

LOVED AND FREE

HOPE for all

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



A diverse group of churches from throughout New Zealand have come together to give this booklet to every home. It contains remarkable stories of hope from within our nation, past and present, and an ancient message that is still bringing very real hope.

Since Jesus lived on earth, his teachings have been transforming our world in more ways than we can possibly imagine.

In this eighth 'Hope for all' booklet, we look at the way faith brings hope to those who have suffered great loss.



“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

1 Corinthians 13:13

In the Bible

STORIES OF HOPE FROM THEN AND NOW



Celebrating 200 years of the Christian message in Aotearoa

A photograph of a man and a woman, Mark and Carol, smiling and leaning their heads against each other. Mark, on the left, has a beard and is wearing a dark blue patterned shirt. Carol, on the right, has short dark hair and is wearing glasses and a blue patterned top. They are sitting on a dark leather couch.

Mark and Carol's story

Out of debt and despair came hope

Mark and Carol were married with three children. Life should have been good — but it wasn't. Debt was crushing them, and they could see no way out.

With creditors chasing them daily, they reached a point where they couldn't even pay their rent. Faced with the loss of their home, hope seemed gone. Carol left, and Mark despaired of life itself. But this isn't how their story ended!

Mark was invited by a workmate to hear a message of hope at a church. As he reached out to a God he couldn't see, he experienced a peace and warmth he couldn't explain. His heart was genuinely filled with hope — and it changed him!

At this time Carol connected with an organisation called Christians Against Poverty, where she met a debt coach who offered to help her and Mark rid themselves of their crippling debt. Together they were invited to join a church programme, where Carol reached out to God — discovering the same peace and joy that had transformed Mark's life.

Two years later Mark and Carol not only feel free, but are also debt free! Their marriage is growing stronger, Mark is happily employed, and Carol is more confident than ever. In fact she's now a debt coach herself — helping others to overcome their financial difficulties.

With faith, there is always hope!

***Hear Mark and Carol
tell their story at
HopeProject.co.nz/stories***



TRULY AMAZING: The beetle with an exploding backside!

THE BOMBARDIER BEETLE – AN INSIDE STORY. As a predator approaches, the seemingly harmless bombardier beetle swivels its backside like a cannon on a tank. It then shoots out — at 72 kilometres an hour — a caustic mix of chemicals with a temperature of more than 100 degrees Celsius. There is no hope for the predator here! But how come the beetle doesn't blow itself to bits?



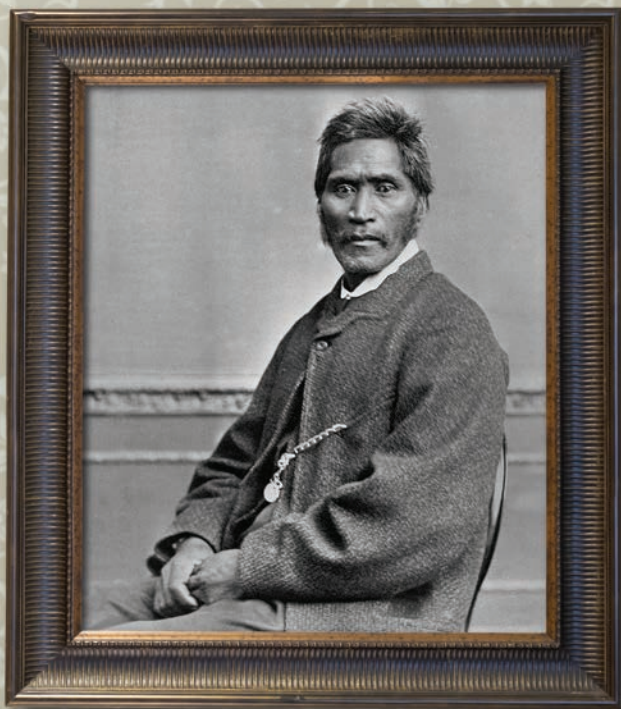
The beetle is perfectly put together. Its body makes four chemicals on demand, in four separate chambers, then mixes them in order through a complex system of valves — hydrogen peroxide with catalase, and hydroquinone with peroxidases. The chemicals then combine to explode, but do so inside a reinforced combustion chamber so the beetle isn't harmed. The toxic mix then exits the beetle at up to 735 pulses per second, to perfectly control the explosion.

It's said that one of God's great books is 'nature', and this beetle is living proof of it. It's one of thousands of highly complex natural systems that show extraordinary design.

Sometimes we experience loss and lose hope. The Christian faith suggests that, just like this beetle, we have also been made with great care and purpose.

Wiremu Tāmihana Tarapīpipi Te Waharoa

A hero of grace and courage



A NEW CHIEF — 1838

Tarapīpipi Te Waharoa was a great Ngāti Hauā chief from the Waikato. Having embraced the Christian faith, he applied Jesus' teachings on love and generosity in a profound way. His pā, named Peria, was known as a place of order, great productivity and blessings for all. It included streets lined with pumice, lush gardens overflowing with vegetables, large orchards and a school, flour mill, post office, meeting house and large church. This community supplied both local and Auckland markets with food.

A FIRST MĀORI KING — 1858

As the injustices of those times increased, Tarapīpipi sought to negotiate with the Crown on behalf of his people. However, despite repeated attempts the Governor refused to respond.

Tarapīpipi's experience was shared by many Māori, so iwi throughout the area gathered to appoint a Māori King. They hoped the King would be able to achieve the kind of dialogue with the Governor they had been seeking. In 1858, Chief Pōtatau Te Wherowhero was appointed King, and Tarapīpipi became known as 'the King-maker' for his role in enabling this.

INJUSTICE

As land across Waikato continued to be taken, the fighting moved closer and closer to Tarapīpipi's people. However, despite repeated pleas that he join in the fighting, Tarapīpipi refused. Like many, he had abandoned the old ways of revenge and killing, and embraced the ways of peace.

But then a group of defenceless women and children he had relocated to a nearby village for protection were attacked and killed. Seeing no choice, Tarapīpipi engaged in battle to protect his people — but it was soon clear that, owing to the British Army’s superior resources, his people would eventually lose. So he made peace, to protect them.

Because he had fought, Tarapīpipi’s lands were confiscated. He and his people lost their homes, businesses and inheritance.

AMAZING GRACE

What stands out in Tarapīpipi’s response is the courage, grace and faith with which he carried himself beyond that day. His story paralleled those of other chiefs in those times who did similar. Despite great loss, Tarapīpipi continued to stand for justice for his people, strengthened by his faith and hope in someone greater.

When Tarapīpipi passed away, his last words to his iwi as they gathered were, “My children, I die, but let my words remain. Obey the laws of God and of man.”





***What enables a person to find peace and hope,
or to live with courage and humility when they
seem to have lost everything?***

In recent times the Waitangi Tribunal has given recognition to these injustices, apologising while also returning a small portion of what was taken to the Ngāti Hauā people. The fact that our nation is working to recognise past wrongs is encouraging.

Thanks for this account go to Anaru Thompson —Tumuaki o te Kingitanga, and Mokoro Gillett — Ngāti Hauā Iwi Trust Chair.

Page 4 — Image of Wiremu Tamihana Tarapipipi Te Waharoa provided by Alexander Turnbull Library.

Page 7 — Image of Wiremu Tamihana Tarapipipi Te Waharoa and family provided by Alexander Turnbull Library.



Zion's story

Hope beyond Gloriavale

Gloriavale, on the South Island's West Coast, is well known as a reclusive community.

Zion grew up there, but began to see that the community was falling apart. It was supposed to be a community of love, built on Jesus' teachings, but it had developed a culture of control.

Listening to messages from outside the community, Zion and his wife, Gloriana, discovered Bible messages they had not understood before, like Jesus' teachings on unconditional love. These messages were in contrast to their own experiences, where disagreement with the community leadership was criticised, and for continued disagreement you could be expelled from the community, and cut off.

Zion realised he needed to decide whether he would follow the leaders' teachings or Jesus' teachings, as they were in

conflict. Reaching out to God, he sensed a great love, and felt something change within him. Gloriana noticed changes in his life after this, and took the same journey.

The couple eventually decided to write a letter to the Gloriavale leadership, pointing out their failure as a community to give unconditional love when there were differences in opinion or belief. Rejecting the letter, the leaders issued an ultimatum — submit to the leadership or leave!

Leaving was the hardest thing Zion and Gloriana had ever done. They lost their connections with the friends and wider family they'd spent their entire lives with, but they left with hope!

Today, Zion has work, the couple and their children are settled into a new home, and life is good.

"Our story is far from unique," Zion says. "Many people feel controlled by others. It can happen in any workplace or family. For us, realising how unbalanced what we were under had become was the starting place. But our strength and joy came from our discovery of God's love. He really does love us, and that means there is always hope!"

***Hear Zion telling his story at
[Hopeproject.co.nz/stories](https://hopeproject.co.nz/stories)***

A story of hope from the Bible:

A woman pushed her way through the crowd toward Jesus. She had lost much in life due to a sickness no doctor had been able to heal. Yet she had hope that on this day, if only she could touch Jesus, her situation could change.

Reaching Jesus, she quietly touched his garment and discovered a help greater than she had expected.

But then Jesus asked, "Who touched me?", for he perceived that power had gone out from him. When the woman realised she had been discovered, she declared in the presence of all the people her reason for touching him, and how she had been immediately healed. At that point Jesus said to her — "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."



Luke 8: 43-48

STORIES OF HOPE IN OUR NATION

Everyone suffers loss at some point. Mark and Carol lost hope when struggling with debt. Zion and Gloriana lost connections to friends and their wider family. Tarapīpipi Waharoa lost loved ones, possessions and his ability to provide for his people. How did they find hope?

“Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him.” Psalm 62:5 in the Bible.

THE MESSAGE OF HOPE

God loves us — and this remains true despite our many failings as humans. Through Jesus he came to show us a better way. In his death and return to life, Jesus paid the price needed to cover our wrongs — so eternal justice was fulfilled.

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
Romans 5:8 in the Bible.

God offers a hope that cannot end. It’s a very simple message: He calls us to follow him. Through faith placed in him, his forgiveness and friendship become ours.

You are valuable to God — you are here for a reason. God does care — and despite all our challenges, there is still a greater hope!

We hope this has encouraged you. On the next page there is an optional prayer. Thanks for reading.

A PERSONAL PRAYER

“

God, our creator, in spite of any and all wrongs I have done, I thank you for loving me, for providing for my needs, and for giving me life.

I thank you, Jesus, for taking my punishment when you died, and for inviting me into friendship with you. Today I choose that friendship.

Please forgive me for the selfish and wrong things I have done.

Please help me to understand the Bible, to find friends for this new journey, and to love others as you have loved me, for I know this is what you want.

Thank you.

”

SOME OPTIONS FOR YOU:

1 TAKE THE 10 DAY CHALLENGE

A simple introduction to the Christian faith — this is a series of 10 short videos, with reflective questions.

Go to 10DayChallenge.co.nz OR access this by searching '10 Day Challenge' within the 'Plan' section of the YouVersion Bible app.



2 VISIT A CHURCH NEAR YOU

Find one on the map at: 10DayChallenge.co.nz/churches

3 GET A FREE BIBLE

Either download a Bible app for your mobile device at: YouVersion.com/the-bible-app

OR ask for a hard-copy of the New Testament — about Jesus, his teachings and the early Christians who applied them.

Email: admin@hopeproject.co.nz

or write to Hope Project, PO Box 6078, Brookfield, Tauranga 3146.



4 VIEW 'HOPE' STORIES

Browse: HopeProject.co.nz — receive hope-filled posts from: Facebook.com/HopeProjectNZ



HopeProject
.co.nz

10DayChallenge.co.nz

Supported by a diverse group of Christian churches from throughout New Zealand, who came together to commemorate the 200th 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.