



Photo by Samuel Ferrara

Auckland Update

October 2021

Doors Close and Others Open

I have been reading through the book of Acts. It has struck me how much more our society is becoming like the societies into which the gospel was initially preached. In group, the prevalent worldview was a big mishmash of ideas. In Jerusalem, they had Biblical foundations of thinking and 3000 responded to Peter's sermon and the church was launched. In Athens, a few became followers of Paul and believed. But the believers were faithful and continued to speak out the faith, and so must we.

The other thing that stood out was the Holy Spirit's ministry of door management. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. Acts 16:7. Bithynia had their turn coming, but not yet. God had worked for them in Macedonia. God knows about lockdowns and when some doors close, others open. Churches have become more tech-savvy and Robert and I have been preaching and having other meetings on zoom.

So what do evangelists do when the door temporarily closes on 'out in the community' ministry? We study, we prepare resources and we do a lot of zoom services and meetings.

Lew's Ministry

Some preaching opportunities, children's programmes, church sermons, a possible camp speaking engagement, and visits to church leaders visits have had to go on the back burner. But it has been a chance to do some study, to catch up with administration, and to send out material to people who have given their addresses for further information. Good resources need good thinking and good research and lock-downs free up time for these. I have now completed the 'Great News for Cults and World Religions' series. I am revising my earlier works, 'Which Faith is True?' and 'When Life's a Mess at present'.



The Great New series... church pack.
Available at www.lifequestresources.co.nz.

Robert's Ministry

As Lew mentioned above, 'doors closed and other doors opened'. It is very true for us. I was due to be in Rwanda this week until October 27th and then Russia from the 2nd – 7th of November for Evangelism Training Conferences but I had to cancel both due to Covid-19 restrictions, especially returning back to NZ. The lack of mandatory quarantine facilities here in NZ would keep me away overseas until approximately February/March 2022. So those opportunities were closed, however, other opportunities here in NZ opened up, mainly online. Below is one of the opportunities. Tuvalu Brethren Fellowship – Auckland: A couple of Sundays ago I shared the children's message. I led the children in singing a couple of children's songs that tied together with the message based on the 'Feeding of the 5000'. This focused mainly on the young boy who had 5 loaves and two fishes. He gave them to Jesus – He multiplied them and was able to feed 5000 people. For the adult message, I preached on 'Defined by God's Attribute – Compassion' based on the book of Jonah. Some of the leaders of the fellowship messaged me afterwards on how a number of children responded very well to the message. Also, some of the adults were in tears as they heard of God's compassion for people like us. Praise the Lord! Thank you very much for praying for Laisa and I and our family.



Welcome Philip Booth



We want to welcome Philip Booth to our team. Philip will begin as a trainee as he has a lot of ministry experience in evangelism. Philip's dad was an OM ship captain and an evangelist and Philip spent a lot of his early days on a ship.

Philip met his wife Tricia on an outreach. They live near Manurewa and have 5 children so that is already a mission field.

Philip is a competent musician, a creative computer man, producing on-line outreach songs. If you would like to support Philip and Patricia in prayer and even financially, please get in touch with Lew (here) and we can set it up.



We have a wonderful bunch of volunteers. It is great working together in evangelism. Part of our strategy is to have hubs around Auckland. Card table evangelism (brochure available if required) is getting results. We go through quite a bit of chocolate, especially when High School students turn up, but we do have input into many lives as they complete surveys and sometimes discuss the questions. It is a fairly non-scary evangelism technique, so let us know if you would like to join a team.



Evangelists and those involved in evangelism need encouragement, especially when so many churches don't value the gift. OAC is sponsoring a new initiative called the Auckland Evangelism Forum. This is for fellowship, reporting, sharing ideas, sharing resources for evangelism and discussing issues that relate to the gospel.

The inaugural meeting starts with dinner at 6pm at the Christian Ministry Centre, 297a Church Street, Onehunga. Our first theme is 'Critical Race theory, anti-colonialism and the gospel.' \$10 per head for dinner but the rest of you comes free. If you are interested in coming, please email Lew l.meyer@oac.org.nz



Note below. OMB means Overseas mission board. WTB means Walk Through the Bible.

- 13 Oct – South Auckland Home Group & International Bible Study online (Robert)
- 14 Oct OMB Teams (Fiji, Rwanda & Samoa) Training online. (Robert)
- 18 – 21 Oct Zoom Webinar with WTB Ministries Philippines. (Robert)
- 20 Oct Sister-in law's Family Bible Study (NZ, Tuvalu, Fiji and Australia) online.
- 27 Oct South Auckland Home Group & International Bible Study online. (Robert)
- 31 Oct 10.00am – Preaching at Wiremu St Chapel. (Robert)
- 31 Oct 3.00pm – Tuvalu Brethren Fellowship – Auckland – online. (Robert)
- 31 Oct. Preaching at Manurewa Church. (Lew)
- 31 Oct. Beach Mission team training. (Lew and Philip)
- 6 Nov. Auckland Evangelism Forum, inaugural event. (Lew and Robert)
- 7 Nov. Preaching at Greyfriars Presbyterian Church. (Lew)
- 11 Nov. Mellons Bay School Christmas assembly. (Lew and Philip)
- 14 Nov. Preaching as a church-plant in Pukekohe. (Lew)
- 18 Nov. Northbridge rest home service. (Lew and Philip)
- 21 Nov. Beach Mission team training. (Lew and Philip)
- 24 Nov. Owairoa School Christmas Assembly. (Lew and Philip)
- 28 Nov. Preaching at Clark Rd Chapel, Whangarei. (Lew)
- 5 Dec. Beach Mission training. (Lew and Philip)

November/December – Market and Street Outreaches (Robert, Lew and Philip)