

OUR STORIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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PASTOR ALASTAIR

Maybe at the end of each year, we should all write an Annual Report to reflect on what God has done in our lives over the past season. Some highlights for me have to include:

- The miracle of becoming mortgage and debt free as a church after 14 years.
- Hosting the National Baptist Hui well, with 550 people from all round the country.
- I feel a new freedom to preach, and for God to take what our preachers offer and to use it in supernatural ways. We have grown in a different freedom in worship too.
- The cultural mix of our church has changed so much since our last survey in 2012. One highlight: 16% of people are Māori. We long for this church to be a place where all “tribes, tongues and nations” can pursue Jesus together well.
- An amazing sabbatical in West Africa with Mercy Ships – we so appreciate our church caring for us in this way. We knew we were in the right place doing what God asked us to do. Marty and Suz did an amazing job of leading while I was away too!
- I love that we continue to be a healthy church – not perfect, or without areas that need work, but we always want to be a church where it is ok to talk, care and hope. Pursuing Jesus no matter the cost, in a way that reflects Jesus and honours him.
- Areas of prophecy are growing. It's important to make sure that this is done with care, but love that it doesn't have to be a “big deal”. We should EXPECT God to speak to us, EXPECT to be willing to sit and test what is being said, EXPECT we won't always get this right and EXPECT the ultimate outcome to be to glorify God and build the body up (1 Corinthians 14:3).
- NEXT GEN is a concept we almost stumbled on, but it has been transformational for our way ahead in the future of ministry to under 25's. Casey has been awesome in this space and I am proud of our team.

There have also been disappointments this year – we've had to put down the idea of using some of the paddock to create a housing community. There were insurmountable council restrictions due to our industrial, and aircraft noise area zoning. Our only option was going through the environmental court which would potentially cost hundreds of thousands of dollars without any assured outcome. Deep sigh... There have been staff challenges including cancer fights and long-term concussion. Even two pastors taking a sabbatical in one year isn't ideal. But church has handled this well.

We consistently see God's hand in the good and the tough. He always knows the big picture – we get to be part of what he is doing...or we get to run in the opposite direction. While away, Aly and I tried to align ourselves around: “we will say YES to whatever Jesus asks”. It's amazing how conditional we can become saying 'yes' to Jesus in our daily lives.

MCBC, always say yes to Jesus – what he asks you to do individually and what he asks us to do collectively. There is cost to that, but there is this simple freedom and rest available when we say yes to Him. God bless you – we love you all so much!

Alastair (Arnie) & Aly Hall





PASTOR MARTY



Kia ora, the years certainly seem to tick past faster – it doesn't seem like that long ago I was writing my last report! The highlight of my year has been my much-needed sabbatical that I was able to take between May and July. It was a great chance to recharge and refresh, but also to see what God is doing in some other church contexts here in New Zealand.

As part of my Sabbatical, I was able to visit several different churches (some of them weren't even Baptist). It was a fantastic opportunity to compare notes and see other ways of doing things. Sometimes being out of your normal context gives you the chance to see things with a different set of eyes. Some of this was behind the scenes things that happen in those churches, and some was related to the Sunday service. It was great to be reminded of what is prioritised, how that happens and why. It was also refreshing to be able to go to church service and have no responsibilities!

As we head into the next year at MCBC I am excited for the things that God has been doing and is going to do. Again, I am convinced that Hang Out Groups (small groups) are an incredibly important part of this journey going forward. These are spaces where we can dig deeper into Gods word, encourage, and strengthen each other, and build great connections. Small groups were key at all of the churches I visited on my sabbatical.

I also got the opportunity to spend nearly two weeks visiting missionaries we support in Bangladesh, and I am excited for what God wants to do there, and how he is going to do it. Bangladesh is an amazing country with so much happening and so much potential. Getting a glimpse of the work we support and seeing the ongoing needs has helped me to have a deeper appreciation for the work of our missionaries. I am still processing through some of my findings and what God was revealing, and it will be exciting to see how our connection as a church with Bangladesh evolves over the next little while. I have come back more refreshed and energised about our call to share the Gospel and to love our community well.

One of my ministry highlights would be our Haere Mai & Kai lunches that we host bi-monthly. These have really been a superb opportunity to get to know people who are new to MCBC in a smaller and more informal setting. I have got to know plenty of people through these and they have been a great way for people to connect into church and some of the different ministries they can be involved with.

On a personal note, Sara and I are really enjoying being part of the local community where we live. We are meeting lots of our neighbours and engaging with our community. It's also been great to be able to invite people from MCBC to our place and spend time with them In Community and On Mission. The kids will both be at school next year which will be another season for us – but we are excited for what is ahead.

Martyn Barrett



PASTOR SUZ

I have just about finished my eighth year of serving on staff at this church and I can safely say that I truly love my job. The beginning of this year was tough. But with amazing support from our leadership and with Holy Spirit guiding me, I was able to process what I needed to and walk into healing – God is so good!

This year has also been a year of difference with both Marty and Arnie away on their sabbaticals. Yet, because we have such a great staff, we have coped well. I have very much enjoyed the role of co-leading with Marty while Arnie is away. It has also made me really appreciate our Lead Pastor and all he does.

The highlight of my job, without doubt, is working with all the different people in the areas of church I am involved in. There are so many amazing people in our church who offer up their time to be part of what God is doing in our church and community. I love the fun we have and the continued 'iron sharpening iron' as we seek to grow in knowing and loving Jesus.

Personally, I had two massive things happen this year. Firstly, my daughter Jasmine got married to Sam Bennett in January. It was a wonderful day, and I love that I now have a wonderful new son-in-law!

Secondly, I moved homes and locations. After 40 years in Papakura and 18 years in the home in which I raised my family, and the last home I lived in with Mark, it was time to sell. God was with us every step of the way, and I had an offer on my home five weeks after going to market. I am now living in the smaller part of a two-dwelling house in Clarks Beach. And Izaak and Emerald and my gorgeous grandbabies are living in the bigger part of the home. To say that I am blessed is an understatement! Clarks Beach is beautiful, and as I walk along the beach I can't believe I get to live there. Of course, to be living with family is a total gift from God.

Finally – thank you church! You constantly amaze me with your love, generosity, kindness, and encouragement. It is a total joy to serve you all.

Suz Holmes



PASTOR STEVE

What a privilege to be past those Covid years and able to engage with our wider senior community this year.

We now have 115 seniors over 65 as part of the MCBC community, and we value who they are in Christ and what they have brought to our faith community over many years!

I especially want to honour our Senior Advisory team for giving direction and participation as they co-ordinate all the different activities that we offer to our wider seniors' community. So well done to Judy, Lynn, Beryl, David, Brian, Jill, Lee and Iris!

We also appreciate John and Jill for planning our seniors' trips on the 5th Friday of the month: on the Te Huia train, Devonport, Hamilton Gardens, and other places of interest in our beautiful region. It has also been our intention to share the Gospel with those who come to our events, working to ensure healthy spiritual formation, and continuing to make disciples whatever one's age. It has been our joy to see several who have come to faith in Christ and have been baptised this past year. Go well in Jesus!

Steve Davis

We remember the lives of those who passed this year:

- Joan Cowley (2022)
- Joanne Mason
- Ivan Collings
- Juliet Holdaway
- Leslie Jackson
- Teryn Bourke
- David McBride
- Jean Ferguson
- Brian Austin



PASTOR TROY

Kia ora, whanau. What a year it has been! It has been a year of adventure, community building and God doing His thing.

There has been a lot going on with ministry and with my personal life too. In regards to youth and Maori ministries, you can check out the Kotahi and Te Roopu Awhina reports later on in this document.

I just quickly want to make a special mention to my incredible youth leaders who show up every week to serve and encourage the next generation! I have so many amazing highlights with the leaders from this year, like having meals together (especially the boil ups!), being piled in a van at midnight in the Maccas drive thru, and so much more. But the biggest one for me was our time in Rotorua for King's Birthday training weekend. It was great being able to be intentional about us growing in our craft as leaders, being equipped with some rad spiritual tools, and building on our friendships as a team. It was also a privilege to head up the worship for the weekend as well.

In my personal life, this year is a biggy too! This year Jess and I celebrate 10 years of marriage, our big boy Zion, turns the big 5, and Liji turns 3. Time is just flying by!

A highlight that sticks out for me was over Matariki weekend where we went along to Te Hui-A-Maori. It was a great way to expand our knowledge of the history of Maori in the Baptist Church in Aotearoa, and stirred us up for the future of Maori in the Baptist Church and how we weave Maoritanga and Karaititanga together.

Thank you, Church whanau, for being a blessing to me and my whanau and for another awesome year. 2 Corinthians 13:11 says, "Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you".

I'm looking forward to seeing what God has for our church as we continue to pursue Him together. Mauri ora and Up The Wahs!

Troy Renata-Paul



ELDERS & MANAGEMENT TEAMS

You maybe be largely unaware of what they do, but as a Lead Pastor, I so appreciate these two amazing teams of people who serve us as a church.

Any spiritual dilemma, any theological struggle, anything that needs more wisdom than the staff carry, anything that needs deep prayer...we get to take these things to the elders! They are responsible for ensuring the spiritual health of our church and they provide oversight for me personally. I appreciate them, their encouragement and their challenge to me deeply.

The Management Team ensures the church runs smoothly. They make sure that we are a good employer, that we meet and exceed legal requirements, that we have a safe environment, that our buildings serve us well and that our "business" decisions are made well and our administration helps achieve the goals of our church. A highlight for us this year has to be paying off our mortgage within 14 years. We used to have the highest mortgage of any church in the country with Christian Savings and now being debt free sure sounds good – we are so grateful for God's provision.

Thank you to the Elders & Management Team's of this church – we really appreciate that you take your roles seriously before God and the people you serve. Thank you that meetings are (almost) always fun and we always leave inspired in what God is doing.

Pastor Arnie

**As a church membership, we make significant decisions together.
This includes decisions about the leadership of our church.**

Our church operates with these Leadership Teams:

- Elders: Spiritual oversight of the church – ensuring MCBC becomes everything God calls it to be.
- Pastors: Ensuring the vision of the church is carried out
- Management Team: Honouring God through the business administration of MCBC, allowing the vision of the church to be fulfilled.

Elders

Lorinda Frank (to be affirmed)
Tim Tele (existing)
Bryan Page (existing)
Kevin Ward (existing)
Tania Judge (existing)
John Sundnes (existing)
Alastair Hall (existing)

Management Team

Cathryn Thompson – Personnel (existing)
Mark Dawson – Buildings & Facilities (existing)
Diana Lynskey – Finance (existing)
Norah Greyling – Administration (existing)
Alastair Hall – Lead Pastor (existing)

Isaiah 45:2-3, 22 (NIV)



FAITH DEVELOPMENT

05

baptisms we got to celebrate

Jessica Leng, Ben Judge, Rebecca Haylock,
Damian Burdock, Kevin Poon



"I've really grown in my understanding, and learnt how to interpret what I couldn't explain about God and Jesus".

Ben Ruegg

TO BE AN EFFECTIVE CHURCH, WE NEED:

Passionate Spirituality
Intentional Evangelism
Loving Relationships
Gift Orientated Ministry
Inspiring Large Groups
Nurturing Small Groups
Empowering Leadership
Functional Structures



SUNDAY SERVICES

We are supposed to live life in a rhythm of gathering, and then dispersing – you do it in your household...gather at the end of a day, share a meal, sleep, and then disperse to your daily duties.

The church operates in the same way – we gather on a Sunday “In Community” and then we disperse “On Mission” to our different places of calling and mission fields during the week - making disciples just like we’re encouraged to do in Matthew 28:16-20.

It is easy to lose sight and undervalue this rhythm of life that we have as followers of Jesus. But it is an ancient pattern that Jesus set – he visited the synagogue “as was his custom” Luke 4:16. If we want to follow Jesus, we want Sunday church to be a highly valued part of being a follower of Jesus.

After our “Summer Soundtrack” series, we looked at God with “AWE”. This was our Genesis series and we invited you to be in awe of what God created, how he never gave up on us and how he set about rescuing us right from the very beginning. What confidence that should give us!

We followed this up with the “Powerful Words” series looking at trying to fully understand some of the terms we come across that span across the Bible. We then narrowed our focus and had an amazing dig through Ephesians in our “Dear MCBC” series... a letter written to us. We’ve also had some amazing All in Services led by our Next Gen team. So great to hear from them, do communion in a different way, dance around in worship, and have our young people represented on stage.

What is immeasurable, but so important, is how we’ve grown in powerful worship over this year, how we’ve raised the value of individuals praying for each other (as well as adding a prayer lounge), and the sense of God’s spirit being at work through the preaching and what he was saying to different people.

We are so grateful for meeting together with each other and with the Holy Spirit. Make sure to check out the Discussion Questions at the end of each service!

Pastor Alastair

HANG OUT GROUPS

“Hang Outs has enabled me to dig deeper into the Bible and really talk about the things that are going on in my life.”

Hang Outs are such an important part of life for us. It is often in these settings that deeper conversation and connection can happen. We encourage everyone in Church to be part of a small group. This year, we have tried to tailor the questions at the end of a Sunday sermon to be a resource for groups to use during the week. If you aren’t in one yet, let’s see what we can make happen. –

Pastor Marty

CHAPEL SERVICE

The Chapel Service was originally crafted as a hymns sing-a-long for the senior community, as well as a devotional experience that’s different to that of our Sunday Services. It has been attended quite well this year and it another great opportunity to build relationships and faith. Another purpose in our teaching has been to de-clutter wineskins and spiritualities that no longer fit for this season of life, and to discover and explore spiritual expressions that will serve us well in our later years. We have had Steve, Ruth Page, and Marjory Gibson (Ex- NZ Baptist Pastor), David Preston as our speakers for 2023 and they’ve done a great job.

Pastor Steve





IGNITE PRAYER MINISTRY

Ignite Prayer is the overarching name of all our different prayer ministries and teams. I have a few people to thank who work tirelessly to help make prayer continue to happen in this church:

- Bryan Page – runs our Sunday morning before church prayer time. A faithful group of prayer warriors who attend this 9am meeting every week to pray for our services and every member of our church.
- Tania Vail – runs our prayer chain and does a superb job of getting prayer needs out to our faithful prayers. Tania makes herself available at all hours of the day and night to make sure our prayer chain is up to date with the requests.
- Ross & Iris Abernethy – run our Sunday Service church prayer team. Ross & Iris are responsible for the team being there and for their training. They also make themselves available to pray for individuals and families. They have blessed many people through this ministry, myself included!
- Sunday Service Prayer Team - Every week these trained people are there to pray for all different needs. They pray for healing, family issues, finance issues etc and they also have the immense joy of praying for people to receive Jesus. This team is faithful, and they love people and being part of their journey with the Lord!
- Lorinda Frank – runs our Friday night prayer for our Next Gen age group. Lorinda felt the call from God to do this each week while Kotahi and MAX are running. Everyone is invited. They have an amazing time praying and hearing from the Lord. So grateful to Lorinda for taking the initiative to get this happening! Such a blessing!
- Freedom Prayer Team – This special team are trained up for specific prayer using Sozo international tools to pray for one precious person at a time. I want to take this opportunity to thank Jess Renata-Paul as it was her passion and drive that got this team trained and this ministry up and running. Jess is stepping down now but just want to say a HUGE thank you Jess!! It is all very much appreciated. (More about this team in this report.)
- Clark & Kay Hyland – this faithful couple run the Prodigals prayer meeting every second Sunday of the month at 9.00am here at church. They have been running this group for years and have a good number of people who come. Together they pray for those who have walked away from their faith for a time.

To every one of you who is involved in prayer within our church: thank you so much! You serve God – often unseen – but yet you are all vital to our church. I am so incredibly grateful for you all!

Pastor Suz

FREEDOM PRAYER

Freedom Prayer is an opportunity for people to get free from anything that hinders them in their relationship with God or relationships with others. It is a gentle and effective process where we ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any lies we may be believing about ourselves, God or other people, and then displace these lies with God's truth. We also close any open doors we may have to the enemy, as these can be the cause of addictions, anxiety, anger and other issues. In the last 12 months we have done several sessions with various people and seen them encounter Jesus and hear His truth for them.

In August we had a combined Freedom Prayer and HER Ministries day called Restore Hope. We had an amazing guest speaker, Cilla McMillan from Equippers South church, who ministered so beautifully to us. This was definitely a highlight of our year, seeing the Freedom Prayer tools and concepts unpacked and taught to everyone in simple easy-to-understand ways. If you'd like to make an appointment, do so via the church website.

Jess Renata-Paul

SUNDAY PRAYER TEAM

"And this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." 2 Cor 5:18

What a privilege it is for our team to pray for those who come forward. God always answers, and while some is immediate, others we may hear about some weeks, months or even years later. The ministry is completely confidential.

We've seen God at work this year:

- the healing of a deaf ear and healing of other health issues
- in change and healing in family relationships
- in freedom for people feeling stuck in their faith
- in learning someone is happily married who was prayed for this three years ago
- in those who shared their experience of delivering others from evil
- when praying for others, God's power and goodness shines through, even when we are feeling weak and empty
- in many other issues

The pastors organised a new prayer lounge area for praying for people at the end of a service which is proving to be a real asset. The team also really appreciate the invitations that the pastors give at the end of services, encouraging people to use this area.

If interested in joining our team, please contact Pastor Suz to discuss the possibility.

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness". 2 Cor 12:9

Iris & Ross Abernethy





HER MINISTRY (WOMEN)

I work with a wonderful team and would like to acknowledge and thank them: Donna Moorman, Holly Mannering-Woods, Nicole Chu, Sara Barrett and Tanya Sundnes. They work so hard to make all our HER events wonderful and they go above-and-beyond to bless the women in our church. I'm so grateful to work alongside them. You are awesome!

This year the Lord has spoken to us that he wants to 'Restore' his girls! What a wonderful promise. Our first HER Restore event was at our HER Church service where we focused on God restoring our identity in Him. We are his child. We are a masterpiece. These are two simple truths that need to be the foundation of who we are!

Our next event was our HER 'Restore Hope' day. This was a wonderful day with our guest speaker, Cilla McMillan. It seemed that every woman came away encouraged.

Right now, the team is praying into our next Restore event and planning for our next HER Retreat weekend away in 2024 at Flaxmill Bay. We are so excited about that and can't wait to see how God wants to continue to restore us!

Pastor Suz

BLOKES MINISTRY (MEN)

This year has been great behind the scenes: God has been putting together a fantastic team of guys who are passionate about seeing the men of MCBC grow and develop. There is something special about seeing guys take time to listen to each other and then pray for each other – life changing!

Our Men's Breakfasts continue to be an important connection point and are always well attended. We see these as a launch pad for Hang Outs and connection. We are looking at how important it is for men to get alongside each other, build trust and then start to work through things. We also used Blokes' Church to highlight that, as guys, we might all be different, but we're united in Christ.

Pastor Marty

DEEPER BIBLE

Deeper Bible offers over 100 hot tips across seven levels to teach people how to go deeper into the Word of God and to be able to interpret it rightly.

This past year, I had two major health issues so we opted for a more flexible approach to the course. We spent several extra sessions on one particular challenge, to ensure all got the idea. I'm sure that each person benefited greatly by having that extra time.

We spent all our time in Beth Talmud – the House of Interpretation (Levels 401 and 501). We are hoping another entry level will start next year for 101 as well as the chance to tackle the House of Allusion for those who are eligible (Levels 601 and 701).

Also, this year Debora and Ria Venema stepped up to assist in the process of group facilitation and teaching. By doing that, they learned so much more. When you help the groups and take the time to teach the material, you learn more yourself. This opportunity is available for all who have completed all levels of Deeper Bible.

Come join us and experience the fun of going far deeper than you have ever been before. Yes, it may surprise you – you can do it!

Ian Vail

ALPHA

We held two Alpha courses in 2023. Both were very special, but very different.

The first course was mostly people who had not yet made a decision to choose Jesus. We got to be part of two people making that life changing decision – what a joy!

The second course was mostly young people who know Jesus. They came along to learn or relearn the basics of what it means to follow Jesus. We also had a team from Voice Ministries attend the second course to learn what running Alpha entails. Next year, they'll be running their own Alpha courses. It was a delight to have them as part of this course!

Both Alpha courses involved a weekend away at Waihi Beach. This is truly the highlight of the Alpha Course. The weekend's teaching focuses on Holy Spirit. Then there is an opportunity for every person to receive prayer if they would so like. Every time we've run this weekend, we're blown away by God's goodness and faithfulness to us.

Alpha is always a complete privilege to run, but I couldn't do it without our wonderful team: Keith Thompson, Stephen & Kelli Bennett, Brendan & Ronelle Leach. Thank you so much for being such an incredible team, for serving so willingly in every area, and for taking time to serve at our weekend away! You are simply the best!

Pastor Suz



NEXT GEN MINISTRIES



"I love Max because the leaders are fun and always make everyone feel welcome. Youth Alpha was my highlight. It was great at unpacking what The Church is about and our role in it."

Annabelle Frank

04

**babies we got to
dedicate**

Chloe Au Young, Autumn Mackareth,
Isabella Davis, Leia Bovill

We are a multi-ethnic,
multi-generational church in
the heart of Manukau

We hope at MCBC you'll find:
Big Community
Relational Connection
Individual Faith



NEXT GEN TEAM

This year is the first time we've had an official "Next Gen Leader" role at church, and it's been a real privilege to work with our kids, intermediates, youth and young adults ministry leaders to really work together to input into our Next Generation here at MCBC.

There is a story about three bricklayers... One day a traveller came upon three men working. He asked the first man what he was doing and the man said he was "laying bricks". He asked the second man the same question and he said: "putting up a wall". When he got to the third man and asked the same and he said he was "building a cathedral".

This is how we endeavour to look at our work with young people aged 0-30 in our church and community – we're not "just" youth leaders, or "just" helping on a Sunday for something to do, but we are building something spectacular; through partnership with the Holy Spirit – we're discipling a generation!

I love that we value all ages here and being intergenerational. Our team took over the All In Services this year and those were super fun! We've also kept our Bubble Church going since lockdown and have monthly themed dinners and devos at our flat with a bunch of girls and it expands every time.

I also love seeing young people grow from little, all the way into leadership roles themselves. Appointing Sarah in her role at Max was especially cool this year as I was her small group leader way back in the day! It was also awesome to see a twenty-something year old come back to church (after years of being at youth group when younger) and give her heart to the Lord. That was really encouraging to me to see someone I in-putted into as a volunteer, come back into relationship with Jesus.

Our aim for these ministries is to care for, and inspire young people to follow Jesus all the days of their lives. Check out the following page for a simple breakdown of our values and discipleship strategy. If you'd like to join any of our teams, please get in touch!

Casey Clark



Values & Discipleship Strategy

We have the view that we are canopy trees that allow younger people to grow under our covering, until they're able to do the same for others. We encourage any Mega, Max, Kotahi & Embassy leaders to use the following lists as a guide in how to firstly, live out our own faith, then how to lead others in relationship with Jesus.

There are five values, and then five key areas for discipleship which are based on the five-fold ministry gifts: apostle, prophet, teacher, evangelist, and pastor. Our aim is to disciple a generation.

Each heading has three sections; packed with scripture and detailing a) the truths we know, b) how we practice them as individuals, then c) how we teach and instruct others. These sections are titled:

We know. We practice. We preach.

Team Values:

- Seek First the Kingdom
- Grow Up
- No Lone Wolves
- Do the Mahi Get the Treats
- Live, Laugh, Love

Discipleship Strategy:

- Know Our Purpose
- Teach Truth in Love
- Hear God's Voice
- Take Action
- Build Community

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1 Corinthians 11:1

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6



MEGA

We have had a blast in Mega this year! In our upstairs programme for our primary aged kids we started the year looking at creation – every week covering a day of creation from 'light' on the first day, all the way to 'rest' on the seventh. We looked at scripture as well as the science around God's awesome creation. We planted our own plants (carrots, corn and flowers), and we made our own mural, too – adding different things to it each week.

Downstairs at Lil' Mega for our 1-4 year olds we also dove into the story of creation – thank you to Jaimee who's put a lot of effort into our little ones.

In term two and three we continued learning along with big church – firstly with the 'Powerful Words' series; each week focusing on a special word that's used in the bible. Then Ephesians, learning about Paul and how a letter he wrote a long time ago still applies to us now. It has been so fun diving into God's Word alongside the kids.

As well as filming some cool kids vids for Sunday mornings, this year we have also had the privilege of involving our kids in each of the 'All In' services – doing everything from singing and dancing, to leading our church in prayer. Our kids are amazing!

I am so grateful for the awesome leaders we've had this year both upstairs at Mega and downstairs at Lil' Mega and it is such a pleasure to lead and grow alongside them.

If you'd like to help out in our kids programmes, please get in touch, we'd love to have a chat.

Harmony Hogarth



MAX & MAX DELUXE (YR 7-9)

At the beginning of this year, I had no idea I would be on staff here at MCBC and running Max and Max Deluxe, but what a blessing it's been!

I've been a volunteer leader at Max since 2019, and I've loved hanging out with, and teaching, our intermediates about Jesus. But this year is my first go at running a ministry. Although it's been challenging, it has been greatly rewarding as well. Bringing my own flavour and passions to Max has brought me a tonne of joy.

This year, we've had a lot of fun playing silly games, eating good and not-so-good food, plus had game show nights, movies and sports nights, pizza nights with Embassy, combined nights with Kotahi, worship nights, and girls and guys nights.

We've also taken Max-ers to eCamp, plus put a big emphasis on creating space for our intermediates to learn more about God, His Word, His goodness and His love each week. We did this by running the Youth Alpha Course, and by studying some whole books in the Bible: James, Ephesians, as well as some 'Unlikely Heroes' of the Bible.

We have awesome leaders at Max and Max D who have dedicated so much time, effort and compassion to our intermediates. I am beyond grateful to them for their care for our Max-ers and their support for me as I've learned how to do this crazy and fun job. It has been an enriching experience for my own life and my journey with God. I can't wait to see what He does next.

Sarah King



KOTAHI YOUTH (YR 10-13)

Youth has been amazing this year, and we have seen God move in such a powerful way within our young people and in our leaders.

We have done a bunch of fun stuff: entered a cardboard boat race; had a sports night run by one of our parents; hosted a youth rally with the International Sports Federation; and had some awesome combined nights with the Max crew.

The fortnightly youth breakfast club is going strong, and it's a great way for the guys who attend to ask the questions that they don't necessarily get a chance to ask on a Friday.

This year we had the privilege of baptising two young people. These were special moments for these young people to make a statement of faith in front of their friends and family. Shout out to Mackenzie and Emily!

We've continued to partner with parents to reinforce what is happening at home and we've run a couple of parents evenings and lunches so that they can encourage each other and build connections.

Since this time last year, we had our own Kotahi Camp, and went to Northern Easter Camp. Camps are a great way to build community, and establish, or go deeper in their faith in God, in a wild, fun, Gospel-driven environment.

This year we asked the youth what they wanted to learn about. They said: "testimonies". So we've spent time hearing the leaders' stories about when God became real to them. This has been an awesome reminder that everyone has a story, and that it doesn't matter where you come from, what you've done, or what you will do. God loves you.

Pastor Troy



EMBASSY (YOUNG ADULTS)

We've had another incredible year at Embassy this year. We've an epic group of young adults who are passionate about Jesus and committed to being 'in community on mission'. If you're a young adult (ages 18-30), check out Embassy in 2024, and come join an on-fire community of Jesus followers!



Looking back over this year, I want to extend a massive 'thank you' to Michaela, Thushara, Sam, Jasmine, and Micah, who make up the team that I am privileged to work alongside each week. Each of these fantastic leaders are committed to praying for, and supporting the growth and discipleship of the young adults of MCBC—without them this group would not happen. We at Embassy want to say, "You Are Awesome!"

For the first half of the year, we focused on prayer by developing our skills and spiritual practices, including worship. In term three, we changed gears and dug our teeth into some deep biblical questions with our 'How (Not) To Read The Bible' series. This has been a challenging but enjoyable series of discussion nights learning how to read the Bible in community. For example, we explored how the Bible addresses slavery, inequality, and violence—but ultimately developed skills and tips for reading the Bible well. I love that we have spent 2023 looking at and growing in prayer and reading the Scripture—two essential parts of our discipleship journey as followers of Jesus.

We've also done several fun events this year, from coming second in a Cardboard Boat Race through to a mid-winter Christmas dinner, a night of dancing with a Young Adults Ball, and a unified night of worship involving young adults from churches all across South Auckland. I'm excited about next year's plans and ideas—"cough, cough" Embassy Camp—but ultimately looking forward to seeing what God has in store for our community, including the opportunities to equip and empower each other as the Body of Christ on mission in Aotearoa NZ.

David Preston



OUTREACH & PRACTICAL HELP

22

families helped with
food parcels every
week

12,575

items sold in the
Op Shop supporting
the LifeCare Centre

147

people who have
attended LifeCare
courses this year

IN COMMUNITY:

We are an integral part
of a faith community
with God and the
people of His church.

ON MISSION:

We are absolutely
passionate about living
a life on mission that
brings honour to God.



MISSIONS ACTION TEAM

We're a creative, fun, cross-generational and multi-cultural mob that are keen to strategise and pray for fellow cross carriers sharing the gospel both locally and around the world. We meet monthly on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to join our interactive, informative and prayer-centred meetings.

MCBC people who have been involved in mission-related trips in the last year include:

- Sam Chang with YWAM Kona, then DTS in Germany Sep 22-Mar 23
- Ian Pahina travelled to Africa during Nov-Dec 22
- Marty, Jodi and David travelled to Bangladesh (June/July 23)
- Arnie and Aly spent time on a Mercy Ship in Sierra Leone (Oct 23)
- Annie Snook part of a team trip to India (Nov 23)
- Shrutika and Thushara trip to Cambodia in (Nov 23)

November is also 'Missions Month' and this year our giving is focused on helping Dan and Angela Cornelius finish well in Thailand and transition back to life in NZ.

Exactly how we "do" mission seems to be undergoing a re-framing right now. Some long-serving folks are returning or changing roles after years of service and it's not immediately obvious what, who or how those gaps will be filled. What's next for the areas that they leave? While it's challenging dealing with how the world is changing, we're called to be adaptable and it's exciting to see what new things are going to happen.

While the "doing" might be changing, the "being" remains the same and always will. Come help us work out how to be salt and light to a changing world that needs it.

David Czepanski



Aimee & Audric Delessert, Australia

While in Cambodia, Audric was working to equip students with 21st century skills and a biblical world-view. We've since transitioned back into Australia where Audric rejoined the staff team at the Bible School. He created a two-week course to teach the students how to share the Word, then sent a group of 22 to teach in remote islands in Fiji. Some of our leaders met with the government there; they asked YWAM to help disciple the youth. This outreach is a first step towards that.

Aimee started working at Third Place, a business as a missions coffee shop that aims to build community and help people feel safe, and understood in a place that's not their home or workplace. Thank you for your prayers and support.

MISSIONARY REPORTS

Dan & Angela Cornelius, Baan Itsara Home, Chiang Mai

After almost 19 years, we've raised 16 children, including two of our own. We've taken in mainly disadvantaged tribal kids and still support 12 of them, including an 18-month-old grand-daughter. They are all either in high school, working, or in tertiary study. Our goal for each of them is that they love Jesus and become fruitful members of society. In May 2024, we (Dan and Ange) are returning home to live in NZ. However, the ministry will continue until 2028.



This year, we've seen God at work in our daughter, Soupy, who this very week messaged us with the following text: "The best time in my life is having you beside me. I want to tell you that I love you guys so much. You guys are like my real family. Thank you for everything you have given to me. Thank you for sacrificing your life to take care of me..."



Phil & Ruth Robinson, Philippines

Here in the Philippines, we're on mission to love God and make disciples in the city and in two different tribal areas on the island of Mindoro. We're based in Malolos.

Over the past 12 months, God answered our prayers, and our family moved out of the classroom and into a house. We've been absolutely blown away by your generosity and God's goodness. We've had challenging setbacks with typhoons, but our house is now in the finishing stages.

During this time, we've also hosted a mission team from NZ, and opened full face-to-face classes in school, including night classes designed for pastors.

We're so excited for Donna who is the first from her tribe to graduate university! She has such a heart after God and is now teaching and helping the other students in the tribe.

Micah Thompson, Catalyst Movement

Over the last year I've travelled the whole nation four times, including a quick trip to Aussie, working alongside various ministries and churches to do outreach and train believers in evangelism. If I were to sum up the year, I would quote Matt 9:37-38. The Harvest is truly plentiful in Aotearoa!

Throughout this year I organised, led or helped run: a tour with 40 missionaries across seven cities to do call people to go 'All In for Jesus', a five-day evangelism school called 'Catalyst Project', and an evangelism and outreach tour through 70 locations in NZ.

Next year I've committed to working with 'The Send' and directing a 150 location tour to preach the gospel and call young people into action in the great commission. I've never been more excited for what God is doing!



LIFECARE CENTRE

*Hope-filled whanau.
Transformed communities.*

LifeCare Centre has had a busy year with many people contributing in so many ways. As our facilitators and support people have created caring, safe and empowering environments, we have seen in our participants:

- Growth in confidence
- Positive changes that have been made
- The learning of ideas and tools to help in everyday situations
- New community being discovered

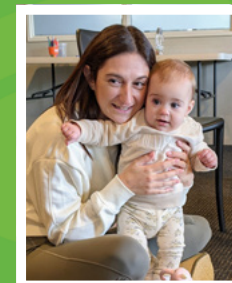
We'd love to share with you our wonderful teams:

- LCC Leadership Team – Ben Judge, Danyon Haskett, Denise Snook, Jono Au-Young, Karlene Boa, Nicola Corbett
- Awhi Mai – Bev Clark
- CAP Money – Ian Pahina, Tiff Yuvaraj
- Celebrate Recovery – James and Fiona Hippolite, and Paul Futter
- Compassionate Consumerism – Helen Futter
- English Class – Joy Austin, John Barben, Barry Shaw
- Generous Justice – Ben Judge
- SPACE for You and Your Baby – Jess Lawrence, Angie Barthow, Joy Ward
- Toolbox Parenting – Mel Doubleday, Aly Hall
- Women of Worth – Kelli Bennett, Holly Mannering-Woods, Lyn Davis, Angela Nikoro

Our Mission Statement says: Because people are relational, because people are created with vast potential, and because Jesus brings hope... we will offer community and courses, to further enhance people's existing knowledge and abilities, in the context of empowering relationships. We are so encouraged when people share how their experiences at LifeCare Centre are evidence of our mission statement being worked out. Here's some feedback we've got:

- "I'm in a better place now mentally, spiritually and physically. I have hope now in myself and others." – WOW participant
- "I've set a budget and have started to work with cash and I'm excited to see the change in my finances." – CAP Money participant
- "I've been challenged in many areas and have appreciated the safe place to share and grow." – Generous Justice group participant
- "I have made connections and friendships with women I still see almost weekly, three years later. They are my support network, my village." – Space participant
- And many more!

Karlene Boa & Denise Snook



**A huge 'thank you' to those who pray and serve with us.
What a privilege it is working together.**

Learn more about the Lifecare Centre
lifecarecentre.org

FOOD STATION

This year we have changed our name from "Food to Fill a Need" to "Food Station". Food Station is open on a Thursday at two time slots – from 2:30-3:30 pm and again from 7-8 pm. We've gone from packing parcels on behalf of families to them now choosing what they need. We also provide a space where you can indulge in a cuppa and a chat with our amazing team of four volunteers. We cater for all ages so don't be shy if you need food – we are here to help.

I've seen God at work this year where someone gets something they've needed, but haven't been able to get in a long time.

Michelle Burdock



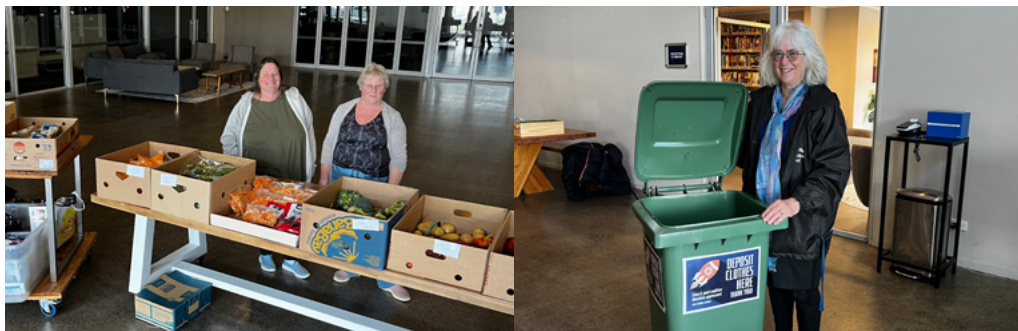
MADE WITH LOVE

Made with Love is such a behind the scenes ministry. Church members make meals, freeze them and drop them off at church so that when whanau have a tough patch, there's a resource there to help with food. We've had many people thank the staff members who have dropped off the meals.

It's so nice that we can be there for each other, not only spiritually, but practically. We've recently purchased another bunch of containers as we've used 100 over the past year.

Thank you to those that have given their time and resources to this ministry. If anyone is interested in joining this ministry, please feel free to contact me or pick up a container from the info booth and drop it off at the church freezer.

Sara Barrett



COUNSELLING

Our counselling service offers the opportunity to professionally help our people, their friends, contacts or families. This may be through services offered here or direction and referral to professional people outside of church (for privacy and convenience). After a late start this year because of a health issue, our Counselling Ministry is now up and running again.

We offer help with personal issues, child or teenage issues, couples and many other things that arise in a confidential and professional way. Jesus sets the example as the best counsellor, and it is such a privilege when the counselling can have a strong spiritual element where God's wisdom and healing are part of what happens in a counselling session.

Part of this Ministry is also offering supervision to trainee and qualified counsellors, pastoral staff, chaplains, and other people working in a professional capacity.

It is always wonderful to reflect on the help the Lord gives us in our ministries... "All this comes from the Lord Almighty, whose plan is wonderful, whose wisdom is magnificent". Isaiah 28:29

Kathy Symons



KIDS CLOTHING EXCHANGE

It has been another satisfying year being able to provide kids clothing to our church families and extended community.

The first Sunday of every month provides families with the opportunity to choose five items of clothing from the cupboard. They can help themselves to clothes in the recycle bins, which ranges from babies to 12-years old.

It's a great place for mums of all ages to engage in conversation, catching up on the week's events or meeting other mums who may be there for the first time. The recycle bins also extend to Flavor Cafe on Tuesday mornings which helps mums in the wider community with extra clothing for their families.

We are always grateful for good quality donations that can be passed on to our young church families who take advantage of this ministry. We'd like to encourage all families with young children to come and have a look; you never know, there may be something that could help with your family budget.

We thank God for continuing to bless this ministry, the families that benefit from the donations and those that have given.

Karen Page & Sue Blackett



OP SHOP

It's such a pleasure to be able to provide the community with a place where they feel welcomed and relaxed. Our biggest success is being able to create deeper connections with our regular customers.

Our's is not just a regular Op Shop that you walk through and then leave. The Pop-up Cafe offers customers a chance to sit down and have a coffee and a chat!

This Op Shop isn't possible without all our incredible volunteers. Their willingness to serve has created an environment that customers love returning to as God's love is so present. The most heart-warming thing to see is a customer leaving happier than when they came in! The best part is being able to tell customers that their money is going back into the community. We help fund the LifeCare Centre that provides community and courses in order to see hope-filled whanau and transformed communities!

Hope Short

LIBRARY

"A library is a treasure trove waiting to be discovered", someone once said.

Our own MCBC library has hundreds of books & DVD's that can provide information & Christian-theme entertainment. Why not visit it on Sundays or during the week at office hours?

Miriam Sharp



PRISON MINISTRY



This year has been a year of change and flexibility for our Prison care team. We have been so thankful for the prayer and support that we have received from MCBC which raised our profile, and encouraged new people to join our team. In May, Lyn Davis resigned as Women's Prison Chaplain. Lyn has been a blessing to the both the prison and the wahine, she courageously connected, advocated, disciplined, and showed the unconditional love of Jesus. She has left a lasting impact - many lives are changed through her ministry at AWRCF.

Unfortunately our team for Wiri Men's has been unable to resume services due to issues following covid which has been frustrating. Please pray that the prison doors will open so that the men there will once again receive encouragement and support from our chaplaincy volunteers.

Our team is frequently blessed, excited, and encouraged when we go to the prison. Many of the wahine are hungry to hear about the love of Jesus through His Word. We get to laugh, cry, worship, pray, and share our stories with our sisters inside the wire. We have lots of amazing stories of how God uses us. Next year we really want to build a dedicated prayer team – prayer is the foundation to which this ministry is built. Lastly big thanks to Shrutika Gunanayagam who did an amazing job leading the team for women's team while I was on sabbatical recently.

Aly Hall





310

average Sunday
morning
attendance

10,513

views in 2023
on YouTube

CREATIVE & WORSHIP



"It's a real blessing to serve God in the Music Ministry alongside our incredibly talented brothers and sisters in Christ. I love that our desire is for everyone to be brought into God's presence; to praise and worship Him in spirit and in truth with all that we have and with all that we are, in order to see God move in this place!"

Michelle Mahanga

"I love being part of the production team as a camera operator because it allows me to serve Christ and develop my skills through visual creativity."

Eric Zhou





MUSIC WORSHIP

"Everyone has a song in them, you just have to find it".

We are so blessed to have such an amazing bunch of gifted and servant-hearted people here at MCBC. We have people who give of themselves regularly to enable us to have not just great music, but space for us to engage and encounter God. What we experience on a Sunday (and also all the other events they give of their time) is not a performance, but the overflow of practice, prayer, and preparation by our team.

This year we have seen plenty of new faces come and be a part of our team, and there is always room for more. I would also love to incorporate other instruments so let us know what you can offer. I love what God is doing through our music team, and we really sense that as a team we will be writing songs for our church community.

Pastor Marty

MEDIA/GRAPHIC DESIGN

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1) – here at MCBC we're not quite creating things that big, but we aim to do things as excellently as we can – even if that requires climbing to precarious positions for the perfect video angle.

From sermon graphics, promotional signage and materials, digital content, all our videos, branding, decorations – you name it, we do it!

It's been a privilege to design material for some extra curricular organisations as well this year – we hosted National Baptist Hui and Sara did a great job with designing everything they needed including amazing stage design and our new chandelier. I also am leading the media team for The Send coming to NZ next year – a big role but looking forward to being part of what God is doing in Aotearoa as we do our part in the Great Commission.

One thing I love seeing, is our young people getting involved and serving – especially on our creative teams. They do a great job with photography, video editing, designing, social media, production... If you're keen get in touch we can provide training.

Casey Clark

PRODUCTION TEAM

On any given Sunday there is a dedicated team of people working behind the production desk to make the service run smoothly and professionally. Rumour has it that it's the "funnest" team around.

We often have a bunch of our team that go to Festival One to volunteer for tech positions there and help. It's a great opportunity to serve and up-skill as well.

The rest of this year has seen some changes in the team as we have farewelled our former head of sound, Tane Hippolite, welcomed new volunteers and introduced new gear – in particular a fancy new sound system.

We have also had to juggle rostering challenges and older gear developing faults and shortfalls. But I'm pleased to say that each time our volunteers have risen to the occasion, furthering their skills to make most of what we have, and stepping in sometimes at short notice.

A highlight this year was our production team training afternoon which saw us gain a lot of new team members, imparting on them our passion for doing what we do. God has been developing enthusiasm in the team for serving him with our creative and technical gifts and abilities, and it's been awesome to see the existing volunteers taking the new ones under their wing and developing the enthusiasm and skills for doing what we do.

Hugh Wilson



SOCIAL

07

**marriages we got
to celebrate**

Elya & Tim Wason, Leah & Prasert Martyn,
Sam & Jasmine Bennett, Lucy & Ben Danilo,
Makarios & Sofia Mulipola, Malo & Mena Moe,
David & Annie Morse

12,200

**shots of coffee
poured since
last annual
report**



“At bowls, I was invited to attend a Sunday service. This led me to the Alpha Course and, later, baptism. I also attend a Hang Out Group, and now I have this desire to develop my faith further. Looking back, I can see how the Holy Spirit lead me here, and I’m excited for what the future holds.”

Jay Duis



EVENTS

I love getting people together – and Jesus seemed to enjoy a bit of gathering as well! We try to be intentional about all our events with specific purpose and specific outcomes.

Good Friday Outdoor Service with breakfast, and Christmas in the Paddock are now two of our services where we have the most visitors who wouldn't normally attend a church service. We love to do things outdoors... being in the paddock allows us to see God's creation and it is a more relaxed environment for guests to attend. We have invested into making sure we do these services well with a set of 300 outdoor chairs (brand new for \$5 each!), new BBQ's, new signage and some marquees. You're welcome. This makes these events easier to set up from the shipping container and more welcoming for others.

As well as these church wide and community events, we have tried to do plenty of regular smaller events to promote community and discipleship. You may be surprised when we put the list together that includes Festival One (washout!), Weekend Getaways, Movie Night Jesus Revolution, café music night with Heart of Catherine, Warriors trip (up the Wahs!), Tear Fund images night, Rugby World Cup breakfasts (so close!), Her and Blokes events and breakfasts and church services, balls, bonfires (thank you Joy & Kev Ward), working bees and mid winter Christmases! We also hosted the National Baptist Hui with over 550 delegates from around the country. It was a massive effort but it was amazing!

Thank you for all the people that make these events happen! We love ideas, we love people making things happen for others round here! And we love being intentional in welcoming people into our faith community and making great connection with others.

Pastor Arnie



24 HOUR GYM

In the past year, MCBC Gym has maintained its role as a hub for health, wellness, and fellowship. It's not just a place for physical fitness, but also a space where meaningful conversations about God's work happens. The purpose of the gym is twofold: (1) to promote physical fitness and well-being; and (2) to promote Christian fellowship.

We are stoked that the Pono Boxfit classes have also started to use our facilities. This addition not only enhances our fitness offerings, but also provides another avenue through which we can extend our message to the community, strengthening our ties and impact within the neighbourhood.

Tom Hall

FLAVOR CAFÉ

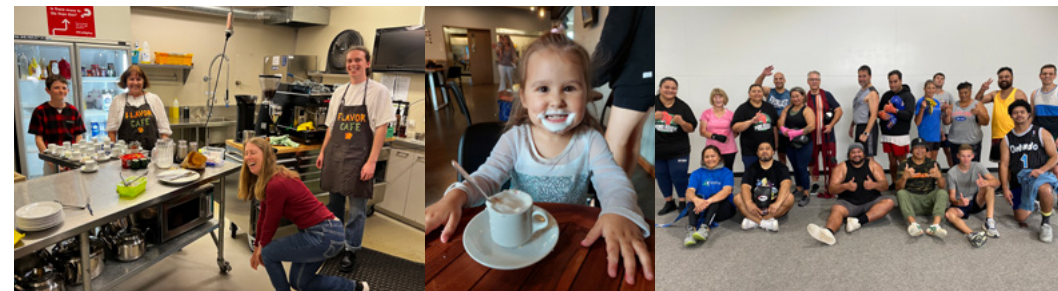
We have enjoyed connecting at Flavor Café over yummy food, great coffee, fun and friendship. A foyer full of little ones laughing and playing while parents are chatting is an unbeatable experience on Tuesday mornings.

We are privileged to have several boys and girls from the Richards Centre based at Papatoetoe High School, supported by Jolene, who provide fantastic help in making 'fluffies' and taking out orders.

Thank you, too, to our volunteers Faye Borlase, Alison Strong, Michelle Burdock, Elspeth Lowans, Colleen Beachey, Pamela, Zac and Gracie Cammell. A big thank you to our barista, Ben Hall, and fill-in barista, Nic Preiss.

God continues to grow a wonderful community of mums, dads, grandparents, caregivers and children who are all enjoying a welcoming environment in which to relax and to have lots of fun, friendship and support together.

Angela Taylor



COFFEE FIX

Come join us for a coffee (or hot chocolate of mocha or latte or cappuccino) from 9:30 am on Sunday mornings. Our team of baristas would love to serve you and get to know you – and your drinks orders! (Here's to you and your cappuccino with one sugar, Doug, and you and your piccolo-latte, Jay!)

Sharing a coffee before the service is a great way to make new friends, catch up with old friends, and build a vibrant and friendly church community!

Nic Preiss



HOST TEAMS

"The person on car parking this morning made me feel so welcome, like I was at home".

Nothing just happens and first impressions are super important! On a Sunday morning we have an amazing group of volunteers who help people to feel welcomed and connected here at MCBC. From car-parking to door greeters, baristas to offering counters, there are always lots of things going on to make sure people feel at home. We would love to have new people join our teams – there are always slots to fill, and it's a great way to get to know others.

Pastor Marty



MULTI-CULTURAL MINISTRIES

My role as the multicultural advisor means I seek to cultivate, resource and encourage the growing cultural diversity of MCBC. Our key co-ordinators bring planning and life to our different cultural groups: Jack and Jayatri (Indian fellowship), Angela and Jules (Pasifika in Christ), Miriam (International), and Jamie, Mai and Lin (Asian).

Pastor Steve

PASIFIKA IN CHRIST



Pacific Greetings to you all. The Pasifika in Christ team of myself and Angela organise a Pasifika Toonai (a gathering with food) twice a year. We get together with the Pacific community who attend MCBC, and we connect over some soul food. Nothing really to it. So check out for the notices for our next fellowship.

I've seen God at work this year in connecting with other Pacific believers in the church. We have a Hang Out Group with some sistas from church who meet once a month to fellowship and connect. Come along if you would like to join.

Julie Segi

TE RŌPU AWHINA

Kia ora whanau, after a little hiatus Te Rōpu Awhina is back! We kicked off this year with some whakawhanaungatanga (getting to know each other), a brief korero around the history of the rōpu, and the vision of the rōpu. The vision for the rōpu is that Maoritanga (Maori culture) would be woven into the church of Aotearoa New Zealand. I love that this has been a lovely space for connecting to our roots, singing beautiful waiata (songs) and eating kai tino reka (yummy food).

It was a privilege to host the National Baptist Hui this year. I got to see our rōpu step up and take charge of the powhiri as tangata whenua of our whare karakia (church). It makes me so proud when I see our beautiful and diverse rōpu leading a beautiful powhiri, waiata Maori and Karanga.

I'm excited for us as a church encouraging this rōpu, and championing our Maori to be fully Maori and fully Christian. Bonny Alaia says: "I find that te Rōpu Awhina has encouraged me to look at the reality of Living for God with a Māori world-view. How that in itself is a covenant like a treaty to me."

All are welcome to visit and join our group – we look forward to all the opportunities God has for us as a church to grow in our faith and knowledge of Te Ao Maori. Nau mai haere mai, ma te wa. Mauri ora

Pastor Troy

COME WALKING

After seven years, we still find interesting places to visit each month with just 30 minutes of walking (mostly ambling), to our surprise destination. The highlight this year was being ushered through the highest apartment in Manukau. Such incredible views! Chatting while walking is great, as is the coffee and cake on our return. Rowena, a regular, says she likes "making new friendships, walking and talking, and enjoying everyone's company".



Jill Hall



INDOOR BOWLS

We've got a great core group of people who come to play bowls on a Tuesday. We've also got a lot of people coming from the community to join in. If you're keen, come and learn to play bowls in a very friendly environment. It's a great time to catch up with old friends, make new ones and enjoy a cuppa.

Brian Ireland

FIND OUT FRIDAY

Our purpose is to be resourcing seniors in areas of health, finance, digital access and advance care planning. We are passionate as seniors to be lifelong learners, so the third Friday of each month is dedicated to this purpose. Workshops have focused on: "how to choose a retirement village that best fits you"; "tech for seniors"; "mental wellness for seniors" (with Vikki Paealiki), "how to avoid scams"; "waste management" from Manukau Beautification trust; "building cultural awareness"; and craft ideas for Christmas, etc.

Pastor Steve



STEADY AS YOU GO (SENIORS EXERCISE)

We value and appreciate Judy and Lynn as our key co-ordinators. Our partnership with Age Concern means we can offer Steady as You Go classes every Friday morning, with a wide range of people from the community joining in this exercise program which helps maintain one's balance. Plus the fellowship helps to overcome the loneliness that can creep up on seniors who are isolated in their homes.

Pastor Steve

MEET N EAT

Meet 'n' Eat is continuing well – good food, good company, sharing and fellowship and always room for more members.

If you're new to Church, or even if you've been here forever, this is a great way to meet new people and be part of a group with God at the centre of it all.



Lynn Newport

SUPER FRIDAY

We celebrate food, fun and interesting topics, including presentations such as the Great Bike Trails of NZ (Encore Cycling Team), having Denise from Life Care Centre speak, plus sharing about Mercy ships and the Sierra Leone mission trip by Pastor Arnie and Aly, and other topics of interest to seniors. A big shout out to our lunch team!

Pastor Steve



MAINLY MUSIC

Our Mainly Music sessions are a fun morning out! One community mum said: "I was having a bad morning and the thought of being at Mainly Music soon got me excited".

We have parents, grandparents and caregivers bringing their under 5's for an adult and child inclusive music session. We engage with a variety of fun actions, dance, props and role play while enjoying themed sessions and dress-up days.

We have an average weekly attendance of 53 people and almost 80% of our attendees are from our local communities. Our high community attendance is how I've seen God at work this year. Parents and caregivers are grateful that MCBC have created such a safe and fun place to enjoy with their precious children. I've seen children go from not leaving their adults side, to not even noticing where their adult is while they learn confidence and independence.

I'm very proud to be part of Mainly Music with the positive reputation it, and MCBC, has in our local communities. Thank you to my amazing team for helping make it all happen.

Nicole Chu



TOASTMASTERS

MCBC Toastmasters has been a healthy club with between 15-25 members. A third of our members speak English as a second language. Through attending meetings, they noticeably improve their confidence and language skills.

The club celebrates its eight anniversary on 8th October 2023, and for the last seven years, it has obtained the President's Distinguished Award – the highest award a club can achieve.

James Hippolite is currently the District Director in charge of all Toastmaster Clubs northwards from Levin. Both James and Ben Ross have achieved the highest award an individual can receive (the Distinguished Toastmasters Award). This is an internationally recognised qualification.

Recently one of our Chinese members shared that he attributes Toastmasters for helping him procure a new job. We're known in Toastmaster circles for producing people who serve in the district and whose club is fun and friendly. Recently one of our members received the Toastmaster Division Director of the year. He also has received a promotion and work opportunities because of his participation at Toastmasters.

We continue to offer opportunities for all people to participate in a Christ-friendly club, which opens with a karakia each week. We would love it if others from the church joined—anyone over the age of 17 is welcome, and we meet most Saturdays from 4-6pm.

Fiona Hippolite

GAVEL CLUB

MC UTH Gavel Club is for building communication skills and self-confidence in young people. Some of us have a God-given ability to speak in front of an audience and some need to work a little more – this is where our Gavel Club helps.

We currently have members aged 11-17 years from the community. It is such a nice feeling to see them get involved to develop their skills – often they end up giving better speeches than adults!

After Covid, the club had a tough time with low membership, but I felt very strongly that God is working, and He encouraged me to keep going. One good thing from Covid: we have participants joining us from Nelson, South Korea and wider Auckland via Zoom. But we do prefer physical meetings, which happen every Wednesday from 6-7 pm.

Many thanks to Pastor Alastair and the whole team here at MCBC for their help and support. Please keep our club in your prayers.

Warren Christie



FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT



"I love our small, but enthusiastic group of gardeners that tend the church gardens. We have jobs for everyone – watering, weeding, trimming, spraying, sweeping, leaf blowing, planting etc. and afterwards, a welcome cuppa and treat in the op shop cafe with a good chat!"

Judy Dawson



"This year, our IT team was like a squad of superheroes; focused on keeping everything running smoothly. We performed some serious tech maintenance to ensure that every system was at peak performance."

Chris Greyling

We are Real People doing Real Life.
Round here we talk, care & hope.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

2023 has been a quieter year on the property-front with no major projects or upgrades undertaken.

There are always small maintenance items on a building this size, but overall, everything is working as it should.

The Community Housing team has continued to meet during the year with a special focus on "What is MCBC's role in community housing?"; and "Is there a different approach to huge debt or wasted money through rent?" Both are excellent questions to prayerfully consider and to seek the Lord's leading.

We have a few things planned for 2024, including a bathroom upgrade and some new air conditioning to be started at the beginning of the new year. We are so blessed with our facilities. Now we are mortgage-free we are looking for Gods leading on how He'd like us to use His property to bless others.

Mark Dawson



BUILDING HIREAGE

A variety of community organisations use space at our venue. On any given day, we might host first aid courses, a college graduation ceremony, or training days for the leaders of other churches. We also hosted the National Baptist Hui here!

As a church, we're so blessed to own our own land and buildings. We paid off our loan last year so now we're debt-free! And we got there partly by hiring out rooms, and being good stewards of what God has given us.

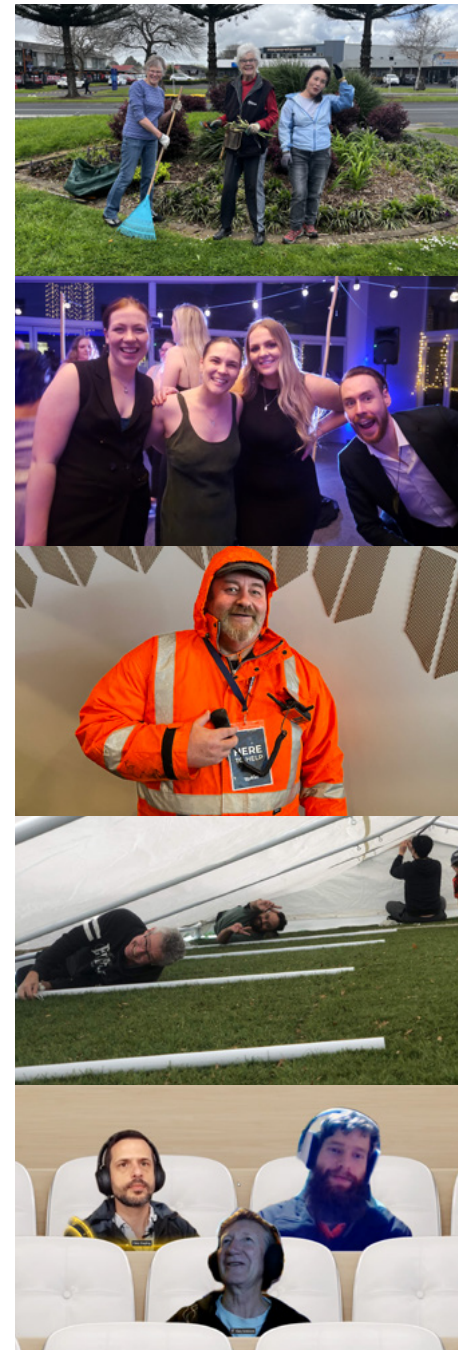
"Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." Ephesians 3:20

Nic Preiss

TECHNOLOGY

This year, our IT team was like a squad of superheroes; focused on keeping everything running smoothly. We performed some serious tech maintenance to ensure that every system was at peak performance. We even came to the rescue of the church by replacing outdated staff laptops and setting up the new PC hub in the foyer. If you're interested in joining our IT Justice League, get in touch with the 'MCBC IT' group under the 'Serving' section on the church app. We can't wait to see what amazing tech feats we can accomplish together!

Chris Greyling



\$0
dollars
owing to our
mortgage

550+
delegates
at National
Baptist Hui

40+
helpers at
our church
working
bee

1
new
sound
system

OUR FINANCIALS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

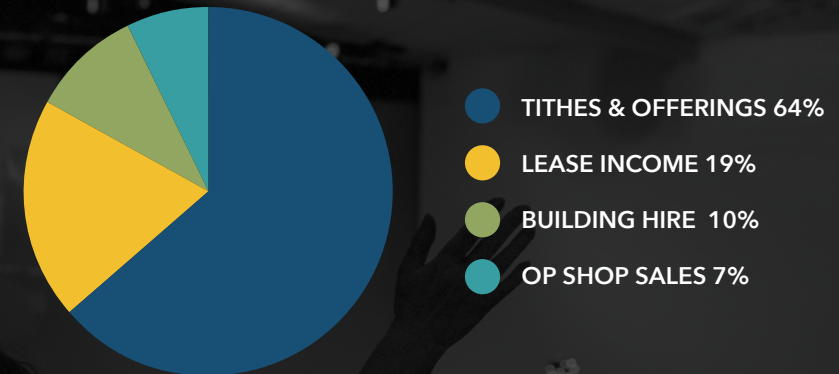
- Another great financial year at MCBC! Thank you to everyone who faithfully tithes and gives to the work of MCBC. We can't operate the church without you.
- At the start of each financial year, we budget where we think the resources will be best used. Then at the end of the financial year, we report back to you where the resources came from and where they were used.
- A full set of audited accounts will be made available once the audit process is complete – the following are draft financial statements.
- We have various organisations and people that we support – people we've sent overseas on missions, some local organisations our people are serving through, the Northern Regional and national Baptist churches. We love that our finances get used in our community, the nation, and the world.
- The big news this year – we paid the last of our mortgage! We made our final payment of \$3,476 on 5 February and are now debt free! We were able to pay our mortgage off much sooner than we planned. This has been achieved through individuals specifically giving for this and by using our building income.
- Some significant improvements we've made this year include updating: the church van, our meeting room chairs, our outdoor events set up, replacing the 14-year-old sound system and desk in the auditorium, and air conditioning in the chapel, café area and Lifecare offices.
- We try to manage our finances well and responsibly. We apply principles like: waiting until we need something, planning and budgeting, discussing at our monthly Management Team meetings, getting quotes for larger costs, and aim to get second-hand or good deals if appropriate. Also God provides – the prayer lounge chairs cost \$10ea, the new lounge couches cost \$100ea, the outdoor event chairs brand new cost \$5ea, and the computers in the new internet café in the foyer were donated.
- The Op Shop now generates over 7% of our church income. Over 1/3 of our income now comes from somewhere other than the offering plate. Thank you to all who donate their goods and time to the Op Shop.
- We are grateful for the Tindall Foundation which has allowed us to run our SPACE parenting programmes.
- We work in conjunction with Kiwi Harvest and South Auckland Christian Foodbank to help those who need food assistance.
- My thanks to the rest of the 'team' - to Nic in admin and to Colin and other counters helping out on a Sunday morning.
- If your personal money/finances are a concern, please contact one of the pastors or Lifecare team. They're always available, and we often have CAP budgeting courses.

Thank you, Diana Lynskey | Treasurer

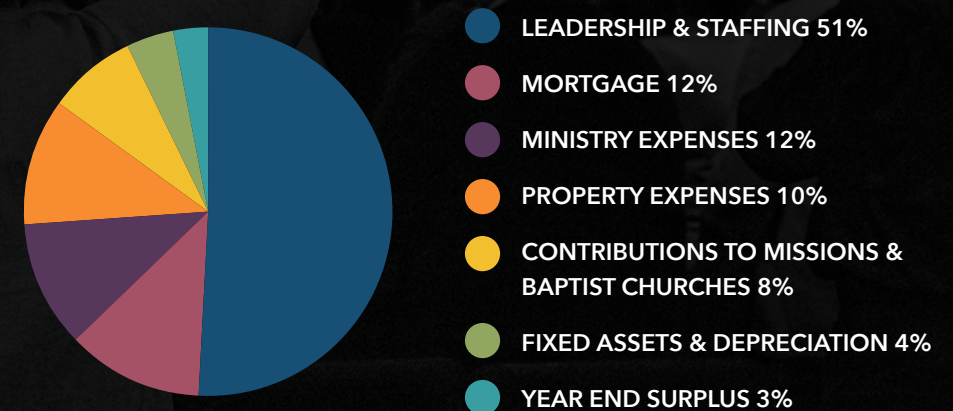
AT A GLANCE

2022/2023

WHERE OUR MONEY COMES FROM:



HOW OUR MONEY GETS USED:



Statement of Financial Performance
For the year ended 30 June 2023

	This Year
INCOME	
Donations, Tithes and Offerings	751,241
Grant Income	4,785
Donations, Grants and other similar income	756,026
Activities, Events & Group income	49,765
Pop Up Op Shop	77,034
Building Lease & Hire	341,270
Income from providing events & facilities	468,069
Interest Income	1,423
Other Income	15,393
Total Income	1,240,911
EXPENDITURE	
Grant Expenditure	4,785
Missions and Baptist Contributions	98,270
Grants or Donations made	103,055
Activities & Events	5,236
Community Support	4,885
Group Ministry	60,552
Interest Expense	2,102
Office & Communications	27,893
Property Costs	128,042
Resources	7,017
Sunday Ministry	10,030
Staff Training & costs	14,031
Cost of ministry, events and facilities	259,788
Employment Stipends & Allowances	638,327
Total Expenditure	1,001,170
Operating Net Surplus (Deficit) before depreciation	239,741
Depreciation	22,691
Operating Net Surplus (Deficit) after depreciation	217,050
Payment for mortgage reduction	-144,030
Payment for fixed assets purchased	-31,392
Net funds after mortgage payment & fixed asset additions	41,629

Statement of Financial Position
For the year ended 30 June 2023

	This Year	Last Year
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Total Accumulated Member Funds	5,452,003	5,238,101
This is represented by :-		
CURRENT ASSETS		
MCBC Account	49,914	64,057
Building Fund Account	1,065	153
Christian Savings Account	60,000	0
Accounts Receivable	13,775	3,645
Prepayments	17,743	18,332
GST Refundable	5,053	2,964
Total Current Assets	147,550	89,151
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors & Accruals	36,602	36,254
Unspent Grants	9,668	4,472
Funds Held to Pass on	36,858	39,191
Unearned Income	0	5,984
Total Current Liabilities	83,128	85,901
Working Capital	64,422	3,250
NON CURRENT ASSETS		
As per Schedule	5,387,581	5,378,881
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Mortgages	0	144,030
Total Net Assets	5,452,003	5,238,101



**MORTGAGE
FREE!**

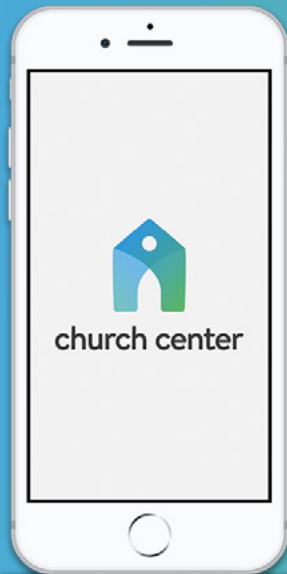


STATEMENT

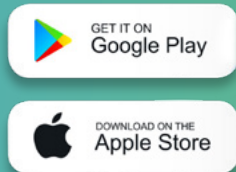
Manukau City Baptist Church
PO Box 97101
Manukau City
Auckland 2241

Loan Number	FT1088
Date Opened	28 June 2021
Statement Starts	1 January 2023
Statement Ends	5 January 2023
Maturity Date	5 February 2030
Interest Rate	6.50%

Account Name:	Manukau City Baptist Church		
Opening Balance	less Credits	plus Debits	Closing Balance
\$6,748.34	\$6,785.00	\$36.66	\$0.00



Stay connected.
Download the
church center app.



Sunday 24 September 2025 Prophetic Word from Lorinda Frank

"I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one. I in them and you in me so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent and have loved them, even as you have loved me." John 17:23

The Spirit of the Lord says: "Church, you are living stones. You are living stones that I am fitting together into my holy temple. You are a chosen people, you are a holy nation, you are MY possession and I have set you apart.

Will you show my goodness to the world, will you show my love to the world, will you show my unity to the world? Will you show my perfect unity to the world? For if you will show my unity to the world, then I will make you an example, Church. I will make you an example of unity, not just in this house, not just in this part of the body, but I will make you an example of unity for the community of Manukau City. I will make you an example of unity for the city of Auckland, I will make you an example of unity for the nation of New Zealand.

Where there has been division, there will no longer be division. There will be unity, if you will come, if you will be in me as I am in you then there will be unity and I will raise you up as a people who are united, as the Father and the Son and the Spirit are united."

The Lord is calling us today, Church: Do not allow division to reign in this place. Do not allow your political views, or your ethnicity or your prejudices to keep you from unity in the body. If we will put that aside and unite with him in spirit and in truth, he will use this part of the body as an example for our community, for our city and for our nation.

Allow the Lord to use us to bring unity to our church, to our city, to our nation. For the Lord is on it: Unity for this church, unity for the nation of New Zealand.

What does that look like?

- Servant leadership (John 13)
- Loving one another (John 15)
- Oneness with the Father, Son & Spirit first in us, then in our relationships with others – Spirit-filled and Spirit-led

