

AT PEACE TOGETHER

HOPE for all



See our nation's history through different eyes, and take a fresh look at the future.



A diverse group of churches from throughout New Zealand have come together to give this booklet to every home. It contains remarkable stories from our nation's early bicultural past. It highlights the message that is still changing hearts and lives two centuries later... it's a story of hope.

Since Jesus came, his teachings have been transforming our world in more ways than we can possibly imagine.

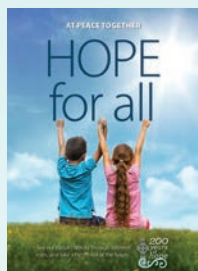
In this fifth 'Hope for all' booklet, we look at some values that New Zealanders believe in today. We will also discover how different they are from those of most people of the past:

1. Our attitude toward the poor (charity)

2. Women's equality with men (a 125th anniversary)

We also consider other stories of hope — including that of Ngāpuhi Chief Patuone, who lived from the first visit of Captain Cook in New Zealand (250 years ago) until the end of the land wars.

May these stories inspire hope.



Ephesians 4:3

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” NIV Bible.

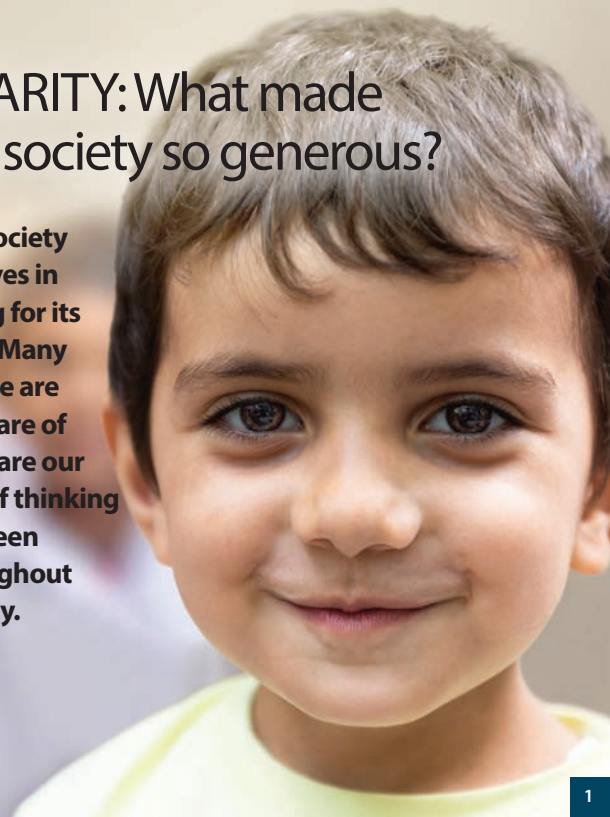
STORIES OF HOPE FROM THEN AND NOW



Celebrating 200 years of the Christian message in Aotearoa

CHARITY: What made our society so generous?

Our society believes in caring for its poor. Many people are unaware of how rare our way of thinking has been throughout history.



Charity in the ancient world

While various forms of charity did exist in ancient times, they were not as we know charity today. In pagan cultures charity was largely confined to helping well-off citizens.¹ On rare occasions, pagan emperors of Rome gave food to poor people, but usually only because they intended to conscript them into the army.²

Jesus turned that thinking on its head

Jesus once told a culturally offensive story, praising a despised Samaritan who had helped an injured man, while criticising a 'respectable' man who had failed to help for 'religious' reasons.³ It was shocking — because it sounded as if he was suggesting that all people were equal (which he was)!

Jesus then challenged the religious establishment by saying, "What you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me".⁴ His point was that true love for God should express itself through loving others, and that this love and care extended even to those considered enemies.



The effect of these teachings through history

▪ Charity in the first century

Early Christians became known for supporting widows, orphans, the disabled, the unemployed and the imprisoned.

For example, when disease killed a quarter to a half of all people in the Roman Empire, everyone fled — except for some Christians. They remembered Jesus' words: "Whatever you do for the least of these... you do for me." Sociologist Rodney Stark (University of Washington) confirms, "There was nothing like this anywhere else in the ancient world!"⁵

Then the Roman Empire started persecuting Christians. The historian Tertullian (160-220AD) described how when Christians were taken to die in the arenas, the crowds would shout with amazement, "Look how these Christians love one another".⁶

The last emperor to persecute Christians stated his surprise at how the Christians loved "even the pagans, even their enemies".⁷

▪ Charity in the 300s (an early social welfare system)

In a surprise turn of events, the Roman Emperor Constantine (272-377AD) embraced the Christian faith. He then funded churches to support the poor, widows and orphans. This was a completely new idea back then!

1. Robin Lane Fox, *Pagans and Christians*, (San Francisco: Perennial Library, Harper and Row Publishers, 1986, 1988), p668.

2. Fox, *Ibid*, p17. | 3. Luke 10:25-37. | 4. Matthew 25:40.

5. Rodney Stark in *The Rise of Christianity* (Princeton University Press, 1996) p76-94, notes increased conversion rates to Christian faith during three plagues: the Antonine plague (2nd century), Cyprian (3rd century) and Justinian (6th century).

6. Fox, *Ibid*, p324.

7. D James Kennedy, *What If Jesus Had Never Been Born?*, (Nelson Books 1994, 2001), p30.

▪ Charity in the Middle Ages (500–1500AD)

The Middle Ages included some terrible failures by some church leaders, including the Crusades and Inquisitions. These

failures are inexcusable. However, many are unaware of how, at the grass roots, followers of Jesus' teachings continued to do surprisingly good things.

Will Durant (a respected historian and philosopher) writes how the teachings of the Church prompted nearly all parts of society to help the needy. These included "individuals, guilds, governments, and the Church". Monasteries cared for the poor and orphans. Wealthy individuals fed the poor at their gates. Wealthy ladies took part in charitable activities. One quarter of donations given to local

churches were devoted to helping the sick and struggling.⁸

GENEROSITY WITHIN MĀORI SOCIETY

In Māori society, lands were tribally owned and used generously. For example, land was given for church buildings, although with the understanding that it would be returned if it were no longer used for that purpose. Māori society also considered food to be communally owned. As a result, if there was food on the marae, everyone ate.

▪ The effects of Jesus on our attitudes to charity today

In the late 1700s, England was an uncaring society. Many of the elite embraced 'enlightenment' thinking and sneered at those with an enthusiastic Christian faith.

Into this environment came a group from Clapham, England. Inspired by the teachings of Jesus, they challenged the slave trade — and succeeded in stopping it. Between 1780 and 1844, their growing vision led them to start at least 233 charitable organisations to fight slavery, hinder settler colonisation, alleviate child abuse, poverty and illiteracy, help prisoners, and more. **They made charity fashionable again, and this attitude has continued into our present society.⁹**



8. Will Durant, *The Story of Civilization: Part IV* (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1984), p66.

9. <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/missionwork/2015/05/10-things-you-dont-know-about-the-clapham-sect/>

How generous are New Zealanders really, and what's the connection with religion?

In a study of the generosity of the 195 nations on our planet, individuals in America gained top place — giving 1.44% of their incomes per annum,¹⁰ followed by those in New Zealand at 0.79%, Canada at 0.77%, and the United Kingdom fourth at 0.54%. The connection between these nations and Jesus' teachings within their heritage is clear.

A recent study by Victoria University of Wellington on the giving habits of New Zealanders showed that the 'very religious' gave more than five times as much as the general population, and also volunteered 2.3 times more often.¹¹

Most cultures have some concept of charity, but there remains a significant distance between them and the Christian concept of charity.

In more ways than we realise, the teachings of Jesus have been present in the shaping of our history, and have led to many of the cultural values and practices that we still cherish today.



10. Measured as a percentage of GDP; Independent.co.uk news report February 2, 2016.

11. The 'very religious' in this study were 95% Christian, and 5% of other faiths. From a School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies study by Victoria University (Wellington), with thanks to Dr Joseph Bulbulia and Dr Geoff Troughton for presentations, Laidlaw College, Auckland, 11 September 2014.

Aimee Mai

— CEO and life-changer

Aimee was faced with a challenging decision. While enjoying her job and having a great home life she was offered a role with a charitable organisation called Christians Against Poverty (CAP), which helps people to break free from debt and poverty.

Ever since she was young, Aimee had wanted to be authentic in the way she followed Jesus, so she accepted the job as if it were her life's calling.

FROM ROCK BOTTOM TO LOVING LIFE

One mother who was raising four children on her own, was desperate — at times having to choose between buying essentials like socks for her children, or food. She regularly considered suicide, but chose to live for her children. Help from CAP was like a light in a dark place. She's now debt free and loving life. Ironically, her kids now complain they have too many hair ties and socks!

might earn more elsewhere. All of that “pales to insignificance when compared to the beauty of the lives we get to see transformed,” she says. “We want to love and serve people the way Jesus did!”

Their clients' testimonials speak for themselves — with 98% affirming that their experience was a great help or life changing.

Watch more of Aimee's story at:
HopeProject.co.nz/unpacking-life-video-stories

More than a decade later, Aimee is the CEO of CAP New Zealand, and has seen the Head Office team expand from five to more than 40 staff. CAP Centres in churches have also increased from four to more than 70. In addition, more than 140 churches run the CAP Money course. As a result, more than 1300 people who were once crippled by debt are now entirely free of it, with many others currently in that process.

The way debt cripples a person's life explains why Aimee doesn't regret her career decision, even though she and all CAP staff



FROM FEAR TO FREEDOM

When Alpesh's marriage fell apart, he and his kids were left with a pile of debt. He withdrew from family and friends for fear of being judged. He stopped answering calls from creditors. Then, with help from CAP and a local church, he stopped feeling alone. Now he's debt free, full of smiles and full of life, his kids are flourishing and he has his own business.

"The rich and the poor have a common bond; the Lord is the maker of them all." Psalm 22:2

250 years since Captain Cook

**This year marks
250 years since
Cook's first visit.
The life of Ngāpuhi
Chief Patuone
provides a
remarkable
reflection
on what
followed.**

Portrait of Eruera Maihi Patuone, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.

Right: Augustus Earle lithograph, Village of Parkuni, River Hokianga, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.

THE STORY OF CHIEF PATUONE

1769 Five-year-old Patuone sat on the beach while his father rowed out to a big ship that had arrived. His dad was a chief, and on that day he met a man who had sailed right around the world. His name was Kapitane Kuki (Captain Cook) — and his skin was as white as the clouds. His dad brought back to Patuone a new type of meat called pork. It was delicious!

1814 Patuone was a prominent chief of the Ngāpuhi tribe, descending from both a priestly and chiefly lineage. He was respected for his wisdom, knowledge and skills in multiple areas. By 1814, trade with foreign sealers and traders was vibrant — and times were changing. This was the year when Chief Ruatara invited missionaries to bring their message of hope through Ihu Karaiti (Jesus Christ), and to establish the first invited Pākehā settlement at Rangihoua. The missionaries' message and kindness provided a welcome balance to the unruly behaviour of the traders.

In the following decades there were tribal wars, including the musket wars in which Patuone's cousin Hongi Hika was prominent. Patuone was skilled in battle, and survived.



Over time, Patuone warmed to the idea of a loving God. He gradually put the taiaha down, letting go of violent ways.

1840 Patuone decided to be baptised into the Christian faith by Henry Williams, as his brother Nene had done before him. Ten days later, there was a big hui at Waitangi. 76-year-old Patuone sat in a tent listening to the explanation of a proposed treaty between the British and Māori. He believed that once Māori welcomed and engaged with Pākehā, whether this was for good or bad, the clock could not be turned back. It was 1840, and he became one of the Treaty's first signatories.

1872 Remarkably, Patuone was still alive 32 years later. He had seen Cook's first visit, the first invited Pākehā settlement, Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the betrayal of that Treaty, and the land wars until their end in 1872. He died that year at the age of 108.

Our nation has some remarkable history. It tells us much of who we are. Let's treasure it!



Marcus King painting, 'The signing of the Treaty of Waitangi', Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.

Equality for women

SEPTEMBER 2018 MARKED 125 YEARS SINCE WOMEN IN NEW ZEALAND GOT THE RIGHT TO VOTE.

Most people are unaware today that women in our nation have a level of equality with men that is almost without comparison in history. How did this come about?



The life of women in the ancient world

In ancient cultures around the world, a wife was the property of her husband. Whether Indian, Chinese or Greek, women were not considered competent enough to be independent. There were few exceptions to this view.

Ancient philosophers supported this inequality.

Plato taught that women were in every way inferior to men — physically, mentally and spiritually.

Aristotle believed that a woman was somewhere between a free man and a slave, and he referred to slaves as ‘objects’ or ‘things,’ not as people.

In ancient Rome, a woman’s lot was not much better. Wives were an asset. They were married when young, and could be easily replaced.



The impact of Christianity on the rights and freedoms of women

Many are surprised to discover that the primary voice behind these freedoms for women came from Christianity — because church leaders have often failed in this area throughout history. But it was, and here is why. Although sometimes ignored, the Bible’s core teachings support equality.

#1 The rare view that women and men are created equal

This Christian belief in equality stands in remarkable contrast to many other religious views.

At the very start of the Bible, it is explained that “God created man in his image — male and female he created them.” Significantly, both men and women are created like God — not only men. Women and men stand equal before God.



#2 Male dominance is the result of sin — not God's intent

A chapter later, the Bible explains how the human choice to mistrust God and live selfishly corrupted our human nature. Men and women were supposed to be partners, but men started using some of their strengths to dominate women. Significantly, this confirms that male dominance is not what God wants. It comes from the misuse of our free will.

#3 Jesus' life and teachings reaffirmed female equality in a radical way

Jesus lived in a male-dominated, violent and even cruel society. This makes his treatment of women all the more surprising.

- **Equality of women** — Jesus treated women as equals in a world where they were not. For example, his conversation with a despised Samaritan woman¹² broke both racial and gender boundaries. It shocked even his own helpers.
- **Protections for women** — A Jewish man could divorce his wife by simply handing her a certificate of divorce. In a moment, she could be without a home, assets, children, income or protection. Then Jesus spoke up for women, saying that, if they were divorced by their husbands for any reason other than adultery, the husbands would be considered guilty of adultery. This created a significant protection for women that had not existed beforehand.
- **Rights of women** — The Bible gives an account of two sisters, Mary and Martha. Martha complained when

Mary spent her time learning from Jesus instead of doing household chores. Against all expectations, Jesus said that in neglecting her 'womanly chores' Mary had chosen what was better. Put differently, "Women are not just objects to be used. They have rational minds, and deserve equal opportunities with men to learn and discuss things!" It was unheard of!

Jesus' teachings thus started a new way of thinking, and this has influenced the way we think today!

Living in defence of women

▪ In the first century AD

Christians were adopting abandoned babies (many of whom were girls) and starting orphanages. This type of care was not found anywhere else.

▪ In the middle ages (500–1500)

The monasteries not only cared for the poor; they also gave women access to education. As a result, some women became medical doctors, and held leadership positions in their communities. This was not found anywhere else.

▪ In recent history

In the past 200 years Jesus' teaching has motivated mission work around the world, commonly focused on the wellbeing and rights of women and children. Notable early efforts included rescuing girls growing up as temple prostitutes in Eastern religions, stopping polygamy (which is inherently unfair

12. John 4 in the Bible

to women), and ending a cultural practice in India called suttee (sati), in which women were ceremonially burned alive on the funeral pyres of their husbands.

▪ **Today**

New Zealanders continue to stand for the rights and welfare of women through Christian mission work. Some are pioneering employment schemes for impoverished women in India and Bangladesh. Others are helping women in Uganda disfigured by acid attacks after rejecting sexual advances from men.

HEAR THE STORY OF DAVID AND LINDA COWIE ONLINE

These amazing two New Zealanders have given their lives to charity, including through founding 'Marine Reach', which has delivered medical care and cataract operations to more than a million patients in the Pacific region. They also started 'The



Ruel Foundation', which specialises in providing cleft lip and palate operations (with more than 1000 surgeries now completed), and more recently

established the Family Care Centre in Vanuatu, which is empowering women in some valuable ways.

Watch their story at HopeProject.co.nz/unpacking-life-video-stories

How New Zealand led the way globally in equality for women

Definition: Suffrage — the right to vote in public elections.



Inset: Kate Sheppard portrait, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.

In colonial New Zealand, it was accepted by most men and women that women were naturally suited for domestic affairs, such as keeping house and raising children. However, significant injustices existed. Women were excluded from involvement in politics, and lacked basic legal rights relating even to property ownership or the custody of children if there were a divorce.



Above: Temperance Ladies' Brass Band, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.

https://www.waikato.ac.nz/law/research/waikato_law_review/pubs/volume_2_1994/7

<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/politics/womens-suffrage/brief-history>



THE PLACE OF WOMEN IN MĀORI SOCIETY WAS FAR BETTER

In pre-European Māori society there were specific gender roles, as in most cultures. For example, women very rarely gave speeches on marae, and usually didn't fight in battles or perform haka. Other roles, such as working in the fields and cooking food, were undertaken by men and women together.

However, while England had some influential women (the Queen being a notable example), Māori women generally had a higher status. For example, women were involved in tribal leadership. As many as 13 women signed Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Sadly, the post-Treaty colonisation of New Zealand brought an additional disadvantage for Māori women: their status diminished.

Photo: Unidentified Māori woman, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.

New Zealand women make a stand!

Kate Sheppard took a leading role in the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) in New Zealand. She said that its objective was to apply "the Golden Rule to the affairs of... civic life". With strong church connections, the WCTU ran soup kitchens, rehabilitated women prisoners, operated night shelters, provided classes on nutrition, cooking and sewing, and set up pre-school child care, which grew into our kindergarten movement.

Many are unaware of how spiritually connected the WCTU movement was, with a focus on encouraging both Christian faith and social concern. As the noted feminist writer, Sandra Coney, acknowledges, "all the prominent early feminists were active Christians".¹³

Gaining women the vote became a key issue. Sheppard wrote about the "humiliating fact" that there was "one law for man and another for woman".

Did Christian men support Christian women?

Ironically, these Christian-motivated efforts had only limited support among Christian men. Some churches were vocally supportive of women's suffrage, as were some members of Parliament who were active Christians. However, many churches stayed silent, hoping to avoid controversy because members were divided.

13. Sandra Coney, *Every Girl: A Social History of Women and the YWCA in Auckland* (Auckland YWCA, 1986), p8.

The battle in Parliament

Parliament debated whether to give women the vote in 1878, 1879 and 1887, deciding against it every time.

Kate Sheppard and the WCTU wrote letters to newspapers, published pamphlets and books, and organised petitions to Parliament in 1891 and 1892. Some members of Parliament organised opposing petitions! The liquor industry was particularly concerned. (The WCTU opposed the liquor industry because of the connection between drinking and the abuse of women and children.)

Success at last!

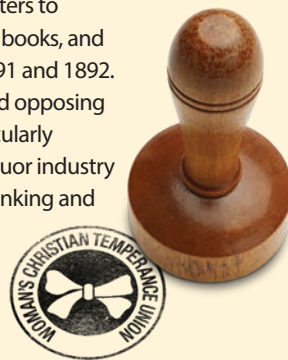
The WCTU raised its biggest ever petition in 1893. It had more than 32,000 signatures — almost a quarter of the adult European female population. Parliament was persuaded.

On 19 September 1893, the right for women to vote was finally signed into law!


New Zealand was the first Western nation to do this. Congratulations poured in from around the world.¹⁴

Many other successes in support of equality have come about since.

In summary, we enjoy freedoms that were unheard of in the past. Through the faith and efforts of some, we have been blessed!



14. Some information from <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/politics/womens-suffrage/brief-history>. Thanks also to Dr John Tucker for input to this section.



The significance of the Christian faith to the spirit of care and equality within our society is not to be overlooked. It is woven into the very fabric of our society.

"I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God."
Colossians 2:2 MSG Bible

A reason for hope that makes sense!

IN BOTH THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND TE AO MĀORI (THE MĀORI WORLD) THE SPIRITUAL AND THE NATURAL GO HAND IN HAND. MIGHT THE STRUGGLE FOR HOPE IN OUR SOCIETY BE CONNECTED TO OUR SPIRITUAL NEGLECT?

Hope is a very real and present need in our society. The current unparalleled pressure on our mental health services stands out as one example. The need for hope is real — *and hope is also a spiritual matter!*

Consider these questions of religion and reality, which define the scope of our hope:

- Origins — How did we get here?
- Meaning — Why are we here?
- Human value — Does human life have greater 'intrinsic value' than an animal, and why?
- Morality — Why do good and evil exist?
- Hope — Is there any real hope that evil and suffering will end?



These are 'spiritual' questions, and our answers to them affect how we think, feel and live each day.

A history with hope

The stories of faith behind Christmas and Easter give us powerful reasons for hope. The life stories in these booklets remind us of this power. Yet our schools are increasingly silent on these parts of our history, which explain so much of who we are, and why we think as we do as a nation. Meanwhile we teach our children that our lives are accidents of chance in a random universe — while also expecting them to believe that every one of us is important, and that our lives have value.

In case the point is missed, words like 'accident' and 'purpose' don't really go together.



A heritage to value?

Why do we remove Christian references from our history books?

Why are we so quiet about the force for good that the Christian faith was for many of our ancestors – Māori and non-Māori?

Is this wise or somehow good for us?

Rosalie Schwarm's story

— From violence to hope

Born into a violent home in rural Australia, every day held uncertainty, even danger, for Rosalie and her seven siblings.

Often left to fend for themselves by a withdrawn mother and aggressive father, fist fights and screaming between siblings were the norm.

They would often mercilessly taunt Rosalie until she threw up. Molested too by outsiders, Rosalie developed a deep disdain for men very early on.

But Rosalie's life took a dramatic turn on her 14th birthday. During the party a friend swore at one of her sisters, infuriating her father. He whipped out his shotgun and fired at the youth. Unable to bear 'family life,' Rosalie ran away.

She went to Melbourne and immersed herself in a dark, Goth lifestyle that offered her social release — a way of coping with her inner battles. It gave her a sense of power and belonging. She outwitted death, and pushed every moral boundary.

However, Rosalie's life spiralled out of control and she ending up in court. Faced with prison for stealing, she bargained with the God she didn't believe in: "God, if you're real, and you get me out of this, I will serve you". The judge stared at Rosalie for what seemed an eternity. "I don't know why I'm doing this, but I'm letting you off on probation."

Rosalie seized the opportunity. She visited an aunt she knew was a Christian. "I need that Jesus you've been telling me about!" she blurted out. As her aunt prayed, Rosalie felt something dark leave her. It was replaced by an overwhelming sense of peace. God's love not only changed the way she saw the world, it changed her!

Desiring a fresh start, Rosalie moved to Canada. She made new friends — one of whom became her husband. Rosalie attests that his kindness and love over the years were pivotal in her restoring her faith in men. Today they have three grown sons, and she has even reconciled with her father.

Rosalie says, "No matter what's been done to you, if you're willing to put faith in God and his love for you, there is hope!"

*Watch more of Rosalie's story at
[HopeProject.co.nz/unpacking-life-video-stories](https://www.hopeproject.co.nz/unpacking-life-video-stories)*



The life-changing hope Jesus offers

(The Christian belief summarised)

God the designer, exists. He loves all people, because he created us. He made this world perfect — and he's going to make his creation perfect again one day!



Yet despite God's love for us, we are separated from God. Why?

Free will was a necessary gift to us if love was to exist. However, the misuse of free will was an unavoidable risk, like giving a teenager the keys to a car. We chose to misuse that freedom, to mistrust God's motives, and to do our own thing.



As a result, selfishness made its way into our spiritual DNA. Our wrongful choices broke down our relationships, not only with each other but also with the eternal God. This left us with a significant spiritual problem. What could be done?

It was clear that we humans were not capable of fixing the problem. So God did the loving and truly self-sacrificial thing.



- To show us his ways, God came to Earth in Christ Jesus. Christians believe Jesus' teachings are remarkable and world-changing because they are directly from God.

- Jesus then allowed himself to be killed, after which he miraculously came back to life. This happened because God wanted to gift something to us. As an innocent man, Jesus suffered on our behalf, bearing the consequences we deserved. The punishment he took was total and complete. Full forgiveness from God is now offered freely to us, including hope for both this life and the life to come.

The question is: Are we ready and willing to let God have the central place in our hearts?



In churches across our nation people can testify to the difference that their reconnections with God, through faith in what Jesus did, have made to their lives and hope.

Christians believe that God extends a hand of love. He is offering forgiveness and love, and asking for our trust.

The question for each one of us is: What will we choose?

Summary

Thank you for reading this booklet.

There is an optional prayer on the next page and then some weblinks if you want to find out more.

AM
GRACE
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J
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G

A PERSONAL PRAYER

“ God, our creator, in spite of all I have done wrong, and all the good I have failed to do, I thank you for giving me life, and providing for my needs.

Thank you Jesus for taking my punishment when you died. Thank you also for inviting me into friendship with you. Today I choose friendship with you.

Please forgive me for the selfish and wrong things I have done.

Please help me to now live a life that pleases you.

Help me to understand the Bible as I read it.

Help me to find a good Church where I can learn more and find friends who will encourage me to have a stronger faith.

Help me to love others as you have loved me. I know this is what you want for me.

Thank you for your love and acceptance!

”

SOME REFLECTIVE OPTIONS FOR YOU:

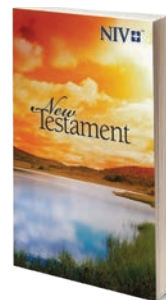
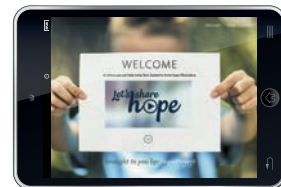
Take the 10 Day Challenge

(a simple introduction to the Christian faith)

This is a series of 10 short devotional videos, with reflective questions. Go to 10DayChallenge.co.nz or download the app by searching 'Why Jesus?' at the app store.

You could also:

- **Visit a church** near you.
Find one on the map at 10DayChallenge.co.nz/churches
- **View stories** about hope at HopeProject.co.nz
- Receive hope-filled posts from **Facebook.com/HopeProjectNZ**
- **Request a hard copy of the New Testament** — which is all about Jesus, his teachings, and the early Christians who applied them.
Email: admin@hopeproject.co.nz
Post: Hope Project, PO Box 6078, Brookfield, Tauranga 3146



HopeProject
.co.nz

10DayChallenge.co.nz

Supported by a diverse group of Christian churches from throughout New Zealand, who came together to commemorate the 200-year anniversary of the arrival of Christianity in New Zealand and the beginning of a 'hope-filled' bicultural partnership with Māori.

In this spirit, let's make New Zealand a more hope-filled place.