



Hawke's Bay Update

October 2025

The third school term has been ticking along with all sorts of opportunities: regular outreach, ongoing discipleship and time for networking with other individuals and organisations as we seek to fulfil the Great Commission together. We have enjoyed having a new intern, Sam, join us in some of this.

Regular Ministry

We get out on the street, usually after school hours, Friday mornings and on Saturdays as we are able. Sometimes we pair up and wander round to talk with people, often we use a Gospel tract to break the ice, and after school we generally paint a puzzle or something up on the sketchboard as a talking point for those coming by.

One Friday morning Kevin gave a Gospel leaflet to a young lady. She responded, "I'm a Christian." He asked her a few challenge questions to check (as many who say this are cultural Christians or think they are good people but are not born again) – and yes she was a believer. She pointed to her friend, a man from Greece, saying "He needs to know." So Kevin joyfully shared the Gospel with him. The friend also let Kevin pray for him and showed a real interest in the Gospel.

Kevin joined with The Send team while they were in our area recently. They ran evangelism training before pairing people up to put into practice what they had learned. During the outreach time Kevin spoke to two young ladies. One said she was an agnostic but had an open heart to hear the Gospel. Kevin hoped to hear her story but quietness surrounded her in a mystery. Maybe one day we will meet her again.

Networking

We enjoyed having our annual Fellowship of Evangelists Conference here on our doorstep. As well as the OAC team and others from around the country, it was good to see several from our local area take the opportunity to join us for the week.

Maria has also been travelling a bit – taking others with her when she can. She took 5 youngsters to Whanganui for a day trip to join Māori Postal's 80th birthday celebrations. One day she went to Palmy with a friend to encourage and support others in ministry. She and a friend spent a couple of days in Rotorua fellowshiping with believers there, which



included (of course) some time out on the streets sharing the Gospel. More roadtrips are planned in the coming weeks because the hours spent together in the car is precious time for fellowship, fun and discipleship – not to mention what they get up to at the destination!

Youth Work

Young people in our area are hungry for the Truth. Some are taking themselves to church or eager to come if someone will just pick them up. Some are doing Bible studies at home, writing pages of handwritten notes as they dig into God's Word, and posting it on TikTok (as they do!). Some are asking deep questions about spiritual experiences they have had.

Maria has enjoyed walking alongside some of these young ones. Often it is by being taxi-driver to youth group. There used to be various banter in the car and only occasionally a conversation that seemed spiritually significant. But now those conversations are the norm. She even adds in extra time with the youth, like a Bible study at Subway with a couple of girls since one expressed an interest in baptism. The Bibles laid open on the table while eating did not go unnoticed by other customers; it was an encouragement to one Christian couple who came in that night.

A while ago, one teenager shared about some of the scary dreams and experiences she had been having. The advice given at the time was to pray about it, for God's protection. Recently she reported back – "I've been praying... and it's not been so bad lately!"

Training

For Sunday afternoons in August, Maria ran Dare To Be a Daniel (D2BD) training with about a dozen young people. Each of the 5 weeks involved digging into Scripture as they considered Daniel and friends and how God worked through them, followed by practical work on how to share their stories and God's story using simple tools. D2BD was put out by the Billy Graham Association years ago and is apparently outdated but the young people here love it and keep coming back. Seven of these youngsters, aged 8-14, were there for the first time. One teen has come so many times that she was able to teach parts of the course, which she did capably. These young ones are often regularly involved in outreach roadtrips and other organized events from then on, as well as sharing Christ with friends and neighbours as they are able.

Praise God for:

- young people wanting to know Him more and make Him known
- freedom in our country to share the Gospel and many opportunities to do so
- various organisations and individuals to partner with in this ministry
- God's work in and through us



Please pray for:

- Kevin and Jeremy in Brazil.
- Sam as he does his internship, balancing study from Pathways and practical ministry.
- Maria as she is working through various transitions in life and ministry.
- more labourers! (Luke 10:2, Matthew 9:37-38)

On the Calendar:

Brazil mission trip (Kevin & Jeremy) – approx. 10-28 September

Hastings Blossom Parade – 20 September

Outreach roadtrip with kids – 22-24 September

FBI holiday program at RBC – 29 Sept–3 Oct

Duck Day Waipawa, working with St John's Church – 11 Oct

Kevin preaching at his church (Napier Elim) – 12 & 19 Oct. He will also be minding church affairs over those weeks while the pastor is away.

OAC afternoon tea – 19 Oct



**OPEN AIR CAMPAIGNERS
INTERNATIONAL**

Afternoon Tea

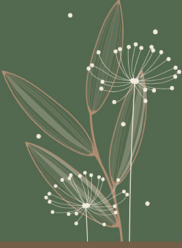
*You're invited to an encouraging afternoon
hearing about God's work through OAC*

Come hear about the work of OAC Ministries (Open Air Campaigners) across the world, around the country and in your backyard. Jeremy Dempsey (NZ National Director) will talk on what's happening internationally and around our country and Maria Henderson will share on local ministry.

19 October | **Riverbend Bible Church**
2:30pm 2025 | (354 Te Aute Rd)



internationally
nationally
locally



Please message Maria Henderson (022 0966 300 / maria@oac.org.nz) if you intend to come