

# MMM New Zealand News

Issue 1 2024



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Front Cover: Taylor Firth and Sam Trebilco  
receiving their certificates on their  
completion of the MoMenuM internship  
programme

## LETTER FROM THE

*Director* March 2024

At the MMM end of year barbecue I shared a few thoughts about the word 'way' and those thoughts have continued as we move into 2024. The word 'way' refers to the path you are on or the direction you are going.

For Ave and me, over the Christmas break the 'way' we enjoyed was the winding trails we biked through bush and grassland, through coastal mangroves and alongside rivers and lakes. We chose the way, we chose to move forward or to turn back, to turn left or right. Some of the peddling was easy along the flats, other times we were cruising down the hills but to enjoy that part there was the difficult, sweaty, exhausting part of biking up the hill. It all made for a great experience!

When we speak of the word 'way' it is often used as a metaphor for how you live your life or the path and direction you are heading. And your 'way' depends on the choices that you make, choices in action, in attitude and in spirit.

Christ was born into this world to provide us the Way to God, through his death on the cross. Our eternal way is dependent on the decision we make regarding this. Once we respond in humble confession and repentance, as the early Christians who were called followers of the Way did, we then continue walking our way in obedience to the Father in our daily life.

What is your 'way' looking like for 2024? It could be that you are just taking it a day at a time because of a difficult situation you are navigating or uncertainty about your future. For some the opportunities are before them and there are decisions to make. May I encourage you - wherever you find yourself this year, walk your 'way' with God.

We are enjoying the way that God has put before the ministry of MMM and we would welcome you to join us in some 'way'!

*Howard Robinson*  
MMM New Zealand  
Director



Practical Ministry

People Ministry

Spiritual Ministry

International Ministry

#### Vision:

- To see the church empowered and equipped with adequate facilities appropriate to God's mission

#### Mission:

- MMMNZ exists to enhance the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the ministry of building, both people and facilities to serve Christian work and workers in God's global kingdom

# MMM Promotions



## NEW WINE FESTIVAL

*New Wine is, according to their website; a "family and fun and chill time festival" which runs for five fun filled days celebrating "this wild Christian life." For the last three years, MMM has taken the opportunity to run a promotional stand in the missions area. Those who go to represent MMM have a wonderful time.*

New Wine this year was amazing. They had speakers from different countries and backgrounds but everything blended so well together. The campers were from different churches and denominations yet the times of worship were incredible. The children's ministries were so organised that parents were able to focus fully on meetings. The campgrounds were well set up including power and each area had their own dining tent.

We found our gazebo set up with a table and power and all we had to do was arrange our display. We were able to promote MMM for a half hour before and after each worship/teaching session, but we were also able to participate in all the sessions. We felt so very blessed and refreshed after the festival.

The New Wine chocolate fondue event was a highlight. People were given a pottle of melted chocolate and each mission organisation provided things to dip in it. We had licorice and marshmallows. Festival visitors would come and sit down with us and we were able to discuss and answer questions about MMM as a mission, what we do, how they can be involved, etc. It was very well received and we were able to speak to people from all over the country - all in one place.

Oh, and just in case you are thinking of going next year, the weather was awesome! - *Robyn and Marty McKone*



*Festival One, held at Harford, Karapiro, on Auckland Anniversary weekend is a multi-day Christian Festival, the goal of which is to create community in the church through music, art and culture. It has run for 10 years (except during Covid) and every year MMM has taken the opportunity to promote at the mission stalls area. This year Roy and Rachael Hogan and Marty and Robyn McKone ran the stall.*

We listened to some great bands, enjoyed some amazing worship and loved reconnecting with so many good friends. But a real highlight of Festival One this year was being a part of selling the vision for mission and being a part of something bigger than MMM.

We enjoyed the opportunity to inspire our own kids with missions they could partner with in the future as they spent time in other mission tents, while also helping to inspire other people, young and old, with the vision of MMM so they could dream and consider how they could use their skills to serve our God.

We loved that our kids could be free and explore with friends in such a safe and beautiful setting, a freedom they often don't get in Fiji. It was also a valuable time of meeting other mission focused people and discussing how we can support and encourage one another, sharing with them about MMM and how they could be a part of what we are already doing.

So, despite some rain, mud and dirty washing, it was great to be a part of the Festival One 2024 community! - *Roy and Rachael Hogan*



MMM  
CONFERENCE  
2024

20TH  
OCTOBER

30 years of  
MMM NZ

Put it in  
The diary!



Don't forget, donations made to MMM are tax-deductible. Receipts are issued in April.

# MoMentuM Interns



Sam Trebilco and Taylor Firth

## AN MMM First!

2023 marked the beginning of MoMentuM, MMM's Internship programme. Last year we had two interns on the MMM programme. In the programme the interns were employed by MMM to work with a builder four days a week and one day a week to volunteer with MMM, and have blocks of study throughout the year. Last year Taylor Firth and Sam Trebilco were the MMM Interns. They have now moved on to work full-time with builders and continue their apprenticeships. Here is what the first graduates of the programme have to say about it.

### Taylor Firth

I thoroughly enjoyed my year being a first MMM intern! I've had such great experiences being involved with MMM and being on projects in the past, but to be an intern and be a part of the MMM team and community for a whole year has been so cool! I've loved that I wasn't only able to join the team, but also at the same time get a range of experience with different qualified builders and seeing how they swing a hammer. It was really interesting to see how each of the builders I worked with had different ways and methods of doing things that I could learn from.

I was doing some pretty cool work with the builders, but every week I would usually look forward to Friday, where I'd come and volunteer with the MMM team and my fellow intern Sam for the day. Even though occasionally we had a painting job... on a rainy day... when I forgot my raincoat... getting to work with such an awesome team of Godly men and women made it not

really matter what work we were doing because the fellowship was always the prize! (And we did have heaps of great projects too!)

Through my time with MMM I've always valued the fact that every morning tea time we sit down and have a devotional and prayer time. It encouraged me with my smoko/breaks during the week that I can sometimes use that time to have my own little devo. In general I think it's really important that young fellas like me coming into the working world have people around them who will encourage them in their faith as well as teach them building skills. That is why I really enjoyed the scheduled blocks during the year where we took a week out and had some really quality Bible teaching with some really great guys!

I've absolutely loved being a part of it all and I'd 100% encourage other people to get into this internship. I'm very grateful to have had the opportunity.



### Sam Trebilco

What an absolutely amazing year! Working for MMM has been such a blessing for my faith and my apprenticeship. At the beginning of the year I was at a loss as to what to do. I had just finished school and was wondering what to do with my life. I had always loved to serve the Lord but was hesitant. As a young man, it's hard to work for free when you're just starting out, especially when you've got stuff to save for. But then I heard about MMM's MoMentuM internship and found that it was the perfect blend of working and learning building skills at a professional level whilst getting paid, and then being able to implement those skills straight away by volunteering every Friday with the MMM team.

The year flew by and that's all thanks to the good bunch of people

there. There were a few bonuses as well which actually turned out to be my highlights. About three times throughout the year we had two-week intervals in which someone came to mentor us one on one. These two weeks were so good and I still remember and continue to use the wisdom that I learnt. When I tell you it's invaluable - I mean it. Another plus was the Fiji trip. This was the coolest two weeks of the year for sure. Absolutely amazing! Putting the trip into words doesn't do it justice but it was incredible. Overall, it was an amazing year and would recommend it to any young lad - or lass.

Big thanks to MMM for making it happen.

Signing off, Sambo

*We have more MoMentuM Interns for this year but we are looking for Partner Builders for them to work with in the Waikato. If you or someone you know could be interested in having one of our interns work with you, please get in touch. Details inside the front cover.*

## FAREWELL TO THE MOBILE McLEANS

At the beginning of 2022 I met Chris on his first MMM project in Mosgiel. During a casual morning tea chat, he enthusiastically expressed how much he enjoyed this kind of serving and would like to do it more but he and wife Jen had three kids. Well ... he was giving that excuse to the wrong person! I replied that when Howard and I (Ave) began serving with MMM we had three preschool children. For five years we lived in a house bus and travelled New Zealand serving on MMM projects. Chris and Jen were inspired. A year later, having packed up and rented the family home, paused the building business and bought a caravan, the McLean family began their God-led adventure. Here is their reflection on the year and what they learned.



Three Hundred and sixty-eight days, just over a year. It sounds like a lot but looking back at the year that has been for us as a family working and travelling with MMM it has gone by in a flash. From our orientation at the MMM Centre in Pirongia, all the way to our last project with the Gloriavale Leavers Trust in Timaru, our year has been filled with new places, new friends, lots of adventures and ups and downs (but mostly ups!).

We have got to have so many experiences that we would have never been able to have otherwise - we attended churches and found out about ministries we had never heard of, got the opportunity to live and work alongside brothers and sisters of different backgrounds, been encouraged, challenged and sharpened in our faith.

We got to experience New Zealand outside of our home in a new way, not as tourists, but as people joining and living in communities, getting to know the locals and the church and the area.

We survived living with three young children in a caravan and, as my husband likes to remind me, we didn't just survive, we thrived!

It's a bit surreal being back in our old house, seeing old friends and family, going to places so familiar but that we haven't seen in so long. In some ways it feels like we have never left, but in others it feels like we have been away for longer, having been filled with so much more than a year's worth of experiences, challenges, joys and relationships. We have found so much joy in seeing the Church of God, in its various forms, denominations and ministries, finding ways to share God's love and Gospel to those around them. We have seen many give up time and money, putting others first, following the example of Jesus - these are the people we want to be like.

The body of Christ is a beautiful thing and when we see the different parts working together with a common purpose - for the Glory of God - amazing things can happen. We not only got to see buildings be transformed this year but got to see how people are being transformed through the ministries we serve.

Our chapter serving full-time with MMM is over for now, but our ethos for living life in Dunedin is still the same: To God be the Glory.  
- Jen McLean

MMM sincerely thanks the McLean family for taking this step of faith for a year. They were excellent Team Leaders, wholeheartedly throwing themselves into each project, bringing not only their skills but encouraging the ministries they served with heartfelt times of devotion and prayer. If you have ever wondered if serving with MMM as a family is possible, it is! This is one example. We wish the McLean's God's riches blessing on their future. P.S: if this inspired you, their caravan is still for sale!



Christmas

and MMM's

"Nativitree"

"What would a MMM Christmas tree look like if we were to enter one in the Hamilton "Trees at the Meteor" display?" I wondered after learning in 2022 that the display of Trees at the Meteor were put on by organisations and families. Well, I concluded that if it was an MMM tree, it would have to be 'built' and it would have to represent the true meaning of Christmas. With that in mind the design we came up with was a "Nativitree", a three-sided pallet tree (made from recycled pallets) with nativity scenes cut into and lit from behind. The tree was well received. Are we doing a tree again in next year's display? We are not sure. If you would like to inspire us with ideas we would welcome them!



Full-Time Volunteers on projects in New Zealand: Wayne MacCarthy, Marty and Robyn McKone and Leif Pedersen

# PROJECT REPORTS



Paengaro Bible Chapel, Bay of Plenty

## NORTH ISLAND

With our bellies full and batteries charged after enjoying a wonderful spread of food and fellowship at lunch, we were off. Cleaning, sanding and prepping for another make over.

Paengaroa Chapel is a church set amongst kiwifruit orchards in the Bay of Plenty, with a big heart for community.

It was such a pleasure to be able to serve them and to meet people face to face who have been praying for us and the MMM ministry for years, by receiving and praying through the MMM Prayer Force,

our monthly prayer calendar. (If you would like to receive some prayer points to help you pray for the MMM ministry, contact our office.) It is encouraging to see God work and answer prayers.

At Paengaroa Chapel there was a long list of tasks to be done and I was a bit overwhelmed with it all. We started with the outside stripping off old paint, replacing rotten timber and then painting. In the second week, we started work inside, but I was still unsure of how much of the job we would be able to complete. There were a lot of ceilings to prep and paint, and God sent a group of four kiwi fruit orchard



workers along on a rainy day to help get the ceilings done. Marty suggested: "Let's pray for rain so that they can come back." They came back for another three days! I was incredibly grateful for their assistance. With their strong necks and broad shoulders we were able to complete the tasks we set out to do.

Thank you God for providing the perfect people for the job.

After three weeks on the project then came the final celebration dinner in the newly painted hall and a time of singing and praising God together. It was

a lovely way to finish - celebrating a job well done and singing Christmas carols with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We are looking forward to serving you again in the future and seeing you face to face, working alongside you with paint brush or sandpaper in hand.

God bless, Leif, Lynette and Lucas.

Team Leader - Leif, Lynette and Lucas Pedersen, Marty and Robyn McKone, David Morrison, Ken and Eileen Ogen

## Festival One, Cambridge



2024 kicked off with the team assisting Festival One for the first time. Festival One had applied for assistance with setting up for the Christian music festival near Cambridge. Setting up temporary stages for a weekend was a new experience for the team but they thoroughly enjoyed the two weeks, especially getting to work alongside so many other volunteers. Team Leader - Leif Pedersen, Bruce Clow, Luke Greenwood, Geoff Crawford, Elliott, Luca and Georgia Marshall



## MMM Centre, Pirongia

Towards the end of last year, the MMM Centre began getting a fresh coat of paint. House Number One needed it the most - some rotten weatherboards needing replacing and the roof was rescrewed. The Admin block also had the roof rescrewed, extending its life. House Number Two and the admin and accommodation block will also get some fresh paint soon. Team Leader - Wayne MacCarthy, Ian Cross, Taylor Firth, Luke Greenwood, Ruth Mazengarb, Chris McLean, Marty McKone, Leif Pedersen, Sam Trebilco

*"Summing up: Be agreeable, be sympathetic, be loving, be compassionate, be humble. That goes for all of you, no exceptions. No retaliation. No sharp-tongued sarcasm. Instead, bless - that's your job, to bless. You'll be a blessing and also get a blessing." 1 Peter 3:8 (MSG)*

## SOUTH ISLAND PROJECTS

### Gloriavale Leavers Trust, Timaru

Gloriavale Leavers Trust assists people who have left or who are contemplating leaving Gloriavale, helping them find housing, clothing, furniture and everything required to set them up in a new life. The Trust also journeys with them to help meet their emotional, educational and spiritual needs and to see the love of Christ through Christians living 'in the world.'

The project Gloriavale Leavers Trust asked MMM to assist with was to get containers that had been moved onto the property, up to a lined stage so they could be used as offices and a meeting room.

To make this happen, there were teams of people doing different jobs - some finishing off the roof and soffits, other doing decking and piles, some working inside on the framing and walls and still others working on a boundary fence.

With MMM teams working all over New Zealand we experience all kinds of Council Inspectors and requirements. On this project we were blessed with a fantastic inspector and a good working relationship with the Council. They addressed the many issues and the lag in design reworks promptly.

Many, on the project, were new to MMM and enjoyed the MMM way of sharing a devotion at morning tea in the Word of God and our fun work atmosphere, with many commenting on the fantastic layout and community vibe. A great team was able to accomplish what they set out to do, while enjoying wonderful times of fellowship with those involved in the ministry. *Team leader - Chris McLean, Jen, Hudson, Thea, Abbey McLean, Caleb McGuire, Alan Mitchell, Ross Pettigrew, Feliz Pettigrew, Pete Spence, Andrew Stirling, Rudy Van Niekerk, Franz Van Niekerk, Gerard and Femmy van Leeuwen, Ian, Mitch, Rob and Ken*



**FARMERS' Fellowship**

Do you have an Autumn calf or proceeds from a kiwifruit bin to donate?

We appreciate your support!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION**

All funds raised through the Farmers' Fellowship supports MMM's overseas work.








### In Memory of Barry Boggiss

If you have visited the MMM Centre during morning tea, you have likely met our friend Barry Boggiss. Barry was a local man who, once he retired, would join the MMM team for a cuppa most days. On sunny days he would always turn up on his motorbike, to those who couldn't recall his name he was simply the "motorbike guy." Barry was always ready to join in our devotion time, following the reading on the app on his phone. He loved the reading of God's word. Last year Barry had been in ill health and passed away on 18 January to be with his Lord and Saviour whom he loved.



Many thanks to our volunteers!

# Upcoming Projects in NZ

 <p><b>NORTH ISLAND PROJECTS</b></p>	<p><u>19 Feb - 8 March</u></p> <p><b>Totara Springs Christian Centre</b></p> <p>Matamata</p> <p>Stripping wallpaper in motel units and painting</p>		<p><u>11 - 28 March</u></p> <p><b>Tirau Community Church</b></p> <p>Tirau</p> <p>Replacing guttering and external painting of church hall, and also a small section of the roof</p>
	<p><u>2nd - 12 April</u></p> <p><b>Hope Rising Trust</b></p> <p>Ngaruawahia</p> <p>Assist with building two 30sqm offices and connecting deck</p>	<p><u>15 April - 3 May</u></p> <p><b>Te Awamutu Bible Chapel</b></p> <p>Chapel Drive, Te Awamutu</p> <p>External renovation to replace cladding and build storage room</p>	<p><u>May</u></p> <p><b>MMM New Zealand</b></p> <p>Pirongia</p> <p>Exterior painting on house number two and admin block</p>
<p><b>SOUTH ISLAND PROJECTS</b></p> 	<p><u>19 Feb - 8 March</u></p> <p><b>Karamea Community Church</b></p> <p>Karamea, West Coast</p> <p>Exterior painting of the church</p>	<p><u>11 March - 19 April</u></p> <p><b>Celebrate Messiah</b></p> <p>Punakaiki</p> <p>Replace exterior cladding on accommodation in Punakaiki</p>	

## SITUATIONS VACANT

### Office Administrator

This role requires the person to fulfill general administration duties which include managing database and Social Media, and producing MMM's monthly prayer calendar the, *Prayer Force*, and other promotional material.

### Overseas Teams Coordinator

We are seeking someone to coordinate overseas teams from New Zealand. This would be a part time role. The right candidate for this role would require great communication skills, a high level of accuracy and integrity. The role requires booking overseas tickets, managing budgets, communicating with teams across New Zealand and preparing them to serve.

### Property Manager

The MMM Centre is located in the Pirongia village at the foot of the mountain. We are seeking someone to coordinate the maintenance of buildings, grounds, vehicles and tools at the MMM Centre. There is on-site accommodation available.

### Hospitality Host

The MMM Centre is in the lush Waikato. We provide accommodation for our volunteers in furnished units and there is room for caravans. There is a part time role available in hospitality, greeting our guests and those that use the facility. There is on site accommodation available.

All positions in MMM are non-salaried, i.e. by faith. Our team testify to the faithfulness of God. Will you trust him? Pray about it!

For more information contact: [doug@mmm.org.nz](mailto:doug@mmm.org.nz), 027 455 0100

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?  
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE  
[WWW.MMM.ORG.NZ](http://WWW.MMM.ORG.NZ)

Volunteers are welcome on projects. Just call Dave first to check the project is on schedule! Thanks!



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HELPERS WELCOME. CARAVAN PARKING  
AVAILABLE ON MOST PROJECTS