



Kia ora pastors / church leaders

We are in a series of topical updates on outreach.

Click on the image to view a 90sec video overview of what's covered in the email below.



Last month we looked at '[Outreach and church small groups](#).'

This month we look at the topic of '**Outreach and NZ History**'.

Why is this even important?

- Perspectives the public hold are the unavoidable starting point of the 'God conversation'.
- *This makes things that shape public perspective important.*

"Those who tell the history write the future"!

Other general notes from us:

- **CHURCH LEADERS SURVEY:** The draw for the \$300+ resource pack for churches will be drawn 20th June. Whether or not you helped with the delivery, we are hoping for a few more leaders - representing their churches - to fill this out. It looks at various areas of evangelism, and responses shape our future work. If you could give 10 minutes [HERE](#) - thank you!
- **FUNDING:** Hope Project funds aren't all yet raised. Widespread participation for national efforts is the desired approach. Details [HERE](#)

- **MATARIKI:** With apologies, contrary to our last update, [Matariki](#) is 28 June this year, not 29 July.
- **RESOURCE:** Hear / watch a full topical conference message from Dave matching this month's topical update: 'The importance of history to the future of the New Zealand Mission', found on YouTube [here](#) (35mins).

Looking to all God can yet do
Dave Mann

Why it is in the interests of **ALL NZ CHURCH LEADERS** to become **STUDENTS OF HISTORY?**



Most of us are disinterested in history when young. Some are still disinterested when when older. However, for many, an interest is sparked when we perceive the significance history to how we perceive ourselves as a culture - *shaping our values, beliefs, attitudes, behaviour, religion and politics.*

A knowledge of history can literally shape a nation!

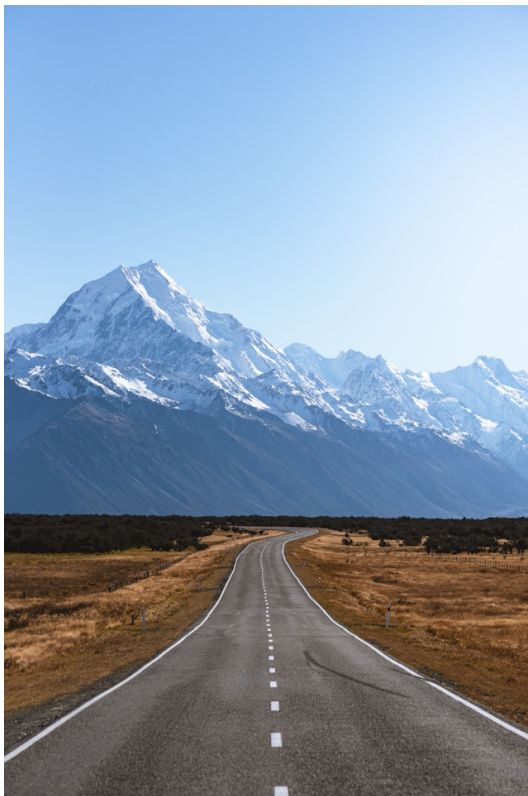
How is culture preserved? It is principally through story. (Even with a cultural practice, it is the story that gives the practice its meaning.)

- A story told can shape a person's perspectives.
- As a simple statement: "***Those who tell the history write the future.***"
- The stories we fail to pass on likewise shape perspectives.
 - A generation left ignorant of their past *are vulnerable to suggestions regarding who they are.*
 - As a simple statement: "***Those who control the present can control the past.***"
 - FAILING to tell stories from history can also be hazardous!

By controlling education and media, those with power can control the perceptions of the public - and especially of the young.

- E.g. Prior to the French Revolution strategies involved the writing of books in the names of famous dead people - to re-write history, beliefs and perceptions.
- E.g. In both the socialistic applications of Communism and Fascism, State controlled education was a priority to win over children's minds.
- This is why our very Christ-influenced culture has valued the idea of a free press (also called 'the fourth estate') - kept separate from any Government interference so the people can be protected from tyranny.

To consider our New Zealand context



As New Zealanders we know very little of our cultural and values history.

Resulting public views on faith:

- (a) Christianity is perceived to have almost nothing to do with who we are today.
- (b) Regarding our bicultural history - Christianity is often perceived as a mere tool of colonisation.

This public viewpoint is significantly inaccurate - *but few know this because the history hasn't been told!*

The importance of public perception to Christian witness

A person's perceptions are unavoidably the starting point for any 'God conversation' they engage in.

***Public perceptions therefore matter
and engaging with them is a necessary part
of our witness within this culture.***



Our proposition:

It is in the interests of all Christian leaders to embrace a new value and habit:

- (a) We choose to study and learn a number of the stories of our bicultural history and also values history...
- (b) ...to begin to INTENTIONALLY and CONSISTENTLY tell these stories as illustrations via all platforms we have access to.
- This can position our members to do likewise.

To illustrate - from conversations in our 'Hope Project social media:

- If someone says our faith is to the detriment of society - we explain a 'big picture' history story, illustrated with a specific example that shows otherwise.
- If someone believes religion only brings bad to the world and that a 'secular utopia' is the better goal - we tell two history stories (about known outcomes of Christian influence - and also of religious secularism).
- If they believe Christianity was an imposition of colonisation - history stories are the only answer that makes sense.
- If they believe Māori were gullible and easily won over and converted by missionaries - data and history stories are the needed response.
- If they think Christianity has no relevance to public society today - there are countless history stories from our wider values history to tell - because the values of Christianity are like the air we breathe as New Zealanders (even while this isn't perceived because we don't know our history)

To illustrate - from a face-to-face conversation:

- I recall a conversation with a friend who seemed to think our faith had only brought harm throughout history - until they heard a couple of history stories. Their perspective was shifted, and they've been silent on the matter since.

Stories work!

A first step?

We need to learn our own story!

(What stories? Let us help!)

Three sections follow



1. Our bicultural history

- A list of stories

2. Our values history

- Some perspectives
- Then a list of story areas

3. The need for storytelling by every creative means

- How we could apply a new knowledge of our history to impact culture.

1. Our bicultural history

The Christian dynamic is significant within our early bicultural story. Here are some examples of possible stories to know and tell - in no particular order.

- The first invited Pākehā settlement was a missionary settlement (Consider the stories of Te Pahi, Ruatara and Samuel Marsden)
- While the embrace of Christianity by Māori was slow and considered, when it did eventually take place it was widespread, and both fast and significant in its positive implications - despite the truly terrible later betrayal of the Treaty / Te Tiriti.
- Consider then stories of some amazing early missionaries - Henry Williams and Octavious Hadfield being of special note
- Patuone (Northland)
- Ngakuku and Tarore (Waikato)
- Katu and Te Whiwhi (Kapiti Coast)
- Henere Wiremu Taratoa (Bay of Plenty, Kapiti Coast),
- Hēni te Kiri Karamu (Rotorua, Northland, Auckland, Bay of Plenty)
- Wiremu Kingi Te Rangitake (Taranaki)
- Te Whiti and Tohu at Parihaka (Taranaki)
- Piripi Taumataakura (East Coast),
- Te Manihera and Kereopa (Taranaki)

- Wiremu Tamehana Tarapīpi Waharoa and then also the first Māori King (Waikato)
- ...amongst many.
- Consider also Dr Malcolm Falloon's doctoral thesis on 18th Century Māori conversation for an insight into the scale of what happened. (Easily found online).

Regarding the Treaty / Te Tiriti o Waitangi

- Radical efforts in England by Christian men like James Stephens (nephew of William Wilberforce), Lord Glenelg and Lord Normanby created a context for the remarkable Treaty we have. Their efforts sprung from a Christian humanitarian movement catalysed by the 'Clapham Sect' ('sect' meaning group). Their specific motivation was to 'stop the disaster of colonisation'. This is a powerful and important part of our New Zealand story!
- Here in New Zealand, without those few early missionaries (which there weren't many of) the amazing Treaty we have would never have come about.
 - They were the key negotiators - sitting up late into the night in conversation with the Chiefs.
 - They then travelled - and wherever they went Chiefs signing because of relationship and trust.
 - Many were also then defenders of the Treaty - though sadly with increasing flaws over time as injustices became entrenched, public media took a side, missionaries aged and were also maligned and the population dynamic of the nation completely changed.

A vision to capture: *The perspectives of those who hear the above stories will unavoidably be affected by them.*

Resources: Books are listed at the bottom of this email.

Special offer with this update

22 'Chronicles of Paki' illustrated NZ history stories for \$300 for your family or church.

[Purchase here](#)

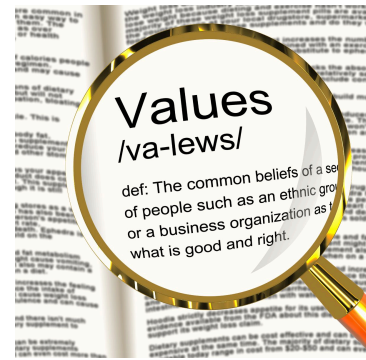


2. Our values history

Our wider cultural history is not yet understood amongst our churches like our bicultural history now is.

It is, however, equally as important,

Were the public to know our cultural values history, many would NOT think negatively of our faith like they do!



We suggest our 'values history' is therefore a primary area of new learning needed.

To open the scope of the topic:

"We live in one of the most free, prosperous, equality-based and charitable societies on our planet - as also in human history. How did we get it so good?"

The primary answer:

It is because of Christianity, which progressively shaped our values, thinking and behaviour over a 2000 year period of history.

The challenge:

Both we and the public know very little of our cultural values history.

An even greater challenge:

Our public media, public vocabulary, education systems *and indeed entire culture* has been 'religiously secularised' - as significantly enabled by this ignorance of our own cultural history!

We would not think as we do if we knew!

To illustrate - common objections in 'Hope Project' social media:

- People believe religion to only ever cause bad things - like wars.
- They then ironically argue for a culture of charity and care - unaware that, if not for Christianity, none of us would hold these values as we do here in New Zealand.

To illustrate - how we might respond:

- *"We live in one of the most free, prosperous, equality-based and charitable societies on our planet - as also in human history. How did we get it so good?"*
 - We then illustrate with a story from any one area of history.
- In the words of N.T. Wright, *"Religion has killed its thousands; and secularism its tens of thousands."* (i.e. History shows that modern 'religious' / humanistic secularism is not the solution)

- "The opposite of bad religion isn't no religion, but good religion - and good religion exists."
 - We then illustrate again with a short story from any one 'topic' area of history to validate the point.

What we have found is that the stories of history cut through.
 They are history - so cannot be argued with. They evidence cultural points.
 They are a powerful communication tool within culture!

A needed CULTURAL discovery:



- Christianity is like the air we breathe as a culture.
 - Its influence sits both in and behind many of the most cherished cultural values.
 - To deny this is like a fish arguing there is no such thing as water.
-

Topical areas to study in our history

- **Human rights / individual freedoms** - Our entire idea of 'human rights' and of individual freedoms is premised on the idea that we have been created special, in the image of God (Genesis 1:27).
- **Education for all** - Christian influence is the backdrop to our cultural ideas on this.
- **Healthcare for all** - including the 'invention' of the hospital.
- **Our cultural concepts of charity**
- **The ending of slavery** - and **equality of the races**
- **The equality of the genders**
- **The idea of the limitation of powers** - fundamentally shaping Western 'liberal' (meaning 'freedom for the individual') democracy, which is equally undergirded by a high view of people because they are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). Together these infer a Government that is accountable to God in its role of creating a context *in which the people can be most free and prosperous* (Vs the ever increasing growth of the Government, concurrent with the wealth of those leading - and of their business partners).
- **Our systems of law and justice**
- And more. A bibliography for further reading is below.

To church leaders in New Zealand

Is New Zealand a 'Christian nation'?

Few have yet had courage to say it - but a case is easily made.
 We live in a time when a secular (at the time) historian like Tom Holland admitted they are actually more 'Christian' than they are 'European', while new-

atheists like Richard Dawkins call themselves 'cultural Christians.'

It is surely time to find our voice within culture on this matter!

To make the point:

We are NOT an atheistic nation by values, nor Hindu, Muslim or Buddhist.

This isn't about being a Christian - but instead about being 'Christian'.

(And even atheists can now discern the difference - so we should!)

3. The need for storytellers - by every creative means

Sir Winston Churchill said...

“One of the signs of a great society is the diligence with which it passes culture from one generation to the next. This culture is the embodiment of everything that the people of that society hold dear.

When one generation no longer esteems its own heritage and fails to pass the torch to its children, it is saying in essence that the very foundation, principles and experiences that make the society what it is are no longer valid.

What is required when this happens and the society has lost its way is for leaders to arise who have not forgotten the discarded legacy and who love it with all their hearts”.

Could we become a body of leaders who will again esteem our own cultural history - to make it known?

A brief bigger picture strategic view

'The law of the five' is an idea springing from recognition that in an information-overloaded and media-saturated world like ours, people need to hear something from five seemingly distinct sources before they believe it to be true.

So, to augment (shift) public perception a Government / business / group of people needs to communicate their point through multiple concurrent means.

APPLICATION:

Church leaders: Pulpits have often been a starting-point for change in history!



To illustrate the process:

Through your pulpit ...you tell some of our stories from history to your members...

- ...which are then reinforced in or through a church small group discussion,
- ...then on a video,
- ...on a Shine TV programme,
- ...in a Christian radio interview,
- ...in an anecdote in your church bulletin,
- ...in another print material or book or publication,
- ***...catalysing the efforts of early adopters who are gifted as 'creatives' - who create media and other means for the sharing of the same knowledge...***
- ...in a social media post,
- ...so it's then heard from a friend,
- ...in a book and a NZ based documentary programme
- ...and then from a public newspaper,
- ...and then weaved into media on public TV,
- ...then from the university lecturer
- ...who equips the teacher...
- *...who educates the minds of the students...*
- ***.....which shapes an entire culture.***



The STORIES and ILLUSTRATIONS given in your pulpit matter!

- You are ONE part of God's Church.
- Together we can inform and influence culture!

Culture does not just change; it is changed!

Concluding statement and proposed strategy:

We ask that Christian leaders nation-wide cultivate a practice of valuing and telling bicultural and values history stories as illustrations - and do this on every possible platform (church and public)!

Resources:

- **Below are books to read / video series for churches to watch**
- **Also an offer** - 22 'Chronicles of Paki' illustrated history stories for \$300 [Purchase here](#)

Looking to all God can yet do

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Bibliography

Our wider values history - Video

- *Jesus the Gamechanger*, (DVD / documentary series) Karl Faase.
- *Centuries Collide* (Shine TV - view online)
- *Drive through history: Ends of the Earth* (Shine TV - view online)

Our wider values history - Books

- *What if Jesus had never been born?* D James Kennedy.
- *Who Is This Man?* John Ortberg. (From us [here](#))
- *Dominion*, Tom Holland
- *The Rise of Christianity*, Rodney Stark.
- *How Christianity Changed the World*, Alvin Schmidt.

Our bicultural history - Video

- *Te Rongopai*, (DVD documentary) Stuart Lange
- *Colonisation, Christianity and the Treaty*, (3-part documentary) Andrew Urquhart - found on the Shine TV platform or Youtube [here](#).

Our bicultural history - Books

- *Bible and Treaty*, Keith Newman.
- *Te Rongopai 1814 'Takoto te pail'* (Ed. Allan Davidson, Stuart Lange, Peter Lineham, Adrienne Puckey)
- *The Chronicles of Paki*, (Illustrated NZ history story series), Alison Condon and Gina Taggart,
- *The Years Before Waitangi*, Patricia Bawden.
- ...and many more.

RESOURCE



Chronicles of Paki - illustrated history series

>> Get a full set for your church

2024 Offer: \$300 for 22 books [Purchase here](#)

Series 1

1. Te Pōwhiri – The Welcome
2. Te Pahi the Adventurer
3. Ruatara and the New Beginning
4. Patuone the Peacemaker
5. Elizabeth Colenso the Teacher

Series 2

1. Henry Williams the Peacemaker
2. Ngākuku, Tārore and the Little Book
3. Te Whiwhi, Katu and Te Wai Pounamu
4. Octavius Hadfield the Friend of the Tangata Whenua
5. Wiremu Tāmihana Tarapīpipi the King Maker

Series 3 - Treaty series

1. Te Rerenga — The Pathway
2. Te Wiki — The Week
3. Te Hui — The Meeting
4. Te Tohu — The Signing
5. Te Nanu — The Disappointment

Story 16: He Whakaputanga - The Declaration of Independence

Junior series 1: Same 5 stories for younger children



Christmas

- The First Kiwi Christmas

For the 2024 special offer (\$300 for 22 books) click [HERE](#)

For all history related products click [HERE](#)

