



Christchurch Update

October 2023

Roy: I had the honor of sharing at a men's breakfast at Linwood Baptist church. The organizer had asked me to share my testimony and discipleship. Around 30 men were present. I shared my faith journey which led into evangelism and ultimately into my battle with severe depression in 2005. What was so incredible, and humbling was the number of men who came up afterwards who also shared similar battles. We are not alone in this walk, and to be able to share at such a deep level gave other men the security to share. A man came up to me afterwards and said it was the most powerful message he had heard in some time. I caught up with the organizer a few days later, he said the guys were speaking about it at church the following day, he was very pleased, and it was exactly what he wanted.

Steve: Over the last month, we have had many opportunities to share our faith with people in the street, mainly in Cathedral Square and also around the Bridge of Remembrance. We have spoken to many folks from different nationalities and religions, some have been open. We have been asking what we call the \$1 million question. The responses to this have been quite good, and some folk, when we come to the point of asking them would they get to heaven, respond by saying they are not sure. That gives us an opportunity to then show them the gospel message in regard to repentance from sin, acknowledging Christ as Saviour and also committing their ways to the Lord. I also have the opportunity to invite some of these people to attend our church services, with the occasional one who will respond. On a Saturday morning I go out with a group of young folk from Beckenham Baptist and we have some really great opportunities, particularly with young people.

We have a young guy from our church who is keen to be a part of OAC Ministries. I am very excited about Andrei and his passion for life and for the lost. I look forward to working with him along with Marty and Roy.

We had a good time at our OAC conference last week and I really enjoyed our speaker from Laidlaw Bible College in Auckland. It was also a good opportunity to catch up with some of the guys that we don't see very often and find out how things are going with them and their ministries.

Marty: I spoke at the Mosaic evening service at the Chinese Church recently. My message was on the book of John with the challenge of having children in the service, so I used my magic drawing board. I drew a picture of what John may have looked like, then had a chat with him. I gave away some balloon animals at the end to kids who could answer questions from my message.

Preaching in the square keeps us sharp with the interactions we get from regular hecklers. I try to make my message interesting and notice when our harshest critics pick up on something I have said. I recently did a message on Ongaonga, a poisonous plant found in NZ and tied it in with Adam and

Eve bringing a curse on creation by their disobedience, but sharing the good news of the gospel that gives us hope.

When I was preaching a message on the 10 Commandments, I saw a guy stop on his bike and was listening, so I approached him after I had finished, he was very open and easy to encourage. He had gone through drug rehabilitation with the Salvation Army, and it turned out that he knew my brother Lyall when he was pastor at Motueka Baptist church and had some counseling from him. His name is Paul.

Recently Roy had a chat before he even got into the square with two young guys. One was a Christian, so he suggested Roy speak to his mate. Roy found that he was not a Christian but knew the gospel and knew that he needed to respond. When Roy asked him where he had heard the message before, he said he had been to kids camps.

I (Marty) will be speaking at Forest Lakes Kids Camp from the 24th to the 29th of September.

OAC Christchurch committee recently had a meal out to honour Neil and Ruth Shaskey and their many years of faithful service to OAC and God's kingdom. His health is not good, so he has pulled back from ministry.

