

OUTREACH TODAY

I HAVE GIVEN THEM THE GLORY THAT YOU GAVE ME,
THAT THEY MAY BE ONE AS WE ARE ONE...SO THAT
THEY MAY BE BROUGHT TO COMPLETE UNITY. THEN THE
WORLD WILL KNOW THAT YOU SENT ME....

John 17:22-23

JESUS' REQUEST FOR
A UNITED CHURCH

THE NEED FOR CLEARER
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

THE RECONCILING
OF MĀORI
AND
PĀKEHĀ
CHURCHES

CONVERSATIONAL
SKILLS FOR
INFLUENCE



CHURCHES
UNITED

Celebrating
EASTER &
CHRISTMAS
NATIONALLY

Re-thinking unity

Across New Zealand, many are experiencing a growing-season in Church unity. For years, the purpose of local pastors' groups has been thought to be for the care and encouragement of pastors alone. This is now changing!

John 17 — What is the key lesson from this 'prayer for unity' really?

John 17 has commonly been summarised as Jesus' prayer for unity. But why was our unity so important to Jesus? Consider how in verse 15 Jesus affirms that his

prayer is not that believers be taken out of the world. We are here for a reason! In verse 18 Jesus affirms that we are sent into the world, just as he was sent by the Father. Then in verse 23 Jesus prays for all future Christian believers — but to what end? It is "...that the world might know"! It thus dawns upon the reader that the prayer was not actually just about unity or holiness or protection — but instead because there might be something profound within our unity that is vital to our ability to achieve our mission!

Can churches really work together?

Some consider the functional unity of the Church an idealism (unrealistic). They say, 'Local churches are too independently minded! While pastors should be able to get on, each congregation should just do its own thing.' But is this really the kind of unity Jesus envisaged, and would he pray for something that isn't possible?

For example, what was the purpose of the coming of the Holy Spirit? If we consider the Fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22, the Spirit can help

us to refine our character! Could we not therefore overcome any *wrongful* independence that is in us? Also, why do we limit 'unity things' to coffee and prayers — without including united plans and strategies for engaging with the city and nation? We allow plans in every other area of church and personal and business life. What if we changed our thinking — and what if this change was something God wanted? Functional unity was the assumed goal of the Apostle Paul, who prayed believers would "...stand firm in one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel" (Philippians 1:27). Despite the disunity of the Church at Corinth, the appeals of Paul all took place on the basis of his assumption that they must be united. Their various groups still comprised one single 'body of Christ' within the city with a united identity and function to fulfill!

Consider the way God's Church re-learnt a few things globally over the past 500 years.

- The Protestant Reformation (1500s) restored our understanding of being saved by grace through faith — not by works.
- The Puritan movement brought a renewed understanding of the personal nature of our relationship with God.
- The Pentecostal movement re-enlightened us regarding the potential workings of God's Spirit.
- The Cell Church Movement of the 20th Century (and the Methodists) reminded us of the importance of small groups to our function as the Church.

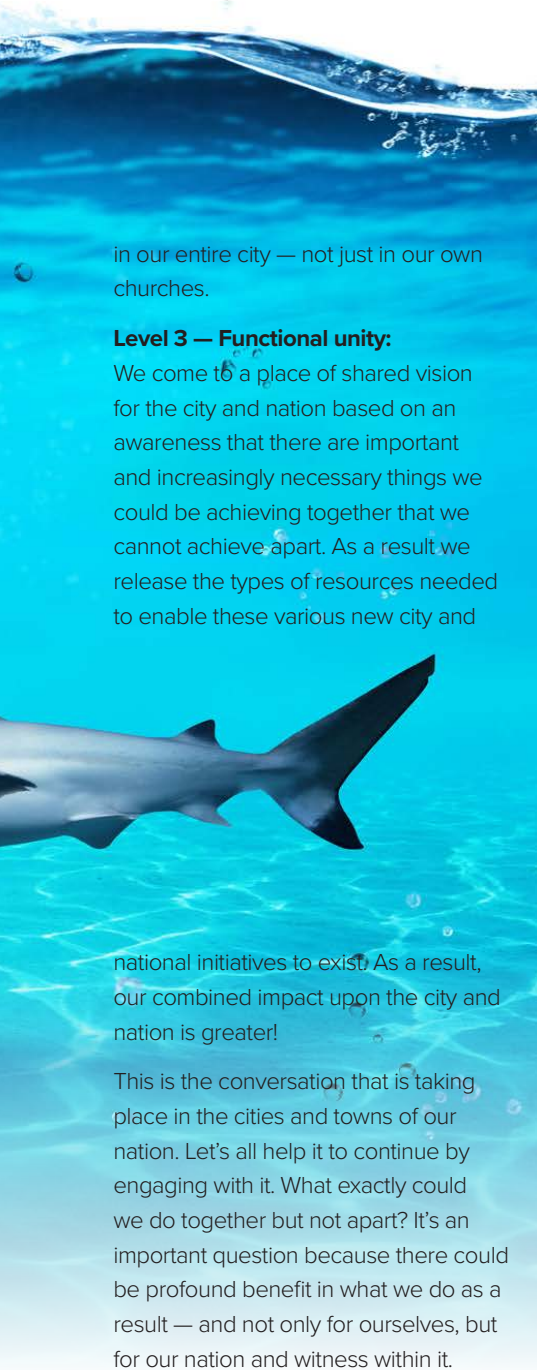
Could it be that we are nearing a point of readiness to relearn a few things about the potential for the gospel and for our nation, that sit within our unity?

Three levels of unity amongst churches in a city

Level 1 — Coffee unity: Our various pastors meet together and we don't even argue.

Level 2 — Prayer unity: We begin to unite because of our desire to see God work

HOPE PROJECT 2019 STATISTICS



in our entire city — not just in our own churches.

Level 3 — Functional unity:

We come to a place of shared vision for the city and nation based on an awareness that there are important and increasingly necessary things we could be achieving together that we cannot achieve apart. As a result we release the types of resources needed to enable these various new city and

national initiatives to exist. As a result, our combined impact upon the city and nation is greater!

This is the conversation that is taking place in the cities and towns of our nation. Let's all help it to continue by engaging with it. What exactly could we do together but not apart? It's an important question because there could be profound benefit in what we do as a result — and not only for ourselves, but for our nation and witness within it.

(For more, see Dave Mann's book titled, *In One Spirit*. AllTogether.co.nz/shop)

WHAT COULD WE DO TOGETHER IN OUR VARIOUS TOWNS, CITIES AND NATION, THAT WE COULD NOT DO APART?



Project budget: \$600,000.00
Project Income: \$458,800.00
By 20 May, 2019
Total Expenses: \$612,895.00

487,283
ONLINE
AUDIENCE

1.8 MILLION TOTAL
SEE TV ADS

TV campaign audience:
54% of 18-54yr olds
an average of
4.6 TIMES

BOOKLETS
1.36 MILLION
HOMES

Spare booklets:
130,000
Spares remaining:
Approx 40,000



784 PASTORS
FROM
680 CHURCHES

People receiving
MONTHLY
PRAYER
updates:

1817



52% PARTNERING CHURCHES
delivered to 'no-circular' homes



HOPE PROJECT
Regional Reps encouraging engagement by churches
13

2019 FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION
74 churches + 386 individuals



2018 FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION
140 churches + 321 individuals



PARTNERING CHURCHES

Intentional outreach-equipping in Feb/Apr 2019: **33%** of partnering churches. Number equipped: **22,660**
(an estimate — not counting efforts by non-partnering churches)

CREATED



NZ 'Christian heritage'
RADIO SPOTS: **45**



RADIO ADS TO ENCOURAGE
OUTREACH AND EQUIPPING: **19**

Church digital
ENGAGEMENT



WEBSITE: AllTogether.co.nz
Data reflects church-audience interest and participation)

INDIVIDUAL
USERS
9,333

Sermon/Study
resource
users: **1789**

PAGE VISITS **76,799**
Nov 2017 - May 2018:

BOUNCE RATE 6.36%
(reflecting high level of engagement)

'BECAUSE WE CARE'
equipping video page visitors: **1776**

THE HOPE PROJECT — PART OF A BROADER EFFORT TO SEE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, MESSAGE AND HERITAGE RESPECTED



The Hope Project continues to be a unique and wide-reaching voice of hope within our nation. It is helping God's Church be known more for what it is for, than against. Statistics from 2019 can be found on page 3, and some testimonies at the right of this page. Where could we be heading in this together, and what lies beyond it?

Most of our nation's most-treasured values have come to us as a direct result of the teaching and influence of Jesus. This includes our cultural views on the freedoms of speech and religion, the equality of races (including the battle against slavery), the equality of genders, the idea of education and healthcare even for the poor, our concepts of charity, and more. One of the deliberate goals of the Hope Project is to aid a restoration of this knowledge in the public square. The goal has been the same regarding national awareness of the Christian dynamics in our bicultural history too. Yet in both of these areas of 're-education', Hope Project is but one part of a picture that needs to be bigger, and multi-faceted — and which is still developing.

2020 plans

The Shining Lights Trust intends to again attempt two of the three envisaged annual

national media efforts — these being:

#1 — Hope Project Easter: to put Christ back into Easter

#2 — Hope Project Christmas: to put Christ back into Christmas

The key upcoming change for 2020 is that the delivery of Easter booklets into letterboxes will now be done by volunteers for all cities and towns of 5000 or more people.

2021 onwards

The Shining Lights Trust hopes to add the third and final envisaged annual media effort:

#3 — Hope Project Family: promoting what local churches are doing for families.

This effort is like a 'branding exercise'. To put it in Biblical terms, it is about 'letting our light be seen before others, that they may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven' (Matthew 5:15-16). This could be fruitful, given the current climate in which public media are relatively disinterested in telling our stories in a favourable way.

What are the benefits?

- The Christian faith and message are made visible to many who have no connection with a local church
- We return awareness of Christ to Easter and Christmas
- We share the message of hope through Jesus with 1.4 million homes
- We share stories from our nation's history that are significant to the conversation about who we are as a nation
- The unity of local churches is encouraged
- Outreach equipping is encouraged and enabled in a broad way
- ...and our hope regarding what we might yet be capable of together is grown!

More is possible together than apart. Please help efforts like the Hope Project to thrive!

TO SUPPORT THE HOPE PROJECT

Information — AllTogether.co.nz/hopeproject or AllTogether.co.nz/Christmas

To partner — [Subscribe for free monthly pastors or prayer updates at the bottom of AllTogether.co.nz](https://AllTogether.co.nz)

To donate — AllTogether.co.nz/donate



A key change for 2020: Volunteer-based booklet delivery

From 2020 onwards, the delivery of the Easter booklets will be done by volunteers in all cities and towns larger than 5000 people.

In sharing this idea face-to-face with 45 city and town pastors' groups in 2019, none were negative. We believe God is working through this with purpose.

The process:

February — Promote the need for volunteers to your church members

February/March — Equip members for conversational outreach

8th March — Through a combined prayer gathering (or similar) give maps and booklets to members

8th March Before Easter — Prayer-walk the streets whilst delivering booklets to letterboxes

To volunteer:

Let your pastor know, or register your name and contact details at AllTogether.co.nz

Could you give a 'weekend of mission' to helping a 'struggling' city near you?

To help larger cities complete deliveries we might need people willing to give a 'weekend of mission' delivering booklets to letterboxes. If you would be open to this, please register your availability through the 'volunteer' form at AllTogether.co.nz or email necia@shininglights.co.nz — and we will be in touch.

TESTIMONIES

A BOOKLET, A MAN AND AN ACCIDENT

A sprightly 82 year old was giving away 'Hope for All' booklets in her neighbourhood. She stopped to talk to a couple and their elderly father. The father said that he wasn't a Christian. However, after discussion about the booklet he said he wanted to become a follower of Jesus. Right there and then he followed through with a prayer of repentance and commitment to the Lord.

The next morning when driving past, our 82 year old saw police cars and an ambulance. What had happened?

It turned out that the handbrake on a ute parked up a steep driveway across the road had failed. It had rolled across the road and killed the man. What a sobering reminder of the importance of our efforts to be a sincere witness.

I ASKED GOD TO SPEAK — AND THE BOOKLET ARRIVED!

A lady told us she was asking God for a sign as she walked to her mailbox. In the 9 years she'd lived in that house, she'd never had Christian literature in the mailbox — and this was an unusual request. Yet on that one day there the Hope Project booklet was! She said it was more than a coincidence, and chose to engage with the 10 Day Challenge afterwards, and then asked for a copy of the New Testament so she could learn more about the Christian faith.

PERSON FROM SECT READS BOOKLET THEN BIBLE, AND EMBRACES FAITH IN CHRIST

We were told of a person from a Christian 'sect' who read one of the Hope Project booklets. This caused them to seek out more information about mainstream Christianity at the 10DayChallenge.co.nz website. They then felt inspired to start reading a Bible — so they contacted us. They have since become a Christian, and were baptised in a local church.

BOOKLETS INSPIRE INNOVATION AGAIN AND AGAIN

One church told of its effort to give booklets as part of a gift given to 300 families. 'Such a good talking point' was the response of another man. Booklets were given away at another church's community event. Another told of how they are given with food parcels and in 'Care Bags'. A couple who run a B&B said their visiting tourists were consistently interested in them. In another community four churches worked together to deliver the booklets to people at the doors of no-circulars homes. On so many fronts initiative is being taken!

FROM NEW AGE TO NEW LIFE

A believer gave a booklet to a young lady on the street who had been following New Age teachings. She read it. Seeing something of more worth than what she already knew, she decided she wanted to entrust Christ with her life right there and then.

EX-PRISONER GOING TO CHURCH

A prison chaplain called a pastor to explain that a Hope Project booklet was the reason that a new Christian would be coming to his church on his release shortly afterwards.

Conversational skills — more important than we've realised?



Many New Zealand Christians struggle to know how to engage effectively with local and public issues. Many also struggle to know how to initiate and engage a meaningful spiritual conversation with a friend or stranger. At its core, the 'deficit' here isn't so much spiritual as it is about a conversational skill set: How could we better engage in non-threatening two-way conversations with people whom we might fundamentally disagree with on a matter?

Over the past half-dozen years, many churches across New Zealand have been re-looking at Jesus as an expert conversationalist. He had no set 'formula' or method for his conversations and 'evangelism'. Every conversation was different — because every person was different!

Look at how many times he asked questions (Who do people say I am?).

Look at how often he replied questions with questions (Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? Why do you call me good?).

Consider also the way he intrigued people into conversation through stories and statements (Did you know you need to be born a second time?).

However, he can teach us more than this! We naturally interpret Jesus through the lenses of our own culture — and we've lived in a free society. Public opinion is now increasingly against the Christian

voice and view; there is even some hostility! Could it now be time to consider Jesus as a communicator within a hostile environment?

Consider the occasions when Jesus, discerning that those enquiring of him were trying to make trouble, replied with a question for that reason (Should we pay taxes to Caesar?).

Consider the way he refused to give a quotable quote to religious leaders and the public on some things — like whether he was the Son of God.

Consider also his awkward refusal to even answer some questions (What shall we do with this Jewish woman caught in adultery?).

(The 3 points above will be part of some upcoming video and sermon resources).

If we want the Church to have a clearer voice, then let's train our people with the skills needed to engage. As they put these into practice, new voices will arise — and potentially in all spheres of our society!

FREE RESOURCES TO HELP YOU:

- 'Because we care' Concise conversational outreach equipping: AllTogether.co.nz/equipping-videos
- Sermon outlines + studies on conversational outreach: AllTogether.co.nz/sermons-studies
- Church leadership team resources on building outreaching culture: AllTogether.co.nz/ATConsulting

NEW FREE SERMON SERIES

Everyday Spiritual
Conversations

TEAMWORK
makes the dreamwork

Includes sermon outlines, PowerPoints, social media posts and small group discussions.

Download for free at AllTogether.co.nz/sermons-studies



Biculturalism: Toward a reconciling of the Pākehā and Māori churches — What happened and what can we do?

The early days of the 'New Zealand mission' were exciting. Despite cultural mistakes and misunderstandings in all directions, the early missionaries were good examples. In time, Māori began to embrace the faith as their own — and spread it throughout the nation themselves. As many as a half of all Māori were in weekly church services by the 1850s. Missionary advocacy for Māori was also significant in seeing Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty of Waitangi) formed. These are the kinds of stories the NZ Church came to know and celebrate in the time of our Gospel Bicentenary in 2014.

GOOD TIMES — MISSIONARIES AND CLERGY SUPPORT TE TIRITI

Throughout the 1840s and 1850s the support of many missionaries in defence of Te Tiriti and Māori land rights was commendable. When Governor Browne unjustly attacked Wiremu Kingi's Pa at Waitara in 1861, Bishop Selwyn (the leader of the Anglican Church in New Zealand) spoke out strongly against the attack. The settler community was displeased with Selwyn, as also with other missionaries and clergy who supported Māori.

A SEPARATION OF WAYS

However, when the Kingitangi (Māori King) movement arose in the Waikato the missionary voice began to falter. Pākehā as a whole struggled with the idea of two monarchies, and feared the Māori King movement was a form of rebellion. As a result missionaries were unsure how to respond. When the Governor initiated an invasion of the Waikato, followed by widespread confiscations of Māori land, the voice of the Pākehā church and missionaries was too quiet.

A WELL-KNOWN LOW POINT

In 1881 an armed government force marched on the peaceful Māori community of Parihaka, near Mt Taranaki. The Government wanted to enforce its confiscation of Māori land, so sent troops against those dedicated to peace and non-violence — who were influenced by Jesus in this regard! Most of the Pākehā population was blind to the injustice — including the Pākehā churches. This is one of a number of low points. Māori felt betrayed!

WHY THE BETRAYAL?

Many factors were at play. Some, like Henry Williams, were intentionally silenced through false accusation because they

sided too much with Māori. However, population changes paint the clearest picture. In 1840 there were 2000 settlers — and maybe 80,000 Māori; by 1861 (the first land war) Māori and Pākehā numbers had equalised at about 56,000 each; and by the time of Parihaka in 1881, Māori numbers were unchanged while Pākehā numbered over 500,000! They wanted land!

Consider that the voice of public media was almost entirely supportive of the Pākehā perspective. The pressure against clergy and missionaries who sided with Māori was immense. Their voices fell silent.

THE MĀORI CHURCH CONTINUES...

Yet, remarkably, Māori did not abandon their faith. Independent new movements arose like Pai Mārire, Ringatū, Te Whiti-o-Rongomai, Rua Kēnana and Ratana — all incorporating aspects of Biblical Christian faith.

The Rev. T.G. Hammond, a Wesleyan minister in Patea in the late 1870s, explained the Māori mood this way: "We have nothing



against your Saviour; but we do not trust you.”²

While Māori have been involved in churches across Aotearoa throughout our history, there is still a divide. A wider reconciliation on these matters is a work in progress. This makes our continued efforts to understand and engage with this conversation important. Let's journey wisely — and even if that journey is slow sometimes, let's not give up!

“In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength...” Isaiah 30:15

1 Laurie Guy, *Shaping Godzone* (Victoria University Press [Wellington], 2011), p40.
2 *Ibid*, p75.

GODtalk.nz

Helping youth reach youth

Things are getting harder for Christian youth in schools. Negative attitudes toward Christianity are strengthening — and especially amongst the young. The Christian 'brand' is now tarnished with words like 'prejudicial' and 'judgemental'. It can be a hard brand to carry, and equally difficult to redefine!



Godtalk.nz exists to help youth leaders and their youth with outreach, and the conversational skills needed to stand tall in today's society. It includes:

- **Leadership videos:** to equip youth leaders with strategies for mobilising youth
- **Equipping videos:** for use as weekly studies to help youth be equipped
- **School groups:** encouraged through monthly updates.

It also encourages youth leaders to meet together in their cities and towns, irrespective of church affiliation, to see Christian school groups and united youth outreach events rebirthed.



Subscribe for free updates at Godtalk.nz

DATES TO REMEMBER KEY OUTREACH DATES FOR 2020

HopeProject **AM GRACE** **EASTER** **Z J N G** 20

MARCH

First week March: United Church prayer gatherings to mobilise volunteers for the Hope Project Easter booklet delivery + prayer-walking

Easter: Hope Project Easter.
AllTogether.co.nz/hopeproject

NZ and Beyond Conferences:
23-25 March Christchurch. 26-28 March Auckland
www.NZandBeyond.com

MAY/JUNE

Thinking Matters Conferences:
Quality apologetics training on today's issues
www.thinkingmatters.org.nz

GO2020: An international effort uniting churches for a month of prayer and outreach, to mobilise 100 million believers to communicate with 1 billion people. www.go2020.world

MAY-AUGUST

The Shining Lights Trust will travel (South to North) to connect with *pastors' groups* regarding things with potential to be united national strategies

SEPTEMBER

One Million Children Conference: Encouraging children's outreach. OneMillionChildren.co.nz

CHRISTMAS

Hope Project Christmas:
Calling all to return nativity scenes to view
AllTogether.co.nz/Christmas

Please support our innovation in outreach

