

Church Directory

NORTH ISLAND

Covenant Presbyterian Church

10am & 6pm, 77 Rogers Rd, Manurewa, Auckland
Pastors: Peter Boyd & Peter Reynolds
Ph (09) 269-1046

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Takanini School Hall
Old Park Place
Takanini, Auckland
Pastors: Andrew Macpherson & Steve Panapa
Ph (09) 267-2847
www.trinitychurch.org.nz

Redeemer Grace Presbyterian Church

10:30am Chapel Downs School Hall
Flat Bush, Manukau City.
Pastor: Wally Rakete
Ph (09) 267-5584
www.redeemergpc.com

Providence Presbyterian Church

17a George St, Papatoetoe, Auckland
Contact: Uaita Levi
Ph (09) 267-9440

Tauranga Contact

Contact: Steve Williams
(07) 579 4973

Grace Church, Gisborne (Mission Church)

10:30am, 481 Gladstone Road (beside Teal Motel)
Pastor: Geoff Macpherson
Ph: (06) 868 1411/ 0277 276 711
www.gracechurchnz.org

Grace Community Fellowship (Mission Church)

10am & 6:30pm Merrilands School
Kauri Street, New Plymouth.
Pastor: David Farr
Ph:(06) 759 9378 / 021 0364606

Grace @ Wellington (Mission Church)

Cuba St, Wellington Central
Pastor: Ian Bayne
Ph: (04) 976 5093

SOUTH ISLAND

Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Cheh

10:30am & 6pm, Fendalton Community Centre,
170 Clyde Rd, Fendalton,
Christchurch
Pastor: Ron Ellis
Ph: Rob van Rij, (03) 9423 249
www.journey.org.nz

Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ashburton

10:30 am, 63 Princes St, Ashburton
Pastor: David Bayne
Ph: (03) 307 7355

Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Fairlie

(Preaching Station)
4pm, McKenzie Centre, Fairlie
Contact: Andrew Johnson
Ph: (03) 685-8222

Grace Bible Church, Dunedin

Leith Bowling Club, Duke Street, Dunedin
Pastor: Mark Smith
Ph: (03) 473-8100

Tokomairiro Grace Bible Church

Senior Citizens Room
Union Street, Milton, Otago
Contact: Grant Bullin
Ph: (03) 417-7120

Catlins Evangelical Church

Owaka Community Centre,
3 Ovenden Street, Owaka, South Otago
Contact: Kevin Gray
Ph: (03) 415-8414

Grace Presbyterian Church, Gore

30 Hamilton Street, East Gore
Pastor: Azriel Gray
Ph (03) 208-8027

Wyndham Evangelical Church

10:30am & 6:30pm, Balaclava Street,
Wyndham, Southland.
Pastor: Andrew Young
Ph: (03) 206 4713

Grace Presbyterian Church, Invercargill

cnr Centre and Morton Streets,
Georgetown, Invercargill
Pastor: Barry Swann
Ph (03) 217-7679

Tuatapere fellowship

Scout & Guide Hall, Erskine St, Tuatapere
Contact: Bruce Barney
Ph (03) 225 5734

Assembly Moderator

Rod Peek, (09) 2677 279

Stated Clerk

David Bayne (03) 342-5354

Treasurer

George Wallace (03) 208-6635

www.gpcnz.org.nz

April 2008

Growing In

GRACE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF New Zealand

OVERSEAS
MISSIONS



EDITORIAL

Mission is the heartbeat of the Church. Mission is its reason for being. Without Mission the Church is not only missing a wonderful opportunity in ministry but it is simply disobeying the Lord Jesus Christ who said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" Without Mission the Church is not being the Church.

When Grace Presbyterian Church was first established it was done so with a prayerful desire to reclaim the timeless authority and power of the biblical Gospel. But not simply so that it could be protected and defended but so that it could be unleashed into a needy and lost world whose only hope for life and eternity is to know God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent. To that end, Missions has been a growing reality in our congregations.

In the last Growing in Grace we focussed on Missions within New Zealand, in this edition we have focussed on Missions to the ends of the earth. We hope you will be as excited to read as we are of the first two missionary families sent out from GPCNZ, of the many short-term missions from various congregations, the passion on many hearts and even a new church begun in a needy part of the world through the instrumentality of GPCNZ members.

Surely God has answered those first prayers in wonderful ways, above and beyond what we have asked or expected. May it continue to be so. And may His call, as the hymn writer says, to "rescue the perishing, care for the dying", more and more, become the heartbeat on all our hearts.

From the editors, **Andrew Macpherson and Peter Boyd.**



Volume Five, Issue One



David Farr (4th from right) with the Saturday surfing class in New Plymouth



Grace Bible Church Team in Philippines with friends. Mark Smith, Karen Boyes, Denis Grey, Bill & Stephanie Boyes (back left). Warrick Worth (front)



Sunday School kids in Poi Pet, Cambodia



EPC team at an orphanage in Poi Pet. CHO director Chomno-In is crouching at the front.



Covenant missionaries Martin & Ruth Ghent in Japan

CHANGES AT GRACE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

by Peter Reynolds

In March of this year the Board of GTC made two new appointments. Andrew Young was appointed as Associate Principal (South Island) and Peter Reynolds was appointed Principal of Grace College.

Andrew and Nola, along with their son John, are to relocate to Wyndham where Andrew will take up the pastorate of the Wyndham Evangelical Church. The Wyndham church has generously agreed to Andrew giving some of his time to Grace College in his new capacity as Associate Principal.

Andrew's move to Southland enables the College to develop further their new strategy and vision to take GTC to the cities and towns of New Zealand. We are looking to the Lord to see training centres for GTC set up throughout the country, where GTC graduates and pastors are able to offer our courses to any who wish to train and prepare for leadership in their local churches.

We would like to see our one year Certificate in Biblical Studies being offered to people in localities where they are sufficiently removed from Auckland that it is not practical for them to move in order to study. In short, we want to bring GTC to you.

Andrew will be looking for people in the South Island churches who are able to promote and teach our year one courses among their own communities. GTC has always been very conscious that the South Island has provided many of our students, pastoral and otherwise; has supported the College prayerfully and financially; has received many of our graduates back to plant churches; and in Christchurch, has been offering GTC

courses for some time. So it is with real thankfulness to God that we are able to release Andrew with a focused intent to bring GTC ministry into the South Island churches. Our prayer is that this will stimulate interest among young men to offer themselves for pastoral ministry training, as well as encourage others to complete GTC courses.

Our passion is to see leaders in churches throughout New Zealand equipped, supported and encouraged in their localities, and, in turn, offering the benefits of their GTC training to their churches. This way the GTC training is kept "in house" and focused and orientated to the needs and opportunities of each local church.

The commitment of GTC to the Scriptures and to the Reformed faith, and to equipping people to serve in their local church has not changed. To quote the College Chairman, Alex Robinson, "*The College Trustees and Board are fully committed to the same ideals that*

spurred the founders of GTC in 1995, but we must use the most appropriate means to achieve those goals" (Grace Alone, April 2008). Those means include spreading the personal resources of the College around the country to maximise the opportunity for people to study and grow in the knowledge of the truth that leads to Godliness (Titus 1:1).



New Principal at GTC, Peter Reynolds.

In the North Island we wish to pursue the same vision. A start has already been made on Auckland's North Shore. Ian Grant, GTC Board member and lecturer in Biblical Theology, along with Peter Reynolds, has been offering GTC courses at the North Shore Reformed Church. The 23 students we have on the North Shore are an encouragement to us to move ahead with the establishing of more such training centres throughout the country.

If you would like to teach or study a GTC course in your home town, then please speak first to your pastor, and then to us, and we will do all we can to help you.

To God be the glory and praise!

As well as the principal of GTC, Peter Reynolds is also the assistant pastor at Covenant Presbyterian Church.

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Growing in Grace is the national magazine of the *Grace Presbyterian Church of New Zealand* published by the national Christian Education and Publications Committee.
All enquiries: Andrew Macpherson, (09) 267 2847,
Andrew@trinitychurch.org.nz

Cover picture: Nicole Welch

Inside Cover Picture: Children from Tigao, Philippines.

Mission: the consequence of the Kingship of Jesus

Covenant Church members Martin & Samantha Seccombe with their children, Raffie, Elijah, Georgie and Talitha, are serving with Overseas Missionary Fellowship in Sapporo, Japan. Currently they are wrestling with the mammoth task of learning enough Japanese to be able to communicate the gospel to the Japanese people. It is great to receive this article from 'the coal-face' on overseas missions.

Why would anyone decide to go and be a missionary? What would make anyone agree to leave the comfort and familiarity of home in order to head off to unfamiliar or even hostile territory, for the purpose of making followers of Jesus Christ?

Or to make the question perhaps more personal; why must you and I take seriously Jesus' instruction in Matthew 28 to 'Go and make disciples of all nations...', and how will we be sustained to keep going in the task when our own resources have run out?

Reading Bible verses in their correct context is crucial for understanding them and responding properly. As our family prepared to head off with OMF to Japan last year, we wondered again whether we were being irresponsible with our family, or naively self confident – or both!

So I turned back to these well known verses and, thinking about the context in which they are written, noticed a key to understanding them which struck me as crucial. What I had failed to fully grasp before, is that both the challenging instruction of v 19, and the comforting promise of v.20, are not only preceded by, but are built on the comprehensive authority that now belongs to Jesus, which he will exercise for the growth of His Kingdom and for the sustaining of his workers.

In these verses Jesus makes a declaration, issues a command, and makes a promise which taken together are a more than sufficient foundation for the call to world mission, and the strongest encouragement to first step out and then persevere at this most urgent task.

1. Jesus reigns as King with comprehensive authority (v.18)

'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me....'

Properly grasping what Jesus is declaring in v. 18 is the key to responding rightly to the two verses which follow. This short but powerful statement by Jesus is, in Matthew's mind, the climax of his ac-

count of Jesus' life and ministry in which he unveils Jesus as the unrivalled King, who rules with sovereign power over all peoples and all places, and to whom everyone must submit.

The context of these words helps to flesh out their breathtaking significance. As he wrote his gospel account, Matthew had some very clear objectives in mind, one of which was to demonstrate that Jesus had come as the true King of Israel, promised from Old Testament times.

Or to make the question perhaps more personal; why must you and I take seriously Jesus' instruction in Matthew 28 to 'Go and make disciples of all nations...'

Beginning with a genealogy which demonstrates his royal ancestry, continuing with the account of the worship of the wise men (2. v.9-12), recording the start of his ministry with Jesus' announcement that 'the kingdom of heaven is near' (4.v.17), and culminating in the dark scenes of the mocking of Jesus' kingly credentials (27. v.27-44), Matthew progressively reveals Jesus as the rightful ruler over God's people.

But while there is a clear line of connection with the previous kings of Israel, Jesus' rule has an authority which theirs' never had: Having just risen from the dead, Jesus makes his declaration of kingship as being Lord not just over life but over death too. All previous kings had ruled for a time but had then died; Jesus has conquered death, the greatest and final enemy and now stands in 28. v.18 as the supremely victorious King, with authority over life and death.

The apostles were quite clear about the implications of the resurrection; as they preached the message of Jesus in the book of Acts, his resurrection from the dead was always their proof that he was now Lord and King (e.g: Acts 2. v. 32, 36).

The risen Jesus therefore is a King unlike any other king who has gone before him; promised from ages past, he has announced the inauguration of God's kingdom and shown himself to be the one who reigns with power over life and death – an unconquerable ruler with all authority.

Covenant Church (Manurewa)

We have just enjoyed our first ever *Family Camp* at Hunua. We had a tremendous time of relaxed fellowship aided by the ministry of *Martin and Ruth Ghent*. Martin and Ruth are Church Planters in Japan. We have a strong ministry partnership with them as the four teams we have sent have worked mainly with them in the Tsugaru Peninsula. We are looking forward to the rest of the week with them.

Another highlight at the camp was Martin and Corina Eldershaw sharing that the Lord has called them to *serve with CYC Waihola*. We rejoice that the Lord has been equipping and leading them and praise God for His answer to prayer as we partner with the important ministry of CYC.

We praise God for a great attendance and a great team of young leaders at our annual *Children's Outreach Holiday Program*.

Redeemer (Flat Bush)

Due to Andrew Young accepting a call from the Wyndham Evangelical Church, Redeemer Grace Presbyterian Church issued a call to Pastor Wally Rakete which he accepted at the March Presbytery meeting. At a special service on Sunday 30 March 2008 Pastor Rakete was formally installed as the teaching elder in the Flat Bush church. Pray for Wally & Shona as they take up this new call.



Wally Rakete

Trinity Church (Takanini)

Much has happened at Trinity over past 6 months. In December Ps Andrew and Helen returned from a 3 month break overseas. During this time they visited a number of different churches.

Trinity has asked Steve Panapa to become co – pastor with Andrew, and are thrilled that Steve and Eva have accepted that calling.

The church leadership has committed itself to revitalizing its original mission to be a *"church that proclaims a demonstrates the gospel of Jesus Christ in Takanini, Auckland and New Zealand"*. This mission calls every member to consider how they are contributing to the gospel either in the church or where the Lord has placed them in their lives.



Steve & Eva Panapa

Grace Community Fellowship (New Plymouth)

On Sunday 13th April the New Plymouth church plant formally installed David Farr as pastor of the work there.

The happiness of the occasion was tinged, however, with the sadness of having to release John Farr from his pastoral tie due to his ill health. Pray for John & Ann as they deal with the challenges of his declining health.

Wyndham (Southland)

Wyndham Evangelical Church is looking forward to the arrival this month of their new pastor Andrew & Nola Young, with their son John. They are relocating to the South Island in April to work with the church and to expand the work of Grace Theological College (see New Changes at Grace Theological College).



A tug-o-war in Gisborne—girls versus boys!

Grace Church (Gisborne)

The Lord is continuing to build the work in Gisborne. It has been encouraging, though at times challenging, to witness a growth in the Sunday School numbers. The effects of drugs, alcohol and violence in the homes of these tamariki (children) is easy to see, but the gospel brings hope.

We plan to commence each Sunday School term with a outreach afternoon at the local park. Slowly we are also getting to know the adults behind the kids.

A visit to Poi Pet, is not highly recommended by most travel books “*the best thing about Poipet is leaving it*”. Yes, Poi Pet is poor, but we don’t think we would judge it as harshly. There are some amazing people there who looked after us while we were there. It was a tremendous privilege to be given the opportunity to visit Cambodia and play a part in God’s plans and to see Him working in this country which has so much sadness in recent history.

We pray that the Cambodian Hope Organisation will continue to answer God’s call for Khmer Christians to serve their fellow countrymen. Please pray for Chomno and his team and, may another team be challenged to follow on where we left off.

Thanks to all those who gave so generously and enabled us to go, and thank you also for all your prayer support. For those interested, there is, Lord willing, going to be another trip in November of this year.

CUT OUT THIS COUPON

YBC 08-09

GPCNZ
YOUTH BIBLE
CONFERENCE

Auckland
Monday 29th December
to
Friday 2nd January

Speaker
Mark Cooper-White ('Coops')
(Australia)

Topic
'The Leader Worth Following'

YOU'LL NEVER BUY BETTER

A Mission trip to Aotearoa?

by Frank Barker

It was a great pleasure to be in the beautiful land of New Zealand. It is the most beautiful place in the world – so fertile, beautiful coasts, mountains, and of course, sheep!

I was encouraged to see how the new denomination is doing. I was there to encourage the promotion of missions in the local church. The people were very responsive. I spoke at churches in different locations, especially Christchurch, Auckland, and the Christian Youth Camp in Dunedin where a number of churches were represented from there, Wyndham and Gore.

It was also a privilege to speak to some outreach events where people had invited the unchurched. I especially was encouraged to see how children were being attracted and taught the gospel and then their parents being reached.

I believe the denomination is off to a good start and I am so pleased to see the emphasis on missions being made a core value.



Frank Barker checks on the progress of a hangi in Gisborne, while local man Sono looks on.

If the scope of Jesus’ authority is comprehensive, its range is also universal: He has authority in heaven and on earth. That must mean that he not only has having authority over all people and places in this world, but he also has authority in the spiritual realm. As well as authority over death, he has authority over all other spiritual powers, including power over the devil and all his servants. His authority even extends to heaven itself, so that as the crucified and now risen Jesus, He can stand before God in his own merits, as the representative of all who own Him as Lord.

It’s important to notice too the origin of Jesus authority. He hasn’t unilaterally claimed it for himself; it has been given to Him by God the Father – the only one who has the power to give it. That is to say that Jesus’ authority has come not by revolution (as the Devil would seek to wrest God’s authority from him), but by inheritance, as the God of the universe gladly gives to His Son the right to reign on the earth and in the heavens. There is not, therefore, some great tussle going on in the heavenly realms between God and a pretender to His throne. Rather, Jesus reigns on the throne of heaven with the full approval of His Father, who endorses and underwrites his authority, so that Jesus’ kingdom, and God’s kingdom, are one.

The brevity of Jesus’ statement threatens to conceal its colossal implications. The enthroning of Jesus as God’s King with supreme authority, is the big news of the New Testament and indeed of the whole Bible. This is what all previous history has been leading up to, what will determine all time to come, and is central to God’s purposes in this world and in heaven.

That being so, we need to understand all that follows not only in the next two verses, but all else that happens in our lives and in this world in the light of the comprehensive, universal, God ordained authority of the Lord Jesus.

As history hurtles on and events in this world seem out of control, who is in charge? King Jesus is, and he will work all things out according to his divine purposes.

As I consider my own life and my future, aren’t I free to live as I want and free to choose my own path? No, my life is under the authority of King Jesus, who has every right to tell me how to live and where he wants me to go.

What is it then that, as ruler over all things, is foremost in Jesus’ plans? To bring people from the world over to submit to his authority, rescuing them

from sinful rebellion against him so that they might worship him and live lives of obedience to his loving rule. Which brings us to his command.

2. Jesus’ kingdom must be extended to all people (v. 19-20)
‘Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...’
The simple but sobering corollary of this comprehensive authority, is that all people, everywhere, are under Jesus’ authority. The first word of v.19 is very significant: ‘Therefore’ logically links the reality of Jesus’ rule with the command which now follows – *‘Go and make disciples of all nations...’*

Jesus reigns on the throne of heaven with the full approval of His Father, who endorses and underwrites his authority, so that Jesus’ kingdom, and God’s kingdom, are one.

This commissioning is a direct consequence of the authority Jesus possesses, which as we have seen, is exercised over all people.

He has authority over the church: Jesus addresses his disciples as one who has authority over them. As Christians, we are not exempt from his authoritative rule! In fact,

the opposite is true; having come into his kingdom we have declared our desire to be under His rule and to do His will.

There is a danger of sometimes downplaying Jesus’ lordship over our lives; we live in times when it is fashionable to question traditional positions of authority, although it is a habit the devil has encouraged right from the beginning! Quoting verses such as John 15.v15 in our defence (*‘I no longer call you servants.... instead I have called you friends.....’*), we may prefer to think of Jesus less as our King, and more as our friend, and so effectively downplay Jesus’ right to demand obedience from us. But in that case we need to be reminded that in the immediately preceding verse Jesus makes clear that *‘You are my friends if you do what I command’*.

Jesus is King over the church, his command is to *‘Go!’* – and he expects us to obey.

He has authority over the world: Jesus authority though extended beyond the men standing in front of Him on the mountain, and it extends beyond the church; as we have already seen, it extends to all people everywhere.

That means, amongst other things, that the message we take out to the world must include teaching about the authority of Jesus over other people’s lives. The world over which Jesus reigns needs to hear the same words the disciples heard, that Jesus has been given supreme authority over it.

Whatever else we say about Jesus, we must speak

about his Lordship over all, and call people to submission to him.

It also means though that there isn't anywhere in this world - or beyond it - where Jesus doesn't already reign with full and comprehensive authority. As his disciples therefore, commanded to go out into this world with the message of Jesus' reign as king, there is nowhere we can go where Jesus does not already reign. We are not commanded to go out to currently independent people and bring them under Jesus' authority; that would be a humanly impossible task. Instead we are sent to places where Jesus already reigns, and to people who are already under Jesus' authority, to share with them the wonderful news of his gracious rule and to teach them what it means to serve Him.

3. Jesus promises to be with his disciples at all times (v.20)

'And surely I am with you always....'

These verses end with an amazing demonstration that Jesus' authority over us is exercised with grace and tender kindness. Knowing our weakness and our fear, his command to 'Go!' is accompanied by a promise that He himself will go with us and remain with us until His work is done.

I don't think the similarities with the story of Moses in Exodus 3 are coincidental: as Moses was commissioned for the apparently impossible task of calling Pharaoh to submit to God's authority and free His people from slavery, and protests to God *'...who am I that I should go to Pharaoh...?'*, God reassures him with the same gracious promise *'So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh....and I will be with you'* (Exodus 3.v10-12).

Just like the command of v19, the comfort of v.20 is also a consequence of Jesus' authority.

Promises are easy to make! They are much harder to keep however, and the value of a promise depends ultimately on the trustworthiness of the person who makes it. Some promises are made with pure intentions but fail because the promiser is simply not in a position to do what they said they would. Jesus' promise is made by the Lord who, possessing all authority to do exactly as he desires is supremely able to keep it.

More than that, the promise's content itself is supremely valuable, for it is nothing less than the commitment of the King who reigns to himself be with us as we do His will. The one who now possesses all authority over all places and all people, who rules over the spiritual world as over the physical world, who has been given his authority by God himself, goes with us wherever we go, 'day after

As I meditated on these verses, I understood afresh that all of us in this world live out our lives under Jesus' rule; and not only am I not free to plan a future with myself at the centre, I would be utterly foolish to do so, because its Jesus' purposes which will prevail.

Hearing him, again, issue the command that I make his priority of the calling of men and women from around the world into his kingdom, my priority, I accepted there was nothing else I could do but to obey, and to go, with the greatest of all assurances - his daily presence.



Sam & Martin Seccombe with Raffie, Elijah, Georgina and Talitha outside the church in Sapporo, Japan.

2008 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NZ.

**The General Assembly is to be held
in Christchurch from 6pm Wednesday 9th—12pm Saturday 12th July.**

Those who wish to be billeted please contact Mary Webb (Email: webbt@paradise.net.nz or Phone: 03-981 2502) by **Friday June 13th**. For help with transport to and from the airport please forward your number & details. All other enquiries to the National Secretary, David Bayne, 117 Pages Road, Ashburton. 7700. Email: bayned@consultancyservices.co.nz or phone 03 3077 355.

Bumpy Roads in Cambodia

by Susan van Rij, Liz Bayne and Eleanor Hammerich



The Team (L to R, back to front): John & Eleanor Hammerich, Ron Ellis, Aaron Landreth, John van Rij, Stephen Smith, Charlotte Dean, Liz Bayne, Rebecca Parr, Sue van Rij with friends.

On Saturday 2nd February a jam-packed van carried 11 people to Poipet, a Cambodian border town, to begin a most exciting and memorable short mission trip. Our visit was sparked late last year when Chomno In and his wife Kim visited EPC Christchurch and shared about their ministry in Cambodia. With the date set and only a few months to fundraise we got stuck in doing various things such as selling chocolate and odourless pig manure.

Poi Pet is a reasonably large town that is the mission station for the Cambodian Hope Organisation (CHO). One thing that struck us all was the huge contrast that is Poipet. There is an area where about 10 casinos stand, all very flash and clean, while 100metres down the road the elegance gives way to absolute poverty. Gambling is illegal in Thailand so Thai people will cross the border to do so, often just for a weekend.

The roads in Poipet were as bumpy as the ones on that *McCains* mixed vegetable ad, and 'as dusty as' but we thoroughly enjoyed our long trips. While a few squished into the cab of the ute, seven of us tangled together on

the deck of it. We lost all sense of personal space and really bonded as a team during these trips.

CHO is meeting many great needs in this desperately poor country. Chomno-In has a vision to serve his people and God by sharing the Gospel and by attempting to improve the lives of some of the people who live in Poi Pet and the villages around about. It was this work that we were privileged to see and to have some small input into.

We spent our time visiting the various projects that CHO runs and in meeting, singing and praying with various groups of people. There were a couple of CHO's projects that we did a little more than just visit.

We 'taught' school-on-the-mat classes; doing role plays, playing games, singing with them and telling bible stories. We also went to the mechanic school where John shared the gospel through the bridge diagram and Rolt shared his testimony. At the sewing school Liz and Becks shared.

Some of these people being helped by CHO have very sad lives. One of the girls we met at the sewing school was 19 and had a wee baby. Her husband had just left her and gone across the border to Thailand.

Our favourite place to visit was the community house. It is a newly opened orphanage with 18 beautiful children that have been abandoned by their parents, or their parents have died and are unable to care for them. We played games with them (*duck duck goose*) and sang songs, great times.

Our other involvement was on the large property (5 hectares) CHO has bought, which is about 17 km away from Poi Pet town. The plan is to eventually have on the same site -- a school, a Bible College, the administration center, fish ponds (already there), and a large green house where they will grow plants commercially. So when we weren't visiting people we were helping to build there. We made hundreds of bricks and laid them on the foundations of what will be a house for visiting international teams such as ourselves to stay in the future.

They are made from corrugated iron and thin boarding and definitely would not pass building inspection codes in New Zealand.

Some mornings the housemothers, who were on their day off, would take us to see nice places like the beach. The water is so warm and the sunsets are beautiful if you can get out of the city. Sometimes we would just stay at the girl's home and do washing because they do it all by hand and it takes the whole morning to complete. After school we would tutor

I've come to see that I've left pieces of my heart in the Philippines. These people inspired me and loved and shared their friendship with me.

the girls if possible. I tutored seven, eleven and twelve year olds, in maths and English. We would also play group games with the girls to give the house-mothers a break and do devotions later at night.

They say that 'home is where your heart is'. It's where you feel most comfortable and free to be yourself, where you are surrounded by people you love. I've come to see that I've left pieces of my heart in the Philippines. These people inspired me and loved and shared their friendship with me.

If you ask me now why I went to the Philippines I will tell you 'God took me there, and while I was there He found His way to me through the people of the Philippines'.

Stephanie Boyes is 15 years old and is a member of Grace Bible Church, Dunedin. In January 2007 she joined a team from her church that visited the Philippines.

Passion & Purpose

By David Farr

Passion and purpose can often be confused. God however has been gracious enough to allow me to combine my passion for surfing with my purpose of serving Him through my involvement with *Christian Surfers New Zealand*.

Christian Surfers is an international body in 26 countries who's mission is to be a Christian presence and witness to the world surfing community. <http://www.christiansurfers.net/>

It is with this purpose that I will be heading a 'pilot' team to Fiji from the 1-12 May 2008. We will serve the Fiji Surfing Association by amongst other things running a surf competition, teaching surfing, coaching up and coming surfers and developing judges. It is our prayer that out of this short term service opportunity will come long term mission opportunities with the FSA and the local churches that will connect the beach to the church and visa versa. Please pray for this mission.

This mission is also carried out locally by Christian Surfers Taranaki among the surfing community of New Plymouth through our weekly Saturday 'learn to surf schools'. This is a great opportunity to meet people through surfing who would otherwise never otherwise visit a church.

David is church-planting for GPCNZ in New Plymouth.



Passion is an interesting word. The dictionary uses these words to define passion: *love, ardour, desire, excitement, fire, heat, intensity, zeal, fascination, obsession*. When I was asked to write a short summary of my heart for Japan and a short history of mission trips, I thought I ought to check out if I really had passion for Japan.

Yes, looking at the above list I can tick most, if not all of them and say yes I do have passion, not so much for Japan, but for the Japanese people. Why Japanese? I don't really know, but I know that Christ certainly had compassion for the lost (Matthew 9:36) Christ's compassion came out of the desire to see people lead to faith in Him.

Often my heart is sad when I reflect on the fact that Japan is one of the largest un-reached peoples groups in the world, and of that, I have zeal to tell Japanese people about Jesus Christ.

God first gave me a fascination for Japan in 1972, while serving in the royal New Zealand Navy, we visited several ports in Japan. I wasn't a Christian then, but God had begun to work in my life and prepare my heart for future service.

A number of years later, after becoming a Christian, God gave me a Japanese sister-in-law. At work we had contact with a Japanese machine manufacturer. At a visit to Japan in 1993 with the family, God gave us an intense desire to somehow be involved in Japanese ministry.

Each night at the dinner table after devotions, we prayed for an opening to serve in Japan. After four years God finally opened the way to go to Japan. Our first two visits were to help with building in 1998 and 1999. Then Christmas 2000 I took the first team of 14 for three weeks to Japan. Since then, teams have gone in 2001, 2003, and 2006.

The trips are for three weeks, beginning in Tokyo for four or five days then to the top of the main Island of Honshu, to a small town called Itayanagi. We have also spent a couple of days, in Sendai at an OMF church, on the last two trips.

Why short team missions?

There are many reasons why I believe short-term missions are well worthwhile.

Firstly we are called to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ out into the world. Nowhere does it say in scripture that we have to go for a 'so' many years.

Secondly, in the case of the Japan Team, we are serving several established Japanese churches that need help to reach out in their community. A group from another country is more attractive sometimes than a local group.

Thirdly, it exposes both young and old, to missions on the field. Our prayer is that through this exposure, God would lay upon their hearts. the desire to be involved long term in missions, whether here in New Zealand, or overseas, and that missions would become very much a natural part of a Christians life

Fourthly, it also creates a sense of one big team, all working in unison, to send out labourers into the harvest fields. As some go, others support in prayer and with finance. (All involved in Missions, With a Heart Like God's)

Fifthly, by going to serve the people of Japan, it is an expression of Gods love and compassion to the lost souls of that country.

Finally, we go to encourage those who labour for Jesus Christ in Japan, both the missionaries and the Japanese Christians.

Malcolm Tasker has been an elder in St Andrews Presbyterian Church and then Covenant Presbyterian Church for 17 years. He is married to Cathy and together they have worked to develop in their church a strong focus on overseas missions – especially toward Japan.



Malcolm & Cathy Tasker

Covenant Mission Trip To Philip-pines

In September 2007, two couples, Campbell & Concordia Gill and Rolf & Sabina Huber, went on a three week mission trip to the village of Tigao in the Philippines, Concordia's home village. Their intention was to distribute Bibles to a largely Roman Catholic population and to discover ways they might connect to return and serve among them.

What they found was a significant spiritual hunger, and people seeking them out rather than the opposite. They hosted well attended Bible studies and outreach events. When they left, the people expressed their need for continued shepherding. Since then some members from Covenant have begun to fund a Filipino Church planter who has already begun ministry there.

Early December 2007 Pastor Laurence took up ministry in Tigao. Building on the core group of people who had shown an interest in Bible study when Covenant's Mission team was in Tigao, Sunday morning worship services started on 9th December. With chairs borrowed from neighbouring houses (it is culturally unacceptable to sit on the floor), this group has now grown to approx 30 people. They meet in the upstairs room of Concordia Gill's family home.

In Pastor Laurence's words: *"With the number of people attending I need to preach louder so that everyone can hear me!"*



Worship in Tigao, Philippines



What in the World is God Doing?

by Mark Smith

What is God doing in the third world? This is what we wanted to find out. This combined with Warwick Worth's reports from his 2005 visit to the Philippines, challenged the GBC missions committee. So Denis Gray, Warwick, Bill, Karen and Stephanie Boyes and myself, planned to spend between 3-5 weeks in the Philippines.

The Cubao Reformed Baptist Church in Quezon City in Metro Manila was to be our base. This church has a number of exciting ministries operating. These include, social Work, homes for girls and boys, theological education, training and feeding work with street people etc. We also wanted to see the small mountain churches around Baguio City a few hours north of Manila.

Our aim was to look, learn and serve. Look and observe God's people at work doing God's business in a socially different and cross cultural context. We wanted to learn about Christianity in a non-western setting, considering our response and responsibilities to the wider church and the poor. Then lastly, to serve alongside, helping where needed, encouraging if possible and sharing the load if able.

Our objectives were exceeded all of our expectation. We look forward to an ongoing relationship with our friends in Manila and the Philippines in general. We are very thankful to God for his goodness as well as a supportive and prayerful church in Dunedin.

Mark Smith is the pastor of Grace Bible Church, Dunedin

Pieces of the Human Heart

by Stephanie Boyes,

Hello my name is Stephanie Boyes and I spent my summer in the Philippines. You probably want to know why I would do something like that, and to tell you the truth if you had asked me that question five months ago, the only honest answer I would have been able to give you is that it was pure curiosity to go and see something of another country.

On the 7th of January 2008 I stepped onto a plane that took me away from familiar things, people and places. I would be spending the next five-and-a-bit weeks in the Philippines along with five other people from Grace Bible Church, two of whom were my parents (see picture). All of us went to help in whatever capacity we could. We would be linked with an organization called CCM; *Christian Compassion Ministries*.

CCM run six girls' homes and one boy's home. They employ a number of social workers who deal with around three hundred very poor children who are sponsored by overseas people so that they have the opportunity to go to school and get an education. CCM runs a small theological college where 30 or so men are training to be pastors.



Stephanie Boyes & new friends in the Philippines

One pastor said it is hard for some though; some people refuse to listen because they don't want to accept a God who would leave them poor like this. He said they are bitter because they see on TV how some people are living and then they look around and see their surroundings and they say God cannot be true because he seems to have forgotten them. The pastor said while it is easy to be faithful when you have a car and food in your kitchen, it is not so easy to be faithful when you do not even have shoes.

To the reader this may make you feel sad, but to me after seeing what I saw, (and I did not even see the worst), hearing those words, rang true. It isn't till now, as I write this, that it hits me the most, that we who are able to help, cannot even really understand.

By now you are probably wondering what exactly I did over there. Well, I stayed at the girls home most of the time. The girls would be up at four in the morning to get ready for school. While they were at school we would go and help the social workers in the office with reports, although their English was good we had a few touch-ups to do. We also did other easy typing and handwriting jobs to save them time. They were completely understaffed. Sometimes we went to "livelihood" and made cards with the street people. Twice we went on "community visits" to see the slums.

Did you know that the some of these people live in houses four feet by six and maybe five feet high? Some of the more fortunate ones have a window for airflow, and when I say 'window' I mean a hole in the wall (See picture). Not quite so nice during the rainy seasons when it can rain for days on end! These shacks are stacked up four or five high and many, many deep. There are narrow steep steps down dark smelly corridors two feet wide to get from house to house. Some times you will climb up a ladder through one house to get to another.