



NEWS, ARTICLES AND STORIES

FROM

**BAPTIST NZ**

APP & WEBSITE

MARCH -

APRIL

2023

This newsletter is a print version of the latest articles published on the Baptist NZ website and app. The app now replaces the Baptist magazine and is available to download on Google play and App Store. For those in the Baptist family who prefer to read hardcopy, check out what God is doing in our faith communities in this newsletter, sent bimonthly to churches. If you have email and would like this document to be emailed to you, sign up to our newsletter at [baptist.nz](http://baptist.nz)



ROI NU MARAN

## Why should we pray for an imprisoned pastor in Myanmar?

*Roi Nu Maran, pastor at Waiheke Island Baptist Church, is from Myanmar and is Kachin. She calls us to pray for a prominent Baptist leader in Myanmar and the people of her country.*

I had the privilege of meeting with Pastor Samson in 2015 when he visited New Zealand. On behalf of the New Zealand Kachin family, I humbly request that you pray. You will be joining us in prayer not only for Rev. Samson but also to seek and build a peaceful resolution for the citizens of Myanmar.

Rev. Dr Samsom Hkalam (2nd right in the picture above) is a former Chairman of the Kachin National Consultative Assembly, a platform for the Kachin people of Myanmar to assemble and hold intercommunity dialogue. He is also a former President of the Kachin Baptist Convention in Myanmar and currently holds an advisor role with them.

Rev. Samson was arrested on December 5, 2022, at Mandalay Airport in Myanmar on his way to Bangkok for hospital treatment for his pneumonia and high blood pressure. While in prison, he does not have access to regular medical treatment and nutritious food, which worsens his health condition.

Myanmar military charged him with unlawful association and breaking the country's counterterrorism laws for meeting with the Kachin armed forces and praying with the leaders of Myanmar's National Unity Government in exile. He was also involved in a Zoom prayer meeting with Kachin Christians, where he called upon the young people to build 'the nation in Christ'. Because of these charges, he now faces a prison sentence of six years.



The Baptist People podcast is exploding with cool conversations with Baptists - The latest with 'Merrilyn Withers: Loving Youth'. Listen in to these audio episodes by visiting: [baptist.nz/podcasts](http://baptist.nz/podcasts)

### Do you have any stories of gospel renewal in your community?

You can share them by emailing [stories@baptist.org.nz](mailto:stories@baptist.org.nz)

### Feedback

If you would like to give feedback on this newsletter, write to our Communications Director at the Baptist Support Centre: **P O Box 12 149, Penrose, Auckland 1642, New Zealand.**

I conclude with the wonderful words of Jeremiah the prophet; ‘Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.’ Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV).

*Photo: Supplied by the Kachin Baptist Church in Myanmar, via Roi Nu Maran*

## GLORIA HAKKENS

### Kapiti Schoolbags of Love



*Gloria Hakkens coordinates a women’s ministry outreach at Waikanae Baptist Church, Kapiti Coast. She started the group, now called Thursday Craft Angels, in the 1980s with Ruth Bucknell. Gloria shares the story of their recent ‘ladies assemble!’ to support displaced children in the Hawkes Bay region following Cyclone Gabrielle.*

Thursday Craft Angels is a community craft group that meets every Thursday morning to craft and fellowship together.

Approximately 40 ladies regularly attend out of a group of 70 plus. Each week we share a Bible-based challenge or testimony and acknowledge special occasions. We do all sorts of crafts, cardmaking, fabric, embroidery, knitting, toys, and quilts.

Many items are made for our “Kapiti Boxes of Love”. These are Christmas Gift bags or boxes for children supported by Birthright, Foster Hope or in response to personal requests. This year each of our 50 ladies took a new school bag home to fill with new school supplies, sports equipment, beach towels, sweet treats, toys and suitable crafted items throughout the year.

However, our plans suddenly changed when we were confronted with the images of the East Coast/Hawke's Bay floods. We decided to ask our church family and community friends to urgently fill the backpacks for a chosen gender and age group and have them delivered to displaced

children. The support and donations were overwhelming! On the 23rd of February, we filled 147 “Kapiti Schoolbags of Love”, all brand new bags and contents. Thankfully we secured a local van and willing driver, who delivered to pastors Vicky and Gareth at Napier Christian Fellowship.

The following is a letter of response:

*Hi Gloria*

*Please pass on my enormous gratitude to your church and the group of ladies that put together those bags. They are absolutely incredible! I was so impressed with them, and am super excited to get them into the hands of the children.*

*...we added in a flyer mentioning your church’s name but also our local church details to offer any additional support or care that is needed.*

*Such a tragic event has hit this city, but believing for opportunities where our God can turn it around for good, with the ultimate goal of salvation in families! - you have made a difference. Thank you!*

*Gareth & Vicky Roberts*

*(Lead pastors - Napier Christian Fellowship)*

*Photo: Supplied by Gloria Hakkens*

## RETI AH-VOA

### Fundraising update - Northern flood relief

*(11 April 2023)*

*An update on the Northern flood/cyclone response from Reti Ah-Voa, Northern Baptist Association Regional Leader. This article is reproduced from the Northern Baptist Association's Northern Lights newsletter.*

It has been heartwarming to continue to be the recipients of the ongoing generosity of our Baptist whānau. So far, the Northern Flood/Cyclone Response Fund has raised just over \$96,500, and we have allocated \$50,230 of this money so far.

- A total of \$27,000 to church groups: Windsor Park, Grace Community, Rānui and Te Atatu.
- Additionally, \$23,230 has been allocated to families or individuals in the region.

We are mindful that many in Auckland and Northland may see their suffering as less significant than what has happened in Hawkes Bay and, therefore, may be reluctant or feel unworthy of receiving the help that is available.

However, if you have suffered loss due to the adverse weather events of the Auckland Floods or Cyclone Gabrielle, you are eligible to receive help from our fund. And we want all of this money to be spent on helping to bring recovery to those impacted. Please get in touch if you, your church or someone in your church community has a need that cannot be met as a result of the floods and extreme weather or from providing relief.

- If you are in Northland, contact Josie: 021 260 4202
- Folk or faith communities in Auckland North or West, contact Rick: 027 071 6077
- Folk in Auckland Central and surrounds, contact Reti: 0211 77 6168
- Folk in South or East Auckland or an Orbit entity, contact Rachel: 0211 66 2915

We will continue to report on money received and how it is distributed. Please email [floodsupport@northernbaptist.nz](mailto:floodsupport@northernbaptist.nz) for enquiries or to request a tax-deductible receipt.

## ANDREW MAUDE AND JODY KILPATRICK Good Friday

*A multitude of people on the planet recognised the death of Jesus Christ and the Easter story this day. Here's how a couple of Baptist churches in New Zealand did:*

### Wilson Street Baptist Church, Timaru

With pastor Andrew Maude:

We are excited to be sharing Good Friday as a jointly planned combined event with the majority of other churches & denominations in Timaru. As an added blessing, Wilson Street Baptist Church has been asked to lead the worship, so I am grateful for our awesome team of musicians who have stepped up for this task. What a blessing for the Body of Christ to be united in this way!

### Ponsonby Baptist Church, Auckland

With pastor Jody Kilpatrick:

Nothing is happening. We have teenagers at Easter Camp, and we're praying for them, but our Easter started with a Tenebrae service as night fell on the Thursday. And so today is a day of quiet for our church building and community; holding the searing sorrow of the night before, and anticipating the regathering of Sunday morning.

The empty space can be as significant as the activity that surrounds it.

At Tenebrae we sat in darkness under the cross, while the street lamps outside made beautiful tree shadows on our windows. The readers carried us into the hard, harsh story of Jesus' last days and death, and the singers helped us meditate on sorrow and pain. In our darkness there is no darkness with you O Lord, the deepest night is clear as the day.

On Sunday we'll return with flowers and food, miracles of gardens and early morning generosity, so we can flower the cross, and feast, and celebrate tenacious-audacious-resurrection-life together. Our Easter follows this pattern of heartbreak and hope each year, and the pattern becomes a part of us.

MIKE CRUDGE

## Easter Camp

Easter Camps are an incredibly important part of what New Zealand Baptists do. For many people Easter Camps are a very significant part of Gospel renewal occurring in their own lives: a lot of young people meet Jesus at these camps.

Below are some photos, mostly drawn from the Instagrams of the various camps.

### Southern Easter Camp:



## Central Easter Camp:



## Northern Easter Camp:



## eCamp:



COLLEEN HUTCHINSON, THA BOE KYAW,  
SUE & ROGER WILKS, & TOM GOWER

## Easter Sunday

He is risen!!

Read about what a few Baptist churches in New Zealand did for Easter Sunday:

### Papanui Baptist Church

With pastor Colleen Hutchinson:

Mindful of the diversity of people God has been bringing into our church whānau over the last few months, this Easter Sunday, we want the full message of God's good news to all creation to be available to all despite language, culture, age, or stage of quest. So, in our all-in service, through song, animation, a mime version of the gospel in chairs, and fellowship with food, we will remember and celebrate the extravagant love of God, expressed in the risen Christ, made available to all.

### Grace Baptist Church, Palmerston North

With pastor Tha Boe Kyaw:

We, Grace Baptist are having an annual combined camp this Easter weekend with other Burmese churches at the Foxton Bible Camp. Therefore, instead of celebrating Easter Sunday by ourselves, we will be celebrating it together with our brothers and sisters from Auckland, Wellington and Nelson. It is going to be great!

Our focus or theme is: "COME TO ME" quoting from Matthew 11:28. A few of us will be speaking at the camp on that. When I speak on this topic, my opening words will be:

"Are you tired? Are you carrying heavy loads? Are you feeling like giving up? COME to JESUS, there is FREEDOM and REST."

### Matua Community Baptist Church

With pastors Sue and Roger Wilks:

We will begin our celebration with a party. Ice cream, donuts (aka hill, empty tomb) and chocolate eggs (aka the stone that was rolled away). Our invitation is for our friends to hear how the resurrection of Jesus has secured our hope that the very best is yet to come. It will be refreshing to locate ourselves in the story... multiple expressions of grief, disillusionment and hurt are evident amongst Jesus' followers in the wake of the torture and death of their Rabbi and friend. On 'celebration Sunday' we watch as the clouds begin to lift as they each encounter our overcoming Saviour. Their transformation can be ours. As we 'fix our eyes on Jesus', and contemplate the significance of His declaration that "IT IS FINISHED", we can be certain that every challenge that seeks to block us has already been defeated. Our confidence is anchored in the knowledge that "Christ is risen indeed!"

### Richmond Baptist Church

With assistant pastor Tom Gower:

We will be reflecting on Jesus' redemptive work on the cross and celebrating his resurrection. We will be thinking about how we might walk in God's grace and how we can be confident participants in the newness of life offered by accepting and aligning ourselves with Jesus' sacrifice and victory over death. (Romans 6)

SOPHIE BOND

### Connecting communities through kai



*Sophie Bond is an Ōtautahi-based freelance editor exploring what food security looks like in her neighbourhood. She shares how Oxford Baptist Church is helping with local food security in partnership with Foodtogether.*

We've all noticed it: the weekly shopping is getting more expensive and fresh produce is one of the culprits. The monthly Food Price Index released last month (Feb 2023) showed a 16% increase in the cost of fruit and vegetables around Aotearoa compared with January 2022.

The impact of a very wet summer will likely see prices rise further, so how can communities respond to the need for affordable food? Social enterprise Foodtogether is one solution; the organisation helps groups provide their neighbourhoods with affordable, seasonal produce by taking the hard work out of running a cooperative.

For Canterbury's Oxford Baptist Church the weekly Foodtogether produce co-op has become part of a larger missional outreach which is focused on connections and care. When I talk to coordinator Barbara Griffiths on a Tuesday afternoon, she's checking her produce list and waiting for the delivery truck to bring the week's orders. The church has been running Foodtogether for several years, and Barbara says community buy-in is steady. "We all know that families are suffering with the food price increases. Here, people are amazed at what they can get in their weekly bag in comparison to what they can get in the supermarket."

On a Wednesday morning Barbara is joined in the church hall by volunteers who pack the fresh fruit and vegetables into bags for collection. Meanwhile on the same site, other volunteers are running The Revival Store - a free op-shop -, while still others prepare and host a substantial, free morning tea.

In her coordinator role Barbara says there are a couple of hours work each week to put through the orders, organize volunteers and set things up, as well as an hour of packing on pick-up day. Most people pre-order online, but some come to peruse the sale table, and there is always an extra bag which is gifted to someone in need.

Barbara knows people appreciate the cheaper produce but says building relationships is the main driver for Oxford Baptist. "Foodtogether is not just coming and collecting some fruit and vegetables and off you go. It's a place of connection too."

*By having our people available on a Wednesday, we get to know about the needs that we may be able to follow through on."*

*"It's not always easy for people to go out and connect with each other; there's a lot of isolation in our society. At our morning tea we make sure people are being met and having fellowship."*

The church is mid-building project, and eventually there'll be a large foyer which will be used for the Wednesday morning activities. Barbara is looking forward to a bigger kitchen too, which she says will allow them to start a community lunch on Wednesdays and run their outreach for the whole day. "It's a real fellowship time. We get people coming who are new to the area, mums who use the childcare will come for morning tea, and homeschooling families too. My emphasis is on people connecting with others and knowing that there are people who care."

Oxford Baptist currently sells about 40 Foodtogether bags a week, and they dedicate a small table to seconds and extras as single people often just want a few items. The team at Foodtogether takes care of the sourcing, compliance, logistics and much of the ordering process. The Oxford Baptist team organise volunteers, provide the packing location, and spread the word.

Foodtogether is a social enterprise that facilitates community produce collectives in over 15 New Zealand locations.

If you're interested in learning more, please email [info@foodtogether.co.nz](mailto:info@foodtogether.co.nz)

*Photo: Supplied by Barbara Griffiths*

**BERNARD VERNA**

## **Eastview Electronic Junk Project steps in**



*Bernard Verna, who goes to Eastview Baptist Church in Auckland, tells us about their impromptu tech recycling day and its impact beyond their faith community.*

A few months ago, we decided to have a Community Service Day in Botany, Auckland. The plan was for a group to go to the Botany College next door to our church, where we had been having an outreach with our Youth Worker spending time with staff and pupils during the year. We were going to help the groundsman spread a truckload of mulch and do a general clean-up around the gardens.

Unfortunately, the truckload of mulch was not delivered in time! As a result, "rapid panic stations" to decide what else we could do produced some great "at short notice" ideas.

A group of retirees (old fellas) in our church who call themselves Eastview Electronic Junk Project (EEJP) were called on. They set up some tables and tools in the church and provided many old computers, appliances, and other "junk".

We thought about 10 or 12 would be interested, but on Sunday morning, about 30 turned up to help dismantle the "junk". Mums and dads helped their young'uns to use screwdrivers, hammers, cutters and electric screwdrivers. We sorted the dismantled bits into wire, circuit boards, steel, plastic, and aluminium, ready for later disposal at the local scrap dealer. The profits went to the Church Mission Funds and the Otahuhu Christian Foodbank.

One little fellow came with his mum and was a bit shy but was cajoled by his mum to help. He was taken under the wing of one of our Youth Leaders and shown how to use an electric screwdriver. When we cleaned up afterwards, he was still working away and loving the experience.

In 2022 this project donated over \$23,000 to Food banks, Homework and School books and assistance at Otara Living Waters Baptist Church, the Missionaries we as a church support, and various other designated donations to the likes of MAF, VOM, Tear Fund, Fred Hollows Foundation and Red Cross.

A great time of fellowship and fun was had by all except the church cleaner, who said they were picking up little screws and small objects when

vacuuming afterwards. You can't win them all. Awesome to be able to keep "junk" out of our landfills and boost our Mission Coffers, all in the Lord's name.

*Photo: Supplied by Bernard Verna*

RACHEL MURRAY

## How do you define leadership?

*Rachel Murray (Otago & Southland Baptist Association Regional Leader) asks whether our definitions of leadership are hindering or nurturing potential leaders. This article is adapted from Rachel's newsletter, Regional Leader Roundup.*

Several years ago, I sat with the pastor of a church as we talked with a bunch of young adults aged 20-30ish. They were working through 'their place' in the church and were concerned about leadership opportunities (or the lack thereof as they saw it). What they meant by leadership was primarily visible, up front, leading a team, being part of the governance team and the like. Most of these people were young professionals, some in management roles responsible for large work/project teams. They were brilliant switched-on cookies. Yet they felt they weren't being enabled or even allowed to take on leadership roles as they wanted or, at times, were even being encouraged to do in church circles. Now there were some very good reasons around wisdom in determining church leadership positions. Still, the whole scenario at the time impacted my thinking on leadership and has continued to do so.

- What do we mean by leadership?
- Does being a leader mean being confident up front and an articulate speaker?
- If the pastor or elder doesn't directly see a person involved in ministry leadership, does that mean that individual isn't involved?
- What about the person who likes to sit at the back of the auditorium during a service for any number of reasons but has volunteered or been asked to oversee a ministry team quietly but confidently during the week? Do we see them as a leader?

- How do we reconcile an individual's work and personal leadership capacity and experiences with church ministry roles? How often have you been to a funeral, and as you listen to the eulogy and the stories, you truly realise how much you didn't know about someone? You didn't know what leadership experience they truly had.
- Do we only allow people into leadership positions if they are a certain age, stage, gender, marital status, or ethnicity? On what basis?
- How much do we guide someone into (or out of) a leadership 'channel' because we think that's where they are best suited - but we forget to involve the individual in that discussion/decision?
- What rules and expectations do we put around leadership that might hinder individuals from flourishing in their calling?
- Have we thought about the vast resource of leadership capacity in our congregations with roles people have every day of the week, but because we don't see it on Sunday or during a weekday, we set them aside as possibilities?

Over the years and across a range of organisations I've been involved with (both Christian and non-Christian alike), I have been both disappointed and excited at how those with even the tiniest seen potential have been treated for leadership development.

Some things to think about in all this but one more: How many of us are in our leadership roles because someone took an interest and punt on us, as odd as it might have seemed at the time?

Because someone allowed us to try, make mistakes, quietly lead from the back, give a crack from the front, and never mind the errors - we can work on those. A chance to lead out of our strengths and develop our weaknesses. Not just for a moment but for an extended time.

That's me - both Christian and non-Christian mentors, friends and leaders. And I am super grateful to them all.

How do you define leadership?

Who are you inadvertently sidelining or encouraging based on your own experiences and definition? Does something need to change? Does something need to strengthen?

That's my epistle thought for the week, anyway! See if it resonates with you.

SIMON FORDYCE

### Tribute to a long-serving pastor



*Simon Fordyce is a member of Waikanae Baptist Church.*

*“It is easy to love everyone for a short period of time but it is always more challenging to do this over a 20 year time period.”*

This was one of many tributes paid recently to Pastor Nigel Scott on reaching the milestone of 20 years of faithful service at Waikanae Baptist Church.

Nigel and his wife Wendy started at Waikanae in 2003, and as a congregation we were keen to acknowledge and thank them for their incredible dedication to our church over those two decades. A celebration meal was held on Saturday 25 February to which many family, friends and members of the congregation (past and present) attended.

A number of people paid tribute to Nigel and there were some common themes which emerged, including: Nigel’s leadership and pastoral skills; his faithfulness to the church and to God; his incredible work ethic; his thought-provoking sermons and his compassion for his flock.

The incredible demands the COVID-19 pandemic placed on Nigel and other Pastors was also acknowledged, especially in the first year when there was no precedent for “doing church” in the middle of a world-wide pandemic. Nigel’s adaptability and resourcefulness during this stressful period were acknowledged.

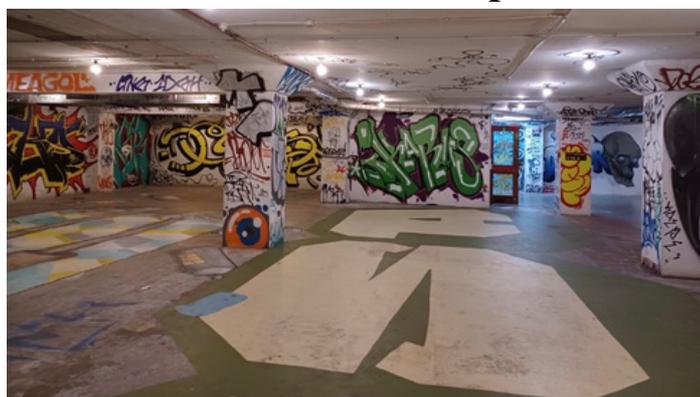
On the lighter side, there were also numerous references made to Nigel’s love of chocolate biscuits and his obsession with keeping the chairs straight in the auditorium!

Nigel and Wendy are very much a team, and acknowledgement was made of this by both Nigel and other speakers. A moving written tribute from retired pastor David Costar focused on this aspect of Nigel’s pastoral role with the comment that “this couple have poured their hearts and lives into serving you and loving you. Please continue to regularly pray for them and the ministry here. Offer them encouraging words and be supportive and loving in whatever ways you can.”

*Photo credit: Ness Griffith.*

CATHARINA SIRAA

### Who do we invite into our spaces?



*Catharina Siraa is a member of Royal Oak Baptist Church, living and working in Maungakiekie, Tāmaki Makarau, where she is the Administration Advisor at the National Support Centre, supporting churches through policy and compliance support.*

The photo above is the Canterbury Museum. I don't know about you, but this doesn't look much like any museum I've ever been in.

Maybe that's because we have certain ideas about what belongs in museums, about whose history is worthy of being in a museum.

The Canterbury Museum is closing for five years to undergo redevelopment. In the in-between space, they have opened their doors to urban artists worldwide, inviting them to bring their histories and stories into the museum halls. It's called Shift—a project to engage people in new ways. What is a museum? Who chooses what goes in a museum? What could a museum be in the future? Who do we invite in?

As I was walking around, the question that I reflected on was this...Who do we invite into our spaces?

You see, this reminds me of another space. A space where you once had to act a certain way, follow certain rules, and be a certain type of person to be welcome. I also know of this guy (let's call him Jesus) who turned over tables (literally and figuratively) to make access to that space, the presence of God, accessible to all.

I know that I don't have to be holy or perfect to access that space, and through what Jesus has done, I am invited to enter it fully without pretence or precondition. I am invited to bring my history and story, as colourful, broken or messy as it may be, into that space.

As Christians, I believe that we are meant to be people that pass on that invitation to our friends, family, and neighbours wherever we go. We are to pass on the invitation without pretence, without precondition, without a need for perfection or fitting in a box. We are invited to throw open the doors to what used to be hallowed halls and invite in every beautiful and messy person just as they are.

And we might not understand them. We might like different art or come from different cultures. But we can walk in the same space, freed to be uniquely who we were designed to be.

As I walked around this changed museum space, I saw people who would likely never have engaged with urban art before, may have only negatively engaged with tagging, or may have had preconceived ideas about what kind of people do this kind of art. But they were all walking in the same space. All were seeing, appreciating and learning to engage in new ways.

Maybe we, as the church, can be challenged by this. What are our hallowed halls? What spaces do we hold dear that we need to throw open the doors to and let others into?

*Photo: Provided by Catharina Siraa*

**KELLY ENRIGHT**

### **Arotahi has overseas donor status!**

*Kelly Enright, Communications and Engagement Manager at Arotahi (NZBMS), shares super exciting news*

*that has been a few years in the making:*

We have been granted overseas donor status! This means that we can now give you, our wonderful donors, a charitable tax receipt on many of your donations to our Arotahi work, enabling you to claim a 33% tax rebate on all of your donations (up to your taxable income). Ka rawe!

We are super excited about this new status, as it is something we haven't been able to offer before! Another epic advantage of this new status is that if you volunteer overseas during this time, the interest free period on your student loan can be extended. So many benefits!

Because we are involved in many different types of work, globally and locally, not all of our work is eligible for tax rebates. Because of this, we have set up 3 separate bank accounts for the different types of work we are involved in. This was a necessity for receiving overseas donor status.

For our current donors, this means that if you redirect the bank account your donation (if qualifying for tax rebate) is being sent to, then you will receive a charitable receipt from Arotahi (in April 2024) that will enable you to receive a tax credit. Although this means a small bit of work in changing bank details, we are delighted that this approved status will benefit you (the donor), us (Arotahi), and our overseas communities and partners.

All qualifying donations made between 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024 are eligible for a charitable tax receipt. If you redirect your payment correctly, we will send you these at the end of the next financial year (sometime in April 2024). If you leave your donation as is and do not redirect, no worries at all, your donation will continue to go where it has always been designated and directed.

Thanks for being patient with us as we get in touch with each individual donor on how to take advantage of this new donor status. This will take us some time to ensure everyone is communicated with correctly!

If you want to make the most of this new donor status, while investing into lifelong, global, hand-carved renewal, check out our giving options online at: [arotahi.org.nz/give](http://arotahi.org.nz/give)

## Getting to know...

### Kelly Shelley Motu'āpuaka



*In this column, we discover more about our Baptist whānau, meeting someone in our team of 40,000 each post. This week we are getting to know Shelley Motu'āpuaka, Chair of the Northern Baptist Association and recently called Sole Pastor at Whangārei Baptist Church.*

#### **What is something you think everyone should experience at least once in their life?**

Find people with strong feelings about the books you have read in common. It enables great and ongoing conversations.

#### **If you could be a pro at any one thing, what would it be?**

Editing. I am not very good at it, and it would make my written communication with others and any further study so much easier.

#### **What is a random interest that has completely nothing to do with your study or work?**

I enjoy new information just because – it comes in handy in quizzes, random small talk, and watching (many) sports.

#### **What is the oddest fact you know?**

A bog is a wetland that is acidic pH<7

A fen is a wetland that is alkaline pH>7

A swamp is a wetland whose dominant vegetation is trees and woody plants

A marsh is a wetland with other forms of vegetation are dominant.

#### **What is the most boring thing you've ever done?**

As an externally processing extravert – a three day silent retreat.

#### **What is your favourite way of connecting with God?**

Through reading (any books/ journals/ articles) and then chewing on it with others in discussions.

The hallway at Blockhouse Bay Baptist Church where I used to be has been the place for many of these discussions. As I read, I feel the conviction or pull of the Spirit, and as I speak, these thoughts get clarified and recalculated.

#### **Can you describe a significant moment when you experienced God's love?**

At my wedding, while I married a lovely man, the joy of a party among so many of God's people in the place where I worked and worshiped – there was what felt like a physical presence of God at that moment.

#### **What is your favourite thing about the neighbourhood where you live?**

My husband built a pull-up bar in the front yard. Our neighbours, church friends and random strangers who run past are invited to come and struggle with it. Some are better than others, but it's a simple thing that's building community (and muscles).

#### **What do you love most about being Baptist?**

Each of the churches in each area is necessary. Our theology tells us that each congregation is gathered (by the Spirit) and is necessary to each other, the community it exists in, and the wider regional and national family. I love that we are called to be brothers and sisters to each other.



Some brilliant questions about discipleship have come in on the Discipleship Aotearoa podcast! Caleb answers them in episode 5: [baptist.nz/series/discipleship-aotearoa/](https://baptist.nz/series/discipleship-aotearoa/) (This podcast comes with discussion questions for groups).



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