

MMM New Zealand News

Issue 3 2023

*Building ...
Empowering People*



"He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

**READY,
SET,
SERVE!**

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Front Cover: Team from Northgate
Community Church serving on the Homes of
Hope project in Fiji

LETTER FROM THE

Director

September 2023



At the last MMM Team meeting I asked the question, "What is it about what MMM does, our culture, our traditions, that we want to impact our volunteers with?" We then made the following suggestions that were written up on the white board, these included things like:

- Encouragement and growth
- Joy in doing and serving
- Professionalism
- Comradery
- Kingdom collaboration
- Creating community and friendship/fellowship
- Opportunities to serve – perhaps in new areas
- Serving cheerfully without financial reward
- Bringing together cross-generational service
- Display out our Christian values - Christian culture (which comes from the volunteers)
- Those who honour God are blessed
- Investment in the eternal aspects of God through temporal work
- Two-way blessing from sharing testimonies from volunteers and recipients

I then wrapped it up by saying that what I want to see as our impact is, "Pointing people to Christ." - That those who serve, leave having been encouraged in their faith; it may even be the first time they have seen a regular habit of devotion and prayer in action.

I had to learn the bigger picture of MMM, learn to appreciate the MMM Morning Teatime. On my first overseas MMM project in China, all I could see all around me was all the work we needed to do. "Let's get to it!" I thought. But as they continued to stop and pray as a team, those times became something memorable that I valued and enjoyed.

Here are some points about why the MMM devotion time is part of our MMM culture:

- It helps keeps us focussed on the all important "Why" of what we do – if we don't have this, we are just doing a day's work.
- Through prayer we have somewhere to go with our requests and frustrations.
- As a "Christian Organisation," we are only as "Christian" as the heart of the people involved.
- It is an opportunity to be encouraged in our faith and challenged.
- it's not just about the job but about our relationship with one another and Christ.

Howard Robinson

MMM New Zealand

Director



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

PICTON BAPTIST A TEAM

“What do women do on MMM teams?” is an often asked question. Read on to get a women’s perspective from Katherine Hill who joined her church’s team to serve with MMM Fiji.

One Sunday morning in early April, church member Daniel arrived decked out in towel, flippers, snorkel, goggles and a bright shirt! He invited us on a trip of a lifetime, with the promise of sun and hot weather. He then proceeded to open his towel to reveal a builder’s apron, complete with tools and plans to work on a project with MMM in Fiji!

Located in Waikawa, the Picton Baptist Church is made up mainly of retired folks with an average attendance of 30 - a small, very faithful and generous group. Within a week, seven church members, three women and four men, had signed up to join an MMM project in Fiji. The group consisted of plumbers, a farmer, a nurse, a paramedic, a pastor and a garden contractor.

Once we were in the planning stages and communicating with the MMM (Fiji) Project Coordinators, Roy and Rachael Hogan, it was mentioned that new roofing iron was required for the project at the Pastor’s house in Nadi. A call went out for funds; that resulted in over \$2000 being donated in less than a week!

One of our team had never had a passport, which led to many forms and emails to prove who she was. It arrived a week before our flight.

Roofing nails were donated which resulted in a fun time packing with tools, nail guns, and favorite hammers being shared out amongst the suitcases as was cheese and treats for the Hogan children and for Pastor Meliki and Ola’s three girls. A local GP also donated a well stocked first aid kit.

Saturday, June 9, saw us leave a cold wintery Christchurch to arrive four hours later in a very warm Nadi. After an exciting van ride to Sabeto alongside the sugar cane fields and over very rough tracks, we were welcomed to Oasis Farm by Meliki Talolo and family. Finally, after a great chat, we all fell into bed hoping for a good night’s sleep,

but the lizards, frogs, dogs and roosters were busy welcoming us with song all-night-long! A very early call from a nearby temple set us up for an exciting adventure filled day.

Sunday morning, our first visit was to Saweni Central Church. The singing and welcome of the local folks was out of this world, with a morning tea of hard boiled eggs, biscuits, crisps and Coke. I recommend future teams try all the local food, especially the star fruit! All the fruit we ate was fantastic; tasteful and plentiful.

In Nadi no one expected that we would work so hard or had envisaged the heat or the high humidity. Luckily Alison (a retired

...but the lizards, frogs, dogs and roosters were busy welcoming us with song all-night-long!

nurse) was on hand to make sure all of us, especially the men, drank a lot of water and she was on deck with sticking plasters, insect repellent, antiseptic creams and pills for gurgling tummies. Health was a high priority so our angel Ian made us a bush toilet, much appreciated by the ladies; open air and with a view!

Carol, Alison and I never thought we would be digging ditches, removing a damaged septic tank, making spouting, using power drills, pop rivet guns, drop saws, nail guns, or be up on a roof, or up ladders, painting or swinging a sledge hammer and bars on a demolition job.

The work was heavy, dirty, smelly, and tiring. Everyone at one stage had an emotional moment, but the team worked extremely well together with much support and hugs



when someone became tearful or just plain exhausted.

Lasting friendships were formed and everyone picked up a nickname which will stay forever.

We saw the real Fiji, not the tourists’ view of Denarau. Many local Fijians live in shacks, with no hot water, electricity that is not guaranteed and none of the comforts we take for granted in New Zealand.

At Pastor Meliki’s project, we were inspired at how wide and varied his work at Oasis Farm is. We then went to the Homes of Hope project in Suva, we were shocked by the events that led to the girls staying at Homes of Hope. But we were inspired by the staff, the work they do with these girls and how the HOH came to be. We could see how Covid has had a huge impact in Fiji, but in spite of this the people shine in attitude and song. Isa Lei (a Fijian farewell song) was sung to us as a farewell and thank you; this will be in my heart and a tear in the eye forever.

We thank the Lord for his protection and for the endurance he gave each one of us during the two weeks. The support and encouragement from Roy and Rachael was very much appreciated.

If you are thinking of joining an MMM team, I highly recommend it, no matter your age. We were the A team, “Aged”, three members were over 70, and we have had an experience that will be with us forever!
- Katherine Hill

CONTACT MMM FIJI IF YOUR CHURCH WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A TEAM TO FIJI. CONTACT DETAILS ARE INSIDE THE FRONT COVER



NORTHGATE COMMUNITY CHURCH – FIJI TEAM

A diverse team of 13 people of all ages, from Northgate Community Church in Hamilton, together with Caleb Madsen and Tim Gaskell from Nelson, went on a trip to Fiji to help renovate the bathrooms in the Liberty Building and the interior of the Botiki Building on the Homes of Hope Campus, just outside Suva. Homes of Hope provide long-term care and therapy and training for girls, young women and children who are victims of or are vulnerable to forced sex. Our trip was under the umbrella of MMM Fiji with the Hogan family keeping an eye on us when we were in Fiji.

We were in Fiji for two weeks in which time the builders in the team worked very hard with Roy Hogan from MMM Fiji, and Giles Simpson a Fijian volunteer. The bathrooms had to be completely rebuilt, tiled and plumbed, as well as a kitchen unit made for one of the houses. Basin cabinets and doors were made from recycled timber and everything that could be salvaged was cleaned up and used again.

The builders were helped by less experienced members of the team who painted, salvaged, grouted, nailed, and assisted wherever they could. Some members of the team showed the local girls how to make Kiwi classics such as pavlovas, ANZAC biscuits and pikelets. The pavlovas were a real hit! Some beekeeping was done and one team member shared her financial experience with the Finance team on the campus.

Everyone contributed to the building and painting. It wasn't all hard work though. We had a lot of fun together as a team and some of the more energetic people enjoyed volleyball every night with the girls and the two-family nights we shared with people on the campus were very special indeed. There was lots of laughter as we shared songs and games. The games could be very raucous! We especially enjoyed the girls singing - just so melodious.

Meeting the staff of Homes of Hope was also very educational as we learnt of everyone's passion to help the girls to return to communities with skills that would help them in the future.

We also did a bit of exploration, visiting Suva and being taken to Leleuvia Island Resort for a bit of rest and recuperation. The whole trip to the island was an adventure: travelling to the boats which then took us across to the island where we swam among the fish in clear waters.

On a trip like this, there are highs and lows: getting used to a another culture where things are done differently, getting used to local food and some people finding the heat difficult (I loved it!) But our interaction with the people on campus was a real highlight and reminded us why we were all there. Some of us got sick for a short while but that failed to put a dampener on what was a memorable experience for everyone involved. - Sally Sleigh



Many thanks to all those who serve on MMM projects in many capacities.

To those who travel to projects and sleep in all kinds of accommodation and to those on the road towing their home, may you be blessed for willing service.

We thank you!



MMM for The WWW



WWW... why wouldn't we ... use MMM?

St Andrews congregation in New Plymouth had just been through several years of building contracts. It is hard to enjoy the contracting ... tenders, variations, cost plus mentalities. We came out of it having spent most of our money and still having a lot of desirable work to do. When you have earthquake-proofed and re-weather-proofed something, you need to future-proof it as well if you are to maximize the value of the work already done.

We only had a vague awareness of MMM but knew they were Christ-centric builders, so we warmed to the idea they could help somehow. How did they operate/select projects and what was their availability? A few months and emails later, it was all settled ...they would help over three weeks about six months ahead.

Fortunately we already had the building consent and some volunteers of our own, so before the MMM team arrived we had prepared the site as much as we could ... simple demolition, mobile scaffolds to hand, electrical and fire alarm pre-work. An important part was preparing ourselves for the challenge of MMM's generosity. The grace of God was visiting us in a very practical way.



It was a big day when three caravans parked on site along with their utes and our rubbish skip. Phew, they fitted, and the adventure began. Friendly chats quickly dealt with ordering materials, outside specialists and Health & Safety, etc. The task? To refurbish a large social hall.

It was a contract like no other. Instead of a loud radio, there were conversations and laughter. Where people saw an idea for helping, they offered to help. If a skill was needed, it was patiently taught or input given. The morning smoko was devotions over baking. Bit by bit, scriptures were knitted into our inward and outward lives, a time when clock-watching was secondary. St Andrews tried to cater for every meal opportunity, even providing family back-up spaces for home-schooling.

We adjusted the scope as wisdom and supplies dictated, and the last day was an mighty paintbrush race. But it was well finished. Now both sides feel we have new life-long friends, and it only took three weeks, not a lifetime! Several St Andrews folk even went to help on MMM's next site (conveniently nearby). All in all a WWW... win, win, win! - *Malcolm Kennaugh, St Andrews Project Coordinator*

FARMERS' FELLOWSHIP

The Farmers' Fellowship raises funds through livestock for MMM overseas.

If you can raise stock, feed stock or donate a horticultural bin, contact:
Maurice Turner: 027 455 0100
mtgg100@gmail.com,
Doug Carson: 027 455 0100
doug@mmm.org.nz

Thank you to all those with MMM stock!

Full-Time Volunteers on projects in New Zealand: Wayne MacCarthy, Chris and Jen McLean, Robyn and Marty McKone and Lejf Pedersen

PROJECT REPORTS

WAIKATO PROJECTS

Agora Church, Hamilton



We were asked to sort out a leaking garage roof at the back of their church. We removed the roofing iron, installed new internal gutters, put the roof back on and painted the roof. Inside we painted part of the office and a staircase. The most memorable part of our time was that the fire brigade showed up twice to see what we were up to! We caused the first callout by doing a bit of sanding. The second time was caused by fault in the system, but of course the fire men thought it was us again. *Team Leader - Lejf Pedersen, Taylor Firth, Wayne MacCarthy, Mike Taylor, Sam Trebilco*

Westside Church, Hamilton



The main job was to frame and line the ceiling and walls in the worship center. One of the highlights was to see how God provided some of the building materials, at no cost, through someone completely unknown to the congregation. *Team Leader - Lejf Pedersen, Taylor Firth, Wayne MacCarthy, Elliot Marshall, Mike Taylor, Sam Trebilco*

Narrows Park Christian Camp, Hamilton



At the Narrows Park Christian Camp, we relined the toilets and wash area by the main hall, and completed some of the electrical upgrade. *Team Leader - Lejf Pedersen, Taylor Firth, Wayne MacCarthy, Elliot Marshall, Sam Trebilco*

MOBILE TEAM PROJECTS

14th Ave Gospel Centre,



The team did the interior painting on the 14th Avenue Gospel Centre, the main area, small room, sitting area and kitchen. Lejf Pedersen went over one day to do an electrical upgrade. *Team leader - Chris McLean, Jen McLean, Marty and Robyn McKone*

St Andrews, New Plymouth



On this project MMM was assisting with Stage 2 of a large project. Some framing was required before lining, gib stopping and painting the church hall. The church gave us a warm welcome and Chris the Team Leader reports, "The Church was incredibly involved with our work and many of them came to help with the project. We felt very connected to the congregation through their awareness of MMM before we arrived which continued throughout the project. We have never had so much traction before with our Bible reading times during morning smoko and the members around got involved with discussion and prayer." To read more about this project see page 5, 'MMM for the WWW!' *Team Leader - Chris and Jen McLean, Ronnie McArthur, Marty and Robyn McKone, Ken and Eileen Ogden*

Vertical Horizons, Taranaki

This is a large project at the Vertical Horizons, a Christian camp, renovating a building that has been brought onto the site into rooms with ensuite. This project is ongoing. Here are some photos of the team and of the project thus far.



CBM Raglan, Raglan

The team repaired and painted the soffit of the managers house, built a new deck on to the volunteer accommodation and re roofed the managers garage. Various door repairs were carried out and a ramp to the chiller was built. Wall panelling was added to the bay window and staff room. The dining tables were freshened up by having a good sand and clear finish. A great time of working, reading Gods Word and praying together, along with relaxing together in the evenings playing board games. *Team Leader -Mike Taylor, Robert Atkins, Terry Meads, Graham and Colleen Stokes*



SITUATIONS VACANT

Director

We are seeking a God-desiring, humble, hard working person with excellent interpersonal skill to lead the MMM Team. This role requires the person to have administration and financial management skills, strategic planning and some understanding of the building industry. Housing located at the MMM Centre, Pirongia is available for use by the Director.

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.

There are other opportunities to serve with MMM such as grounds maintenance and hospitality at the MMM Centre.

Office Administrator

We are seeking someone to be the behind the scenes brilliance of MMM. This role requires the person to fulfill general administration duties which include database management, managing Social Media, and producing promotional material.

Contact: doug@mmm.org.nz 027 455 0100

All positions in MMM are non-salaried, i.e. by faith, Our team testify to the faithfulness of God, will you trust Him?



Upcoming Projects in NZ

 <p>NORTH ISLAND PROJECTS</p>		<p><u>7 Aug - 8 Sept</u></p> <p>Capernwray Bible School Monavale and Piarere</p> <p>Replacing windows and internal and external painting</p>	 <p>Fellowship and food are a high priority at MMM; every day there is a devotion and prayer time!</p>
	<p><u>11 - 22 Sept</u></p> <p>East West College Gordonton</p> <p>Laying concrete and erecting a carport</p>		<p><u>2 - 20 Oct</u></p> <p>MMM Centre Pirongia</p> <p>Exterior painting of House 1</p>
<p><u>24 Oct - 10 Nov</u></p> <p>Orini District Church</p> <p>Orini</p> <p>Exterior painting with maintenance and repair</p>		<p><u>Late November</u></p> <p>Hamilton South Baptist</p> <p>Hamilton</p> <p>Building a large deck to replace existing</p>	
<p>SOUTH ISLAND PROJECTS</p> 	<p><u>25 Sept - 20 Oct</u></p> <p>Grant Norsworthy - ministry SPEAKER AND MUSICIAN</p> <p>Upper Moutere, Tasman</p> <p>Construction of a small cabin for ministry office and music studio</p>	 <p>CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE PROJECTS!</p> <p>Many thanks to all those who served on MMM projects.</p> <p>To serve one another, we need one another!</p> <p>Thank you for being on the team!</p>	
<p><u>23 Oct - 17 Nov</u></p> <p>Greymouth Baptist</p> <p>Greymouth</p> <p>Building a cupboard and painting the church.</p>	<p><u>20 Nov - 15 Dec</u></p> <p>Gloriavale Leavers Trust</p> <p>Timaru</p> <p>Fit out container offices with low pitched roof and internal lining</p>		

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
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