A diverse group of churches throughout New Zealand have come together to gift these booklets to every home, to highlight some of the remarkable untold stories of our nation's early bicultural history and share the message that is still changing hearts and lives two centuries later.

Our first booklet told how Ngapuhi chief, Ruatara first invited the Reverend Samuel Marsden to Aotearoa 200 years ago. It was a very different beginning to what many believe, and one that offered great hope to many people.

This booklet tells some of the stories that follow, showing the great impact the Bible had among the Māori people and why it continues to do the same today in the lives of many New Zealanders.

This is about 'the hidden power'.

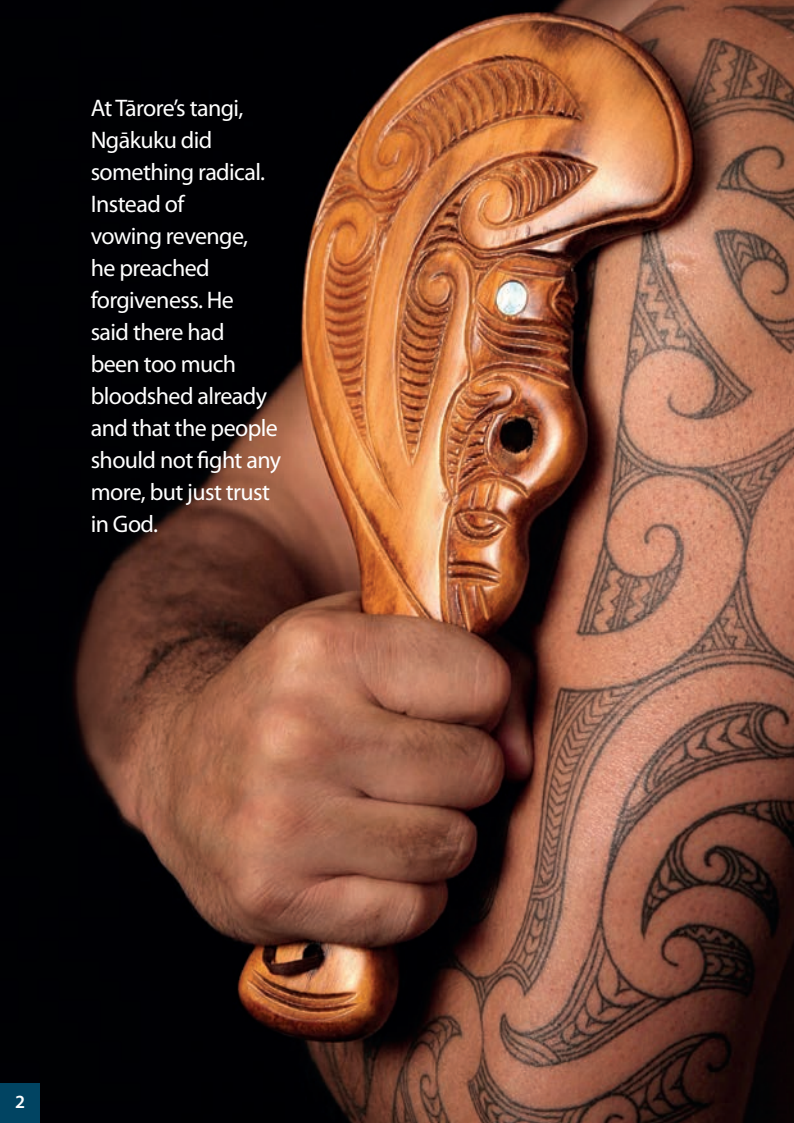


## STORIES OF HOPE FROM THEN AND NOW



# Hope for reconciliation – Tārore's story

Tārore was the daughter of Ngati Haua chief, Ngākuku. She had learned to read Māori at the missionary school in Matamata and would often read her father's copy of the Gospel of Luke, which had recently been published in Māori. Tragically, Tārore was killed during a raid led by an enemy tribe on October 19th, 1836. She was only twelve years old.



At Tārore's tangi, Ngākuku did something radical. Instead of vowing revenge, he preached forgiveness. He said there had been too much bloodshed already and that the people should not fight any more, but just trust in God.

## It's hard to imagine how significant this was

The message of forgiveness wasn't the only life-changing concept introduced by the missionaries. At the recommendation of the great William Wilberforce (who battled the slave trade in England), Thomas and Jane Kendall had been sent to New Zealand as schoolteachers. From 1814, Thomas Kendall worked at putting spoken Māori into written Māori. In 1815, Kendall began the first school in New Zealand, with a small group in his raupō (reed) hut. He taught reading and writing of Māori and English to Pākehā and Māori children, both girls and boys.

Māori now had the ability to record their spoken traditions — and to read the Bible — which led to another surprising turn in the story of Tārore and Ngākuku's book.

When 12-year old Tārore was killed in 1836, the raiders took Ngākuku's Gospel of Luke. Some time later back in Rotorua, the leader of the raiding party became a Christian believer. He then did something totally foreign to his cultural upbringing: he courageously went and made peace with Ngākuku.

This Christian message led enemies to forgive.



# COLENSO and the PRINTING PRESS



William Colenso brought the first printing press to New Zealand in 1834. By 1837, he had printed 5000 copies of the first Māori New Testament (the second part of the Bible), which William Williams had painstakingly translated. Demand for these was high, and the mana of the missionaries increased with it.

At about this time, a slave of Ngapuhi called Matahau (known as Ripahau to his captors) was set free. He had been taught to read by the missionaries in Northland. After spending some time at Rotorua he returned to his own people at Otaki, where he read to them from some portions of the Bible that they had. His audience included Tamihana and Te Whiwhi, the son and nephew of the Ngāti Toa chief, Te Rauparaha, a famous and much-feared warrior.

Matahau sent a message to Rotorua to request more Bibles. One of the Bibles that came back was Ngākuku's 'Gospel of St Luke' — beginning yet another chapter to its remarkable journey.

Tamihana and Te Whiwhi became convinced of the message of God's love and took the Christian message to the South Island — to the very people Te Rauparaha had previously conquered and dominated. It is believed by some that they may have taken Ngākuku's book with them.

In such ways, by Māori, the message of God's love through Jesus spread throughout New Zealand bringing peace.



## This wasn't just any old book...

The Bible is the world's most famous, printed, translated and influential book. It took over fifteen hundred years to be written by more than forty authors from different backgrounds. In all its variety, it tells the unified story of God's plan to save human beings and their planet from the pain,



suffering and separation bad choices have created — a story believed by over a quarter of the world's population.

But the Bible's greatest claim to fame may be the way it changes lives. The Bible teaches that God supervised the contributors in what they wrote. Its stories and themes bring special inspiration, encouragement, comfort, challenge and hope.

When Māori throughout the length of New Zealand heard and read the message, their response was no different to that of Europeans and those on other continents throughout the centuries: The message becomes widely accepted and ways of violence were changed to ways of forgiveness and peace.





## STORIES OF HOPE FROM THEN AND NOW



# Hope for life — Timothy's story

Timothy had always led a very active life. He'd grown up on a dairy farm, worked as a mechanic, and enjoying running, trampolining, swimming, skiing and biking in his spare time. So when a serious mountain biking accident in 2010 left him unable to move his body, he was faced with the scary prospect of never again being able to do the things he loved.

Of course, everyone prayed that he would recover — but he didn't recover.

In an instant simple things like showering, eating and exercising became a challenge, not just for Timothy, but for those closest to him. Friends and carers now perform these tasks for him.

What stands out most in Timothy's story is that he still has an incredible smile on his face. He believes that God loves him no matter what, that each of us has a purpose, and that no matter what happens, we can all still do good.





While he admits it's been a bit of a struggle adapting to life in a wheelchair, he sees many reasons to get up in the morning. Amongst them, he is still able to help others as a pastor — something he'd been doing for 17 years before his accident — encouraging generously, listening with a caring ear, and pointing people toward the great hope that faith can bring.

He relates to the Bible story of Job, who struggled a great deal in his life. Job discovered that God doesn't take away the struggles, but gives the strength to grow through them and look beyond them. To Timothy, his faith in Jesus gives him hope and a future beyond his brokenness, and it changes the way he views every day!

*Hear Timothy tell his story at [HopeProject.co.nz](http://HopeProject.co.nz)*

## Overcoming hurt — Mike & Penni's story



There is no nice way to say it — Mike used to beat Penni.

It didn't start that way — when they first met, Penni thought she'd found someone who'd really love her and look after her — but looking back, they can see how it happened. They both had violence in their backgrounds, got married in their late teens and had three children. When Mike began to beat Penni, he promised he'd change, but he didn't. The cycle Penni

had been so desperate to escape was being repeated in her own home.

Then one day something did change. Mike decided to become a follower of Jesus. He told Penni how God was willing to forgive his sins — and Penni couldn't believe it. She resented what he'd done to her and their children, and felt he needed to be punished, not forgiven!

Penni wanted to make Mike pay for his actions and became increasingly violent towards him. She brought parties home and ridiculed Mike in front of his family, but he still didn't leave. While she got even angrier, he was getting better.

A year later, something snapped in Penni. She got as far as raising a gun to Mike's head before she realised she was nearly out of control. She left for her mother's place, and it was there that she saw for the first time that he really had changed. He'd been faithful to her. He hadn't smoked things he shouldn't. He'd provided money for the children and hadn't hit her, even when she was punching and



kicking him herself. As unfair as she felt it was, she realised that God loved Mike enough to forgive him.

Penni called him on the phone and said, 'I want to have what you have. I want your God.'

She admits it wasn't easy at first — there were hurts that needed to be dealt with, and she didn't understand it all. But she asked God to give her a new love for Mike — and he did.

"I don't think we'd be together if God wasn't part of our lives," admits Penni. "Since Mike's been a Christian I know he loves me!"

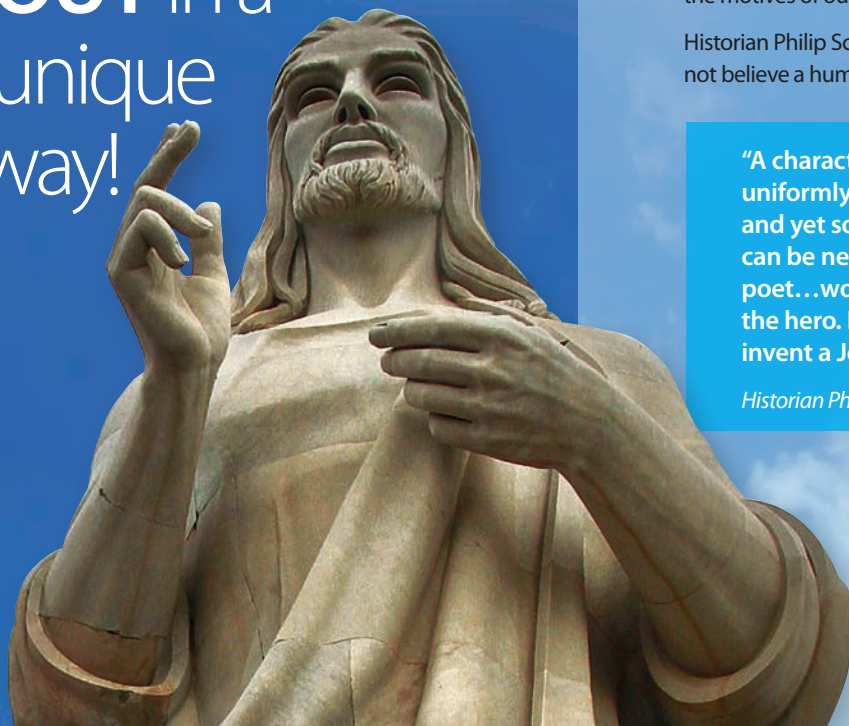
Thirty years later, Penni says they are the best of friends and share everything together, including working to help families in the same situations they've been in. And they're still seeing their own family benefit from the cycle of violence being broken, as they watch their grandchildren growing.

*Hear Mike and Penni tell their story at [HopeProject.co.nz](http://HopeProject.co.nz)*



# What makes the Bible so relevant today?

1 It **STANDS OUT** in a unique way!



The teachings Jesus gives on good living are without parallel. Who else ever taught that we should love our enemies, and that the greatest on earth was the one who was the servant of all? Jesus turns global human values on their head, and exposes the motives of our hearts.

Historian Philip Schaff considered Jesus so amazing that he did not believe a human could have made such a story up.

**“A character so original, so complete, so uniformly consistent, so perfect, so human and yet so high above all human greatness, can be neither a fraud nor a fiction. The poet...would in this case be greater than the hero. It would take more than a Jesus to invent a Jesus”.<sup>[1]</sup>**

*Historian Philip Schaff (1819-1893)*

Because Christianity has become a part of our culture we sometimes lose sight of its uniqueness, and the way it has shaped us.

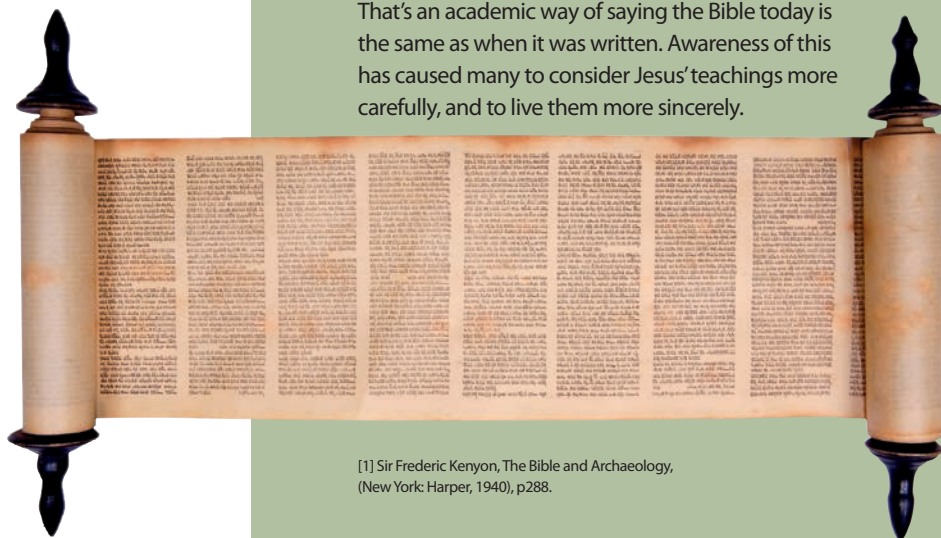
[1] Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church* (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1910), p109 as in Josh McDowell, *New Evidence That Demands a Verdict* (Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1999), p160.

The documents are **KNOWN** to be authentic

Did you know that both the Old and New Testaments (of the Bible) are among the most reliable ancient documents on our planet? This book is more accurately preserved than Shakespeare's plays — which are only 300 years old!

Sir Fredric Kenyon was the former Director of the British Museum and one of the leading experts in the field of ancient writings. He said, "The interval then between the dates of the original composition [when the books were written] and the earliest existing evidence [the ancient copies we still have today] becomes so small as to be in fact negligible, and the last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed. Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established."<sup>[1]</sup>

That's an academic way of saying the Bible today is the same as when it was written. Awareness of this has caused many to consider Jesus' teachings more carefully, and to live them more sincerely.



[1] Sir Frederic Kenyon, *The Bible and Archaeology*, (New York: Harper, 1940), p288.



3

As a  
book of  
history  
it is  
**REAL**  
to life



*Archaeologist, Nelson Glueck.*

Archaeologists dig up remains, coins, pottery and the like to understand history.

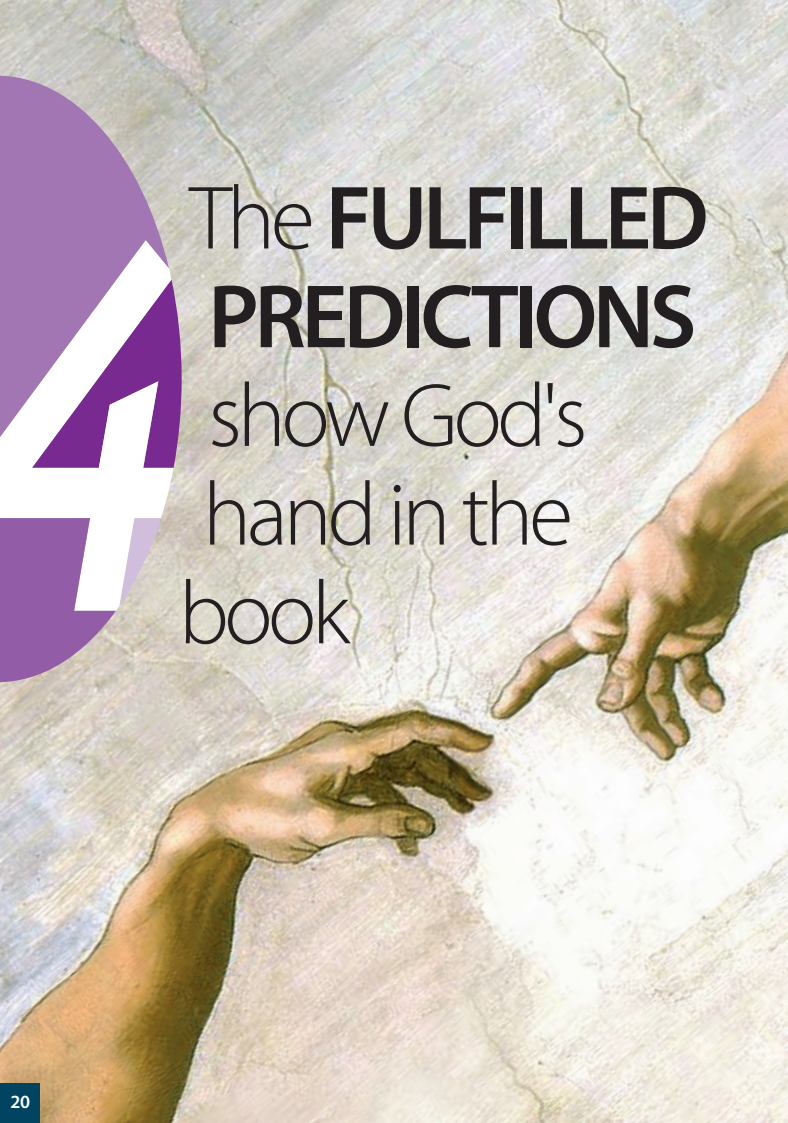
Many people in the 20th century tried to disprove the Bible's historical claims through archaeology, but the evidence ended up supporting the Bible's accounts of history.

Sceptic Nelson Glueck stated, "As a matter of fact... it may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted [disagreed with] a biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible."<sup>[1]</sup>

What archaeology has shown is that this is a book of history — not mythology. This is another reason why many find its messages to be so relevant to life.

[1] Jeffrey Shelter, "Is the Bible True?" US News and World Report, Oct. 25, 1999, p52.





# 4 The **FULFILLED** **PREDICTIONS** show God's hand in the book

Even a cautious evaluation has the Bible containing 737 verifiable predicted matters.<sup>[1]</sup> The Old Testament predicts over 60 specific things that a special God-sent man would do, all of which Jesus fulfilled.

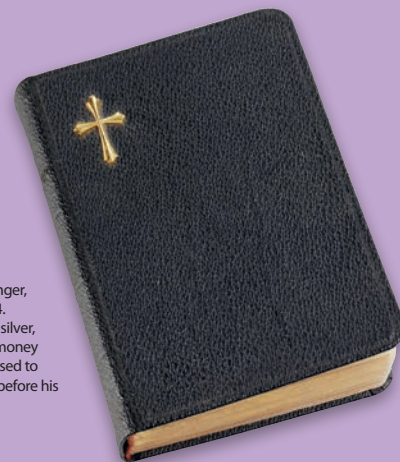
Professor Peter Stoner did some calculations on this in his book, *Science Speaks*<sup>[2]</sup>. Having selected just eight specific prophecies<sup>[3]</sup>, the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight of them was 1 in  $10^{17}$ , or 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000. In order to comprehend this, imagine we covered the entire land area of New Zealand more than 1m deep in \$2 coins — and put an invisible mark on just one coin for you to pick up and say it's the right one; What chance would you have of getting it right?

And if that seems unlikely, the chances of just 48 specific predictions being fulfilled was one in  $10^{157}$  (a 1 followed by 157 zeros). For a comparison — there are only about  $10^{80}$  atoms in the known universe!

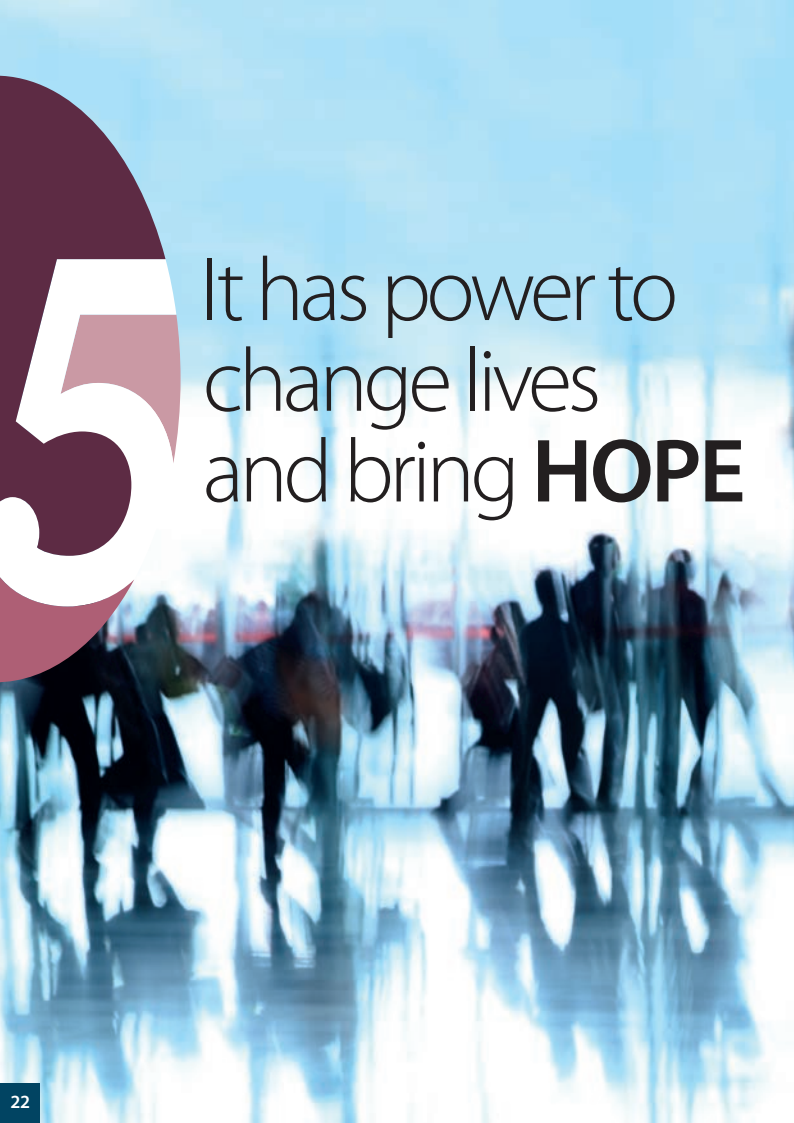
[1] J. Barton Payne, *Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy* (Baker House Books, 1991).

[2] Peter Stoner, *Science Speaks*, as quoted by Josh McDowell, *New Evidence That Demands A Verdict*, (Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1999), p193.

[3] These were 1. Jesus birth in Bethlehem, 2. Preceded by a messenger, 3. Entering Jerusalem on a donkey, 4. Betrayed by a friend for 30 pieces of silver, 5. Hands and feet pierced, 6. Judas' money thrown into the temple and being used to buy the potter's field, 7. Jesus silent before his accusers. 8. Crucified with thieves.







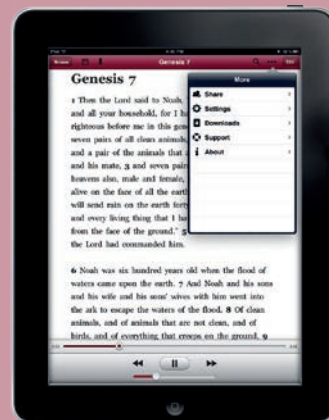
# 5 It has power to change lives and bring **HOPE**

The greatest evidence that God is behind the book continues to be the way that faith in its message works powerfully in the everyday lives of ordinary people, as it has done throughout history.

Broadcaster, D. James Kennedy summed it up well, saying, “...from hospitals which essentially began in the Middle Ages, to Universities...” those influenced by Jesus’ teachings have “...led the way in bringing literacy and education to the masses, the separation of political powers, representative forms of government, and the abolition of slavery both in antiquity and in modern times... Christians founded modern science, led the way in ‘kindness’ and charity, brought a unique and high regard for human life, and brought about the ‘setting to writing’ of many of the world’s languages... It produced the greater development of art and music — also inspiring much of it, and has transformed countless lives from being ‘liabilities’ to ‘assets’ in their societies... ..to name just a few.”<sup>[1]</sup>

Time and again, when a faith decision is made based on what God has said, people speak of having ‘met’ with God — and that they were changed on the inside as a result.

[1] D. James Kennedy, What if Jesus had never been born? (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1994), p3-4.



## To summarise:

As the pages of God's book were turned in Aotearoa, God worked on human hearts: chiefs were turned from revenge to forgiveness, and from violent practices to ways of peace. Māori spread the message throughout the nation — and the results were the same then as they are today: Hearts were changed, and actions followed as the hidden power behind the Bible was uncovered.

### A BOOK WITH HOPE FOR SOCIETY

The Bible has been found to be a book with power because through it many people find a direct connection with God — and it changes how they view life. Instead of having a policeman on every street corner telling them what to do, the policeman comes into their hearts through faith, and *gives* them the desire to do good. They make different decisions because the messages of the Bible have become personal convictions — and because God helps them to change for the better also. Many times in history it can be seen that societies were positively transformed this way.

### A BOOK WITH HOPE FOR EACH OF US

The Bible is a very realistic book. It shows humanity in all its glory — and evil. It makes it very clear that God's ways are not our ways (see Matthew 7:13-14 in the Bible). We are all naturally a little selfish, or sinful, while God is perfect (see Romans 3:23). Yet, because Jesus took the eternal consequences for human wrong-doing when he died on the cross, God now offers free forgiveness to all who turn to him and his ways (Romans 6:23). This brings about a restoration of purpose on earth and long-range hope in heaven beyond. God gives us the choice — and, as the stories in this booklet illustrate, the results are real.

His touch in our hearts can be a powerful thing. It is capable of turning us:

- from a lifestyle of revenge to one of forgiveness and love
- from a lifestyle of personal ambition or pleasure-seeking to one of love and service to others
- from a lifestyle of pursuing wealth to one of contentment and generosity

If we belong to God, who loves us — we are secure! We have everything to gain, nothing to hide, and nothing to fear.

***“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”***

***Romans 6:23***





**It is a most hope-filled idea:**

We are here for a reason.

**We were created — and the Creator can be known.**

**He has revealed himself through history and through Jesus, as recorded in the Bible so we could all discover what he is really like.**

He is the God of love, who values us, who helps us and is with us in times of trouble.

**He is the God who brings us hope!**

This is what Christians believe, and we invite you to consider it.

What you conclude is up to you.



## A PRAYER

“ Dear God, thank you for the Bible, and the many in our nation — Māori and otherwise, male and female — who have sought to live according to its teachings about faith and doing good. Thank you for this heritage that calls us to the highest and most selfless of paths, to care for the poor, to protect the vulnerable and to stand against injustice. Thank you for this teaching that encourages humility, forgiveness, faith, hope and love — calling us to give freely to others just as you have given your love so freely to us through Jesus.

### ***An optional personal prayer of faith:***

I recognise openly that I'm not perfect. I don't hide it — instead I confess it. I am sometimes selfish, and greedy, and prideful. I ask for your forgiveness and help to change. I believe that my forgiveness and change of heart is what Jesus died for. I commit to follow your ways as taught in the Bible, with your help. Thank you that I can be your friend. Help me to become the kind of person you want me to be.

Because of what Jesus did I pray and believe you hear me. Amen.

”

## What next:

To hear stories of hope, watch reports of the amazing things people have done and how lives have been turned around, and learn more about our nation's early Christian history, go to:

**HopeProject.co.nz**



To learn about the Christian faith and some of the basic teachings of Jesus, or find a church or discussion group near you where you can ask questions about the Christian faith, go to:

**10DayChallenge.co.nz**

## Living the Christian life

1. **Read the Bible...** to learn God's ways and hear his personal messages to you.
2. **Talk to God (pray)...** because the Christian life is about an authentic relationship with the invisible God. He is there, and he hears.
3. **Go to church...** to learn about God and find friends who can sincerely encourage and support you. Find a church near you at: [10DayChallenge.co.nz](http://10DayChallenge.co.nz)
4. **Love and serve others...** in both words and actions, because this is what truly following Jesus looks like!



## The untold stories of early Missionaries

Some meaningful examples of Christian living can be found in New Zealand's early missionaries. Some of them held views that were well ahead of their time; and went to great lengths to uphold them. It's a part of our heritage we can — and should — be proud of.

### Safeguarding Māori culture

To early missionaries, features of Māori custom such as cannibalism, warfare and utu, were not regarded as a part of Māori culture — rather as symptoms of our fallen human nature. Missionaries viewed the drunkenness and whoring of Europeans at Russell in the same way. Contrary to some modern criticism, mission policy was not that of obliterating Māori culture, but of moderating its more violent or cruel excesses with Biblical Christianity. Sadly, this was not the view held by the colonial forces.

### Protecting the rights of Māori

In the 1830s, when initiatives for the colonisation of New Zealand began in earnest, the most vocal resistance came from the CMS (Church Missionary Society) Missionaries.



In 1837 Mr Dandeson Coates of CMS wrote, “Only let New Zealand be spared from colonisation...” proposing a scenario that might enable, “...the complete preservation of the Aboriginal [Māori] race, and of their national independence and sovereignty.”<sup>[1]</sup>

## Henry Williams and the flying bullets

New Zealand's early missionaries included some extremely courageous men, women and children. Sharing and modelling the Christian teachings, such as those on peace, loving your neighbour and forgiving your enemy, required immense bravery at times.

Some ventured into the midst of battles, with bullets flying around them, and called for peace. Henry Williams was known to have sailed into a war fleet of waka on its way to battle, in an effort to stop them.



## Words from the Tikanga Māori (Te Hāhi Mihinare Māori / Māori Anglican Church)

Whakarongo ki ēnei kupu tapu, ēnei kupu mana, ēnei kupu ora! Kia hari tonu i roto i te Arika: ko tāku kupu anō tēnei, kia hari. Kia mōhioia tō koutou ngākau ngāwari e ngā tāngata katoa. Kua tata te Arika. Kua e mānukanuka ki tētahi mea; engari i ngā mea katoa whakaaturia ki te Atua ngā mea e matea ai e koutou, i runga i te karakia, i te inoi, me te whakawhetai hoki. Ā mā te marie o te Atua, e kore nei e taea te whakaaro, e tiaki ō koutou ngākau, ō koutou hinengaro, i roto i a Karaiti Īhu.

*Translation: Hear these sacred, life giving, life enhancing words: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7)*

[1] “The British Missionary Effort in New Zealand: A beachhead for Colonialism? By Duncan Roper. Ed. Bruce Patrick, New Vision New Zealand (Vol IV), (MissionKoru, 2011), p27.

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Supported by a diverse group of Christian Churches throughout New Zealand, who have come together to commemorate the 200-year anniversary of the arrival of Christianity in New Zealand and the beginning of a 'hope-filled' bicultural partnership with Māori. In this spirit, let's make New Zealand a more hope-filled place.