



# **Maungaraki Baptist Church**

## **The First 25 Years**



# Maungaraki Baptist Church The First 25 Years

<b>Part One:</b>	<b>The First Five Years 1985 – 1990 .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Part Two:</b>	<b>The Next Twenty years 1991 – 2011 .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Part Three:</b>	<b>Testimonies .....</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Part Four:</b>	<b>“In the Light” Sydney .....</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Part Five:</b>	<b>The Story of the Church Buildings .....</b>	<b>111</b>



This book has been researched and prepared by Chris Dugdale who would like to acknowledge and thank the many people who have provided the diary notes, memories, photos, testimonies, proof reading, printing and encouragement to compile this story.

# Part One: The First Five Years

## 1985 – 1990

<b>Introduction to Part One .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Chapter 1 – 1985: The Vision for a Church Begins.....</b>	<b>4</b>
History of the Maungaraki Suburb.....	4
The Idea for a Church is Investigated.....	5
Purchase of the Land .....	5
<b>Chapter 2 – 1986: Starting the Church.....</b>	<b>8</b>
The First Sunday Evening Meeting 11 May 1986.....	8
The First Sunday Morning Service 28 September 1986.....	11
The First General Meeting on 26 October 1986 .....	13
A Steering Committee is Formed – 30 November 1986.....	14
<b>Chapter 3 – 1987: Growing the Church.....</b>	<b>18</b>
Three Easter Crosses 1987 .....	18
YWAM visit.....	21
The Inaugural Service 2 August 1987 .....	21
The First ‘Members’ Meeting 26 August 1987.....	22
Joining the Baptist Union.....	22
Some Ambiguity over who were Foundation Members .....	24
Key Dates of the Church being constituted 1985 - 1987 .....	24
A Pastor is Called.....	25
Bruce and Jinny Patrick accept a Call to Auckland .....	28
<b>Chapter 4 – 1988: A Very Busy Year .....</b>	<b>29</b>
Highlights of 1988 .....	29
Fifteen Baptisms .....	31
<b>Chapter 5 – 1989: The Focus is on Evangelism.....</b>	<b>32</b>
Highlights of 1989 .....	32
Youth Musical. “The King is Coming Back” .....	33
Photos from 1989.....	34
<b>Chapter 6 – 1990: The Church is now Established.....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Appendix 1 The Growth of the Church .....</b>	<b>37</b>



## Introduction to Part One

Part One of this story is dedicated to the group of people who twenty-five years ago believed that a Church should be established in Maungaraki and they made a commitment to bring that vision into being. From the early records and diaries we are able to look back and get a glimpse of the events and people who over the years shaped the history of the Maungaraki Baptist Church.

During the first five years, the Church laid the foundations, called the first pastor, purchased the land and established a variety of ministries. There were walking groups, kite flying days, after school clubs and Christmas carol services. It was a busy time for those foundation members and a small number of these have faithfully continued to serve at Maungaraki throughout the whole of the twenty five years.

Jinny and Bruce Patrick recorded the early history in a Church diary. These entries along with other personal diary notes, annual reports and recorded minutes of meetings have been used to compile this story.



**Maungaraki Baptist Church Centre**

The following Scripture was made note of in the early minutes,

*“Be very careful never to forget what you have seen God doing for you. May his miracles have a deep and permanent effect upon your lives. Tell your children and your grandchildren about the glorious miracles he did. Deuteronomy 4:9 -10”*

# Chapter 1 – 1985: The Vision for a Church Begins

## History of the Maungaraki Suburb

Maungaraki is situated on the western hills of the Hutt Valley, between Korokoro, and Normandale. The suburb rises from sea level to around 250m and provides some spectacular views over Lower Hutt, Petone, Eastbourne and Wellington Harbour.

Maungaraki is a Maori name meaning "mountains to the north of the Maori Pa". The Pa referred to was at Petone.



**A View from Maungaraki looking towards Petone and the Wellington Harbour**

In the early 1900s, the Government established Maungaraki under its village settlement scheme. It remained quite small until the 1960s, when the Lower Hutt City Council started to develop Maungaraki as a suburb for private housing. Large earthmoving machinery cut the hilltops and filled the valleys. By 1968 Maungaraki was the largest local government subdivision in New Zealand.

Dowse Drive was named after Percy Dowse who was the Mayor in the 1960s. Many of the other streets have been given tree or flower names. This is not surprising as Maungaraki is surrounded by the lovely Belmont Regional Park and Percy's Scenic Reserve. The native bush in these parks provides a home to many New Zealand native birds including the Tui, Bellbird, Wood Pigeon, Morepork and Fantail.

Maungaraki is now a family oriented residential suburb with approximately 3500 residents.



**Tui**

**Fantail**

**Bellbird**

## The Idea for a Church is Investigated

During the 1970s and early 1980s many people living on the Western Hills of Lower Hutt travelled down into the valley to attend Church services and activities.

A group from Lower Hutt Baptist Church organised a Christmas service in Maungaraki. Many people attended and a contact list was compiled. This led to a number of Christians living in the area having the vision to establish in Maungaraki a Church that was in touch with the needs of the community, but most of all a Church that was in touch with God.

The vision was shared by a number of Pastors from local Baptist Churches including Reverend Lindsay Jones from Lower Hutt, Allan Missen from Avalon, David Marriot from Upper Hutt and the acting Pastor of Petone Baptist Church, Don Phillips.

On 20 September 1985, representatives from the Lower Hutt Baptist Churches made a decision to investigate the planting of a Church at Maungaraki.

## Purchase of the Land

In the 1960s, Percy Dowse was Mayor when the Lower Hutt City Council donated the land on the north side of Rowan Street to the Anglican and Presbyterian Churches. The land on the south side of Rowan Street was given to the Catholic Church. Both areas of land remained undeveloped until 1985 when the Anglican and Presbyterian Churches decided to subdivide and sell their land.

## Land shortage prompts sale by church

The shortage of land for housing in Lower Hutt has prompted the sale of church-owned land in Maungaraki.

Half the land, on the northern corner of Dowse Drive, Rowan and Cedar Streets, is owned by the Anglican Church and half by the Presbyterian Church. The land is to be sold by tender.

A spokesman for the Anglican Church said the land was considered surplus to its current needs. Local Anglicans attended services in Normandale at the joint St Aidan's Church or at St James' Church in Lower Hutt. The church felt that in view of the desperate shortage of residential land in the city it would be appropriate to sell the land, he said. The city council had also been made aware the land was for sale in case it wished to buy it.

A spokesman for the Presbyterian Church said it did not see the land being used for church purposes in the future. Local Presbyterians attended St Aidan's in Normandale or St Stephen's in Lower Hutt.

The Maungaraki Community Association feels strongly that the land should be bought by the council for reserve.

The council's housing and property committee will not be seeking to buy the land as it feels it is too isolated for pensioner housing.

But its reserves committee chairman has called for a report to see if the land is needed for reserve.



### Paul and Lois Martell

Paul Martell was one of the people who had a vision for a Church in Maungaraki that would meet the needs of the people who lived in that community. The first meeting to discuss the Church was held at Paul and Lois' home in Bushey way.

Paul was instrumental in negotiating the purchase of the Church land but he and Lois decided to remain members of Petone Baptist Church as their family were all settled there.



The Anglican and Presbyterian Churches graciously delayed their plans to sell the land after being approached by the Baptist Church who indicated their interest in purchasing part of it. The Wellington Baptist Association and Lindsay Jones from Lower Hutt Baptist Church were supportive of the purchase. Mayor John Kennedy Good, a Catholic with a Presbyterian background was also in favour of a Church being established in Maungaraki and assisted with the negotiations.

Although the land was jointly owned by two denominations, the negotiations took place mainly with the Presbyterian Church and they were very good to deal with. Terry Isaac and Paul Martell represented the Baptist Church and after several months the Maungaraki Baptist Church purchased part of the land for \$100,000 in 1986.

## LHCC urged to buy Maungaraki site

30 9 85

Future generations living in Maungaraki could find themselves short of recreational land if the city council does not buy a vacant site opposite the shopping centre, says the president of the suburb's community association, John Butt.

In 20 years the suburb could have expanded and land for facilities such as a swimming pool, library or a yet-to-be invented sport might be needed, he says.

The land, owned separately by the Anglican and Presbyterian Churches, was recently advertised for sale by tender. Each church received two tenders and all have been rejected because they were considered too low.

The council did not tender for the land which is almost half a hectare (one acre) in size.

Lower Hutt Mayor Sir John Kennedy-Good has told the Hutt News the matter has since been referred to the housing and reserves committee for consideration. They will consider the matter this week in the non-public sections of their meetings.

Mr Butt said that well before tenders were called he had spoken to the Mayor and pointed out that the land was for sale. The Mayor had said he recalled a promise made to the association some years ago that if the land came up for sale the council would consider buying it.

Before tenders closed the chairman of the housing, property and health committee, Cr Teri Puketapu, and the council's property manager, Graham Lawrence, discussed whether that committee should tender for the land. Mr Lawrence told the Hutt News that Housing

Corporation loan money was available only for pensioner housing but the site was felt to be too isolated for that use.

The chairman of the reserves and recreation committee, Cr Roger Twyman, called for a verbal report from council officers. But no tender was ever made.

The way the matter has been handled by the council has been criticised by city councillor and MP John Terris.

"It appears as though somebody has slipped up on the job. The piece of land came up for public tender but no council committee ever considered it for purchase."

Mr Terris is particularly concerned at what he sees as individual committee chairmen and council officers making decisions on behalf of the whole council.

A spokesman for the Anglican Church says the land will probably be re-advertised but tenders will not be called again.

A spokesman for the Presbyterian Church says subdivision is an option as there had been considerable interest in buying the land if it were subdivided. She added that the church had told the council earlier in the year that the land would be coming up for sale.

Meanwhile Mr Butt said his association's committee has discussed the land's future and decided it would like it bought by the council

for a reserve. It should be ringed with trees to give some shelter and the grassed area preserved for a play area. He likened it to a village common and said its main current uses were for cricket and soccer.

Across Rowan Street is more vacant land Mr Butt said, most was owned by the Roman Catholic Church while a piece the size of an average residential section was owned by the council and zoned community purposes. It was the subject of frequent discussions between the council and association. There was a proposal that it be landscaped but that site was too small for any sport activities, he said.

While the council owns most of a playing field next to Puketiro School, Mr Butt said it was obscured from public view, especially the homes closest to it. But houses some distance away looked down on to it.

However, there was no opposition from the council or school to the public using that land and some people felt children were safer playing there because they were away from traffic.

Mr Butt said the church land was on a list of items to be discussed with the Mayor during a mayoral tour of Maungaraki this Saturday. Other matters include the state of Maungaraki Road, lack of road markings following resealing of roads,

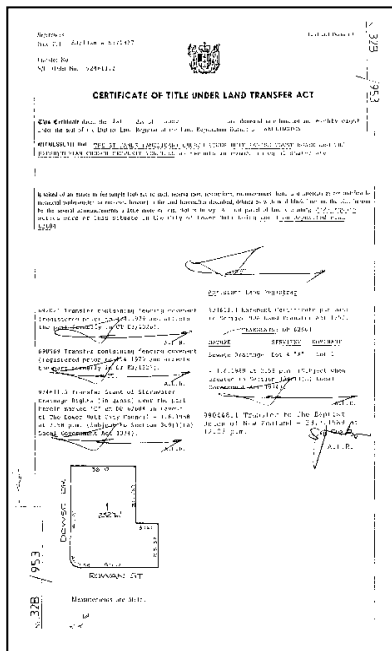
The land was subdivided before the sale and the section alongside the Church car park was sold to Mr Norling who subsequently built a number of small houses on that land. On the south side of Rowan Street the land owned by the Catholic Church was later purchased by the Council and is now used for the Maungaraki Playcentre and as public recreational land.



The photos above, taken in 1986, show the piece of land opposite the shops that Maungaraki Baptist Church bought from the Presbyterian and Anglican Churches

The land purchased was ideal for the new Church at Maungaraki. It was a good sized almost flat section, centrally located, highly visible and close to shops and bus stops. There were plenty of car parking spaces in the area. Many people felt that it was God's provision. The land ownership was finally transferred to the Baptist Union on 23 March 1989.

# Baptist church buys Maungaraki site



Certificate of Title

Part of vacant church-owned land in Maungaraki has been bought for a Baptist church.

Lower Hutt's Baptist churches in conjunction with the Wellington Baptist Association have paid \$100,000 for four sections fronting Dowse Drive.

The sections were four of seven being offered for sale on behalf of the Anglican and Presbyterian churches.

Late last year Lower Hutt City Council rejected pleas from locals to buy the land for reserve.

The pastor of Lower Hutt Baptist Church, Reverend Lindsay Jones, says a group has begun meeting in the Maungaraki Community Centre for Sunday morning worship. About 35 adults and children attended the first service two weeks ago. Most were local Baptists who had been attending other Hutt Valley Baptist churches.

He says the decision to establish a Baptist church in the area came out of a meeting of Hutt Valley Baptist church representatives last September. Only weeks later they heard that the long-undeveloped site owned by the Anglican and Presbyterian churches was to be sold.

Maungaraki had no church of its own and the Baptists saw a need and opportunity to establish a church presence in the suburb, which had a population of more than 6000, he said.

Mr Jones said the Baptist denomination had an overriding desire to see the city influenced with the Gospel. The most effective means was by way of local churches.

Mr Jones said the fellowship had not yet looked

as far as building its own church. That would depend on the growth of the fellowship. It would need an adequate worship auditorium but would aim to be of use to the wider community as well.

Fellowship member, Colin Tinker says that what may influence the start of building a church will not be the size of the community centre but its availability and the need for a church office. There were also no other local halls which the church could meet in.

The church hopes to become involved in other activities which will also meet local needs. Already it has run a series of four "Maximum Marriage" films which were well attended. For several years a children's group has met and more recently it has been run by local Baptists.

Hutt News 8 October 1986

## **Chapter 2 – 1986: Starting the Church**

In the 1980s, Spreydon Baptist Church had developed a model of small satellite Churches clustered around a larger Church. Bruce Patrick had been employed by the Baptist Union to establish this model throughout New Zealand and the Maungaraki Baptist Church became a part of the plan. Bruce was known as the Baptist Union Home Mission Director.

### **12 April 1986 – Lower Hutt Baptist Church Prays for the Potential New Church**

A meeting was held at Lower Hutt Baptist Church to pray for the potential new Church at Maungaraki. Exactly one year later on the 12 April 1987 Colin Tinker visited Lower Hutt Baptist and was able to report on the significant progress that had been made in establishing the fellowship at Maungaraki.

### **19 April 1986 – Meeting at 16 Bushey way**

The first informal meeting to discuss the Maungaraki Baptist Church was held at 16 Bushey Way, the home of Paul and Lois Martell, on Saturday 19 April 1986. Over a shared tea the corporate vision was discussed and as people got to know each other they looked at what gifts each might bring to the Church.

This meeting was attended by Paul and Lois Martell, Minnie and Murray Kendon, Ron and Valerie Sangster, Bruce and Jinny Patrick, Lindsay and Lorraine Jones, Don and Robyn Stewart, Susan Mouat, Colin and Gaynor Tinker and all their respective children.

Murray and Minnie Kendon moved from Upper Hutt to 25 Bushey Way in Maungaraki on 16 March 1986 and committed to helping establish this new Church. Graeme and Cheryl Stevens started a Homegroup at 42 Acacia Avenue and were joined by Bruce and Jinny Patrick when they moved to 1A Jacaranda Grove in Maungaraki.

Prayer for a building began soon after the land was purchased and the early minutes of the Church recorded the following,

*“We hope that a Church building will soon be established on the land and that the Church will grow to three hundred members”.*

However that did not happen quickly and it took eighteen years before the Church was able to move into what is now the Maungaraki Baptist Church Centre.

### **The First Sunday Evening Meeting 11 May 1986**

The first Sunday evening meeting was held at 5pm on 11 May 1986 in the Supper Room at the Maungaraki Community Centre with a shared tea, discussion and a planning session.

Meetings were held fortnightly at first and included times of worship, prayer and discussion. Graeme Stevens was responsible for the initial setting up the sound system and he did this for a number of years helped by Brian Peck and others. Brian Peck continued to be responsible for the sound system for many years after and is still involved with this in 2011.

Regular attendees were,

Jinny and Bruce Patrick (3 children)  
Minnie and Murray Kendon,  
Cheryl and Graeme Stevens (3 children)  
Fiona Coughlan (2 children)  
Rose and Carl Gravatt (1 child, and one due)

Gaynor and Colin Tinker (2 children)  
Lois and Paul Martell (4 children)  
Lynley and Alan Batson (3 children)  
Sue Mouat.  
Digby and Jane Wilkinson.

Many issues were discussed at the Sunday evening meetings including the type of worship to have and what children and youth ministries to start, the need for a Church directory and the possibility of calling a part time pastor as soon as possible.



**Maungaraki Community Centre in 1986**

A Church Pamphlet was prepared. The cover was drawn by Mary Browning from Lower Hutt Baptist Church. Paul Martell organised the printing and Carl Gravatt arranged the delivery.

Want to Play Tennis?  
Join the Tennis Club !

Want to keep fit?  
Join Jazzercise !

Want to know God?  
Join

**A CHURCH FOR THE MAUNGARAKI COMMUNITY**

People in our suburb are looking for a Church that's in touch with community needs and helping to meet those needs. A Church that cares about people. A Church in touch with God.

A number of families are meeting regularly in the Community Centre supper room - Grandparents, Parents of teenagers and younger children, Singles, Solos, Children - the beginnings of a new church. You're welcome to join us!

With the help of neighbouring Baptist churches we're buying a part of the green area opposite the Maungaraki shopping centre. In time we aim to build a facility suitable for Sunday worship as well as community service. We're here to help in any way we can.

A Baptist church is an independent autonomous church. As our numbers grow we will develop our own style and ministries: contemporary, lively, authentic, sincere. The people forming this church come from all walks of life. In our diversity we share a common experience of a knowable God, a loving Father, and a personal friend in Jesus Christ.

We live in a society groping for solutions to increasing social problems ("a dislocated society" - Editor, Evening Post).

We believe the answers are to be found in the teaching of Jesus, and in the new power of spiritual life He imparts, the power of His love.

We're not a sect. Nor are we an exclusive club. We are part of a main-line church that's growing New Zealand wide. Why are we growing? Come and see !

For further information please feel free to contact any of the following people involved in the new church:-

Rev. Bruce Patrick  
ph. 693,846

Mr. Colin Tinker  
ph. 661,505

Mr. Murray Kendon  
ph. 698,396

On behalf of the Maungaraki Baptist Church

Rev. Bruce Patrick

**MAUNGARAKI BAPTIST CHURCH**

ACTS CH6:7  
"SO THE WORD OF GOD SPREAD & THE NUMBERS OF DISCIPLES INCREASED"

ONE SMALL CORNER FOR GOD

ONE SMALL CORNER FOR GOD

ONE SMALL CORNER FOR GOD

### 3 August 1986 – A meeting to discuss starting Sunday services

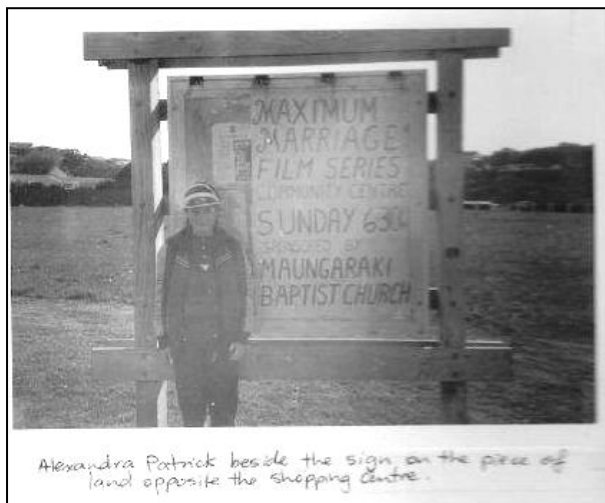
At this meeting a lengthy discussion was held in an attempt to decide the details relating to the start of formal worship services. They discussed when to start the services, what form they should take and the role of children within the meetings. Each person was given the opportunity to comment on the issue of worship and the following is a list of some of these.

- A service should have singing, praise and teaching times.
- There should be a joyful, positive and spirit filled approach to worship with an opportunity for contemporary music.
- There should be a flexibility and sensitivity towards people during the worship.
- There should be a group of leaders to give overall coherence to the services who do not necessarily need to be 'elders'
- A group of singers and musicians to lead the worship should be established.
- The length of service should be monitored so that non-Christians would not be discouraged from coming to the services.

During the meeting it was obvious that the comments were sometimes conflicting and it seemed that the discussion was going to get bogged down because of the number of people contributing and the number of decisions to be made. To overcome this, two working groups were formed, one to discuss worship and the other the children's ministry.

A leaders meeting was held on 11 August 1986, to decide how to start the regular weekly Sunday Church meetings and a film series was suggested.

Graeme Stevens prepared a list of possible films and out of those the leaders chose to do a series called 'Maximum Marriage' beginning on 14 September 1986. An average of 35-40 adults and 10-15 children attended the first four of these meetings.



A second pamphlet drop was organised to invite people to the last two evenings of the 'Maximum Marriage' series as well as the first Sunday morning Church service which was planned for the third week of this four week course.

### 21 September 1986 – Last week at Lower Hutt Baptist

A small group of people who had been attending Lower Hutt Baptist Church were prayed for as they left that Church to join the new Church at Maungaraki on the following Sunday.

## The First Sunday Morning Service 28 September 1986

Lindsay Jones preached a message at this first public service which was held at 10 am and followed by morning tea.

At that meeting, the name 'Maungaraki Baptist Church' was printed on a blue sheet of notepaper with a reference to this verse.

*"Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honoured his name. Malachi 3:16*

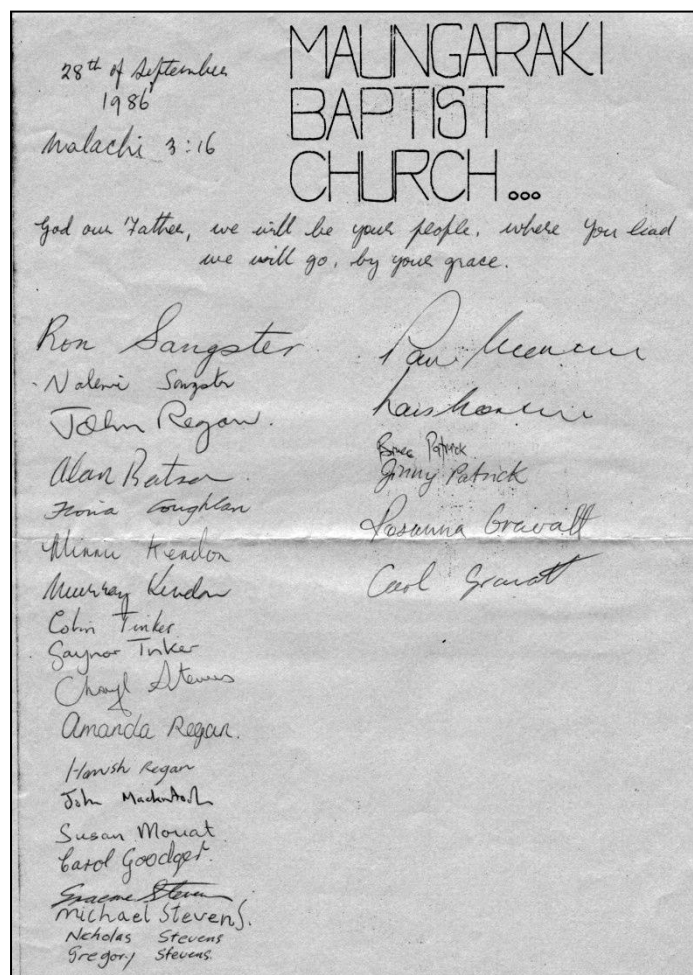
On the same page was a declaration which read,

*"God our father, we will be your people, where you lead we will go, by your grace."*

This was signed by the 16 adults and the children who were present:

Ron	Sangster
Valerie	Sangster
John	Regan
Alan	Batson
Fiona	Coughlan
Minnie	Kendon
Murray	Kendon
Colin	Tinker
Gaynor	Tinker
Cheryl	Stevens
Amanda	Regan
Hamish	Regan
John	Mackintosh
Susan	Mouat
Susan	Goodger
Graeme	Stevens
Michael	Stevens
Nicholas	Stevens
Gregory	Stevens
Paul	Martell
Lois	Martell
Bruce	Patrick
Jinny	Patrick
Rosanna	Gravatt
Carl	Gravatt

The 'Blue' Sheet of Paper



People heard about the new Church through friends or through the pamphlet letterbox drop. Each Sunday new visitors came to the service and were warmly welcomed and invited to stay for the morning tea.

## Sharing out the work

The group soon realised that starting a new Church needed a high level of involvement from everyone as there were so many jobs to be done. They shared out the work.

- Murray Kendon invited the speakers for the services, organised people to lead worship, led worship himself, preached, did pastoral visits and was the builder/handyman as required.
- Colin Tinker took on the job of Church secretary and liaison person. He opened up the hall, set out the chairs, oversaw the services, led worship, and played the guitar. He offered to hold prayer meetings in his home.
- Gaynor Tinker used her gifts in children's work. She was already running a Happy Hour on Tuesday afternoons with approximately thirty children. She sang with the worship group and took turns in the crèche and Sunday school.
- Carl Gravatt was in charge of publicity, the advertising sub-committee and Sunday school.
- Rose Gravatt was a teacher and interested in the youth work and drama.
- Graeme Stevens took on the treasurer's role and also led the Sunday school sub-committee and was responsible for the sound system. He and Cheryl felt called to work with the youth.
- Lynley Batson used her musical ability to play the flute and guitar in leading worship as well as being involved with children's work.
- Alan Batson was involved with the children's work, youth work and as a handyman.
- Sue Mouat was responsible for suppers and for morning teas after every service.
- Ron Sangster with his musical talent was to bring his electric keyboard each week.
- Digby Wilkinson shared the preaching
- Jane Wilkinson played the guitar and shared leading worship
- Jinny Patrick co-ordinated the prayer chain, played the flute and acted as minutes secretary
- Bruce Patrick shared the preaching and pastoral roles.

It was important that everyone developed a generous amount of goodwill. They were aware that they needed one another to make the body complete and if anyone was away they were missed. Families often shared meals together, especially on Sundays, and a good level of confidence developed between people.

By early October 1986, Jinny Patrick had begun two daily prayer chains. Almost every family in the Church was included. This is the first list of Prayer Chain Members.

### Chain 1

4.00 pm	Tinkers
4.05 pm	Batsons
4.10 pm	Stevens
4.15 pm	Sangsters
4.20 pm	Fiona Coughlan

### Chain 2

6.15 pm	Regans
6.20 pm	Kendons
6.25 pm	Sue Mouat

## The First General Meeting on 26 October 1986

This was held at 42 Acacia Ave, one month after the commencement of Sunday Services. Colin Tinker was interviewed for this article in the Hutt News on 3 October 1986

Colin Tinker chaired the meeting of fourteen adults and seventeen children. Graeme Stevens presented financial information for the three months between August and October.

<u>Income</u>	
Total offering:	\$1961.67
Donations:	<u>\$1200.00</u>
Balance:	<b>\$3161.67</b>
<u>Expenses</u>	
Lounge Hire (August – September)	\$ 72.00
Film Hire (including freight)	\$ 222.02
Video Hire (children's programme)	\$ 20.00
Publicity: Film Brochures -	\$ 97.15
Church Handouts -	\$ 306.60
Sunday School: Workbooks -	\$ 50.80
Material -	\$ 57.00
Overhead Projector	\$ 609.38
Overhead Transparencies	\$ 137.95
Supper / Morning Tea expenses	<u>\$ 40.00</u>
	<b>\$1613.00</b>
Balance:	<b>\$1548.67</b>

Communion Services and worship times were discussed and the following points agreed on:

- Whole loaves and grape juice were to be used.
- Lynley Batson would provide the ceramic goblets.
- The styles of sharing Communion were to vary.
- Communion to be fortnightly as from 2 November
- The worship leader was in charge of Communion, although did not have to lead it.
- Musicians were to begin practising between 9.15 and 9.30 on a Sunday morning.
- The possibility of a hymnbook or songbook was suggested.
- Sunday school would sometimes remain in for the communion.

Other items discussed included:

- The possibility of purchasing a typewriter or word-processor for the Church.
- The possibility of having an office in the Community Centre.
- Speakers in full time employment would be paid \$10 and if living by faith up to \$50
- The Church agreed to tithe income. Members were to suggest where it might go.
- Future building needs were discussed and Graeme was asked to seek advice from Bruce Roberts of the Baptist Union and open a Church Development/Building Fund.
- The Community Centre was to be booked by Gaynor Tinker for the 1987 year.
- Lower Hutt Baptist Church was to give their November 'golden offering' to MBC.
- Lindsay Jones and Colin Tinker were to arrange to visit new people to the Church.

## Who said we didn't need new churches

When a suburb has 6500 people and no churches, when should one be started?

Who should start it? How do you go about it? People in the Hutt Valley churches, especially Petone and Lower Hutt, saw a crying need for a new church in the hill suburb of Maungaraki.

From the time we arrived in the valley, the Rev Lindsay Jones of the Lower Hutt church had a special sense of call from God to do something about it. "We're excited about what God is doing here!"

A bi-weekly outreach youth night led by Graeme Stevens is attracting 50 teenagers, most from non-church homes.

An after school children's programme led by Gaynor Tinker has 25 attending. Homegroups and Bible studies have started. New converts from Mission Wellington are being nurtured.

A total of 70 come to Sunday morning worship services held in the supper room of the local community hall.

In fact it's now filled to capacity and the services will be moved into the main gymnasium area.

This growing and dynamic new church has developed since September 28, 1986.

A small nucleus of mature and committed Christians already lived in Maungaraki.

They attended Baptist churches in the valley.

Graeme Stevens, a lighting expert from Avalon studios; Colin Tinker, a DSIR Scientist; Paul Martel, a businessman; these men together with two others were elected by the founding group to form a steering committee.

The two newcomers were Murray Kendon, an elder from Upper Hutt; and Bruce Patrick who had pastored the Wanganui Central Church and was the newly appointed Home Mission Director for our Baptist churches.

A film series in September 1986 "Maximum Marriage" by Dr Tim Timmons was the catalyst for public meetings.

Prior to that a group of about 15 adults had been meeting Sunday evenings for fellowship teas, discussion and prayer.

Relationship-building and vision-sharing laid a foundation.

The group saw that they were not primarily starting "public services". They were building a new community for God's people.

Loving and accountable relationships would be the key to their mission.

Their vision was not inward. In a community where over 6000 people don't attend a church they have a burden to see more and more people saved.

Numerous letterbox drops, visitation, a YWAM Team for a month of outreach, advertising, community activities, have all helped to make a new church known in the community.

They expect God to bring people to Himself, and because this will result in an enlarging group of believers they're already planning ways of meeting their needs:

- Discipleship groups are leaving how to nurture new Christians;
- The steering committee is actively seeking a pastor to lead the work;
- Preliminary building plans have been commissioned.

A series of miracles that added impetus was the timely decision to sell an acre of flat land opposite the shops and Post Office.

They'd intended to build a church there, but financial constraints forced the sale.

The Wellington Baptist Association stepped in, and \$10,000 deposit was paid. The remainder was found by settlement date in March, \$25,000 from the Maungaraki group and \$65,000 was graciously provided from other sources.

God's hand has been seen in this, both in the timing of it and the provision for it.

As the new church grows, the people are praying for a powerful impact for Christ in Maungaraki, and that they'll become a strong church, a missionary sending church — sending workers into the New Zealand harvest, and overseas.



It was agreed that to let people know the Church was now operating, a sandwich board sign, painted by John Regan would be put outside the Community Centre on a Sunday morning as well as a sign placed on the Church land. Julie Green agreed to make a sign for the Normandale notice board.

The Church was to be allocated a storage room in the Community Centre. Light shades were purchased for the supper room to make it look more attractive but not long after it was realised that the supper room was really a bit small for the number of people attending.

During September and October 1986 the Preachers were Don Hobbs from Scripture Union, Rev Lindsay Jones from Lower Hutt, Allan Missen from Avalon, Fraser Campbell from Christchurch and Bruce Patrick.

It was mentioned that Jane and Digby Wilkinson were to leave Maungaraki in 1987 to begin study as full-time students at the Bible College of New Zealand at Henderson in Auckland.

People had come from a variety of Churches and whilst most were from Baptist backgrounds there were also a number from other denominations. People had different expectations of what they wanted from a Church, and were at different stages in their spiritual lives.

Throughout the meeting there was an excitement that God had a part for each one to play, both then and in the future. The people were all willing to learn and grow together, and to serve Christ at Maungaraki.

### **A Steering Committee is Formed – 30 November 1986**

The second official meeting on 30 November 1986 was held at 1A Jacaranda Grove with fourteen adults present. Colin Tinker chaired the meeting, beginning with prayer.

Bruce Patrick presented some suggestions about the future direction of the Church. He also produced a Vision and Skills paper which outlined the need for a Steering Committee and the preparation of a constitution prior to Maungaraki becoming a formally constituted Church.

The following were unanimously voted on to the Steering Committee:

Bruce Patrick (Chairman)  
Colin Tinker (Secretary)  
Murray Kendon  
Paul Martell (To begin work on a constitution)  
Graeme Stevens (Treasurer)

The following people also took on specific roles in the Church:

Val Sangster (Hostess, PR)  
Alan Batson (Co-ordinating youth work)

There were some general suggestions as to activities that could be organised by the Church such as getting together to bottle jam or fruit, having craft or doll making mornings, a fashion parade or a colour co-ordinator session as an Outreach. The idea of running self help courses in the community was also discussed.

The next page shows photos of some of the people involved during the first year of the Church. Some of the photos were taken twenty five years ago and some more recently.



**Colin and Gaynor Tinker**



**Bruce & Jinny Patrick with  
Alexandra, Alastair and Andrew**



**Murray and Minnie Kendon**



**Graeme and Cheryl Stevens**



**Fiona Coughlan**



**Sue Mouat**



**Alan and Lynley Batson**



**Alan and Kerry  
& Talia Reedy**



**Janet, Hamish, Amanda & John Regan**



**Ron & Valerie  
Sangster**

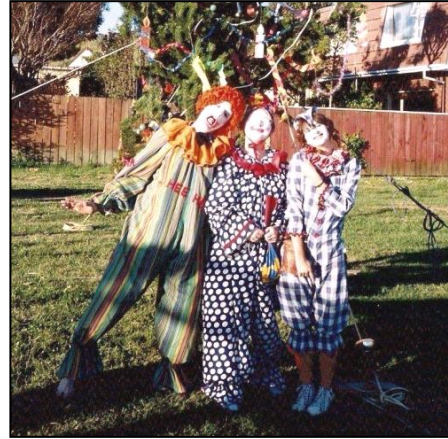
## Carols by Candlelight

On 11 December 1986, the first Carols by Candlelight Service was held on the Church land at Maungaraki.

*“God provided a wonderful clear night and 300 people enjoyed the evening. The planning committee led by Graeme Stevens made all the arrangements.”*



**Carol Service on the Church Land**



**The Three Clowns**

The photos below were taken at some time during the first few years



**Gaynor Tinker**



**Colin Tinker**



**Janet Regan**



**Suzanne Culver (Butel)**



**Carl, Paul, Rosanna, Jenna Gravatt with Mum**

**Picnic at Harcourt's Park 1986**



**From Left to Right:**

**Alan Reedy  
David Osborne  
Robyn Osborne  
Gaynor Tinker  
Amanda Regan  
Fiona Coughlan**



**Sharon Tinker  
Gaynor Tinker  
Fiona Coughlan  
Nicola Hamilton  
Cheryl Stevens  
Kerryn Reedy**



**Alan Batson  
Michael Stevens  
Nicolas Stevens  
Gaynor Tinker  
Sharon Tinker  
Fiona Tinker  
Iain Coughlan  
Gregory Stevens  
Melissa Au  
Joe Batson  
Talia Reedy  
Alan Reedy  
Kerryn Reedy**



**Andrew Patrick  
Graeme Stevens  
Alan Reedy  
Colin Tinker**



**Fiona, Iain and Katrina Coughlan**

### Chapter 3 – 1987: Growing the Church

The Sunday evening meetings continued to be held at 5.30pm every fortnight. Each time they met there was a shared meal followed by a time of praise and then a 'business' discussion. Up to seventy people crowded into the little supper room some nights.

A Kite Day was held on the Church land on 28 March 1987. Dozens of multi-shaped and multi- coloured kites were flown assisted by just the right amount of breeze.



### Three Easter Crosses 1987

Nigel Sorenson offered to donate the timber and make three crosses to be placed on the Church Land for the Good Friday service on 14 April. They were to remind people that Easter was more than 'Easter eggs and bunnies.'



## Ideas for Growth

Gaynor Tinker ran the Tuesday Club which was an after school club for children to introduce them to Jesus through songs, memory verses, games, competitions and quizzes. Between fifteen and eighteen children regularly attended this club held in Gaynor's home. In March 1987 Gaynor also began to organise the Prayer Chain.

Some of the women in the Church met to discuss more ideas for growing the Church. One idea was to hold a morning Bible Study and provide child care. This group was eventually started by Fiona Coughlan the same year and called Time Out. Other suggestions were for a walking group around Maungaraki and car pooling.

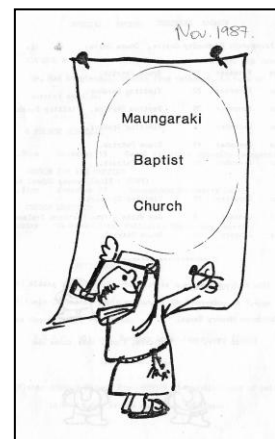
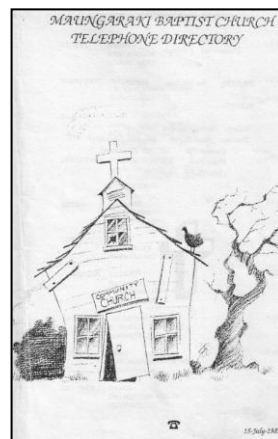
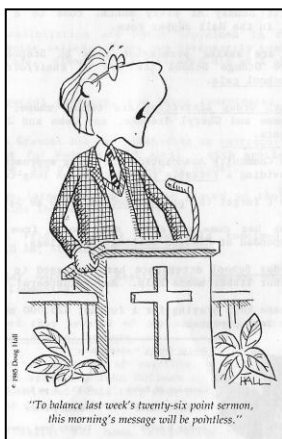
On 3 May 1987, a new format to the Sunday evening meetings was introduced. A Church family discussion was held between 4:30pm and 5:30pm to be followed by a shared tea for approximately 25 adults and their children. Items discussed at the first meeting included:

- Winter 'outreach' ideas such as a restaurant type evening or a celebration dinner.
- The possibility of holding an evangelistic crusade.
- The need for two Sunday school groups of 3-5 yr olds and 6-11 yrs.
- Support required for the Tuesday Club, the Holiday Club and the crèche.
- Minutes would be more formal and kept by Colin Tinker.

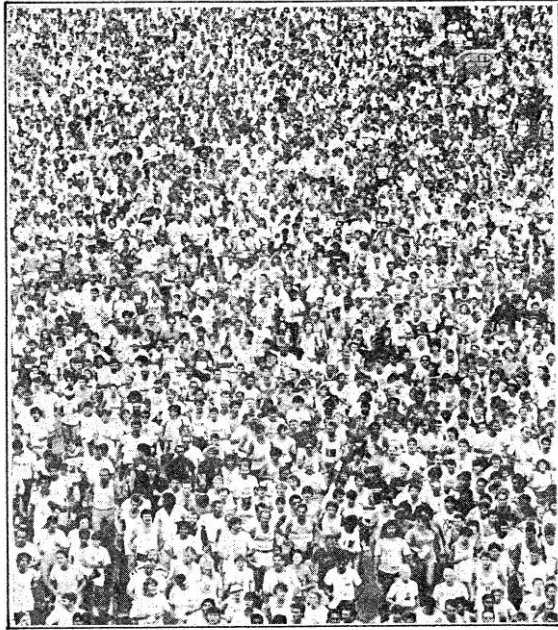
At subsequent meetings, further ideas were contributed. The greatest frustration was around trying to get the ideas put into action. However, as the group wanted to encourage people to freely suggest their ideas they decided that they would just have to discover creative ways of making things happen.

A Home Group was started on 27 May 1987 at the home of Richard and Sue Williams. As numbers increased, the meetings were then moved to David and Robyn Osborne's home. The group watched the Bill Subritzky teaching videos and studied the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. They also viewed the Stuart Gramenz, "Jesus Heals Crusades" in India. Copies of Songs of Praise and Songs of the Kingdom books were bought for the homegroup to use.

The Steering Committee continued to meet once a month and it was in these meetings that the constitution was discussed. Paul Martell, Murray Kendon and Richard Williams formed a sub-committee to prepare a draft constitution for the Church. The putting together of a constitution had been delayed because the Baptist Union had been revising its 'model' constitution for its member Churches. Once it was completed, an invitation to become foundation members of the Church was put together. A copy of this is on the next page and below some of the early 'design work from newsletters and phone directories.



# A personal invitation to become a foundation member



## Maungaraki Baptist Church

### THE COMMUNITY AND THE NEED

A hill suburb on the western hills, above Lower Hutt in the Wellington region, Maungaraki was developed in the mid 1970's as a medium to higher cost housing area. Its streets wind around ridges separated by gullies and scrub covered slopes. The result is a spacious housing development. Many of the houses have uninterrupted views of Wellington Harbour and Heads; some of Lower Hutt Valley and Petone.

It is a distinct geographical area with approximately 6500 residents. There are two primary schools. Further subdivision will commence soon, to add another 180 homes.

It was thought to be a very community-minded area by Mr Don Hazlett, recently retired headmaster of Paketio Primary, a New Entrants to Standard Six Primary School. Housing being "a little more expensive", the type of person who lives there is in the middle to higher income bracket. It is a dormitory suburb; very few people work in the area. Marriage problems are thought to be prevalent.

The two churches on the Normandale border of Maungaraki are not evidencing evangelistic growth. A survey of residents was conducted several years ago, and interested people invited to a meeting to discuss the possibility of founding a community church. 100 people came to that meeting. Many go to Valley Churches. It was presumed that some of these would support a church in Maungaraki if one was started that suited them.

### LAND ACQUISITION

The piece of land acquired by an initial \$10,000 deposit by the Wellington Baptist Association is superbly located directly opposite the sole shopping centre on Dowse Drive, the main access road. This land was purchased years ago by Farsighted Anglicans and Presbyterians. The total price of \$100,000 has since been paid to them. This amount was raised by large and small gifts from Maungaraki and Hutt Valley Christians. In a hill suburb on narrow ridges, generally without flat land and almost completely subdivided and built on, it is nothing short of miraculous that such a property should still be available. This was seen as a direct provision by God for the new church.

### THE FOUNDERS

The Lower Hutt Baptist Church has been most committed to this church planting venture, with some interest, and several members coming from Upper Hutt, Avalon, and Petone Baptist Churches. Pastor Lindsay Jones of Lower Hutt has taken an initiatory role. Bruce Patrick, Director of Home Mission for the Baptist Union, lives in the suburb and is committed to the task. There are other key leaders in the area who are committed. An excellent starting group of gifted, experienced and mature Christians began by meeting for Sunday evening fellowship teas, and for prayer and worship. Public meetings began with a Saturday night film series on Marriage, then Sunday morning worship on 29 September 1986, at 10 am. The Maungaraki Baptist Church is an officially recognized fellowship of the Wellington Baptist Association of Baptist Churches.

The founding group has been thrilled to welcome other Christians who've come for worship, fellowship, and service.

### TEMPORARY FACILITIES AND RELATED PROGRAMME

The Community Centre next to the shops and school has a lounge that seats 60-80 people. This has been an ideal starting venue. The hall next to the lounge will soon be used, owing to the rapid growth of the number attending. Sunday School is held concurrently with morning worship, utilizing other rooms in the Community Centre. The kitchen has a servery through to the lounge and morning tea is served after morning worship.

The large hall is hired on alternative Friday nights for an imaginative and energetic youth programme. This is attracting over 50 teenagers, most of whom are from non-church homes. These numbers were attracted after only a few weeks through an effectively presented letterbox leaflet and through personal invitations. A children's after-school outreach is held once a week in the home of one of the members.

### THE FUTURE

The primary strategy currently being investigated is to call an evangelistically-gifted pastor. We recognize the place God has given to spiritual gifts in building up the Body of Christ, and want a called leader who is specially gifted in one to one evangelism and counselling and in facilitating the gifts of others.

As the number of people increases, decisions are being made about future buildings.

The objective is reaching people for Christ. Along with overt evangelism the new church intends to employ appropriate ways of serving the community in Jesus' Name, so establishing credibility as a caring church. This may mean Day Care for the children of working mothers, Craft Club for women, Believers, etc.

Our prayer is that God will go on building together a loving community of His people, to serve Him here.

### OUR INITIAL VISION

From the first meeting of the founding group in the home of Paul and Lois Martell, 16 Bushey Way, Maungaraki, on Sunday 9 April 1986, there was clarity and unity on a number of basic propositions:

- 1 After considerable discussion we agreed on the name of the church: The Maungaraki Baptist Church
- 2 We agreed that our primary vision was for the evangelization of Maungaraki. While recognizing that numerous Christians would be attracted to a new church in their suburb, and accepting that such people would become the base of a new work, we affirmed the need to be looking out at the harvest field, and seeking to win people to Christ.
- 3 It was agreed that a church of 300 members in a suburb of 6500 people was not an unreasonable aim. This vision carried with it other implications:
- 4 We agreed that pastoral leadership of a special kind was a key to attaining the vision. Pastoral leadership that:
  - a Facilitated the gifts of others, building a Body Ministry
  - b Was evangelistically effective, especially through one to one, and visitation of homes
  - c Was pastoral, caring, loving, spiritually mature
  - d Was gifted in counselling (recognizing the proportion of homes in Maungaraki with marriage problems)
  - e Was experienced in bringing a new church into stable growth
  - f Could cope with a building programme

It was hoped that a pastoral leader could be found sooner rather than later, recognizing also that the Lord controlled the timing of His own calls to ministry.
- 5 We agreed that the eventual provision of church facilities was implied by the Lord's exciting provision of land on which to build. Land that was ideal in every respect: centrally located, highly visible, adequate in area, perfect in contour, with over 60 carparks already in existence adjacent to the property!
- 6 We agreed that the church planting venture on which we were about to embark was in response to the call of God, and that therefore He would lead, provide, encourage, and enable. There was a great measure of faith in Him to bring to completion the work He was calling us to commence.



The Lord replied: "Write down the vision and make it plain... So that a new day may RUN WITH IT!" Hebrews 12:17

### WE'D LOVE YOU TO BE A PART OF WHAT GOD IS DOING

As soon as a person receives Jesus Christ as Lord, he or she becomes a part of the universal Church.

Full identification with a local fellowship of believers is also a very vital part of our discipleship. The real question is: "Which church would God have us join?"

Our communities need strong churches. Churches are only as strong as the commitments of their members:

Commitments to Christ  
to the Body of Christ  
to the work of Christ

### WOULD YOU CONSIDER AND PRAY ABOUT THE FOLLOWING

#### What is the Church?

- a It is a community of people in whom God lives. See 1 Corinthians 3:16
- b It is the Body of Christ, joined closely. See Colossians 1:18
- c It belongs to Jesus who is Head. See Matthew 16:18
- d It is not made up of perfect people, but saved sinners. See Acts 2:47

#### Why join a local church?

- a The New Testament knows of no isolated Christians
- b To demonstrate publicly that you belong to Christ
- c For mutual sharing and encouragement. Romans 1:12
- d To give you a place for caring and for growth as a disciple in the will and knowledge of God

Membership involves both giving and getting. It is a two-way commitment of people to love, pray for, and support you, and of yourself to share your gifts and abilities with your Christian family.

#### Which church should I join?

- a Join the church which teaches and lives by the New Testament, and honours the Lord Jesus Christ
- b Join the church that loves with God's love
- c Join where you will receive spiritual help, and where you in turn will be able to help others.

If you ever find the perfect church, don't join it - you'll spoil it!

#### How do you join?

Most churches have adopted some recognized procedures.

- a Acts 2:38-42 gives the pattern for new Christians, who were baptized into the Body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12)

At our Service of Constitution as a Church on Sunday 2 August we will baptize new believers and others who request New Testament baptism by immersion.

- b Galatians 2:9 speaks of "the right hand of fellowship." Baptized believers whom God has led into this church family will be welcomed as foundation members. Some will come on transfer from other churches.

During early July 1987 members of the Steering Committee will visit all of those who've been attending, to answer any questions about your personal commitment to this new family of God's people.

We hope you will accept this invitation and join us.



## The invitation to become a Foundation Member produced in 1987

## YWAM visit

A Youth with a Mission (YWAM) Team of five people came on Outreach to Maungaraki for 4 weeks from 25 April to 24 May 1987 with a further five young people going to Kelson Baptist Church. Their work included door to door visiting and delivering the brochures shown below. As a 'thank you' each YWAM member was given a \$50 book token and \$25 in cash

**HOME GROUPS**

During the week home groups are being started so people can meet informally to share, pray, worship, learn how to understand the bible and fellowship together. We encourage one another and grow together. Please a contact number for information. Attendance is not confined to those who attend the church services.

WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO YOU TO ATTEND OUR SERVICES OR TO BRING YOUR CHILDREN TO ANY OF THE ADVERTISED PROGRAMMES.

The person who delivered this to you was From.....

**Contact Phone Numbers:**

Murray Kendon 699 496  
Colin Tinker 661 505  
Rev Bruce Patrick 693 844  
Graeme Stevens 692 081 (Youth)

THESE AND OTHERS WOULD BE ONLY TO HAPPY TO VISIT YOU OR HAVE YOU VISIT THEM TO TALK ABOUT ANYTHING RELATING TO THE ABOVE.

**JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

INTRODUCING THE.....

**MAUNGARAKI BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP**

**What we're about!**

**WHO ARE WE**

The Maungaraki Baptist has recently been formed by Christians in your community. We are not so concerned about establishing a 'BAPTIST' church as such, but under that traditional denominational name to provide opportunity for bringing the Kingdom of God into our community.

The church is not defined by buildings, but rather the meeting of those who love God, who have been born again spiritually and acknowledge Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

**SUNDAY MEETINGS**

We meet each Sunday at the Maungaraki Community Centre on Dowses Drive at 10.00am. Lively and relevant Bible teaching is presented by guest speakers as well as speakers from the church. Other happenings: a childrens slot, creche, communion on a regular basis, separate childrens programs, fellowship time with morning tea. Family services are held regularly.

**WHY ARE WE HERE**

The Maungaraki Church is in the heart of Maungaraki, with Maungaraki on its' heart. People, young and older, may come to worship God, learn more about Him, learn more about each other, care for one another and grow together in a new Christian community.

We are here to share our faith with you; so that you too might enter into a personal relationship with God through Jesus and discover the power to live as God planned.

**YOUTH PROGRAMME:**

A community based youth club (for those 12yrs and over), is held each alternate Friday night from the 24th April. Activities are fun filled and start at 7.30pm. Your teenagers are most welcome.

Contact: Graeme and Cheryl Stevens Ph 692 086

## The Inaugural Service 2 August 1987

The inaugural service was held as the draft constitution was completed and people signed a yellow sheet of paper to say they were official foundation 'members' of the Church

THE FOUNDATION MEMBERS OF MAUNGARAKI CHURCH AUGUST 2nd 1987

*Rosanna Gravatt*     *Rolyn Osborne*  
*Carl Gravatt*         *David Osborne*  
*Alan Reedy*           *Colin Tinker*  
*Kerryn Reedy*       *Angela Hagan*  
*Fiona Coughlan*     *June Eyles*  
*Valerie Sangster*     *Jenny Patrick*  
*Ron Sangster*         *Bruce Patrick*  
*Christelle Rance*     *Tina*  
*JEANETTE BIRD*       *Alison Pilkington*  
*Graeme Stevens*     *Dynley Batson*  
*Cheryl Stevens*      *Jo Peck*  
*June Green*           *Brian Peck*  
*Gaynor Tinker*       *Alan Batson*  
*Mimi Kendon*  
*Murray Kendon*  
*Colin Pye*  
*Richard Williams*  
*Susan G. Mouat*  
*Sue Williams*  
*Richard Williams*

The 34 adults present at this inaugural service on 2 August 1987 were:

- |                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Carl and Rosanna   | Gravatt    |
| Alan and Kerryn    | Reedy      |
| Fiona              | Coughlan   |
| Valerie and Ron    | Sangster   |
| Christelle / Wayne | Rance      |
| Jeanette           | Bird       |
| Graeme and Cheryl  | Stevens    |
| Julie              | Green      |
| Colin and Gaynor   | Tinker     |
| Murray and Minnie  | Kendon     |
| Graham and Eileen  | Pye        |
| Sue                | Mouat      |
| Richard and Sue    | Williams   |
| David and Robyn    | Osborne    |
| Angela             | Hazel      |
| June               | Eyles      |
| Bruce and Jinny    | Patrick    |
| Ian                | Burn       |
| Alison             | Pilkington |
| Alan and Lynley    | Batson     |
| Brian and Jo       | Peck       |

## The 'Yellow' Sheet of Paper



## **The First 'Members' Meeting 26 August 1987**

Bruce Patrick opened the meeting held on 26 August and spoke about the life cycle of a Church. He likened the growth pattern to that of a natural birth and growth of a human being. He emphasised the need for a mature, stable leadership to help the Church grow to a point where it could become autonomous. The Steering Committee was thanked for the work they had done so far. Elections were held and the following leaders were appointed:

Elders: Bruce Patrick, Murray Kendon, David Osborne

Deacons: Colin Tinker            Secretary and Sunday service co-ordinator  
          Alan Reedy             Treasurer  
          Graeme Stevens        Community outreach  
          Ron Sangster          Property

Also: Valerie Sangster and Kerryn Reedy - Fellowship and Hospitality  
      Carl Gravatt - Sunday School.  
      Robyn and David Osborne and Jinny and Bruce Patrick - Home Groups  
      Eileen Pye – The newsletter production

With the draft constitution finished and approved, the application for the Church to be accepted as a member of the Baptist Union was forwarded the day after this meeting.

### **Regular Church meetings and activities were held from October 1987.**

The Youth Group had between thirty and fifty young people attending and was run by Graeme and Cheryl Stevens, assisted by Lynley and Alan Batson, Ian Burn, Janet Regan, Rosemary McLennan and A.J. Pratt and met on alternate Fridays. A Sunday evening Bible Study for the young people was run by Ian Burn with Amanda Regan, Yvette Howie, Jinny Patrick, Andrew and Alastair Patrick as helpers. Other youth events included indoor bowls, a film series 'Fury to Freedom' and a joint meeting with Lower Hutt Baptist Church.

On Saturday mornings a prayer meeting was led by Colin and Gaynor Tinker. The 'Tuesday Club' continued to be run by Gaynor and advertised through the school was attracting between fifteen and twenty five children each week. The life of Moses and of Jesus was a focus in this year

On Wednesday mornings a Bible Study group initiated by Fiona Coughlan had discussions based around a book called "A Woman's Priorities" by Joyce Marie Smith.

The film series 'Turn your Hearts towards Home' began on Sunday 4 October and was held in the Maungaraki Community Centre. The preachers at the end of 1987 included Murray Kendon, Bruce Patrick, Joe White from Northern Ireland and Dr Max Stephenson.

### **Joining the Baptist Union**

On 6 October 1987, a meeting was held between members of the Church Board and Lindsay Jones, representing the Baptist Association and Terry Isaac representing the Baptist Union, to discuss concepts and ideas as a preliminary to joining the Baptist Union. There was some concern that the constitution as it stood did not allow women to become elders or deacons and the method of voting for elders differed from the norm. It was felt that this would require a careful explanation before each election.

Maungaraki Baptist Church was accepted as a fully constituted member Church of the Baptist Union at the Assembly held at Northcote on 30 October 1987. Colin Tinker and Jinny Patrick were the first Church delegates to attend from Maungaraki. At the time the Church was constituted there were 31 members and 76 non-members regularly attending services.

# COMING EVENTS

29 May: "A RIGHT ROYAL OCCASION" Please bring a plate of food for a "Royal" Supper.

12 June: A night at "Foot-Rot Flats".

26 June: "Down the Fast Lane". (Skating at Nae Nae)

10 July: "What's black and white and red all over?"

24 July: "Little Boxes on the Hill Side".

7 August: "Mid-Winter Madness".

21 August: "-87's mini Olympics".

**BRING A FRIEND**

1987

Youth Group Events

PREACHING AND WORSHIP ARRANGEMENTS MAUNGARAKI BAPTIST CHURCH

Date	Person Responsible	Welcome, notices first song(s) etc	Children's Involvement	Worship Time	Preacher
Feb 8	Bruce Patrick & Karl Gravatt	(Murray Kendon away)			Bruce Patrick
15	Bruce Patrick?	"			Colin Tinker
	Communion: John Regan				
22	Bruce Patrick?	(Murray Kendon and Bruce Patrick away)			Paul Martell
March 1	Colin Tinker	(Bruce Patrick away)			John Regan
	Communion:				
8	Paul Martell	(Bruce Patrick away)	Superintendent's update instead of children's talk		Gerard Marks
15	Murray Kendon				Murray Kendon
22	Bruce Patrick	Murray Kendon	Glenda Kruse	Bruce Patrick	Roger Kruse (Krusie)
29	Graham Stevens Karl Gravatt	FAMILY SERVICE .....			
April 5	Colin Tinker				Timothy Yung
	Communion:				
12					Alan Batson

Church Roster

# MAUNGARAKI

Sunday, August 2, saw the constitution of a new Baptist church at Maungaraki, a hill-suburb above Lower Hutt in the Wellington region.

Maungaraki has 6500 residents and further subdivision will add another 180 homes before long.

A small group of Christians met in the Maungaraki home of Paul and Lewis Martell on Sunday, April 9, last year.

Public meetings began with a Saturday night film series on marriage, then Sunday morning worship began on September 29.

A piece of land acquired by an initial \$10,000 deposit by the Wellington Baptist Association is superbly located directly opposite the sole shopping centre.

This land was purchased years ago by far-sighted Anglicans and Presbyterians. The total price of \$100,000 has since been paid to them.

The Lower Hutt Baptist Church has been most committed to this church planting venture with some interest, and several members, coming from the Upper Hutt, Avalon and Petone Baptist Churches.

Pastor Lindsay Jones of Lower Hutt has taken an initiatory role.

Bruce Patrick, director of Home Missions for the Baptist Union, lives in the suburb and is committed to the task. There are other key leaders in the area who are also committed.

Hutt news, August 1987

## Some Ambiguity over who were Foundation Members

There has been some ambiguity regarding the precise date of the start of the Church as well as some uncertainty around who were considered to be foundation members. It seems appropriate to explain here why this anomaly has occurred.

The first morning service at Maungaraki was held on **28 September 1986** and those present signed their names on a blue sheet of paper with the heading 'Maungaraki Baptist Church'.

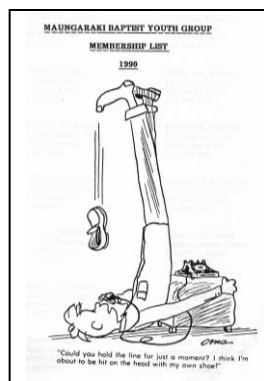
This group of people considered themselves to be the '**foundation members**' in the sense that the word foundation means a base, groundwork or establishing something.

A year later on **2 August 1987**, a service was held to mark the acceptance by the Church of the first constitution. Those present who wanted to become 'formal members' of the Church signed a yellow sheet of paper which had the heading, 'The Foundation Members of the Maungaraki Church, August 2<sup>nd</sup> 1987'.

This group of people would also consider themselves to be '**foundation members**' in the sense that one could only become a formal member if there was a constitution. The Church was accepted into the Baptist Union as a fully constituted Baptist Church almost three months later on 30 October 1987.

## Key Dates of the Church being constituted 1985 - 1987

- |                   |                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 20 September 1985 | A decision was taken by representatives from the Lower Hutt Baptist Churches to investigate starting a Church at Maungaraki. |
| 19 April 1986     | First meeting at Martell's home Bushey way to discuss the Church                                                             |
| 11 May 1986       | First Sunday evening Church service                                                                                          |
| 28 September 1986 | First Sunday morning Church service                                                                                          |
| 26 October 1986   | First general meeting                                                                                                        |
| 30 November 1986  | A Steering Committee is elected                                                                                              |
| 2 August 1987     | An inaugural service was held to mark the draft constitution and people signed as being the official members of the Church   |
| 26 August 1987    | First members' meeting at which Elders and Deacons were elected                                                              |
| 30 October 1987   | Maungaraki Baptist Church was accepted into the Baptist Union as a fully constituted Baptist Church.                         |



## A Pastor is Called

Early in 1987 the Church had discussed calling a pastor. Bruce Patrick had suggested that Jim McLean might be interested in considering a call to Maungaraki as he felt that Jim's attributes were in the areas of pastoral skills, counselling, marriage guidance and the encouragement of people to use their gifts.

Jim McLean wrote a letter to the Church on 2 June 1987 and Bruce gave these details:

Jim had been married for 26 years to Kath who was a registered nurse. They had four children. Karen was 25 and a staff nurse in Christchurch. Michelle was 19 and working as a bank officer in Christchurch and then Sarah aged 13 and Peter aged 12, both still at school.

Jim was an engineer by training. Jim and Kath had emigrated from England and lived for five years in the Hutt Valley where Jim worked as a maintenance engineer for a tyre retread firm at Wingate. He was then transferred by that company to their Head Office in Christchurch as a design and development engineer. When this company was taken over Jim worked for the Sales department of an Auckland Company as their South Island representative. He attended several courses at the NZ Institute of Management.

In 1978 after a background of over twenty years leadership in Anglican Churches and an encounter with Christ in 1970, Jim and his family joined Spreydon Baptist Church. Jim was baptised by Murray Robertson in July 1978. In 1980 Jim was a House Church Pastor and then was appointed part time co-Pastor of the fledgling Halswell Fellowship along with another elder from Spreydon. In December 1980 the Church called him as the Pastor, a position he held until his move to the pastoral team at Hillsborough in 1986.

Jim wrote in a letter to the Church,

*"I am firmly committed to the continuation of the charismatic renewal within the Church at Halswell and beyond. I believe this renewal, which has brought much blessing and growth to the lives of many people has also got the potential to stagnate in any Church if they do not use what God has done in their midst to reach out with the gospel in effective evangelism to a needy world.*

*While encouraging renewal in the area of personal spirituality, praise and worship, I am also firmly committed to see that members of the Church do not settle into a 'bless me' mentality. This can be accomplished by encouraging people to be involved in home groups, life-style evangelism, overseas mission and other ministries that the Church can offer to the community. I see the Church as the 'healing community' where people can come and receive 'holistic' healing for spirit, mind and body.*

*The pastor should be a leader and a visionary and one who is not afraid to delegate responsibility and authority; who can motivate people and who has a sound understanding of 'people management'. There has to be a clear leader of the team but I also believe that the pastor should share the eldership of the Church with others who are gifted to lead in the areas of ministry which are different to his own."*

After the meeting between Jim and the Steering Committee in early August, those who had met with Jim and Kath spoke very warmly of them. After the Church Board had been elected, the first Board meeting was held on 29 August 1987 and at this meeting they discussed the calling of the first Pastor.

The Board were looking for a mature couple and for a Pastor who was gifted in counselling, team leadership and facilitating the gifts of others. It was felt that Jim would meet those requirements.

Finance was an issue but Murray Kendon expressed the view that faith had to be exercised. If Jim was to be called by God to Maungaraki then God would ensure that the finance would be supplied and there was a possibility of some support from America.

It was a unanimous decision to proceed with the call to Jim and Kath McLean. After much prayer they accepted and made a plan to end their ministry at Hillsborough Church on 13 December and after a trip to England to visit their families start at Maungaraki early in February 1988.

Kath described the process for them accepting the 'call' to the Church at Maungaraki.

*"Before we came to Maungaraki we wanted to be absolutely sure that it was where He wanted us to be. We had received pastoral 'calls' to four different Churches and had spent weeks praying. The decision was down to two Churches. One was Maungaraki Baptist Church which at that time only had about 20 adults in the Church and the other was a large Church in Brisbane.*

*We decided to pray until we had an answer and I heard Jim praying a prayer as if he had accepted the call but I was still not convinced. I said to God that I needed a direct word from Him because it was so important.*

*We were happy where we were. The children were settled in their schools and we knew the enormity of what we were considering. From a mothers point of view I knew that Maungaraki did not have the money to pay Jim for full time work and as we had four children and two of them were still at home I thought "How are we going to survive?"*

*We only wanted to move if it was God, as it is an awesome responsibility when a Church asks you to come. If it was the wrong decision and not in God then it could be quite devastating on people's lives. However, that morning God gave me some verses from the Bible that convinced me it was right to come to Maungaraki.*

*"Don't concern yourself about what you will eat or drink, and quit worrying about these things. Everyone in the world is concerned about these things, but your Father knows you need them. Rather, be concerned about his kingdom. Then these things will be provided for you. Do not be afraid, little flock. Your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. Luke 12: 29-32*

*God spoke to me through the whole passage but what really convinced me was the 'little flock' mentioned in the verses. Maungaraki was a 'little flock' of people who needed a shepherd. Jim said that he believed that it was right to work full time and we accepted the call even though we were unsure how we would be supported. It worked out though as support was given by an organisation in USA led by Dr Jim Adams.*

*Once we had made the move to Maungaraki the Doctor who worked at the medical centre across the road from the Church land heard that I was a registered nurse and approached me to offer me a job. She was a Christian too and we began to pray for people that came to the centre and through that I met many people in the community.*

*Jim and I saw God's Hand there through all the ups and the downs and we tried to honour Him every step of the way. Maungaraki Baptist Church has always been a Church that had a heart and a mandate from God for 'healing.'*

## Financial Support from USA is Arranged for the new Pastor

Bruce Patrick made a submission to the International Baptist Ministries in USA for financial support. A ministry group called 'Partnership in Mission' from a Southern USA Baptist Church made a five year commitment to Maungaraki to support Jim and Kath on a full stipend for the first year but reducing by one fifth of the amount each subsequent year. Dr Jim Adams headed up the group and later visited the Church in New Zealand along with Mary Clapton and Margaret Taylor.

## The end of 1987

As this important year drew to a close, a joint service with the St Aidan's on the Hill Church was held on 8 November and the second Carols by Candlelight Service on 13 December.

A Christmas production called 'No Room at the Inn' was a great success. Lynley Batson put a great deal of time into organising it along with the other helpers.

## The Christmas production 1987



Andrew Patrick (Lying down)  
Michael Stevens  
Sara Mulvey  
Joel Batson



Mark Reedy  
Gregory Stevens  
Fiona Tinker  
Sarah Peck  
Hannah Peck  
Nicki Mulvey  
Loren Batson  
Ian Coughlan  
Katie Beardsley (Front row)  
Amber Batson (Front row)



Jeremy Peck  
Michael Stevens  
David Mulvey  
Natasha Osborne  
Nicholas Stevens  
Sharon Tinker  
Talia Reedy (Front row)  
Melanie Osborne (Front row)

## **Bruce and Jinny Patrick accept a Call to Auckland**

Bruce and Jinny Patrick had invested much time and energy into helping the Church as it was being established and this had included facilitating the call to Jim and Kath McLean.

The Church people enjoyed many times of warm hospitality at the Patricks home. Everyone missed them when they moved with their family to Auckland. A letter of appreciation and a vote of thanks was given to Bruce and Jinny Patrick at their farewell picnic at day's Bay.

### **Photos of Bruce and Jinny Patrick's Farewell at Day's Bay on 10 January 1988**



## Chapter 4 – 1988: A Very Busy Year

### Highlights of 1988

Jim and Kath along with their two youngest children Sarah and Peter moved into a rented house in Dowse Drive on 18 February and then on 2 July moved to their own home in Miromiro Road in Normandale. It was a busy year as Jim and Kath settled into the life of the Church at Maungaraki where they would remain in ministry until 2005.

- February 21 The induction service for Jim McLean was held at the Community Centre.
- February 27 Kelson Baptist Church started about the same time. The induction service for their Pastor, Bernie Smith, was held the week after Jim started at Maungaraki.
- March 16 The first official Annual General Meeting of the Church.
- March 26 A second 'Kite day' was held on the land. Many people from the community came to fly kites but the strong winds caused some of them to be damaged.
- April 1 On a wet Easter Friday the three crosses were carried down Dowse Drive by members of the St Aidan's and St Elizabeth's Churches and placed on the Church Land as part of a combined service held in the Community Centre.
- April 26 A women's table tennis match between Maungaraki and Kelson at Kelson.
- July 3 A five week Sunday evening series on spiritual gifts began.
- August 5. The Board went to El Rancho at Waikanae for their first retreat.
- August 7 The first year as an "inaugurated" Church was celebrated. Lindsay Jones preached and a team from Lower Hutt Baptist Church came in support.
- Sept 23 The first Church Camp was held at El Rancho, Waikanae. The speakers were Morris and Miriam Atkinson from Oxford, North Canterbury. There was a move of the Holy Spirit and many were touched by God in a special way. The Camp concert was enjoyed by all along with a great deal of laughter.
- October 1 Rose and Carl Gravatt were farewelled as they were moving to Auckland.
- October 16 The first Sunday morning service held downstairs at the Community Centre.
- November 4 Baptist Assembly 1988 was held in Christchurch. The MBC delegates were Colin Tinker, Jim and Kath McLean.
- November The Church took possession of a Kawai 250 electric piano. It had a variety of sounds including piano, organ and strings.
- December 1 The McLean and Tinker Home Groups joined together to attend a meeting of Chinese Christians in Wellington. The evening was interesting, despite a very long address by a visiting pastor.
- December 9 A Youth Group car rally involved much about-turning and arriving from the wrong direction but ended up at Avalon Park for a BBQ and games evening.
- December 11 The third 'Carols by Candlelight' service was held on the Church Land. The evening was cold and windy, but a good crowd still gathered for the event.
- December 31 New Year's Eve. David and Robyn continued to run a home group into the early 1990's. A number from the Church gathered at David and Robyn Osborne's home to celebrate the end of 1988 and beginning of 1989.

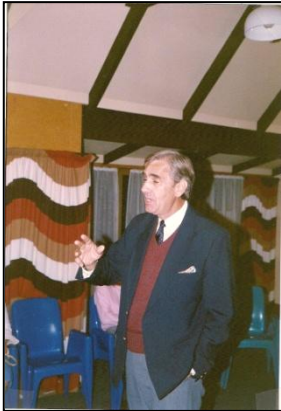




Everyone crowded into the Supper room for a photo with Dr Adams October 12 1988



Jim, Kath, Sarah and Peter McLean in 1988

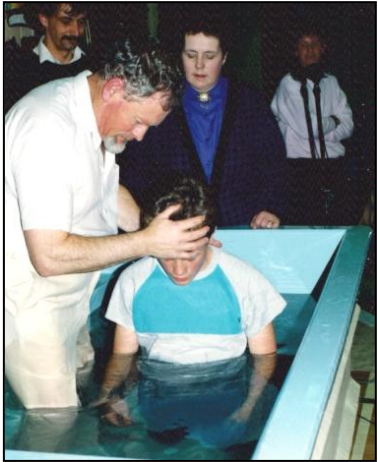


Dr Jim Adams



Mary Clapton and Margaret Taylor

Baptisms



Peter McLean



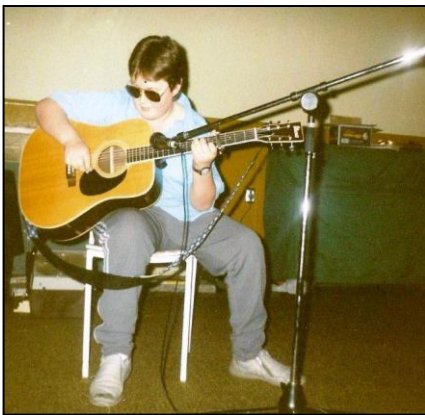
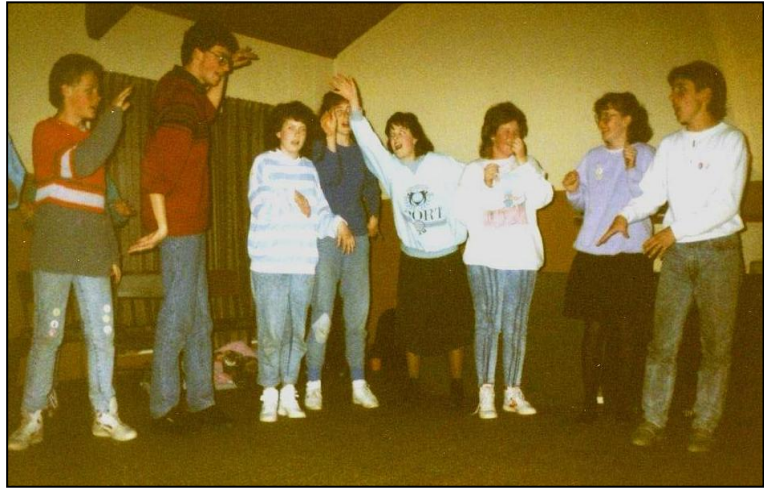
Sarah McLean

## Fifteen Baptisms

A baptism service was held one evening service . There was a strong move of the Holy Spirit, especially among the young people. Initially five young people had come forward for baptism, but by the end of the service a total of fifteen people were baptised. God was given the glory for this amazing miracle.

## Youth 'Hi Jinks'

The photos below are of the Youth Group and some of the 'fun' Church events. The top left photo shows Alan Batson, David Osborne, Jim Mclean and Brian Peck in 'appealing' tutus. The middle left photo is of Mark Nicholson playing Colin Tinker's guitar and the rest of the photos will be recognised by those who were in them.



## Chapter 5 – 1989: The Focus is on Evangelism

### Highlights of 1989

- February Murray Kendon was re-elected as an elder at the AGM.
- March Gary Weatherhead visited the Church. He and his wife had been commissioned to go to France by the Baptist Missionary Society.
- April 13 A combined Easter Good Friday Service between Maungaraki Baptist, St Aidan's and St. Elizabeth's Churches.
- April Tony and Lynette Collis from Open Air Campaigners introduced the 'Total Involvement Evangelism' programme which was to be held later in the year.
- The plan was to invite friends and neighbours to a meeting in a home at which an 'evangelist' shared the gospel. The evangelism programme began in July 1989 with a combined service of Churches at the Lower Hutt AOG. Maungaraki contributed with a choral version of the song 'Lord Let Me Serve'.
- June 9 A Youth Group activity was run along the lines of 'It's in the Bag' television programme. Graeme Stevens provided the lights and a TV Camera, hosted the show with Graeme Beardsley acting as Hillary Timmins. The Youth Group later ran a series of discos for young people in the Maungaraki community.
- October 6 -8. MBC held a Church Camp at Forest Lakes. Graeme Carley was the speaker and Merrilyn Withers the Baptist Association Youth director provided a programme for the teenagers and children as well as a fun evening of entertainment for everyone. There was a healing of relationships between some people following issues that had arisen during the year regarding the style of the worship during Sunday services.
- October 29 A men's breakfast was organised by Nick Hamilton.
- November 4 Baptist Assembly 1989 was held in Tauranga.
- November 5 A Guy Fawkes evening was held at Sue and Richard Williams home. The Evening was good apart from one incident when a rocket went astray. It narrowly avoided some people and was bravely extinguished by Gaynor Tinker who experienced a nasty burn.
- November 18 A Scottish country dance evening was organised by Fiona Coughlan.
- December 8 The Youth Group ran an end-of- year Car Rally and barbeque.
- December 10 The fourth Christmas Carol Service was held on a very cold evening.

## Youth Musical. "The King is Coming Back"

October 29. The "King is Coming Back" was the name of a musical that the Youth Group performed. This was well rehearsed and enthusiastically received by the audience. Brian and Jo Peck along with Lynley Batson and Merrilyn Withers were the adults supporting this production.



Young people from the Maungaraki Baptist Youth Group, who recently performed the Musical "The King is Coming Back." They shared their story at the Morning worship service, then at the Youth

Group Parents "Coffee and Dessert" Evening and finally at a combined service with Naenae and Newlands Youth Groups. The Maungaraki Community Centre filled to capacity with Youth.

**Above is a copy of a photo published in the Baptist magazine.**

Back Row: Mark Williams, Peter McLean  
Middle Row: Debbie Jenkins, Jo Prosser, Amanda Regan,  
Sarah McLean, Shelley Knight, Linda West.  
Front Row: Suzanne Butel, Yvette Howie, Andrew Martin,  
Mandy Vaughan, Victoria Shafer.

### The major activities for this year were:

- 'Tuesday Trekkers'
- 'Time Out' led by Fiona Coughlan
- 'Footsteps' run by Brian and Jo Peck
- Men's breakfasts organised by Nick Hamilton
- 'Kings Kids Club' on Sunday mornings run by Janne Beardsley.
- Prayer Chain run by Fiona Coughlan
- Three home groups
- The Youth Group was run by the Batson, Beardsley and Regan families
- Junior Youth Group run by Graeme and Cheryl Stevens with Sue Williams.



**Peter McLean**

**Photos from 1989**



Gaynor Tinker started the 'Tuesday Trekkers'. The group chatted as they went on a variety of different walks around Maungaraki and Lower Hutt.

**In the photo Left to Right:  
Jo and Hannah Peck, Angela Hazael, Nicola Hamilton, Julie Green and Gaynor Tinker**



**Lynley Batson and lots of children**



**A shared tea on a summer night**



**Brian Peck, Colin Tinker & Wayne Rance**



**Graeme Want, Neil Coup & George Ball**

**More Photos from 1989**



**Youth Group**



**It was a very cold evening for the 1989 Christmas Carol Service**

## **Chapter 6 – 1990: The Church is now Established**

Bruce Patrick had earlier likened the life cycle of a Church to that of our own and one could say that as the Church was entering its fifth year it could be compared to that of a four to five year old, anxious to be grown up enough to go off to school but still with a lot to learn. The Board members that year were Colin Tinker, Brian Peck, Gordon Reid and Janet Regan. Most of the families in the Church had young children and it was a very busy year for everyone as the ministries continued alongside the births and marriages and sadly a death.

On Friday 27 April 1990 the funeral of Maureen Mullis was held at St James Anglican Church. This was the first death within the membership of the Church and the Church people were deeply saddened by the loss of a young mother to cancer.

The first wedding amongst members of the Church was Simon and Jackie (nee Cummings) Harrison who were married at Lower Hutt Baptist Church on 2 June 1990. That year David Stuart left for Faith Bible College after a Church farewell on 10 February.

On occasions such as at Easter and Christmas meetings were held on the land. They were dependant on the weather and this was one of the reasons the Church began to hope that they would soon be able to have their own building. The Community Centre provided a place to meet but did not give them a base during the week from which to minister from.

A combined Church service was held on the land on 18 February 1990 in association with the Maungaraki Community Celebrations to commemorate 150 years of New Zealand being a nation. The Lower Hutt Mayor Glen Evans and his wife along with Sir Ralph Love and members of his family attended the service as did a number of people from the community.

In July 1990 some Church members visited a Fraemohs show home. A building task group was formed and by December 1990 there was \$2,500 in the building fund. A leaflet was sent out to some other Churches asking for financial help as Stage One was going to cost around \$250,000 - \$300,000. It was to be called the 'Cummin Centre' (Come In). An auditorium would be added later. There was no record of any donations being made to the building fund from other churches and the plans were not pursued.

There were two major social events in 1990. One was a 'Nite Spot' disco for the young people, followed by a dance with 1950s and 1960s music for the not so young. In the Annual report it was noted that both these events were the 'brain child' of Graeme Stevens assisted by numerous helpers. Janet Regan, Alan Batson and Graeme Beardsley were running the Youth group and arranged an activity called 'Eel Steel' described as a night of crazy water games. In mid winter twenty two of the young people and their leaders went to Whakapapa ski-field and later attended Youth for Christ and Baptist Youth Ministries events.

The Junior Youth group was run by Graeme and Cheryl Stevens and members of this group played at the Christmas carol service plus a family service during the year. Janne Beardsley ran the Kings Kids Club along with Lynley Batson, Suzanne Butel, Yvette Howie, Sarah McLean, Angela Mulvey, Kerryn and Alan Reedy, Graeme Stevens and Sue Williams. Lynley organised a Christmas production. A 'Carols by Candlelight' service was held on the Church land in December.

This brings the story of the first five years of the Maungaraki Baptist Church to a close. The membership of the Church had grown from the small number of people that met upstairs in the Supper room on a Sunday evening to almost one hundred adults and children that met downstairs in the Community Centre each Sunday morning. The average attendance at services during 1990 was 72 adults and 25 children and after five years it had grown into a vibrant young Church looking ahead to the future. The story continues in Part Two

## Appendix 1 The Growth of the Church

The first Church phone directory in 1986 included these 26 people

Alan	Batson			Kerryn	Reedy	
Lynley	Batson			Janet	Regan	
Fiona	Coughlan			John	Regan	
Carl	Gravatt			Valerie	Sangster	
Roseanna	Gravatt			Ron	Sangster	
Minnie	Kendon			Cheryl	Stevens	
Murray	Kendon			Graeme	Stevens	
Paul	Martell			Don	Stewart	
Lois	Martell			Robyn	Stewart	
Susan	Mouat			Colin	Tinker	
Bruce	Patrick			Gaynor	Tinker	
Jinny	Patrick			Digby	Wilkinson	
Alan	Reedy			Jane	Wilkinson	

By a year later in November 1987 this was the official membership list of 31 people.

Alan	Batson	Aug 2 1987		Jinny	Patrick	Aug 2 1987
Lynley	Batson	Aug 2 1987		Brian	Peck	Aug 2 1987
Jeanette	Bird	Aug 2 1987		Jo	Peck	Aug 2 1987
Ian	Burn	Aug 2 1987		Allison	Pilkington	Aug 2 1987
Fiona	Coughlan	Aug 2 1987		Alan	Reedy	Aug 2 1987
June	Eyles	Aug 2 1987		Kerryn	Reedy	Aug 2 1987
Carl	Gravatt	Aug 2 1987		Valerie	Sangster	Aug 2 1987
Roseanna	Gravatt	Aug 2 1987		Ron	Sangster	Aug 2 1987
Julie	Green	Aug 2 1987		Cheryl	Stevens	Aug 2 1987
Angela	Hazael	Aug 2 1987		Graeme	Stevens	Aug 2 1987
Minnie	Kendon	Aug 2 1987		Colin	Tinker	Aug 2 1987
Murray	Kendon	Aug 2 1987		Gaynor	Tinker	Aug 2 1987
Susan	Mouat	Aug 2 1987		Ester	Ashby	Nov 29 1987
David	Osborne	Aug 2 1987		Janet	Regan	Nov 29 1987
Robyn	Osborne	Aug 2 1987		John	Regan	Nov 29 1987
Bruce	Patrick	Aug 2 1987				

By June 1990 the number of members had grown to 49 people.

Alan	Batson	Aug 2 1987		Graeme	Stevens	Aug 2 1987
Lynley	Batson	Aug 2 1987		Colin	Tinker	Aug 2 1987
Jeanette	Bird	Aug 2 1987		Gaynor	Tinker	Aug 2 1987
Ian	Burn	Aug 2 1987		Richard	Williams	Aug 2 1987
Fiona	Coughlan	Aug 2 1987		Sue	Williams	Aug 2 1987
June	Eyles	Aug 2 1987		John	Regan	Nov 29 1987
Angela	Hazael	Aug 2 1987		Janet	Regan	Nov 29 1987
Minnie	Kendon	Aug 2 1987		Esther	Ashby	Nov 29 1987
Murray	Kendon	Aug 2 1987		Jim	McLean	Feb 15 1988
Julie	Green	Aug 2 1987		Kath	McLean	Feb 15 1988
Susan	Mouat	Aug 2 1987		Crystelle	Rance	Nov 27 1988
David	Osborne	Aug 2 1987		Nick	Hamilton	Nov 27 1988
Robyn	Osborne	Aug 2 1987		Nicola	Hamilton	Nov 27 1988
Bruce	Patrick	Aug 2 1987		Kath	Nicholson	Dec 4 1988
Jinny	Patrick	Aug 2 1987		Gordon	Reid	Feb 24 1989
Brian	Peck	Aug 2 1987		Janice	Reid	Feb 24 1989
Jo	Peck	Aug 2 1987		Graeme	Beardsley	June 4 1989
Graham	Pye	Aug 2 1987		Janne	Beardsley	June 4 1989
Joanne	Pye	Aug 2 1987		David	Stuart	June 4 1989
Allison	Pilkington	Aug 2 1987		John	Mullis	Feb 11 1990
Alan	Reedy	Aug 2 1987		Maureen	Mullis	Feb 11 1990
Kerryn	Reedy	Aug 2 1987		Christine	Want	Feb 25 1990
Valerie	Sangster	Aug 2 1987		Mike	Mulvey	April 22 1990
Ron	Sangster	Aug 2 1987		Angela	Mulvey	April 22 1990
Cheryl	Stevens	Aug 2 1987				





# Part Two: The Next Twenty Years

## 1991 – 2011

- Introduction to Part Two ..... 41**
- Chapter 7 – Leadership and Vision ..... 42**
  - Vision 1991 – 2005 ..... 43
  - Vision 2007 – 2011 ..... 44
  - The Challenge of Choosing Leaders..... 45
- Chapter 8 – Worship / Music Ministry ..... 46**
  - Worship leaders ..... 47
- Chapter 9 – Homegroups ..... 49**
  - Chat Room..... 49
  - Over 50’s Group..... 50
- Chapter 10 – Youth Groups ..... 51**
- Chapter 11 – Children’s Church ..... 53**
- Chapter 12 – Prayer ..... 57**
- Chapter 13 – The Church and the Community ..... 60**
  - Benedict’s Cafe..... 63
- Chapter 14 – The Church and Overseas Missions ..... 68**
- Chapter 15 – Maungaraki in 2011 ..... 75**
  - Night Church..... 75
  - A ‘Snapshot in Time’ 25 - 27 February 2011..... 75
  - 25 Years Celebration – 19 March 2011 ..... 75
- Appendix 1 – 25 Years of Events ..... 77**
- Appendix 2 – ‘Who’s Who’ Photos..... 78**



## Introduction to Part Two

By 1991 Maungaraki Baptist Church was now in its sixth year and as it entered a new phase the Church diary was no longer in use. The information in the following pages was gathered from a variety of sources but mainly from Annual General Reports and people's recollections.

One can almost imagine the 'groan' echoing down the twenty-five years of history as the Pastor and the leaders prepared their 'Annual Reports' each year. As they wrote the details of what had taken place over each subsequent year and thanked the people who had worked so tirelessly, the writers would not have realised how useful that information would be when years later this history of the Church was being compiled.

By the end of 1991 Jim Mclean had been at Maungaraki for four years and he wrote in his Pastor's Report,

*"Why do we write annual reports?"*

His own thoughts on this then followed,

*"They are a means of recording events in the life of the Church, for future generations to read so they have historical value. In larger Churches they keep the membership informed of what has been happening in the life of the Church, therefore they are a source of information. They also outline hopes, aspirations, and goals for the future."*

Jim then went on to write a second question,

*"Do these annual reports ever see the 'light of day' after the Annual General Meeting? Do we turn to the section on the 'hopes, aspirations, and goals for the future' ever again?"*

Jim would not have expected that twenty years later his Pastor's Reports would in fact be seeing the 'light of day' again and that those Annual Reports would provide most of the information required to enable this story to be written.

Many people have contributed to the vision and mission of the Church. After reading through the Annual Reports it seemed that the best way to 'jog' the memories of those who were there as well as hopefully inspire those who come after was to record the different aspects and ministries of the Church as a series of topics.



**The Church is six years old**



**The Rainbow birthday cake**



**Murray Kendon & Colin Tinker cut the cake**

**Chapter 7 – Leadership and Vision**

Bruce and Jinny Patrick took on the responsibility for the Pastoral oversight as the Maungaraki Baptist Church was being established. Jim and Kath McLean came from Auckland in 1988 and Jim remained the Pastor until he retired in 2005.

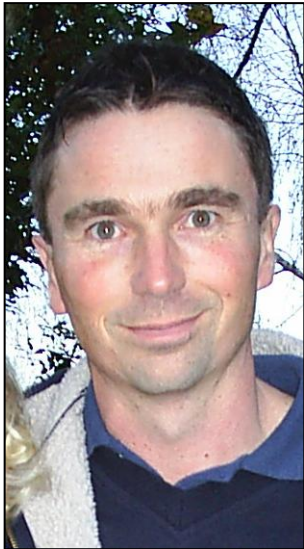
The leadership team took up the reins for eighteen months until 2007 when Daryl and Jenni Collingwood arrived from Tauranga. Daryl continues to Pastor the Church as it celebrates the first twenty-five years in 2011.



**Bruce Patrick**



**Pastor Jim McLean**



**Pastor Daryl Collingwood**

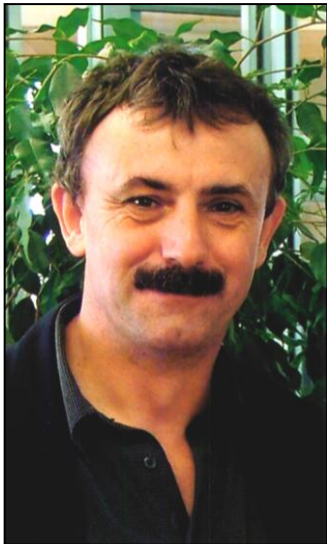
Murray, Brian, and Colin have been very faithful leaders since the church was formally constituted on 2 August 1987 and are still valued members of Maungaraki in 2011.



**Murray Kendon**



**Colin Tinker**



**Brian Peck**

## Vision 1991 – 2005

Jim and Kath Mclean came in 1988 and ministered at Maungaraki for eighteen years. Jim was the first Pastor and three years into his ministry the Church experienced the beginning of a new season. Jim knew that the Lord spoke to him and to the Church through some verses in Isaiah,

*“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.” Isaiah Chapter 43:18-19.*

Jim felt that Maungaraki Baptist Church was called by God to be a **‘Healing Community’**, a place where people would come to find healing and restoration of body, mind, and spirit.

In 2001 the ‘vision statement’ for the Church was,

***To be a ‘healing community’ of believers, living in relationship with Jesus Christ and each other, committed to the restoration of relationships between unbelievers and God, by demonstrating God’s love and power to them with integrity and respect.***

Jim’s vision for ‘healing’ was not new but from 1991 he began to lead the Church more strongly in this direction. Over the next 15 years, Jim held firm to the vision of the Church being a ‘Healing Community’ and many people received healing through prayer, counselling, friendship and God’s love expressed through the people at Maungaraki Baptist Church.

### **One era ends and a new one begins.**

Jim and Kath retired from Maungaraki in 2005. The Church was without a Pastor for fifteen months during which time the leadership team, led by Colin Tinker, did a wonderful job in keeping everything going.

God had shown several people at the Church that at some stage the older generation would hand over to the younger generation as if passing on the ‘baton’ in a race. When Daryl and Jenni arrived it seemed to be the right time for Jim and Kath to pass the ‘baton’ onto them.



**Jim and Kath Mclean**



**Daryl and Jenni Collingwood**

## **Vision 2007 – 2011**

Daryl and Jenni Collingwood came to Maungaraki Baptist Church in January 2007 and their vision was for Maungaraki to become a Church that served the local community.

Daryl says it is great to be a Church that is 'community facing'. A Church that values the people and the groups that are make up the community.

In 2007 the vision statement for the Church became:

***Maungaraki Baptist Church.....in the community, serving, listening, speaking, healing.***

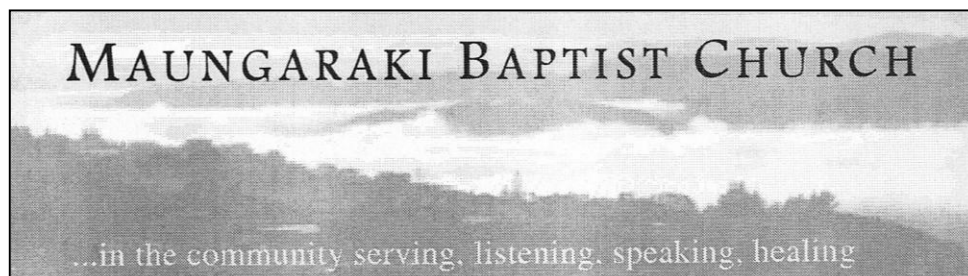
In the 2010 annual report, Daryl reiterated this by writing,

*“So let’s keep being a Church that is in the community, whether that be Maungaraki community or any other community in which you live or work; **listening** to God’s heart as we are also listening to people and seeking to know them. A church that **serves** with the same attitude of Jesus, who didn’t strive for recognition or hold on to rights or privileges, but who humbled Himself and gave out His life to others; that **speaks** boldly and compassionately about the message of the cross. We have great news that is so worth sharing. Let’s be a church in the community that brings **healing** to others; that expects tangible encounters with Jesus to take place through us, that brings wholeness where there has been brokenness, healing where there has been sickness, hope where there has been hopelessness.”*

Some snippets from the Church welcome card give more insight to the vision:

*“We are a bunch of people who are on a journey with an extraordinary God! Together we want to grow closer to Jesus. Through the bible and the Holy Spirit, we are learning what it means to give Him our lives. We want to experience His tangible presence in a way that brings transformation in our lives and in the lives of those around us.*

*We want to know what it means to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love our neighbour as we are also learning to love ourselves. We want to know what it means to go and make life-long followers of Jesus. We still have a long way to go and we freely admit that we don’t have all the answers. However, we are journeying together as we learn to trust God with our lives; and as we grow to know Jesus more and become more like Him.”*



## The Challenge of Choosing Leaders

The people who started the Church had come from a variety of denominational backgrounds that each had their own process for choosing leaders to work alongside the Pastor. The method of choosing leaders changed over the years but it was always going to be a challenging area of Church life and some delicate situations arose from time to time.

The leadership of the Maungaraki Baptist Church initially took the form of a 'Steering committee'. Between 1987 and 1990 the Church used the traditional NZ Baptist Church style of having Elders and Deacons. In 1991 'The Board' replaced the Elders and Deacons. This form of leadership took the Church through the following six years to 1997 when Pastor Jim asked the Church to consider a different form of Church leadership.

The constitution was at first suspended and then adapted to meet the new concept, which involved having a 'Leadership Team'; an idea that had come from the 'Leadership 95' conference. The Pastor chose his Leadership Team, and at the AGM the Team as a whole was affirmed by a single vote. In addition to the Leadership Team an elected 'Board' became the equivalent of the Deacons. This system was in place for the next nine years and improved continuity in the Leadership for both the Church and the Pastor.

By 2008 the Church Leadership had gone full circle and returned to the more traditional Baptist style with elected Elders and Deacons. This was necessary to allow for the transition period between pastors. The leaders were then elected for a term of two years before seeking re-election by an affirming vote from the Church members.

Murray Kendon was an elected elder during the first five years and he continued to be very involved with all those things an elder would do. He visited the sick, disciplined new Christians and was committed to everything the Church did even into his 90's. If it is possible to have an 'unofficial' elder, Murray fitted that description. Brian Peck has served on the leadership team for 23 years and continues to serve at this time (2011) and Colin Tinker also served for many years. The Treasurer's role is often one of the more challenging in the leadership team. It is not an upfront ministry and yet the Church depends on the timely and accurate recording of its finances throughout the year.

The following people have served as an Elder, Deacon or Board member or were in the Leadership Team at some time over the first twenty-five years of the Church.

Murray Kendon	Ron Sangster	Ruth Parry	Mike Leach
Paul Martell	Graham Pye	Phil Leigh	John Sik
Bruce Patrick	June Eyles	Chris Dugdale	Mike Prasad
Colin Tinker	Janet Regan	Warwick Dugdale	Colin Garlick
Graeme Stevens	Gordon Reid	Mark Hurren	Margaret Pennington
Brian Peck	Graeme Beardsley	Carey Martin	John Miller
David Osborne	Mike Mulvey	Graeme Want	Matt Oliver
Alan Reedy	Janice Wilson	Gary Fursdon	Shane Mingsins
			Simon Gibbs

A Church like any other organisation has to have leaders but whilst acknowledging the role they have played it is important to mention the many un-named faithful people who have provided hospitality, walked beside people, prayed, greeted people, cleaned and served morning teas. Others took the youth or children's programmes, ran a home or small group, or gave of their time to be a part of the worship team. A Church is a living organism and each part depends on the other parts to make the whole so everyone's contribution was important.



## Chapter 8 – Worship / Music Ministry

Charles Spurgeon was a Baptist preacher living in the 1800's. He said this about worship,

*"My happiest moments are when I am worshipping God, really adoring the Lord Jesus Christ, and having fellowship with the ever-blessed Spirit. In that worship, I forget the cares of the Church and everything else. To me it is the nearest approach to what it will be in heaven."*

God created us with a desire to worship Him and it is not the skill of the musicians or singers that is important but the attitude of our hearts. We worship God in many ways as we live our everyday lives but it is in the Sunday service time of 'music worship' that we together can fully express our heart feelings of praise, adoration, reverence, thankfulness and awe towards God.

Maungaraki Baptist Church has been blessed with worship leaders and musicians able to lead and encourage the congregation in worship along the lines Charles Spurgeon talked about. The music never became 'professional' or like a 'performance' and the simplicity and gentleness of the music style allowed people's hearts to enter into true worship.

Over the years as musical styles and personalities changed and there were challenges but the desire of people to keep the unity prevailed over the different views in the Church.

In the early years Murray Kendon, Colin Tinker, Lynley Batson and Jane Wilkinson all led the worship at different times. Lynley, Colin, Gaynor, Jane, and John Mullis played the guitar. Lynley and Jinny played the flute and Ron Sangster brought his electric piano each week.

Between 1991 and 1996 Anna Miller led the worship group. In 1995 the worship team began to meet for a weekly practice in the new administration building. John Miller, Phil and Julia Leigh, Brian Peck and sometimes Jim Mclean led the worship around that time and later Mark Hurren, Joan Hart, and Wayne Pearce contributed in this area. Many people will remember Julia Leigh's sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, which combined with her delightful singing voice, created wonderful times of worship and praise.

In 1996 Ruth Webb visited Maungaraki to encourage and teach about prophetic worship. The theme of these seminars is best explained by a quote from Rick Joyner.

*"The ultimate position of the prophetic musicians is not just to copy world's style of music and try to do it better while adding Christian lyrics, but to capture the music that the Father loves, which is played in heaven, and transfer it to the earth."*

Between 1997 and 2000 Margaret Pennington co-ordinated the team for a short time before Mark Hurren took on the leadership of the worship team.

Brian and Jo Peck have been involved with the Parachute Music Festival on and off since its predecessor Main Stage. Parachute is an annual event and has been running for over 20 years, held first at Waikanae then Matamata and currently at Mystery Creek in Hamilton. Brian and Jo camped at the Festival and encouraged others, mainly young people to go with them. In 2005 Brian and Jo, Janine and Victor Foon and some others went to Parachute and with Joan Hart attended the Noise Conference in Auckland.

Jo Peck led the worship for the first time during a Sunday service on 1 April 2001. Jo has faithfully led the worship team as well as leading the worship times for ten years and is still leading the group today.

Jo wrote the following in one of the annual reports,

*“It is easy to think nothing much has changed. As a small group, it seems that all of us are involved most of the time and things just keep going on the same. In some ways that is true but many things happen that show us that God doesn’t feel that way. We have experienced His presence many times even before the service begins.*

*We have seen God show up and minister to people right in the middle of what we would consider an ‘ordinary song’. We have heard how God has touched people when we felt like nothing was happening. We have also had times when we knew God’s presence to be right there with us. Those experiences just cause me to say ... ‘That’s God’ and its nothing to do with our planning or how we have or haven’t put the song together. It’s awesome.”*

Over the years many people have been involved in some way with the worship team and on the next page are photos of some of those who have either led the group or who have led worship. The list below and the photos may not be a complete list.

**Worship Leaders**

Murray Kendon  
Lynley Batson  
Jim McLean  
John Miller  
Julia Leigh  
Phil Leigh  
Brian Peck  
Mark Hurren  
Alyth Fulton  
Joan Hart  
Colin Tinker  
Wayne Pearse  
Jo Peck

**Musicians**

Colin Tinker  
Murray Kendon  
Anna Miller  
Margaret Pennington  
Colin Garlick  
Victor Foon  
Kate Gerrard  
Jo Peck  
Joan Hart  
Shayne Parry  
Gaynor Tinker

**Singers**

Gaynor Tinker  
Julie Green  
Kath McLean  
Cheryl Stevens  
Fiona Coughlan  
Graeme Want  
Suzanne Butel  
John Hazael  
Lisa Milmine  
Sue Mouat  
Liz Pigneguy  
Mark Hurren

**Singers**

Alyth Fulton  
Hilary Fulton  
Lisa Dugdale  
Gary Fursdon  
Allie Fursdon  
Debbie Leach  
Nicola Fraser  
Vlad Miller  
Vika Miller  
Janine Banks  
Sian Jennings  
Rod Thomas  
Jesse Walker

**Worship leaders**

The next page has photos of the worship teams in the Community Centre and in the Church Centre as well as photos of individuals who have led worship during the Sunday services.

Anna Miller led the worship team for five years from 1991 to 1996 and Margaret Pennington co-ordinated the team for a short time in 1997.

**Communion**

Fiona Coughlan was responsible for preparing Communion bread and wine every two weeks from 1991 to 2004.



**Fiona**



**Anna**



**Margaret**



**Worship in the Maungaraki Community Centre**



**Murray**

**Lynley**

**John**

**Julia**

**Phil**

**Brian**



**Mark**

**Alyth**

**Joan**

**Colin**

**Wayne**

**Jo**



**Worship in the Maungaraki Baptist Church Centre**

## **Chapter 9 – Homegroups**

*“Day after day they met together in the temple. They broke bread together in different homes and shared their food happily and freely.” Acts 2:46*

A church can meet for a service every Sunday but it is the smaller group meetings that provide the place where people can feel connected, share more intimately about their lives and families and build closer and more meaningful relationships.

These small Church groups were given a variety of names throughout the 25 years. There were Home groups, Small groups, Care groups, Ladies groups, Men’s groups, Youth groups, the Over 50’s group, with such names such as Powerpoint, The Lighthouse, Relentless, Engage, and Ignite Uth. No matter what they were named, the different groups provided times of fellowship and fun as well as Bible study, discussion, worship, and prayer.

By 1991 Jim and Kath’s Home group was a great place to go. On Wednesday nights over 20 people would meet at their home in Miromiro Road, Normandale. The large group meant that every chair in the house, even the kitchen chairs had to be used. Friendships strengthened and the group became like family, particularly for those who did not have their own family living nearby. There were many answers to prayer seen as this group prayed together.

In 1994 Care Groups were introduced with the plan that everyone in the Church would be connected to one of these groups that met every week or fortnight for a variety of activities. The focus was on relationships and caring for each other. Care Group leaders were responsible for making weekly contact with each person in their group. Should a person not get to Church on a Sunday then a phone call would keep them in touch with the ‘life and happenings’ of the Church. The idea was to make everyone feel ‘cared for’. In 1999 three new evening Small groups started, Graeme and Christine Want, Gary and Alison Fursdon, Andrew and Joan Hart led these. Rod and Bobbie Thomas took over from Andrew and Joan when they went on a holiday to Israel.

### **Chat Room**

Kath McLean started the Thursday morning Ladies group in 1999 and this was under her leadership until 2005. This group was re-named the ‘Chat Room’ in 2003 and continues to meet every Thursday morning, providing some great times of fellowship, discussion, and prayer. Wendy Garlick co-ordinated the Chat Room group from the end of 2005 until the end of 2010. Wendy has served the Church and local community in many different ways and was involved in organising two of the ‘Bangers, Mash and Mayhem’ nights as well as helping with Mainly Music, the local Guides and the school gardens amongst many other things.

Mike Leach started a Men’s ministry in 2004. The activities included breakfast at McDonalds, and a dinner at John Sik’s office. Eighty five percent of the men and youths in the Church enjoyed Promise Keepers that year. In 2004 Mike held a Discipleship Class and John and Christine Sik held a Bible study and Marriage Enrichment Course in their home.

A Bible study group called ‘Route 66’ operated between 2003 and 2005 at the home of Julie Green and Margaret Pennington. The name came from the 66 books of the Bible. Jeni Tucker spoke on revival and the group studied Daniel and the seven Motivational Gifts.

In 2010 Wayne and Nicola Fraser began a Bible Study group in their home based around the E100 programme, designed to get people reading the Bible regularly. The discussions often wandered far away from the weekly study readings but were very interesting and good intentions to finish early each week did not often materialise.



**The Ladies Chat Room**



**Over 50's mid winter get together 2010**

### **Over 50's Group**

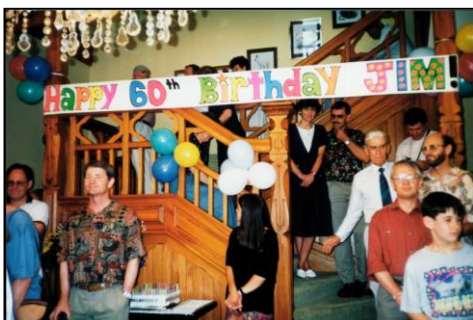
The over 50s group began in the early 1990s as an informal group meeting from time to time in each other's homes. In 2007 Rod and Bobbie Thomas took over the co-ordination of the over 50s which were then held bi-monthly. Minnie Kendon and Margaret Pennington took on arranging these in 2010. The group now includes some people who no longer fellowship at Maungaraki but enjoy the opportunity to meet up with 'old friends'.

From the end of 2008 the over 50's started to meet regularly every two months at Warwick and Chris' home in Upper Hutt. Each summer Colin and Gaynor Tinker invited the over 50s to an enjoyable day out at their 'retreat' in Greytown.

The older generation add strength to the Church. They are like the trunk of a tree with the younger generation being like the branches. Maungaraki Baptist Church has always been a place where the different generations have related well together.

By the time of the 25<sup>th</sup> Celebrations, the range of ages will be from a newborn baby Sam Kennedy born 7 March 2011 newborn babies' right through to Murray who was 94 on 27 February 2011. The experience of age and the enthusiasm of youth is a great combination.

Amongst the over 50's group a number of birthdays and anniversaries have been celebrated.



**Left:** Jim McLean's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday was held as a surprise party with a large gathering of the Church and other friends at Anson House.

**Middle:** Minnie celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday at Balgownie House and invited most of the people from the Church.

**Right:** John and Angela Hazael celebrated 50 years of marriage at the Angus Inn.

## Chapter 10 – Youth Groups

From 1992 -1995 Brian and Jo Peck were responsible for a thriving Youth ministry assisted by the Batson and Stevens families. Graeme and Cheryl also ran 'Powerpoint' a Youth Bible study group and Suzanne Butel led some of the studies.

Highlights from those years included the Baptist Youth Ministries camps held throughout the year, a discipleship camp, Youth for Christ Rallies, a mid-winter beach party, a mini golf challenge, a day walk on the Rimutaka Incline, discos, a day trip to Picton and video events that involved staying awake all night.

Phil and Tui Brewster led the 'Western Hills Youth Group' from 1996 -1997 and in 1998 they co-opted Shayne Parry and Mark Brewster to help. Carey and Sue Martin were involved with this Youth Group and about thirty young people attended on Saturday evenings.



**Phil and Tui Brewster and Carey Martin  
with the Western Hills Youth Group 1996**



**Jeremy Martin and Emma Leach -  
The Lighthouse Youth Group 2001**

Warwick and Chris Dugdale ran the Lighthouse Youth Group in 2000 and 2001. Highlights were the Redline and Get Smart conferences. The focus was on the young people's relationships with God and each other. The Youth group meetings ran along the lines of a Youth Service with worship, teaching, and prayer but also included a fun time for games.

Wendy and Colin Garlick led a young people's Bible Study Group in 2001 and then in 2002 Colin Garlick and Gary Fursdon took on the leadership of the Youth Group. Colin Garlick had overall responsibility for the Maungaraki Youth for seven years from 2002 until October 2008.



**The 'Relentless' Youth Group 2009 -  
Combined Youth event at Maungaraki  
on 17 May after the BYM Easter Camp**

Wayne Pearse came from the Lower Hutt Hope Centre in October 2008 and until early 2010 ran a Youth Group called 'Relentless' that drew many non-church-going young people. In 2009 there were three guest speakers and the Youth Group attended a combined Baptist Youth service. Wayne with Kaylee Gibbs took eight young people to the Baptist Youth Ministries Easter Camp in Feilding.

A combined Youth Rally was also organised by Wayne. Kristen Williams was invited as the speaker and the worship team was composed of a music group Wayne had put together with members from the Youth Group. On another occasion, a worship team from the Oral Roberts University came during their six-week tour of New Zealand came to lead the worship at a Maungaraki Youth Service with other Youth groups joining in with this event.

In 2010 Kaylee Gibbs began a group for the older girls in the Youth Group. They continue to meet together focused on deepening their relationship with God in 2011.

'Ignite Uth' began on 30 July 2010 and continues to meet in the Church auditorium every alternate Friday evening. Vlad Miller with the help of his family, John, Anna, Vika, and Scott Miller felt led by God to start this next chapter in the life of the Maungaraki Youth story. "Ignite Uth" is open to young people from the Church and the community. **Photos from 2010**



Daryl wrote in newsletter,

*“Children and young people today are desperate to belong to something and to know where they fit. They want a place where they can be themselves and still be loved. They don’t want to wear masks and they certainly don’t want anything false. I’m excited at the possibilities for ‘Ignite Uth’. We want to create a space and a place where young people can come and hang out, have fun, laugh, enjoy each other’s company, eat food and connect with others who love Jesus and want to share Him.”*

One Sunday morning Vlad set up the auditorium like a Friday evening “Ignite Uth” session and the adults in the Church enjoyed the experience of a typical ‘Youth Group’ time with food, table tennis and other games plus a ‘God Spot’ talk and datashow presented by Vlad.

## Chapter 11 – Children’s Church

It was recorded in the Annual Report that the first Sunday School began in February 1987 and Carl Gravatt was the first Sunday School Superintendent. This sounds such a strange title in the year 2011.

Twenty-five years does not sound such a long time but back then the Church did not have a computer, printer or photocopier and it was not until the 1980’s that mobile phones were in use and they will be remembered for being the size of a brick. Songs were recorded on tape cassettes and there was no digital photography, CD’s, DVD’s or data projectors. Photos were passed around, stuck into an album or put up on a display board. There were no powerpoint presentations and songs were put up onto the screen by using an overhead projector.

In 1986 the children’s programme was called Sunday School and then in 1989 it was changed to Kings Kids Club. In 1996 and then from 2002 - 2006 it was Children’s Church with the Adventurers in between. The last few years it has been re-named Kidzone.

The crèche was originally located in the Plunket Rooms at the Community Centre and later moved to the administration building. Debbie Small looked after the pre-schoolers from 1995 to 1997. Her mother Fay Small took over the creche when Debbie went overseas, and continued to do a wonderful job caring for the pre-schoolers over the next few years. Her caring for the children often extended beyond the Sunday programme as she did babysitting during the week for a number of the families. In 2009 the crèche was re-named Sunbeams.

The children’s programme took place in the local Play Centre on the other side of Dowse Drive before it moved into the administration building in 1995. Around 2007 it moved into the room above the lobby in the auditorium building. At Christmas and Easter, the children would visit Kairangi Hospital and usually received an ice cream as a thank you. The Children performed a Christmas play or presentation in December almost every year.

In 2001 a small team of the younger children from Children’s Church called ‘Shine’ visited a Lower Hutt Retirement home and the Upper Hutt Mall to perform dances to Christian songs.

In 2002 Warwick and Chris, John and Anna and Wendy Garlick were taking the Children’s Church. Wendy suggested that parents who were not churchgoers could bring their children to the administration building at 10.30 am to join in the Children’s sessions.

That year a ‘bring a friend’ scheme was also introduced. Both the child who brought a friend and the friend were able to choose something out of a box of small gifts. After a new person came to Children’s Church they were mailed a welcome letter along with a bookmark, some stickers, and details of the Sunday service times. By the end of that year, close to sixty children were regular attendees at Children’s Church.

Chris introduced a ‘Linking the Generations’ theme. Every child in the church was linked to an adult ‘Prayer Friend’ from a different family and the photos of each pair were displayed in the administration building. The intention was that these ‘Prayer Friends’ would have a short time together during a Sunday service to chat and get to know and pray for one another. Sometimes the children and adults would make contact during the week and ten years later many people may still remember whom their prayer friend was.

During the same year children were encouraged to tithe their pocket money for the ‘To Russia with Love’ project. The money collected was sufficient to purchase fifty-five Kathmandu polar fleeces, which were sent to a children’s home in Russia.



John and Anna Miller with their family have organised several ministries involving children over the years. The following photos show some of these.



Above: John and Anna with Scott, Vlad and Vika

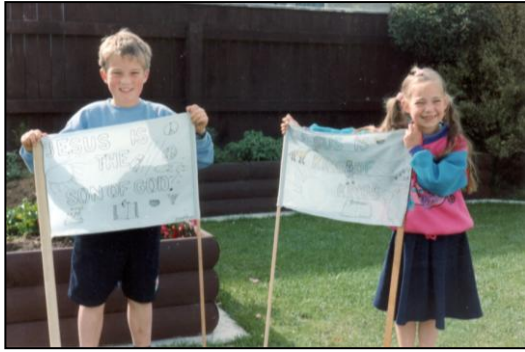
Children's Church 2002



Above: The Discovery Club run by the Miller family as an after Church activity



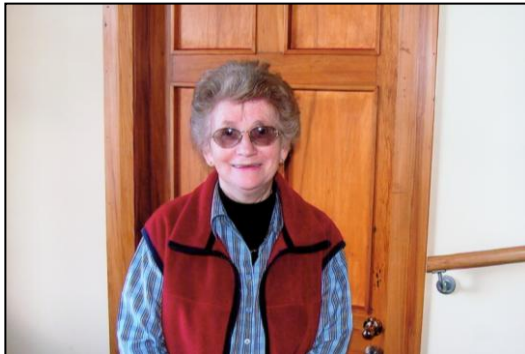
Above: To Russia with Love sends parcels to Russia, South Africa and Tajikistan



**March for Jesus  
Jonny and Rosy Wilson 1992**



**Lisa, Kate and Abbey Dugdale  
Kirsty, Priya and Yasmin Rady 1992**



**Fay Small who took the creche**



**Lynley Batson & Christmas Story 1991**

At the end of 2002 thirty children attended the 'Big Day Out Camp' at El Rancho. The older youth worked hard as Ranch hands over the weekend and everyone enjoyed the activities.



**The Tractor ride at El Rancho**



**Scott Miller at the rifle range**



**Stephanie Martin leading the ponies**



**Hayley Stirling enjoying the boats**

In 2004 a Fun Day for children was organised by Amanda Swanepoel and Christina Sik and forty-two children had a great day. In 2005 leaders from the Children's Church attended the Kidsreach Camp at El Rancho and a Scripture Union one-day seminar. In 2006 the teaching material used for Children's Church was from the Kidsreach Camp and Oasis programmes.

The Leach family took Children's Church for quite some time and everyone who was there will remember the ice cream treats for morning tea. There were some very interesting sessions including making hand moulds with Plaster of Paris.

In 2007 Nicola Fraser took on Kidzone with the help of Vlad, Stephanie, Tabi, and Chelsea. Nicola arranged a Christmas Play called 'The Photographer's Christmas'. One term there was a study on Joseph and another term the topic was 'Treasure'. The Kidzone vision statement that year was,

*"Discovering the truth of the Bible and God's plans for us, being confident in the gifts and abilities God has given us; discovering the power of the Holy Spirit and opening our eyes to the needs of the world"*

In 2008 Anna and Vlad took Kidzone with the help of Vika and Sian. They had lots of fun with music and did several performances in Church that year as well as growing daffodils and pansies alongside the fence outside the administration building. The Collingwood and Mingins families plus Hannah and Emma Leach were also involved.

The following is an excerpt from the 2008 Kidzone Annual Report, written by Daryl, and describes the activities and philosophy behind the children's' programme over the years....

*"Crafts ... games ... songs ... stories ... Olympic games ... marshmallows ... pantomimes ... growing plants ... memory verses ... listening to God's voice ... praying for one another ... ice cream at Benedicts.... Our children are so important. They are not the future Church; they are the Church now."*

In 2009 May Hunt took the Kidszone children's programme. The children looked at Proverbs, Psalms and 'People in the Bible' starting with Paul. The children would have a short Bible study, learn a memory verse, have a prayer time and end with a snack and some games.

In 2010 Jenni Collingwood and Shane Mingins took Kidzone and used a new curriculum called 'Discipleship Junction'. This included themes such as knowing the character of God; sharing Jesus with others; winning the race; making good choices and talking with God.

Their vision was,

*"We want our children to encounter Jesus as their awesome King and as their closest friend through the Holy Spirit and through the Word of God."*

## **Sunbeams**

Nic Mingins took the creche called Sunbeams in 2010 and used a resource called 'tiddlywinks' as a springboard for many of their activities. Kaylee helped for a term and during the year there were activities such as 'Jesus Loves Me and Made Me', some special Mothers Day crafts, a 'Teddy Bears Picnic' and 'Serving and Following Jesus' all centred around fun, games, activities and songs.

## Chapter 12 – Prayer

Gaynor Tinker arranged the Church Prayer Chain during the early years of the Church. At that time sixteen families used their home telephones to communicate the prayer requests as texting or emailing was not yet available. Janne Beardsley and Fiona Coughlan continued the Prayer Chain and in 1993 it became the Prayer Line.

By 2005 Bobbie and Rod Thomas were responsible for the Prayer Line with some technical help from Roger and Raewyn Thomas. By this time most prayer requests were sent by email with only a few using home phones. The Prayer Line lapsed for a year or two until it started again in 2011 using a mix of emailing and texts from mobile phones. It will be interesting to see what communication method is being used in another twenty-five years time.

An Intercessory Prayer Team including Julie Green, Angela Hazael, Liz Pigneguy, and Chris MacDonald met weekly at the Church Centre from 1996 until 1998.

Murray Kendon was a very faithful attendee at the 6.30am Friday morning prayer meeting. At a gathering of Bushey Way residents a neighbour said to Murray,

*“I notice that you go out at 6.30 every Friday morning, where do you go?”  
Murray replied, “I go to Church”  
The neighbour asked “What for?”  
Murray replied, “I go to a Prayer meeting.”  
The next question was “What do you pray about?”  
Murray replied, “I pray for you and all of the neighbours in our street.”*

Murray and Minnie have made it a habit to pray for each family in the church directory during their personal prayer times as well as faithfully praying for the community in which they live.

A Sunday evening prayer meeting was held once a month. In 1993 a number of people in the Church felt led to commit themselves to a deeper level of prayer, spiritual warfare and intercession, with a desire to grow in the spiritual gifts and learn to listen to God's voice. The intercessory prayer meetings began at David and Robyn Osborne's home on 27 June 1993. It was an exciting time as people learnt to pray and to recognise how God was able to speak to them. The group prayer times continued every Sunday evening and sometimes the worship, prayer and talking would continue on for three or four hours with no one seeming to mind.

After the opening of the new administration building in 1995 the Sunday evening prayer meetings carried on until 2005 although the number of people attending fluctuated. On one Sunday evening only Jim was present but on other occasions up to thirty people met to pray. Close relationships developed as people worshipped, prayed and learnt to be open, honest and transparent with each other. Phil Leigh or Jo Peck often brought their guitars. Many of the prayer times had a focus on physical or emotional healing for people in the Church or for family members or friends.

### **'Prayer Adventure' later renamed 'Heartbeat'**

By 2005 the Sunday evening prayer meeting was called 'Prayer Adventure' and held in the auditorium. This was renamed Heartbeat, with the idea that just as the heart gives life to every part of the body, prayer does the same to every part of the Church. Those present had a time of quietly listening to God before sharing with each other what they had heard. They would then pray in groups about the things they felt God had shown them to pray about.

Time to Pray ....



## Rainbows

Rainbows have held a particular significance for the Church over the years. On the sixth Church birthday in 1992 the cake had a rainbow painted on it. In the seventh year the Church felt that they should walk around the Community Centre seven times on each of seven days of the Church birthday week. It was to be a spiritual declaration asking for the release of the Church as well as the release of a building for the Church land. A group from the Church walked around seven times every lunchtime for the week and at the end of the seven days, just as they completed the seventh lap a double rainbow appeared in the sky. Everyone took this to be a sign of hope and promise for the Church.

At the official 'Opening Day' eleven years later, the Mayor had opened the building. At the end of the service as the red balloons tumbled out from a net in the ceiling space everyone began to walk out of the auditorium. A vibrantly coloured rainbow was seen from the front doors. Photographs were taken that show the rainbow looking as if it is above the Church buildings. This again was taken as a sign of hope for the future of the Church.

## The Journey and the Train

The image of the Church being on a train journey continued over several years in the 1990s. The station was the Church and everyone was standing on the platform and being asked to get onboard. The train represented what God wanted to do in bringing revival to the Church. It was like a mystery journey. No one knew where it was going or what the journey would cost and not everyone was willing to get on the train. There was a sense that people had to be available and ask themselves if they were willing to make the commitment. The journey was about a greater intimacy with God and each other. There was a refining taking place and whilst not always comfortable, it brought about a greater holiness and change in the way people loved one another. The train always journeyed on and it was important not to stay in one place spiritually.

On another occasion, a year or so later, there was a sense of the train gathering speed and a knowing that in the future there would be some dark tunnels. It was important in these times to 'hold onto one another', 'pray for one another' and help those who might be frightened'

## The Lighthouse

This image recurred over the years. An entry from a prayer diary in 1995 was written,

*"I have a plan and a purpose – wait for my timing - be strong and courageous – wait and watch – you are mine - I have called you by name - to be a Lighthouse for me – a light in the darkness – an expression of my love to others."*



The picture which God gave them was of the Church Centre being like a lighthouse spreading its light across the Western Hills of Lower Hutt and onto the valley floor.

## Foundations

In 1995 God spoke to the Church about foundations. As some work was done to strengthen the under the floor area of the administration building it was felt that the Church had to lay new firm foundations with each other with bonds of prayer, worship, love, acceptance and forgiveness. This was necessary so that the Church would be in unity and on the firm foundation of Jesus so that if there were pressures in the future the cracks would not appear.

## **Fasting**

There were several times when Pastor Jim called the Church to fast and pray. In October 1997 the Church undertook such a week and this led onto the Church deciding to a forty day fast starting on 25 February 1998. Some quite amazing things happened after this time and there was a greater awareness of the 'divine appointments' as they happened. There was an analogy of pregnancy, 40 days equalling 40 weeks and it was as if the Church was pregnant with 'revival'. At the end of the fast the Partners in Ministry had arranged a four day event and many of the Churches in Lower Hutt came together for this and it felt like there was 'one' Church in the valley. There was a powerful sense of 'where brethren dwell together in unity, there the Lord commands a blessing' The Lord did something special in Lower Hutt at that time and the atmosphere over the City felt lighter.

This was an excerpt from a prayer diary after the fast,

*"Once the 40 days are over it could be tempting to return to the place we came from and not keep our focus on the Lord and the new thing He is doing. We are to persevere, endure and wrestle. We have only just begun the journey; the 'wave' is beginning to form; we have felt the first few raindrops of His reviving rain but the downpour is still to come. We are to keep seeking after Him and His working in our lives to bring us to a place of greater holiness."*

## **The Water Tower and Sugar Loaf Hill**



As the leadership met each week for prayer it seemed that the Lord was showing them that they were going to be involved with spiritual warfare. In early October 1995 they felt led to go up to the water tower and pray for Maungaraki.

On 31 October a group of seven people went up Sugar Loaf Hill to pray. Liz Pigneguy and Angela Hazael were amongst the group and are in the photo above. It was a very wet and windy day and it took some determination from everyone to keep to the plan. Someone had to hold onto Angela as it was so windy.

Liz remembers that she knew she had to read a particular Bible passage on the hill. It was so hard to do as the wind was nearly whipping the Bible out of her hands. It was a physical and spiritual battle and a time of Church preparation and drawing closer to the Lord.

## **The Gifts of the Spirit and Revival**

Throughout the mid 1990s it seemed that God was asking the New Zealand Churches to grow in spiritual understanding and in relationship with Him. God seemed to be training people and the use of spiritual gifts began to grow. This happened at Maungaraki and there was an increase in prophecy, speaking in tongues, sometimes interpretation of tongues, discerning of spirits, faith, words of knowledge, healings and deliverance.

People were filled with the Holy Spirit and there was a growing understanding of what it meant to move in God's anointing. It was a revival and people grew in their love of God and their brothers and sisters. There was a greater depth of repentance and a deeper intimacy with the Lord in the times of prayer and worship. Perhaps people did not fully realise how special that time was until later when they looked back and realised the wave had begun to diminish. The revival started with God who increased the desire to pray and the hunger to experience Him in a deeper way.

## **Chapter 13 – The Church and the Community**

A Pastor establishes the vision for a Church along with the support of the leadership. People in the Church will generally share the same vision although there will be many individual expressions of how that is worked out in the life of the Church.

Words such as outreach, ministry and mission are often used to describe those activities in the Church that are done in an attempt to fulfil the vision the Church holds to.

An 'outreach' is when a group of people reach out in some way beyond themselves to help others, often with an event or programme. A 'ministry' is when an arrangement is put in place to help or support other people such as men, women or children's ministries.

A 'mission' is generally an activity when some person or group goes out from the place where they live and initiates an activity outside of their normal sphere of influence. A Church may also give financial or other kinds of support to other organisations or individuals that are involved in missions work.

So having tried to clarify outreach, ministries, and missions, the following are some of the activities that have taken place at Maungaraki during the first twenty-five years.

### **The Tuesday Club**

Gaynor Tinker conducted the 'Tuesday Club' which was an after school club for children. Gaynor also started the Tuesday Trekkers, a daytime walking group for women.

### **Time Out**

Fiona Coughlan set up 'Time Out' a women's outreach group and arranged speakers, discussions, and each month a craft session to teach skills such as patchwork quilting, making Christmas decorations, and creating photo frames.

### **Total Involvement Evangelism**

The Open Air Campaigners came to Maungaraki in 1989 to run the 'Total Involvement Evangelism' programme. In 1992 Stephanie Butel and Tim Finlay from O.A.C. ran a Children's Programme for one week with about fifty children attending each day. Between thirty and forty of these children were very keen to continue and Phil Leigh, Robyn Osborne, Fiona Coughlan and Janice Wilson organised an after school club for another ten weeks.

### **Community Survey**

Raymond Wilson arranged for a local survey in 1992. It was a good opportunity for people from the Church to meet and talk with people in the Maungaraki community and find out how they felt about the new Church.

### **Christmas Plays**

Each December the Children's Church would put on a small production or play to which parents, grandparents and family were invited. The guests would often include visitors who would not normally attend any Church and it was good to be able to remind people of the real reason for celebrating Christmas away from the commercial hype.

### **The Enchanted Journey**

At the end of 1992 Petone Baptist Church performed a delightful Christmas musical in the Maungaraki Community Centre called the 'The Enchanted Journey'. It was a great performance and people from the community as well as the Church joined in with the carol singing.

## **Alpha**

The first Alpha Course was organised at the Church in 1995. Almost the whole Church took part along with some of their invited friends. About forty-five people met together each week to watch the Alpha video and take part in the discussions. Sarah Hurren made some wonderful dessert suppers, as she did for many of the different functions at the Church.

The Alpha course provided an opportunity for people to investigate the Christian faith during ten thought-provoking weekly sessions plus a full day away at the Rimutaka Baptist Church. The Alpha course includes details of the historical evidence of Jesus' life. Mark and Sarah Hurren ran a second and third Alpha course in 1996 and 1997 for a number of people from the Maungaraki Community who were interested in investigating Christianity.

In 2001 Warwick and Chris Dugdale organised a Youth Alpha course as a joint event with St Paul's Waiwhetu Anglican Church. Sixty young people took part and it led on to the formation of the Lighthouse Youth Group at Maungaraki.

## **The Pavement Stompers and Jesus film**

The Pavement Stompers was the name given to Rod Thomas and Jim Mclean as they went out into the Maungaraki community every Wednesday morning knocking on doors and talking to people as they offered a gift of the Jesus Film. Bobbie Thomas prayed for the two men as they walked as they the streets.

## **Creation – Dr Sarfati – Challenge paper delivery**

One of the outreaches in 2001 was to invite people to a meeting with Dr Sarfati who was speaking on the evidence for Creation. The Lighthouse Youth Group delivered a copy of the Challenge Paper to 1500 homes in the suburbs of Maungaraki and Normandale. A leaflet about the public meeting was included inviting people to come and hear Dr Sarfati. Two more editions of the Challenge paper were delivered to homes in subsequent weeks with information about Maungaraki Baptist Church including the invitation for parents to consider sending their children to Children's Church.

## **Bowls Nights**

On Friday evenings during winter, the Church families would meet together for a shared tea followed by an evening playing indoor bowls, table tennis or scrabble. The Bowls Nights began in the Community Centre and continued in the new Church building in 2004 and everyone was welcomed to join in.

## **Film Nights**

Around 2004 John Sik and Colin Garlick introduced film nights in the auditorium for the local community. Some of the films shown were 'A Vow to Cherish', 'The Passion of Christ', 'Indescribable,' and 'Unlocking the Mystery of Life'.

## **Rod and Bobbie's Craft Group**

The story would not be complete without mentioning this group. Bobbie started it in 1987 and the meetings have continued in their home for twenty-five years. Each week a number of women attend and learn from Bobbie how to make crafts such as gift cards and Christmas decorations.

Bobbie shares a short devotional with the Craft Group each week and many women are open to receiving prayer for their needs. God has blessed them by answering these prayers, sometimes much to their surprise. This is probably the only 'Church' these women will ever attend and Bobbie and Rod have been very faithful to the Lord with this ministry outreach.



### **Prison Fellowship**

From 1999 - 2001 Carey Martin along with Angela Hazael, Christine Want, Julie Green, Phil and Julia Leigh, Murray Kendon and Mike Leach would regularly visit Rimutaka prison on three Sunday evenings a month. They would join the prisoners for a time of prayer, study, and fellowship. One Sunday evening a visiting evangelist joined the group and there were a number of salvations. On another evening the baptismal pool was taken to the prison for a baptism service. The Church often prayed for the prison fellowship when it was heard that there was the possibility of a Faith-based unit being established at Rimutaka.

Maungaraki was one of the first Churches to work with the Prison fellowship.

The 60-bed 'Faith-based Unit' at Rimutaka was opened in October 2003. It was set up to reduce the risk of re-offending by providing a programme with a strong Christian emphasis, within a supportive environment. Occupants of the Faith-based Unit work out in the community on church gardens and lawn maintenance. From 2008 - 2010 a team from the unit under the supervision of Richard Wilson assisted Warwick and Chris Dugdale to weed, replant and mulch the gardens two or three times a year. The grounds always looked so much better and at the end of a hard working day and they would all have a time of prayer together before leaving.

### **Angel Tree**

Through Mike Leach, Maungaraki Baptist Church was involved with the Angel tree ministry. This ministry reaches out to the children of prison inmates and their families with the love and hope of Christ by providing them Christmas gifts given in love on behalf of a parent in prison.

### **Knit Knuts and To Russia with Love supported at Benedict's**

Knit Knuts met at Benedict's to knit items for 'To Russia with Love'. Benedict's sells the hand knitted garments, mostly baby clothes, on behalf of To Russia with Love to raise funds for the postage of the parcels to Russia.

### **Church Library**

Ann Parker took on the responsibility for the Church Library in 1995 and encouraged people to read the many Christian books and DVDs in the Church library. Ann and Jack were the organisers of the bookstall at the Church during the Maungaraki Community Fairs.

### **Sunday Soup and Pancake Brunch**

Sharing together delicious home-made soup after the Sunday services in winter, provided a good opportunity for the Church family to get together and make any visitors feel welcome. In 2010 the Church organised a brunch and invited people from the community. It was a fun, relaxed Sunday morning and about 80 people enjoyed eating the pancakes.

### **Maungaraki School Working Bee and Morning Teas**

Daryl teaches at the school two days a week. Aware that the school needed some help in 2009 he organised the Church to go to the School one Sunday morning for a working bee to help tidy and clean up the school grounds. This became known as 'Church at the School' and was repeated in 2010. From time to time the Church provides morning tea for the staff of the school as a means of showing support and appreciation to both the the teaching and non-teaching staff.

### **Men's Nights Out**

Over the last few years the men have met together occasionally for a social night out and have been bowling, played pool, gone to the movies and had a meal together.

## **Benedict's Cafe**

Mike and Ruth Leach operate Benedict's Cafe which is situated in the shopping centre on Dowse Drive. A number of their family members as well as people from the Church and community have worked there.

The cafe is a popular meeting place for the local Maungaraki community as well as people from other Western Hills suburbs and Lower Hutt. People drive up to enjoy the cafe environment with the warm fire in winter, a children's play area and a space for just sitting and chatting. Daryl wrote in the 2010 annual report,

*"Benedict's cafe continues to be such a blessing to this community, providing a haven and a place where people can just be with others. Many friendships have grown this year as people have had coffee together. Many great conversations have taken place. Many people have been helped, supported, listened to, and prayed with. Thanks once again to the Leach family and all the staff"*

Maungaraki Church have held several events at the cafe such as an Easter Event, the Ladies Pampering Nights and the regular '500 card' evenings which started in 2008.



**Benedicts Cafe**



**Ladies Pampering Night 9 May 2009**



**Mike and Ruth with their family**



**Wayne, Brian, and Daryl  
Waiters on the Ladies Pampering Night**

## Maungaraki Community Fair

Wendy Garlick was on the Maungaraki Community Committee and suggested that the Church take part in three of the Community Fairs, the first one being on 12 March 2005.

The Church participated by running a cafe with Devonshire teas, a sausage sizzle, book, plant and cake stalls, a gum boot throwing competition, tours of the Church building and showed the video of the building when it was in the process of being relocated from Petone. Church members acted as traffic wardens at road crossings during the fair.



**Cake Stall**



**Plants for sale**



**Book Stall**



**Sausage Sizzle**

## Bangers, Mash and Mayhem

This was a fun social night for family and friends planned by Kath McLean and Sarah Hurren. Each small group in the Church performed an item. The worship group performed 'Seven little girls sitting in the backseat'. The Chat Room also performed a mime. Wendy Garlick, co-ordinated two more similar events which were run by the Chat Room.



### Maungaraki Plunket

In recent years, the Maungaraki Plunket has combined with the Church for a children's Christmas party at the Church Centre. These events were a lot of fun



### The Light Party

Nicola Fraser organised a Light Party at the Church for children in the community on 31 October 2010 as a positive alternative to Halloween. A variety of activities were offered such as face painting, balloon sculptures, crafts, food and a professional entertainer came to do a 30 minute show. Approximately sixty children attended and Daryl shared a brief message and each child received an age appropriate Christian tract to take home.



### Mainly Music

Jenni Collingwood was involved with Mainly Music for five years in Tauranga and was keen to see it established in Maungaraki. Jenni and five other people ran the first session of Mainly Music in October 2007. It has been a place where mums/caregivers can spend time with their children while enjoying music, rhyme, rhythm, creative dance and more but also a place to connect with others and build friendships. Debbie Leach took over in April 2010 and Louise Bell in February 2011



### **'Journeys' and 'The Big Ask' series**

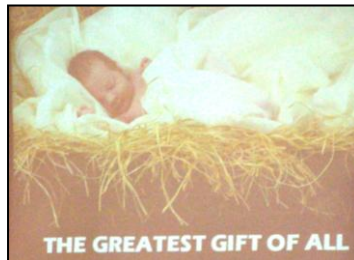
In 2008 Simon and Kaylee Gibbs introduced the Rob Harley 'Journeys' series and a number of people then continued on to do another series called 'The Big Ask'. In 2009 Kaylee Gibbs, Jun Zhang, Janine Banks and Nic Mingins began meeting together fortnightly to encourage and support each other in their journeys with God.

### **'Engage'**

Engage was an informal small group meeting during 2009 of up to eight people ranging from those following Jesus for a number of years to people who were simply curious about faith. It was a place where coffee and food could be consumed, where any question could be asked, where everyone was able to participate and where engaging with each other and with Jesus was encouraged. Engage was another expression of what Church can be.

### **Christmas Eve Service 2010**

Wayne and Nicola Fraser with the help of Chelsea and Lauren organised a Christmas Eve service. After the service people enjoyed some mince pies and the children played outside.



**Baptisms** are a highlight for both the individual and the Church. One Sunday night in 1988 the Holy Spirit convicted people resulting in fifteen baptisms. This is mentioned in Part One. On another memorable occasion Debbie Leach had flown over from Blenheim for the baptism of her niece Hannah and some of the 'In the Light Team'. Debbie said,

*"It was such an amazing and joyful occasion and ended up with three or four extra people being baptised that night, including Josh, my nephew. It was really neat that we were baptised at the same time".*



**Above are photos of Tien and Wayne Mullins and Bronwyn Austin at their baptisms.**

It would be impossible to write about all the stories surrounding baptisms and the way in which the Holy Spirit has convicted people on these occasions. Most of the early baptisms took place in the baptismal pool, which was carried into the Community Centre before being filled with water from a hosepipe. More recently, baptisms have taken place in the sea and thanks to Brian Peck, a number of these more recent photographs can be included



**Vlad Miller, Jesse Walls, Simon Gibbs, Ami Chandar, Monica Collingwood, Bryana Collingwood, Maureen McKee, Rebecca Edwards and Kaylee Gibbs**

## Chapter 14 – The Church and Overseas Missions

The Church has given support to a number of different mission organisations over the years. This has generally been due to a strong link between the organisation and a person in the Church. Some people have had experiences with YWAM. There have also been overseas journeys and whilst not officially deemed missions work they have still been God-led journeys. This story can only cover a few of these involvements but the first stretches back to 1944, sixty-seven years ago, when Murray Kendon founded a mission that is now a large worldwide organisation.

### Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)

Murray Kendon was the founder of MAF. During World War II, Murray was a pilot with the RAF Coastal Command in 1944. As he was flying patrol planes over the Atlantic Ocean, he dreamed about the potential to use small aircraft to fly missionaries into unreachable places.

#### Murray tells the story:

“One night, while flying over the Bay of Biscay, on U-boat patrol, I could see in the distance the flak coming from the anti aircraft guns as the searchlights were scanning the sky over France, looking for a British ‘thousand bomber raid’.

I thought,

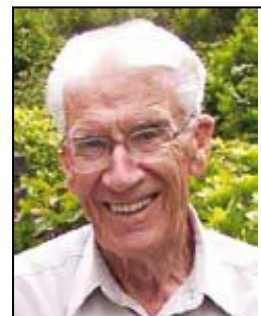
*How is it that there is enough money to get thousands of planes into the air to kill and destroy, when only a handful of money is being used for missionary work?*

I remembered hearing in a New Zealand missionary meeting years before about a team that had set out to find a tribe said to be living somewhere deep in the jungle. The missionaries returned weeks later out of food and worn out by the incredible hardship having almost been killed by a flash flood that destroyed their canoe.”

I thought,

*“A small aeroplane could have found that tribe and mapped a route within a day or two, and later guided the team and dropped supplies to them.”*

**Thus was born the seed for the ‘Mission Aviation Fellowship.’**



Murray Kendon was the founder of MAF in the United Kingdom just after the war. He later liaised with like-minded men and women in Australia and America. All three groups adopted the same name and values for the mission, which is known today as MAF.

MAF now operates in 38 countries with over 125 planes. Every three minutes an MAF flight takes off somewhere in the world allowing missionary work to be conducted in isolated regions.

## **Papua New Guinea**

Ruth Parry was responsible for the work of Missions at Maungaraki Baptist Church in 1994. In July of that year Ruth arranged telephone links with David and Virginia Askin who were working with the NZ Baptist Missionary Society in Papua New Guinea. During a pre-recorded telephone conversation with David Askin he shared the testimony of his miraculous healing from cancer. There was also a live telephone call with Virginia. Today we would use 'skype' but at that time a long distance call by telephone was the only way to talk to them.

Ruth also made contact with Graeme and Mary Taylor who had previously worked as missionaries in Papua New Guinea.

## **NZBMS / Tranzsend**

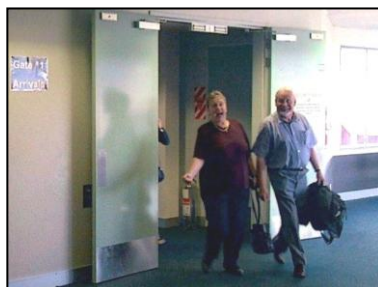
The Church has contributed financially over the years to the NZ Baptist Missionary Society, now called Tranzsend. Tranzsend is focused on the Asia/Pacific region and each year they have an appeal for a project or overseas missionary.

## **Sixteen people from Maungaraki go to the UK 1996**

There were a number of times when people from the Church went overseas and on these occasions a group would go to farewell them or welcome them home again.

On 21 August 1996 Jim, Kath, Warwick, Chris, and their three children left for the UK. Around the same time, nine other people from the Church were in the UK too. Anna, John and Scott had gone to Russia to meet Vlad and Vika for the first time and were staying in London before returning to New Zealand. Ruth Parry, Judith Mackintosh, Maureen McKee, Peter Warnes, Colin and Gaynor were also there at the same time. Sixteen people from Maungaraki were in UK that September and as many as were able to arranged to meet up at Holy Trinity Brompton Church for the services on a particular Sunday.

Holy Trinity Brompton had started the Alpha programme which Maungaraki had offered the year before the group went tot England. On another occasion Jim and Kath went to visit their family in UK. The following photos show some of the departures and arrivals at Wellington airport. One photo shows Bea Symmonds (Chris Dugdale's mother) at the airport meeting Jim and Kath. Bea came from England in 2001 at the age of 89 and attended Maungaraki Baptist Church for a year until she died in June 2002.



## **Romania and Lasi Baptist Church**

Wayne and Crystelle Rance adopted their daughter Lidia from Romania as a brother for Simon. Through the adoption the Church became interested in helping people in Romania and gave financial support towards a Family Centre run by the Lasi Baptist Church. The Lasi Church fed as many as thirty five adults and children each day and planned to purchase a three-roomed house as a Family Centre.



### **India and Mission Possible**

From 2005 - 2007 Murray Kendon encouraged a group called Mission Possible to support the Gospel for Asia mission. A number of the Church people read the book 'Revolution in World Missions' by K.P. Yohannan. The book told how the primary aim of Gospel for Asia was to use missionaries in their own native countries to share the gospel rather than people from another country and culture.

### **Azerbaijan and Russia – Gary and Alison Fursdon**

Gary and Alison Fursdon felt led by God to go on two short term trips, first to Azerbaijan and then a couple of years later to Russia. The second trip was to help run a holiday programme.

### **To Russia with Love**

In September 1996 the Miller family traveled to Russia and adopted Vlad and Vika. After seeing firsthand the conditions in Russia they wanted to try to assist some of the 500,000 children living in Children's Homes across Russia. After their return in November 1996 the Miller family started sending aid with people who were travelling to the children's homes.

In 2000 Anna's friend Valmaye Dawson asked her if it would be useful to send knitted jerseys. Valmaye and another friend set a goal to knit 100 jerseys. They soon realised this was a daunting task by themselves and enlisted support of others to reach their goal. From these small beginnings the 'To Russia with Love Aid Project' started. The basic needs in the Russian Children's Homes are covered by the state but other needs are not. 'To Russia with Love' makes a very welcome contribution through the garments they continue to send to Russia and also more recently to children's homes in South Africa and Tajikistan.

### **The Stekolshikovy Family in Russia**

In 2009 Julie Prout became the co-ordinator for the Stekolshikovy family in Vladivostok. In addition to their own three children the family have eighteen adopted children. They also have a vision to encourage many other families to adopt children so that the children can live with a family rather than in an orphanage.

The Maungaraki Baptist Church has supported this family in their plans to build a home large enough to house the whole family in one building by sending donations of money raised through special offerings. The Church continues to pray for the family and their many needs as well as sending money whenever they can.

### **Israel and Makor Hatikvah School**

Rachel and Bill Millwood from the International Christian Embassy of Jerusalem came to speak at Maungaraki Baptist Church around 1995. Their message inspired the Church to support a small school in Jerusalem called Makor Hatikvah.

The school started in 1990 by a group of Israeli parents who wanted their children to learn about Jesus and to grow up in a better spiritual environment than is found in most schools. It is the only Messianic school in Jerusalem and with over 100 students is located in the heart of the city. A portion of the Church tithe went to the school for the following eleven years. Some people from the Church have been able to visit the School and one year the children in Children's Church wrote letters to the children in Jerusalem.

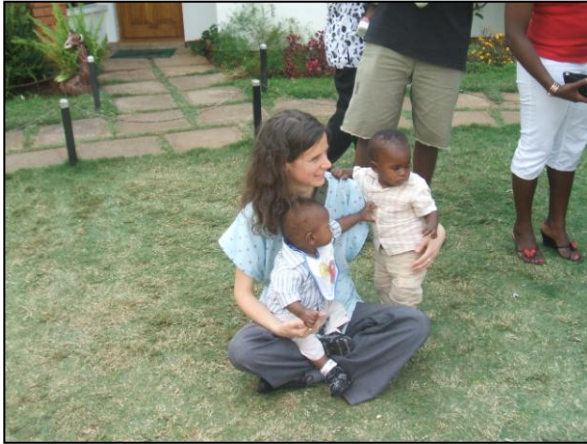
### **Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes**

Nicola Fraser encouraged the Church to be involved in Operation Christmas Child in 2007. 'International Samaritans Purse' arranges it and this project gets underway in October each year. People are encouraged to fill a shoebox with small items of toys, school supplies, little gifts and a letter for a child in need in an overseas country. NZ shoeboxes often go to the Pacific islands such as Fiji or Papua New Guinea.

## Kenya and Rwanda, Africa – Michelle Nielsen

In 2010 Michelle Nielsen went to Kenya and Rwanda. God led her to go and visit her good friend Tracy who was involved in Christian work in Kenya. Michelle helped at the Orphanage at Kilimani in Nairobi before travelling to Kigali in Rwanda. Her week in Rwanda impacted her the most. Michelle now can identify with some words in a Brooke Fraser song Albertine which says,

*“Now that I have seen, I am responsible”*



**Michelle at the New Life Orphanage, Kilimani in Kenya**



**Michelle visited Gahanga Primary School and Gisembe Pre-School in Rwanda**

## YWAM

Maungaraki is a small Church and yet quite a number of people have been involved with Youth with a Mission (YWAM). The YWAMs mission statement is,

***‘to know God and to make Him known.’***

When YWAM began in 1960 the main focus was to give young people an opportunity to demonstrate the love of Jesus by following His command in Mark 16:15,

***“Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.”***

Fifty years later there are people in YWAM of almost every age in more than a thousand locations and in over one hundred and fifty countries with a staff of nearly sixteen thousand.

A YWAM team first came to Maungaraki and Kelson Churches twenty four years ago.

### **Germany, Russia and Mongolia – Josh Leach**

Josh Leach has been involved with YWAM over a period of four and a half years. Josh went to Hurlach in Germany to do a Discipleship Training School (DTS) followed by an Outreach in Russia and Mongolia. He served on 'Staff' at the YWAM base in Hurlach for a further four years. Josh was asked to comment on his time with YWAM and he said,

*“God is good. It was an exciting and life changing time. Seeing life outside of the western world was hard for me and I ended up with more questions than answers.”*

### **China – Margaret Pennington and Kate Dugdale**

In 2002 Kate Dugdale who was thirteen at the time and Margaret Pennington went with one of the YWAM King's Kids teams to China. They met with underground Christian groups and helped at an Orphanage for disabled and handicapped children. Margaret said,

*“It was a special time. I was like the surrogate grandmother and it was a privilege to see the young people spending time with God in prayer and going out each day to perform songs and talk to the Chinese people. We knew our accommodation was 'bugged' and so we could not use any 'God words' in our conversations or the emails home. We called Him 'The Boss'. When we prayed, we either prayed in tongues or turned the music up very loud. The young ones had to be very culturally sensitive in their dress and conversations. It was amazing to watch the friendships they made and the way that God moved during the Outreach.”*

The following year Kate went on an Outreach to Fiji and in 2007 attended a DTS in Perth followed by another Outreach in India.

### **New Zealand and Australia, Europe and the World – Warwick and Chris Dugdale**

Warwick and Chris Dugdale were also involved with YWAM. With three of their children, Lisa, Kate and Abbey they attended a Family Ministries Discipleship Training School in Rotorua for 6 months in 1997. Their Outreach was with Mercy Missions in Auckland. The DTS was a preparation to their later involvement with YWAM Kings Kids. In 2000 Warwick and Chris took a team called 'In the Light' on a four week mission trip to the Sydney Olympics. There were twenty-two young people in the team aged ten to sixteen. The adults who went to support the team were Brian, Jo, Jeremy and Sarah Peck, Brian and Janet Adams, Conrad and Saramaree McDonnell, Gwen Esler and Hyemee Choi. The team returned with some amazing 'God stories'. Ten years later, many of the young people that were in that team now have some kind of leadership role in a church.

In 1994 Warwick and Chris with four of their daughters travelled around Europe in an old yellow VW campervan. It was not an organised 'mission' trip but they had plenty of adventures and God-incidences. There were opportunities to share the gospel with people they met along the way and the Church supported them with prayer as they travelled. They communicated their prayer needs by letter or by fax if it was urgent. It is hard now to imagine travelling without being able to use emails, blogs or Facebook to send messages.

In 2008 Warwick and Chris visited 28 countries during a six-month world journey. These included India, Bhutan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Zanzibar (Tanzania), Cyprus, Israel, the Seychelles and Eastern Europe. It was a 'God Journey' and again there were many opportunities to experience God's protection and to be open to God leading as they travelled.

### **The Watoto Story**

In Uganda Warwick and Chris visited the Watoto villages in Kampala. They spent ten days with an Australian Team helping to build a home for eight orphans and a housemother as well as a kindergarten classroom. Kampala Pentecostal Church has a membership of 15,000 and is behind the Watoto vision of the villages which currently care for 2000 orphans.



**'Bullrushes' Baby Home in Uganda**



**Girls from the Watoto Choir**



**Warwick with one of the Watoto babies**



**Chris with one of the Watoto babies**



**Warwick helping build a home at Watoto**



**Making the sun dried mud bricks**



**The Watoto home being built**



**A finished home at Watoto village**

## **Papua New Guinea, Eastern Europe, Malaysia and Spain – Daryl & Jenni Collingwood**

Daryl and Jenni have both been involved with YWAM.

In 1992 Daryl did a Discipleship Training School with YWAM in Pahi, Northland. After just 3 days at the DTS he already had his eye on one of the leaders - A lovely lady named Jenni. Daryl and Jenni travelled to Spain for an Outreach with the YWAM team during the Olympics in Barcelona.

They then went on another YWAM experience through different parts of Eastern Europe. Jenni had previously done a DTS with an outreach to Papua New Guinea. After this Outreach Jenni went on to finish her leadership training and then led a team to Malaysia.

Daryl and Jenni Collingwood married in April 1994 and now have three children, Bryana, Monica and David. The family arrived in Maungaraki in January 2007 when Daryl came to be the Pastor of the Church at Maungaraki and a part time teacher at Maungaraki School.



**Daryl and Jenni Collingwood with Bryana, Monica and David**

**Taken in 2007**

## **Chapter 15 – Maungaraki in 2011**

**Night Church** happens on the last Sunday of each month and in 2009 Daryl wrote,

*“Night church has been a refreshing time where we have come with no agenda, but just to be together with Jesus. We have experienced His tangible presence there as we have sat quietly ... or as we have interceded for our friends and this community ... or as we have openly confessed sin or released forgiveness... or as we have laid hands on one another and listened to God. Healing has taken place.*

*I believe that healing and miracles are supposed to be a normal part of everyday life! Let's keep journeying together even in the middle of the struggles when there seems to be no apparent breakthrough. Let's keep learning what it means to stand in the gap for others in prayer; trusting God for the impossible stuff, while at the same time doing what we can, with what He has given us.”*

### **A ‘Snapshot in Time’ 25 - 27 February 2011**

As the first twenty-five years draws to a close we tried to capture the events of one particular weekend and have called it a ‘Snapshot in Time’. It was a busy weekend beginning with ‘Ignite Uth’ on the evening of Friday 25 February and ending with a baptism on the night of Sunday 27 February.

‘Ignite Uth’ met on the Friday evening as they do every alternate week. Everyone had fun proceeding blindfold around a huge indoor obstacle course which had been constructed. There was the ‘God Spot, singing, ice creams and a game of hand soccer. It was a clear warm night and the young and older people alike had so much fun that no one wanted to leave and go home when 9 pm came.

On the Saturday morning there was a garden working bee, organised by Vlad, who took on the responsibility for maintaining the gardens in 2011. Adults and children came to help spread the mulch using wheelbarrows and buckets. Matt Banks had arranged for the mulch.

During the Sunday morning service the children went over to Benedicts Cafe and baked mountains of cookies to send to the people of Christchurch as a way of showing love following the huge earthquake that had happened in that City on 22 February. The earthquake affected everyone in New Zealand as it was a huge disaster. Some people in the Church had families in Christchurch and were still down there helping them. On Sunday morning five people were welcomed into the Church as members. These were Janine Banks, Steve and Liz Hetherington and Andrew and Deborah Whitehead.

It was also Murray Kendon’s 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday 27 February. We sang ‘Happy Birthday’ and Jo had chosen some songs that she thought Murray would like and there was a chocolate cake with candles for this special occasion. Murray was still driving on his birthday and came to Night Church to be there for Glenda’s (Janine Banks’ Mum) baptism. He borrowed John Miller’s helmet, jacket and motor bike for the birthday photo on the next page.

### **25 Years Celebration – 19 March 2011**

The Celebration to mark the first twenty-five years of the Church at Maungaraki will take place on Saturday 19 March 2011. It will be a time for remembering and reunions but more than anything, it will be a time to thank God for His faithfulness over the years.

In Part One and Part Two of this story we have attempted to give a glimpse into some of the events that happened along the way and to tell some of the stories of the people as well as to give a glimpse into their faith in God. May the journey continue and God’s kingdom grow; as they seek to know Him and make Him known. This is Maungaraki Baptist Church.

## A 'Snapshot in Time'.



**Garden Working Bee (Above)**



**Benedict's Bake Off**



**Glenda's Baptism at Night Church**



**Sam Kennedy 2 days  
Born 8 March 2011**

**Keziah Hetherington  
10 weeks old**

**Matt Banks  
with Caylan**

**Murray Kendon  
on his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday**

**The enthusiasm of youth and experience of age is a great combination at Maungaraki.**

## Appendix 1 – 25 Years of Events

Over the years, there have been many visiting speakers, camps, retreats and events. These are just a selection from the many.

- 1988 Jim McLean Induction Service Feb 21  
First Family Camp at El Rancho on October 23 - 25. Pastors Maurice and Miriam Atkinson from Oxford Baptist Church, North Canterbury were the speakers.  
Visit from Dr Jim Adams and team from USA
- 1989 Second Family Camp at Forest Lakes, Oct 6 - 8. Graeme Carley spoke to the adults and Merrilyn Withers to the youth. Other speakers during this year were Gary Weatherhead, Charles Rickets, Lindsay Jones, Geoff Follis, Graeme Carle, Marcus Arden, Bill and Margaret Taylor, Walter and Mary Clopton, Tony and Lynette Collis.
- 1990 Ladies retreat at Frederic Wallis House Mens retreat at Lower Hutt Baptist Church
- 1991 Hudson Salisbury led a retreat for the Church Board  
Dave and Kath Wells led retreats for men and women
- 1992 Third Family Camp at Forest lakes, Oct 16 – 18  
Shirley Wright led a Ladies retreat at Christian Holiday Park  
Rev Mark Farmer led a Men's retreat at Farnham House in Featherston.
- 1993 Fourth Family Camp at Forest Lakes, Oct 15 - 17. Ross Callaghan spoke on communication. Merrilyn Withers took the young people and arranged a concert.
- 1994 Fifth family Camp at Kiwi Ranch, Mar 31 – April 2  
A Men's retreat was held at Redwood with the Upper Hutt Baptist Church  
Carols by Candlelight with over 300 attending. A beautiful still night.  
Margaret Cornish on 18 September spoke at the Church and at that service began what was known as the 'Toronto Blessing'. She also led Spiritual Growth Seminars.
- 1995 The Administration Building arrived on the Church land
- 1996 Break down the Walls. The first Promise Keepers Event in Wellington
- 1997 Alpha Courses
- 1998 40 days of Prayer and Fasting leading up to Easter
- 1999 Weston Carryer Healing Meetings  
King's Kids 'Go Camp' held at Maungaraki with 52 children attending
- 2000 Michael Livengood, Terry Peterson, Jeanne Humphries  
'In the Light' Team go for a month to Sydney 2000 Olympic Games YWAM outreach.  
Raging Fire Conference
- 2001 Jeanne Humphries ran a Ladies retreat in April
- 2002 Michael Livengood, Weston Carryer, Glenda Bartlett spoke at the Church.  
Dr Jonathan Safati from Creation Ministries International ran a seminar.  
Forty days of Prayer and Fasting  
The new auditorium building arrived in three pieces onto the Church land.



- 2003 Renovation of the Church auditorium
- 2004 Impact World Tour event in Lower Hutt. This led on to the forming of 'Hutt Impact'  
 Moved from the Community Centre into the new auditorium on 21 March  
 'Bangers, Mash, and Mayhem' night  
 Who's Coming to Dinner programme
- 2005 Jim and Kath ended their 18-year ministry at Maungaraki Baptist Church on 31 Oct  
 Forty days of Purpose  
 12 Mar Maungaraki Community Fair
- 2006 A speaker from Gospel for Asia
- 2007 Daryl and Jenni Collingwood arrive as the new pastors  
 Mainly Music started
- 2008 Wayne Pearse started Relentless Youth Group  
 Ladies pampering Night started for Mothers day
- 2009 Hutt Impact, 'Brother Christmas Spectacular. 5 December Fraser Park.  
 Operation Christmas Child  
 Sunday morning at the Maungaraki School helping tidy up the school grounds.  
 The Community Ball with Hutt Ceroc  
 Ladies pampering night at Benedicts  
 '500' Card evenings at Benedicts  
 Over 50's group meeting bi-monthly  
 Combining with Plunket to put on a Christmas Event
- 2010 Vlad Miller started 'Ignite Uth' on July 30  
 E100 Bible Study started  
 Manifest Presence Conference  
 'Church at School' and Morning Tea for the school teachers  
 Community Pancake Brunch for around eighty people  
 Randy Clark Conference at Hope Centre  
 Jubilee Ministries have events at Maungaraki during the year  
 The Light Party
- 2011 25 Years Celebration of Maungaraki Baptist Church, Saturday March 19

## **Appendix 2 – 'Who's Who' Photos**

On the following pages are photos of many of the people who have been a part of our Church at sometime during the first twenty-five years. It is not a complete record as we have not been able to track down everyone and we apologise if your photo is not shown here.

Nonetheless we hope this 'Who's who' will help put a few faces to the names in this book.



Waverney Kerr



Vlad Miller



Vika Miller



Tabitha Leach



Stephanie May



Stephanie Martin



Stephanie Garlick



Simon Garlick



Sean Manning



Scott Miller



Sarah Peck



Sarah Martin



Samuel Martin



Samantha Edwards



Rosy Wilson



Petra Leach



Mindy Leach



Lisa Dugdale



Kate Dugdale



Judith Fursdon



Jonny Wilson



Jesse Walls



Jess Arthur



Jeremy Peck



Jeremy Martin



Hilary Fulton



Hannah Peck



Hannah Leach



Ethan Leach



Emma Leach



David Leach



David Garlick



Chantelle Klok



Anna Leigh



Abbey Dugdale



Murray and Minnie Kendon



Colin and Gaynor Tinker



Graeme & Cheryl Stevens



Alan and Lynley Batson



Ron & Valerie Sangster



John and Janet Regan



Bruce and Jinny Patrick



Sue and Peter Mouat



Paul and Lois Martell



Fiona Coughlan



Alan & Kerry Reedy



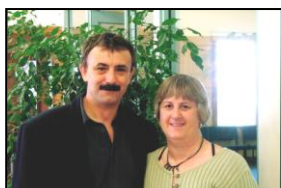
Carl & Rosanna Gravatt



Julie Green



Jim and Kath McLean



Brian and Jo Peck



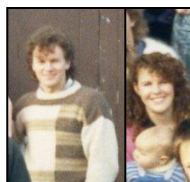
John and Angela Hazael



David & Robyn Osborne



Bob & Kath Nicholson



Graeme & Janne Beardsley



Yvette Howie



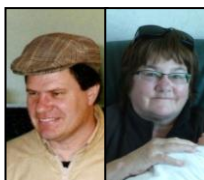
Suzanne Butel



Graeme and Christine Want



David Stuart



Phil and Julia Leigh



Ann Parker



Ruth Parry



John and Anna Miller



Warwick & Chris Dugdale



Sue Hamilton Liz Pignegy



Carey and Sue Martin



Graeme and Renuka Rady



Andrew and Joan Hart



Roger and Raewyn Thomas



Fay Small



Victor and Janine Foon



Geoff and Glenys Smail

Margaret Pennington Derek and Betty Cobb



Mike and Ruth Leach



Joyce Teo



Colin and Wendy Garlick



Mike and Christine Prasad



Marion and David Bayne



John and Christina Sik



Ivan and May Hunt

Judith Mackintosh



Mark and Sarah Hurren



Wayne and Tien Mullins



Rod and Bobbie Thomas



Alison and Gary Fursdon



Matthew & Julie Oliver



George & Amanda Swanepoel



Olga Ellison & Jean and Gordon Murphy

Alyth and Hilary Fulton



Colin and Margaret Slade



Graeme & Bronwyn Austin



Neville & Dorothy Hunter



Trish Collett Paula Forbes



Josh Leach Lloyd Ward



Rosa Fourie Robert Heaps



Eileen Davidson

Maureen McKee



The Collingwood Family  
Bryana, Monica & David



Daryl and Jenni Collingwood



Matt and Janine Banks  
Sharna and Caylan



Simon and Kaylee Gibbs  
Jacob and Hannah



Wayne and Nicola Fraser  
Chelsea and Lauren



Wayne and Cynthia Pearse  
& Liam



Damien and Jun Zhang  
David and Sam



Shane and Nic Mingins  
Thomas, Emily & Noah



Andrew & Deborah Whitehead  
Zeek, Caleb, Josh & Abby



Chris & Sarah Metwell and Aimee & Jessica



Alice and Kate Prout



Michelle Nielsen



Debbie Leach and family



Stephen & Liz Hetherington  
& Keziah



Glenda (Janine's Mum)



The three photos above were taken during the worship service at the end of February 2011



# Part Three: The Story of the Church Buildings

Introduction to Part Three.....	109
<b>Chapter 28 – Eighteen Years in the Maungaraki Community Centre .....</b>	<b>110</b>
God's Timing.....	111
<b>Chapter 29 – The Administration Building .....</b>	<b>113</b>
The Church makes a Quick Decision.....	114
The Relocatable Building Arrives .....	115
The Administration Building is opened April 1995.....	117
<b>Chapter 30 – Seven Years Wait for an Auditorium .....</b>	<b>118</b>
The Woburn Railway Social Hall up for sale .....	119
Only \$10,000 in the building fund but many ideas .....	121
<b>Chapter 31 – History of the Railway Social Hall and Locomotives .....</b>	<b>124</b>
Old Photos from Helen Bruce .....	124
The White Swan Hotel .....	125
<b>Chapter 32 – Moera to Maungaraki .....</b>	<b>126</b>
Arriving in Maungaraki .....	128
What an Eyesore! .....	129
God the Builder .....	129
<b>Chapter 33 – Renovating and ‘God-incidences’ .....</b>	<b>133</b>
The Project and the Mortgage Grew .....	137
<b>Chapter 34 – The Valentines Restaurant Story .....</b>	<b>144</b>
<b>Chapter 35 – MMM or Mobile Mission Maintenance Team .....</b>	<b>149</b>
<b>Chapter 36 – Volunteers.....</b>	<b>152</b>
Church Volunteers .....	152
Rimutaka Volunteers.....	155
Community Work Teams .....	155
<b>Chapter 37 – Electrical Work .....</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>Chapter 38 – A Sprint to the Finish.....</b>	<b>157</b>
<b>Chapter 39 – God says to Move In – A leap of faith.....</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>Chapter 40 – The Cross.....</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>Chapter 41 – Moving into the new building.....</b>	<b>168</b>
‘Solemn procession’ Sunday 21 March 2004 .....	168
‘Joyful celebration’ Sunday 28 March 2004 .....	168
<b>Chapter 42 – Open Day 15 May 2004 .....</b>	<b>170</b>
<b>Chapter 43 – Reflections from Jim and Kath McLean .....</b>	<b>171</b>
<b>Chapter 44 – Postscript.....</b>	<b>173</b>





## Introduction to Part Three

Chris writes,

*It has been my intention since 2004 to record the story of the building projects, but the last seven years have zoomed by and it is now 2011 and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Maungaraki Baptist Church is approaching.*

*This story describes the events experienced by a small group of ordinary people as they were helped by a supernatural God as they worked together to build two Church buildings. The buildings would meet current needs, provide for future generations, and be an asset to the local Community.*

*My first personal building experience was at the age of four, when thinking I was doing a good deed, and without asking my parents, I decided to paint a neighbour's garage while they were on holiday. I had painted much of the garage and was working on the front gate when a neighbour finally spotted me. At seven, I wanted to learn how to mix concrete and at thirteen, I built a fence in the field where I kept my horse. At twenty-two years old, I renovated my first house.*

*From then on, doing up old houses became a part of my life. Perhaps I should not have been surprised that God led our family to a Church that was about to embark on two renovation projects.*

*My involvement began in 1992, when Warwick and I were at Jim and Kath McLean's home group one Wednesday evening and someone mentioned a "Church building". Knowing nothing of the background, I rather bluntly questioned why the Church owned some land yet didn't have a building. There was a long silence.*

*To this day I am not sure why, but I think it was one of those 'God moments' when despite my embarrassment, something stirred in my spirit.*

*I was involved in acquiring and then establishing the administration building on the Church land in late 1994 and in fun, I was named the 'clerk of works'.*

*Seven years later in 2004, when I found the auditorium building, there were no tradesmen in the Church. Based on my lifelong love of renovating houses, I volunteered to be the project manager.*

*This story emerges from my involvement with the building projects. It has been written as I perceived and have remembered it, rather than as an accurate history.*

*Everyone will have experienced the journey differently, so please forgive me if this version of the story does not fit perfectly with your memory of events. My hope is that this account will again excite those who were a part of the building projects as well as inspire those who will come after us.*



## Chapter 28 – Eighteen Years in the Maungaraki Community Centre

In 1986, the Maungaraki Baptist Church began an eighteen-year journey of meeting in the Maungaraki Community Centre.

The land on the corner of Dowse Drive and Rowan Street was purchased in 1986 for \$100,000 but it was not until 2004 and after the relocation of two pre-loved buildings that the church finally moved into the Maungaraki Baptist Church Centre.



**The Church bought the land in 1986      The Maungaraki Baptist Church Centre in 2004**

People joined the Maungaraki Baptist Church because of the sense of family and community, rather than being attracted by a nice comfortable Church building. The Church grew and thrived in the early years but there were some real drawbacks to not having their own space.

Jim McLean accepted the call to be the first pastor of the Church in 1988. When reflecting on that time Jim said,

*“When we arrived in Maungaraki, we often met people who would say, ‘When you get a Church, we will consider coming’. Perhaps people felt that once we had our own premises then we would become a more permanent presence in the local Community.”*

Even though we valued the use of the Community Centre, there were times when at short notice it was unavailable. I knew that having a place of our own would give us the ability to do more things during the week than was possible in a rented building.”



**A typical Sunday morning Church service in the Maungaraki Community Centre**

Each Sunday a hundred or so chairs were set out, sound equipment set up and tested, cables taped to the floor and cups carried down the stairs for morning tea. At the end of the service the procedure was reversed and the hall had to be cleared and cleaned again. Week after week, this was the routine.

In winter, whoever arrived first would try to light the inefficient old gas heaters, which hardly warmed the room, and the occasional broken windowpane would lower the temperature even further. Those who felt the cold would come wrapped up in coats, scarves, and gloves. Some tried to warm their feet with a small fan heater and even hot water bottles smuggled in occasionally.

The hall was available for public use and frequently hired out for parties on Saturday nights. This sometimes meant that on the Sunday morning, the floors might be sticky, and the place would smell of alcohol and cigarette smoke. This was not pleasant.

## **God's Timing**

Early records show that from the founding of the Church in 1986, there were many hopes and dreams regarding a Church building. The hopes became prayers but the Church had to wait for God's timing and provision before they were answered.

A proposal in 1993 for a new 180-seat building had an estimated cost of \$500,000. With \$10,000 in the building fund, and only 55% of the members in favour of going ahead this plan was not pursued.

The Church had been established nine years when the administration building was purchased and relocated onto the Church land. Seven years later the auditorium building was relocated to the land and opened after two years of renovations. A total of eighteen years before God had fully answered the prayers of the Church.

When people use the word "Church", they are often meaning the "Church Building". The word "Church" is more accurately defined as the group of people who meet together.

Maungaraki Baptist Church was no less effective because it did not have its own building but in 2004, it was a joyful occasion when they celebrated God's provision of the Maungaraki Baptist Church Centre.

Prayer, faith, and hard work are all part of the story along with some miraculous answers to prayer experienced as the Church worked together with God to establish the two buildings on the land.

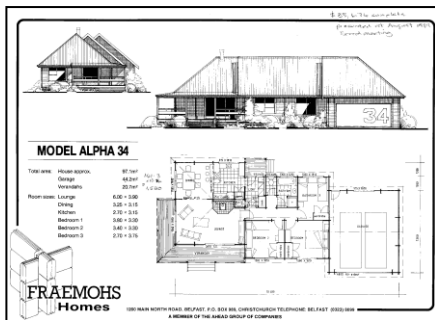
In 1994, the Church experienced a fresh move of the Holy Spirit known as the Toronto Blessing that had begun at Toronto Christian Airport Fellowship. A visiting speaker gave a prophetic word for the Maungaraki Baptist Church.

*"God had placed the Church as a watchman on the hills over the city to minister light along the hills and down into the valley, like a lighthouse."*

Kath Mclean remembers,

*"One night we were having a prayer meeting to ask God whether we should go ahead and put a building on the land. I remember having a distinct impression from God that we were to come out from being 'underground'. People knew we were Christians, but we were not seen. We should be a presence for Him in the Community".*

The only visible sign of the Church meeting in Maungaraki was a billboard placed on the pavement outside the Community Centre each Sunday morning.



**An early scheme for a Fraemohs Building**



**The Billboard**

Colin and Gaynor Tinker have been members of Maungaraki Baptist Church for twenty-five years. When asked about the building projects, Gaynor Tinker said,

*“Whilst the vision for a building had been there at the start, over the years it got lost in the busyness of keeping things going. We were a small number of people who had grown comfortable meeting in the Community Centre. We had lost the impetus and needed someone to be proactive, see the bigger picture, and have a fresh vision. It needed someone from outside to take it forward. God's timing in bringing Chris Dugdale to Maungaraki Baptist was spot on as she was enthusiastic and passionate about restoring our original vision of a Church building on the hill.”*

Other long time members involved in the building projects were Murray and Minnie Kendon, Brian and Jo Peck, Fiona Coughlan, Julie Green and John and Angela Hazael.

From 1986 to 1995, the Church office was located in a spare room at Jim and Kath's home in Normandale. Board meetings, building committee meetings and over a hundred counselling sessions took place there each year. This was not fair or sustainable for Jim or Kath.

In November 1994, the Church held a quarterly meeting. Chris had a very strong feeling that she should attend the meeting even though her family had just returned earlier that day from six months overseas. At the meeting, while discussing the office situation, Kath Mclean said,

*“It would be so neat to arrive home from work at night and have the house to ourselves.”*

These words seemed to come right across the room and stir something in Chris's spirit and she knew that God wanted her to do something about finding a Church office.

After looking at the possibility of renting a house in the community, the next idea was to relocate a building onto the Church land. God began to prepare the Church for the next step. They started to meet on Sunday evenings in the Supper Room in the Community Centre and to pray for His direction. They were open to all possibilities, including new buildings, second-hand buildings, renting a room, renting a house or even selling the land and purchasing another building somewhere.

As the Church listened to God, He seemed to be leading them towards a second-hand building. Chris remembers clearly a picture that came into her mind of a crane, lowering a building into outstretched hands with the sense that the Church was to receive the building as a gift from God. Someone else had a picture of a church interior with a sloping timber ceiling as found in many older churches.

## Chapter 29 – The Administration Building

Over the next few weeks, Chris hunted for old buildings that could be relocated onto the Church land. She looked at an old building at the Hutt Hospital but it was sold before any progress could be made. However, through this inquiry she met Brian Kelly who worked for a house removal and demolition company. Brian Kelly comes back into the story nine years later when Chris was looking for some doors.

On the weekend of 2 - 4 November 1993, Jim and Kath Mclean along with Colin Tinker attended the Baptist Assembly in Christchurch. Jim and Kath stayed on for another week in Christchurch to visit their family. During that week, Chris believed she should go to the Brittons House Movers yard on Haywards Hill and look for a building suitable for an office. She found one that looked like it had potential. It would have needed a new roof, as well as floor, wall and window repairs, but it did have 'potential'.

Chris felt quite excited about the building she had seen and after the service that Sunday asked Brian Peck, Graeme Stevens and Phil Leigh (the building committee) if they would go with her to view this building. Jim and Colin were still away in Christchurch. Initially their response was not very enthusiastic with comments ranging from 'needing some time to think about it', 'not sure about having a building' and 'not thinking a second hand building was a good idea'.

Chris remembers feeling cross and disappointed as they drove home from church that Sunday, and was ready to put the building idea away forever. However, into her mind came the thought that the enemy tries hard to stop us from doing the very things that God wants us to do. Before reaching the bottom of Dowse Drive, her determination to get Brian, Graeme, and Phil to look at the old building was greater than ever.

Once home, she phoned them to ask that they reconsider and obtained their somewhat reluctant agreement to meet at the Brittons yard the next day. One of the team could not make it on the Monday so the visit was changed to the Tuesday and in that delay they saw God's timing was perfect.

It was lunchtime Tuesday as they arrived at the Brittons yard. As Chris called in at the office to let the staff know they had arrived, she waved the building committee in the direction of the old building she had seen the previous week.

As Brian, Graeme and Phil walked across the yard they saw a building that had arrived in the yard only that morning. It was a 7-year-old relocatable site office from Tawa. The key was not yet available but they looked with excitement in all the windows. It was as if God had engineered that moment to change everyone's mind about a second hand building.

Chris went into Brittons office and explained that they were interested in purchasing the building for the Maungaraki Baptist Church. She asked them if they would put it on hold for two weeks until she could give them an answer.

The staff at Brittons may have viewed her request as a bit unusual, since most Churches have to consult with everyone and decisions do not generally come quickly. However, they were most obliging and agreed to give the two weeks she had requested.

## **The Church makes a Quick Decision**

Pressured for time, and in the absence of Jim who was still in Christchurch, a special Church meeting was arranged at Graeme and Cheryl Stevens' home to sketch out the opportunity to purchase the building in Britton's yard. The meeting was to gauge the feeling of the members towards the acquisition and raising a loan that could be financed from tithes and offerings. The response was positive and it was agreed to call a special general meeting to discuss costs, and present a full proposal based on the following.

Jim recorded comments made at the Board meeting held after he returned from Assembly.

- Phil            He had not supported the idea of a Church building but when he saw this one his mind was changed and the Lord gave him a peace about it.
- Graeme        He was not too sure about the idea of relocating an old building, but when he saw this building, he could see it fitting into the Maungaraki Community.
- Brian          In 1993, the Lord had showed him that the Church would have a building by Nov/Dec 1994. He felt that this building would be just the beginning.
- Colin          (Treasurer) He made a request that members were asked to increase their Giving, suggesting we come together to fast and pray about the finances.

A formal proposal was put to the Special General Meeting on Sunday 20th November 1994. The purchase price was \$56,000 including the transport to site and placing on piles. An additional \$6,830 was the estimate for connecting services, plans, council fees, landscaping and a car park bringing the total to \$72,830. It was decided to use the building fund of \$10,000 as a deposit, sell the Energy Direct shares for \$1,500, and borrow \$60,000 at 7.65% over 15 years as a mortgage

There was a very positive response with twenty-five of the twenty-six members voting in favour of purchasing this building. A poll of the non-members present showed that fourteen out of the sixteen were also in favour of the plan. The Church had managed to make the decision to purchase this building in less than two weeks.

To get a non-notified Resource Consent the Church was required to get a signature of consent from each owner and tenant of every adjoining house and flats. Sixteen of the seventeen signatures were obtained promptly. One person was not sure whether to sign or not. The Church prayed that this person would agree.

The 'Carols by Candlelight' service took place on the Church land on Thursday 15 December 1994. It was a beautiful still night with hardly a flicker from the candles as the air was so warm and still. Three hundred people attended the service and the next day the neighbour who had been uncertain about their consent, gave Brian Peck their signature. She said she had enjoyed the time at the Carol service so much it had changed her mind.

A Resource Consent application was submitted to the Lower Hutt City Council with a landscape plan. It really seemed that the Lord had gone ahead as the Church quickly obtained the non-notified Resource Consent to relocate the building on to the Land.

Phil Leigh and Chris Dugdale had met on the Church land to discuss the positioning of the building, leaving room for a future auditorium. Chris remembers that they stood on the land feeling excited at the way God had provided this building. They decided that every time they met to discuss the building, they would pray and that day began by walking around the perimeter of the land, praying as they went.

## The Relocatable Building Arrives

On 10 February 1995, Brittons House Movers used a large truck to deliver the building to the Church land where it was placed on the new wooden piles.

The 2005 Annual General Meeting was held in February. This is what Chris wrote in the Building Report:

*“Whilst we can really thank God for his Gift to us, we are also mindful of the commitment and responsibility it brings. It struck me the other day that it’s like being new parents – the much-awaited new infant is here, but now the hard work begins!*

*The challenge we now face is whether we will be faithful stewards of that which God has provided. There are exciting days ahead, as we move onto the “Promised Land” and bring into being the vision the Lord has given us.*

*Let’s see the present need for ditch digging, garden planting, carpentry, and establishing the car park as an opportunity to work together in unity. An opportunity is there for each of us as individuals to give to the whole in some way, so that not only will we establish the building, but through the process allow the Lord to bring us together, preparing us for whatever is His next step for us.”*



**The four photos above show the administration building on site**

**The wheelchair access ramp, the path, and the new steps still under construction**

Gas, water, and power were connected and the landscaping finished. It was a difficult task to dig the trenches as the ground consisted of heavy clay and rotten rock.

The relocated office was perfect for what was needed at that time. The bonus was that it had a carpet and came with window blinds, hot water heater, kitchen unit, shower, vanity, and toilet. It was complete apart from furniture. The total cost was \$78,000

Peter Warnes made the curved laminated timber handrail to complete the wheelchair access and closed in the basement. Chris was able to purchase plants for two dollars each from the Petone Polytechnic and some of those are still growing at the Church sixteen years later. The Church prayed for chairs. They were given forty from the recently closed Kelson Baptist Church. After purchasing upholstery fabric for five dollars a metre, a willing group of volunteers set about repainting the chair frames a metallic blue before recovering the seats.



**John Hazael, Chris Dugdale, Ruth Parry, Angela Hazael, Julie Green, David Osborne and Minnie Kendon working on the forty donated chairs from Kelson Baptist Church.**

One of the amazing answers to prayer was the provision of the office furniture. A builder had to close down and offered the Church a full set of office furniture worth \$7000 for a thousand dollars. This included two office desks, two bookcases, the green lounge suite, office chairs, tables, the filing cabinet, a coffee table, an electric typewriter and heaters. It was great that the lounge suite matched the carpet colour. Everyone was buzzing with what God was doing and the faith levels were high.



**The administration building office and the lounge suite matching the carpet colour**

When the building was on site in Tawa, it had a space underneath it for cars. At Maungaraki, it was placed on shorter piles but the space underneath could still be used to store the garden and children's play equipment as well as the baptism pool. The lights under the building were reconnected and the whole exterior was repainted.



## **The Administration Building is opened April 1995**

Graeme Want was not as involved in the administration building relocation as he would be with the auditorium but his thoughts at the time were:

*“It was really good how this whole thing came together and materialised. The building was the right lay out; it suited the locality, and did not look out of place on the Church land. It was much better than I thought it would be and was a bit of a miracle.”*



### **The Administration Building in 1995**

Jim moved his office from their home into the new building in April 1995. It was quite a change for Jim and Kath to have their house to themselves again but it did mean that Jim was ‘out at work’ from nine until five each day. Chris worked as Jim’s assistant at the administration building for the next eighteen months whilst studying on a Ministry Internship course with NZ Bible College.

The administration centre became a place where people from the Church or local community could drop in and find a welcome.

There was now a dedicated place on Sundays for the crèche and children, who had previously been using the facilities at the Community Centre. The lounge area became the venue for regular prayer meetings, quarterly meetings, board meetings, and the youth group. Forty people were able to attend an Alpha course held at the building and it was the base to train the ‘In the Light’ dance team before the Sydney Olympic Games Outreach.

There was a sense of joy and commitment as people worked and prayed together. They had a vision, prayers were being answered, and there was the real sense that God was leading them. ‘Co-incidences’ became ‘God-incidences’ and everyone was excited to be a part of all that was happening.

## Chapter 30 – Seven Years Wait for an Auditorium

Between September 1994 and the end of 1996 the move of God known as the Toronto Blessing had an impact on the people at MBC. God's presence was often felt in a tangible way and many people experienced a new level of spiritual awareness during this time.

The administration building provided a place to meet outside of the Sunday worship times and the Sunday evening prayer meetings were well attended and vibrant and the Church began to pray for an auditorium building.

This story would not be complete without mentioning how in 1995, Jim and Kath McLean went to England to visit their family. Upon their return, Brian Peck had in fun put up a 'Sold' Real Estate agents sign outside the administration building. You can imagine Jim's reaction, as he remembered how in the previous year a building had been found while he was at Assembly in Christchurch. He must have wondered just what had been decided in his absence this time.

To add to the welcome home, the men dressed in suits and the women wore headscarves at the service the next day; attire which was completely different from the usual casual dress at a Sunday service.



**The 'Sold' Sign put up in fun in 1995      Suits, ties, headscarves, not the normal attire**

Over the next seven years, the Church considered a number of ideas for a new auditorium on the land adjacent to Rowan Street. To further investigate this idea, a group of people from the Church went over to look at the new Whitby Baptist Church, which had cost almost \$1.5 million. The estimated cost for a new building at Maungaraki was around \$1 million, an amount that seemed beyond the reach of the Maungaraki Church.

The search then turned again to second hand buildings. They looked at relocating the Bar block from the Burma Motor Lodge, then a vacated Church building in Upper Hutt as well as old classrooms and several other buildings. None seemed to be suitable.

The Church had obtained in 1995 a fifteen-year mortgage for \$60,000 to purchase the administration building. In July 2002, after only seven years the mortgage was repaid in full. Quite an achievement for the small group of people.

The number '7' is sometimes associated in Scripture with completion and perfection. It seemed to be more than a coincidence that the Church had been able to repay the mortgage in the seventh year after opening the administration building. The next chapter of the journey was about to begin as in the very same month God led them to the next relocatable building.

## The Woburn Railway Social Hall up for sale

For seven years, Chris Dugdale had kept in touch with the various house removal companies with the hope of finding another relocatable building, one that would be large enough and suitable for a church auditorium.

On 18 July 2002, Chris contacted Chris Ellis of Alpha Specialised Movers, and heard from him that the Woburn Railway Social Hall had just become available and might be suitable.

Chris felt a sense of excitement that this could be the right building for the Church, but at the same time, she did not want to be over enthusiastic, as she had taken the Board and others to see a number of potential buildings over the years.

A few days later, Chris Ellis phoned to say that the Hall could be viewed on Thursday 25 July. Jim, Brian, Graeme, Warwick and Chris met Chris Ellis at Elizabeth Street in Moera and had their first look inside the old Hall. Brian took some digital photos, still a bit of a novelty in 2002, which were later viewed on the TV at the Church office. Christine Want immediately called on the Prayer Line to pray about the building.

Jim Mclean, remembering this visit, said,

*“The administration building arrived and we were then seen as a presence in the community but we still needed an auditorium. As we had searched, it felt like we were looking for that elusive building. We looked at classrooms and small halls but we realised that these were not an option as they were too small.*

*When I first saw the Railway Hall, there was a sense of “this is it”. This is what God was supplying for us and it was huge. I realised later that it was the same size and shape as the auditorium we had planned to build if we could have afforded it. We knew that God was very much involved in the enterprise.”*



**The Railway Social Hall from the outside and inside.**

Chris Dugdale quickly obtained estimates for a new roof, new plumbing and heating and also contacted the Hutt City Council to find out the requirements for car parking, how many toilets would be required and other building details. Chris Ellis recommended an architect, Callum McKenzie of McKenzie-Higham architecture.

## Seeking God's confirmation

Everyone in the church was contacted over the next three days and advised that after the service on Sunday 28 July a meeting would be held to consider a proposal to buy the Railway Social Hall. The Church was asked to pray for God's guidance.

Fiona Coughlan said,

*"There were lots of prayer meetings about a building and I felt that this was the year it was going to happen. Right from the start I felt positive that this was going to go ahead."*

Julie Green said,

*"The year before God had spoken a word to me confirming that there would be a building on the land in 2002. On 13 August 2002, I wrote at home in my prayer diary that, 'a personal sense of lifting a burden has come and joy at the prospect of our having a 'home' (church building) of our own at last. In prayer I believe God is saying 'yes' to going ahead with the building but that an emphasis on corporate, united, earnest, prayer is required."*

It was a significant time in the spiritual life of the Church. It was a culmination of many years waiting for God's direction for a physical home for Maungaraki Baptist Church. It was an exciting time and brought fellowship in a new way.

God showed us that the building would be a sanctuary for people and that He would provide what we needed for it, even though we had so little money at the start."

The Church kept praying. The intercessory and leadership teams met together to pray and God seemed to draw attention to the following Bible verses,

*"Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you" Matthew 6:33*

*"Knock and the door will open" Matthew 7:7*

*"Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. Isaiah 54:2*

*Then the Lord answered me,*

*"Write the vision. Make it clear on tablets so that anyone can read it quickly. The vision will still happen at the appointed time. It hurries toward its goal. It won't be a lie. If it's delayed, wait for it. It will certainly happen. It won't be late. Habakkuk 2:2-3*

*"Why are you living in luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins..... Go up into the hills, bring down timber, and rebuild my house. Then I will take pleasure in it and be honoured, says the Lord.*

*So the Lord sparked the enthusiasm of the whole remnant of God's people. They began to work on the house of their God." Haggai 1:1-15*

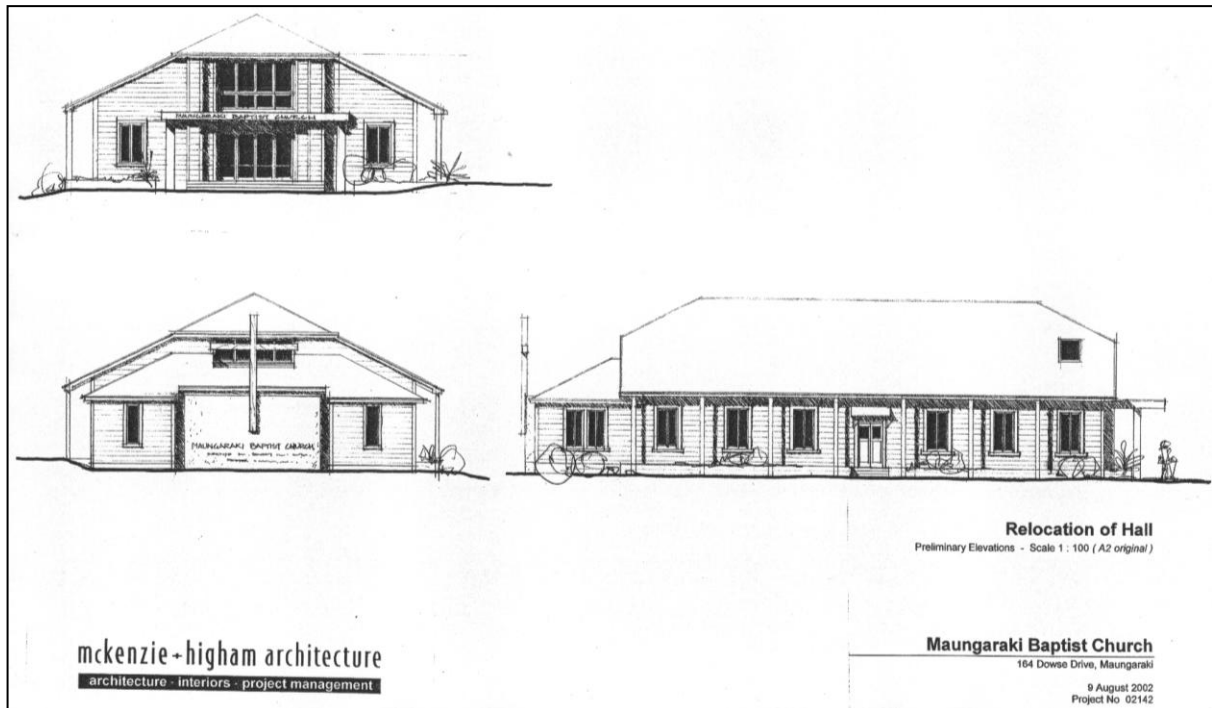
The proposal to buy the Railway Social Hall was presented to the Church. Roger Thomas prepared a model of the building and Brian showed his photographs.

A vote of the members with thirty-two out of thirty-six in favour made the decision to continue the preliminary investigations.

## Only \$10,000 in the building fund but many ideas

There was so much to do but things began to fall into place. The building plan and Resource Consent application had to be prepared for the Council, along with details about traffic, car parking, and landscaping. An application for a mortgage to the Baptist Savings and Development Society was prepared along with details about the Church. A copy of this is included in the appendix and gives an interesting snapshot of what the Church was like in 2002.

Jim placed preliminary notices in the local shop windows to inform the community that a building was under consideration.



## Plans for the Relocated Building

The progress seemed amazing, and it was all looking positive. Then Chris had a phone call from Chris Ellis. The owners of the building, New Zealand Railways needed to have the building moved by mid October and were concerned about the ability of the Church to get the Resource Consent and raise finance quickly. His company had to sign a contract with NZ Railways, and in turn, the Church had to sign a contract with Chris Ellis. We had told him that there was only \$10,000 in our building fund so the concern was understandable.

Sometimes trusting in God's provision might seem like foolishness to outsiders. However, there was such a strong sense that this was 'the building' that Chris Dugdale managed to convince Chris Ellis that it would work out.

It was as if God was giving the Church little signs and nudges that they were to continue with all that they could do and trust Him to do what they could not do. As had happened with the administration building, there was only a small window of opportunity for this decision. God was asking them to trust Him once again.

On Sunday 4 August 2002, the Church decided to demonstrate their faith by having a ground-breaking ceremony as part of the Church service. Jim McLean cut the ground with a spade in the place where the new building would go and Murray Kendon and Colin Tinker turned over the first sod.

## **A leadership team meeting on 6 August established the main objectives.**

To move out of the Community Centre into a building on the land.

To create an attractive auditorium, approximately 16 x 15 metres. Insulation, acoustics, style of ceiling and a stage area were important factors.

To create a sizable foyer area for functions and after service morning teas, with an attractive kitchen area.

To provide the required number of toilets.

To create a welcoming and attractive entrance probably facing the car park due to the direction of the prevailing winds.

To provide additional space for the Youth Group, Children's Church and the Creche, possibly with a mezzanine floor over the foyer.

To alter the exterior of the building to make it as attractive as possible.

To consider car parking, and whether the Church will be required to provide additional car parking, and if so, where would it be.

To create an atrium style area as a link between the existing Church Centre and the proposed new Church building.

The budget was to be \$250,000

Preliminary restoration plans were made available for people to peruse at the morning service and numerous newsletters were sent to Church members over the next three weeks.

At a meeting on 4 August, people were invited to make suggestions for the building. The Church leadership wanted everyone to feel involved in both the prayer and the planning.

Sue Martin who previously worked as an architectural draughtsperson had two good suggestions. The first was to use the insulation product 'Triple S' which goes under the roofing iron to deaden the noise of the rain, an important factor during quiet times in a service. The second was to extend the roofline to form verandahs on each side of the building. Both suggestions were incorporated into the final plans and made it possible in time to have a conservatory/cafe seating area as well as some protection from southerly winds on the other side.

Another suggestion came from Murray Kendon and others to create a generous foyer area. Other ideas were to separate the kitchen from the foyer by a hatch with a bench and a roller door; to consider carefully the size and height of the stage; to replace the suspended ceiling; to find a place for the baptismal pool; to build a mezzanine floor and for the young mothers to provide a place where babies could be changed and fed. It was agreed to site the car park on the side away from the prevailing wind and to request the Council to move the bus shelter from in front of the Church land to the east side of Rowan Street.

There were some suggestions that did not get included but were interesting ideas such as a curved feature wall built of river stones to face Dowse Drive and the possibility of modifying the building roofline and changing the windows by installing longer narrower ones to make the building look more like a modern Church.

The subject of much discussion was the location of a cross but surprisingly this was not resolved until the evening before the first service nineteen months later.

At the special meeting called to take place after the service on Sunday 18 August the members voted to go ahead with the purchase of the Railway Hall. On 23 August, the contract was signed, subject to the Resource Consent being approved.

It only took three weeks to get to this point, which was amazing for a Church group.

### **A Mortgage, Donations and 'Love offerings'**

The plan was to apply for a loan of \$250,000 from the Baptist Savings and Development Society for the \$100,000 purchase, the relocation cost, and Stage One of the renovations.

When it was later decided to continue with Stage Two, an additional \$100,000 was arranged with the Baptist and Savings Development Society. This organisation provides low cost finance to Churches without the assets or history to borrow from trading banks. The Baptist Savings and Development Society holds deposits from individuals and Churches and pays similar interest rates to what a bank would pay.

The Baptist Savings and Development Society were helpful and extremely encouraging to the Church. Without their support, the project would not have been possible. They were positive about the previous level of giving by the Church, especially as the first mortgage was repaid early and they felt that MBC warranted assistance although the financial position of the Church was described as 'borderline'.

Some Church members deposited interest free funds with the Society and this reduced by the equivalent amount the mortgage interest paid by the Church. For individuals who chose to do this, the interest foregone replaced some of their tithe. There were obvious benefits to both the Church and the individual with this arrangement. Some people still have money invested with the Society and this option is still available for anyone with any cash to invest.

The Baptist Savings and Development Society offered the loan, the Church members voted in favour of going ahead and the Council approved the 'non-notified' application. Prayer undergirded all that was happening and it was a very exciting time for the Church.

After the auditorium building was completed and opened, the Baptist Savings and Development Society made a DVD about their work and included interviews and film taken of the Maungaraki Baptist Church project.

In December 2002, the Church had a faith offering for the building and to make it different used some Resene 10 litre paint buckets to collect the donations. \$23,000 was raised with this first offering and additional amounts of around \$25,000 in subsequent offerings. The Auckland Baptist Tabernacle Trust gave a generous donation towards the project, as did the Wellington Baptist Association. The total cost of the purchase and restoration came to \$450,000 but the replacement value of the finished building is now much higher.

God's favour was on the Church and all the deadline dates were met. It seemed a miracle that the Hutt City Council accepted an application for a 'non-notified' Resource Consent to relocate the building to Dowse Drive. This was only possible as again the seventeen neighbours all signed the consent forms. There was a condition of the Resource Consent approval, which stipulated that the exterior of the building, including the painting and landscaping, must be completed within six months of the building being placed on the land. The next chapter looks at a little of the history of the old building that was to become the new Church auditorium.

## Chapter 31 – History of the Railway Social Hall and Locomotives

### Old Photos from Helen Bruce

NZ Railways drew up plans and started work on the Social Hall in 1927. It was completed in 1934, towards the end of the Great Depression and was a great venue for events such as Christmas parties, dances and farewells. During the 1930s, over two thousand people were employed at the Hutt Railway Workshops, and the company had a strong social life. Most of the employees would have been on shift work and a dance was a way to get everyone together. The Hall seated 200 comfortably with a dining room that could serve 500 people.

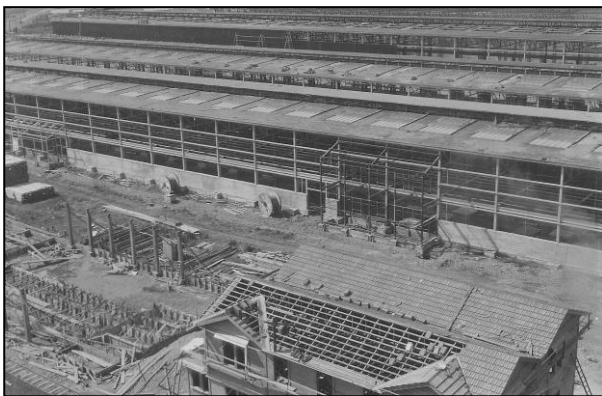
Helen Bruce, a resident from Dowse Drive, allowed us to copy these old photographs. Her Grandfather, Harry Thompson (6 Oct 1883 – April 1952) was the foreman and is seen in the photo wearing a bowler hat. He came to Lower Hutt in 1927 from Wanganui and was responsible to ensure that the building work met all the requirements of the NZ railways



**The Foreman wearing a bowler hat**



**The Hall with the Rimu pillars around 1928**



**The Railway Administration Building**



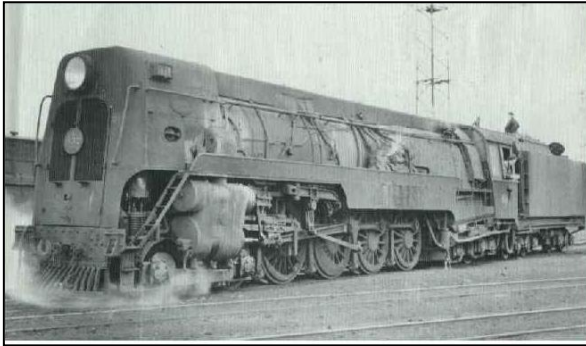
**Enlargement showing floor & Rimu pillars**

Inside the foyer at the Church Centre, there is a photo of a 'J' class engine pulling carriages in the Buller Gorge. The photo was taken by Roger Thomas and it was hung there as a reminder of the history of the building.

The Woburn Workshops were the main locomotive construction and repair centre for the North Island railway system. In the 1930's the 'Ja' class engines were made there. At first they were streamlined as in the first photo but later in the 1940's the streamlining was removed and the engines looked more like the second photo.



Both these engines were built at the Woburn railway Workshops. 1930 - 1940



'Ja' Class Engine with streamlining.



'Ja' Class Engine with streamlining removed

### The White Swan Hotel

N.Z. Railways had two buildings for sale at the Moera workshops yard. One was the Railway Social Hall under negotiation with the church and the other was the adjacent Administration building of two storeys. Both were built at the same time and in somewhat similar style.

The Administration building was relocated to Greytown. As it was being moved over the Rimutaka Hill Road, one of the six sections skewed off the transporter on a tight corner and teetered on the edge of the hill, closing the main road for eight hours. After restoration, the White Swan Hotel fits well into the 125-year-old Main Street of Greytown.



The Old Railway Administration Block is now the White Swan Hotel in Greytown

# Chapter 32 – Moera to Maungaraki

In 2002 the Hall was at that time the largest building that Chris Ellis of Alpha Specialised Movers had transported in the Hutt Valley. The building is 27.5 metres long and 15.5 metres wide and is 8 metres high.

After removing the roof tiles and the suspended ceiling to lighten the load, the interior was heavily braced and the roof covered with sheets of black polythene for the journey to Maungaraki. The structure was separated into three 10 metre x 15 metre sections, which were loaded onto three large multi-axle hydraulically operated trailers ready for the move.

The photos below show the Hall as it was being prepared for the move.



As the loads were oversize Chris Ellis had arranged for the route he planned to take to Maungaraki to be carefully measured. He had arranged for power lines to be temporarily taken down and traffic lights to be removed or manually operated. With the necessary permits in place, the move was planned to start at 3.00am on Sunday 24 November.



The procession set off from the site in Bell Road, Moera at 3.00 am and a several people from the Church gathered to watch the vehicles travel slowly along Parkside Road, over the Hutt River and along the Esplanade, into Cuba St and then Jackson Street, Petone. The units carefully negotiated the corner at the Petone Railway Station and the tricky S-bend leading onto the old Korokoro Bridge. They then turned onto the motorway and eventually slowly wound their way up Dowse Drive to Maungaraki.

As people walked or drove with the three vehicles, they took photos. Brian and Jo Peck filmed the move on a video camera and they remember how significant that night felt.

It was a strange sight to see these huge building sections weaving along Jackson Street to avoid the street lamps and trees. Cars were left parked at the side of the road and the hydraulic rams on the transporters lifted their loads up to clear the car roofs by a few centimetres. The engines of the large vehicles in crawler gear woke people living in the apartments above the Jackson Street Shops. They must have been very surprised as they looked out of the window at 4.00 a.m., to see building sections going by at almost the same level as they were. Maybe they thought they were dreaming.

A major delay occurred on the motorway. One section had some very heavy concrete at one end and to balance it on the transporter the building had to protrude more to one side than the other.



This had not been allowed for when planning the route and as that vehicle turned onto the motorway and began to move north towards Dowse Drive the apex of the roof became tangled with one of the motorway lamps.

The vehicle could not go forward or reverse and the Alpha staff climbed up on the building to remove some of the roofing timbers to free the load from the lamp. It was a tense moment as at the same time Chris Ellis was trying to deal with the traffic police who were asking to see the 'moving permits'. The motorway was closed for two hours longer than the permit stipulated.

The procession of buildings continued up Dowse Drive to Maungaraki. Some of the overhanging trees on Dowse Drive had been trimmed, to make room for the extra wide load to pass through. If the trailer had stopped for any reason, it could have been difficult for the heavy load to start again, especially around the junction with Bushey Way.

Arriving in Maungaraki



During the previous week, the site on the Church land had been levelled and the holes dug for the foundation piles. Rain had fallen during the week, the holes had filled with water, and the ground was very muddy.

## **What an Eyesore!**

The move from Moera to Maungaraki on 24 November 2002 had taken six hours. It took another hour to position the trailers onto the Church land and the journey was over.

Once the building was lowered, levelled and attached to the new foundations and the three sections joined back together, the contract with Alpha Building Removals Ltd was completed.

The Church people expecting to see the buildings on site had arrived early for the 10.00am service and were milling around thankful that the journey from Moera to Maungaraki had been successful. They had a vision in their minds of how the building would look when it was completed and they were optimistic and excited.

The reaction from the Community was not quite so positive. Maungaraki residents awoke to see the unexpected sight of three sections of tatty, yellow building perched on the land opposite the shops. As a 'non-notified' Resource Consent had been obtained and the move had taken place so quickly there had been little time for the news to get around. To be honest, the yellow painted building with broken windows, a rusty corrugated end wall and black polythene roof did look rather derelict.

The concern that this old building would affect property values was understandable and over the next few weeks, there were some strongly worded letters published in both the Hutt News and Maungaraki Views, neighbourhood newspapers. The Church decided it was better not to reply to those letters but to concentrate on getting on with the work as quickly as possible to meet the six-month deadline for the outside to be completed. As the Church volunteers quickly began to work on restoring the building, the comments from the community became increasingly positive.

It was only a matter of a few months before attitudes about the building changed and there was positive interest in the work that was going on as we joined the building together, re-roofed, re-painted, and landscaped the grounds. The author of the first 'letter of concern' to the local papers later wrote another letter saying how well the Church had done with the renovation, which was a lovely thing for that person to do.

## **God the Builder**

Earlier in 2001 and 2002, the Church notice board on the corner of Dowse Drive and Rowan Street displayed a variety of signs. As the building arrived on the land, there were two signs on the board, which read,

“God the Builder, Can He fix it? Yes He can”  
and  
“Take up the Challenge”

The person who had written and put up the sign, had done this before the Church had even heard about the Woburn Railway Hall being available. As the building arrived in Maungaraki, the sign was still there on the corner.

The words “Take up the Challenge” referred to the Christian newspaper The Challenge. The Maungaraki Youth Group purchased and delivered copies of this paper to every home in Maungaraki and Normandale earlier that year.

Both signs appropriately applied to the challenge that was ahead of the Church and many such God-incidences happened over the following eighteen months.



**“God the Builder Sign”**



**“Take up the Challenge” sign**



**The three sections reversed onto the Church land by 10.00 a.m. on 24 November 2002**



**People from Church and the community feeling either excitement or dismay**



**Jim McLean and Murray Kendon**



**The three sections joined back together**



Maungaraki Baptist Church plans to upgrade this former dance hall.

## Import from workshops dismays hills residents

BY SIMON EDWARDS

Some Maungaraki residents are dismayed by the arrival of a very large and scruffy building, deposited by trucks on land opposite the shopping centre last Wednesday.

The 5000 square metre former staff canteen and dance hall from the Woburn Railway Workshops is to be refurbished and used by the Maungaraki Baptist Church.

Local resident Bryan Fair called it a "crappy old building". In fax to the city council and the Hutt News, he wondered aloud why the community had bothered to fundraise so hard years ago for a modern community hall 200m further down the road "when the council allows this rubbish to be placed on our doorstep".

A senior planning officer, Robert Hayles, told him that no resource consent is needed to move a building within Hutt City. Officers introduced a variation to its District Plan to require such consent, but a majority of councillors voted against the proposal.

The building moved onto the site by the Baptist church involves "minor non-compliances" with excavation requirements, length adjacent to a residential boundary and a slight reduction in carparking. However consents from adjoining residential owners were obtained.

Council has imposed a condition that upgrading of the building be completed within six months.

We couldn't reach Pastor Jim McLean for comment by our deadline.

Maungaraki Community Association president Ken Howell said feedback he's received is dismay at the size of the building, that it appears out of character with other buildings in Maungaraki and that there appears little room for landscaping around it.

There's also some anger that there was minimal, if any, consultation with Maungaraki folk by the church.

"Some have said it should look nice when it's done up. But that doesn't change the size of it. It's so domineering," Mr Howell said.

experience

# Church

MAUNGARAKI

# Eyesore to asset

Once a railways dance hall, now a Maungaraki church...

BY PAULINE CLAYTON

"We're heavily into recycling," says Pastor Jim McLean of Maungaraki Baptist Church as he shows the *Hutt News* through the smart new eagle grey and white church, nearing completion on the corner of Dowse Drive and Rowan Street. "We recycle buildings," he said. "And we recycle people's lives."

On your left, as you enter the lobby, through two large aluminium double doors retrieved from Valentines Restaurant near the Basin Reserve, you'll see a wide ecclesiastical door rescued after the demolition of Laings Road Methodist Church.

Valentines double doors and windows are strongly evident in the north and west of the structure, with other double doors linking foyer to auditorium and the west-facing conservatory, and large windows letting light and warmth into auditorium and conservatory.

As Pastor McLean conducts the *Hutt News* reporter across the double sprung floor of the new auditorium - in years gone by a vibrant centre of fun and hospitality as Woburn Railway Workshops canteen and social hall - he points out more Hutt Valley history: three timber doors being

prepared for a new life in the church, after fire cost them their part in the refurbishment of Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club.

When finished, the church will accommodate 300 people in comfort, plus 50 more in three meeting rooms upstairs in the mezzanine floor, with ample capacity to feed and refresh them in the commercial style kitchen adjoining the foyer.

With such an attractive result, it's hard to remember the howls of dismay which echoed round the hills when the old social hall first arrived, unannounced, on the empty site.

It was less than a year ago, on a November night, that three housemoving trucks made their way up Maungaraki hill carrying a cargo destined for a corner site over the road from Maungaraki Shopping Centre.

With hindsight, the Baptists acknowledge there could have been more communication with those living nearby and the busy shopping centre.

"They didn't know what we knew," says Pastor Jim McLean, musing that anyone seeing the arrival, seven years before, of a tatty building destined to become the church



It looks brand new but its 'bones' are decades old - Pastor Jim McLean and project manager Chris Dugdale outside the dance hall refurbished as a Baptist church.

office, would have known they would do a good job.

Instead, when the tacky yellow building arrived onsite, Mangaraki residents howled in derision, with one man demanding a rebate on his rates!

Undeterred, under volunteer project manager and parishioner Chris Dugdale, whose only experience was renovating old villas, they set about refurbishing the hall, with the help of PD workers, trades group Mobile Mission Maintenance, electrician Ted Thomas and parish volunteers. Each took a few of the dip-stripped sash windows home and repainted them before they were reglazed with stronger 4mm Maungaraki-style glass.

With landscaping and gardens currently being planted and much finishing left to do, the overall cost looks set to approach \$400,000, a far cry from the \$1 million-plus the building would have cost new.

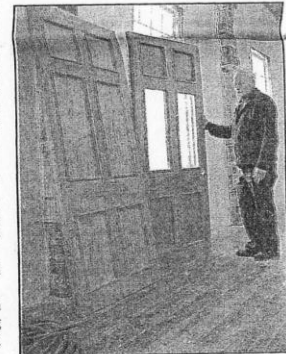
But what made them decide to go ahead now?

Churchpeople believe they received a sign from God. They had prayed for a building measuring 26m long and 16 metres wide. Exactly one week after paying off the mortgage on the adjoining office, Alpha House Removals offered them the hall.

"It was 27 by 15. We believe it was meant

to be," Mrs Dugdale said.

With about three months to go before the grand opening, Maungaraki Baptists are confirmed in their belief that when God's people step out in faith, all things tend to work together for good.



Two of the three doors destined for refurbishment of the Upper Hutt Cossie Club. A fire there put paid to those plans.

## Baptist Church

Hello Ken,

We would like to endorse all that Stephanie Dobbs wrote about the impressive building added to the Baptist Church complex. Our congratulations, also, to the team who have kept at it to bring it in line with other village buildings. The colour choice is superb, blending nicely into its surroundings.

We would also like to thank the owners for the interest created the morning the three bits were trundled up the hill, the trucks so skillfully driven to miss cars and lamp posts.

The building is of special interest to me as my grandfather, I believe, supervised the building of the Woburn workshops, probably starting in 1927. I have photos of the progress of the project, including one of a similar building to our local one. I imagine it is the one in Greytown.

Ken, we really enjoy the fruits of your labour.

Thank you.

**Helen Bruce**

**Dowse Drive.**

The first is in Maungaraki, where the locals shuddered when the shabby Railways Social Hall was moved onto the Baptist section opposite the shops without any prior announcement about its future. Its transformation, like a soul redeemed from sinner to saint, has been interesting and a relief no doubt to the suburb. As they say, full credit.

## Baptist Church

Hello Ken

I am a relative new comer to the area but thought I would like to make a comment in the Maungaraki Views anyway.

Credit where it is due.

On arrival in this area I read quite a bit of "bad press" regarding the new Hall across the road from our little shopping area. Today I walked by and couldn't help but be impressed by the difference in the hall between then and now.

What was a large 'yellow' elephant is now a nicely painted, re-roofed, impressive building, in the process of being landscaped.

I think it sits well on the site and I am pleased to say *enhances* the area. As opposed to earlier thoughts that it might lower values it may well increase them.

Well done to the team of hardy workers.

**Stephanie Dobbs**

**Oakleigh Street.**



## Chapter 33 – Renovating and ‘God-incidences’

It is hard to explain that some of the things that happen in our lives are more than just coincidences. Sometimes they seem like random occurrences, but the events described in this story point to something bigger. God is intimately involved in the lives of those He created and He is a God who responds to prayer. When something happens that we know is more than a co-incidence, we refer to it as a 'God-incidence.'

It is difficult to describe in writing how the Church experienced God's help during the following eighteen months of the renovations. The correlation between the prayers of the Church and the answers from God were greater than would normally happen by chance and the Church knew that a supernatural God was helping them.

God brought the people, materials, and the timing of things together in such a way that it was beyond what was naturally possible. The strength to keep going often came from the joy and excitement when people experienced those times of knowing that God was involved and was really answering their prayers.

During the eighteen months it took to complete the renovations, Chris was often there from early morning through to the early evening. The tradesmen would arrive around 7.30 a.m. and after they left there was sweeping up and the planning for the next day to do.

Chris and Warwick lived in Whitby in 2002, and as Chris drove over Haywards Hill each morning, she would often pray for help with the jobs that seemed at times daunting. Chris would ask in detail about anything specific needed for the renovations or that the timing of a task would work out.

Chris said,

*“I cannot prove that God heard and answered those prayers but it certainly seemed that when I prayed there were definitely answers. At night, when I was driving home I was often be saying a thank you for the way things had worked out that day.”*

The following chapters are about the people who worked on the building, the materials we used and the ‘God Stories’ that happened every day as we all worked together to complete the Maungaraki Baptist Church Centre.

### The Roof

McKenzie Higham the architects had specified that as the building was in a high wind zone the roof structure would have to be strengthened even though it originally been built to support the original heavy clay roofing tiles. We needed builders and they were not easy to find. Neville Blair put Chris in touch with Grant Osborne and Gary Stokes who were able to start almost immediately. They were the ones who led the first major onslaught on the restoration work.

Sometimes architects and builders see things differently and this happened from time to time. The architect had specified a fixing method for which the screws alone cost \$5000. Our builders suggested an alternative fixing for the roof and a cost saving was made in the re-design. The Triple ‘S’ sheets suggested by Sue Martin were placed over the roof frame and thick 3.4 rating pink roofing batts were installed for maximum insulation. The roof frame was certainly substantial and sparked comments that the Church was building “an ark”.

Finally, Brocklesby's cut to size and DB Roofing installed the Karaka Coloursteel long run roofing to replace the seventy-year-old tiles and the temporary black polythene.



The heavy tiles were removed from the Railway Hall and replaced with black polythene



After the move from Moera to Maungaraki a new roof was the first priority



Building an 'ark'- being in a high wind zone meant that the roof had to be strengthened



The dormer window lets in more light

The new coloursteel roof is in place

Graeme Want helped with the roof strengthening and worked with Grant, each carrying one end of the heavy timbers, walking in step with each other as they moved along the roof.

Graeme Want was made redundant about this time. He said,

*“Leaving work and not having something to do would have been very difficult. Working on the Church building gave me a lot of satisfaction, it gave me a reason to get out of bed and do something useful each day. The social side was good, meeting all sorts of different people. The timing was perfect as it gave me time to transition from working in a full time career into a more family orientated, satisfying, sociable lifestyle with a different pace. It allowed me time to prepare for the next stage and without that time of transition, it would have been quite a shock. I learnt new skills and improved my painting skills. Afterwards, our move to live in Masterton was just the best thing to happen.*

*When you think about it, I could have been made redundant the year before or I could have kept going another year but I had decided that this was the time to go. It was God’s timing. I could work at my own pace as a semi-retired person. It was a fantastic wind-down time and satisfying to do something manual and make something with my hands.”*

From the point of view of the Church project, God’s timing for Graeme could not have been better either and we were very grateful that he could help on the project almost every day.

After building the roof frame, Grant and Gary took out windows, removed the old stage, installed the front entrance and foyer doors and the two new windows upstairs. They repaired the joins where the building had been cut both on the exterior and the inside floor. They worked on putting in the upstairs room and the kitchen windows. Gary introduced Trevor Bell into the team working on the building when extra help was required.

The Church needed all the help they could get and Bruce McFetridge from Harvest Life Church introduced some of the men from the Naenae Church. There was Arona (often called Sai), Macka, Taff, and Barney. These men gave all they could in a practical way to help with God’s work. Sai especially, shared some interesting ‘God stories’. They put aside other jobs to come and help when required and the Church was thankful.

## **Painting**

Choosing the colours was a challenge. It was confusing listening to a consultant explaining that, “the colours are talking to one another and they bring an ambience”. A number of test pots were tried and there were many opinions what colour to use.

Chris’s daughter Fiona visited the site one day at a time when the table was full of colour swatches and they were trying to decide on the exterior colour. Fiona immediately pointed to a small strip of colour on one of the Resene charts called ‘Eagle’ which ‘jumped out at her’ and the decision was made.

There were many favourable comments from other Churches and individuals about the colour chosen and a church in Miramar as well as some homes in the area later used it. Fiona was invited to help choose the interior colours and Resene ‘Buttercup’, ‘Half Pearl Lustre’ and ‘Light Admiralty Grey’ were chosen. The latter is the blue/green colour that matches the ex-Valentines windows, which happily did not require repainting. It seemed that everything else did need painting and it was a long hard task.

Paint stripping, hammering in nails, filling the holes, sanding, on and on it went. Inside and outside, upstairs and downstairs, the task seemed endless. The cracks between the weatherboards had to be filled before the primer and undercoat could be applied.

Several coats of lead paint applied over the years covered the Matai weatherboard exterior of the building. The company 'City Strippers' professionally stripped the building of this paint right back to the bare timber. Facemasks and goggles were worn and the yellow paint flakes collected with a vacuum cleaner at the end of each day.

John McKnight from Lower Hutt was employed to mask and spray paint the exterior top coat. He also arranged for the Church to hire a scaffold tower from a friend.



### **Paint stripping, and volunteers filling the cracks in the old weatherboards**

Graeme Want remembers the difficulty he had painting the high apex of the gable above the door between the foyer and the auditorium. He placed a ladder on top of the scaffold and by standing up high on the ladder and using the very tip of the paintbrush, he was just able to reach, with great satisfaction, the peak eight metres above the floor. Jim also worked off the ladder on the scaffold, to paint the metal brackets that joined the beams together.

Another day Murray brought a long ladder so they could reach the highest areas. Jim remembers insisting on going up the ladder, as he knew Murray would otherwise have attempted that job.

On another occasion, Murray recalls standing on the top ledge of the scaffold and holding the ladder whilst Jim was climbing up. No one could have been very conscious of the requirements of Occupational Health and Safety, or they would have probably found a safer way.

## The Project and the Mortgage Grew

The 'Stage One' plan of the building project was to complete the exterior, have the building watertight and to provide the toilets. The Church could then have moved into the building.

'Stage Two' was going to be completed later and was to include the foyer, kitchen and the finishing work. However, it was soon realised that it was not going to be possible to separate the two stages and that additional money would have to be borrowed.

The end wall next to the car park had been closed off with a section of corrugated iron where a lean-to kitchen had previously been. On each side of the iron were narrow timber doors and above the iron was a window that was beyond repair. Once these were removed, there was almost no wall left. The wall had to be strengthened by installing steel uprights and beams and at the same time, other posts and beams were installed to create the mezzanine floor and upstairs room over the foyer area. Holes had to be cut in the timber floor and foundations dug to support the steel work. That was not an easy task and Arona did much of this digging in a cramped space. The temporary exterior wall was then completed with matching weatherboards, made by Cedarcorp.

The first set of plans from the architect had included a kitchen and bathroom area with the stairs to the mezzanine commencing from within the foyer area. This plan would have reduced the foyer size and there would have been considerable noise disturbance between the kitchen and upstairs. After taking measurements and doing some drawings Chris worked out that it was possible to place the stairs over the toilet area to make the foyer a better size. She also added into the plans the bathroom on the stair landing and the large storage cupboards that in the initial plans had been shown as 'void' areas. At first, the architect would not believe that re-locating the stairs was possible due to the restricted headroom but with one centimetre of headroom to spare, Chris's idea was adopted.

The dormer window installed into the roof added a great view of the harbour as well as letting in more light into the upstairs room. When working on the frame with the iron not yet in place a strong southerly storm began blowing rain into the building. Jim McLean and Graeme Want climbed up onto the roof in an attempt to fix a polythene sheet to keep out the rain. Jim tells the story,

*"People must have thought we had lost our senses, we were hanging outside, legs wrapped around where the window sill was going to be, lying on our backs with a staple gun, trying to make the polythene sheeting stay up. However, it was not very successful!"*

## Ceiling

Once the suspended ceiling was removed, it was discovered that the rafters and sarking had been spray painted black some time in the past. "Steam and Sand Ltd" a company from Porirua came to the rescue and sandblasted the paint from the inside of the roof revealing again the natural timber colours of the Rimu sarking and Oregon beams.

The sand blasting machinery was noisy and the job took a week to complete. At the end of each day, the floor was rather like Petone Beach. A number of different people turned up each evening to scoop the blasting sand into containers ready to be recycled and used again the next day. Graeme, some of the Leach family, Brian Peck and probably others helped with this very dirty and dusty task. There was a residue of sand left along the Oregon beams. Brian and Jeremy Peck climbed up onto the beams and walked along them to sweep off the sand. The result of the sandblasting was worth the effort, especially at night when the 'up-lighters' were turned on.



The wall that needed to be re-built



Waiting for the weatherboard to arrive



Steel posts and beams around the stage



Steel posts and beams supporting upstairs



The Rimu ceiling after sand blasting



The Rimu ceiling and Oregon beams



The sandblasted ceiling with up lighters on



Many hours spent de-nailing timber

## Windows

Many of the windows were in bad shape and much discussion took place on whether to replace them. The old double hung windows had character with the advantage that when they were open they did not protrude onto the walkways. The decision was to restore them and they were removed and taken to the workshop of 'City Strippers' where they were dipped in a large tank of acid to remove the old paint. Unfortunately, the 'dip-stripping', as it is called, does not remove all the paint and so many arduous hours were required to scrape and sand the 32 Totara window sashes before repainting began. It was a daunting task but Andrew, the owner of the 'dip stripping' firm offered the use of the workshop.

Rex Johns, a friend of Chris and Warwick, called in to see them when he was travelling through Wellington on his way home to Nelson. When he saw what a huge job we had he decided to break his journey and lend a hand for three days. The timing was perfect and it seemed to be another God-incidence and an answer to prayer. Rex came at just the right time and the Church appreciated all the hard work he did. Rex would have arrived home in Nelson with very sore fingers after working for three days scraping and sanding the sashes.

Graeme Want took a number of the frames home to paint and would work either inside or outside the garage and put them in a line along his fence to dry. Chris also took some frames home and the three Dugdale daughters helped quite late at night after finishing their homework. One night, they were told they could not go to bed until they had finished painting the frame they were working on, as Chris was so determined to get them finished. Almost everyone helped to sand, repair, fill, or paint those double hung sashes. What a task it was to paint the bare timber with the four coats of paint.



**Kath, Gaynor, Jim, Brian and Julie Green**



**Hilary, Lisa and Emma**



**Murray, Colin and Graeme's window**



**Wendy Garlick, Julie Green, Fiona Coughlan**

Murray Kendon who had retired from a desk job in 2001 at the age of 84 spent many hours working on window frames that could not be removed from the building. The long window facing Dowse Drive was one of Murray's contributions. He painstakingly removed the old putty, stripped, sanded, and polyurethaned or painted the frames.

It was a labour of love, as Murray knew that Chris wanted to keep the character of the original window. With seven frames, each with twelve small panes there was 84 small windowpanes. Graeme Want and Colin Tinker helped Murray to get the job completed and Graeme remembers feeling very pleased with the high gloss they achieved using a different polyurethane to withstand the strong sun on that end of the building.

The original 3mm glass in the windows was replaced with a heavier glass 4mm thick. Double hung windows slide up and down inside channels in the window jambs with a system of ropes, pulleys, and iron weights. The weight of the window sash on one end of the rope balances with an iron weight on the other end. Once re-glazed with the heavier glass the original 11-pound weights would not hold the windows open. Chris visited almost every building recycler in the Wellington area and eventually found sufficient of the heavier sash weights for all of the windows. She knows that she was led by God to some of the places where she either purchased or swapped the lighter weights for the heavier weights.

At last, the refurbished windows were back in place. No one wanted to think ahead to the day when the windows would need painting again. The memory of the work on the windows and the effort to complete that task is inseparable from the people who worked on it.

## **Walls**

After the removal of the old roofing tiles, the building was protected with a temporary cover of polythene sheeting until the new roof was put on. It was particularly wet that year and rain leaked through the polythene damaging beyond repair the fibrous plaster on the internal walls. Although it was an additional and unexpected cost to replace the wall linings, there was a good outcome as the insurance company paid a sum towards the rain damage.

With the framing exposed, the opportunity was taken to rewire the building and insulate the walls with thick pink batts. Later we realised that it would have been impossible to do a complete rewire of the building if the wall linings had not been removed. In our initial enthusiasm to have a place of our own to meet, and with limited funds, we had planned to use the building as a 'closed in shell' for some time. Thankfully God was in charge and not us and once again, we experienced that "God works all things together for good." Romans 8:28

Graeme Want with some helpers spent a week pulling from the walls the old wet fibrous plaster linings and loading it into several skips. The hardest part was pulling thousands of nails out of the timber framing after removing the plaster. It took days to remove those nails and clean up the surfaces ready for the new GIB board.

The decision was taken to expose the 300 x 300 millimetre heart Rimu pillars that were previously hidden by the fibrous plaster and to integrate them into the overall project as design features. The pillars were rough sawn; the cuts were still visible and it took many hours of work to sand them smooth. People used belt and orbital sanders, as well as sanding by hand. The smoother they were, the better they looked when varnished. Graeme, Jim and anyone else available, including some of the Community work teams helped with the preparation of the pillars.





**Rimu pillars: Before ....**

**and after.**

### **Doors**

Three additional doors were needed. One for the bottom of the stairs, one for the library and one for the sound equipment room. Chris and Jim had the idea to go to 'The Ironman', a second hand yard in Upper Hutt where they found three suitable Rimu doors originally in the Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club. After hours of sanding they were hung in place.



**Joan Hart sanding one of the doors**



**Mike Prasad with MMM volunteers**



**Fiona Coughlan and a volunteer from Hope Centre painting the doors upstairs. On the right, one of the original doors after being stripped and polyurethaned.**



## **Pink Batts, GIB Board and GIB Stopping**



**Mike Prasad, Colin Tinker and Colin Garlick**



**Pink Batts and Valentines frames**



**Starting to fix the GIB board**



**The GIB stopping completed, ready to paint**

When companies in the Hutt Valley, became aware of the project they really seemed to go out of their way to help. Time and time again, there was a sense of God's guidance when searching for the materials required to complete the project.

As the old building had been constructed using imperial rather than metric measurements it was better to use uncut batts as they could be cut to the right size using a Stanley knife and a long aluminium bar. Forman Insulation in Petone had a surplus supply of uncut pink batts which they offered to sell to the Church at a very reasonable price.

Graeme, Mike, Warwick, and Jim with help from the Mobile Mission Maintenance volunteers (MMM) installed the pink batts, and patiently put up with the irritated eyes, itchy skin and having to wear the protective gear that made them look like spacemen. There is more about the MMM team later in this story.

The next challenge was to put up the GIB board. This was not an easy task as some of the walls were higher than could safely be reached from the mobile scaffold tower and there was very little experience amongst the team of Church volunteers. There was another answer to prayer when Richard Crawford, a builder who was associated with MMM came with some of his employees and with the help of a GIB lifter put up the very heavy sheets on the ceiling above and around the stage area.

It was decided that 'soundproof' batts and 'noiseline' GIB board would be used for two reasons. One so that road noise would not be a distraction during the services and also so that any loud music would not disturb the neighbours. A 'GIB quiet zone' wall surrounds the stage area. Two sheets of GIB board were placed on one side of the wall, one layer horizontally and the other vertically with one sheet on the other side of the framing and noise-absorbing batts in between. Any small gaps were completely sealed and acoustic noise blocking seals were used around the doors.

It was additional work but it was decided to 'do it once and do it right' and that the benefits of this noise control would be worth the effort and small extra expense. The wall between the auditorium and the upstairs room was especially well soundproofed by adding extra polystyrene and noise absorbing batts so it could be used during service times.

Once Richard Crawford had finished the stage area, a way had to be found to install the rest of the GIB board. It was difficult, especially as in the enthusiasm to have the building well insulated, too many pink batts had been 'stuffed' into the walls. Some of the extra batts had to be removed before the sheets of GIB could be fixed in place.

A number of people helped with the GIB board fixing but it still took weeks before the interior lining was all in place. Then it was time to find a plasterer. After praying that God would find the right person, someone gave Chris the name of Ernie Minot a tradesman from Upper Hutt Christian Fellowship. He took the project on, did a great job, and fitted in really well with the group of volunteers. Ernie is remembered for his 'wise sayings' and as Chris rushed around trying to get two things done at once, he would say ... 'you don't have to run, life is too short' to which Chris would reply, 'no... life is too short, not to run.'

### **Planning the space inside the building.**

At some stage along the way the layout of the ground floor of the new building was taped out on the floor of the Community Centre so that everyone could see the size of the lobby and the kitchen and toilets. It seemed to be the best way to present it to everyone.

## Chapter 34 – The Valentines Restaurant Story

The Valentines story is about the amazing provision of God. It demonstrates how His provision made it possible to complete the church building and with His perfect timing. This was the most exciting of all the Church building 'God-incidences' and the one Chris was most looking forward to recording when she started writing this journey nine months ago.

As related earlier Chris first met Brian Kelly in 1994 when she began the search for the administration building. Their paths did not cross for nine years. However, God's timing is always accurate and one Saturday morning as she took one of her daughters to the dentist early in 2003 she recognized Brian Kelly standing on the pavement in Laing's Road.

Over the previous week, she had been pondering over what to do for the main entrance door for the new building. Jim and Chris were thinking that one wide set of doors would be more suitable for weddings and funerals than the planned two sets of double doors which would cost \$5,000. The plan was to look for second hand aluminium doors from building recyclers.

After saying 'hello' and 'it's been years since I've seen you', Chris asked, "Do you know of any doors for sale?" It was straight to the point, as this question was uppermost in her mind on that particular weekend.

To Chris's delight, Brian said that he had a door she could look at immediately. It was the front timber door of the Methodist Church. The Church was about to be demolished to make way for the new Briscoes and Rebel Sports stores in Lower Hutt. It was a beautiful, large solid looking rimu door and the price asked was \$300. There was no hesitation as Chris said straight away that she would take it. This door now hangs between the foyer and the stairs. Chris then told Brian that she was looking for a set of aluminium doors and asked if he knew of any for sale. Brian suggested looking at the Valentines restaurant in Basin Reserve in Wellington. The building was to be demolished the following week and had a set of double aluminium doors that could be purchased if Chris could arrange to remove them before the demolition. They did not discuss the price as he said to decide first if they were suitable.

Chris and Warwick went into Wellington to check out the doors. The Valentines restaurant had only been open for six or seven years and was closed to make way for student accommodation buildings. The Restaurant had operated up until Christmas Eve 2002, and it looked as if the owners had just walked out without cleaning anything.

However, what Chris and Warwick saw on that first visit were some aluminium doors and windows.... and then more aluminium doors and windows, and Chris probably exclaimed, "Wow" about twenty times.

She quickly rang Brian Kelly and said she was very interested in the doors but that she needed to know the price and asked if more than one set was for sale. He explained that if she wanted them she would have to arrange to get them out within the following two or three days before demolition commenced. She agreed to return on the Monday with others from the Church and then discuss the price once she knew how many they wanted.

On the Monday morning, Chris made a list of the items she wanted at Valentines. A memory from childhood came back to Chris, of a time she had entered a competition. She did not win, but remembered imagining how much fun it would have been to have won the prize which was to go into a toyshop with a trolley and everything she could grab off the shelves within a minute was hers. As she made a list of everything that could be used at the church, it was as if she had won that prize years later.

The list included:

- Three sets of double aluminium doors with handles and locks
- One single aluminium door with handles and a lock.
- Two sets of double internal wooden doors with locks
- Several single internal wooden doors
- At least eight toilet bowls and cisterns, two for handicapped people.
- Several ceramic washbasins
- Fire alarms and some wiring
- A huge amount of carpet
- Forty (or more) shop front aluminium frames complete with toughened glass
- A variety of odd shaped aluminium frames
- Six small aluminium windows.

The details of the price for each individual item has faded from memory but a price was given for each item and Chris was told that she could pay whatever the total came to once everything was removed. The building would then be bulldozed. She decided she was going to get everything on the list, as she was sure there would be a use for it. Not everyone was quite as enthusiastic as Chris was or perhaps realised at that stage the extent of her plans.

The first task was to remove the toilets and washbasins and that Monday afternoon Graeme Want with someone else returned to Wellington to make a start. The toilets were really dirty and disgusting and it was one of the worst jobs undertaken. However, the men came home triumphant. Having unscrewed eight complete toilets from the floor and wall, retrieved several washbasins and some fire alarm sirens, Graeme said later that he had not realised how easily a toilet could be removed. The hardest part was getting the floor screws out.

On the Tuesday, a carpet-cleaning firm was employed to shampoo the carpet after it had been cleared of the debris and swept. Murray, Graeme, Christine, Julie, Margaret, Warwick and Chris were there for the day. The demolition crew had already made a start at taking the building apart and the team had to wear facemasks, and the hard hats were compulsory.

Chris managed to track down the Paraparaumu Company who made the aluminium joinery six years before. They agreed to send two men on the Wednesday to remove all they could in the time available and charge an hourly rate. She also arranged for a glazing company to be there at the same time to remove the glass from the shop front frames. A number of helpers from Church were to take out the rubber strips that held the glass in place and all windows and glass were numbered to match up later. With everything arranged, the Church was asked to pray.

It was a 7.00am start for what was a very full and successful day. Everyone worked together and managed to remove everything possible. At 6.00pm, Chris was struggling to take out the last window frame. Someone said to leave it as we had enough but she took it anyway and that window is now in place at the Dowse Drive end of the conservatory.

The men from the aluminium Company estimated that the aluminium joinery would have originally cost over \$40,000 to manufacture. The glass, much of it 6-8mm toughened or laminated glass would have also cost about \$40,000 when it was installed. The rest of the items such as the toilets and washbasins probably would have valued originally around \$20,000.

It had taken less than a week from the time Chris met Brian Kelly on the Saturday until we had all the doors and windows by Wednesday evening. A week before it was looking as if the front entrance doors alone were going to cost \$5000 but here we had \$100,000 worth of materials.

We were asked to pay the demolition company \$3,400.

Can you imagine how excited we were?

Almost everything that came from Valentines was used somewhere in the building. A set of double doors for the main entrance, another set, along with windows frames for the wall between the auditorium and the foyer, and two sets for the conservatory. The double wooden doors were used to create cupboards in the upstairs roof space and other doors used for toilets, bathrooms and a cleaner's cupboard. The conservatory was completely closed in with the 'Valentine' window frames. There were sufficient toilet pans and washbasins to complete all of the toilet areas. The smaller windows were used in the kitchen and other areas.

There was no doubt in anyone's mind that God was behind the Valentine's acquisition and it was probably the most exciting of the times when God provided the materials or labour required. The saving to the Church was close to \$100,000. Added to that the completion of the building was probably brought forward by at least twelve months.

The next page of photos were taken at the Basin Reserve Valentines Restaurant after it had closed and when the crew from the Church were preparing to remove as much as they could. The top four photos show,

1. The restaurant before it was demolished
2. The shop front frames stacked up in the Church building
3. The front door that we now have in the Church
4. Murray, Julie and Christine Want sweeping the floor wearing hats and face masks.



The bottom four photos. Top Left: Chris Top Right: Graeme, Christine, Warwick, Murray and Julie Bottom Left: Jim, Graeme, and Warwick enjoying a cup of coffee Bottom Right: Graeme helping remove the glass.

By Thursday, all of the 'rescued' items had been delivered to Maungaraki and a team of volunteers had begun to clean the aluminium frames, doors, toilets and washbasins.

Margaret, Julie, Minnie, Wendy, Gaynor and others scrubbed everything with hot soapy water. It was quite a job but they came up looking almost like new.

Grant Osborne, the builder who was helping with the roof had connections with Bathroom Solutions and the heavy glass sheets were stored in racks at their premises until needed.

The following photos show how the frames and glass were used.



**The Valentines frames used in the porch**



**The Valentines frames in the conservatory and the window at the end we rescued from being bulldozed.**



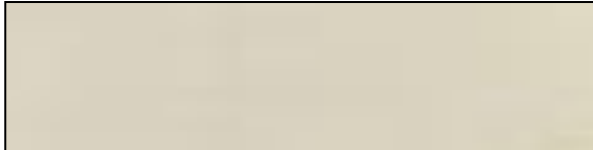
**The outside of the conservatory**



**Murray Kendon and Ann Parker**



**Light Admiralty Grey**



**Eagle**



## **Chapter 35 – MMM or Mobile Mission Maintenance Team**

MMM is a faith mission with the purpose to build, renovate, and maintain properties connected with Christian activity. Their labour is given free of charge and their ministry is to display the love of God in a practical way as they work alongside people during a project.

Chris had applied to MMM for help knowing that they had many such requests but were unable to accept them all. MMM seek to help ministries or churches that have an outreach focus. Whether it was the fact that the Church had been involved with the setting up of a number of King's Kids teams in the Wellington area, or that God just impressed on them that they were to come and help no one knew. The Church was so thankful that MMM answered our call and sent a team of eight volunteers to assist at Maungaraki. They arrived in April and gave much needed impetus, allowing the second major thrust forward, five months into the project when everyone was weary and enthusiasm beginning to wane.

Families in the Church provided the MMM Team accommodation and meals and some took time off from their regular employment to work alongside the MMM team over the four weeks they were on site. One MMM couple had a caravan and lived in the church car park during their stay. They remained to help for another ten days after the main team had moved on.

The MMM team and the Church volunteers would come together each day for a time of Bible reading, prayer and fellowship at morning teatime. This often involved sharing stories about how God had answered prayers in a miraculous way on previous assignments.

Before they arrived, the MMM team had asked that someone in our Church would take charge of planning for each day's work and organising the materials so that their team could make the most of the time they had. They really wanted an experienced builder but we did not have any tradesmen in the Church. MMM were a little hesitant when Chris told them she was the project manager. However, she made sure the materials required were always on hand along with a long list of jobs to be undertaken and it all worked out fine.

The initial building phase had seen the sections of the building joined, the roof completed and the exterior painting almost done. The old fibrous plaster had been stripped and the original stage removed. The windows were back in place and the framing for the mezzanine and upstairs rooms were built.

However, there was still a daunting task still ahead. The building was a watertight but empty shell. There was not enough money in the fund to pay a builder to finish the work. The small team of Church volunteers were very weary when the MMM team of eight arrived at Maungaraki and things took off again.

The MMM team built the new stage, drilled holes, pulled electric cables through, installed pink batts, built partitions, worked on the mezzanine and upstairs rooms and conservatory amongst many other things and laid the concrete for the conservatory floor and outside paths.

During the weeks the MMM team were at the Church, Minnie, Kath, Angela, Betty, Margaret, Julie plus others provided the daily lunches and morning and afternoon teas. In between meal times, this group of Church volunteers also helped with the cleaning, sweeping, and whatever else there was to do. It was a time for 'all hands on deck.'

## Photos of MMM (Mobile Mission Maintenance) at Maungaraki Baptist Church



**Colin and Barbara and their caravan**



**Colin at work on the large saw bench**



**The stage built by the MMM Team**



**The verandah before the conservatory was constructed by MMM**



**Margaret Pennington**



**Wendy Garlick**

Margaret and Wendy were part of the team of willing volunteers who turned their hands to whatever job needed doing.

Wendy was asked for some memories of the building project and one of the things she remembered was that Chris would only allow everyone ten minutes for morning and afternoon tea!

The visit from the MMM team was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the project and for those involved, one of those special times they will never forget.

## Conservatory

The existing roofline was extended to form an open verandah. The plan was to close it in later to make a conservatory. This met with some resistance at first, as there was so much else to finish, but when Chris had heard that David Halse of the MMM team had previously worked with aluminium frames, she asked him to help.

David began by installing a concrete base and then slotted the Valentines frames between the posts. He adjusted the width of some of them to make them fit. The amazing thing was that it seemed as if God had gone ahead and provided exactly the correct number of window frames, as well as just the right people to fit them. It definitely felt like more than a coincidence.

The row of three windows removed from Valentines was placed in the end wall to complete the conservatory. A special protective film was attached to the inside of the windows to meet the council safety standards. Venetian blinds were hung, the carpet was laid, and the next task was to find some tables and chairs.

The Mitre 10 cafe in Crofton Downs was closing and Warwick and Chris just 'happened' to see in the newspaper an advertisement to sell their chattels. They were able to buy at a very good price, all the tables and chairs along with the ceiling fans. Once again, God was leading.



**Julie Green and Betty Cobb cleaning tables**



**The conservatory on Open Day**



**Minnie, Angela, and Margaret**



**Margaret Pennington and Jim McLean**

## Chapter 36 – Volunteers

### Church Volunteers

Graeme Want, Murray Kendon, John Hazael, Warwick Dugdale, and Jim McLean were at the building site almost every day helping with the work.

Almost everyone else in the Church helped at the Saturday 'working bees'. It is not possible to mention everyone individually, but some of the volunteers have contributed their memories of the building project seven years ago.

Murray retired from the work force in 2001 at the age of 84 and was still very able and fit. His 'inventor' approach allowed him to work out whatever was required and come up with a solution. For example, he spent several days finding the cause of some leaks occurring in the conservatory windows and patiently fixed them.

When Ted Davies came as a volunteer to do the electrical work, Murray was his 'apprentice'. Although Murray was not a qualified electrician, he was knowledgeable through his work with Zip Industries. He had invented water boilers for sinks and black heaters and the Church is fitted with a more modern version of these black heaters today.

Murray seemed drawn towards any job that was up the 3-metre ladder or up on the scaffold, although most of the volunteers, including his wife Minnie, would have preferred him to work on the ground. Many times, he would go up the ladder to fix something and when he came down, the ladder scraped on the floor as he dragged it along to the next window. More than once on hearing this scraping sound, people would turn around, worried that Murray might have fallen off.

Murray and John Hazael would work together on the scaffold. When something was dropped or a tool had to be found, they would joke about whose 'turn' it was to climb down to fetch the item and then back up onto the scaffold.

Minnie often came to help in the kitchen or brought some of her baking for the morning teas.

Minnie remembers,

*"My best memory is of being in the kitchen with Betty, Margaret, and Kath, providing the lunches for the MMM team. There was always morning teas to prepare for whoever was working there, the Church volunteers, the teams from Rimutaka prison, the builders, the electrician Ted and whoever else turned up to give a hand each day.*

*I remember cleaning all the toilets that we bought from Valentines. They needed a lot of cleaning, as did the aluminium doors and windows. I worked with Margaret on a table we set up outside. Later, I helped to fix up the brown chairs we were given. Having a time of prayer each morning with the MMM team was one of the highlights as it brought everyone together.*

*It is a great building and it all came together so well. It was what the people put into it that made it so good. When we take people there they still say what a lovely asset the building is for the Church and the community."*

Fiona Coughlan said,

*"I remember painting both inside and outside, scraping windows, cleaning the dishwasher, and taking down morning teas on Saturdays and Chris keeping us focused."*

Gaynor Tinker said,

*"I would turn up at the building site and wonder what particular new 'God story' Chris would have. So much seemed to happen in the way of God and His provision of the materials and other things we needed. Everyone gave a hand. I remember, gloved up and clothes peg on nose!, scrubbing out the second hand toilet plumbing, sanding and painting walls, providing fruit cakes and loaves for morning teas and helping with whatever I could."*

Julie Green said,

*"I helped scrape and paint window frames and chairs, cleaning, sweeping, and outside planting in the garden. I remember the day at Valentines and helping in the church kitchen, especially when the MMM team were with us and later Colin and Barbara stayed on. Betty Cobb often brought something she had cooked for the lunches."*

Wendy Garlick said,

*"I remember mending the brown chairs, cleaning toilets, polyurethaning beams, scraping glue off the front entrance and that Chris would not let anyone take more than a ten-minute break."*

Mike Prasad took a week off work to be with the MMM team. He and his wife Christina had two of the MMM team staying with them and it was a great time. Mike said,

*"I remember helping with pink batts, sanding Rimu pillars and windowsills, water blasting and towards the end of the project helping with the gardens. I pulled out lots of nails from walls and the surplus timbers that became skirting boards."*

*So much time and effort went into that building. It was a challenge but God was always encouraging and helping us to overcome the obstacles and down times. He lifted everyone up and we knew He was always there."*

Brian Peck often come after he finished work and would do a 'night shift' crawling under the floor with the wiring and anything else that needed doing. Brian said,

*"I helped with the exterior painting and with pulling kilometres of cable through the holes we had drilled as well as under the floor. I remember the aborted attempt we made to sand the floor before we had to get outside help."*

The Youth group were regular and enthusiastic helpers at the Saturday working bees. Vlad Miller and Stephanie Garlick recalled working on the preparation and painting work. Vlad would knock in the protruding nails and then Stephanie would putty and paint them with white undercoat. They did the length of the side where the conservatory is located.

Stephanie remembers asking Brian Peck if she could use the power tools but as she was only twelve at the time, he declined her offer. Storm Carter said that he remembered helping with the new building with his sister Alia. They had to dig with picks and shovels to do something with the pipes, and they helped put mulch onto the gardens. Many of the young people would have similar stories to tell and these are but a sample. We would like to say 'Thank you' to all the young people who rose to the challenge and came to help.

Margaret Pennington remembers sealing vinyl on the kitchen and the toilet floors with a special commercial sealer. Now when she mops the floors she often thinks how beautifully it cleans up. She also remembers helping to put polyurethane on the foyer floor.

Margaret recalls,

*"It was a lovely summer and Minnie and I went up to MBC every morning and cleaned the Valentines frames, propping them up on trestle tables outside in the car park area. Once we had scrubbed one, we would carry it back inside, and stand it up to dry, then carry out the next. We spent days doing that. Another time I remember Betty, Julie and maybe others spending hours outside with the cafe tables and chairs, scrubbing them clean before using 'de-solv-it' to get the chewing gum off.*

*I helped with filling holes in the window sashes and with the outside painting. I was not very keen to work up on the scaffold so I painted what I could reach from the ground. I helped to make morning teas and lunches for the MMM team and Chris asked me to help choose the colour for the kitchen roller door.*

*It just seemed that when we reached a particular point and we thought of something we needed, someone, usually Chris, found it. I believe God knew where all the things were and he just blessed us. Everything seemed to come from something discarded or was recycled. Other people's trash became our treasure.*

*I remember being absolutely amazed at what John Melville could make. The way he put the kitchen units together, made the beautiful handrails, and laminated the kitchen bench edge out of old bits of timber. We had a couple of theme songs we used to sing. One was "He made something beautiful, something good" and the other was "For I'm building a people of power"*

*There was a real togetherness. Many people in the community at Maungaraki didn't know we were there and it was good to be all working together towards something that would become a part of the community. The main thing that struck me was that when we needed something God led us to it."*

Jim Mclean commented,

*"An example of God supplying our need was the concrete for the paths around the building. Chris rang a number of contractors and asked them to donate any concrete leftovers. They told us they would try but we would have to be ready to receive it at five or ten minutes notice. The MMM team prepared the boxing and then the phone calls started to come. Everyone had to stop what they were doing and help with the concrete. We had a number of deliveries from different companies. David Halse, the MMM team leader, commented one morning tea time that it was quite miraculous and he was amazed at the way the concrete kept turning up and that the paths were completed at no cost."*

Chris appreciated that so many people helped with the project and says,

To anyone reading this and was in the Church at the time, who helped with painting, pulling out nails, cleaning, making muffins for morning teas or the endless sweeping up, please know how much your contribution was appreciated. Whatever you did to help, you were a part of the whole and I would like to say again, 'Well done and Thank you'.

## **Rimutaka Volunteers**

Chris arranged at short notice for a work team from Rimutaka prison to help carry 250 sheets of GIB board from the truck into the building. Normally it takes a couple of weeks to arrange for a work team but after explaining the need for some help, they agreed to send a team the following day.

The GIB board was late arriving and it was getting close to the time when the team from Rimutaka had to return 'home'. Kath and a few of the women had cooked for the men a lunchtime meal which they had enjoyed and were just about to leave when the delivery truck finally arrived. It was an awesome sight watching those strong men quickly unload the GIB board and arrange it neatly in piles on the floor. The Church were very thankful as we could not have done that task without their help.

Towards the end of the project, the 'Faith Based Unit' at Rimutaka prison came to help again. A team of about six people with a supervisor helped to spread mulch on the gardens. Since then, this group continued to help Warwick and Chris a few times a year to keep the gardens tidy until the end of 2010, when Warwick and Chris 'retired' and Vlad took over the management of the gardens.

Chris contacted Rimutaka on another occasion to ask if they had anyone who could help with some carpentry work and they suggested Junior, a young Samoan. The Church employed him for a week. Chris would sign Junior out from Rimutaka each morning and had to have him back promptly at 5 pm. She had prayed about who was to put up the beautiful recycled timber architraves and windowsills. She thought it was quite a special job and would be a privilege for someone to do it. Junior was an answer to prayer and did an awesome job fitting these timbers.

Paul Lunn of 'O'Brien Laminates' in Petone was looking for an employee for the factory and Chris put him in touch with Junior and when his sentence was completed, Paul employed him. Chris needed a Formica top for the kitchen bench and Paul in turn helped her out by supplying the green bench tops. The benches were actually a reject from another job the company was doing but were offered to Chris for \$200 as a favour for finding them a good employee, Junior. They were ideal for the Church kitchen. The entire situation was a win-win situation for both the company and the Church, and God was definitely in it.

## **Community Work Teams**

With a tight budget and still a long way from finishing, Chris decided to get help from some of the Community work teams. In 2003, these were known as Periodic Detention teams, made up of people who were assigned unpaid work in the community as a sentence. For many months, ten or so people came to help two or three times a week with a supervisor. They arrived at 9.30am and worked until mid-afternoon, cooking their lunchtime sausages on a barbecue.

The Church worked alongside these teams and met some interesting individuals. Some caught the vision for the project and worked hard, while others were not so willing, and might be found sitting in a wheelbarrow, taking a 'rest'. It was stressful at times but everyone was thankful for the help, as every hour of volunteer help towards the completion of the building was valued.

There was another young man, also called 'Junior' who helped us. He had been on one of the work teams and had impressed Chris with his hard work and good attitude. Once he had finished his PD hours, she employed him for a few hours to help at the Church and later was able to provide a reference that helped him to find a job working with Excell.

## Chapter 37 – Electrical Work

To rewire the building, many holes had to be drilled through the very hard Rimu wall framing. Countless drill bits were blunted in the process and the Church became a good customer of the Hammer Hardware shop across the road. Jim, Brian, Graeme and the MMM team did most of the difficult drilling. Once the holes were drilled, the cables for the lights, power, burglar and fire alarm systems were pulled through.

Brian did most of the work on the cables for the sound system, stage and emergency lighting. He estimated that almost five kilometres of cable replaced the one third of a kilometre of old cable removed from the building. That is about the distance from the Maungaraki shops to Queensgate in Lower Hutt. Brian took on many of the jobs that some of the others could not do and as a result spent many hours going down the manhole to crawl under the floor and fix the cables in place. He remembers having to refresh his memory of mathematics to work out the loading requirements for the emergency lighting system. Brian said,

*“Being involved in the building restoration was quite a big thing for me. I remember that our energy levels were getting low and there was still a really big task ahead. Then the MMM team came and inspired us at just the right time. I was working but would call in during my lunch hour and it was great to chat with the MMM team.”*

Once the batts and GIB board were fixed, stopped and painted and the electric cables in place, it was time for an electrician. The quote received for fitting the light switches, power points, lights and heaters was \$40,000, but the Church did not have that amount spare in the budget. They prayed regularly for at least a month and although they would have preferred their prayers to be answered earlier, they had to wait until God provided the help they needed just at the perfect time.

Jim attended Partners in Ministry a Lower Hutt church Pastor’s network . He mentioned to the other pastors at one of their meetings that Maungaraki Church needed some help with the electrical work. Roy Brinck from the Lower Hutt AOG mentioned our need to Ted Thomas, who was an Airfield Lighting Specialist. Ted had been made redundant at that time and felt that God wanted him to help, thinking it would be a couple of days work. It is good we don’t always know God’s plans in advance or we might say ‘no’ to some of the things He wants us to do and miss out on so much if we did.

Ted came to fit out the complete Church building. He volunteered three days a week, for many weeks. Ted enjoyed the fellowship and being a part of what God was doing. The Church could not have had anyone more skilled and they felt very blessed. Ted did an amazing job and the wiring in the circuit board was a work of art for its neatness and the way he labeled everything. Murray Kendon as his ‘apprentice’ worked with him to get the job finished.

Ted was contacted and asked to comment on that time,

*“From my point of view I thoroughly enjoyed it. Roy Brinck had mentioned it to me and given me Jim’s name and the next day I rang the Church to speak to Jim but he was out and I spoke to Murray instead. Murray suggested I went up to have a look and then asked when I would like to start and I started the work almost straight away.*

*I had been made redundant, so was just doing odd jobs at the time, and was getting quite demoralised when this opportunity came up. It restored my self-esteem. It was satisfying and did me good, and things came together well. That’s how it is with God”*

Bruce Lee installed the fire and burglar alarms with the help of Jim, Brian and some others.



## Chapter 38 – A Sprint to the Finish

### John Melville

Warwick and Chris had started their own building project in Upper Hutt and through this met John Melville from the Upper Hutt Christian Fellowship. Two months earlier, John had a dream that he had recorded in his prayer diary about a Church building. In his dream, he was walking up a steep hill, one he had never been up before, and when he arrived at the top, he saw this new nice looking building. He walked around to the car park and thought, "This is a nice place".

In the dream, he looked through some double glass doors and saw an eagle inside. Then the verse from Isaiah 40:31 came to him,

*"But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint."*

As John worked with Warwick and Chris, they chatted to him about the Church building project at Maungaraki. John said to the people in his Home Group there that he thought this Church building sounded like a great project and that he would like to work on it, but he did not mention this to Warwick or Chris. A week or so later, towards the end of 2003 they asked him if he would consider coming to help at Maungaraki.

Although they did not know John very well at that time, Chris shared with him that they were feeling a bit discouraged with the project at that time and he offered to pray.

Chris said,

*"God rejuvenated my enthusiasm, energy, and passion to see the project finished. God brought a complete stranger who had no previous connections with Maungaraki or our Church to pray for us and help at a time when we needed it. It was the start of the third and final major push to get the building completed."*

Everyone was feeling weary after working so hard for eighteen months. Funding the Church project was a challenge, even though there was trust in God's provision. It had begun to look as if it was going to take another year or two to finish the Church building but once John came to help things started to move more quickly again.

John brought with him many years of experience in building and carpentry. He was able to adjust the double hung windows to operate smoothly, build the library shelves out of recycled timber from the old stage and laminate pieces of Rimu together to make a timber edge between the kitchen bench and the foyer.

A handrail was needed for the stairs and John brought his large router to the Church and shaped the round handrails out of surplus Rimu timber from the end wall. He installed the donated kitchen units and made the 'pull out' rubbish bins, as well as installing the kitchen area upstairs. He hung doors and adjusted latches and installed some of the skirting boards.

John also helped with building the entrance porch, constructed the planter boxes, built the gate between the buildings, and laid some of the concrete paths. At a later stage, he built the fences and gates to close in a play area used by the children after the Sunday services. He made the picture frames for the train photo in the foyer and for the photos, plans and timber samples displayed at the back of the Church.



**John Melville and other volunteers**



**Walls GIB stopped and ready for painting**



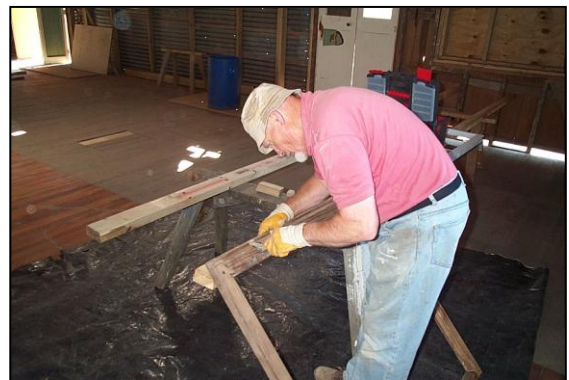
**Jim Mclean repairing a chair**



**Kath McLean repairing a chair**



**Junior making changes to the steps**



**Jim fixing up some timber**



**Cables pulled through the drilled holes**



**Wendy Garlick sorting the timber**

## Floors and Carpet

The floor of the hall had a layer of Rimu timber overlaid with a layer of Matai. It was decided to carpet the auditorium to reduce the noise and avoid the huge job of sanding and patching floorboards that would have been required. However, everyone agreed to retain the timber floor in the entrance foyer, as this would be the main eating area.

In an attempt to keep costs to a minimum, the volunteers decided to sand the floor themselves and hired a commercial sanding machine planning to work in shifts throughout the night. Many hours later, they surrendered and gave the job to a professional company of floor sanders who came to the rescue, managing to level out most of the hollows and bumps created during the night before.

God provided the carpet through the generosity of John and Angela Hazael. The budget had not included a carpet. There had been a plan to use the carpet uplifted from Valentines but the stale smell of food continued to linger on it and it was unable to be used.

There was a further attempt to cover the floor with another second hand carpet but this too was considered unsuitable for the auditorium despite a lot of work cleaning, measuring and patching.

Some of this carpet was later laid in the conservatory/cafe seating area and worked well in there. The Church then had to pray for a solution for the auditorium.

John and Angela Hazael had been members of Maungaraki for many years. 'Little' Angela had a theatrical background and this came through in her outgoing way with people. She would walk up to anyone, friend or stranger and give them a big 'hug from the Lord.' Kath McLean tells the story of how one day Angela was as usual darting about here and there. Minnie's comment summed up Angela when she said,

*"Angela, do sit down, you are flickering around like a candle on a birthday cake."*

Angela's husband, John, was a strong, determined man with a quiet commitment to the Church. During the 1939-45 war he had been in a ship that was torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic Ocean and after being in the water for some time, was one of the fortunate ones able to climb into a lifeboat along with a young boy of 14 and a number of other men.

The boat drifted in the Atlantic Ocean for a considerable number of days and the young boy died. John himself was very close to death. There was a thick fog around the men in the small boat and they had no idea where they were. John told us how he then heard the audible voice of God speaking to him, "John, it's not your time yet!"

Then the men heard a bell tolling and they decided either it must be a buoy or they were near land. They started to row towards the sound of the bell and came into Nova Scotia. John was in hospital in Canada for quite some time recovering from hypothermia and as a result always suffered from painful feet. The experience of hearing the 'audible' voice of God, and the way the boat was guided to safety by the bell, had a profound impact on John for the rest of his life.

John and Angela Hazael had lived a frugal lifestyle, as people on a pension often do, and so this story of the carpet was quite a surprise to everyone.

People had been praying about the carpet in one of the 'before work' prayer meetings and John Hazael may have been there. Later that day he approached Jim and asked him how much a new carpet would cost. Jim suggested he asked Chris and she told him around \$10,000. He did not say what he was planning to do but asked Julie Green to take him home in her car. Julie says that he went into his garage and then asked for a ride back. John approached Chris who was working in the building and put something in her hand. It was a roll of \$20 notes to the value of \$10,000 and he said, "Honey, this is for the carpet." When she tried to express her thanks, he said to her, "Just thank the Lord".

Chris had already looked at carpets and after receiving the \$10,000 from John, got a firm quote from Malcolm Patterson. Devon and Patterson were very helpful and gave the Church a good price but even so, the quote was for \$15,000. This was \$5000 more and a decision had to be made whether to choose a cheaper carpet or whether to only cover the auditorium and leave the upstairs.

A few days later John Hazael approached Chris again and asked if the money was sufficient for the carpet. It was difficult for her to tell him that it had not met the cost, as he had been so generous. However, she had to tell him that it was not enough but that the plan then was to do the auditorium and leave the upstairs until later. John returned to Chris an hour or two later with a further \$5000 in \$20 notes and told her to buy all the carpet we needed.

By the time the Open Day arrived on 15 May 2004, the lovely new green carpet was laid. Angela and John's daughter Toni and her husband Victor came over from America and were able to bring John to the Open Day, which was very special.

John died of cancer six weeks later on 25 June 2004 at the age of 80 in the Te Omanga hospice, but not before making a further donation of \$5000 by paying for the asphaltting of the car park. Angela died on 26 January the following year at the age of 79. John said at the time he gave the money for the car park not to tell anyone but to say it was "from the Lord". It is seven years later and we are sure he would not mind us telling this story as it illustrates how God cares about the details and often answers our prayers through people who are willing to hear him.

Toni and Victor developed a good relationship with the Church and remembered going with a group to run a service at the Rimutaka prison on one of their visits from America.

Kath Nicholson was another person who was involved for many years and good friends with John and Angela. She said,

*"I loved being able to worship locally and the new building is such a credit to the group that got involved, it was a gutsy move, a real move of courage".*

Kath is a midwife and one of her favourite memories is of the time she had delivered Joy, the ninth Leach baby, during the night. A few hours later, Mike and Ruth were on their way home from the hospital and called in to the Church to show their new baby to everyone. Kath also delivered Eliana, Mike and Ruth's tenth child, and Debbie Leach's second youngest, Prishanti.

## **Kitchen**

God had provided everything for the conservatory and it was time to plan the kitchen. Chris made a cardboard 'mock-up' and asked people for their comments after which a few minor adjustments were made. Graeme Want's son had installed a new kitchen at home and he donated the old joinery to the Church. It was white and in very good condition and looked almost new. John Melville installed the units into the kitchen.

A commercial dishwasher was required but it had to be one of the smaller models to fit the space in the corner. As new ones cost around \$5000, Chris asked Burns and Ferrell Ltd to look out for a second hand one. They said they had only come across one small second hand one in the last couple of years. On the same day, someone rang to let Jim know there was a dishwasher advertised at the Shindlers auction rooms in Upper Hutt. It was one of the small models but there was no way of telling if it was in working order. Chris prayed that she would win the auction bid if the dishwasher was the one the Church was meant to have.

Chris tells the story,

*“My heart was pounding as the bidding started at the auction. I had decided on a limit of \$2,000 but the bidding only went to \$500 and it was ours. Burns and Ferrell were asked to check it over and when I rang a few days later to find out the result, I was told, “It is quite a miracle, it’s in such good order. Once again, an answer to prayer.”*”

The next purchase was a water boiler and a company in Petone gave us a good discount. A kitchen and bathroom-ware importer, Plumblin, allowed Chris to purchase taps, sinks, and plugs at the wholesale price. They found some ex display taps worth about \$600 per tap and they let her have them for \$50. One tap is in the kitchen and the other is on the sink bench under the administration building.

God continued to provide for the kitchen this time with the fridge/freezer. An extra large one was required for functions that might be held in the Church building. Chris rang a second hand appliance store in Petone and was told they only got in very large fridge/freezers occasionally. She asked them to contact her when they found one. The next day they called to say one had just come in. It was in great condition and only cost \$1000.

One Saturday afternoon, Chris called into an auction in progress on the Petone Esplanade and bought the dishwasher rack trolleys and cutlery for only a few dollars. Brian and Jo Peck donated some blue cups and saucers and a coffee company donated the coffee-making machine. The bench tops were in place and the only other items required were a hatch roller door, a stainless steel sink bench and the vinyl for the floor.

Chris tells the story of the stoves,

*“Just a few days before we were due to move into the building, everything in the kitchen was ready except for the stoves. We had discussed whether to have one large stove or two smaller ones and had decided on the latter as there would be times when only one item required heating and other times when two things might require different temperatures.*”

*It was right at the end of the project and we had sadly decided that the stoves would have to wait until we could afford them. God had provided so much for the kitchen and we had completed all of it apart from the two Fisher and Paykel ‘Thyme’ stoves I had chosen.”*

*I was disappointed, as I had so much wanted to see the kitchen completed so Jim and I prayed for a miracle but didn’t tell anyone. Soon after we prayed, someone said to Jim that they would like to donate two new stoves for the kitchen. They did not know we had been praying specifically for the stoves and that God was directing their thoughts in the mysterious way He does. The kitchen is a ‘hub’ for many of the Church activities and there is so much in there to remind us of how God provided and how generous people were.”*



**Kitchen in progress, roller door installed**



**The finished kitchen**



**The Chairs 'The Street'**



**The two new stoves – thank you**



**The bus shelter before it was moved ....**



**and now the cross can be seen**

### **Car Parking, Bus Shelter and Porch**

The asphaltting of the car park was completed before the Open Day. It seemed to tie everything together. The council painted angled parking lines on Rowan Street to provide plenty of space for car parking around the Church.

The Hutt City Council had already relocated the bus shelter to the south side of Rowan Street, which enabled the cross on the end of the building to be seen. The gardens were planted and it was all looking good

## Porch

A porch had not been included in the original plans but as Maungaraki is such a windy area, it was decided to include one. It would provide shelter when the Church was used for weddings and funerals and would protect the foyer floor from the rain.

Graeme, Jim, Warwick, and Chris installed the 100mm x 200mm timber posts to support the roof. It was very difficult to dig the one and a half metre deep holes and then the men had to lift to vertical, two extremely heavy posts. After many attempts, they managed to get the poles to slide into the holes being careful not to damage a nearby gas pipe. They did not want to repeat the drama of the week before when the gas pipe had been broken.

Once the poles were concreted into place John Melville, Warren White, Mike Prasad and some others helped to put on the Novalite roof.

## Chairs

Chris tells this story,

*“We had forty chairs but we needed more. I rarely listen to the car radio but one Saturday morning as I drove from Whitby to Maungaraki I turned it on and heard the announcer on Radio Rhema asking people to phone in if they had anything to buy, sell, or exchange. I felt that God was in this and when I arrived at Maungaraki, I rang the radio station, somewhat out of my comfort zone, and said that we wanted to buy some chairs for a Church in Lower Hutt and we could afford to pay a little but not very much.*

*Within a short time, we had a phone call from Gary Colville of Hosanna Church in Porirua advising they had some spare chairs. Brian Peck knew Gary and we went over to Porirua to see what was available. We offered to buy the 150 or so brown chairs but they gave them to us, as they wanted to help our Church. We gratefully accepted. Some of the chairs needed attention and a number of people worked on the repairs. Hosanna Church also gave us some red curtains they had bought after the Majestic Cinema had closed down. These were hung in the auditorium in December 2005 just in time for a wedding that was to be held there. This was another example of God's provision. “*

*By this time, we had experienced many examples of God guiding us to something we needed when there was no other way. It was as if we were in a 'flow' of God's provision and blessing. Of course, it was hard too. We felt stretched beyond our normal human limits and it felt like we were operating in two realms, the everyday realm of practical hard work, and the spiritual realm of God's guidance, provision, and timing. In our culture where most people have a roof over their heads and enough food on the table, the opportunities to be in a position to be dependent on God are not so readily available. We experienced the coming together of the natural and the supernatural realms. For me, this was the highlight of this project.”*

The 'chair' story continued when Brian Peck heard that 'The Street' church in Wellington were purchasing new chairs and he asked if it might be possible to buy the ones they no longer required. It was a win-win situation and Brian agreed to pay \$10 for a single chair or \$20 for a 2-seater bench. He arranged for the 230 seats to be delivered. The colour of the chair fabric matched the colour of our auditorium carpet very well.

## Banners and Plants

Bobbie Thomas has a special talent for artistic needle and craftwork. Rod and Bobbie sensed that God was asking them, as they were watching the song 'Days of Elijah' from the DVD, Jerusalem Arise, to make two banners for the new auditorium. Although they had never made banners before, they both sensed that God gave them the phrases to go on the banners and the colours they were to use. They sketched what they felt God was showing them to make, took them to Spotlight in Porirua, and found the fabrics in the colours they required. The shop assistant was shown the sketches and shared their excitement in finding just the right fabrics.

Sue Mouat then encouraged Bobbie and Rod to make flags to be used during worship times. Again they felt God led them to create eight individual designed flags in strong colours. The banners were hung on the front pillars as the Church moved into the new building in 2004 and for two or three years the adults and children used the flags to worship during services. There was a sense that the Holy Spirit and the angels were present at those times.

Stephanie Butel had some indoor palms that had grown too large for her home and she donated them for the Church auditorium. Chris had a friend who was closing her hairdressing salon in Petone and she donated some mirrors and an indoor fig tree that is still strongly growing after seven years. It features in many of the photos of people in the Church.



**Plants donated to the Church**



**A banner made by Rod and Bobbie**



**The banners and flags were used to celebrate the move into the new building**



## Chapter 39 – God says to Move In – A leap of faith

God's provision was like a jigsaw puzzle. He was the one with the overall picture and He was only allowing the Church to see each piece as he provided it. It was satisfying work but many people were wondering if it was every going to be finished.

Chris wrote the following in a Church Newsletter,

*“Eighteen months ago I volunteered to manage the project and it has been in my waking thoughts ever since. If not seeking cheaper materials, more economic ways of getting work done, organising the PD days, negotiating with the sub-contractors, or cajoling and encouraging members to turn up for working bees, I have been trying to work around my own family commitments.*

*It has been hard on our family and I did not anticipate just how much work would be involved, or that eighteen months later we would still be working on the building.*

*I am sure that in the future, I will be able to look back with satisfaction on this project, but now I do feel weary. I am committed to seeing the building completed and believe that whenever that is, it will be in God's perfect timing.”*

Not long after this, John had prayed for Chris and Warwick and had come to work on the building. Chris had a sense that God was saying that the Church was to make the move into the new building on 21 March 2004. This did not seem to be humanly possible and it took a 'leap of faith' to ask the Church to get behind the final sprint that would be required.

A love offering at the Church raised \$8,000. Everyone rallied together and worked so hard with the result that the Church did move in on that date with the feeling that 'nothing is impossible with God'.

Betty Cobb remembers that time,

*“It was towards the end of January. Chris had waited for everyone to come back to the working bees after the holidays. Jo and Brian were helping, maybe some others too, but the majority of us were tired, and no one really wanted to get back into it.*

*One Sunday, Chris stood up and said she believed that God had given her a specific date for finishing the building. It was only a few weeks away.*

*Everyone was stunned and found it hard to believe, but Chris encouraged us to return to the working bees and by working until 9.00pm some evenings, we were able to complete it sufficiently to move out of the Community Centre and into the new building.*

*It felt like 'God came to the party' and it did seem like a 'party' when we were all back working again. I remember one evening when a large group of volunteers were working late and the Leach family provided everyone with a wonderful meal. They served it in the administration building. I could hardly believe how much food they provided, turkey, salad and other delicious things.*

*I also remember a time when I was on my knees sanding the floor of the foyer alongside one of the team from Rimutaka Prison and on another occasion, Jim had been sanding and had put the dust mask up on his head and it made him look like a monk. I have some very vivid memories of this time when we were all working together at the Church.”*

## Chapter 40 – The Cross

It was 20 March 2004, the night before the Church was to move into the auditorium. A large group had been working hard all day, and everyone was tired. They were having tea together at about 6.00pm intending to work late in order to get everything finished.

Chris was in the meal queue when the thought ran across her mind that the building was still without a 'cross'. In the early days of planning, there had been many discussions and suggestions. However, the work had started, things became busy and the plan for the 'cross' had been overlooked.

That evening, it suddenly seemed very important to Chris that a cross was put up on the outside of the building. She asked John Melville if he would be willing to make a cross by using one of the surplus Oregon beams that had been removed from the roof structure to make more head room upstairs. He agreed and as soon as they had finished eating, they started to make a large wooden cross.

The Oregon timber was ideal and a number of solid looking nails were hammered in to represent where Jesus had been nailed to the cross. The work was completed by 9.00pm and it was already dark outside. Brian provided some light from a lamp and the cross was attached to the wall around 10.00pm

It was one of those 'special moments' planned by God. In faith, people had worked so hard to make the move possible on Sunday 21 March 2004. It seemed significant to have the cross in place on the building before the first service as a declaration that Jesus was honoured and remembered in that place.

John Melville said, that as he was about to lift the cross to take it outside, he wondered how heavy it would be. It was too heavy for him to lift by himself and it took three men to lift it. He was thinking about the cross that Jesus would have carried, which would have been larger than the cross was made that night. He thought that Jesus would not have been able to carry the whole cross but probably just one piece of it.

Most people went home late, weary after the long day, but Brian, Jo, Warwick and Chris stayed on for a little while longer. It was quiet and peaceful and as the four of them sat on the chairs in the auditorium, Jo began to play her guitar and they began to thank God for all he had done. It felt as if angels filled the auditorium, sitting on the Oregon beams. There was an amazing sense of peace and awareness of the awesomeness of God.

The next morning there was a lovely surprise. Someone had laid flowers at the foot of the cross. It was a very loving touch.





**The cross was finished**



**It was too heavy for one person to carry**



**John Melville**



**Fixing the cross to the building**



**Jo, Brian, Chris and Warwick**



**Brian, Alyth, Jo, Colin, and Margaret**



**The last service in the Community Centre before walking over to the new auditorium**



## Chapter 41 – Moving into the new building

### ‘Solemn procession’ Sunday 21 March 2004

The Holy Spirit of God can communicate with our human spirit.

Chris describes one of these experiences,

*“I was driving from Whitby to Maungaraki a few weeks before we moved into the auditorium. I was still aware of the road, but at the same time, it was as if a ‘video’ started to play on a ‘screen’ inside my mind.*

*I saw the Church walking from the Community Centre over the road to the new building in a ‘solemn and silent procession.’ They were carrying the banners and flags that we used for worship. Everyone walked around the building and then the worship group entered. The congregation followed and stood around the walls shoulder to shoulder and a shofar was blown. A time of praise and worship to God followed.*

*It was as if everyone felt the ‘fear of the Lord’. Not in the sense of being ‘afraid’ but rather a feeling of respect and awe in their hearts towards God.”*

Chris described to Jim what she had ‘seen’ and suggested that the move to the new building could be done in this way. Some people felt that the move into the auditorium could be with a joyful procession. Everyone had worked together so well over the past eighteen months that rather than allow the enemy room to cause any friction Chris suggested they included both suggestions into the plan.

They decided to have both a ‘solemn’ and a ‘joyful’ procession on consecutive Sundays. This also had the advantage that if someone was unable to be at Church on one of the Sundays there was a second opportunity to take part in one of the processions.

The service on 21 March began by having a final thanksgiving service in the Community Centre. They thanked God for the eighteen years and for providing their new ‘home’.

Jim McLean led the service and there was a time of repentance followed by communion. It seemed important for everyone to get right with each other and with God before entering the next stage of the journey as a Church.

Everyone walked over the road in a quiet, reverent procession. Jim and Kath unlocked the front door and walked to the front of the stage, followed by the worship group. Everyone else entered and stood around the perimeter of the room. Outside in the car park, Joan Hart blew the shofar in the direction of the North, South, West and East and then entered the building, blowing the shofar as she walked up to the stage.

It was a time of dedication and thanksgiving followed by a time of spontaneous worship and prophetic words, led by the Holy Spirit.

### ‘Joyful celebration’ Sunday 28 March 2004

This was the time for the joyful celebration. Everyone walked around the outside of the building, waving the banners and the flags, declaring their thanks and praise to God, before going inside for the first full service. It was written in a Church newsletter around that time,

**“A building is only a building. It was now up to the members of the Church to make the best use of the auditorium for the purposes of the Lord.”**



After the last service in the Community Centre everyone walked to the new auditorium



Walking up Dowse Drive and into Rowan St.

Jim and Kath McLean open the door



Moving into the new auditorium



Mark Hurren, Mike Leach and John Sik

Dedicating the new auditorium

## Chapter 42 – Open Day 15 May 2004

The Open Day for the public was on Saturday 15 May 2004, attended by over two hundred people. Families and friends along with those who had helped with the building work, people from other Churches and visitors from the local community came.

The Lower Hutt City Mayor, John Terris officially opened the new Church building. At the end of his speech, he left the Church with this thought,

*“I belong to no congregation. Yet I look daily towards the little Church on the corner, and on Sundays at the cars of the faithful; and the modest building has become a symbol of hope renewed and patient expectation.*

*The country around me today may become unimaginably different when I am no longer here to see it. But I like to believe that a Church will still be at the corner, standing against the wash of the world, and pointing beyond it.”*



**Walking around the new auditorium**



**‘The Lads’ on Open Day**



**Both buildings are completed**



**“The Church on the corner”**



**Open Day, Julie and Betty serving tea**



**Open Day in the conservatory**

As we walked outside immediately after the official opening by John Terris, a beautiful rainbow hovered over the building.

## Chapter 43 – Reflections from Jim and Kath McLean

### Kath Mclean reflects on the journey of the building project

*“We had been praying for a long time for the right building, but every building we looked at seemed to have something that was not quite right. When we saw the Railway building, it had just the correct dimensions for the site and we did not need to change the ground level or alter the building to make it fit the land. It fitted in and looked natural. It just seemed from the word ‘go’ that it was a real gift from God.*

*When the building came up the hill to Maungaraki and I saw how awful it looked, it struck me that God is in the ‘restoration business’ and I needed to stop relying on what my physical eyes saw. I never had any doubt in my mind that that this was the right thing to be doing. The building is nothing like what it used to be. God has renewed and restored it.*

*Seeing it completed, I knew that it had to be God - no one else could have given us all the necessary building materials and the right people to help at the right time. Through the whole project, everything just slotted in.*

*This faith journey was an experiential thing for the whole congregation. Trying to tell it now, and express it accurately, makes me think of the Old Testament and how people shared the stories of what God had done, so that the goodness of God would not be forgotten.*

*It was not an easy time - in fact it was a really hard time. A limited number of people had committed to a major project and it was much bigger than we had realised at the start. We saw the Hand of God move in a way that we could never have imagined. It was mind-blowing. It was so awesome, it had to be God, but it is very hard to express that experience.*

*This journey was a privilege. It certainly had its hardships physically, emotionally and financially, but every need, whatever it was, God picked up on it and it was resolved. God moves, but he uses people to do it through. We prayed and prayed .....and kept praying, keeping so close to him, because it was scary.*

*I remember the last ‘ladies breakfast’. I shared that God was saying that,*

*Everything that had happened, everything that had been built and achieved, was not just for us. It was also for the future generations and that they would have to pick up the baton.”*

### Jim Mclean reflects,

*“I think the experience taught a lot of people that God will supply what we need. We have to have the faith that He will, but we also have to be willing to work with Him. We have to be involved in the partnership with God. People discovered that as they trusted God to operate through them they could do things they hadn’t thought possible.”*





## Postscript

**Chris writes,**

*“It has taken nine months to complete this story. I had not realised how difficult putting together something like this would be.*

*It has been a challenge and at times it felt like there was an audience, made up of different groups of people, looking over my shoulder as I tried to write without using too much ‘religious jargon’ but at the same time, describe the journey with God as it really was.*

*In the past I sometimes thought that people were making a ‘big deal’ by profusely thanking all the people who had helped them and ‘without their help this book would not have been possible’ comments in the ‘dedications’, ‘acknowledgments’, ‘prefaces’, ‘introductions and ‘forwards’ but now I can sympathise and know exactly what they mean.*

*Now I do understand and I would like to say in the ‘postscript’, at the end of this writing project, a sincere thank you to my husband Warwick and to everyone else who had input into this story or who gave me encouragement when I complained at how hard I was finding it.*

*As the task seemed never ending, and the celebrations of the Church twenty-fifth anniversary approached, it felt like I was running out of time with still a long way to go.*

*I am still wondering if it was a ‘co-incidence’ or a ‘God-incidence’ when I cracked a rib in January. For the following few weeks, the daily conflict of deciding whether to work in the garden or on this story was no longer there. The weeds in the garden grew but the story was finally finished and so I include my favourite Scripture.”*

*“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28*



**The rainbow over the Church Centre - A sign of hope and promise for the future.**

# **Part Four: ‘In the Light’**

## **Sydney 2000**

### **Olympic Outreach**

<b>Introduction to Part Four .....</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Chapter 22 – Wellington King’s Kids .....</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Chapter 23 – Planning for Sydney .....</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>Chapter 24 – Getting to Sydney and the Boot Camp.....</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>Chapter 25 – Gosford and The Bus stories .....</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>Chapter 26 – Performances, God Moments and Fireworks .....</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Chapter 27 – Debriefing in Sydney.....</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Photos – ‘In the Light’ Team in Sydney .....</b>	<b>107</b>



## Introduction to Part Four

Part Four describes the start of the 'In the Light' King's Kids team with some of the stories from the Sydney 2000 Olympic Outreach.

King's Kids International is an interdenominational ministry of YWAM which began in Hawaii in 1976 and since that time hundreds of outreach teams have gone out around the world.

The YWAM motto is 'To know God and to make Him known'. This is also the mission of King's Kids but a special emphasis is placed on giving young people an opportunity to share their faith. It is important for people to understand that it is the young people doing the ministering and the leaders and families acting as their support team.

There are different types of King's Kids teams. Some are involved with mercy ministries that do works of justice like helping orphans and street kids, some with sports and others with performing arts like the 'In the Light' team.

All the teams emphasize the importance of having a relationship with God and maintaining good relationships with each other. An outreach typically begins with a Boot Camp and each day would have a busy schedule starting with the early morning exercise. After breakfast a time would be set aside to read the Bible and pray, teach the dramas and dances and have discussions, meals and fun activities. Before each practice or performance there would be a time of 'heart prep' and 'intercession'.

When on an outreach issues would arise between people such as unkind words being spoken or people being selfish. If these issues were allowed to fester there would be a lack of unity in the team which would affect the performances - not in a technical way but in the spiritual atmosphere surrounding them. When the team was regularly taking the time to do 'heart prep' and make sure they were in tune with God and each other there would be a real unity and goodwill between everyone. These times of 'heart prep' lead to a greater sense of purity in the performances and at those times it would seem as if God touched people's hearts not so much by the dance performance but by the spiritual atmosphere.

During the 'intercession' prayer times everyone was encouraged to listen to what they thought God was saying to them and to receive in their minds 'Scriptures', 'pictures' or 'words' from God. These would be shared with the group, after which the group would pray together. It was amazing how accurately the young people could hear God's voice.

King's Kids traditionally held outreaches in the school holidays but the 'In the Light' team became a 'year-round' team and met weekly as well as attending outreaches and camps during the holidays. Strong friendships developed between all the Hutt Valley, Palmerston North and Nelson teams and there were over a hundred young people between the ages of five to eighteen who took the opportunity to make new friends through King's Kids.

Maungaraki was the home church to the 'In the Light' King's Kids team and whilst the majority of the young people came from Maungaraki Baptist Church the team also included members from eight other churches.

## Chapter 22 – Wellington King's Kids

The story of King's Kids in the Wellington area started in 1997 when the Dugdale family spent six months on a YWAM Family Ministries Course at the Keswick camp in Rotorua.

Two years later in January 1999, they went on a King's Kids Outreach called Capital City Capers, run in Wellington. Over the three weeks they were so impressed with what they experienced that they wanted to share it with other young people in the Maungaraki Church.

During a time of prayer, Chris clearly heard the voice of God speaking to her spirit. The words were, "I want you to start King's Kids in Wellington." Warwick and Chris had no previous experience of dance or drama, and thought that as an older couple their role would be limited to being the initiators of King's Kids in the area. They expected that that God would provide younger people to take over leadership once the ministry was established. In this case it was a good thing that Warwick and Chris did not know the whole plan that God has, or they might not have been as eager to take it on.

They decided to hold a King's Kids 'Go Camp' weekend early in 1999 in the Maungaraki Community Centre. Some of the staff from the Auckland King's Kids base were planning to come to Wellington to teach the dances, run the weekend training sessions and the Sunday Outreach. However, they asked that a minimum of twenty five young people would participate. A week before the event, only four people had registered. Three of these were the Dugdale children, and it was highly questionable whether the event should go ahead.

The leaders decided to act in faith and to continue with the arrangements, based on the sense that it was God's plan and not their own. God was faithful and on the first Friday in March, fifty two young people arrived at the Community Centre for the weekend.

Everyone brought sleeping bags and bedding rolls and slept on the floor at the Community Centre. A team from Maungaraki Church, as well as parents from some other Churches, volunteered to help with the organisation of the weekend and prepare the meals.

On the Sunday morning, the fifty two young people performed at the Church service and shared personal testimonies of God's goodness. In the afternoon the team did performances in Queensgate and for the residents of the Woburn Rest Home.

Enthusiasm was high and a group of young people started to meet each week. The parents were very supportive; Janet Adams, Betty Cobb, Hye-Mee Choi and Jane Hong came most weeks to provide transport and refreshments. For the next few years holidays and weekends seemed to be planned around King's Kids outreaches, camps or training sessions.

The enthusiasm spread and within a couple of years there were ten 'year-round' teams operating in the Wellington, Palmerston North and Nelson areas.. Warwick and Chris took on the responsibility for 'Wellington King's Kids' from 1999 until 2003 and amongst other activities organised camps at both Akatarawa and El Rancho which were attended by over a hundred young people and many of their parents.

## Chapter 23 – Planning for Sydney

King's Kids NZ invited teams around the country to take part in the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games Outreach. The 'In the Light' team were keen to go and began to train for the event.

The team of adults and young people needed \$44,000 to cover the cost of the travel, uniforms and outreach fees. Parents contributed generously but there were numerous fundraising activities such as the sausage sizzles, car washes, and grant applications.

One fundraising activity that happened a couple of years after Sydney was unforgettable. It was arranged by the Stokes Valley team 'Eternity's Flame' and the 'In the Light' Team went to help. The job was to pick up litter in the Westpac Stadium and it would normally take around two hours. The teams of young people and adults turned up at 10 pm enthusiastically expecting to earn a few hundred dollars for each team. What no one had realised was that the Rugby Sevens event had been on that weekend. They completed the task around 6.30 the next morning and some very weary people even came to Church having had no sleep that night. The payment from the stadium worked out at less than \$2 an hour per person!

### The Maungaraki 'In the Light' team included young people from nine churches

Joanne Cobb	16	Maungaraki Baptist Church
Hannah Leach	14	Maungaraki Baptist Church
David Leach	13	Maungaraki Baptist Church
Emma Leach	11	Maungaraki Baptist Church
Stephanie Martin	14	Maungaraki Baptist Church
Jeremy Martin	11	Maungaraki Baptist Church
Lisa Dugdale	13	Maungaraki Baptist Church
Kate Dugdale	11	Maungaraki Baptist Church
Abbey Dugdale	10	Maungaraki Baptist Church
Kitty Hong	11	Maungaraki Baptist Church
Hannah Peck	13	Maungaraki Baptist Church
Jenna Harwood	13	Lower Hutt Salvation Army
Ashleigh Hunt	13	Lower Hutt Baptist Church
Rachael McDonnell	13	Knox St Columba Presbyterian
Lydia McDonnell	11	Knox St Columba Presbyterian
Daniel Gush	12	Knox St Columba Presbyterian
Colleen Esler	13	Upper Hutt Christian Fellowship
Hannah O'Flaherty	15	Hutt Central Church
Tiffany O'Flaherty	13	Hutt Central Church
Sarah Torrance	16	Victory Christian Centre
David Adams	10	All Saints Anglican, Hataitai
Danica Young	16	St Christopher's, Tawa

The King's Kids teams going to Sydney were all asked to make a performance video for the organisers of the outreach in Sydney. At the time it was rumoured that if the teams were of a sufficient standard they might get an opportunity to perform in the Olympic Village. It never came to anything but the 'hope' did provide the impetus for everyone to practice and polish up the performances.

Junia from the Hutt Christian Covenant Centre was a great help with making a 'promo' video. One evening Junia was filming as the team were in the middle of performing a dance outside the Hutt City library, when it suddenly began to rain heavily. Everyone hastily moved into the library and continued with the filming and performance amongst the bookshelves.

## Chapter 24 – Getting to Sydney and the Boot Camp

Along with the team of twenty two young people were twelve adults. Warwick and Chris Dugdale, Janet and Brian Adams, Jo, Brian, Jeremy and Sarah Peck, Gwen Esler, Hye-mee Choi, Conrad and Saramaree McDonnell who also brought their son Caleb and baby Bethany Rose in her buggy.

Away from the daily routine and comfort of home it was easier to be more focused on God's guidance and as different situations arose the team became more aware of their dependence on God. The members of the team were aged between ten and sixteen and a few of them had never spent a night away from home before so going to Sydney for a month was quite a challenge.

The team flew on Air NZ from Wellington to Sydney and then travelled by train to Morisset, just south of Newcastle, where the 'Boot camp' for the twenty or so teams was being held. Can you picture the group of thirty five people along with luggage, the sound system and a baby in a buggy walking in single file along a station platform as they had to change trains. The month ahead began to seem daunting although everyone was still very excited.

The next challenge came with the discovery that someone had left a wallet on the plane and that the bag of cables for the sound system was still at the airport. Everyone prayed and by the next day both these items were safely returned and the faith of the team that God would answer their prayers began to grow.

Chris wanted the team to be able to experience their prayers being answered and before the outreach had prayed that the team would be led into situations where they were 'out of the edge' and had to 'depend on God'. That was a risky prayer.

The year before the outreach, at the time that Warwick and Chris were considering taking the team to Sydney, they were concerned about what sort of accommodation they might have. As an older couple they were both feeling that their days of sleeping on floors were over and so Chris had spoken to the organisers and asked them to arrange something suitable well in advance. The accommodation at the 'Boot camp' was in comfortable cabins. However, 'In the Light' was the only team that did not yet have any accommodation arranged for after the camp. Some arrangements had fallen through and guess whose team it affected!

As each team was prayed for and commissioned at the end of the 'Boot camp' any prophetic words were recorded and this was what was written down for the 'In the Light' team.

*"Be still and know that I am God. I brought you over here and yes it does seem as though your brook has dried up but 'be still'. I will place where I need you and you will be provided for. As I lead you it will be like you are standing on the edge of nowhere with no recourse of turning back but be still. I will build a bridge. At times you will look for my bridge but it will be like a path down the mountain side, a bit steep and treacherous but a safe path.*

*There will be angels guarding you so your foot does not slip holding you up when your energy is gone. Be still and as you have humbly walked in obedience to get over here I will act in my time. Know that I am God. It is My work not yours. It will be by My spirit not yours and you will see my power at work in Sydney and New Zealand."*

Chris and Warwick had a saying that 'God is a God of the 11.59'. The team accommodation was finally arranged on the very last night of the 'Boot camp' and perhaps you have already guessed that the team would be 'camping' on floor at a Christian school in Gosford!

## Chapter 25 – Gosford and The Bus stories

The challenges to 'be out there on the edge' kept coming. A bus was booked for the following morning to take the team to Gosford but that night it ran down a bank and could not be used. Everyone was packed up and ready to leave the camp when they heard this news. The camp organisers put out a request for a bus and a driver but there were none to be found as any spare buses were scheduled to be on standby at railway stations as a backup in case of rail delays so that people would not miss the Olympic Events. There were many thousands of people from all over the world in Sydney for the games and it was busy.

As the other teams were saying their 'goodbyes' and leaving the Boot Camp for their different accommodations in Sydney, the 'In the Light' team gathered together to pray for a bus for their team. Someone remembered reading about a group who had needed a bus, who had decided to sit in two rows as if 'on the bus' while praying for their need. 'In the Light' used this as a creative step of faith as well. One person had an 'impression' of a bus with an older driver in it while another had a 'picture' of a bus with brown coloured seats. Another person had the song 'The wheels on the bus go round and round' running through their mind.

Just as they finished 'listening to God' a bus drove into the camp. It turned out that the driver had randomly decided to come down that road and had no idea that anyone actually needed transport. He had arrived from out of the local area to meet the need for the standby buses over the next three weeks and had a bit of time to spare and was having a look around. The bus had brown seats. The driver fitted the description and he agreed to take some of the team with all the luggage and food to Gosford. The remainder of the team travelled there by train. This was an amazing answer to prayer and everyone's faith grew even more.

But this was not the end of the 'bus story'. The following day the team went into Sydney by train and on their return they arrived at the Gosford Station to face a forty five minute walk to the school and everyone was very tired after a long day in the city. It was the night of the Olympic Opening Ceremony and the hope had been that the team would be able to get back to the Gosford Park to watch the festivities on a big TV screen. However it was already late by the time they arrived back at the station and it was going to be impossible to walk to the school, have a meal and walk down again in time for the ceremony.

As they walked up the platform stairs Chris asked the station master which exit to take for the Gosford School. The station master ask her to wait for a moment and when he returned he told her that he had asked a bus driver who was on standby duty at that station if he would give all thirty people a ride up to the school. The driver agreed and also said he did not have to return to the station until later and offered to wait until everyone had quickly eaten and then take them to the Park to watch the Opening Ceremony. Everyone was so excited but God's provision didn't stop even then. As the team got off the bus the driver suggested that they phone him after the ceremony and if he was in the area he would take everyone back to the school

Around 10 pm Chris phoned the driver who said he was just driving down the road towards the park and that if everyone met him in five minutes he would take them back to the school. The very weary team were saved another long walk which would have been in the dark. How thankful they were to God and the bus driver!

Over the following three weeks bus rides were provided in a way which seemed miraculous. Every day as the team arrived back from Sydney there just 'happened' to be a bus available as they came out of the Gosford station. The team did not make that long walk to the school even once in three weeks. And it was for free! It really seemed that God was providing just as He said he would in the prophetic word that was given at the end of the Boot camp.



## Chapter 26 – Performances, God Moments and Fireworks

During the three weeks in Sydney the team shared dances, dramas and testimonies at rest homes, hospitals, churches, on the city streets, at festivals, at the beach and in Chinatown. On most days there were at least three performances during which the young people would share testimonies of how God had answered their prayers. After a performance the team would go in pairs to talk to people who had been watching and sometimes pray for them. They showed wonderful care and love when they prayed for the residents in rest homes.

It was not only through the performances and testimonies that God used the team. They were a witness to God through their good behaviour, being seen as 'different' from the way that many other young people behave today. The train journey from Sydney to Gosford took ninety minutes. One day a school teacher travelling on the same train made the comment to one of the adults in the team that she had not heard one 'swear word' from the young people during the journey. That had really impressed her and she wanted to know more about what the team were doing.

The tickets to any of the Olympic events were beyond the budget of the team and so there was a sense of God's provision when the team were given tickets to the Olympic yachting medal ceremony at the Opera House. They were able to meet and talk with the NZ board sailor, Barbara Kendall and some of the other finalists as well as touch some of the medals.

On the final day of the Olympics as the marathon race was being run the team experienced another 'God moment'. Lining the route through Sydney was a crowd about five people deep and there was no way that any of the team could see past them. Suddenly they realised that they were right beside a two level fast food restaurant. They climbed up to the second floor and had a great view of the race while enjoying some food at the same time.

Each week had a 'performance free' day allowing the team to explore Sydney. They walked over the Harbour Bridge, rode on the monorail and ferries, visited the Opera House, Taronga Zoo, Paddy's markets, Olympic Park and an exhibition of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The following is a description of one Sunday from the youngest member of the team.

*"On the second Sunday we went to Terrigal Baptist Church to do a one hour performance. We all felt very much at home as it was a bit like being at Maungaraki. After lunch and some time to rest we went to the Baptist Retirement home with the same Church. Then they took us to do a 'beach outreach'. Quite a lot of people stopped to watch us. After the dancing we all wanted to go for a paddle in the sea. We had our uniforms on, our blue polo shirt tops and board shorts. We started to paddle but Mum (Chris) said it was too cold for a swim, but a few minutes later we were all so wet she let us go in the water for a swim in our uniforms. It was great fun as we were trying to catch the waves. Mum thought that to get us out she said she wanted to take a photo of us all on the beach, which she did, but within seconds we were all back in the sea, before she could tell us to get out.*

*After the swim the Baptist Church bought us donuts and ice creams so it turned out to be a really great day. Because I was the youngest on the team, only 10 years old, sometimes the late nights and early mornings were a bit hard for me, but when we prayed, God always gave me the strength to keep going."*

Janet and Brian Adams had volunteered, in fact insisted, that they would do all the cooking for the team. Each day they shopped and prepared great meals at super low cost. Hot meals were 'on the table' as the team arrived back from a tiring day in Sydney. Everyone was very grateful that God had provided in this way. Some days, food was donated from local shops and that was felt to be God's provision too.

Janet and Brian had an interesting experience and another '11.59' answer to prayer. The team had been asked to find their own accommodation for the last three days as the new term was starting at Gosford School. No space was to be found and it seemed that every centimetre of floor in Sydney was already being slept on!

Janet and Brian decided to go searching for a place and as they left everyone gathered around them to pray that they would be successful. As they walked across the road they saw what they thought was the Anglican Cathedral and went in there. It turned out to be the Catholic Cathedral and the person they talked to told them that a dance group from Seatoun in Wellington was performing outside and suggested they talk to them. The leader gave Brian a name and phone number to ring. This person had some accommodation available in a converted Catholic convent in Lewisham and within twenty to thirty minutes of leaving the team, accommodation for thirty five people had been arranged and everyone grew even more in their faith in God's provision.

On the first night the 'In the Light' team shared the floor sleeping space with a YWAM team after which they had the building to themselves. It was a great answer to prayer especially as they were able to do their 'thanksgiving' performance in the lovely Catholic Church.

One of the most memorable 'God moments' of the whole Outreach was on the night of the Olympic Closing Ceremony. The team wanted to watch the firework display over Sydney Harbour from the area near the Opera House but there was a problem in that several million other people had the same idea. As the team arrived at Circular Quay Station on an exceptionally crowded train there was a 'log jam' of people trying to 'squash' down the stairs.

The Opera House area had just been closed as it was full to capacity and the people who had been turned away were coming back towards the Circular Quay Station. From the City end of Circular Quay crowds were still streaming into the area and the team found themselves surrounded with people converging from three different directions. It was quite frightening. The team were well prepared and had been instructed that in such a situation each person was to hold firmly onto the back-pack of the person in front and to walk in single file through the crowds. In this way everyone managed to 'escape' back out of the Circular Quay 'crush' and regroup to pray about what to do next. The team were very thankful that people back home in New Zealand were praying for them and that God had kept them safe.

A few of the parents and younger members went back to Gosford. The others decided to take the train over the Sydney Harbour Bridge and get off at Milson's Point Station, hoping that they would be able to see the fireworks display from there. As they got off the train they were informed that no one was being allowed to remain on the platform. After some pleading from Chris to the Station master he agreed to let the team sit quietly at the far end of the platform for twenty minutes then they could move and watch the fireworks from the Harbour end. The team went along with this suggestion and eventually had an uninterrupted view to watch the magnificent display. Behind them stood a cordon of about ten railway security guards who were there to control the crowds that had been allowed to remain on the platform once the fireworks had started.

One of the railway staff who just 'happened' to be a Kiwi from Waitara suggested to Warwick that the team should be ready to board the first train that came through the station after the fireworks finished. She said that all of the following trains would be full before they reached Milson's Point. They accepted this good advice and boarded an almost empty train and arrived back at Gosford Station by midnight. There was even a bus waiting outside the station and for the last time the friendly driver offered to run them up to the school.

It was one of those experiences where it really felt like God had answered the 'desires of the heart' of the young people to see this special fireworks display.

## Chapter 27 – Debriefing in Sydney

The 'thanksgiving' at the end of the Outreach was the time when the full repertoire of twenty dances and dramas was performed, not for an audience of people but for God. Each team member spoke out their 'thanks' to God and 'declared' how the outreach had changed them. It was a very moving experience. The aim of the Outreach had been 'to know God and to make Him known'. Many people were touched by God through the performances, testimonies and prayers. One of the songs performed had words from Zechariah 4:6,

'Not by Might, Not by Power, But by My Spirit, says the Lord.'

The words of this song summed up how everyone felt so many times during the Outreach.

These are some of the declarations made by the young people:

I declare that .....

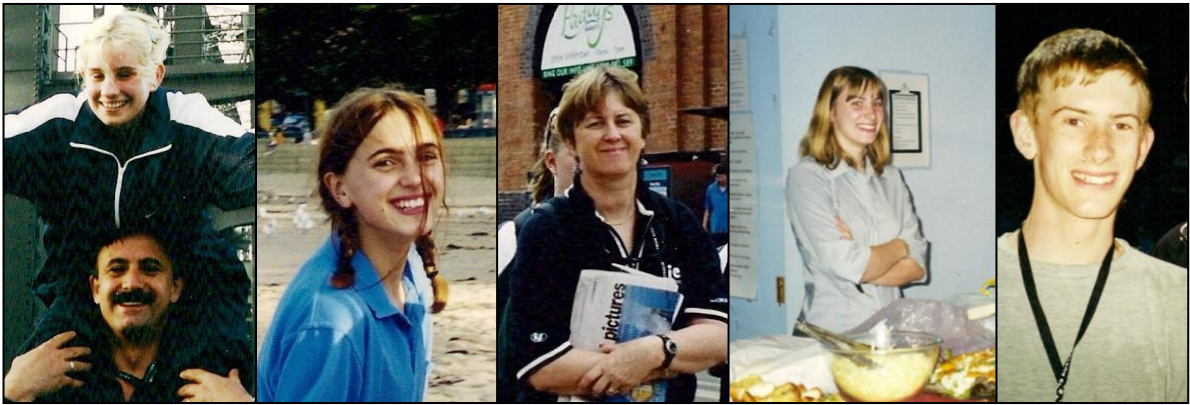
- God answers prayers and knows and gives me what I need
- God has made my level of faith go up
- God answered my prayers, not only that but gave me more on top of that
- God answers even the littlest of my prayers
- Thank you God for teaching me to trust in your provision
- God has healed me and carried my pain and He is a comforter
- God is my provider and has been my Father
- God has changed me and helped me to trust in Him
- God has given me an understanding of His word
- God is real because He has touched me and given me visions and healed me.
- Jesus has helped me to do things even when I'm tired
- Jesus is my provider. He has shown me that He is not just a thing that sits there doing nothing but He is alive in us today and He is moving through us. He has performed many miracles in front of us, enough to prove to me that He is real.

How I will live my life differently.....

- I will be able to go and say I'm sorry to people that I've hurt
- I will live life closer to Jesus
- I will now trust God more than before I came on this Outreach
- I am closer to God and I now can rely on Him more
- I will pray about everything and not be afraid to
- I will know that God will always be there for me
- I will live my life differently in my attitude towards others and their feelings
- I will live my life differently in helping others and sharing His love
- I will rely on God when I have a trouble or when I'm in trouble
- I will know that when I am tired God helps me
- I will pray about everything and have the faith that God knows best and will answer
- I will try harder to be a good example as a Christian, to peers and family. To be nice, honest, trustworthy and humble

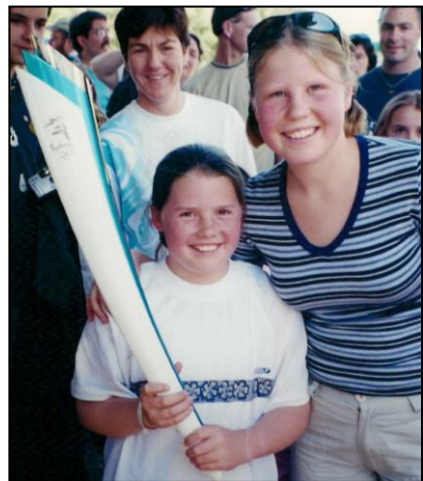
The following three pages include photos of the families who went on the Outreach, the performances and of some of the other experiences in Sydney. Somewhere on these pages there is at least one photo of every person on the Outreach.

# Photos – 'In the Light' Team in Sydney

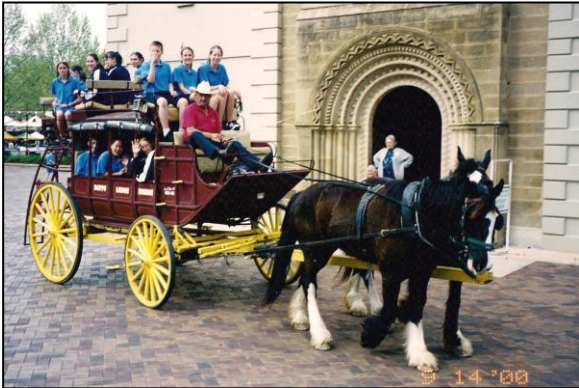


## Performances





**“In the Light” Outside Paddies Market; at Parramatta; the Boys; the Girls; at Olympic Park and the Olympic Yachting medal ceremony**



# Part Five: The Story of the Church Buildings

<b>Introduction to Part Five .....</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>Chapter 28 – Eighteen Years in the Maungaraki Community Centre .....</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>Chapter 29 – Finding the Administration Building .....</b>	<b>117</b>
The Church makes a Quick Decision .....	118
The Relocatable Building Arrives .....	119
The Administration Building is opened April 1995 .....	121
<b>Chapter 30 – Seven Years Wait for an Auditorium .....</b>	<b>122</b>
Only \$10,000 in the building fund but many ideas .....	124
<b>Chapter 31 – History of the Railway Social Hall and Locomotives .....</b>	<b>127</b>
Old Photos from Helen Bruce .....	127
The White Swan Hotel .....	128
<b>Chapter 32 – Moving from Moera to Maungaraki .....</b>	<b>129</b>
Arriving in Maungaraki .....	131
What an Eyesore! .....	132
God the Builder .....	132
<b>Chapter 33 – Renovating and ‘God-incidences’ .....</b>	<b>136</b>
The Project and the Mortgage Grew .....	140
<b>Chapter 34 – The Valentines Restaurant Story .....</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>Chapter 35 – MMM or Mobile Mission Maintenance Team .....</b>	<b>152</b>
<b>Chapter 36 – Volunteers.....</b>	<b>155</b>
Church Volunteers .....	155
Rimutaka Volunteers.....	158
Community Work Teams .....	158
<b>Chapter 37 – Electrical Work .....</b>	<b>159</b>
<b>Chapter 38 – A Sprint to the Finish.....</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>Chapter 39 – God says to Move In – A leap of faith.....</b>	<b>168</b>
<b>Chapter 40 – The Cross.....</b>	<b>169</b>
<b>Chapter 41 – Moving into the new building.....</b>	<b>171</b>
‘Solemn procession’ Sunday 21 March 2004 .....	171
‘Joyful celebration’ Sunday 28 March 2004 .....	171
<b>Chapter 42 – Open Day 15 May 2004.....</b>	<b>173</b>
<b>Chapter 43 – Reflections from Jim and Kath McLean .....</b>	<b>174</b>
<b>Chapter 44 – Postscript.....</b>	<b>175</b>





## Introduction to Part Five

**Chris writes,**

*“It has been my intention since 2004 to record the story of the building projects, but the last seven years have zoomed by and it is now 2011 and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Maungaraki Baptist Church is approaching.*

*This section attempts to describe the events experienced by a small group of ordinary people as they worked together to build two Church buildings, helped by a supernatural God. The buildings would meet their current needs, provide for future generations and be an asset to the local Community.*

*My first personal building experience was at the age of four, when thinking I was doing a good deed and without asking my parents, I decided to paint a neighbour's garage while they were on holiday. I had painted much of the garage and was working on the front gate when a neighbour finally spotted me. At seven I wanted to learn how to mix concrete, at thirteen I was building fences and by twenty-two was ‘doing up’ my first house.*

*From then on restoring old houses became a part of my life. Perhaps we should not have been surprised when God led our family to a Church that was about to embark on two renovation projects.*

*My involvement began almost twenty years ago on a Wednesday evening in 1992 when Warwick and I were at Jim and Kath McLean's Home group and someone mentioned a ‘Church building’. Knowing nothing of the background I rather bluntly questioned why the Church owned some land yet didn't have a building?*

*There was a long silence. It was one of those ‘God moments’ when despite my embarrassment something stirred in my spirit and from that time on I became involved with the building projects.*

*As I worked on the administration building I was dubbed the ‘clerk of works’. Seven years later I volunteered to help again with the auditorium and this time was promoted to being called the ‘project manager’.*

*This story has been written as I have remembered it. Everyone who was there at the time would have experienced the journey differently so please forgive me if this version of the story does not fit perfectly with your memory of events.*

*My hope is that this account will encourage those who experienced the journey of the buildings as well as inspire those who just enjoy using them.”*



## Chapter 28 – Eighteen Years in the Maungaraki Community Centre

When people use the word 'Church' they are often meaning a 'Church Building'. The word 'Church' in this story is used to describe the people rather than the property.

In 1986 the Maungaraki Baptist Church began to meet in the Maungaraki Community Centre.

The land on the corner of Dowse Drive and Rowan Street was purchased for \$100,000, but it took eighteen years before the Church moved into the Maungaraki Baptist Church Centre.



**The Church bought the land in 1986**



**Maungaraki Baptist Church Centre 2004**

The Church thrived and grew in the early years but there were some real drawbacks to not having their own space.

Jim McLean reflected on that time and said,

*"When we arrived in Maungaraki, we often met people who would say,  
'When you get a Church, we will consider coming'.*

*Perhaps people in the community felt that once we had our own premises then we would become a more permanent presence. Even though we valued the use of the Community Centre there were times when at short notice it was unavailable. I knew that having a place of our own would give us the ability to do more things during the week than was ever possible in a rented building."*



**A typical Sunday morning Church service in the Maungaraki Community Centre**

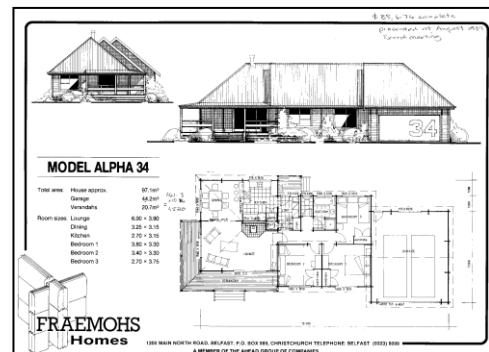
People joined the Church because of the sense of family and community rather than being attracted to a nice comfortable Church building.

Each Sunday a hundred or so chairs were put out in their rows, sound equipment was set up and tested, cables were taped to the floor and cups carried down the stairs for morning tea. At the end of the service the procedure was reversed and the hall had to be cleared and cleaned again. Week after week this was the routine. The hall was available for public use and frequently hired out for Saturday night parties. This sometimes resulted in the Church having to face rather unpleasant sticky floors along with a lingering smell of alcohol and cigarette smoke.

In winter, whoever arrived first would try to light the inefficient old gas heaters which barely warmed the room. The occasional broken windowpane would lower the temperature even further and those who felt the cold would come wrapped up in coats, scarves, and gloves. Some tried to warm their feet with a small fan heater and even a hot water bottle was smuggled in occasionally.

Early records show that from the founding of the Church in 1986 there had been many hopes and dreams regarding a Church building. The hopes became prayers but the Church had to wait for God's timing and provision before they were answered.

There was a proposal in 1993 for a new 180-seat building with an estimated cost of \$500,000. With only \$10,000 in the building fund and no more than 55% of the members in favour of going ahead this plan was not pursued.



One of the early proposals

Kath Mclean remembers,

*“One night we were having a prayer meeting to ask God whether we should go ahead and put a building on the land. I remember having a distinct impression from God that we were to come out from being ‘underground’. People knew we were Christians, but we were not seen. We wanted to be a presence for Him in the Community”.*

*The only visible sign of the Church meeting in Maungaraki was a billboard placed on the pavement outside the Community Centre each Sunday morning.”*



Until 1995 the Church office was located in the spare room at Jim and Kath's home in Normandale. Many meetings and over a hundred counselling sessions took place there each year and this was not fair on Jim or Kath.

In November 1994 the Church held their quarterly meeting. Chris had a very strong feeling that she should attend the meeting even though her family had just returned earlier that day from six months overseas. At the meeting, while discussing the office situation Kath Mclean said,

*“It would be so neat to arrive home from work at night and have the house to ourselves.”*

Chris knew that God wanted her to do something about finding a Church office and she started to search for something suitable.

Over the next few weeks Chris hunted for buildings that could be relocated onto the Church land. She looked at an old building at the Hutt Hospital but it was sold before any progress could be made. However, through this inquiry she met Brian Kelly who worked for a house removal and demolition company. Brian Kelly comes back into the story nine years later when Chris was looking for some doors.

Colin and Gaynor Tinker have been members of Maungaraki Baptist Church for twenty-five years. When asked about the building projects, Gaynor Tinker said,

*“Whilst the vision for a building had been there at the start, over the years it got lost in the busyness of keeping things going. We were a small number of people who had grown comfortable meeting in the Community Centre. We had lost the impetus and needed someone to be proactive, see the bigger picture, and have a fresh vision. It needed someone from outside to take it forward. God's timing in bringing Chris to Maungaraki Baptist was ‘spot on’ as she was enthusiastic and passionate about restoring our original vision of a Church building on the hill.”*

God began to prepare the Church for the next step and they started to pray together on Sunday evenings in the Community Centre Supper Room. They tried to remain open to all the possibilities including new buildings, relocatable second-hand buildings, renting a room, renting a house or even selling the land and purchasing another building somewhere.

As the Church listened to God, He seemed to be leading them towards a second-hand building. Chris remembers clearly a picture that came into her mind of a crane lowering a building into outstretched hands with the sense that the Church was to receive the building as a gift from God. Someone else had a picture of a Church interior with a sloping timber ceiling as found in many older Churches.



## Chapter 29 – Finding the Administration Building

On the weekend of 2 - 4 November 1993, Jim and Kath Mclean along with Colin Tinker went to Christchurch to attend the Baptist Assembly. Jim and Kath stayed on for another week to spend some time with their family. During that week Chris was led by the Holy Spirit to go to the Brittons House Movers yard on Haywards Hill and look for a building suitable for an office. She found one that seemed to have some 'potential'.

The following Sunday Chris asked Brian Peck, Graeme Stevens and Phil Leigh (the building committee) if they would go with her to Brittons. Jim and Colin were still away in Christchurch. Initially their response was not very enthusiastic with comments ranging from 'needing some time to think about it', 'not sure about having a building' and 'not thinking a second hand building was a good idea'.

Chris remembers feeling cross and disappointed as they drove home from Church that Sunday and was ready to put the building idea away forever. However, into her mind came the thought that the enemy tries hard to stop us from doing the very things that God wants us to do and before reaching the bottom of Dowse Drive her determination to get Brian, Graeme, and Phil to look at the old building was greater than ever.

Once home she phoned them to ask that they reconsider and obtained their somewhat reluctant agreement to meet at the Brittons yard the next day. One of the team could not make it on the Monday so the visit was changed to the Tuesday and in that delay they saw that God's timing was perfect.

It was lunchtime Tuesday as they arrived at the Brittons yard. As Chris called in at the office to let the staff know they had arrived, she waved the building committee in the direction of the old building she had seen the previous week.

As Brian, Graeme and Phil walked across the yard they saw a building that had arrived in the yard only that morning. It was a 7-year-old relocatable site office from Tawa. The key was not yet available but they looked with excitement through all the windows. It was as if God had engineered that moment to change everyone's mind about a second hand building.

Chris went into Brittons office and explained that they were interested in purchasing the building for the Maungaraki Baptist Church. She asked them if they would put it on hold for two weeks until she could give them an answer.

The staff at Brittons must have viewed her request as a bit unusual, since most Churches have to consult with so many people and decisions do not generally come quickly. However, they were most obliging and agreed to give the two weeks she had requested.

## **The Church makes a Quick Decision**

Pressured for time and in the absence of Jim who was still in Christchurch, a special Church meeting was arranged at Graeme and Cheryl Stevens' home to outline the opportunity to purchase the building in Britton's yard. The meeting was to gauge the feeling of the members towards the acquisition and the possibility of raising a loan that could be financed from tithes and offerings. The response was positive and it was agreed to call a Special General Meeting to discuss costs and present a full proposal to the Church.

Jim recorded some comments made at the Board meeting after he returned from Assembly.

- Phil            He had not supported the idea of a Church building but when he saw this one his mind was changed and the Lord gave him a peace about it.
- Graeme        He was not too sure about the idea of relocating an old building, but when he saw this building, he could see it fitting into the Maungaraki Community.
- Brian         In 1993, the Lord had showed him that the Church would have a building by Nov/Dec 1994. He felt that this building would be just the beginning.
- Colin         (Treasurer) He made a request that members were asked to increase their giving, suggesting we come together to fast and pray about the finances.

A formal proposal was put to the Special General Meeting on Sunday 20th November 1994. The purchase price was \$56,000 including transporting it to the site and placing it on piles. An additional \$8,830 was the estimate for connecting services, plans, council fees, landscaping and a car park costing \$8,000 bringing the total to \$72,830. It was decided to use the building fund of \$10,000 as a deposit, sell the Energy Direct shares for \$1,500, and borrow \$60,000 at 7.65% over 15 years as a mortgage. A very positive response resulted in twenty-five of the twenty-six members voting in favour of going ahead. A poll of the non-members present showed that fourteen out of the sixteen were also in favour of the plan.

The Church had made the decision to purchase this building in less than two weeks.

In order to get a non-notified Resource Consent the Church was required to get a signature of consent from each owner and tenant of every adjoining house and flats. Sixteen of the seventeen signatures were obtained promptly. One person was not sure whether to sign or not and the Church prayed that this person would agree.

The 'Carols by Candlelight' service took place on the Church land on Thursday 15 December 1994. It was a beautiful still night with hardly a flicker from the candles as the air was so warm and still. Three hundred people attended the service and the next day the neighbour who had been uncertain about their consent signed the form. She told Brian Peck that she had enjoyed the time at the Carol service so much it had changed her mind.

A Resource Consent application was submitted to the Lower Hutt City Council with a landscape plan. It really seemed that the Lord went ahead as the Church quickly obtained the non-notified Resource Consent to relocate the building on to the Land.

Phil Leigh and Chris Dugdale had met on the Church land to discuss the positioning of the building making sure to leave room for a future auditorium. Chris remembers that they stood on the land feeling excited at the way God had provided this building. They decided that every time they met to discuss the building, they would pray and that day began by walking around the perimeter of the land, praying as they went.

## The Relocatable Building Arrives

On 10 February 1995 Brittons House Movers used a large truck to deliver the building to the Church land where it was placed on the new wooden piles.

This is what Chris wrote in the Building Report:

*“Whilst we can really thank God for his Gift to us, we are also mindful of the commitment and responsibility it brings. It struck me the other day that it’s like being new parents – the much-awaited new infant is here, but now the hard work begins!*

*The challenge we now face is whether we will be faithful stewards of that which God has provided. There are exciting days ahead, as we move onto the “Promised Land” and bring into being the vision the Lord has given us.*

*Let’s see the present need for ditch digging, garden planting, carpentry, and establishing the car park as an opportunity to work together in unity. An opportunity is there for each of us as individuals to give to the whole in some way, so that not only will we establish the building, but through the process allow the Lord to bring us together, preparing us for whatever is His next step for us.”*



**The four photos above show the administration building on site  
The wheelchair access ramp, the path and the new steps still under construction**

Gas, water, and power were connected and the landscaping completed. Digging the trenches was hard work as the ground consisted of heavy clay and rotten rock. Chris was able to purchase plants for two dollars each from the Petone Polytechnic and some of those are still growing at the Church sixteen years later. Peter Warnes made a curved laminated timber handrail to complete the wheelchair access and closed in the basement.



The relocated office was perfect for what was needed at that time. The bonus was that it had a carpet and came with window blinds, hot water heater, kitchen unit, shower, vanity, and toilet. It was complete apart from furniture. The total cost was \$78,000

The Church prayed for chairs. They were given forty from the recently closed Kelson Baptist Church. After purchasing upholstery fabric for five dollars a metre, a willing group of volunteers set about repainting the chair frames a metallic blue before recovering the seats.



**John Hazael, Chris Dugdale, Ruth Parry, Angela Hazael, Julie Green, David Osborne and Minnie Kendon working on the forty donated chairs from Kelson Baptist Church.**

One of the amazing answers to prayer was the provision of the office furniture. A builder had to close down and offered the Church a full set of office furniture worth \$7000 for a thousand dollars. This included two office desks, two bookcases, the green lounge suite, office chairs, tables, the filing cabinet, a coffee table, an electric typewriter and heaters. It was great that the lounge suite even matched the carpet colour. Everyone was buzzing with what God was doing and the faith levels were high.



**The administration building office and the lounge suite matching the carpet colour**

When the building had been built in Tawa, it had a space underneath it for cars. At Maungaraki, it was placed on shorter piles but the space underneath could still be used to store the garden and children's play equipment as well as the baptism pool. The lights under the building were reconnected and the whole exterior was repainted.

## The Administration Building is opened April 1995

Graeme Want was not as involved in the administration building relocation as he would be with the auditorium but his thoughts at the time were:

*“It was really good how this whole thing came together and materialised. The building was the right lay out; it suited the locality and did not look out of place on the Church land. It was much better than I thought it would be and was a bit of a miracle.”*



**The Administration Building in 1995**

Jim moved the Church office from his home into the new building in April 1995. It was quite a change for Jim and Kath to have their house to themselves again but it also meant that Jim was 'out at work' from nine until five each day. Chris spent the next eighteen months doing a Ministry Internship course with NZ Bible College and worked as Jim's assistant at the administration building as part of that course.

The administration centre became a place where people from the Church or local community could drop in anytime and find a welcome. It also provided a dedicated place on Sundays for the crèche and children. The lounge area became the venue for regular prayer meetings, quarterly meetings, board meetings and the youth group. Forty people attended the first Alpha course there and the 'In the Light' team trained there before the Sydney Outreach.



**The 'Sold' Sign put up in fun in 1995      Suits, ties, headscarves, not the normal attire**

This story would not be complete without mentioning how in 1995 Jim and Kath McLean went to England to visit their family. On their return, Brian Peck had in fun put up a 'Sold' Real Estate agents sign outside the building. You can imagine Jim's initial reaction as he remembered how in the previous year a building had been found while he was in Christchurch. He must have wondered what had been decided in his absence this time. To add to the welcome home, on the Sunday, the men dressed in suits and the women wore headscarves; attire completely different from the usual casual dress at a Sunday service.

As people had worked together to establish the building a sense of joy and fellowship had developed. Their prayers had been answered and there was the real sense that God was leading them and they were looking forward to what was ahead.

## Chapter 30 – Seven Years Wait for an Auditorium

Over the next seven years, the Church considered a number of ideas for an auditorium. A group of people from the Church went to look at the new Whitby Baptist Church which had cost almost \$1.5 million to build. The estimated cost for a similar new building at Maungaraki was around \$1 million and this amount seemed beyond the reach of the Maungaraki Church.

The search turned again to second hand buildings. Ideas included relocating the former bar at the Burma Motor Lodge, an empty Church building in Upper Hutt and the possibility of joining several old classrooms together. None of these seemed to be suitable.

But something very positive happened in July 2002 when seven years into the fifteen year mortgage the Church had repaid the \$60,000 debt. This was quite an achievement for the small group of people and everyone saw it as God's provision. However, it didn't stop there as in the very same month God led them to the next relocatable building and a new journey began. The number '7' is sometimes associated in Scripture with completion and perfection and this seemed to be another small sign from God that He was leading the Church.

For seven years, Chris had kept in touch with the various house removal companies with the hope of finding a relocatable building that would be large enough for a Church auditorium. On 18 July 2002 she contacted Chris Ellis of Alpha Specialised Movers and heard that there might be a possibility to purchase the Railway Social Hall at Woburn. Chris felt a sense of excitement that this could be the right building for the Church but at the same time she did not want to sound over enthusiastic as she had taken the Board and other people in the Church to see quite a number of potential buildings over the years.

A few days later Chris Ellis phoned to say that the Hall could be viewed on Thursday 25 July. The leadership (Jim, Brian, Graeme, Warwick and Chris) met Chris Ellis in Moera to have their first look inside the old Hall. Brian took some digital photos, still a bit of a novelty in 2002, which were later viewed on the TV at the Church office. Christine Want immediately called on the Prayer Line to pray about this possibility.

Jim Mclean, remembering this visit, said,

*“The administration building arrived and we were then seen as a presence in the community but we still needed an auditorium. As we had searched, it felt like we were looking for that elusive building. We looked at classrooms and small halls but we realised that these were not an option as they were too small.*

*When I first saw the Railway Hall, there was a sense of “this is it”. This is what God was supplying for us and it was huge. I realised later that it was the same size and shape as the auditorium we had planned to build if we could have afforded it. We knew that God was very much involved in the enterprise.”*



Chris Dugdale quickly obtained some initial estimates for a new roof, plumbing and electrical work and contacted the Hutt City Council to find out what they required for car parking, toilets and other building details. Chris Ellis recommended Callum McKenzie of McKenzie-Higham architecture for drawing the plans.

## Seeking God's confirmation

Everyone in the Church was contacted over the next three days and advised that on Sunday 28 July a meeting would be held to consider the proposal to buy the relocatable hall. Everyone was asked to pray for God's guidance.

Fiona Coughlan said,

*"There had been lots of prayer meetings about a building but I felt that this was the year it was going to happen. Right from the start I felt positive that this would go ahead."*

Julie Green said,

*"The year before, God had spoken a word to me confirming that there would be a building on the land in 2002. On 13 August 2002, I wrote at home in my prayer diary that 'a personal sense of lifting a burden has come and joy at the prospect of our having a 'home' (Church building) of our own at last. In prayer I believe God is saying 'yes' to going ahead with the building but that an emphasis on corporate, united, earnest, prayer is required.'*

*It was a significant time in the spiritual life of the Church. It was a culmination of many years waiting for God's direction for a physical home for Maungaraki Baptist Church. It was an exciting time and brought fellowship in a new way.*

*God showed us that the building would be a sanctuary for people and that He would provide what we needed even though we had so little money at the start."*

The intercessory and leadership teams met together to pray and God seemed to draw their attention to the following Bible verses,

*"Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you" Matthew 6:33*

*"Knock and the door will open" Matthew 7:7*

*"Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. Isaiah 54:2*

*"Write the vision. Make it clear on tablets so that anyone can read it quickly. The vision will still happen at the appointed time. It hurries toward its goal. It won't be a lie. If it's delayed, wait for it. It will certainly happen. It won't be late. Habakkuk 2:2-3*

*"Why are you living in luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins.... Go up into the hills, bring down timber, and rebuild my house. Then I will take pleasure in it and be honoured, says the Lord. So the Lord sparked the enthusiasm of the whole remnant of God's people. They began to work on the house of their God." Haggai 1:1-15*

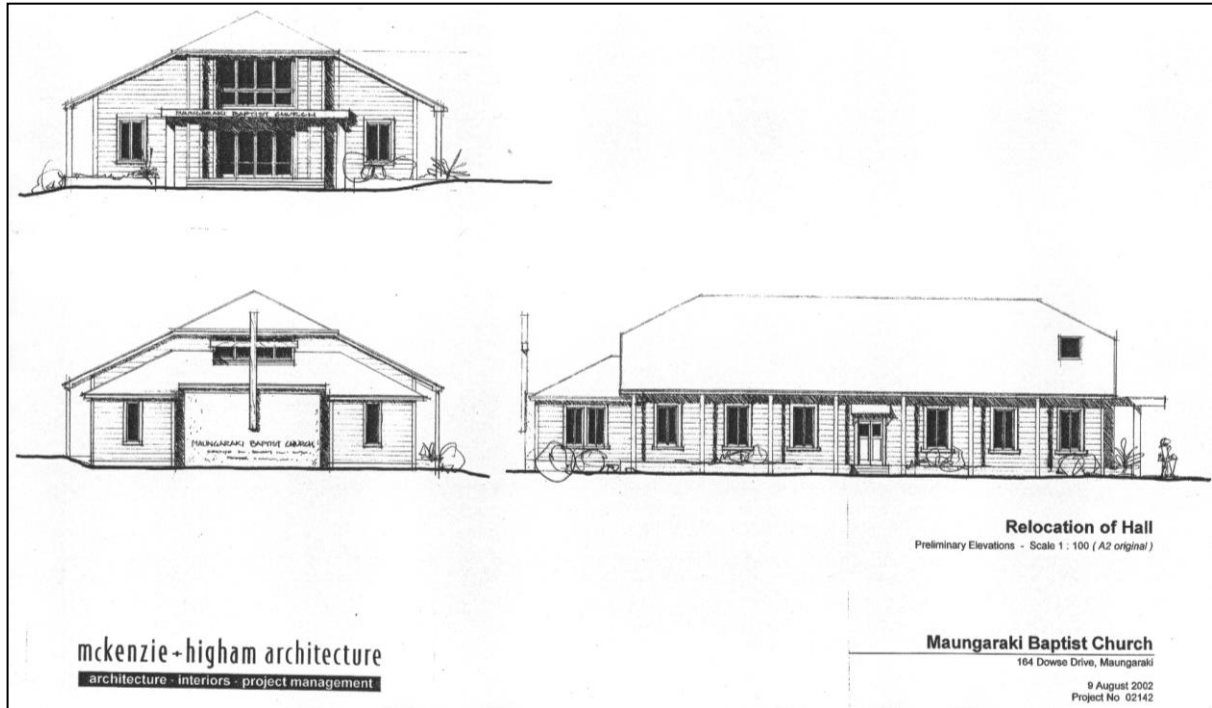
The proposal to buy the hall was presented to the Church. Roger Thomas prepared a model of the building and Brian showed the photographs he had taken.

The decision to continue the preliminary investigations was made by a vote amongst members showing that 32 out of 36 present at the meeting were in favour.

## Only \$10,000 in the building fund but many ideas

There was much to do but things began to fall into place. The Building Plan and Resource Consent application were prepared for the Council along with details about traffic, car parking and landscaping. An application for a mortgage to the Baptist Savings and Development Society was prepared along with details about the Church.

Jim placed preliminary notices in the local shop windows to inform the community that a building was under consideration.



## Plans for the Relocated Building

The progress seemed amazing and it was all looking positive. Then Chris had a phone call from Chris Ellis. New Zealand Railways needed to have the building moved by mid October and were concerned about the ability of the Church to get the Resource Consent and raise finance quickly. Contracts had to be signed and as we had been factual about our only having \$10,000 in the building fund, the concern was understandable.

Sometimes trusting in God's provision might seem like foolishness to outsiders. However, there was a strong sense that this was 'the building' and Chris Dugdale managed to reassure Chris Ellis that it would work out.

It was as if God was giving the Church little signs and nudges that they were to do all they could do and to trust Him with the rest. As had happened with the administration building there was only a small window of opportunity in which to make this decision as the building had to be moved by November at the latest.

On 4 August 2002 the Church decided to put faith into action by having a ground-breaking ceremony as part of the Church service. This happened before the final decision had been taken or the contract signed. Jim McLean cut the ground with a spade in the place where the new building would go and Murray Kendon and Colin Tinker turned over the first sod.

## **A leadership team meeting on 6 August established the main objectives.**

- To move out of the Community Centre into a building on the land.
- To create an attractive auditorium, approximately 16 x 15 metres. Insulation, acoustics, style of ceiling and a stage area were important factors.
- To create a sizable foyer area for functions and after service morning teas, with an attractive kitchen area.
- To provide the required number of toilets.
- To create a welcoming and attractive entrance probably facing the car park due to the direction of the prevailing winds.
- To provide additional space for the Youth Group, Children's Church and the Creche, possibly with a mezzanine floor over the foyer.
- To alter the exterior of the building to make it as attractive as possible.
- To consider car parking, and whether the Church will be required to provide additional car parking, and if so, where would it be.
- To create an atrium style area as a link between the existing Church Centre and the proposed new Church building.
- The budget was to be \$250,000

A Special meeting was held on 4 August to invite people to make suggestions. The leadership wanted everyone to feel involved in both the prayer and the planning.

Sue Martin had previously worked as an architectural draughtsperson and had two good suggestions. The first was to use the insulation product 'Triple S' which goes under the roofing iron to deaden the noise of the rain, an important factor during quiet times in a service. The second was to extend the roofline to form verandahs on each side of the building. Both suggestions were incorporated into the final plans and resulted in a conservatory area as well as some protection from southerly winds on the other side.

Murray Kendon suggested having a good-sized foyer and other people suggested separating the kitchen from the foyer by a hatch with a bench and a roller door.

Discussions took place about the size and height of the stage; whether to replace the suspended ceiling; where to put the baptismal pool; whether to build a mezzanine floor and providing a place where babies could be changed and fed. It was agreed to site the car park away from the prevailing wind and to request the Council to move the bus shelter from in front of the Church land to the east side of Rowan Street.

There were some suggestions that did not get included but were interesting ideas such as a curved feature wall built of river stones to face Dowse Drive and the possibility of modifying the building roofline and changing the windows by installing longer narrower ones to make the building look more like a modern Church. The subject of much discussion was the location of a cross but surprisingly this was not resolved until eighteen months later.

A special meeting was held after the service on Sunday 18 August and the members voted to go ahead with the purchase of the hall. On 23 August the contract was signed subject to the Resource Consent application being approved.

The Church had made the decision to purchase this building in three weeks, which was a quick response for a small Church with only \$10,000 in the building fund.

## **A Mortgage, Donations and 'Love offerings'**

The plan was to apply for a loan of \$250,000 from the Baptist Savings and Development Society to cover the \$100,000 purchase and relocation cost as well as Stage One of the renovations. When it was later decided to continue with Stage Two an additional \$100,000 was arranged. The Baptist Savings and Development Society provide low cost finance to Churches without sufficient assets or history to borrow from trading banks. They were very helpful and encouraging and without their support the project would not have been possible. They were positive about the previous level of giving by the Church especially as the first mortgage had been repaid early and they felt that MBC warranted assistance although the financial position of the Church was described as 'borderline'.

Maurice Cavaney was secretary and unable to attend the 25<sup>th</sup> Celebration he wrote this,

*Maungaraki has a very special place in my memory as I really enjoyed working with you as you struggled to bring a dream into reality. I remember you purchasing land and then a building for use as offices etc and then your vision of the provision of a church building. I have tremendous admiration for the group that had this dream of purchasing an old Railways hall, cutting it into transportable pieces, and then moving it up the hill while dodging the 'bullets' of the locals. Even I winced at the sight of the shell of the building and was somewhat nervous of how you would bring this to fruition.*

*To be present at the opening of the restored (born again) building was of great satisfaction to me: that I and the BSDS directors had enough faith in you all to pull this off knowing the risks involved must have been due to God's direction to us. I know many of you were involved in this project but what Chris Dugdale achieved with God's help was a miracle. I trust you will see many more miracles in the life of the Church in the years to come.*

*Please pass on my personal greetings and those of the Auckland Baptist Association (for whom I now act as Administrator in my retirement) I am sorry that I am unable to be present at the reunion but I will be in Melbourne with family members during March. May you all have a wonderful time as you reminisce on the past 25 years and give God the praise for what has been achieved in people's lives over this time. May you also dream of what can be achieved with God's help over the coming years.*  
*With kind regards, Maurice Cavaney*

Some Church members deposited interest free funds with the Society and this reduced by the equivalent amount the mortgage interest paid by the Church. For individuals who chose this option, the interest foregone replaced some of their tithe. There were obvious benefits to both the Church and the individual and this option is still available. The Baptist Savings and Development Society later made a DVD about their work and included interviews and film taken of the Maungaraki Baptist Church project.

With the loan approved, the next miracle was that the Hutt City Council accepted an application for a 'non-notified' Resource Consent. This was only possible as for the second time all seventeen neighbours signed the consent forms. There was a condition to the approval which stipulated that the exterior of the building, including the painting and landscaping, must be completed within six months of the building being placed on the land.

In December 2002 the Church had a faith offering for the building using Resene 10 litre paint buckets to make it relevant. \$23,000 was raised with this first offering and in subsequent offerings a further \$25,000. The Auckland Baptist Tabernacle Trust gave a generous donation towards the project as did the Wellington Baptist Association. The total cost of the purchase and restoration came to \$450,000 but the value is now much higher than this.

## Chapter 31 – History of the Railway Social Hall and Locomotives

### Old Photos from Helen Bruce

NZ Railways drew up plans and started work on the Social Hall in 1927. It was completed in 1934 towards the end of the Great Depression and was a great venue for events such as Christmas parties, dances and farewells. During the 1930s, over two thousand people were employed at the Hutt Railway Workshops, and the company had a strong social life. Most of the employees would have been shift-workers and a dance was a way to get everyone together. The Hall seated 200 comfortably.

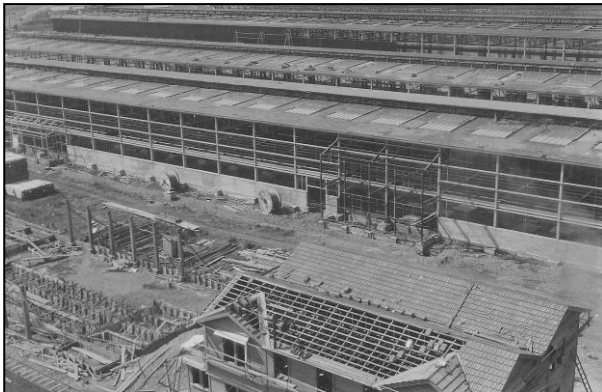
Helen Bruce, a resident from Dowse Drive, allowed us to copy these old photographs. Her Grandfather Harry Thompson (6 Oct 1883 – April 1952) was the foreman and is seen in the photo wearing a bowler hat. He came to Lower Hutt in 1927 from Wanganui and was responsible to ensure that the building work met all the requirements of the NZ railways



**Harry Thompson the Foreman**



**The Hall and Rimu pillars around 1928**



**The Railway Administration Building was next to the Social Hall**



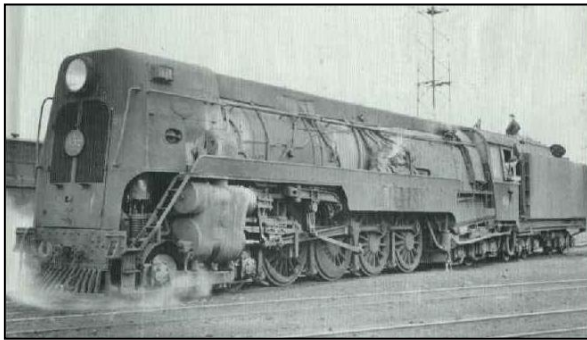
**An enlargement of the above photo shows the Rimu pillars**

Inside the foyer at the Church Centre there is a photo of a 'J' class engine pulling carriages in the Buller Gorge. The photo was taken by Roger Thomas and it was hung there as a reminder of the history of the building.

The Woburn Workshops were the main locomotive construction and repair centre for the North Island railway system and in the 1930's the 'Ja' class engines were made there. At first they were streamlined as in the first photo but later in the 1940's the streamlining was removed and the engines looked more like the second photo.



Both these engines were built at the Woburn railway Workshops. 1930 - 1940



'Ja' Class Engine with streamlining.



'Ja' Class Engine with streamlining removed

### The White Swan Hotel

N.Z. Railways had two buildings for sale at the Moera workshops yard. One was the Railway Social Hall under negotiation with the Church and the other was the adjacent Administration building of two storeys. Both were built at the same time and in somewhat similar style.

The Railways Administration building was relocated to Greytown and became the White Swan Hotel. . As it was being moved over the Rimutaka Hill Road one of the six sections skewed off the transporter on a tight corner and teetered on the edge of the hill closing the main road for eight hours.



The Railways Old Administration Building



Oops!



The Old Railway Administration Block is now the White Swan Hotel in Greytown

## Chapter 32 – Moving from Moera to Maungaraki

The Railways Hall was the largest building that Chris Ellis of Alpha Specialised Movers had transported in the Hutt Valley in 2002. The building is 27.5 metres long, 15.5 metres wide and 8 metres high.

After removing the roof tiles and the suspended ceiling to lighten the load, the interior was heavily braced and the roof covered with sheets of black polythene for the journey to Maungaraki. The structure was separated into three 10 x 15 metre sections, which were loaded onto three large multi-axle hydraulically operated trailers ready for the move.

**The photos below show the Hall as it was being prepared for the move.**



As the loads were oversize Chris Ellis had arranged for the route he planned to take to Maungaraki to be carefully measured. He had arranged for power lines to be temporarily taken down and traffic lights to be removed or manually operated. With the necessary permits in place the move was planned to start at 3.00am on Sunday 24 November.



The procession set off from the site in Bell Road, Moera at 3.00 am and several people from the Church gathered to watch the vehicles travel slowly along Parkside Road, over the Hutt River and along the Esplanade before turning into Cuba St and then Jackson Street. The trucks carefully negotiated the corner at the Petone Railway Station and the tricky S-bend leading onto the old Korokoro Bridge. They then turned onto the motorway and eventually slowly wound their way up Dowse Drive to Maungaraki.

As people walked or drove along with the three vehicles they were taking photos. Brian and Jo filmed the move on a video camera and they remember how significant that night felt.

It was a strange sight to see these huge building sections weaving along Jackson Street to avoid the street lamps and trees. Cars were left parked at the side of the road and the hydraulic rams on the transporters lifted their loads up to clear the car roofs by a few centimetres. The engines of the large vehicles in crawler gear woke people living in the apartments above the Jackson Street Shops. They must have been very surprised as they looked out of the window at 4.00 a.m. to see sections of a building going by at almost the same level as they were. Maybe they thought they were dreaming.

A major delay occurred on the motorway. One section had some very heavy concrete at one end and to balance it on the transporter the building had to protrude more to one side than the other.

This had not been allowed for when planning the route and as that vehicle turned onto the motorway and began to move north towards Dowse Drive the apex of the roof became tangled with one of the motorway lamps.



The vehicle could neither go forward or reverse and the Alpha staff climbed to the top of the building to remove some of the roofing timbers to free the load from the lamp. It was a tense moment, as at the same time Chris Ellis was trying to deal with the traffic police who were asking to see the 'moving permits'. The motorway was closed for two hours longer than the permit stipulated.

The procession of buildings continued up Dowse Drive to Maungaraki. Some of the overhanging trees on Dowse Drive had been trimmed to make room for the extra wide load to pass through. If the trailer had stopped for any reason it could have been difficult for the heavy load to start again, especially around the junction with Bushey Way.

Arriving in Maungaraki



During the previous week the Church land had been levelled and holes dug for the foundation piles. Rain had fallen during the week, the holes had filled with water and the ground was very muddy.

## **What an Eyesore!**

The move from Moera to Maungaraki on 24 November 2002 had taken six hours with a further hour to reverse the trailers into position on the Church land before the journey ended. Many of the Church people had either been up all night or arrived early for the 10.00am service to see the building arriving in Maungaraki. They had a vision of how the building would look when it was completed and they were optimistic and excited.

The reaction from the Community was not quite so positive. Maungaraki residents awoke to see the unexpected sight of three sections of tatty, yellow building perched on the land opposite the shops. As a 'non-notified' Resource Consent had been obtained and the move had taken place so quickly there had been little time for the news to get around. To be honest, the yellow painted building with broken windows, rusty corrugated end wall and a black polythene roof did look rather derelict.

The concern that this old building would affect property values was understandable and over the next few weeks, there were some strongly worded letters published in both the Hutt News and Maungaraki Views. The Church decided it was better not to reply to those letters but to concentrate on getting on with the work as quickly as possible to meet the six-month deadline for the outside to be completed.

Once the building was lowered onto the new foundation piles and the three sections joined back together the contract with Alpha Building Removals Ltd was completed and we were on our own. As the Church volunteers quickly went to work the comments from the community became increasingly positive and attitudes about the building changed.

Everyone was interested as the building was joined together, re-roofed, re-painted and the grounds landscaped. The author of the first 'letter of concern' to the local papers later wrote another letter saying how well the Church had done with the renovation, which was a lovely thing for that person to do.

## **God the Builder**

Earlier in 2001 and 2002, the Church notice board on the corner of Dowse Drive and Rowan Street displayed a variety of signs. As the building arrived on the land two signs were still on the notice board with the words,

**“God the Builder, Can He fix it? Yes He can”**

And

**“Take up the Challenge”**

The person who had written and put up the 'God the Builder' sign had done this before the Church had heard about the hall.

The words 'Take up the Challenge' referred to the Christian newspaper 'The Challenge'. The Maungaraki Youth Group had purchased and delivered copies of this paper to every home in Maungaraki and Normandale earlier that year and the sign was advertising that project.

Both signs appropriately applied to the challenge that was ahead of the Church and many such God-incidences happened over the following eighteen months.



**'God the Builder Sign'**



**'Take up the Challenge' sign**



**The three sections were in place on the Church land by 10.00 am 24 November 2002**



**People from Church and the community feeling either excitement or dismay**



**Jim McLean and Murray Kendon**



**The three sections joined back together**



Maungaraki Baptist Church plans to upgrade this former dance hall.

## Import from workshops dismays hills residents

BY SIMON EDWARDS

Some Maungaraki residents are dismayed by the arrival of a very large and scruffy building, deposited by trucks on land opposite the shopping centre last Wednesday.

The 5000 square metre former staff canteen and dance hall from the Woburn Railway Workshops is to be refurbished and used by the Maungaraki Baptist Church.

Local resident Bryan Fair called it a "crappy old building". In fax to the city council and the Hutt News, he wondered aloud why the community had bothered to fundraise so hard years ago for a modern community hall 200m further down the road "when the council allows this rubbish to be placed on our doorstep".

A senior planning officer, Robert Hayles, told him that no resource consent is needed to move a building within Hutt City. Officers introduced a variation to its District Plan to require such consent, but a majority of councillors voted against the proposal.

The building moved onto the site by the Baptist church involves "minor non-compliances" with excavation requirements, length adjacent to a residential boundary and a slight reduction in carparking. However consents from adjoining residential owners were obtained.

Council has imposed a condition that upgrading of the building be completed within six months.

We couldn't reach Pastor Jim McLean for comment by our deadline.

Maungaraki Community Association president Ken Howell said feedback he's received is dismay at the size of the building, that it appears out of character with other buildings in Maungaraki and that there appears little room for landscaping around it.

There's also some anger that there was minimal, if any, consultation with Maungaraki folk by the church.

"Some have said it should look nice when it's done up. But that doesn't change the size of it. It's so domineering," Mr Howell said.

experience

# Church

MAUNGARAKI

# Eyesore to asset

Once a railways dance hall, now a Maungaraki church...

BY PAULINE CLAYTON

"We're heavily into recycling," says Pastor Jim McLean of Maungaraki Baptist Church as he shows the *Hutt News* through the smart new eagle grey and white church, nearing completion on the corner of Dowse Drive and Rowan Street. "We recycle buildings," he said. "And we recycle people's lives."

On your left, as you enter the lobby, through two large aluminium double doors retrieved from Valentines Restaurant near the Basin Reserve, you'll see a wide ecclesiastical door rescued after the demolition of Laings Road Methodist Church.

Valentines double doors and windows are strongly evident in the north and west of the structure, with other double doors linking foyer to auditorium and the west-facing conservatory, and large windows letting light and warmth into auditorium and conservatory.

As Pastor McLean conducts the *Hutt News* reporter across the double sprung floor of the new auditorium - in years gone by a vibrant centre of fun and hospitality as Woburn Railway Workshops canteen and social hall - he points out more Hutt Valley history: three timber doors being

prepared for a new life in the church, after fire cost them their part in the refurbishment of Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club.

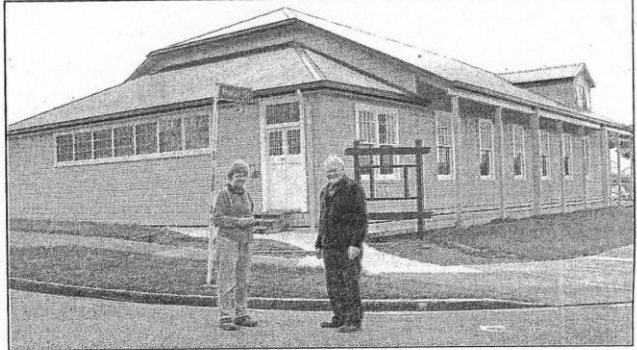
When finished, the church will accommodate 300 people in comfort, plus 50 more in three meeting rooms upstairs in the mezzanine floor, with ample capacity to feed and refresh them in the commercial style kitchen adjoining the foyer.

With such an attractive result, it's hard to remember the howls of dismay which echoed round the hills when the old social hall first arrived, unannounced, on the empty site.

It was less than a year ago, on a November night, that three housemoving trucks made their way up Maungaraki hill carrying a cargo destined for a corner site over the road from Maungaraki Shopping Centre.

With hindsight, the Baptists acknowledge there could have been more communication with those living nearby and the busy shopping centre.

"They didn't know what we knew," says Pastor Jim McLean, musing that anyone seeing the arrival, seven years before, of a tatty building destined to become the church



It looks brand new but its 'bones' are decades old - Pastor Jim McLean and project manager Chris Dugdale outside the dance hall refurbished as a Baptist church.

office, would have known they would do a good job.

Instead, when the tacky yellow building arrived onsite, Mangaraki residents howled in derision, with one man demanding a rebate on his rates!

Undeterred, under volunteer project manager and parishioner Chris Dugdale, whose only experience was renovating old villas, they set about refurbishing the hall, with the help of PD workers, trades group Mobile Mission Maintenance, electrician Ted Thomas and parish volunteers. Each took a few of the dip-stripped sash windows home and repainted them before they were reglazed with stronger 4mm Maungaraki-style glass.

With landscaping and gardens currently being planted and much finishing left to do, the overall cost looks set to approach \$400,000, a far cry from the \$1 million-plus the building would have cost new.

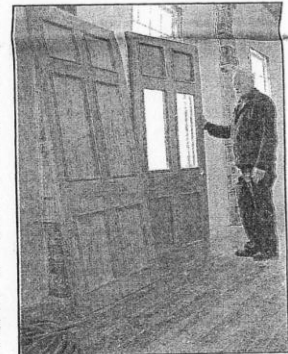
But what made them decide to go ahead now?

Churchpeople believe they received a sign from God. They had prayed for a building measuring 26m long and 16 metres wide. Exactly one week after paying off the mortgage on the adjoining office, Alpha House Removals offered them the hall.

"It was 27 by 15. We believe it was meant

to be," Mrs Dugdale said.

With about three months to go before the grand opening, Maungaraki Baptists are confirmed in their belief that when God's people step out in faith, all things tend to work together for good.



Two of the three doors destined for refurbishment of the Upper Hutt Cossie Club. A fire there put paid to those plans.

## Baptist Church

Hello Ken,

We would like to endorse all that Stephanie Dobbs wrote about the impressive building added to the Baptist Church complex. Our congratulations, also, to the team who have kept at it to bring it in line with other village buildings. The colour choice is superb, blending nicely into its surroundings.

We would also like to thank the owners for the interest created the morning the three bits were trundled up the hill, the trucks so skillfully driven to miss cars and lamp posts.

The building is of special interest to me as my grandfather, I believe, supervised the building of the Woburn workshops, probably starting in 1927. I have photos of the progress of the project, including one of a similar building to our local one. I imagine it is the one in Greytown.

Ken, we really enjoy the fruits of your labour.

Thank you.

**Helen Bruce**

**Dowse Drive.**

The first is in Maungaraki, where the locals shuddered when the shabby Railways Social Hall was moved onto the Baptist section opposite the shops without any prior announcement about its future. Its transformation, like a soul redeemed from sinner to saint, has been interesting and a relief no doubt to the suburb. As they say, full credit.

## Baptist Church

Hello Ken

I am a relative new comer to the area but thought I would like to make a comment in the Maungaraki Views anyway.

Credit where it is due.

On arrival in this area I read quite a bit of "bad press" regarding the new Hall across the road from our little shopping area. Today I walked by and couldn't help but be impressed by the difference in the hall between then and now.

What was a large 'yellow' elephant is now a nicely painted, re-roofed, impressive building, in the process of being landscaped.

I think it sits well on the site and I am pleased to say *enhances* the area. As opposed to earlier thoughts that it might lower values it may well increase them.

Well done to the team of hardy workers.

**Stephanie Dobbs**

**Oakleigh Street.**



## Chapter 33 – Renovating and ‘God-incidences’

It is hard to explain how some of the things that happen in our lives seem to be more than just coincidence. Sometimes they seem like random occurrences, but the events described in this story point to something bigger. God is intimately involved in the lives of those He created and He is a God who responds to prayer. The correlation between the prayers of the Church and the answers from God were greater than would normally happen by chance and we refer to these times in this story as 'God-incidences.'

We knew that a supernatural God was helping us as He brought the people, materials and the timing together in such a way that it was beyond what was naturally possible. The strength to keep going came from the joy of feeling we were working on earth but connected to heaven.

During the eighteen months it took to complete the renovations Chris was often there from early morning through to the early evening. The tradesmen would arrive around 7.30 a.m. and after they left there was always sweeping up and the planning for the next day to do.

Chris and Warwick lived in Whitby and as Chris drove over Haywards Hill each morning she would pray for help with the jobs that seemed at times daunting. Chris would ask in detail about the specific needs for the renovations or that the timing of a task would work out.

Chris said,

*“I cannot prove that God heard and answered those prayers but it certainly seemed that when I prayed there were definitely answers. At night, when I was driving home I was often saying a thank you for the way things had worked out that day.”*

The following chapters are about the people who worked on the building, the materials that were used and the ‘God Stories’ that happened every day as we all worked together to complete the Maungaraki Baptist Church Centre.

### The Roof

McKenzie Higham the architects had specified that as the building was in a high wind zone the roof structure would have to be strengthened even though it originally had been built to support the original heavy clay roofing tiles. Builders were not easy to find and Neville Blair put Chris in touch with Grant Osborne and Gary Stokes who were able to start almost immediately. They were the ones who led the first major onslaught to the restoration work.

Sometimes architects and builders see things differently and this happened from time to time. The architect had specified a fixing method for which the screws alone cost \$5000. The builders suggested an alternative fixing for the roof and a cost saving was made in the re-design. The Triple ‘S’ sheets suggested by Sue Martin were placed over the roof frame and thick 3.4 rating pink roofing batts were installed for maximum insulation. The roof frame was certainly substantial and sparked comments that the Church was building ‘an ark’.

Brocklesby’s cut the sheets and DB Roofing installed the Karaka Coloursteel long run roofing to replace the seventy-year-old tiles and the temporary black polythene.



The heavy tiles were removed from the Railway Hall and replaced with black polythene



After the move from Moera to Maungaraki a new roof was the first priority



Building an 'ark'- being in a high wind zone meant that the roof had to be strengthened



The dormer window lets in more light

The new coloursteel roof is in place

Graeme Want helped with the roof strengthening and worked with Grant, each carrying one end of the heavy timbers, walking in step with each other as they moved along the roof.

Graeme Want was made redundant about this time. He said,

*“Leaving work and not having something to do would have been very difficult. Working on the Church building gave me a lot of satisfaction, it gave me a reason to get out of bed and do something useful each day. The social side was good, meeting all sorts of different people. The timing was perfect as it gave me time to transition from working in a full time career into a more family orientated, satisfying, sociable lifestyle with a different pace. It allowed me time to prepare for the next stage and without that time of transition, it would have been quite a shock. I learnt new skills and improved my painting skills. Afterwards, our move to live in Masterton was just the best thing to happen.*

*When you think about it, I could have been made redundant the year before or I could have kept going another year but I had decided that this was the time to go. It was God’s timing. I could work at my own pace as a semi-retired person. It was a fantastic wind-down time and satisfying to do something manual and make something with my hands.”*

From the point of view of the Church project, God’s timing for Graeme could not have been better either and we were very grateful that he could help on the project almost every day.

After building the roof frame, Grant and Gary took out windows, removed the old stage, installed the front entrance and foyer doors and the two new windows upstairs. They repaired the joins where the building had been cut both on the exterior and the inside floor. They worked on putting in the upstairs room and the kitchen windows. Gary brought Trevor Bell into the team to work on the building when extra help was required.

The Church needed all the help they could get and Bruce McFetridge from Harvest Life Church introduced us to some of the men from the Naenae Church. There was Arona (often called Sai), Macka, Taff and Barney. These men gave all they could in a practical way to help with God’s work. Sai shared some interesting ‘God stories’ with us. They put aside other jobs to come and help when required and the Church was grateful.

## **Painting**

Choosing the colours was a challenge. It was confusing listening to a consultant explaining that ‘the colours are talking to one another and they bring an ambience’ A number of test pots were tried and there were many opinions what colour to use.

Chris’s daughter Fiona visited the site one day at a time when the table was full of colour swatches and they were trying to decide on the exterior colour. Fiona immediately pointed to a small strip of colour on one of the Resene charts called ‘Eagle’ which ‘jumped out at her’ and the decision was made.

There were many favourable comments from other Churches and individuals about the colour chosen and a Church in Miramar as well as some homes in the area later used it. Fiona was invited to help choose the interior colours and Resene ‘Buttercup’, ‘Half Pearl Lustre’ and ‘Light Admiralty Grey’ were chosen. The latter is the blue/green colour that matches the ex-Valentines windows, which happily did not require repainting. It seemed that everything else did need painting and it was a long hard task.

Paint stripping, hammering in nails, filling the holes, sanding, on and on it went. Inside and outside, upstairs and downstairs, the task seemed endless. The cracks between the weatherboards had to be filled before the primer and undercoat could be applied.

Several coats of lead paint applied over the years covered the Matai weatherboard exterior of the building. The company 'City Strippers' professionally stripped the building of this paint right back to the bare timber. Facemasks and goggles were worn and the yellow paint flakes collected with a vacuum cleaner at the end of each day.

John McKnight from Lower Hutt was employed to spray paint the exterior top coat. He also arranged for the Church to hire a scaffold tower from a friend.



### **Paint stripping, and volunteers filling the cracks in the old weatherboards**

Graeme Want remembers the difficulty he had painting the high apex of the gable above the door between the foyer and the auditorium. He placed a ladder on top of the scaffold and by standing up high on the ladder and using the very tip of the paintbrush he was just able to reach, with great satisfaction, the peak eight metres above the floor. Jim also worked off the ladder on the scaffold to paint the metal brackets that joined the beams together.

Another day Murray brought a long ladder so they could reach the highest areas. Jim remembers insisting on going up the ladder, as he knew Murray would otherwise have attempted that job.

On another occasion, Murray recalls standing on the top ledge of the scaffold and holding the ladder whilst Jim was climbing up. No one could have been very conscious of the requirements of Occupational Health and Safety or they would have probably found a safer way.

## **The Project and the Mortgage Grew**

'Stage One' of the building project was to complete the exterior so that the building was watertight and to provide toilets. The Church could then have moved into the building.

'Stage Two' was going to be completed later and was to include the foyer, kitchen and the finishing work. However, it was soon realised that it was not going to be possible to separate the two stages and that additional money would have to be borrowed.

The end wall next to the car park had been closed off with a section of corrugated iron where a lean-to kitchen had previously been. On each side of the iron were narrow timber doors and above the iron was a window that was beyond repair. Once these were removed, there was almost no wall left. The wall had to be strengthened by installing steel uprights and beams and at the same time other posts and beams were installed to create the mezzanine floor and an upstairs room over the foyer area. Holes had to be cut in the timber floor and foundations dug to support the steel work. That was not an easy task and Arona did much of this digging in a very cramped space. The temporary exterior wall was then completed with matching weatherboards made by Cedarcorp.

The first set of plans from the architect had included a kitchen and bathroom area with the stairs to the mezzanine commencing from within the foyer area. This plan would have reduced the foyer size and there would have been considerable noise disturbance between the kitchen and upstairs. After taking measurements and doing some drawings Chris worked out that it was possible to place the stairs over the toilet area to make the foyer a better size. She also added into the plans the bathroom on the stair landing and the large storage cupboards that in the initial plans had been shown as 'void' areas. At first the architect would not believe that re-locating the stairs was possible due to the restricted headroom but with one centimetre of headroom to spare Chris's idea was adopted.

The dormer window installed into the roof added a great view of the harbour as well as letting in more light into the upstairs room. When working on the frame with the iron not yet in place a strong southerly storm began blowing rain into the building. Jim McLean and Graeme Want climbed up onto the roof in an attempt to fix a polythene sheet to keep out the rain. Jim tells the story,

*"People must have thought we had lost our senses, we were hanging outside, legs wrapped around where the window sill was going to be, lying on our backs with a staple gun, trying to make the polythene sheeting stay up. However, it was not very successful!"*

## **Ceiling**

Once the suspended ceiling was removed it was discovered that the rafters and sarking had been spray painted black some time in the past. 'Steam and Sand Ltd' a company from Porirua came to the rescue and sandblasted the paint from the inside of the roof revealing again the natural timber colours of the Rimu sarking and Oregon beams.

The sand blasting machinery was noisy and the job took a week to complete. At the end of each day the floor was rather like Petone Beach. A number of different people turned up each evening to scoop the blasting sand into containers ready to be recycled and used again the next day. Graeme Want, some of the Leach family, Brian Peck and probably others helped with this very dirty and dusty task. There was a residue of sand left along the Oregon beams. Brian and Jeremy Peck climbed up onto the beams and walked along them to sweep off the sand. The result of the sandblasting was worth all the effort, especially at night when the 'up-lighters' are turned on.



**The end wall that needed to be re-built**



**Waiting for the weatherboard to arrive**



**Steel posts and beams:... around the stage**



**..... and supporting the upstairs**



**The Rimu ceiling after sand blasting**



**The Rimu ceiling and Oregon beams**



**The sandblasted ceiling with up lighters**



**Many hours were spent de-nailing timber**

## Windows

Many of the windows were in bad shape and much discussion took place on whether to replace them. The old double hung windows had character with the advantage that when they were open they did not protrude onto the walkways. The decision was to restore them and they were removed and taken to the workshop of 'City Strippers' where they were dipped in a large tank of acid to remove the old paint. Unfortunately, the 'dip-stripping' as it is called, does not remove all the paint and so many arduous hours were required to scrape and sand the thirty-two Totara window sashes before repainting began. It was a daunting task but Andrew, the owner of the 'dip stripping' company, offered the use of his workshop.

Rex Johns, a friend of Chris and Warwick, called in to see them when he was travelling through Wellington on his way home to Nelson. When he saw what a huge job was ahead he decided to break his journey and lend a hand for three days. The timing was perfect and it seemed to be another God-incidence and an answer to prayer. Rex came at just the right time and the Church appreciated all the hard work he did. Rex would have arrived home in Nelson with very sore fingers after working for three days scraping and sanding the sashes.

Graeme Want took a number of the frames home to paint and would work either inside or outside the garage and put them in a line along his fence to dry. Chris also took some frames home and the three Dugdale daughters helped quite late at night after finishing their homework. One night they were told they could not go to bed until they had finished painting the frame they were working on as Chris was so determined to get them finished. Almost everyone helped to sand, repair, fill, or paint with four coats those double hung sashes.



**Kath, Gaynor, Jim, Brian and Julie Green**



**Hilary, Lisa and Emma**



**Murray, Colin and Graeme's window**



**Wendy Garlick, Julie Green, Fiona Coughlan**

Murray Kendon who had retired from a desk job in 2001 at the age of 84 spent many hours working on window frames that could not be removed from the building. The long window facing Dowse Drive was one of Murray's contributions. He painstakingly removed the old putty, stripped, sanded and polyurethaned or painted the frames.

It was a labour of love, as Murray knew that Chris wanted to keep the character of the original window. With seven frames, each with twelve small panes there were eighty-four windowpanes to paint. Graeme Want and Colin Tinker helped Murray to get the job completed and Graeme remembers feeling very pleased with the high gloss they achieved using a different polyurethane to withstand the strong sun on that end of the building.

The original 3mm glass in all windows was replaced with a heavier glass 4mm thick. Double hung windows slide up and down inside channels in the window jambs with a system of ropes, pulleys and iron counter-weights. Once re-glazed with the heavier glass the original 11-pound weights would not hold the windows open. Chris visited almost every building recycler in the Wellington area and eventually found sufficient of the heavier sash weights for all of the windows. She knows that she was led by God to some of the places where she either purchased or swapped the lighter weights for the heavier weights.

At last, the refurbished windows were back in place. No one wanted to think ahead to the day when the windows would need painting again. The memory of the work on the windows and the effort to complete that task is inseparable from the people who worked on it.

## **Walls**

After the removal of the old roofing tiles, the building was protected with a temporary cover of polythene sheeting until the new roof was put on. It was particularly wet that year and rain leaked through the polythene damaging beyond repair the fibrous plaster on the internal walls. Although it was an additional and unexpected cost to replace the wall linings there was a good outcome as the insurance company paid a sum towards the rain damage.

Graeme Want with some helpers spent a week pulling from the walls the old wet fibrous plaster linings and loading it into several skips. The hardest part was pulling thousands of nails out of the timber framing after removing the plaster. It took days to remove those nails and clean up the surfaces ready for the new GIB board.

With the framing exposed, the opportunity was taken to rewire the building and insulate the walls with thick pink batts. Later we realised that it would have been impossible to do a complete rewire of the building if the wall linings had not been removed. In our initial enthusiasm to have a place of our own to meet and with limited funds, we had planned to use the building as a 'closed in shell' for some time. Thankfully God was in charge and not us and once again we experienced that 'God works all things together for good'. Romans 8:28

The decision was taken to leave exposed the 300 x 300 millimetre heart Rimu pillars that were previously hidden by the fibrous plaster and to integrate them into the overall project as design features. The pillars were rough sawn and it took many hours of work to sand them smooth. People used belt and orbital sanders as well as sanding by hand. The smoother they were the better they looked when varnished. Graeme, Jim and anyone else available, including some of the Community work teams, helped with this task.





**Rimu pillars: Before ....**

**and after**

**Doors**

Three additional doors were needed. One for the bottom of the stairs, one for the library and one for the sound equipment room. Chris and Jim decided to visit 'The Ironman', a second hand yard in Upper Hutt where they found three suitable Rimu doors originally in the Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club. After hours of sanding they were hung in place.



**Joan Hart sanding one of the doors**



**Mike Prasad with MMM volunteers**



**Fiona Coughlan and Priscilla from the Hope Centre painting the doors upstairs. On the right is one of the original doors after being stripped and polyurethaned.**



## Pink Batts, GIB Board and GIB Stopping



Mike Prasad, Colin Tinker and Colin Garlick



Pink Batts and Valentines frames



Starting to fix the GIB board



The GIB stopping completed, ready to paint

When companies in the Hutt Valley, became aware of the project they really seemed to go out of their way to help. Time and time again there was a sense of God's guidance when searching for the materials required to complete the project.

As the old building had been constructed using imperial rather than metric measurements it was better to use uncut batts as they could be cut to the right size using a Stanley knife and a long aluminium bar. Forman Insulation in Petone had a surplus supply of uncut pink batts which they offered to sell to the Church at a very reasonable price.

Graeme, Mike, Warwick, and Jim with help from the Mobile Mission Maintenance volunteers (MMM) installed the pink batts and patiently put up with the irritated eyes, itchy skin and having to wear protective gear that made them look like spacemen. There is more about the MMM team later in this story.

The next challenge was to put up the GIB board. This was not an easy task as some of the walls were higher than could safely be reached from the mobile scaffold tower and there was very little experience amongst the team of Church volunteers. There was another answer to prayer when Richard Crawford, a builder who was associated with MMM came with some of his employees and with the help of a GIB lifter put up the very heavy sheets on the ceiling above and around the stage area.

It was decided that 'soundproof' batts and 'noiseline' GIB board would be used for two reasons. One so that road noise would not be a distraction during the services and also so that any loud music would not disturb the neighbours. A 'GIB quiet zone' wall surrounds the stage area. Two sheets of GIB board were placed on one side of the wall, one layer horizontally and the other vertically with one sheet on the other side of the framing and noise-absorbing batts in between. Any small gaps were completely sealed and acoustic noise blocking seals were used around the doors.

It was additional work but it was decided to 'do it once and do it right' and that the benefits of this noise control would be worth the effort and small extra expense. The wall between the auditorium and the upstairs room was especially well soundproofed by adding extra polystyrene and noise absorbing batts so the room could be used during service times.

Once Richard Crawford had finished the stage area, a way had to be found to install the rest of the GIB board. It was difficult, especially as in the enthusiasm to have the building well insulated too many pink batts had been 'stuffed' into the walls. Some of the extra batts had to be removed before the sheets of GIB could be fixed in place.

A number of people helped with the GIB board fixing but it still took weeks before the interior lining was all in place. Then it was time to find a plasterer. After praying that God would find the right person, someone gave Chris the name of Ernie Minot a tradesman from Upper Hutt Christian Fellowship. He took the project on, did a great job, and fitted in really well with the group of volunteers. Ernie is remembered for his 'wise sayings' and as Chris rushed around trying to get two things done at once, he would say ... 'you don't have to run, life is too short' to which Chris would reply, 'no... life is too short, not to run.'

### **Planning the space inside the building.**

The layout of the ground floor had been the subject of much discussion and so one Sunday Chris used tape to do a 'mock' layout of the building with the auditorium foyer, toilets and kitchen area. It allowed everyone to be able to envisage how the space could best be used.

## Chapter 34 – The Valentines Restaurant Story

The Valentines story is another amazing 'God story'. It demonstrates how God's provision made it possible to complete the Church building within eighteen months. This was the most exciting of all the Church building 'God-incidences' and the one Chris was most looking forward to recording when she started writing about this journey nine months ago.

As related earlier Chris first met Brian Kelly in 1994 when she began the search for the administration building. Their paths did not cross for nine years. However, God's timing is always accurate and on a Saturday morning as she took one of her daughters to the dentist early in 2003 she recognized Brian Kelly standing on the pavement in Laing's Road.

Over the previous week Chris had been pondering over what to do for the main entrance door for the new building. Jim and Chris were thinking that one wide set of doors would be more suitable for weddings and funerals than the planned two sets of double doors at a cost of \$5,000. The plan was to look for some second hand aluminium doors from building recyclers.

After saying 'hello' and 'it's been years since I've seen you', Chris asked Brian Kelly, "Do you know of any doors for sale?" It was straight to the point, as this question was uppermost in her mind on that particular weekend.

To Chris's delight, Brian said that he had a door she could look at immediately. It was the front timber door of the Methodist Church. The Church was about to be demolished to make way for the new Briscoes and Rebel Sports stores in Lower Hutt. It was a beautiful, large solid looking rimu door and the price asked was \$300. There was no hesitation as Chris said straight away that she would take it. This door now hangs between the foyer and the stairs.

Chris then told Brian that she had been really looking for a set of aluminium doors and asked if he knew of any for sale. Brian suggested going to the Valentines restaurant in Basin Reserve in Wellington. The building was to be demolished the following week and had a set of double aluminium doors that could be purchased if Chris could arrange to remove them before then. They did not discuss the price as he said to decide first if they were suitable.

Chris and Warwick went into Wellington to check out the doors. The Valentines restaurant had only been open for six or seven years and was closed to make way for student accommodation buildings. The Restaurant had operated up until Christmas Eve 2002 and it looked as if the owners had just walked out without cleaning anything.

However, what Chris and Warwick saw on that first visit were some aluminium doors and windows.... and then some more aluminium doors and windows and Chris probably exclaimed, "Wow" about twenty times.

She quickly rang Brian Kelly and said she was very interested in the doors but that she needed to know the price and asked if more than one set was for sale. He explained that if she wanted them she would have to arrange to get them out within the following two or three days before demolition commenced. She agreed to return on the Monday with others from the Church and then discuss the price once she knew how many they wanted.

On the Monday morning Chris made a list of the items she wanted from Valentines. A memory from childhood came back to Chris, of a time she had entered a competition. She did not win but remembered imagining how much fun it would have been to have won the prize which was to go into a toyshop with a trolley and everything she could grab off the shelves within a minute was hers. As she made a list of everything that could be used at the Church it was as if she had won that prize years later.

The list included:

- Three sets of double and one single set of aluminium doors with handles and locks
- Two sets of double internal wooden doors with locks
- Several single internal wooden doors
- At least eight toilet bowls and cisterns, two for handicapped people.
- Several ceramic washbasins
- Fire alarms and some wiring
- A huge amount of carpet
- Forty (or more) shop front aluminium frames complete with toughened glass
- A variety of odd shaped aluminium frames
- Six small aluminium windows.

The details of the price for each individual item has faded from memory but a price was given for each item and Chris was told that she could pay whatever the total came to once everything was removed. The building would then be bulldozed. She decided she was going to get everything on the list as she was sure there would be a use for it. Not everyone was quite as enthusiastic as Chris was or perhaps realised at that stage the extent of her plans.

The first task was to remove the toilets and washbasins and that Monday afternoon Graeme Want with someone else returned to Wellington to make a start. The toilets were really dirty and disgusting and it was one of the worst jobs undertaken. However, the men came home triumphant. Having unscrewed eight complete toilets from the floor and wall, retrieved several washbasins and some fire alarm sirens, Graeme said later that he had not realised how easily a toilet could be removed and the hardest part was getting out the floor screws.

On the Tuesday, a carpet-cleaning firm was employed to shampoo the carpet after it had been cleared of the debris and swept. Murray, Graeme, Christine, Julie, Margaret, Warwick and Chris were there for the day. The demolition crew had already made a start at taking the building apart and the team had to wear facemasks and the hard hats were compulsory.

Chris managed to track down the Paraparaumu Company that made the aluminium joinery six years before. They agreed to send two men on the Wednesday to remove all they could in the time available and charge an hourly rate. She also arranged for a glazing company to be there at the same time to remove the glass from the shop front frames. A number of helpers from Church were to take out the rubber strips that held the glass in place and all windows and glass were numbered to match up later. With everything arranged, the Church was asked to pray.

It was a 7.00am start for what was a very full and successful day. Everyone worked together and managed to remove everything possible. At 6.00pm, Chris was struggling to take out the last window frame. Someone said to leave it as we had enough but she took it anyway and that window is now in place at the Dowse Drive end of the conservatory.

The men from the aluminium Company estimated that the aluminium joinery would have originally cost over \$40,000 to manufacture. The glass, much of it 6-8mm toughened or laminated glass would have also cost about \$40,000 when it was installed. The rest of the items such as the toilets and washbasins probably would have valued to around \$20,000.

It had taken less than a week from the time Chris met Brian Kelly on the Saturday until the Church had all the doors and windows by Wednesday evening. A week before it was looking as if the front entrance doors alone were going to cost \$5000 but here was \$100,000 worth of materials and all we were asked to pay to the demolition company was \$3,400.

Can you imagine how excited we were?

Almost everything that came from Valentines was used somewhere in the building. A set of double doors for the main entrance, another set, along with windows frames for the wall between the auditorium and the foyer and two sets for the conservatory. The double wooden doors were used to create cupboards in the upstairs roof space and other doors used for toilets, bathrooms and a cleaner's cupboard. The conservatory was completely closed in with the 'Valentine' window frames. There were sufficient toilet pans and washbasins to complete all of the toilet areas. The smaller windows were used in the kitchen and other areas.

There was no doubt in anyone's mind that God was behind the Valentine's acquisition and it was probably one of the most exciting of the times when God provided the materials or labour required. The saving to the Church was close to \$100,000. Added to that the completion of the building was probably brought forward by at least twelve months.

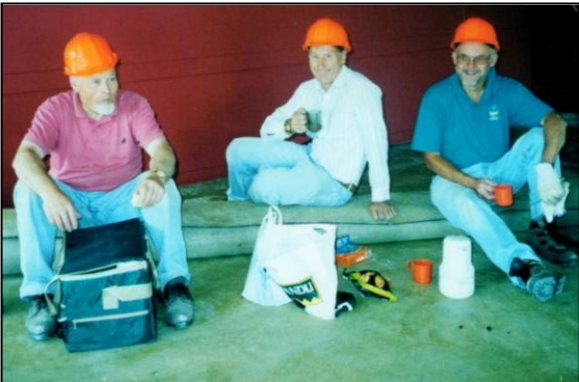
The next page of photos were taken at the Basin Reserve Valentines Restaurant after it had closed and when the crew from the Church were preparing to remove as much as they could.

**The top four photos show,**

- 1. The restaurant before it was demolished**
- 2. The shop front frames stacked up in the Church building**
- 3. The front door that we now have in the Church**
- 4. Murray, Julie and Christine Want sweeping the floor with hats and face masks.**

**The bottom four photos show,**

- 1. Chris**
- 2. Graeme, Christine, Warwick, Murray and Julie Bottom**
- 3. Jim, Graeme, and Warwick enjoying a cup of coffee**
- 4. Graeme helping to remove the glass.**



By Thursday, all of the 'rescued' items had been delivered to Maungaraki and a team of volunteers had begun to clean the aluminium frames, doors, toilets and washbasins.

Margaret, Julie, Minnie, Wendy, Gaynor and others scrubbed everything with hot soapy water. It was quite a job but they came up looking almost like new.

Grant Osborne, the builder who was helping with the roof had connections with Bathroom Solutions and the heavy glass sheets were stored in racks at their premises until needed.

**The following photos show how the frames and glass in place.**



**The Valentines frames used in the porch**



**The Valentines frames in the conservatory and the window at the end we rescued from being bulldozed.**



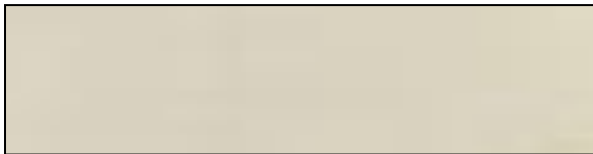
**The outside of the conservatory**



**Murray Kendon and Ann Parker**



**Light Admiralty Grey**



**Eagle**



## **Chapter 35 – MMM or Mobile Mission Maintenance Team**

MMM is a faith mission with the purpose to build, renovate and maintain properties connected with Christian activity. Their labour is given free of charge and their ministry is to display the love of God in a practical way as they work alongside people during a project.

Chris had applied to MMM for help knowing that they had many such requests but were unable to accept them all. MMM seek to help ministries or Churches that have an outreach focus. Whether it was the fact that the Church had been involved with the setting up of a number of King's Kids teams in the Wellington area or that God just impressed on them that they were to come and help no one knew. The Church was so thankful that MMM answered our call and sent a team of eight volunteers to assist at Maungaraki. They arrived in April and gave much needed impetus, allowing the second major thrust forward, five months into the project when everyone was weary and enthusiasm beginning to wane.

Families in the Church provided the MMM Team accommodation and meals and some took time off from their regular employment to work alongside the MMM team over the four weeks they were on site. One MMM couple had a caravan and lived in the Church car park during their stay. They remained to help for another ten days after the main team had moved on.

The MMM team and the Church volunteers would come together each day for a time of Bible reading, prayer and fellowship at morning teatime. This often involved sharing stories about how God had answered prayers in a miraculous way on previous assignments.

Before they arrived the MMM team had asked that someone in our Church would take charge of planning for each day's work and organising the materials so that their team could make the most of the time they had. They really wanted an experienced builder but we did not have any tradesmen in the Church. MMM were a little hesitant when Chris told them she was the project manager. However, she made sure the materials required were always on hand along with a long list of jobs to be undertaken and it all worked out fine.

The initial building phase had seen the sections of the building joined, the roof completed and the exterior painting almost done. The old fibrous plaster had been stripped and the original stage removed. The windows were back in place and the framing for the mezzanine and upstairs rooms were built.

However, there was still a daunting task still ahead. The building was a watertight but empty shell. There was not enough money in the fund to pay a builder to finish the work. The small team of Church volunteers were very weary when the MMM team of eight arrived at Maungaraki and things took off again.

The MMM team built the new stage, drilled holes, pulled electric cables through, installed pink batts, built partitions, worked on the mezzanine and upstairs rooms and conservatory amongst many other things and laid the concrete for the conservatory floor and outside paths.

During the weeks the MMM team were at the Church, Minnie, Kath, Angela, Betty, Margaret, Julie plus others provided the daily lunches and morning and afternoon teas. In between meal times, this group of Church volunteers also helped with the cleaning, sweeping, and whatever else there was to do. It was a time for 'all hands on deck.'

**Photos of MMM (Mobile Mission Maintenance) at Maungaraki Baptist Church**



**Colin and Barbara and their caravan**



**Colin at work on the large saw bench**



**The stage built by the MMM Team**



**The verandah before the conservatory was constructed by MMM**



**Margaret Pennington**



**Wendy Garlick**

Margaret and Wendy were part of the team of willing volunteers who turned their hands to whatever job needed doing.

The visit from the MMM team was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the project and for those involved it was one of those special times they will probably never forget.

## Conservatory

The existing roofline was extended to form an open verandah. The plan was to close it in later to make a conservatory. This met with some resistance at first, as there was so much else to finish, but when Chris had heard that David Halse of the MMM team had previously worked with aluminium frames she asked him to help.

David began by installing a concrete base and then slotted the Valentines frames between the posts. He adjusted the width of some of them to make them fit. The amazing thing was that it seemed as if God had gone ahead and provided exactly the correct number of window frames, as well as just the right people to fit them. It definitely felt like more than a coincidence.

The row of three windows removed from Valentines was placed in the end wall to complete the conservatory. Later, a special protective film was attached to the inside of all the large windows to meet the council safety standards. Venetian blinds were hung, the carpet was laid and the next task was to find some tables and chairs.

The Mitre 10 cafe in Crofton Downs was closing and Warwick and Chris just 'happened' to see in the newspaper an advertisement to sell their chattels. They were able to buy at a very good price, all the tables and chairs along with the ceiling fans. Once again, God was leading.



**Julie Green and Betty Cobb cleaning tables**



**The conservatory on Open Day**



**Minnie, Angela, and Margaret**



**Margaret Pennington and Jim McLean**

## Chapter 36 – Volunteers

### Church Volunteers

Graeme Want, Murray Kendon, John Hazael, Warwick Dugdale and Jim McLean were at the building site almost every day helping with the work.

Almost everyone else in the Church helped at the Saturday 'working bees'. It is not possible to mention everyone individually, but some of the volunteers have contributed their memories of the building project seven years ago.

Murray retired from the work force in 2001 at the age of 84 and was still very able and fit. His 'inventor' approach allowed him to work out whatever was required and come up with a solution. For example, he spent several days finding the cause of some leaks occurring in the conservatory windows and patiently fixed them.

When Ted Davies came as a volunteer to do the electrical work, Murray was his 'apprentice'. Although Murray was not a qualified electrician, he was knowledgeable through his work with Zip Industries. He had invented water boilers for sinks and black heaters and the Church is fitted with a more modern version of these black heaters today.

Murray seemed drawn towards any job that was up the 3-metre ladder or up on the scaffold, although most of the volunteers, including his wife Minnie, would have preferred him to work on the ground. Many times he would go up the ladder to fix something and after coming down the ladder, it would scrape along the floor as he dragged it to the next window. More than once on hearing this scraping sound, people would turn around worried that Murray might have fallen off.

Murray and John Hazael would work together on the scaffold. When something was dropped or a tool had to be found they would joke about whose 'turn' it was to climb down to fetch the item and then back up onto the scaffold.

Minnie often came to help in the kitchen or brought some of her baking for the morning teas.

Minnie remembers,

*"My best memory is of being in the kitchen with Betty, Margaret, and Kath, providing the lunches for the MMM team. There was always morning teas to prepare for whoever was working there, the Church volunteers, the teams from Rimutaka prison, the builders, the electrician Ted and whoever else turned up to give a hand each day.*

*I remember cleaning all the toilets that we bought from Valentines. They needed a lot of cleaning as did the aluminium doors and windows. I worked with Margaret on a table we set up outside. Later, I helped to fix up the brown chairs we were given. Having a time of prayer each morning with the MMM team was one of the highlights as it brought everyone together.*

*It is a great building and it all came together so well. It was what the people put into it that made it so good. When we take people there they still say what a lovely asset the building is for the Church and the community."*

Fiona Coughlan said,

*"I remember painting both inside and outside, scraping windows, cleaning the dishwasher, taking down morning teas on Saturdays and Chris keeping us focused."*

Gaynor Tinker said,

*"I would turn up at the building site and wonder what particular new 'God story' Chris would have. So much seemed to happen in the way of God and His provision of the materials and other things we needed. Everyone gave a hand. I remember 'gloved up and clothes peg on nose!' scrubbing out the second hand toilet plumbing, sanding and painting walls, providing fruit cakes and loaves for morning teas and helping with whatever I could."*

Julie Green said,

*"I helped scrape and paint window frames and chairs, cleaning, sweeping, and outside planting in the garden. I remember the day at Valentines and helping in the Church kitchen, especially when the MMM team were with us and later Colin and Barbara stayed on. Betty Cobb often brought something she had cooked for the lunches."*

Wendy Garlick said,

*"I remember mending the brown chairs, cleaning toilets, polyurethaning beams, scraping glue off the front entrance and that Chris would not let anyone take more than a ten-minute break."*

Mike Prasad took a week off work to be with the MMM team. He and his wife Christina had two of the MMM team staying with them and it was a great time. Mike said,

*"I remember helping with pink batts, sanding Rimu pillars and windowsills, water blasting and towards the end of the project helping with the gardens. I pulled out lots of nails from walls and the surplus timbers that became skirting boards."*

*So much time and effort went into that building. It was a challenge but God was always encouraging and helping us to overcome the obstacles and down times. He lifted everyone up and we knew He was always there."*

Brian Peck often come after he finished work and would do a 'night shift' crawling under the floor with the wiring and anything else that needed doing. Brian said,

*"I helped with the exterior painting and with pulling kilometres of cable through the holes we had drilled as well as under the floor. I remember the aborted attempt we made to sand the floor before we had to get outside help."*

The Youth group were regular and enthusiastic helpers at the Saturday working bees. Vlad Miller and Stephanie Garlick recalled working on the preparation and painting work. Vlad would knock in the protruding nails and then Stephanie would putty and paint them with white undercoat. They did the length of the side where the conservatory is located.

Stephanie remembers asking Brian Peck if she could use the power tools but as she was only twelve at the time, he declined her offer. Storm Carter said that he remembered helping with the new building with his sister Alia. They had to dig with picks and shovels to do something with the pipes and they helped put mulch onto the gardens. Many of the young people would have similar stories to tell and these are but a sample. We would like to say 'Thank you' to all the young people who rose to the challenge and came to help.

Margaret Pennington remembers sealing vinyl on the kitchen and the toilet floors with a special commercial sealer. Now when she mops the floors she often thinks how beautifully it cleans up. She also remembers helping to put polyurethane on the foyer floor.

Margaret recalls,

*"It was a lovely summer and Minnie and I went up to MBC every morning and cleaned the Valentines frames, propping them up on trestle tables outside in the car park area. Once we had scrubbed one we would carry it back inside, and stand it up to dry then carry out the next. We spent days doing that. Another time I remember Betty, Julie and maybe others spending hours outside with the cafe tables and chairs, scrubbing them clean before using 'de-solv-it' to get the chewing gum off.*

*I helped with filling holes in the window sashes and with the outside painting. I was not very keen to work up on the scaffold so I painted what I could reach from the ground. I helped to make morning teas and lunches for the MMM team and Chris asked me to help choose the colour for the kitchen roller door.*

*It just seemed that when we reached a particular point and we thought of something we needed, someone, usually Chris, found it. I believe God knew where all the things were and he just blessed us. Everything seemed to come from something discarded or was recycled. Other people's trash became our treasure.*

*I remember being absolutely amazed at what John Melville could make. The way he put the kitchen units together, made the beautiful handrails, and laminated the kitchen bench edge out of old bits of timber. We had a couple of theme songs we used to sing. One was "He made something beautiful, something good" and the other was "For I'm building a people of power".*

*There was a real togetherness. Many people in the community at Maungaraki didn't know we were there and it was good to be all working together towards something that would become a part of the community. The main thing that struck me was that when we needed something God led us to it."*

Jim Mclean commented,

*"An example of God supplying our need was the concrete for the paths around the building. Chris rang a number of contractors and asked them to donate any concrete leftovers. They told us they would try but we would have to be ready to receive it at five or ten minutes notice. The MMM team prepared the boxing and then the phone calls started to come. Everyone had to stop what they were doing and help with the concrete. We had a number of deliveries from different companies. David Halse, the MMM team leader commented one morning tea time that it was quite miraculous and he was amazed at the way the concrete kept turning up and that the paths were completed at no cost."*

Chris appreciated that so many people helped with the project and says,

*"To anyone reading this who was in the Church at the time, who helped with painting, pulling out nails, cleaning, making muffins for morning teas or the endless sweeping up, please know how much your contribution was appreciated. Whatever you did to help, you were a part of the whole and I would like to say again*

**'Well done and Thank you'.**

## **Rimutaka Volunteers**

Chris arranged at short notice for a work team from Rimutaka prison to help carry 250 sheets of GIB board from the truck into the building. Under normal circumstances it would take a week or two to arrange for a work team to help but after explaining the need they agreed to send a team the following day. If you are still reading this story, you will by now have a good idea that God was really helping us.

The team from Rimutaka were with us but the GIB board was late in arriving and it was getting close to the time when they had to return 'home'. Kath and a few of the women had cooked a scrumptious lunchtime meal for the men which they had enjoyed. They were just about to leave when the delivery truck finally arrived. It was an awesome sight watching those strong men quickly unload the GIB board and arrange it neatly in piles on the floor. The Church were very thankful as we could not have done that task without their help.

Towards the end of the project the 'Faith Based Unit' at Rimutaka prison came to help again. A team of about six people with a supervisor helped to spread mulch on the gardens. Since that time this group have continued to help Warwick and Chris a few times a year to keep the gardens tidy until at the end of 2010 Warwick and Chris 'retired' from the Church gardens and Vlad Miller took over the management.

Chris contacted Rimutaka on another occasion to ask if they had anyone who could help with some carpentry work and they suggested Junior who was a young Samoan. The Church employed him for a week. Chris would sign Junior out from Rimutaka each morning and had to have him back promptly at 5 pm. She had prayed about who was to put up the beautiful recycled timber architraves and windowsills. She thought it was quite a special job and would be a privilege for someone to do. Junior was an answer to prayer and did an awesome job fitting these timbers.

Paul Lunn of 'O'Brien Laminates' in Petone was looking for an employee for the factory and Chris put him in touch with Junior and when his sentence was completed Paul employed him. Chris needed a Formica top for the kitchen bench and Paul in turn helped her out by supplying the green bench tops. The benches were actually a reject from another job the company was doing but were offered to Chris for \$200 and they were ideal for the Church kitchen. The low price was a return of the favour for finding Junior who was a good employee. The entire situation was a 'win-win-win' situation for both the company and the Church and God was definitely in it.

## **Community Work Teams**

With a tight budget and still a long way from finishing Chris decided to get help from some of the Community work teams. In 2003 these were known as Periodic Detention teams, made up of people who were assigned unpaid work in the community as a sentence. For many months ten or so people came to help two or three times a week with a supervisor. They arrived at 9.30am and worked until mid-afternoon, cooking their lunchtime sausages on a barbecue. The Church worked alongside these teams of interesting individuals. Some caught the vision for the project and worked hard, while others were not so willing and might be found sitting in a wheelbarrow taking a 'rest'. It was stressful at times but everyone was thankful for the help, as every hour of volunteer help towards the completion of the building was valued.

There was another young man, also called 'Junior' who helped us. He had been on one of the work teams and had impressed Chris with his hard work and good attitude. Once he had finished his 'community' hours, she employed him in Upper Hutt and later was able to provide a reference that helped him to find a job working with Excell.

## Chapter 37 – Electrical Work

To rewire the building, many holes had to be drilled through the very hard Rimu wall framing. Countless drill bits were blunted in the process and the Church became a good customer of the Hammer Hardware shop across the road. Jim, Brian, Graeme and the MMM team did most of the difficult drilling. Once the holes were drilled, the cables for the lights, power, burglar and fire alarm systems were pulled through.

Brian did most of the work on the cables for the sound system, stage and emergency lighting. He estimated that about one third of a kilometre of old cable was removed from the building and replaced by almost five kilometres of cable. That is about the distance from the Maungaraki shops to Queensgate in Lower Hutt. Brian took on many of the jobs that some of the others could not do and as a result spent many hours going down the manhole to crawl under the floor and fix the cables in place. He remembers having to refresh his memory of mathematics to work out the loading requirements for the emergency lighting system. Brian said,

*“Being involved in the building restoration was quite a big thing for me. I remember that our energy levels were getting low and there was still a really big task ahead. Then the MMM team came and inspired us at just the right time. I was working but would call in during my lunch hour and it was great to chat with the MMM team.”*

Once the batts and GIB board were fixed, stopped and painted and the electric cables in place, it was time for an electrician. The quote received for fitting the light switches, power points, lights and heaters was \$40,000. The Church did not have that amount allocated or spare in the budget. They prayed regularly for at least a month and although they would have preferred their prayers to be answered earlier, they had to wait until God provided the help they needed, but it was provided just at the perfect time.

Jim attended Partners in Ministry a Lower Hutt Church Pastor’s network . He mentioned to the other pastors at one of their meetings that Maungaraki Church needed some help with the electrical work. Roy Brinck from the Lower Hutt AOG mentioned our need to Ted Thomas who was an Airfield Lighting Specialist. Ted had been made redundant at that time and felt that God wanted him to help, thinking it would be a couple of days work. It is good we don’t always know God’s plans in advance or we might say ‘no’ to some of the things He wants us to do and miss out on so much if we did.

Ted came to fit out the complete Church building. He volunteered three days a week over many weeks. Ted enjoyed the fellowship and being a part of what God was doing. The Church could not have had anyone more skilled and they felt very blessed. Ted did an amazing job and the wiring in the circuit board was a work of art for its neatness and the way he labeled everything. Murray Kendon as his ‘apprentice’ worked with him to get the job finished.

Ted was contacted and asked to comment on that time,

*“From my point of view I thoroughly enjoyed it. Roy Brinck had mentioned it to me and given me Jim’s name and the next day I rang the Church to speak to Jim but he was out and I spoke to Murray instead. Murray suggested I went up to have a look and then asked when I would like to start and I started the work almost straight away.*

*I had been made redundant, so was just doing odd jobs at the time, and was getting quite demoralised when this opportunity came up. It restored my self-esteem. It was satisfying and did me good, and things came together well. That’s how it is with God”*

Bruce Lee installed the fire and burglar alarms with the help of Jim, Brian and some others.



## Chapter 38 – A Sprint to the Finish

### John Melville

Warwick and Chris had started their own building project in Upper Hutt and through this met John Melville from the Upper Hutt Christian Fellowship. Two months earlier, John had a dream that he had recorded in his prayer diary about a Church building.

*In this dream he was walking up a steep hill, one he had never been up before and when he arrived at the top he saw this new nice looking building. He walked around to the car park and thought, "This is a nice place".*

*In the dream, he looked through some double glass doors and saw an eagle inside. Then the verse from Isaiah 40:31 came to him,*

*"But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint."*

As John worked with Warwick and Chris in Upper Hutt they chatted to him about the Church building project at Maungaraki. John said to the people in his Home Group that he thought this Church building sounded like a great project and that he would like to work on it, but he did not mention this to Warwick or Chris. A week or so later, towards the end of 2003 they asked him if he would consider coming to help at Maungaraki.

Although they did not know John very well at that time, Chris shared with him that they were feeling a tired and a little discouraged with the project and he offered to pray.

Chris said,

*"God rejuvenated my enthusiasm, energy and passion to see the project finished. God brought a complete stranger who had no previous connections with Maungaraki or our Church to pray for us and help at a time when we needed it. It was the start of the third and final major push to get the building completed."*

Everyone was feeling weary after working so hard for eighteen months. Funding the Church project was a challenge, even though there was trust in God's provision. It had begun to look as if it was going to take another year or two to finish the Church building but once John came to help things started to move more quickly again.

John brought with him many years of experience in building and carpentry. He was able to adjust the double hung windows to operate smoothly, build the library shelves out of recycled timber from the old stage and laminate pieces of Rimu together to make a timber edge between the kitchen bench and the foyer.

A handrail was needed for the stairs and John brought his large router to the Church and shaped the round handrails out of surplus Rimu timber from the end wall. He installed the donated kitchen units and made the 'pull out' rubbish bins, as well as installing the kitchen area upstairs. He hung doors and adjusted latches and installed some of the skirting boards.

John also helped with building the entrance porch, constructed the planter boxes, built the gate between the buildings and laid some of the concrete paths. At a later stage he built the fences and gates to close in a play area used by the children after the Sunday services. He made the picture frames for the train photo in the foyer and for the photos, plans and timber samples displayed at the back of the Church.



**John Melville and other volunteers**



**Walls GIB stopped and ready for painting**



**Jim Mclean repairing a chair**



**Kath McLean repairing a chair**



**Junior making changes to the steps**



**Jim fixing up some timber**



**Cables pulled through the drilled holes**



**Wendy Garlick sorting the timber**

## Floors and Carpet

The floor of the hall had a layer of Rimu timber which was overlaid with a layer of Matai. It was decided to carpet the auditorium to reduce the noise and avoid the huge job of sanding and patching floorboards that would have been required. However, everyone agreed to retain the timber floor in the entrance foyer, as this would be the main eating area.

In an attempt to keep costs to a minimum, the volunteers decided to sand the floor themselves and hired a commercial sanding machine planning to work in shifts throughout the night. Many hours later they surrendered and gave the job to a professional company of floor sanders who came to the rescue, managing to level out most of the hollows and bumps created during the night before.

God provided the carpet through the generosity of John and Angela Hazael. The budget had not included a carpet. There had been a plan to use the carpet uplifted from Valentines but the stale smell of food continued to linger on it and it was unable to be used.

There was a further attempt to cover the floor with another second hand carpet but this too was considered unsuitable for the auditorium despite a lot of work cleaning, measuring and patching.

Some of this carpet was later laid in the conservatory/cafe seating area and worked well in there. The Church had to pray for a solution for the auditorium floor.

John and Angela Hazael had been members of Maungaraki for many years. 'Little' Angela had a theatrical background and this came through in her outgoing way with people. She would walk up to anyone, friend or stranger and give them a big 'hug from the Lord.' Kath McLean tells the story of how one day Angela was as usual darting about here and there. Minnie's comment summed up Angela when she said,

*"Angela, do sit down, you are flickering around like a candle on a birthday cake."*

Angela's husband, John, was a strong, determined man with a quiet commitment to the Church. During the 1939-45 war he had been in a ship that was torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic Ocean and after being in the water for some time, was one of the fortunate ones able to climb into a lifeboat along with a young boy of 14 and a number of other men.

The boat drifted in the Atlantic Ocean for a considerable number of days and the young boy died. John himself was very close to death. There was a thick fog around the men in the small boat and they had no idea where they were. John told us how he then heard the audible voice of God speaking to him, "John, it's not your time yet!"

Then the men heard a bell tolling and they decided either it must be a buoy or they were near land. They started to row towards the sound of the bell and came into Nova Scotia. John was in hospital in Canada for quite some time recovering from hypothermia and as a result always suffered from painful feet. The experience of hearing the 'audible' voice of God, and the way the boat was guided to safety by the bell had a profound impact on John for the rest of his life.

John and Angela Hazael had lived a frugal lifestyle, as people on a pension often do, and so the story of the carpet that follows was quite a surprise to everyone.

People had been praying about the carpet in one of the 'before work' prayer meetings and John Hazael must have been there. Later that day he approached Jim and asked him how much a new carpet would cost. Jim suggested he asked Chris and she told him around \$10,000. He did not say what he was planning to do but asked Julie Green to take him home in her car. Julie says that he went into his garage and then asked for a ride back. John approached Chris who was working in the building and put something in her hand. It was a roll of \$20 notes to the value of \$10,000 and he said, "Honey, this is for the carpet." When she tried to express her thanks, he said to her, "Just thank the Lord".

Chris had already looked at carpets and after receiving the \$10,000 from John, got a firm quote from Malcolm Patterson. Devon and Patterson were very helpful and gave the Church a good price but even so, the quote was for \$15,000. This was \$5000 more and a decision had to be made whether to choose a cheaper carpet or whether to only cover the auditorium and leave the upstairs.

A few days later John Hazael approached Chris again and asked if the money was sufficient for the carpet. It was difficult for her to tell him that it had not met the cost, as he had been so generous. However, she had to tell him that it was not enough but that the plan then was to do the auditorium and leave the upstairs until later. John returned to Chris an hour or two later with a further \$5000 in \$20 notes and told her to buy all the carpet we needed.

By the time the Open Day arrived on 15 May 2004, the lovely new green carpet was laid. Angela and John's daughter Toni and her husband Victor came over from America and were able to bring John to the Open Day, which was very special.

John died of cancer six weeks later on 25 June 2004 at the age of 80 in the Te Omanga hospice, but not before making a further donation of \$5000 by paying for the asphaltting of the car park. Angela died on 26 January the following year at the age of 79. John said at the time he gave the money for the car park not to tell anyone but to say it was "from the Lord". It is seven years later and we are sure he would not mind us telling this story as it illustrates how God cares about the details and often answers our prayers through people who are willing to hear him.

Toni and Victor developed a good relationship with the Church and remembered going with a group to run a service at the Rimutaka prison on one of their visits from America.

Kath Nicholson was good friends with John and Angela and she was involved with Maungaraki Church for many years. She said about the Church and the building,

*"I loved being able to worship locally and the new building was such a credit to the group that got involved. It was a gutsy move and a real move of courage".*

Kath is a midwife and one of her favourite memories is of the time she had delivered Joy, the ninth Leach baby, during the night. A few hours later Mike and Ruth were on their way home from the hospital and called in to the Church to show their new baby to everyone. Kath also delivered Eliana, Mike and Ruth's tenth child and Debbie Leach's second youngest, Prishanti.

## **Kitchen**

God had provided everything for the conservatory and it was time to plan for the kitchen. Chris made a cardboard 'mock-up' and asked people for their comments after which a few minor adjustments were made. Graeme Want's son had installed a new kitchen at home and he donated the old joinery to the Church. It was white and in very good condition and looked almost new. John Melville installed these units into the kitchen.

A commercial dishwasher was required but it had to be one of the smaller models to fit into the space in the corner. As new ones cost around \$5000, Chris asked Burns and Ferrell Ltd to look out for a second hand one. They said they had only come across one small second hand one in the previous two years. On the same day, someone rang to let Jim know there was a dishwasher advertised at the Shindlers auction rooms in Upper Hutt. It was one of the small models but there was no way of telling if it was in working order. Chris prayed that she would win the auction bid if the dishwasher was the one the Church was meant to have.

Chris tells the story,

*“My heart was pounding as the bidding started at the auction. I had decided on a limit of \$2,000 but the bidding only went to \$500 and it was ours. Burns and Ferrell were asked to check it over and when I rang a few days later to find out the result, I was told, “It is quite a miracle, it’s in such good order. Once again, an answer to prayer.”*

The next purchase was a water boiler and a company in Petone gave us a good discount. A kitchen and bathroom-ware importer, Plumblin, allowed Chris to purchase taps, sinks and plugs at the wholesale price. They found some ex display taps worth about \$600 per tap and they let her have them for \$50 each. One tap is in the kitchen and the other is on the sink bench under the administration building.

God continued to provide for the kitchen with the fridge/freezer. An extra large one was required for functions that might be held in the Church building. Chris rang a second hand appliance store in Petone and was told they only got in very large fridge/freezers occasionally. She asked them to contact her when they found one. The next day they called to say one had just come in. It was in great condition and only cost \$1000.

One Saturday afternoon, Chris noticed an auction in progress on the Petone Esplanade and stopped to see what might be available. She was able to buy the dishwasher rack trolleys and cutlery for only a few dollars. Brian and Jo Peck donated some blue cups and saucers and a coffee company donated the coffee-making machine. The bench tops were in place and the only other items required were a hatch roller door, a stainless steel sink bench, the vinyl for the floor and the stoves.

Chris tells the story of the stoves,

*“Just a few days before we were due to move into the building, everything in the kitchen was ready except for the stoves. We had discussed whether to have one large stove or two smaller ones and had decided on the latter as there would be times when only one item required heating and other times when two things might require different temperatures.*

*It was right at the end of the project and we had sadly decided that the stoves would have to wait until we could afford them. God had provided so much for the kitchen and we had completed all of it apart from the two Fisher and Paykel ‘Thyme’ stoves I had chosen.”*

*I was disappointed, as I had so much wanted to see the kitchen completed. Jim and I prayed for a miracle but didn’t tell anyone. Soon after we prayed, someone in the Church said to Jim that they would like to donate two new stoves for the kitchen. They did not know we had been praying specifically for the stoves and that God was directing their thoughts in the mysterious way He does. The kitchen is a ‘hub’ for many of the Church activities and there is so much in there to remind us of how God provided and how generous people were.”*



**Kitchen in progress, roller door installed**



**The finished kitchen**



**The Chairs from 'The Street'**



**The two new stoves – thank you**



**The Bus shelter before it was moved ....**



**and now the cross can be seen**

### **Car Parking, Bus Shelter and Porch**

The asphaltting of the car park was completed before the Open Day. It seemed to tie everything together. The council painted angled parking lines on Rowan Street to provide plenty of space for car parking around the Church.

The Hutt City Council had already relocated the bus shelter to the south side of Rowan Street which enabled the cross on the end of the building to be seen. The gardens were planted and it was all looking good

## Porch

A porch had not been included in the original plans but as Maungaraki is such a windy area, it was decided to add one. It would provide shelter when the Church was used for weddings and funerals and would protect the foyer floor from the rain.

Graeme, Jim, Warwick, and Chris installed the 100mm x 200mm timber posts to support the roof. It was very difficult to dig the one and a half metre deep holes and then the men had to lift to vertical, two extremely heavy posts. After many attempts, they managed to get the poles to slide into the holes being careful not to damage a nearby gas pipe. They did not want to repeat the drama of the week before when the gas pipe had been broken.

Once the poles were concreted into place John Melville, Warren White, Mike Prasad and some others helped to put on the Novalite roof.

## Chairs

Chris tells this story,

*"We had forty chairs but we needed more. I rarely listen to the car radio but one Saturday morning as I drove from Whitby to Maungaraki I turned the radio on and heard the announcer on Radio Rhema asking people to phone in if they had anything to buy, sell or exchange. I felt that God was in this and when I arrived at Maungaraki, I rang the radio station, somewhat out of my comfort zone, and said that we wanted to buy some chairs for a Church in Lower Hutt and we could afford to pay a little but not very much.*

*Within a short time, we had a phone call from Gary Colville of Hosanna Church in Porirua advising they had some spare chairs. Brian Peck knew Gary and we went over to Porirua to see what was available. We offered to buy the 150 or so brown chairs but they gave them to us, as they wanted to help our Church. We gratefully accepted. Some of the chairs needed attention and a number of people worked on the repairs. Hosanna Church also gave us some red curtains they had bought after the Majestic Cinema had closed down. These were hung in the auditorium in December 2005 just in time for a wedding that was to be held there. This was yet another example of God's provision. "*

*By this time, we had experienced many examples of God guiding us to something we needed when there was no other way. It was as if we were in a 'flow' of God's provision and blessing. Of course, it was hard too. We felt stretched beyond our normal human limits and it felt like we were operating in two realms, the everyday realm of practical hard work and the spiritual realm of God's guidance, provision and timing. In our culture where most people have a roof over their heads and enough food on the table, the opportunities to be in a position to be dependent on God are not so readily available. We experienced the coming together of the natural and the supernatural realms. For me, this was the highlight of this project."*

The 'chair' story continued when Brian Peck heard that 'The Street' Church in Wellington were purchasing new chairs and he asked if it might be possible to buy the ones they no longer required. It was a win-win situation and Brian agreed to pay \$10 for a single chair or \$20 for a 2-seater bench. He arranged for the 230 seats to be delivered. The colour of the chair fabric even matched the colour of our auditorium carpet very well.

## Banners and Plants

Bobbie Thomas has a special talent for artistic needle and craftwork. Rod and Bobbie sensed that God was asking them, as they were watching the song 'Days of Elijah' from the DVD, Jerusalem Arise, to make two banners for the new auditorium. Although they had never made banners before, they both sensed that God gave them the phrases to go on the banners and the colours they were to use. They sketched what they felt God was showing them to make, took them to Spotlight in Porirua and found the fabrics in the colours they required. The shop assistant was shown the sketches and shared their excitement in finding just the right fabrics.

Sue Mouat then encouraged Bobbie and Rod to make flags to be used during worship times. Again they felt God led them to create eight individual designed flags in strong colours. The banners were hung on the front pillars as the Church moved into the new building in 2004 and for two or three years the adults and children used the flags to worship during services. There was a sense that the Holy Spirit and the angels were present at those times.

Stephanie Butel had some indoor palms that had grown too large for her home and she donated them for the Church auditorium. Chris had a friend who was closing her hairdressing salon in Petone and she donated some mirrors and the indoor fig tree that is still growing strongly after seven years. It features in many of the photos of people in the Church.



Plants donated to the Church



A banner made by Rod and Bobbie



The banners and flags were used to celebrate the move into the new building



## Chapter 39 – God says to Move In – A leap of faith

God's provision was like a jigsaw puzzle. He was the one with the overall picture but He only allowed the Church to see each piece as he provided it. It was satisfying work but many people were wondering if it was every going to be finished.

Chris wrote the following in a Church Newsletter 20 November 2003,

*"I can assure you that no one is more anxious than me to have the building completed and put to good use. Fifteen months ago I volunteered to manage the project and it has been in my waking thoughts ever since. If not seeking cheaper materials, more economic ways of getting work done, organising the PD days, negotiating with the sub-contractors, or cajoling and encouraging members to turn up for working bees, I have been trying to work around my own family commitments.*

*It has been hard on our family and I did not anticipate just how much work would be involved or that fifteen months later we would still be working on the building.*

*I am sure that in the future I will be able to look back with satisfaction on this project, but now I do feel weary. I am committed to seeing the building completed and believe that whenever that is, it will be in God's perfect timing."*

Not long after this, John had prayed for Chris and Warwick and had come to work on the building.

In the new year, Chris had a sense that God was saying that the Church was to make the move into the new building on 21 March 2004. This did not seem to be humanly possible and it took a 'leap of faith' to ask the Church to get behind the final sprint that would be required.

A love offering at the Church raised \$8,000. Everyone rallied together and worked so hard with the result that the Church did move in on that date with the feeling that 'nothing is impossible with God'.

Betty Cobb remembers that time,

*"It was towards the end of January. Chris had waited for everyone to come back to the working bees after the holidays. Jo and Brian were helping, maybe some others too, but the majority of us were tired and no one really wanted to get back into it.*

*One Sunday, Chris stood up and said she believed that God had given her a specific date for finishing the building. It was only a few weeks away.*

*Everyone was stunned and found it hard to believe, but Chris encouraged us to return to the working bees and by working until 9.00pm some evenings we were able to complete it sufficiently to move out of the Community Centre and into the new building.*

*It felt like 'God came to the party' and it did seem like a 'party' when we were all back working again. I remember one evening when a large group of volunteers were working late and the Leach family provided everyone with a wonderful meal. They served it in the administration building. I could hardly believe how much food they provided, turkey, salad and other delicious things.*

*I also remember a time when I was on my knees sanding the floor of the foyer alongside one of the team from Rimutaka Prison. I have some very vivid memories of this time when we were all working together at the Church."*

## Chapter 40 – The Cross

It was 20 March 2004, the night before the Church was to move into the auditorium. A large group had been working hard all day and everyone was tired. They were having tea together at about 6.00pm intending to work late in order to get it all finished.

Chris was in the meal queue when the thought ran across her mind that the building was still without a 'cross'. In the early days of planning there had been many discussions and suggestions but as the work had begun and things became busy, a plan for the 'cross' had been overlooked.

It suddenly seemed very important to Chris that a cross was put up on the outside of the building that evening. She asked John Melville if he would be willing to make a cross by using one of the surplus Oregon beams that had been removed from the roof structure to make more head room upstairs. He agreed and as soon as they had finished eating they began to make a large wooden cross.

The Oregon timber beam was ideal. A number of solid looking nails were hammered in to represent where Jesus had been nailed to the cross. The work was completed by 9.00pm by which time it was already dark outside. Brian provided some light from a lamp and the cross was attached to the wall just before 10.00pm

It was one of those 'special moments' planned by God. In faith, people had worked so hard to make the move into the building possible on Sunday 21 March 2004. It seemed very significant to have the cross in place on the building before the first service as a declaration that in this place, Jesus is remembered and honoured.

John Melville said, that as he was about to lift the cross to take it outside, he wondered how heavy it would be. It was too heavy for him to lift by himself and it took three men to lift it. He was thinking about the cross that Jesus would have carried, which would have been larger than the cross was made that night. He thought that Jesus would not have been able to carry the whole cross but probably just one piece of it.

Most people went home late, weary after the long day, but Brian, Jo, Warwick and Chris stayed on for a little while longer. It was quiet and peaceful and as the four of them sat on the chairs in the auditorium Jo began to play her guitar and they began to thank God for all he had done. It felt as if angels filled the auditorium, sitting on the Oregon beams. There was an amazing sense of peace and an awareness of the awesomeness of God.

The next morning there was a lovely surprise. Someone had laid flowers at the foot of the cross. It was a very loving touch.





**The cross was finished**



**It was too heavy for one person to carry**



**John Melville**



**Fixing the cross to the building**



**Jo, Brian, Chris and Warwick**



**Brian, Alyth, Jo, Colin, and Margaret**



**The last service in the Community Centre before walking over to the new auditorium**



## **Chapter 41 – Moving into the new building**

### **‘Solemn procession’ Sunday 21 March 2004**

The Holy Spirit of God can communicate with our human spirit and Chris describes one of these experiences that she had,

*“I was driving from Whitby to Maungaraki a few weeks before we moved into the auditorium. I was still aware of the road, but at the same time, it was as if a ‘video’ started to play on a ‘screen’ inside my mind.*

*I saw the Church walking from the Community Centre over the road to the new building in a ‘solemn and silent procession.’ They were carrying the banners and flags that we used for worship. Everyone walked around the building and then the worship group entered. The congregation followed and stood around the walls shoulder to shoulder and a shofar was blown. A time of praise and worship to God followed.*

*It was as if everyone felt the ‘fear of the Lord’. Not in the sense of being ‘afraid’ but rather a feeling of respect and awe in their hearts towards God.”*

Chris described to Jim what she had ‘seen’ and suggested that the move to the new building could be done in this way. Some people felt that the move into the auditorium should be with a more joyful procession. Everyone had worked together so well over the past eighteen months that rather than allow the enemy room to cause any friction Chris proposed that both suggestions be worked into the plan.

There was therefore both a ‘solemn’ and a ‘joyful’ procession on consecutive Sundays. This added the advantage that if someone was unable to be at Church on one of the Sundays there was a second opportunity to take part in one of the processions.

The service on 21 March began by having a final thanksgiving service in the Community Centre. They thanked God for the eighteen years there and for providing their new ‘home’.

Jim McLean led the service and there was a time of repentance followed by communion. It seemed important for everyone to get right with each other and with God before entering the next stage of the journey as a Church.

Everyone walked over the road in a quiet, reverent procession. Jim and Kath unlocked the front door and walked to the front of the stage and were followed by the worship group. Everyone else entered and stood around the perimeter of the room. Outside in the car park, Joan Hart blew the shofar in the direction of the North, South, West and East and then entered the building, blowing the shofar as she walked up to the stage.

It was a time of dedication and thanksgiving followed by a time of spontaneous worship and prophetic words coming from the Holy Spirit.

### **‘Joyful celebration’ Sunday 28 March 2004**

This was the time for the joyful celebration. Everyone walked around the outside of the building, waving the banners and the flags, declaring their thanks and praise to God, before going inside for the first full service. It was written in a Church newsletter around that time,

**“A building is only a building. It was now up to the members of the Church to make the best use of the auditorium for the purposes of the Lord.”**



After the last service in the Community Centre everyone walked to the new auditorium



Walking up Dowse Drive and into Rowan St.

Jim and Kath McLean open the door



Moving into the new auditorium



Mark Hurren, Mike Leach and John Sik



Dedicating the new auditorium

## Chapter 42 – Open Day 15 May 2004

The Open Day for the public was on Saturday 15 May 2004 and was attended by over two hundred people. Families and friends, those who had helped with the building work, people from other Churches and visitors from the local community came.

After Rodney Macann sang, the Lower Hutt City Mayor, John Terris officially opened the new Church building. At the end of his speech, he left the Church with this thought,

*“I belong to no congregation. Yet I look daily towards the little Church on the corner, and on Sundays at the cars of the faithful; and the modest building has become a symbol of hope renewed and patient expectation.*

*The country around me today may become unimaginably different when I am no longer here to see it. But I like to believe that a Church will still be at the corner, standing against the wash of the world, and pointing beyond it.”*



**Walking around the new auditorium**



**‘The Lads’ on Open Day**



**Both buildings are completed**



**“The Church on the corner”**



**Open Day, Julie and Betty serving tea**



**Open Day in the conservatory**

As we walked outside immediately after the official opening by John Terris, a beautiful rainbow hovered over the building as if it were showing a promise for a building fulfilled.

## Chapter 43 – Reflections from Jim and Kath McLean

### Jim Mclean reflects on the experience,

*“I think the experience taught a lot of people that God will supply what we need. We have to have the faith that He will, but we also have to be willing to work with Him. We have to be involved in the partnership with God. People discovered that as they trusted God to operate through them they could do things they hadn’t thought possible.”*

### Kath Mclean reflects on the journey,

*“We had been praying for a long time for the right building, but every building we looked at seemed to have something that was not quite right. When we saw the Railway building it had just the correct dimensions for the site and we did not need to change the ground level or alter the building to make it fit the land. It fitted in and looked natural. It just seemed from the word ‘go’ that it was a real gift from God.*

*When the building came up the hill to Maungaraki and I saw how awful it looked, it struck me that God is in the ‘restoration business’ and I needed to stop relying on what my physical eyes saw. I never had any doubt in my mind that that this was the right thing to be doing. The building is nothing like what it used to be. God has renewed and restored it.*

*Seeing it completed, I knew that it had to be God - no one else could have given us all the necessary building materials and the right people to help at the right time. Through the whole project, everything just slotted in.*

*This faith journey was an experiential thing for the whole congregation. Trying to tell it now, and express it accurately, makes me think of the Old Testament and how people shared the stories of what God had done, so that the goodness of God would not be forgotten.*

*It was not an easy time - in fact it was a really hard time. A limited number of people had committed to a major project and it was much bigger than we had realised at the start. We saw the Hand of God move in a way that we could never have imagined. It was mind-blowing. It was so awesome, it had to be God, but it is very hard to express that experience.*

*This journey was a privilege. It certainly had its hardships physically, emotionally and financially, but every need, whatever it was, God picked up on it and it was resolved. God moves, but he uses people to do it through. We prayed and prayed .....and kept praying, keeping so close to him, because it was scary.*

*I remember the last ‘ladies breakfast’. I shared that God was saying that,*

*Everything that had happened, everything that had been built and achieved, was not just for us. It was also for the future generations and that they would have to pick up the baton.”*

## Chapter 44 – Postscript

**Chris writes,**

*“It has taken nine months to complete this story. I had not realised how difficult putting together something like this would be.*

*It has been a challenge and at times it felt like there was an audience, made up of different groups of people, looking over my shoulder as I tried to write without using too much ‘religious jargon’ but at the same time, describe the journey with God as it really was.*

*In the past I sometimes thought that people were making a ‘big deal’ by profusely thanking all the people who had helped them and ‘without their help this book would not have been possible’ comments in the ‘dedications’, ‘acknowledgments’, ‘introductions’ and ‘forwards’ but now I can sympathise with them and know exactly what they mean.*

*Now I do understand, I would like to say in the ‘postscript’, at the end of this writing project, a sincere thank you to my husband Warwick and to everyone else who had input into this story or who gave me encouragement when I complained at how hard I was finding it.*

*As the task seemed never ending, and the celebrations of the Church twenty-fifth anniversary approached, it felt like I was running out of time with still a long way to go.*

*I am still wondering if it was a ‘co-incidence’ or a ‘God-incidence’ when I cracked a rib in January. For the following few weeks, the daily conflict of deciding whether to work in the garden or on this story was no longer there. The weeds in the garden grew but the story was finally finished and so now I include my favourite Scripture.”*

*“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28*



**The rainbow over the Church Centre - A sign of hope and promise for the future.**



