



Kia ora pastors and key church leaders

God honours those who honour him.

Despite challenges along the way we believe God smiles at our nation's integrity and humility in recognising the Treaty of Waitangi through the 1975 Act and its 1985 amendments, which empowered the Tribunal to investigate historical claims.

But where did these remarkable CULTURAL concepts of integrity and justice come from?

There is an important story to tell and celebrate with your church regarding Waitangi Day. The Treaty has God's fingerprints all over it. For 8 very simple points, read last years' opening encouragement to this same email [HERE](#)

>> *The very purpose of a cultural festival is that its related stories be told to the public. This point is worthy of reflection - with all of our public holidays in view.*



FEATURE STORY:

"Facing the wero: How we put it right"

Our 'Hope Project' image violation in 2024 -
What can we learn?



Almost two-years on, we have decided to tell the story of our wrong-doing, and how this was resolved. We meant well. That did not matter. We were wrong.

How, then, should you respond when you genuinely support the bicultural journey and value things Māori, yet find yourself to have caused deep offence? That was the position we found ourselves in – with a wide-reaching media backlash resulting.

key lesson is maybe that we learn how to do it right - which the process leading to the photo shown here with Te Hurihanga Rihari of Ngāti Torehina (who's ancestor, Ruatara's, story we were telling at the time) directly models.

If we can learn, we could all keep telling these stories – *and this will make a difference!*

To read click [HERE](#)

Please find **THREE** areas of resource below

What could help you, your whanau or your church?

- **Video resources** - suiting small groups, leadership teams, youth gatherings, personal reflection...
- **Printed / published resources** - to deepen understanding of our shared history - while educating children, youth and new members for a first time...
- **Topical articles** - selected in this instance with a specific view to the connection between our biculturalism, gospel and our unity.

Video resources

When considering resources and storytelling – please note the value of repetition. You all have new church members who weren't there last time you told a story, children who are now youth, and youth who are now adults.

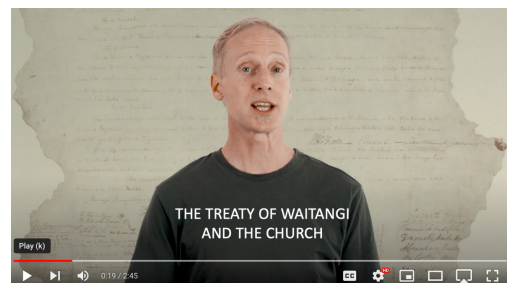
Some of the below resources suit REPEATED use,
so messages are not forgotten.

Furthermore, key stories might then be learnt sufficient to be retold by those listening.
And this is the process by which both Christian and local culture are preserved!

Brief video suiting a Sunday morning

**2.45min length
about Waitangi day**

View [HERE](#)



Dave concisely explains what Waitangi weekend is about, what Te Tiriti o Waitangi says, and why this is significant for Christian believers here - not only because they are New Zealanders, but because of their faith.

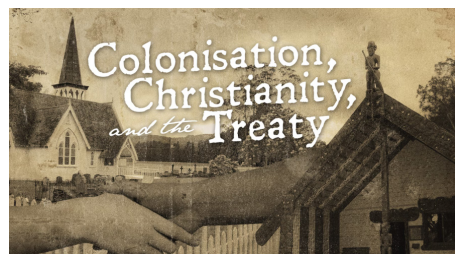
Looking for more?

For a collection of about one dozen 'easy access' videos, ranging from from 15 to 45mins,
see AllTogether.co.nz/NZHistory

- DOCUMENTARY SERIES -

Colonisation, Christianity and the Treaty - A Colonisation Agenda?

This is one of the most useful church resources related to the Treaty created in a number of years. It includes Three x 30mins videos, by Shine TV, hosted by Andrew Urquhart, released early 2024. (Click [HERE](#) for the series)

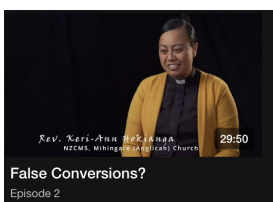


With a diversity of views reflected, it reveals a unity amongst them that reflects the Spirit of Christ. Christians have something unique to bring to this conversation. This is a very useful resource.



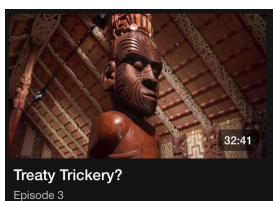
Episode 1: A Colonialist Agenda?

Was missionary activity in 1800s New Zealand an intentional bridgehead for colonisation? Click [HERE](#) for Episode 1.



Episode 2: False Conversions?

Were the historic rates of Māori baptisms genuine conversions? Click [HERE](#) for Episode 2.



Episode 3: Treaty Trickery?

Was the Treaty of Waitangi mistranslated to trick Māori into signing away their rights? Click [HERE](#) for Episode 3.

Video resource from Karuwhā Trust:

Karuwhā Trust hosted and videoed EIGHT talks to give voice to various perspectives on Te Tiriti. There are Q&A sessions in addition.

This is an outstanding learning resource for church leaders!

Find the series via their YouTube channel [HERE](#).

NZ Christian Network:

Stuart Lange's exceptional one-hour 'Te Rongopai' documentary, telling of the arrival of Christianity in our nation, remains a resource of note.

You can find this resource [HERE](#).

Print resources for adults & children

MĀORI POSTAL AOTEAROA Bible Comic series



Titled "**Te Tino Korero**" (The good news), this gospel comic is available in Te Reo Māori (click [HERE](#)) or as a bilingual story.

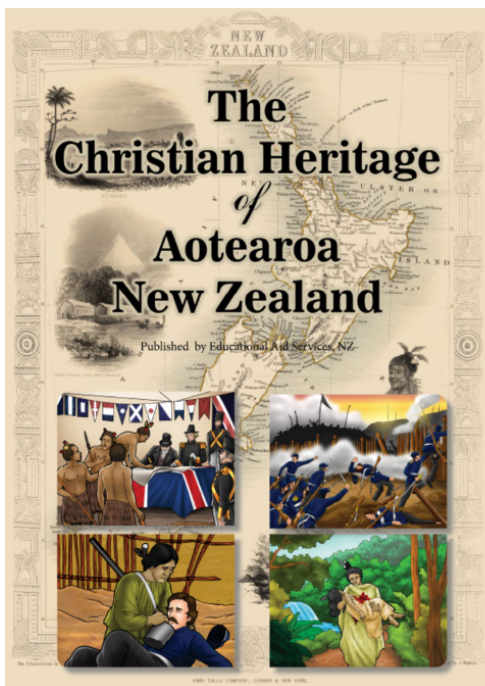
Various other Māori Postal resources exists, most famously including Te Reo Māori Scriptures posters used in churches and businesses nationwide.

Contact Māori Postal directly for details.

MaoriPostal.co.nz

CHILDREN'S BIBLE MINISTRIES

'The Christian Heritage of Aotearoa New Zealand'



This soft cover book - available in both English and Te Reo - has 8 chapters, is well-illustrated and covers the following:

1. Before and after the Treaty
2. Ngakuku, Tarore and the Power of God's Word
3. Octavius Hadfield
4. Peacemakers
5. The New Zealand Land Wars
6. The Battle of Gate Pa
7. The Journey Towards Reform and Reconciliation
8. What the Bible Says

Possible uses:

- If you have relationship with a Kōhanga Reo, they might be interested.
- It would be a great resource for a Sunday School
- ...and all resources promoted in this e-update would make a great gift for a family.

[Website HERE](#)

BIG BOOK PUBLISHING

'The Chronicles of Paki' illustrated NZ history series



Diligently researched and illustrated, this unique history series suits families and schools.

The series suits age 8 to 88, and includes

- 10 biographies (Series 1 and 2 - with 5 stories each)
- A five-part Treaty Series (Series 3)
- Story #16. 'He Whakaputanga - The Declaration of independence' (A 'prequel' to the Treaty series)
- Junior Series stories were created for only the first five stories before efforts to expand the series were paused. These suit use with age 4 to 7.
- A Level 3 and 4 (year 5 to 8) Teachers' Resources has been created, in line with the NZ history curriculum.

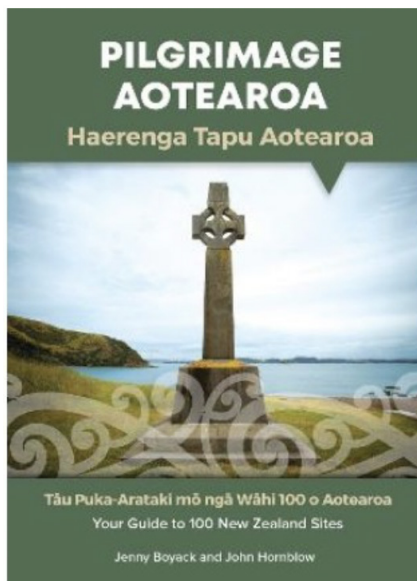
Find details at BigBook.nz

For Sunday Schools: Scripture Union created a resource to go with the five stories in Series 1 - click [here](#).

Schools option - for churches together

A discounted approach has been successfully tried in a NZ province. This saw most schools not only purchase the series for their library - but also then using it in the classroom in education.

- If this is a project you'd like to undertake for your city and province - noting you need about \$400 per school yourself and possibly an educator (who will naturally relate with teachers) to head it up - be in touch.



- UNIQUE RESOURCE - "Pilgrimage Aotearoa"

By John Hornblow

This guidebook takes readers on an inspiring journey through 100 sites across the country, each with its own story of significance.

Each site is brought to life with vivid descriptions and historical context, illuminating the deep roots of spirituality and heritage that make Aotearoa unique.

It suits use alongside both solo and group pilgrimages, bringing meaning to travel.

Purchase via a Christian bookstore or direct from its own website [here](#).



We are on a bicultural journey as a nation.

It is having bumps.

Please do not become discouraged.

The following four things surely remain true for our churches:

1. We are wise to value, know and tell our bicultural and gospel stories as a nation – on every possible platform – and repeatedly so.
2. Church leaders together in each location are wise to connect by some means as a group with local kaumatua, to learn the story of the land inasmuch as this is possible, while establishing ongoing connection points.
3. We are wise to understand the distinction and tension that exists between the ideas of decolonisation and de-Christianisation, so we can engage wisely when aware of thinking that conflates them.
4. It is good that we seek to value things Māori within our churches in simple ways – while the pace of this is wisely guided by the 'speed of trust'.

(For the article from which these four points came, read more [here](#)).

Our next update pastors/prayer partners will be about Hope Project Easter – which is not far off now.

Looking to all God can yet do / Kahore he mea e kore e tea e te Atua

Dave Mann

Director - Shining Lights Trust