



Photo by Samuel Ferrara

# Auckland Update

February 2023

Christmas / New Year is a busy time for evangelists. The Auckland branch continued regular outreaches outdoor, using a Christmas survey as a discussion point. Lew conducted two school Christmas assemblies, one with about 600 children. These are great opportunities to tell the children the real meaning of Christmas.

## Open Air Preaching Seminar

The Auckland branch hosted an Open Air Preaching seminar in December with Jeremy Dempsey, our National Director. It was great to see the volunteers and some evangelists honing their presentation skills. This is critical in a world of visual excellence.



## Beach Missions

Beach missions went well this summer. Lew and Angela oversaw 4 missions. Lew was resident evangelist at Tirohanga Beach while Philip Williamson contributed outreach and leaders teaching at Orere Point Camp. Beach missions are a mixture of 'good will' programmes, that enhance the camp experience of people (so the camps welcome us back), and programmes with more direct spiritual content. The volleyball tournament with Lew Meyer officiating is a big hit every year, as is the talent quest and the quiz night. The children's programme and youth events are far more gospel focused. Praise God for the children that responded to the gospel, some having the 'Seed of the Word' sown, some being reaped for Christ as they put their trust in him, and some being encouraged in their faith.



## Lake Learning

Lake Learning (near Turangi) was a great teaching camp, where Lew Meyer and Maria Henderson of OAC Hawkes Bay lectured on 'children's evangelism', 'general evangelism', 'defending our faith' and 'understanding and sharing with people of other religions'. The odd dip in Lake Taupo with the youthful campers was a highlight too.

# LOVE AUCKLAND

## Love Auckland

Thanks to all those who were a part of the Love Auckland outreach, ether by joining us in prayer or by being there.

We began with a training and inspirational event at the OAC office, and then hit the streets for 5 outreaches... Friday at Britomart Square (2 teams) and Aotea Wharf, Saturday at Man-gere markets and then Mission Bay, Sunday at Avondale market, and later at Mission Bay.

The reports form some of our evangelists put it well

### Philip reports....

*I talked with a lady who grew up Roman Catholic, but now calls herself humanist. As she talked about her childhood religion I offered to share some differences between Roman Catholicism and Christianity, and she listened with curiosity. When I asked her about her current humanist beliefs, she suddenly said she hadn't entirely written the possibility of God off yet. She gladly took a 'Which Faith is True' booklet and left with a wave and a smile.*

*and again...*

*I talked about the difference between Salvation by faith and Salvation by works and tradition with a student from a Roman Catholic high school. As I was sharing he suddenly exclaimed 'that makes sense!' with a grin. He took a 'Great News for Roman Catholics' book and went away to think it through.*

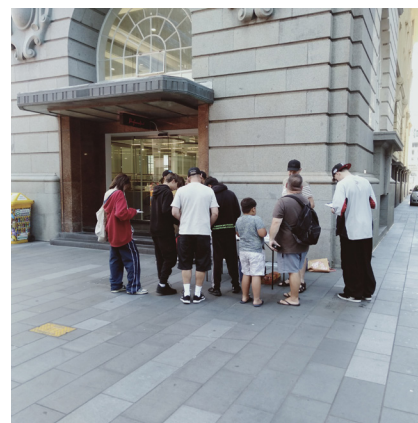
### Meeting Fauzan at the Flea Market.

*During the 'Love Auckland' outreach I was talking with Fauzan at his Muslim outreach stall. I gave him the 'Great News for Muslims' booklet. Fauzan said he would like to sit down with me and go through each Bible passage carefully. Please pray that Fauzan will actually come and meet up to study the Bible as he has asked.*

### Paul reports,

*A Maori lady did a survey. I noticed she put a few "not sure" as answers, so I queried her on these. She said she believed in God but wasn't going to church. She had in her earlier years, but it always included lots of requirements which seemed a burden.*

*I shared my testimony of being brought up in a church which had many demands but*





*never knew how much was enough nor if I pleased God. I told how at 25 God showed me the dreadful state of my heart and my guilt overwhelmed me and put me into despair for 6 months. Then one night out in a paddock I decided that from that night until I faced God at my judgment I was going to trust the blood of Jesus plus nothing else. Immediately, all my guilt disappeared, and depression turned to joy. That was over 40 years ago and that is still all I am trusting today. The blood of Jesus plus nothing.*

*Her response was delightful. Her face lit up. Then I said to her. "What do you have to do to please God? Nothing! It has all been done for you by Jesus." She was amazed. Then I took her through the tract 'Steps to peace with God'. I asked if she would like to invite Jesus into her life and be assured of her salvation. "Oh yes please!" She prayed the sinner's prayer. I will send her a Bible.*

Paul adds...

It was a great weekend. Bless you for arranging this opportunity. To witness someone responding to the same grace I received is a wonderful joy.

**James writes...**

Thanks for allowing me to join you for the outreach on Saturday at the Mangere market.

It was a real thrill to be with a team who actually wanted to get out there and tell people about the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Prayer Items**

- For the continued growth of our volunteer network.
- That pastors will be open to more evangelistic activity in their churches.
- That Auckland interest in having a Community Chaplain in their fellowships will grow.
- That we will have opportunities in the North, as well as Auckland.
- That our team (Lew, Philip Williamson, Philip Booth and Robert Siakimotu will have good health.