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ANNUAL REPORT
PŪRONGO Ā-TAU



 **baptist**
churches of new zealand
te hāhi iriiri o aotearoa

AROTAHĪ

ANNUAL REPORT

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CHARLES HEWLETT
BAPTIST NATIONAL LEADER

Gospel renewal stories

I hope that my time as National Leader will be remembered for the phrase 'gospel renewal' and the wonderful privilege local Baptist faith communities have of participating in God's plan to reconcile all things to himself through Jesus Christ (Col 1:19-20). I pray that we never forget that the gospel message we proclaim is from God; it is the very power of God, and it works – it can restore all that sin has marred and destroyed (Romans 1:16-17).

I am so keen to use my word count to encourage you with recent gospel renewal stories I have heard:

- The young mother who got baptised after joining the Bible reading sessions held at the Kumeu Baptist Church playgroup. This woman's baptism has been a two-year journey with the KBC team praying, building relationships and ploughing the field. A simple invitation to read scripture has changed her life.
- The local church that decided to develop its land to provide much-needed housing for elderly people. This year, Te Puke Baptist Church voted unanimously to

start The Jabez Initiative, a charitable company that will build Evergreen House – Whare Katoa. This is a wonderful example of a church stewarding its resources for gospel renewal.



- The refugee family from the Republic of Congo that started coming to Eastside Baptist Church after a woman from Eastside stopped to pick them up while they were walking in the rain. As she drove them to their home, the woman invited them to church. The family came the following Sunday, and now seven other Congolese refugee families also attend Eastside.
- We ran a photography competition asking people to send in their photos of gospel renewal. The winning shot was of a young man called Daniel being baptised in the sea. The looks on the faces of all involved are a beautiful testament to the power of the gospel.
- Baptist entity Project Esther, which provided a house and wraparound support for a woman and her children driven from their home by domestic abuse. This

woman wrote a letter to Project Esther Trust Manager Daphne Marsden, saying, "This kind of organisation...gives women who are abused a light of hope and a feeling of we are not alone."

- The father and son who were baptised together at Beachlands Baptist Church. The wife and mum of these two guys has been praying for them for the past 20 years. During a church service, they asked the elders to pray for them and ended up giving their lives to the Lord. Faith and persistent prayer works.

This is what 'gospel renewal to people and places in our local neighbourhoods' looks like—being Baptist at its best.

I want to acknowledge the two teams of people that I work most closely with. Thank you, Karen, Luke, Mike, and Wayne (the 'Lead Team'), for your deep love for the Baptist family of churches and your incredible hard work in wanting to see them thrive. Thank you, Chris, Mike, Peter, Rachel, and Reti (our 'Regional Leaders'), for your leadership throughout 2024 and the way you continue to bring life to



I pray that we never forget that the gospel message we proclaim is from God; it is the very power of God, and it works – it can restore all that sin has marred and destroyed (Romans 1:16-17).

our Regional Associations. Thank you, Christine Stride (my Executive Assistant), for helping me to stay so organised and focused – you have been a wonderful addition to our team.

I am also keen to acknowledge the work of Susan Osborne (our President for 2024). Thank you for visiting so many of our churches and spending quality time engaging with our pastors. What a gift you have been!

Finally, to John Tucker. What a superb principal you have been for Carey Baptist College over the past seven years. I think about the amazing staff team you have built, the progression of the college's commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, leading the college through the difficult COVID years, the creative regionalisation of pastoral leadership training, your inspiring

preaching within our local churches, the way you light up our national hui, the continued development of the Centre for Lifelong Learning, overseeing the purchase of a new building for the college, achieving the best EER report ever, etc etc... But mostly, I am thankful for who you are as a person. Your relationship with Jesus and deep commitment to prayer, to the Scriptures, to a fruit of the Spirit character, and to the people of God is so contagious. I believe these are the things that make you such a wonderful leader for us. I am going to miss our regular breakfasts at Little Luscious in Ellerslie.

Thank you, New Zealand Baptists, for your love for Jesus and commitment to the mission of God. May he continue to bless you heaps. ■



ALAN JAMIESON
GENERAL DIRECTOR, AROTAHI

RUBY DUNCAN
CHAIR, MISSION COUNCIL AND
THE DEVELOP TOGETHER BOARD

Supporting our Baptist churches in their mission

We continue to be excited to see how God is at work with us, drawing local churches into deeper connection with mission both in Aotearoa and overseas. There is no doubt that the way we think about and practice mission has changed significantly in recent years. We understand that partnership with local and indigenous peoples and churches is how we engage. They lead us into how we can best serve with our skills and gifts, whether in Bangladesh, where we have served alongside BBCF churches in education and pastor training, or in Motueka with Te Whāriki.

As this year draws to a close, we will honour the Meyers, who are completing nearly 40 years of living and working in Bangladesh. They will continue to support the amazing things God is doing in schools through their ministry. At the same time, we are thrilled to send the Cochran's to be Country Director on our behalf.

A key issue we have wrestled with is how we see a new community of missional workers grown and supported: People who will live

their whole lives, whether locally or globally, knowing the call of God to move outwards into the world and see the Kingdom come. Short-term teams have given many people a new vision for their lives, and this group is beginning to come together for ongoing support and learning. As we have supported Orbit in doing this around those involved in their own neighbourhoods, a new community is growing around a wider global vision. Watch this space...


—RUBY DUNCAN

Arotahi is all about supporting our Baptist churches in their mission, which we describe as 'mutual gospel renewal'. Te Whaariki (our Baptist Māori leadership) have described how we do this as 'Aro Ki Uta, Aro Ki Tai', meaning whether we face toward the land or face toward the sea, we encounter good news in the midst of relationship with others. That means here in Aotearoa and across the world. For Arotahi, how we do mission is most significant. We seek to build genuine relationships based on humility (ngākau

mahaki), deep listening to each other and God (whakarongo) and nurturing respectful relationships (whakawhanaunga). It's the way we began with Māori mission in the Rotorua area and in the pioneering work of Rosalie MacGeorge 138 years ago in what is now Bangladesh.

Today, we continue the work. In Bangladesh, we are part of a six-generation story of New Zealand Baptists working side by side with the Bengali people. This year, we honour and thank Ross and Cindy Meyer, who have been one of those generations, giving 36 years of consistent, faithful service to God's Kingdom work in Bangladesh. At the same time, we hear the plea of the leaders of the Bangladesh Baptist Churches that there be a seventh generation of Kiwis coming to Bangladesh to work alongside them, to share the load, celebrate and struggle together, and be genuine partners in what God is doing. That is an exciting invitation and one we have sought to share with all our Baptist churches over the last year.

Four Baptist churches have answered the call to explore a long-term relationship with the churches



of Bangladesh. The first step was a team of church leaders visiting in January 2024, followed a week later by a team of young adults from the same four churches. Then, at the request of the General Secretary of the Bangladesh Baptist Churches, we began fundraising to rebuild three of the student hostels. We could underwrite this through a generous legacy that gave \$200,000 towards work in Bangladesh, including the hostels, and \$500,000 to be invested, with the interest earned going toward the sponsorship of hostel students.

At this stage, 110,000 NZD has been raised from three churches to rebuild the hostels. We aim to reach \$150,000, which will allow for the rebuilding of the Feni and John Takle boys' hostels and the Mymensingh girls' hostel. Building the physical buildings is just the first step in forming long-term deep relationships between the Kiwi churches involved and particular churches, schools and hostels in Bangladesh.

Speaking of a seventh generation of Kiwi Baptists in on-the-ground mahi in Bangladesh, Brian and Gay Cochran will soon be going in order to set up opportunities for short-term (3-9 months) and long-term people to join them. The 3-9 month opportunities are for those who have skills to share that are needed, those who want to learn, and those who want to explore mission, experience God's work in a global context and have their faith grounded and transformed amid the growing church of the poor and

least reached. Bangladesh is only 0.31% Christian; many have never heard or seen gospel life.

This year, work with the desperately poor has continued through business communities we partner with in South-East Asia, church planting, discipleship, pastor and theological training, and specific aid and development projects. Much of this we can't speak specifically about, but be assured the work continues and lives are being changed through meeting Christ, having a stable job, receiving education, or being invited into moments of fun in contexts of much pain.

This year was our second year in a pilot scheme of mission by Māori for Māori through Māori kaupapa. We called this Māhi Pai and began with work in the Motueka area with Motueka Baptist Church. The two-year review strongly endorsed the progress made so far and named ways to grow the work. I constantly wonder where we might be if we hadn't pulled out a hundred years ago.

It was also a year of new openings, including supporting the training of ASHA pastors with a mission begun and sustained by one of our New Zealand churches. The church is Village Baptist Church in Havelock North, and their mission is with 35 village churches in South-East Asia, pastoring a combined congregation of around 6,000. In September, we were invited to a conference of Baptist communities in the Pacific. This opened opportunities for renewed partnerships there to be explored in 2025. Plus, back in New Zealand, we launched a community

for those connecting to the Arotahi vision and our Arotahi way that could become a community of practice to encourage and feed into the mission passion, call and learning of the people involved. We called this Mā Mātou, which carries the idea of 'for us and by us'.

Our work to encourage and nurture the mission understanding and engagement of children continued with the launch of Whiria Kids. The Community of International Development (CID) approved our policies and processes as international best practice. We are now full members.

As the year ends, we are very conscious there is more to do, and God is calling us forward into deeper partnership with him and each other.

For, "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"—Romans 10:13-15

—ALAN JAMIESON



WAYNE SCHACHE
OPERATIONS AND FINANCE DIRECTOR


Baptist
National Hui
2023

Shaping the Baptist movement for future generations

Tēnā koutou katoa

The 2024 reporting year has been a very significant one for the Baptist Union. It has been dominated by the sale of our properties at Great South Road, Penrose at the end of 2023 and the purchase of the Marewa Road, Greenlane site in July this year. These are probably two of the most significant transactions in a generation or two. While it is a very exciting time, there is still a lot of work to happen over 2025 to ensure that the premises are ready for our move at the end of 2025 or the beginning of 2026. The investment in the new property is truly a family affair, with Carey Baptist College taking the large proportion of ownership in the property and the Northern Baptist Association, the National Support Centre and Arotahi all taking smaller ownership interests. The building is designed not only to house us but also to create passive income in the future for all investors.

The annual national hui (Assembly) hosted by Manukau City Baptist Church in November 2023, “Baptists – Shaping our Future”,


was a great time for the whānau to come together and engage in some really big conversations. These “Big Bite” conversations were thought-provoking, confronting and challenging. They served as introductions into what has subsequently been a big year of consultation around constitutional change and discussions around how we, as a movement, deal with serious misconduct. The November 2024 hui in Rangiora this year, “Justice, Mercy, Humility”, will be the next step in shaping our movement into the future. We expect this process to continue for at least another year – at regional hui and the 2025 national hui. We are a group of wide-thinking people, and we need to consider this as we discuss the big issues and prepare our movement for the next 20–30 years.

Regional hui were great times for connecting and consulting. For the second year in a row, the number of our people engaging in the regional hui increased to the previous year. One of our regions hosted a women’s event double the size of their regional hui. What a fantastic example of talking, collaborating, and associating – being Baptist.

A highlight of the year was developing a Child Protection Policy for churches to use with the assistance of Child Matters. The development of this policy and the training of 300 of our leaders in association with the Carey Centre for Lifelong Learning was funded by a legacy.

On an operational basis, this year has been another financially challenging one for the movement. The financial pressures of the cost-of-living crisis have meant that our Committed Church Giving dropped a further 6% on last year’s drop of 7%. Over two years, this has had a \$100,000 impact. Interest rates have had a mixed effect on our investment income – term deposits positive, property investments and Christian Savings Ltd dividend negative. Net drop in investment income accounts for \$60,000.

Non-operational impacts of the non-refundable deposit received on-site at Great South Road and the building of net revenue from Hillside property, which we set aside for end-of-lease liabilities in 2026, offset the operational deficits of our other entities.



We are very grateful for the Christian Savings Ltd dividend, which, along with Committed Church Giving, is the movement's most critical source of income. When both are reduced, this impacts our ability to resource and support churches as we would wish to.

The Baptist Children's Trust still supports Iosis Ltd but has also seen some pressure concerning historical abuse claims for the Manurewa Children's Home.

The coming year will be another very busy one as we seek to fit out and then relocate into our new building in Greenlane. The movement will also determine our

response to the findings of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care and how that looks at a local church level. There are things we can start doing now and things we will need to wait for government guidance on before we can practically respond.

I continue to see a very bright future for the Baptists of New Zealand. Confirming good governance structures and allocating resources effectively for gospel renewal will continue to be our priority. I look forward to continuing to work with you as we shape the Baptist movement for the generations to whom we will pass on the baton. ■

Confirming
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KAREN WARNER
LEADERSHIP CO-ORDINATION DIRECTOR
leadership.baptist.nz

Safe, healthy, robust leaders

As a Union of churches, our leadership spaces and leadership needs are many and varied. My role is to ensure that whether you are a church elder needing help with the pastoral search, a sole pastor looking for assistance with training material for a group of young leaders, or a new pastor wanting to understand Baptist Registration, you know where to go for that help and where to find the resources you need.

While leadership resourcing and support form the core of what my office provides, a significant focus of this year has been developing a process for helping us manage issues of serious misconduct by pastoral staff. Following the mandate from the 2023 National Hui, a proposed Serious Misconduct Process has been developed. Consultation with our churches was undertaken from May to July. The proposal was discussed at the five regional hui, and over 30 individual and joint written submissions were received. This consultation resulted in the proposal being taken to the 2024 National Hui.

I have also been working with the Code of Ethics and Conduct Advisory

Group on developing a new code of ethics and conduct for pastors and registered leaders. This group has spent the last 18 months listening, reviewing, and writing a proposal that is now going out for consultation. We hope to have the document's final version, Te Wao Tōtara, A Forest of Leaders, available early next year.

The newly revamped Baptist Registration continues to ensure

starting in 2025. This requirement will mean that our registered pastors and leaders are receiving supervision from trained and experienced practitioners.


The breadth of resources we provide for elders, pastors and leaders continues to grow. For information on what is available or to make contact, please check out the Leadership Hub website: leadership.baptist.nz

My role is to ensure that . . . you know where to go for that help and where to find the resources you need.

that our pastors and leaders receive quality professional development and external supervision support. This year's priority learning, Safe and Healthy Boundaries Training, has been very well received, with all registrants attending the course in person, ensuring that collegial conversations added depth to the learning. We are now moving to the final stage of the registration changes, with all registrants required to have an approved supervisor



ETHAN MILLER
YOUTH CATALYST
herito.baptist.nz


He Rito
Focus Night
at the Baptist
National Hui

Growing Young: Revitalising the church from the grassroots

I was employed as the National Youth Catalyst two weeks before Easter 2023 as a response to the 2022 Baptist National Hui. The purpose of the role is to create a compelling and shared vision for BYM (Baptist Youth Ministries) in New Zealand, develop a 3–5-year strategic plan, and build a robust framework and structure for achieving this vision. More on all of this below, but first, a few highlights and key priorities over the past year:

Gathering

In November (2023), we celebrated the first BYM Hui since 2019 with 75 youth pastors and leaders from across the country coming together for fellowship, prayer, discussion, and fun. For many, this was their first experience with a national BYM gathering. For some, it was their introduction to a broader Baptist Union event. Despite the increasing financial and time constraints many of our youth leaders faced, it was a great turnout.

As always, Easter Camps were a great success, with many young people making life-changing decisions. The difficult years of

COVID seem like a distant memory as youth ministries rebuild and the camps begin to grow once again. Big thanks go to Blue Bradley, Mike Dodge and Hannah Cossey for all their mahi. E Camp was also successful, reaching full capacity before registrations closed! Shout out to E Camp Director Josh Van De Worp for ten years of faithful leadership. What a way to finish up! Casey Clark from Manukau City Baptist Church has now taken the reins in what has been a smooth transition.

We had 340 youth leaders attend King's Birthday Youth Leaders Training. It was a great weekend of opening God's word, training on youth ministry, team building and worship. Thank you to Alan Ameye, who helped me organise the event and the many others who contributed throughout the weekend.

We had 257 campers and youth leaders go to Xtend (a camp focused on extending the faith of 15–18-year-olds) in Palmerston North. One of my favourite stories was hearing from a mother still new to faith whose daughter came home completely transformed. A few weeks later, she and a friend got

baptised. That is Gospel Renewal in people and places. Thank you, Merrilyn Withers, Mike Sandbrook and Katie Thomas, for all your hard work putting Xtend together.

Advocating/Influencing

A significant focus of mine has been advocating for ministry to young people within our Baptist churches. Over the past decade, we have witnessed a decrease in resources dedicated to young people, which has had a noticeable impact on our ability to minister effectively. Given that many young people are not able to advocate for themselves, it is crucial that we remind our churches of their role in nurturing and discipling the next generation. I had the privilege of leading the He Rito Focus Night at the National Hui, which aimed to encourage our Baptist movement to invest in young people. I spoke at all five regional hui about the importance of growing young within our churches. I led a three-part webinar series titled "Fostering a Generation of Emerging Leaders" through Carey's Lifelong Learning platform. I regularly engage with Senior Pastors, Elders, and key leaders within our Baptist context.

Resourcing

With the increasing lack of resources (time, money and people) at a local church level, there is a growing need for ready-to-go resources. This year, we launched the Baptist Student Network to connect young people with churches as they move to different cities for university. I send out a fortnightly BYM Mail, a key tool in keeping our leaders updated on the latest stories, research, resources, and events. In partnership with Child Matters, we have updated our Child Protection Policy and offered two free webinars to help our churches understand how to implement it in their context. We remain committed to addressing ongoing questions and concerns and will continue to review and enhance the policy as needed. We are also in the process of developing the He Rito website and the upcoming replacement to the Baptist Intranet. Together, these will be the destination for resourcing churches for ministry to young people from birth right through to their young adult years.

Developing


With churches having fewer resources to effectively disciple and nurture their young people, there is a need for greater collaboration, support, and resources at the national and regional levels. To achieve this, I am re-establishing a BYM Trust board that can work with me to establish a financial plan that will enable BYM to further support churches in their pursuit to disciple young people. I want to

thank a couple of key donors who have given generously towards BYM, enabling greater ministry to and with young people. This financial support has enabled several new initiatives that will be announced in the coming months and allowed the employment of a BYM Administrator, Maya Edmunds. Maya is already making great headway in her role, and we are excited for the year ahead.

Earlier this year, I presented one part of a proposed National Youth Strategy to the Regional Leaders, the Chair of regional associations, and the National Support Centre Lead Team. The proposal was to have a National Youth Team comprising the National Youth Catalyst and Regional Youth Coaches (partly funded by associations and, in time, topped up through fundraising by BYM). Together, this team would work to develop a shared vision and strategy that could be outworked regionally. There isn't agreement at this time for a nationally coordinated approach to Baptist youth ministry, so I have pivoted to a region-by-region approach. Although this will take more time to develop, I am incredibly hopeful for the future of BYM and our role in supporting churches to raise the next generation of Jesus' followers.

Thank you to everyone who is involved in discipling young people. You are a joy to work with and an honour to serve. I'm glad that we get to do this together. ■

I am incredibly hopeful for the future of BYM and our role in supporting churches to raise the next generation of Jesus' followers.



Either Mike Crudge singing a CCM song, or presenting the biannual Listener's Choice Podcast Awards at Hui 2023

MIKE CRUDGE
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Churches that enjoy being in union together desire to connect

It continues to be my privilege to serve our collective of faith communities through the Baptist National Support Centre. We are making progress with our communication plan. Much of my area of work is detailed here: baptist.nz/resources/communication

A few highlights:

- Usage of the Baptist NZ app increases, as does the baptist.nz website and engagement with content via Facebook.
- The bi-monthly printable A4 PDF newsletter is being used in churches where [typically] older people don't access content digitally – local churches print/ photocopy and distribute this for their people who used to read and now miss the paper Baptist magazine: baptist.nz/print
- There have been 210 written pieces of content published over the past year on your communication platform, averaging close to 4 pieces each week. The most popular Baptist NZ app push notification option is the 'Weekly content update' that comes out on a Sunday night

as a reminder of the new written and podcast content over the past week – please continue to encourage your church members to turn this notification on so they can stay up-to-date with the variety of content and resources they are enabling to exist. The most popular written content this year has been the 5-part series of articles on Israel and Palestine: Twenty-one questions by Philip Church which was based on questions from readers - baptist.nz/philip-church

- Our most popular website content this past year:
 1. [Article, news & stories](#)
 2. [Job vacancies](#)
 3. [Karakia/prayers in te reo Māori](#)
 4. [Find a local Baptist church](#)
 5. [Podcasts](#)
 6. [Contact National Support Centre](#)
 7. [Governance and constitution consultation](#)
 8. [Serious Misconduct consultation](#)
- The backbone of our content is the wide range of volunteers who share stories from their local contexts, or write articles,

columns, education pieces, or give their time to craft podcast shows or be interviewed for episodes. Thank you!!

- There are seven established written columns and columnists providing regular content from a range of topics and perspectives: baptist.nz/resources/communication/columns
- Podcasts continue to be an achievable way to present content with around one-in-five New Zealanders listening to this medium. This past year saw the creation of three new shows: **CareyOPEN** which literally opens up some of our Carey Baptist College campus world for us all to listen in to – check out the great biblical teaching through the pastoral epistles this year. **A Beautiful Work** podcast is mostly for pastors and those thinking about it or wanting to learn more about this particular area of Christian ministry. **The Lowdown** podcast came after Hui 2023 feedback to make the pre-Hui reading and other Hui info assessable via audio so that it was easier to consume – eg: while Hui delegates travel to Hui

they can get the lowdown through their ear-buds or car stereo.

There is a new podcast series being developed by Steve Worsley on church and the climate crisis which should be out before Christmas. There is another investigative series being worked on that should be ready to release by autumn.

See all our podcast shows here: baptist.nz/podcasts.

- The rollout of the EzyChurch app for any local church that wants to communicate with their people this way has been a year late due to complications with the way push notifications have been working (or not!) in the Android version – with around 55% of mobile device users being on the Android operating system it is crucial it works well for everyone before we activate this. I am sorry this has taken much longer than expected.

You can view the introduction material about how the app will work here: baptist.nz/resources/communication/local-church-app

And watch a [30-second video](#) that will help congregations see how they could use the app for internal church communication and giving.

The Support Centre will cover the ongoing cost of a local Baptist church having the app; there will be a \$100 initial setup cost. The EzyChurch app will bring together local church communications, including push notifications,

events, mobile and web giving, sermon notes and recordings (video and audio, including a local church having its own podcast channel that can connect with Spotify and Apple Podcasts), forms, Infoodle integration, social media connection, AirPlay and Chromecast compatibility, and more. [Click here for details about the EzyChurch app on their website.](#)

We rely on the skills/gifts of those among our collective of faith communities...

- Hundreds of dollars continue to be saved by our 'Team of 40,000' Baptists using the 'Discounts' section of the Baptist NZ app – there are now more than 50 places we can get discounts – I use this feature several times a month. The best bargains I've heard people in our churches getting is from JB Hifi on electronic stuff.
- The Editorial Advisory Group that was set up eighteen months ago has been dis-established. The idea for this diverse group of skilled volunteers was to oversee the content on the Baptist NZ platform (website, the Baptist NZ app, printable newsletters,

and social media), ensuring it is fulfilling the objectives of the Baptist Union. It was a good idea but ahead of its time considering the development stage of the platform. A plan is to re-establish this group again in the future.

Thank you to the five people who made up this group: Shania Norman, Elesha Gordon, Jonan Castillon, Sophie Bond, and Andrew Baldwin.

- I am the advertised Baptist NZ contact for media, public communication and statements. I am also available to help local churches and staff when requested. There have been several situations this year where I have supported local churches or engaged directly with media representatives.

Our communication mechanism – and I say 'our' because it is the platform of all of the churches in union together – and it's an expression of our desire to connect with each other because of being in union. Our communication in this way will only be good and used if there is great content that is helpful. We rely on the skills/gifts of those among our collective of faith communities who produce articles, tell stories, share news, offer opinions, create podcast episodes, etc. I thank those who contribute in this way. If you know of someone in your church who would be great at creating in this space, please encourage them to check out this webpage: baptist.nz/creatives or get in touch with me: mike.crudge@baptist.org.nz ■



RACHEL MURRAY, REGIONAL LEADER
OTAGO & SOUTHLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
otagosouth.baptist.nz

Stepping into our potential

As I travel our region, I am reminded regularly of those who came before us, who took risks and steps of faith for the Kingdom's sake. Although many of those churches and initiatives are no longer with us, those steps live on in the remaining ministries. The 2023–2024 year adds to the legacy of faith that God has led and opened doors for along the way.

Although large in geography, the Otago & Southland Baptist Association (OSBA) is small in the number of church communities, which impacts the possible giving. However, relationships are strengthening and there is increased willingness to associate; this has resulted in growing support from churches. This support, alongside favourable interest rates and prudent management under the lead of our treasurer, has combined for a result more positive than anticipated. The challenge of annual deficits, however, is the result of limited income plus a commitment to new initiatives and ensuring the strengthening of churches across the region. Perhaps a good challenge to have!

regional hui, held in the Catlins in late May, was the largest to date, with new faces and a broader range of roles represented. We had a great mix of fun, worship, learning, challenge and whanaungatanga. It's a good sign when people keep asking for the two-night residential version of hui! In April, the second regional women's gathering welcomed 135 women for connection and, fair to say, deep challenge for some.



With increasing emphasis and requirements for churches around compliance, health and safety, policy and governance, the OSBA offered a one-day seminar in March with Wayne Schache and Catharina Siraa from the National Support Centre. It was encouraging to see 35 administrators, treasurers, elders, and pastors come together to upskill, understand the changing environment and be committed to ensuring good practice for contexts.

The Association has been pleased to support several churches in upgrading needed equipment, property development, and community and ministry events. As a commitment to encourage leadership training, five individuals

from four churches were financially supported to study – one in pastoral leadership and four in general ministry leadership. In addition, we subsidised 32 people from 6 churches to undertake the new Intro to Christian Leadership course through Carey Baptist College.

The Central Otago Baptist Network (COBN) officially began in February 2024 under the leadership of Derik Kotze. There is still much to develop, but possibilities continue to unpack. New discipleship groups are in process around the Wānaka/Luggate area, along with ongoing conversations within and beyond the region about opportunities in Cromwell and Queenstown.

Caversham and South Dunedin celebrated their 150th anniversaries, and Dunedin City reached its 160th milestone. It was great to see Roxburgh open their building extension and community food pantry, to positive response by community and church alike. Oāmaru Baptist was welcomed back to membership of the Association and called a permanent pastor in Jonan Castillon after two years of interim leadership. From a very tenuous position 2.5 years



ago, it's thrilling to see such a transformation in a church. Eastside has welcomed a sizable group of

We take seriously the building of God's Kingdom for the present and the next generations of His people.

Congolese refugees. Baptisms occur regularly in many churches and various places, from rivers and lakes (even in mid-winter!) to school pools and the more traditional baptismal pools. Whatever the body of water, the decision of baptism is to be celebrated.

We take seriously the building of God's Kingdom for the present and the next generations of His people. Like those of the past, we seek to step into the potential and possibility He lays before us in the South. ■



CHRIS CHAMBERLAIN, REGIONAL LEADER
UPPER SOUTH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
uppersouth.baptist.nz

Associating can be so enriching

Many people

There are over 4000 people in the Upper South Baptist Churches (USBA) among a general population of about 900,000.

Our Association has an active board: David Baines (Parklands Baptist Church, Chair), Martin Sutherland (Avonhead Baptist Church), Sue Avery (Connect Church Blenheim), Rod Robson (Opawa Baptist Church), Julie Chamberlain (Oxford Terrace Baptist Church), and Paul Cossey (Motueka Baptist Church). They provide calm and wise oversight as we innovate for gospel renewal. Take a second to thank God for them.

Our staff team is made up of Andrew Meek (Leadership Pathway Coordinator), Mike Dodge (Youth, contracted from Canterbury Youth Services), Hannah Cossey (Young Adults), Steph Wood (Children and Families), and Chris Chamberlain (Regional Leader). Each contributes from their experience and gifts to support our churches. Take a moment to pray for them as they serve our churches.

Delta Community Support Trust have farewelled Mike Stanley and welcomed Grahame Burgess as the new General Manager. Archer Villages and Rest Homes have welcomed Jane Haughey as the new General Manager following Graham Mitchell's conclusion.


Pastoral changes abound in our Association, including welcomes to Tom Gower at Linwood Baptist Church, Jason Webb at Rangiora Baptist Church (Associate), Caleb Nicolson at Kaiapoi Baptist Church (Youth), Arnie Hall at Nelson Baptist Church, Hans Van Lune at Richmond Baptist Church, Ceu Tum at Chin Immanuel Baptist Church, Thomas Bourdin at Covenant Grace Baptist Church (Associate), Cintia Rossaneis at New Generation Baptist Church (Youth), Emily Brown at Connect Church Blenheim (Youth), Rachel Sangster at Riccarton Baptist Church (Associate to Senior) and Chris Chalmers to St Albans Baptist Church. Praise God for these appointments. We also note the conclusion of Mark Pavelka from Gleniti Baptist Church, Clint Hawkes from Ashburton Baptist Church (Youth), Simon and Annette Williams from Kaiapoi Baptist Church, Paul Wade from

Stoke Baptist Church, Colin Wood from Parklands Baptist Church and Chris Chamberlain from Oxford Terrace Baptist Church. Please give thanks for these folk and their service in our churches.

The establishment of an Association charitable company 'Baptist Resources Limited' has seen the ongoing service of our churches in areas of finance, administration, property maintenance and development, and health and safety advice. General Manager Bradley Nicolson (Oxford Terrace Baptist Church) brings several years of development and finance experience to the task. It is governed by a board made up of Upper South Baptist Association appointees: Rod Robson (Opawa Baptist Church, Chair), Heather Mcleod (Oxford Terrace Baptist Church), James Stewart (one non-Baptist appointee), and myself (Chris Chamberlain, USBA Regional Leader)

Numerous places

Our Upper South Baptist Association has 34 churches, spread between Timaru and Nelson, over the top half of the South Island, Te Wai Pounamu. As



Regional Leader, it has been a busy year as I seek to be present in as many churches as possible on a Sunday and preach about Baptist identity, gospel renewal, and the power of the Kingdom. People have universally loved hearing stories of radical Baptist people from our past, like JJ Doke, JK Archer, Hopeskill Pillow, and Thomas Helwys. The point has been to highlight that 'radical' is in Baptist DNA and that God is not finished with us yet. Churches I've managed to preach at include Wilson Street Baptist Church, Temuka Baptist Church, Lincoln Baptist Church, Darfield Baptist Church, Rangiora Baptist Church, Avonhead Baptist Church, Ilam Baptist Church, Riccarton Baptist Church, New Generation Baptist Church Bryndwr, Papanui Baptist Church, St Albans Baptist Church, Linwood Baptist Church, Kaiapoi Baptist Church, Greymouth Baptist Church, Chin Glory Evangelical Baptist Church, Nelson Chin Baptist Church, Chin Immanuel Baptist Church, Nelson Baptist Church, Motueka Baptist Church, Stoke Baptist Church,

Sometimes, they ask the Regional Leader and their Association for help, and working together for gospel renewal in those settings is humbling.

Atawhai Baptist Church, Connect Church Blenheim and Picton Baptist Church. Whew! Along the way, there has been about 30,000km of travel. We held our regional hui in Christchurch for a change this year, with greater participation, more non-pastors, and a combined Sunday evening worship service attended by over 200. Later in the year, folk from about 10 of our churches supported an Eldership training event.

One gospel


The number of baptisms over this last year has been remarkable. We give thanks for this increase in new life. Churches often ask questions about 'gospel renewal' and what 'growing young' might look like.

Kingdom-of-God-action, such as leveraging assets to serve people experiencing poverty, has also been a point of discussion. One example of this is working with several churches on how best to build houses for those in need. Some of our churches are in quite difficult territory and are wrestling with what gospel renewal might be like for a new season. Sometimes, they ask the Regional Leader and their Association for help, and working together for gospel renewal in those settings is humbling. Associating can be so enriching when autonomy sometimes is not.

It is with gratitude to God that this contribution is offered to our movement's annual report. ■



MIKE WARRING, REGIONAL LEADER
LOWER NORTH ISLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
lowernorth.baptist.nz


by Mike Warring

Grief, gathering, networking, challenge and generosity

Reflecting on the last year, it is probably the hardest I've faced in my life. I've been trying to balance my commitments with the knowledge that my wife (Fiona), co-parent, and best friend had a terminal illness, and her time with us was running out. I want to acknowledge the generous and gracious way our Association, and our movement as a whole, has walked with us on this journey. For the many prayers, generous gifts and offers of help, my whānau and I thank you. The way you have supported us has been amazing.

I thought I knew a bit about grief after pastoring for over 25 years, but nothing can really make you ready for the loss of your spouse. Nothing prepares you for the pain, for the loss, for the enormous hole that suddenly exists, for sitting with your kids who are crying out for their Mum, who desperately want to see her, talk to her and be held by her again. Nothing prepares you for their questions: Why would God let this happen? Why would He let my Mum die when she has done so much for others? Why didn't He answer our prayers and the prayers of thousands of others across the

world for healing? Why did she have to suffer in horrendous pain for over two years and lose the ability to do so much that was special to her? How can you expect me to follow a God who would let this happen to my Mum? These things just come at you. You have no control; you just experience them and so many others.

The best analogy I can give for what grief looks like is this: I am standing in the surf and looking at the shore. I am watching all the things in life, my kids, our world, and my ministry, and it feels as though I am doing ok. Then, all of a sudden, without warning, I am knocked off my feet, struck by a massive wave, and I am being tumbled, not knowing which way is up. I capture glimpses of the sky and the shore, only to be dragged back down as another wave breaks over me again. I feel like I am drowning. I am being dragged down. But then I come up for air, and I can see again. I can see the beach, I can see my kids, I start to get some perspective, and it feels as though I have got things under control. The sun is shining, and the water now seems calm, and I think, "You know what? I can do this!".

But then, out of nowhere, another set of waves takes me off my feet again. This time, however, I recover more quickly, I am back on my feet, and I am ready for what is coming next. But am I? Am I really? Soon, I begin to realise these waves aren't going to stop. They're relentless. They will continue to roll in one after another. And as much as I would like to have control, I have to admit I don't.

So how do you manage? How do you face this overwhelming situation? Well, you muddle through and make it up as you go along. But you also realise you don't do this on your own. Others have walked this journey before you and are willing to help. They can't walk this journey for you, but they can offer support as you face this difficult season. But more significantly, it's about realising that your theology and understanding of scripture are essential for responding when things turn to custard.

My favourite scripture is Luke 4:18-21, where Jesus quotes Isaiah 61 and proclaims that the Kingdom of God is present, where Jesus says, "It has been fulfilled this very day!" So, if this is true, then why is there still pain, loss, grief and death?

There have been significant challenges, but it's also been a year where we have experienced God's faithfulness.

Why? Because we are living in this time of 'the already but not yet.' It's a season where the wonder and goodness of God's Kingdom are present in and through Jesus, but they have yet to be fully realised. We are living in a season where the words of Jesus from Matthew 5 are true: "For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike." It's a season where following Jesus doesn't offer us any assurance that life will be easy or without hardship. But it is also a season where we are never alone, where Jesus has promised He will be with us until the end of the age. A season where we can experience the grace which Paul tells us is sufficient for us and the peace which surpasses all understanding spoken of in Philippians 4. It is in the understanding and embracing of these things that I find hope and experience peace and grace, which I can't explain. But it is also in and through the Body of Christ, the local church, which surrounds us and loves us, who becomes Jesus with flesh on as we face our brokenness and pain.

This report will be nothing like the reports of the other Regional Leaders, but it has been and

continues to be my journey. Amid this struggle, life continues, and many things are worthy of celebration within our region over the last year. We have continued to gather for our regional hui, a highlight for many—a place where we have found connection and deepened relationships with other churches and leaders in our region. One of the highlights of our hui is always the opportunity to hear stories of gospel renewal in each of our local churches. There is real diversity within our region, but we are able to come together. We speak about people encountering the Kingdom of God and finding hope in Jesus Christ. This last year has also been a year of facing our past and acknowledging that we can and do hurt others in our brokenness. This year has seen the beginning of a 'setting your church free' process for our Association. This process will hopefully allow us to celebrate God's faithfulness in the past and recognise things we could have done better at times. It will provide us with a chance for reconciliation and healing and to agree on who and what we want to be as an Association going forward.

During this last year, we have started the process of strengthening local networks and pastor clusters. Others have stepped up to co-ordinate groups in their local setting as I have been unable to travel as much across our region. People in our Association have been incredible in picking up things I was unable to in this challenging season. Rob Petrini from Hutt City Baptist stepped in as our regional leader when I was on

leave, and our amazing Exec works behind the scenes to resource the churches in our region. It has also been a season of challenge for our region as we try to find a way forward with Easter Camp, which has such a rich history and provides a good opportunity for young people to encounter God's Kingdom. I want to acknowledge Andy Beales-White and the many others who work to support our region's youth.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the challenge of our current financial climate and the rising costs associated with running a church. This has placed a greater strain on the resources in our region and has meant that we have struggled to reach our targets for income for the Association. I know we are not alone in this; in fact, all of our regions have struggled in this last year. These challenges force us to ask difficult questions about the sustainability of certain aspects of the Association. However, ironically, this last year, we have also continued to distribute the phenomenal gifts we have given as an Association to help rebuild and support the work of our churches in Hawkes Bay. Thank you!

So, it has been a year of ups and downs. There have been significant challenges, but it's also been a year where we have experienced God's faithfulness. It continues to be a privilege to serve as the Regional Leader for the Lower North Island Association. I am incredibly grateful for Charles as our National Leader and the other Regional Leaders who also supported me this last year. ■



Rotorua Baptist Church

PETER FOSTER, REGIONAL LEADER
WAIKATO, BAY OF PLENTY & EASTLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATIONS
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bayofplentyeast.baptist.nz

Love as Jesus does

In my role as Regional Leader, I have endeavoured to keep at the forefront of all that I have done in 2024 the thought and action that if we truly 'love as Jesus does', we need to be generous, show hospitality of spirit and be humble. Generosity, humility, and hospitality are the hallmarks of Jesus' love towards us and our love towards the world.

For me, this is how gospel renewal happens in and around our churches. These three attitudes are tied to the Kingdom of Christ and are part of its foundations. These words represent the simple but profound call that Christ gives our churches.

It is a good reminder that we are called to be like Jesus in our approach and dealing with the people we find ourselves amongst.

One of my 'go-to' messages this year when invited to preach is based on the story from Luke 7:36-51. It is a good reminder that we are called to be like Jesus in our approach and when dealing with the people we find ourselves amongst. I have enjoyed seeing people interact this way amongst our clusters and churches. It has been a delight to witness what seems to be a closer sense of association among our churches. This led to a well-received regional hui in June, with lots of positive input from all involved and attending.

Initiatives include Bethlehem Baptist and Tauranga Central working together on a preferred future. Churches are looking at how they develop young leaders for our future. There is increased participation in events like Easter Camp (Mystery Creek and Finlay Park) and combined church youth events. There are some good things to celebrate around our churches and amongst our people.

We still have challenges. In the Waikato region, we have six vacant churches. Some of these churches have been vacant for a few years. We still have the occasional conflict in our churches. A 'break in relationship'

perhaps. When I am invited in to help, I wonder if only the three words I mentioned at the beginning of this report were being outworked things might be a little different – just something to think about.

Most churches have a financial challenge, which seems a sign of the times. In this regard, we are the same at the regional level. But all in all, I look back on this year with gratitude and celebration. Jesus is indeed the head of the church.

For the year coming up, I am very keen to explore:


- What does worship look like for us as we endeavour to address our future.
- How do we best develop new pastoral leadership among us.
- Developing good eldership within our churches.

These are just a few things to mention among many.

Thanks, everyone, for your commitment to our churches and our region. I look forward to where God will lead us in the coming year. ■



RETI AH-VOA, REGIONAL LEADER
NORTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
northern.baptist.nz

 Hosanna
Avondale
Baptist Church

Towards being a biblical whānau of faith communities

*Ehara tāku toa i te toa takitahi,
engari he toa takitini.*
(My strength is not as an individual,
but as a collective.)

We give thanks for each of our 100 churches/faith communities of the Northern Association, from Doubtless Bay and Cornerstone (Kaitaia) in the north to Waiuku and Franklin in the south. We are grateful for every pastor, chaplain, mission leader and their respective ministry team who have, over the 12 months since last September, carried the heavy burden and joy of faithful service to their respective faith communities and their neighbourhoods.

The Lord has been generous to our faith communities. He has called a number of folks into new roles over the last year, leaving a small number of vacancies yet to be filled across our faith communities.

We welcomed as new Fellowships and leaders: Pastor Toetu Iose and Samoan Baptist Church of the Living Christ (Favona), Pastor Danny Sohn and the Hope of Heaven Baptist Church (Korean, Millwater) and Pastor Jack Kwon and the

Overflowing Baptist Church (Korean, Papatoetoe).

We acknowledge the merger of Ekklesia Samoan Baptist Manurewa and Samoan Baptist Māngere. We also acknowledge the closure and ministries of Pastor Eddie Tuala and God's Family Fellowship (Onehunga); Pastor Esera Maeata'anoa and Grace Community Church (New Lynn); Co-Pastors Blue Bradley, Cathie Cottle and Tim Shallard and the closure of Mosaic Morningside.


Our congratulations to the faith communities who celebrated special milestones or anniversaries: Living Waters Otarā (60th Anniversary), Kerikeri (40th Anniversary), Liberty (Centenary), Lifepoint (20th Anniversary), Ōtāhuhu (12th Anniversary as Combined, 146th of founding), Render Gathering (7th Anniversary), Eastgate Baptist Church (40th Anniversary), Belmont Baptist Church (75th Anniversary) and Titirangi Baptist Church (70th Anniversary).

The Board's Church Survey conducted in December 2023 identified key priorities around Associating (walking with one

another in unity and maturity), Growing young, Ethnic Minority Congregations, Leadership Development (growing our leadership base and managing transition) and Resourcing with work continuing in previous areas of Everyone a witness (discipleship) and mission with Māori.

We have continued to remind ourselves of our founding value as Baptists of being a covenant people and repositioning our identity as more than a collective of faith communities and towards being a biblical whānau or family of faith communities. We have also spent time in our pastor clusters around discerning the mind of Christ and, as a region, started to look to the paerangi (horizon) to see what God is saying to us about our calling, our future hope, and the generations to come.

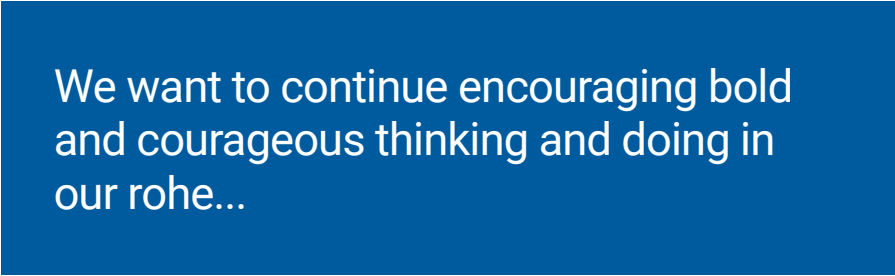
We celebrated the wonderful initiatives and events held in or involving people from our region including: Samoan combined Youth Service, Korean Combined Pastors and families Retreat, the Intergenerate Conference, Southern Kingdom hosting National Hui at Manukau City Baptist Church;



participation in various sessions of the National Hui, registration training for bi-vocational pastors, the Northern Easter Camp, eCamp, Northland Easter Camp, 12 Voices – 12 Encounters (Eastgate Baptist Church), Combined Chinese Good Friday Service; Community Housing (Long Bay Baptist Church), Follow Conference (Manukau City Baptist Church), Discipleship Workshop (Northland), Embodied Hope Conference (Northcote Baptist Church), STAND graduation (Windsor Park Baptist Church), KB Leadership Training camp, Xtend, Way2Go, Psalms Conference (Carey Baptist College), Hui-aa-Maori (Tauranga), the regional hui, the Communication Course, Baptist Leaders Orientation, Waka Whakakitenga Tauihi Journey (Visionwest), Supervision Training, In-person and online Boundaries Training, and others – thank you to all involved!

Across our pastor clusters, we wrestled with consultation around recommendations for a new serious misconduct process and constitutional changes. This led to some of the first written submissions, robust conversations at our Saturday sessions of regional hui and active discussions thereafter.

As a whānau, we continue to bear the burden alongside the Baptist



We want to continue encouraging bold and courageous thinking and doing in our rohe...

Union of the closure of Hillside Baptist Church three years ago. We had set a faith stretch on last year's giving to \$160,000, and while we have also been encouraged by our whānau around church contributions, we were \$20,000 shy of that target. Thank you to those who support our work so generously.

We have continued to press into gospel renewal as a national movement alongside Charles Hewlett (our National Leader), the Regional Leader group, and the National Support Team. It is an honour to partner with and champion Arotahi and Carey Baptist College as and when we are able. We also support the work of Luke Kaa-Morgan as Te Pouarataki mō te Hīkoi alongside Te Whāriki and particularly acknowledge Josie Te Kahu in her role here.

We want to continue encouraging bold and courageous thinking and doing in our rohe as we enter the next season of gospel renewal among the people and in the places we are planted. ■



JOHN TUCKER
PRINCIPAL, CAREY BAPTIST COLLEGE
carey.ac.nz

Carey Baptist
College's new
property at 1-7
Marewa Road,
Greenlane

Five ways the Lord has blessed our college

When I reflect on 2024, I find myself reaching for the words of Psalm 126:3: "The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy." During the last year, the Lord has done great things for our theological college. He has shown his favour to Carey in several significant ways. Let me name some of them.

1. Our people

This year, we farewelled Dr Andrew Picard after 14 years of service, celebrated with Neroli Hollis her 20 years of faithful ministry, and welcomed Katie and Dan Cuttriss as the new leaders of our Intermission programme. I watched again with wonder and joy as the Lord continued to shape the Carey team. Jesus has assembled at Carey a very special team of lecturers who are not just gifted academics; they're experienced leaders actively engaged in ministry and mission. That's why our lecturers can help their students integrate the riches of their faith with the realities of their context and the rhythms or practices of ministry and mission today. That's why our lecturers love

speaking at Easter camps, teaching at youth leaders' training weekends, and presenting at regional hui for Baptist pastors. And that's why they focus their research and publications on equipping churches and leaders to participate in God's mission in this world.

2. Our property


Early this year, we sold our Penrose campus with the hope of finding a new site by the end of this year, fitting it out next year, before moving in by the beginning of 2026, when we will celebrate Carey's centenary. Our list of search criteria for the new property was very long and demanding. Yet, we have found and purchased a site that ticks every single box: 1-7 Marewa Road, Greenlane. The Baptist National Support Centre, Arotahi and the Northern Baptist Association have all invested in the new site and will be co-located there. We're very excited about our new home. It will provide Carey with an excellent purpose-built learning environment for our students while also generating new income streams to support the College and the wider Union. The Lord has been very kind to us.

3. Our pathways

Some 98 years ago, our family of churches established Carey to train leaders for Baptist ministry and mission. In recent years, we have done this primarily by offering students a choice of three pathways accessible to students right across Aotearoa:

- The Pastoral Leadership track for people with a recognised call to pastoral ministry (3 years, full-time or part-time).
- The Mission Leadership track for people wanting to be equipped for mission service, whether in Aotearoa or overseas (1-2 years, part-time or full-time).
- The Ministry Leadership (or Internship) track for those (a) wanting to be equipped for their roles as ministry leaders, or (b) wanting to test a sense of call to Christian ministry, or (c) wanting a formational year of Christian ministry and study (from 6 months to 3 years or more, part-time or full-time).

This year, as a result of changes in government policy, we have been able to add another pathway: micro-



That's why Carey exists: to form leaders who can passionately proclaim Jesus, faithfully teach Scripture, sensitively read culture, selflessly nurture disciples, and courageously guide communities into fuller participation in the mission of God.

credentials. These are shorter and lighter pathways of training (16 weeks, part-time) ideal for people who cannot commit to a larger programme of study. In 2024, we launched two micro-credentials: a Certificate in Ministry Supervision and a Certificate in Christian Leadership.

4. Our Professional Development

In addition to these training pathways, our Centre for Lifelong Learning has continued to expand the suite of training resources available to Christian leaders. This year, it offered 14 webinar series, attracting 554 individual registrations. It provided boundaries training for 320 Baptist leaders and child protection training for 376 leaders. Another highlight was the launch of a new podcast for pastoral leaders: *A Beautiful Work*. The major event of the year was the conference we hosted in July on the Psalms and Christian worship. This event was a massive and complex

undertaking led by Dr Michael Rhodes. It wove together a vast cast of biblical scholars, church leaders, and creative musicians from a range of cultural backgrounds. It was motivated by a conviction that in the Psalms, we find a framework for worship that is rich enough and big enough to renew and sustain the church in its life and witness. We have been praying that this event might catalyse new songs and forms of worship within our churches, and the Lord is already answering our prayers.

5. Our Performance

Finally, in June this year, the government conducted its four-yearly External Evaluation and Review (EER) of the college. It awarded Carey Category 1 status, with the review team concluding that it is "highly confident" in both our educational performance and our capability for self-assessment. Remarkably, the review panel issued no recommendations or

requirements as a result of their evaluation. This is the best possible result that can be achieved, and quite extraordinary after all the disruptions that COVID has caused to our churches and students. As one commentator said, this result reflects "an extraordinary quantum of work from everyone on the college staff... [It] reveals a profound culture of excellence which fits Carey well for the educational environment within which it must work and, indeed, thrive." It also reflects the faithfulness and provision of God.

So, as I look back on this last year, and as I look back on seven years as Principal, I find myself saying, "The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy." Nearly 99 years ago, our family of churches established Carey to train leaders for Baptist ministry and mission. That's why Carey exists: to form leaders who can passionately proclaim Jesus, faithfully teach Scripture, sensitively read culture, selflessly nurture disciples, and courageously guide communities into fuller participation in the mission of God. I look forward with anticipation to watching the way the Lord continues to bless Carey so that – in partnership with local churches – we may continue to form leaders who can equip God's people for the work of ministry and engage in God's mission of renewing this world. ■



 Baptist Women's Board Retreat

TANYA LAMETA (CHAIR) AND ROBYN BLOOMFIELD (SECRETARY)
BAPTIST WOMEN
women.baptist.nz

Our new purpose

At National Hui 2023, five new women were voted onto the Baptist Women's board. They joined three current members of the board. As a result, Baptist Women New Zealand (BWNZ) is now a diverse group of women, representing four out of five of our Baptist Regional Associations. Because most of us were new to the board, we needed to take some time at the beginning of this year to think through what BWNZ does and what our purpose and goals are for the coming years. Each woman on the board brings their own passions and skills to the board. So, the work of BWNZ needs to reflect who we are and what we hope to see for women in the Baptist Churches of New Zealand.

We met together in person for a two-day retreat in April. During this time, we came up with our new purpose: "To advocate for women to have full and equal opportunities in the Baptist Churches of New Zealand in order to bring gospel renewal to all people." We also decided on some goals to work on towards this purpose, which fit into a few key areas. This led to our second statement: "We do this

through communication, education, and pastoral care. To do these things well, we will strengthen our structure."

Throughout the rest of the year, we meet monthly via online meetings. At these meetings, we have been working on several things, enabling us to work towards our goals. In the area of communication, we have seen the need for BWNZ to be more visible and known. To help toward this, we decided to share at each of our local regional hui. We also post more regularly on our social media and promote local women's events at churches. BWNZ also wants to create close working relationships with the Assembly Council, Regional Leaders, and our local churches. So, we have been meeting with some Baptist leaders this year and exploring how we can work more closely together.

In October, Tanya Lameta (Chairperson) and Lunisi Katoa (Treasurer) travelled to Brisbane to join and meet with the other women presidents representing the Baptist Women of the Pacific. They come from Indonesia, Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, and Tuvalu, to name a few places.

Their time together will include preparations for the Baptist World Alliance Women's Summit in July 2025. As a board, one of our goals is to strengthen our relationship within our Baptist Pacific region. What better way to do this than by sending two of our very own Pasifika members?

In the future, we hope to hold more spaces for our Baptist women to gather for teaching, worship, prayer and fellowship. We want to create and support spaces encouraging women of all statuses and ages to connect. This way, we can build relationships and resources for our local churches and use them regionally to support our women.

"E au le ina'ilau a tama'ita'i" is a Samoan proverb that means women can achieve anything; they are strong, capable, powerful, and resilient. ■



Dan Mazengarb

DAN MAZENGARB
CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CHRISTIAN SAVINGS
christiansavings.co.nz

Good things take time

The financial theme for the FY 2024 story can be summed up with one word, “patience”. We broke into the new financial year with a strong capacity to lend and were looking forward to getting behind some very exciting projects. We had a large church build in Mangawhai, a multi-unit housing development in Christchurch, and the establishment of a new Christian school in Wellington. It was to be a year of healthy growth spread across a diverse range of projects. Little did we know that the year would test our patience. The church in Mangawhai pushed back their settlement after a successful fundraising drive, the Christchurch housing charity actually repaid part of its loan before drawing much later in the year, and the school purchase was held up for months whilst an insurance impasse prevented settlement. The delay of these projects and many others meant that we had no effective lending growth during the year. Through a last-minute surge in lending, we stumbled over the finish line at our budgeted number of loans and deposits, but we were sorely below our budgeted surplus.

While we always strive to meet our

shareholders’ financial expectations, being a ‘for-purpose’ means keeping a much bigger picture in mind. This year, we delivered on our core purpose of enabling churches and charities to thrive in a variety of ways. One example is the workshops we’ve held this year. These included a workshop on risk for a shareholder, financial management for ministers, and property development for a parish in Christchurch. We also landed our first two loans to ministers, enabling families to achieve homeownership for the first time. Lastly, we’ve been busy with this year’s Governance Conference, which has seen many people engage in governance education, and we’re already receiving positive feedback from the events.

Arguably, the greatest progress this year has been the developments unseen to most people. These are the investments we’re currently making into better internal systems, smarter marketing strategies and a modern user experience. The fruit of these efforts will only begin to show in Q2 of this year and, like all good things, will require a long lead time to get right. Along with some key new staff members recruited this year, we’re on track to making Christian Savings a much more stable, productive and effective organisation.

Thanks for the partnership shown by our Baptist family; we wouldn’t be here without you. ■

...we’re on track to making Christian Savings a much more stable, productive and effective organisation.

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FINANCIAL REPORT
PŪRONGO PŪTEA

Consolidated Performance Report

Baptist Union of New Zealand - Te Hāhi Iriiri o Aotearoa
For the year ended 31 August 2024

Prepared by CATAS Limited

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Compilation Report

Baptist Union of New Zealand - Te Hāhi Iriiri o Aotearoa For the year ended 31 August 2024

Compilation Report to the Assembly Council of Baptist Union of New Zealand - Te Hāhi Iriiri o Aotearoa.

Scope

On the basis of information provided and in accordance with Service Engagement Standard 2 Compilation of Financial Information, we have compiled the Performance Report of Baptist Union of New Zealand - Te Hāhi Iriiri o Aotearoa for the year ended 31 August 2024.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in the Notes to this Performance Report.

Responsibilities

The Assembly Council are solely responsible for the information contained in this financial report and have determined that the accounting policies used are appropriate to meet your needs and for the purpose that the Performance Report was prepared.

The Performance Report was prepared exclusively for your benefit. We do not accept responsibility to any other person for the contents of the Performance Report.

No Audit or Review Engagement Undertaken by CATAS

Our procedures use accounting expertise to undertake the compilation of the Performance Report from information you provided. Our procedures do not include verification or validation procedures. No audit or review engagement has been performed by CATAS Limited and accordingly no assurance is expressed.

Disclaimer

We have compiled the Performance Report based on information provided. Accordingly, we do not accept any responsibility for the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the compiled financial information contained in the Performance Report. Nor do we accept any liability of any kind whatsoever, including liability by reason of negligence, to any person for losses incurred as a result of placing reliance on this Performance Report.

CATAS Limited

PO Box 21145, Christchurch 8140

Dated: 25 October 2024

Auditor's Report

Baptist Union of New Zealand - Te Hāhi Iriiri o Aotearoa
For the year ended 31 August 2024

1. Auditor's Report

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Directory

Baptist Union of New Zealand - Te Hāhi Iriiri o Aotearoa For the year ended 31 August 2024

Legal Name of Entity

The Baptist Union of New Zealand

Known As

Baptist Churches of New Zealand - Te Hāhi Iriiri o Aotearoa

Entity Type and Legal Basis

The Baptist Union of New Zealand is a body corporate established by the Baptist Union Incorporation Act 1923.

Registration Number

CC22731

IRD Number

010-146-267

Entity's Purpose or Mission

The Baptist Union is primarily a collective of Baptist Churches within New Zealand having for its general objects the extension of the Kingdom of God and the strengthening of all associated churches.

Entity Structure

The Baptist Union of New Zealand is made up of an Assembly of representatives of the individual member bodies. They in turn appoint an Assembly Council which is responsible for work primarily within New Zealand and is directly accountable to the Assembly in all matters of national policy. The Assembly also votes in officers of the Union comprising of President, Vice President, the National Leader and Principal of the Theological College.

Governance Members

- Sarah Beisly
- Blue Bradley
- Angus Budge
- Ruby Duncan (NZBMS)
- Charles Hewlett (National Leader)
- Rachelle Martin
- Greg Motu
- Susan Osborne (President)
- Das Premadas
- Rod Robson (Chairperson)
- Ravanetta Sititi
- Allan Taylor (Vice President)

Bankers

BNZ

Auditors

Charity Integrity Audit

Physical Address

473 Great South Road, Penrose, Auckland, New Zealand, 1061

Postal Address

PO Box 12149, Penrose, Auckland, New Zealand, 1642

Phone

09 526 0333

Email

info@baptist.org.nz

Website

www.baptist.nz

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Statement of Service Performance

Baptist Union of New Zealand - Te Hāhi Iriiri o Aotearoa For the year ended 31 August 2024

The Objects of the Union

The Constitution sets the overall objective: "The Union is primarily a Union of Baptist churches within New Zealand having for its general objects the extension of the Kingdom of God, the strengthening of all the associated churches and the cultivation among its constituent members of respect and love for one another and for all who love the Lord Jesus Christ."

The Vision of the Union

A collective of 240 faith communities bringing Gospel renewal to people and places in their local neighbourhood through:

- Robust Leadership
- Growing Disciples
- Healthy Resources
- Effective Mission

What the Union did during the year to achieve their vision and mission:

	2024	2023
Objective 1 - Number of constituent members associating by attending Regional Hui		
Northern Baptist Association Regional Hui	177	106
Waikato Baptist Association and Bay of Plenty Eastland Baptist Association Regional Hui	115	116
Lower North Island Baptist Association Regional Hui	104	100
Upper South Baptist Association Regional Hui	105	77
Otago Southland Baptist Association Regional Hui	51	42
Otago Southland Baptist Association Womens' Event	128	-
Total	680	441
	2024	2023
Objective 2 - Number of constituent members associating by attending National Hui		
Number of people attending	489	471
	2024	2023
Objective 3 - Engagement of students in Carey Baptist College learning programmes		
Number of engagements	1,532	3,962
	2024	2023
Objective 4 - Number of young people associating and learning by attending regional youth events		
Northern Easter Camp	4,143	3,424
Central Easter Camp	-	1,333
KB (King's Birthday)	309	354
Xtend	256	262
Total	4,708	5,373

Statement of Comprehensive Revenue & Expense

Baptist Union of New Zealand - Te Hāhi Iriiri o Aotearoa
For the year ended 31 August 2024

	NOTES	GROUP 2024	GROUP 2023
Revenue from non-exchange transactions			
Grants	5	447,809	455,959
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	5	1,549,026	1,747,674
Total Revenue from non-exchange transactions		1,996,835	2,203,633
Revenue from exchange transactions			
Revenue from providing goods or services	5	9,175,753	8,441,353
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	5	2,654,744	2,452,871
Other revenue	5	335,351	265,266
Total Revenue from exchange transactions		12,165,847	11,159,490
Total Revenue		14,162,683	13,363,123
Expenses			
Volunteer and employee related costs	6	5,443,565	5,173,044
Costs related to providing goods or service	6	7,606,463	7,082,292
Grants and donations made	6	383,930	555,227
Other expenses	6	618,824	721,617
Total Expenses		14,052,782	13,532,179
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		109,900	(169,056)
Other comprehensive revenue and expense			
Other Movements	7	5,379,906	1,858,688
Total Other comprehensive revenue and expense		5,379,906	1,858,688
Total comprehensive revenue and expense for the year		5,489,807	1,689,632

This Performance Report should be read in conjunction with the Auditor's Report, the Notes to Performance Report and the Compilation Report.

Statement of Changes in Net Assets/Equity

Baptist Union of New Zealand - Te Hāhi Iriiri o Aotearoa
For the year ended 31 August 2024

	NOTES	GROUP 2024	GROUP 2023
Equity			
General Funds			
Opening Balance		34,308,414	32,384,544
Retained Earnings		1,711,308	(295,026)
Current year earnings		5,489,807	1,689,632
Prior Period Adjustment	25	(4,467,915)	-
Transfer to/from Reserves		3,133,153	529,265
Total General Funds		40,174,767	34,308,414
Movement in Reserves			
Opening Balance		47,565,678	47,164,240
Asset Revaluation Reserve		4,789,873	4,364,148
Special Purpose Reserves		(9,468,831)	(3,962,710)
Total Movement in Reserves		42,886,721	47,565,678
Total Equity		83,061,487	81,874,092

This Performance Report should be read in conjunction with the Auditor's Report, the Notes to Performance Report and the Compilation Report.

Statement of Financial Position

Baptist Union of New Zealand - Te Hāhi Iriiri o Aotearoa
As at 31 August 2024

	NOTES	GROUP 2024	GROUP 2023
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	8	3,214,605	1,874,944
Receivables from exchange transactions	8	5,227,374	1,261,823
Investments (current)	11	12,166,004	7,486,899
Other Current Assets	8	1,208,932	76,035
Total Current Assets		21,816,914	10,699,701
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	10	21,268,537	21,125,632
Investments	11	40,420,020	52,411,964
Other non-current assets	8	1,994,943	495,285
Total Non-Current Assets		63,683,500	74,032,881
Total Assets		85,500,414	84,732,581
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Payables from exchange transactions	9	642,665	398,440
Employee entitlements	9	472,500	428,902
Loans	17	100,000	1,449,134
Unused donations and grants with conditions	9	172,048	360,141
Other current liabilities	9	1,051,715	-
Total Current Liabilities		2,438,927	2,636,618
Non-Current Liabilities			
Loans	17	-	221,872
Total Non-Current Liabilities		-	221,872
Total Liabilities		2,438,927	2,858,489
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)		83,061,487	81,874,092
Equity			
Accumulated comprehensive revenue and expense		40,174,767	34,308,414
Asset Revaluation reserves	12	32,057,780	27,267,907
Special purpose reserves	12	10,828,941	20,297,772
Total Equity		83,061,487	81,874,092

This Performance Report should be read in conjunction with the Auditor's Report, the Notes to Performance Report and the Compilation Report.

Approval:

This performance report has been approved by the Assembly Council, for and on behalf of The Baptist Union of New Zealand for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Rod Robson
Chair Assembly Council
Date:

Charles Hewlett
National Leader
Date:

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This Performance Report should be read in conjunction with the Auditor's Report, the Notes to Performance Report and the Compilation Report.

Statement of Cash Flows

Baptist Union of New Zealand - Te Hāhi Iriiri o Aotearoa For the year ended 31 August 2024

	GROUP 2024	GROUP 2023
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Donations, fundraising and other similar receipts	1,753,985	2,248,059
Receipts from providing goods or services	8,786,974	7,660,720
Interest, dividends and other investment receipts	2,508,644	2,143,622
Cash receipts from other operating activities	1,062,059	205,161
GST	271,616	(54,082)
Payments to suppliers and employees	(13,486,412)	(11,831,676)
Donations or grants paid	(393,453)	(549,367)
Total Cash Flows from Operating Activities	503,412	(177,563)
Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities		
Net receipts from sale of and payments to acquire property, plant and equipment	(1,369,434)	(896,375)
Net receipts from sale of and payments to purchase investments	990,073	1,221,789
Net proceeds and repayments of loans borrowed from other parties	88,918	1,027,866
Net loans made and repayments received on loans made to other parties	1,324,212	(112,169)
Cash Flows from Other Investing and Financing Activities	(197,521)	(1,512,167)
Total Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities	836,248	(271,056)
Net Increase/ (Decrease) in Cash	1,339,661	(448,619)
Cash Balances		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	1,874,944	2,323,563
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	3,214,605	1,874,944
Net change in cash for period	1,339,661	(448,619)

This Performance Report should be read in conjunction with the Auditor's Report, the Notes to Performance Report and the Compilation Report.

Notes to the Performance Report

Baptist Union of New Zealand - Te Hāhi Iriiri o Aotearoa For the year ended 31 August 2024

1. Reporting entity

The Baptist Union of New Zealand is a body corporate, established by the Baptist Union Incorporation Act 1923. The Baptist Union is a public benefit entity for the purposes of financial reporting in accordance with the Financial Reporting Act (2013). The Entity is also a charitable organisation registered under the Charities Act 2005 CC22731.

The consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes summarise the financial activities for the year ending 31 August 2024, comprise The Baptist Union of New Zealand ('the controlling entity') and its controlled entities (together referred to as the 'Group') and individually as 'Group entities'.

2. Basis of preparation

(a) Statement of compliance

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Practice ("NZ GAAP"). They comply with the Public Benefit Entity Standards Reduced Disclosure Regime ("PBE Standards RDR") as appropriate for Tier 2 not-for-profit public benefit entities, and disclosure concessions have been applied. The Group qualifies as a Tier 2 reporting entity as for the two most recent reporting periods it is not publicly accountable and not large (operating expenditure has been between \$5m and \$33m in the current and prior period). These financial statements were authorised for issue by Assembly Council on Friday 8 November 2024.

(b) Measurement basis

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis except for the following material items in the statement of financial position, which are measured at fair value:

- Investments (other than shares)
- Property, plant and equipment under the revaluation model

(c) Functional and presentation currency

The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars (\$) which is the controlling entity's functional and Group's presentation currency, rounded to the nearest whole dollar. There has been no change in the functional currency of the controlling entity or any significant foreign operations of the Group during the year.

(d) Accounting policies

The accounting policies detailed in the following notes have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements and have been applied consistently by the Group.

3. Specific accounting policies

The following specific accounting policies, which materially affect the measurement of financial performance and financial position of the entity, have been applied:

(a) Revenue

Revenue is recognised when the amount of revenue can be reliably measured, and it is probable that economic benefits will flow to the Group. Revenue is measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable.

The following specific recognition criteria in relation to the Group's revenue streams must also be met before revenue is recognised.

(i) Revenue from non-exchange transactions

Non-exchange transactions are those where the Group receives an inflow of resources ((i.e. cash and other tangible or intangible items) but provides no (or nominal) direct consideration in return.

Offerings, donations, and bequests

Offerings, donations, and bequests are recognised as revenue upon receipt and include offerings and donations from members, the public, donations received for specific purposes, and services or donations-in-kind. The recognition of non-exchange revenue depends on the nature of any stipulation attached to the inflow of resources received, and whether this creates a liability (i.e., a present obligation to return funds) rather than the recognition of revenue.

Donations in kind are recognised where fair value of the service can be reliably estimated.

Grants

Grants received includes grants received from other charitable organisations, philanthropic organisations, businesses, and public sector agencies. Grants received is recognised as revenue when it is receipted, unless there are conditions, including a use or return obligation, attached to the grant. If such conditions exist, then the grant amount is recognised initially as a deferred income liability, and revenue is recognised as the conditions are fulfilled.

Fundraising revenue is recognised at the point at which cash is received.

(ii) Revenue from exchange transactions**Investment and interest income**

Income from investments is recognised at market fair value with all fair value movements being recognised in the statement of comprehensive revenue and expenses. Dividend income is recognised when the dividend is received. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method.

Other revenue

All other revenue is recognised when it is received.

(b) Cash & cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, bank balances, deposits held at call with banks, and short term investments which are subject to insignificant risks or changes in value.

(c) Receivables

Receivables are recognised at the original invoice amount, less impairment losses. Receivables are assessed for impairment at each balance date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses.

(d) Investments**(i) Short term investments**

Short term, or current, investments comprise deposits in which capital and income are both accessible, and the term of the deposit is less than one year.

(ii) Long term investments

Long-term investments comprise deposits for which only income is accessible, or the use of capital is restricted to specific purposes under the terms of the Trust deed. These investments are not expected to be realised in the next 12 months.

(iii) Portfolio Investments

These are carried at fair value through surplus or deficit. Fair value is determined based on evidence of arms-length transactions that occurred.

(iv) Non Traded Shares & Bonds

All non traded shares and bonds are valued at cost less impairment.

(v) Property Shares / Investments in Limited Partnerships

These are consolidated based on the percentage share of equity in associates per IPSAS 36. August Properties Limited has properties shown at cost price. 525 Limited has properties valued based on a 30 June 2018 Barratt-Boyes Jefferies Lawton Limited valuation.

(e) Property, plant and equipment

Items of property plant and equipment are initially measured at cost, except those acquired through non-exchange transactions which are instead measured at fair value as their deemed cost at initial recognition.

Heritage assets with no future economic benefit or service potential other than their heritage value are not recognised in the statement of financial position.

Items of property, plant and equipment are subsequently measured either under the:

- Cost model: Cost (or fair value for items acquired through non-exchange transactions) less accumulated depreciation and impairment.
- Revaluation model: fair value, less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses recognised after the date of the most recent revaluation.

The revaluation methods applied are either the Purchase & Sale price on a long-term settlement of an unconditional contract, rated values, registered valuation, or recent cost price if purchased within two years.

Valuations are performed with sufficient frequency to ensure that the fair value of a revalued asset does not differ materially from its carrying amount. Gains and losses on revaluation are recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense and presented in the revaluation surplus reserve within net assets/equity.

Any revaluation losses in excess of credit balance of the revaluation surplus for that class of property, plant and equipment are recognised in surplus or loss as an impairment.

Any gain or loss on disposal of an item of property, plant and equipment (calculated as the difference between the net proceeds from disposal and the carrying amount of the item) is recognised in surplus or deficit. Upon disposal of revalued items of property, plant and equipment, any associated gain or losses on revaluation to that item are transferred from the revaluation surplus to accumulated surplus.

Property held for sale has been reclassified as a current asset per PBE IPSAS 5.

(f) Depreciation

Depreciation is recognised in surplus or deficit on a straight line basis over the estimated useful lives of each component of an item of property, plant and equipment. Land is not depreciated. Assets under construction are not subject to depreciation.

The estimated useful lives/diminishing value depreciation rates are:

- Buildings 0% - 13.5%
- Computers, Phones & Software 33% - 50%
- CRM Database 10%
- Furniture & Fittings 6.67% - 33%
- Land 0%
- Motor Vehicles 22% - 23%
- Office Equipment 5% - 7.69%
- Website 25 - 33%

(g) Intangible assets

Intangible assets are measured at cost less accumulated amortisation and impairment losses. Intangible assets are amortised over their useful economic life and assessed for impairment whenever there is an indication that the intangible asset may be impaired.

(h) Goods and service tax

The financial statements have been prepared so that all components are stated on a GST exclusive basis, except for receivables and payables which are stated as GST inclusive.

(i) Payables

Trade and other payables are usually settled within 30 days. Given their short-term nature, the carrying values are considered a reasonable approximation of their fair values.

(j) Employee Entitlements

A provision for employee entitlements is recognised for benefits earned by employees but not paid at the reporting date. Employee benefits include salaries, wages, annual leave and long service leave.

(k) Income tax

The Group is wholly exempt from NZ income tax and gift duty having fully complied with all statutory conditions for these exemptions under Section CW 41 and CW 42 of the Income Tax Act 2007. As a result, no provision has been made for Income Tax.

(l) Prior year comparatives

Where necessary, prior period comparative figures have been reclassified to reflect the current year's presentation.

(m) Changes in accounting policies

There have been no material changes in accounting policies, all policies have been applied on a basis consistent with those used in previous years.

4. Basis of consolidation

(a) Controlled entities

Controlled entities are all those entities over which the controlling entity has the power to govern the financial and operating policies so as to benefit from its activities. Control is reassessed whenever facts and circumstances indicate that there may be a change in any elements of control. The financial statements of the Group's controlled entities are included in the consolidated financial statements from the date that control commences until the date that control ceases.

The financial statements of the controlled entities are prepared for the same reporting period as the controlling entity, using consistent accounting policies. Investments are consolidated based on the percentage share of equity in associates per IPSAS 36 and IPSAS 35.

(b) Transactions eliminated on consolidation

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, all inter-group balances and transactions, and unrealised gains and losses arising within the consolidated entity are eliminated in full.

2024 2023

5. Analysis of Revenue

Revenue from non-exchange transactions	2024	2023
Grants & Legacies Received	447,809	455,959
Church Giving & Donations Received	1,549,026	1,747,674
Total Revenue from non-exchange transactions	1,996,835	2,203,633

	2024	2023
Revenue from providing goods or services		
Fees Received	1,154,900	1,337,113
Government Funding	784,424	759,994
Premiums Received	5,103,631	4,134,721
Rent & Lease Income	513,492	467,963
Sales & Event Income	1,619,306	1,741,563
Total Revenue from providing goods or services	9,175,753	8,441,353
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue		
August Properties Investment Income	188,538	176,048
Dividends Received	751,257	1,108,321
Interest Received	1,714,949	1,168,501
Total Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	2,654,744	2,452,871
Other revenue		
Other Income	335,351	265,266
Total Other revenue	335,351	265,266
Total Analysis of Revenue	14,162,683	13,363,123
	2024	2023

6. Analysis of Expenses

Volunteer and employee related costs		
Salary & Wages	5,046,702	4,710,688
Staff Expenses & Allowances	396,863	462,356
Total Volunteer and employee related costs	5,443,565	5,173,044
Costs related to providing goods or services		
Administration Costs	504,663	650,534
Property Expenses	369,832	324,816
Claims Paid	209,580	340,353
Claims Reserve Provision	-	35,000
Insurances	4,575,833	3,485,177
Lease Expense	190,750	177,250
Ministry & Programme Expenses	1,410,834	1,413,580
Student & Academic Expenses	344,970	655,582
Total Costs related to providing goods or services	7,606,463	7,082,292
Grants and donations made		
Grants & Donations Paid	383,930	555,227
Total Grants and donations made	383,930	555,227
Other expenses		
Audit	40,101	35,698
Bank Charges	18,114	32,959
Depreciation	260,456	272,749
Interest Expense	45,747	135,109
Investment Portfolio Fees	29,367	34,814

Legal Fees	148,904	131,662
Other Expenses	76,136	78,625
Total Other expenses	618,824	721,617
Total Analysis of Expenses	14,052,782	13,532,179
	2024	2023

7. Other comprehensive revenue and expense

Revaluations	3,464,801	616,663
Gain/(loss) on Disposal of Assets	694,922	(3)
Gain/(loss) on Investments	1,220,183	1,242,029
Total Other comprehensive revenue and expense	5,379,906	1,858,688
	2024	2023

8. Analysis of Assets

Cash and cash equivalents		
Bank Accounts & Cash	3,214,605	1,874,944
Total Cash and cash equivalents	3,214,605	1,874,944
Receivables from exchange transactions		
Debtors	1,147,727	1,001,331
GST	-	48,072
Prepayments	140,497	183,868
Prepayments - Greenlane Property Investment	3,910,437	-
TEC Fees Free Funding	28,712	28,552
Total Receivables from exchange transactions	5,227,373	1,261,823
Investments (current)		
Short Term Deposits	12,166,004	7,486,899
Total Investments (current)	12,166,004	7,486,899
Other current assets		
Current Accounts - August Properties Limited Partnership	38,753	-
Loans to Other Parties - Current	64,666	71,354
Property Assets for Sale (Conditional Contract)	1,103,499	-
Recoverable Expenses	563	861
Work in Progress	1,451	3,820
Total Other current assets	1,208,932	76,035
Non Current Investments		
Long Term Deposits	735,000	451,238
Secured Bonds - Emerge Community Bond	4,400,000	-
Secured Bonds - Iosis Housing Investment Trust	-	6,747,746
Shares - 525 Properties Limited Partnership	3,976,923	3,976,923
Shares - August Properties Limited Partnership	5,865,797	6,015,476
Shares - August Properties Management Limited	5,866	-
Shares - CATAS Limited	-	9,500

	2024	2023
Shares - Christian Savings Limited	13,033,777	17,420,599
Shares - Howick Baptist Healthcare Limited	6,000,000	6,000,000
Shares - Iosis Limited	913,959	913,959
Shares - Listed	10,672	-
Share Portfolios	5,478,025	5,562,216
Shares & Loan - 477 Limited	-	5,314,308
Total Non Current Investments	40,420,020	52,411,964
Other non-current assets		
Goodwill	125,252	-
Loans to Other Parties	1,850,791	495,285
Work in Progress - Assets	18,900	-
Total Other non-current assets	1,994,943	495,285
	2024	2023
9. Analysis of Liabilities		
Payables from exchange transactions		
Credit Cards	31,541	20,158
Creditors	342,557	373,907
GST	238,542	-
Income in Advance	30,024	4,376
Total Payables from exchange transactions	642,665	398,441
Employee entitlements		
Annual Leave & Staff Entitlements	472,500	428,902
Total Employee entitlements	472,500	428,902
Loans		
Loans from Other Parties - Current	100,000	1,449,134
Total Loans	100,000	1,449,134
Unused donations and grants with conditions		
Unused Donations & Grants with Conditions	172,048	360,141
Total Unused donations and grants with conditions	172,048	360,141
Other current liabilities		
Property Sale Deposit & related costs	1,051,715	-
Total Other current liabilities	1,051,715	-
Loans non-current		
Loans from Other Parties - Non-Current	-	221,872
Total Loans non-current	-	221,872
Total Analysis of Liabilities	2,438,927	2,858,489

10. Property, Plant and Equipment

This Year						
Asset Class	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases	Sales/Disposals	Revaluations	Current Year Depreciation & Impairment	Closing Carrying Amount
Land	15,461,690	-	1,858,972	4,198,691	-	17,801,409
Buildings	5,004,129	-	1,352,440	(735,086)	54,903	2,861,700
Computers & Software	113,517	68,734	678	-	68,770	112,802
Furniture & Fittings	49,545	-	-	-	10,725	38,820
Library	243,338	45,298	9,971	-	43,190	235,474
Motor Vehicles	109,204	32,647	-	-	42,074	99,777
Plant & Equipment	57,387	12,431	812	-	13,900	55,106
Website	86,820	20,869	17,348	-	26,894	63,447
Total	\$21,125,631	\$179,979	\$3,240,222	\$3,463,605	\$260,456	\$21,268,537

Last Year						
Asset Class	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases	Sales/Disposals	Revaluations	Current Year Depreciation & Impairment	Closing Carrying Amount
Land	14,811,690	-	-	650,000	-	15,461,690
Buildings	5,072,262	23,458	-	(33,338)	58,253	5,004,129
Computers & Software	166,064	34,194	1,564	-	85,177	113,517
Furniture & Fittings	58,414	7,042	2,739	-	13,172	49,545
Library	270,800	17,525	-	-	44,987	243,338
Motor Vehicles	76,047	76,735	16,949	-	26,629	109,204
Plant & Equipment	50,895	20,388	-	-	13,896	57,387
Website	117,455	-	-	-	30,635	86,820
Total	\$20,623,627	\$179,342	\$21,252	\$616,663	\$272,749	\$21,125,631

Property Valuation Methods

- Baptist Union & Carey Baptist College – Penrose Property – Unconditional sale price dated 21 Dec 2023. See note 13
- Northern Baptist Association – Flat Bush Property– Seagars 21 March 2023
- Otago Southland & Waikato Baptist Associations – Ratable values 2022
- Upper South Island Baptist Association – Cost price value based on properties purchased 1 Sept 2023

11. Investments

This Year							
Asset Class	Valuation Method	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases / Introduced	Sales	Income Compounded	Gains/(Losses) or Impairment	Closing Carrying Amount
Cash	Current Market Value	7,938,138	8,793,427	4,138,749	308,190	-	12,901,006
Listed Shares	Current Market Value	-	9,476	-	-	1,197	10,672
Managed Funds	Current Market Value	5,562,216	1,071,256	1,804,369	81,795	567,127	5,478,025
Shares	Cost Less Impairment	27,233,366	1,598	2,889,308	-	(4,392,054)	19,953,602
Bonds	Cost Less Impairment	6,747,746	4,400,000	6,747,746	-	-	4,400,000
Limited Partnership	Cost Less Impairment	9,992,399	-	-	-	(149,679)	9,842,720
Total		\$57,473,865	\$14,275,757	\$15,580,172	\$389,985	\$(3,973,409)	\$52,586,025

Last Year							
Asset Class	Valuation Method	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases / Introduced	Sales	Income Compounded	Gains/(Losses) or Impairment	Closing Carrying Amount
Cash	Current Market Value	8,520,854	2,268,918	3,005,602	153,968	-	7,938,138
Managed Funds	Current Market Value	9,009,274	-	3,685,662	139,483	99,121	5,562,216
Shares	Cost Less Impairment	25,979,988	-	-	-	1,253,378	27,233,366
Bonds	Cost Less Impairment	2,400,000	4,347,746	-	-	-	6,747,746
Limited Partnership	Cost Less Impairment	10,049,263	-	-	-	(56,864)	9,992,399
Total		\$55,959,379	\$6,616,664	\$6,691,264	\$293,451	\$1,295,635	\$57,473,865

* The loss on shares for 2024 includes the prior period adjustment to revert Christian Savings shares to cost price, and recording the shares for August Properties Management Limited.

Shares in Christian Savings

Shares held and percentage of total shares issued by Christian Savings Limited:

- Baptist Savings Trust Board 12,033,777 shares 38.54%. (Last year - 12,033,777 39.88%) reverted to cost price.
- Baptist Children's Trust 500,000 shares 1.60% (Last year - 500,000 1.66%) reverted to cost price.
- Northern Baptist Association 500,000 shares 1.60% (Last year - 500,000 1.66%)

	2024	2023
12. Breakdown of Reserves		
Reserves		
Asset Revaluation Reserve	32,057,780	27,267,907
Special Purpose Reserves		
Baptist Union Reserves	902,436	1,095,629
Upper South Island Baptist Association Reserve	-	337,826
Northern Baptist Association Reserves	8,992,540	8,991,379
Baptist Children's Trust Reserves	-	1,547,371
Baptist Union NZ Insurance Fund Reserves	375,000	375,000
Bay of Plenty & Eastlands Baptist Association Reserves	-	445,476
Carey Baptist College Reserves	100,000	5,230,384
Lower North Island Baptist Association Reserves	16,522	736,635
Waikato Baptist Association Reserves	442,443	1,538,072
Total Special Purpose Reserves	10,828,941	20,297,772
Total Reserves	42,886,721	47,565,678

The Asset Revaluation Reserve reflects the movement between cost and rateable value of the Land & Buildings and market value of listed shares.

The remaining reserves relate to funds set aside by those entities for future use in various ministry areas.

	2024	2023
13. Commitments		
Capital Commitments		
Purchase of Greenlane property, unconditional 5 August 2024 and deposit paid. Settlement 3 February 2025	17,200,000	-
Sale of Penrose property, unconditional 11 December 2023 and deposit received. Latest settlement 28 February 2026.	(10,125,000)	-
Total Capital Commitments	7,075,000	-
Commitments to lease or rent assets and equipment		
Land Lease 75 Felton Mathew Ave, Auckland		
Not later than one year	176,000	176,000
Later than one year and not later than five years	215,540	391,540
Later than five years	-	-
Total Land Lease 75 Felton Mathew Ave, Auckland	391,540	567,540

	2024	2023
Fuji Photocopier Lease		
Not later than one year	8,148	8,148
Later than one year and not later than five years	18,333	26,481
Later than five years	-	-
Total lease Commitments	26,481	34,629
Office Lease from Oxford Terrace Baptist Church (Baptist Resources Ltd)		
Not later than one year	17,400	-
Later than one year and not later than five years	59,450	-
Later than five years	-	-
Total Office Lease from Oxford Terrace Baptist Church (Baptist Resources Ltd)	76,850	-
Total Commitments to lease or rent assets and equipment	494,871	602,169

14. Contingent Liabilities and Guarantees

End of Land Lease Demolition

A contingent liability exists for the demolition of the building at 75 Felton Mathew Avenue Auckland, should the lessor request this as in accordance with the terms of the lease. Estimates of the demolition costs are between \$500,000 to \$700,000.

(Last year - A contingent liability exists for the demolition of the building at 75 Felton Mathew Avenue Auckland, should the lessor request this as in accordance with the terms of the lease. Estimates of the demolition costs are between \$500,000 to \$700,000.)

Loan Guarantee

The Baptist Children's Trust loan guarantee is no longer in place as of 31 August 2024.

(Last year - Baptist Children's Trust (BCT) has underwritten a loan in favour of Public Trust, as trustee of the Iosis Housing Investment Trust (IHIT). IHIT has provided finance to Iosis Limited to fund a community housing development being carried out by them at 2 Hutt Rd, Manurewa, Auckland. The underwrite is to a maximum of \$500,000 (2022: \$2,500,000).)

Royal Commission of Inquiry

A Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions was established by the Government on 12 November 2018. The work of the Inquiry commenced in 2019 and was completed and reported to the Government in July 2024. The Inquiry was empowered to look into abuse alleged to have happened in faith-based settings over the 50 year period from 1 January 1950 to the end of 1999. Although the Inquiry may make findings of fault, it has no power to determine the civil, criminal, or disciplinary liability of any person.

The report stated that as a part of the inquiry, sixteen survivor statements were received that identified abuse in a Baptist context. Whilst the Baptist Union is unaware of any complaints being received as a direct result of the publicity generated by the Inquiry, through the Baptist Children's Trust it has settled a small number of claims, and is currently investigating a small number of claims in relation to the Manurewa Home which closed for residential purposes in October 1989.

Insurance Claims

The Group has claims with the insurance provider Godfreys at 31 August 2024 totaling \$32,665. These outstanding claims were not approved at balance date and if declined would result in the Group covering these costs. An additional \$197,925 may be required to be paid by the Baptist Union if any claims are lodged between September and December 2024.

	2024	2023
15. Significant unused donations and grants with conditions		
Longview Trust Palms Conference - Carey Baptist College	-	82,500
Maori & Pacific Island Scholarship - Carey Baptist College	-	1,842
TAB Migrant Training - Carey Baptist College	-	22,762
TAB Grant - Carey Baptist College	13,200	-
Tindall North Foundation - Baptist Union of NZ	119,436	128,078
Total Significant unused donations and grants with conditions	132,636	235,182

16. Assets Held on Behalf of Others

The property assets of local Baptist churches are held on behalf of churches by the Baptist Union of New Zealand in accordance with the Baptist Union Incorporation Act 1923.

17. Loans

Loan	2024	2023	Interest Rate	Term	Entity
Carey Baptist College Foundation	-	\$41,241	-	Repayable within 60 days of notice	Carey Baptist College
Baptist Foundation Limited	-	\$400,000	5.5%	12 months	Baptist Union of NZ
Christian Savings Limited	-	\$1,000,000	8.25%	12 months	Baptist Union of NZ
Christian Savings Limited	-	\$229,765	5.74%	Maturity October 2040	Upper South Baptist Association
Golden Meadows Limited	\$100,000	-	0%	Short term, unsecured loan, repayable on the sale of 31 Ninia Rd	Bay of Plenty & Eastland Baptist Association
Total	\$100,000	\$1,671,006			

A split between the current liability (due within 12 months) and the non-current liability is recorded on the Balance Sheet.

	2024	2023
18. Assets Used as Security for Liabilities		
Loan to Baptist Union of NZ		
Baptist Foundation Limited Loan	-	400,000
Secured Bonds - Iosis Housing Investment Trust	-	400,000
Loan to Baptist Union of NZ		
Christian Savings Limited Loan	-	1,000,000
Secured by \$1 Million in Term Deposits with Christian Savings	-	1,000,000
Loan to Upper South Baptist Association		
Christian Savings Limited Loan	-	229,765
Secured by property at 151-153,155 & 157 Breezes Road, Christchurch	-	1,410,000

19. Related Parties

The Baptist Union receives donations from its independent constituted member churches. The Union provides support to its member churches by way of training leadership personnel, resources, legal, property and administration advice. The Baptist Union does not have direct control over the governance of the member churches nor can it direct any benefit to itself. The Baptist Union holds properties of member churches in trust for the church, in accordance with the Baptist Union of New Zealand Incorporation Act 1923, for the purpose of guardianship, and not control of the church.

The Baptist Union has regional associations that exist to support a regional group of churches.

Baptist Union owns 100% of the shares in Baptist Retirement Trustee Limited, who is the trustee for the Baptist Union Superannuation Scheme. The Baptist Union has control through sole ownership and does not directly benefit financially but the pastors of the member churches receive the benefit. Therefore no consolidation of these entities have been made in this Baptist Union Consolidated reporting. The Baptist Retirement Trustee Limited as owner of the Baptist Union Superannuation Scheme is not a registered charity, but the Baptist Union Superannuation Scheme is a registered charity CC27709.

Grants paid to IOSIS Limited from the Baptist Children's Trust of \$250,000 (last year: \$250,000). IOSIS Limited is owned by the Baptist Union via the Northern Baptist Association.

IOSIS Limited and the Baptist Foundation Limited will be included in this consolidated report upon completion of their audit process.

20. Key Personnel Disclosure

The key management personnel are made up of the National Director, the Principal of Carey Baptist College, and the executive leadership team of both the Baptist Union of NZ and Carey Baptist College.

Full-time equivalent employees are 9.5 (Last year: 9.5)

Total remuneration to key management \$1,205,871 (Last year: \$1,164,833)

21. Control relationships with other entities

These financial statements are a consolidation of the entities that are within the control of the Baptist Union of New Zealand. As a result, this set of consolidated financial statements has been prepared so that all the entities are presented together. Any inter-entity transactions have been removed to prevent over-stating the effects of the transactions done within the group.

Consolidated Group Entities:

- Baptist Children's Trust
- Baptist Insurance Fund
- Baptist Resources Limited (First year of trading)
- Baptist Research and Historical Society (Final year of trading)
- Baptist Savings Trust Board
- Baptist Union of New Zealand
- Baptist Women's Board
- Baptist Youth Ministries Trust
- Bay of Plenty & Eastland Baptist Association
- Carey Baptist College
- Carey Baptist College Foundation (Introduced this year)
- CATAS Limited
- Lower North Island Baptist Association
- Northern Baptist Association
- Northern Easter Camp
- Otago & Southland Baptist Association
- Upper South Baptist Association
- Waikato Baptist Association

22. Events After the Balance Date

The following events have occurred after balance date:

- The Baptist Union, on behalf of the Upper South Baptist Association, has entered into an agreement to sell the property at Waterloo Rd for \$715,000 which went unconditional on 20 September 2024.
- Baptist Resources Limited has agreed to be a guarantor for a loan to Riccarton Baptist Church from Christian Savings of \$101,500. The Company has also entered into a further agreement to guarantee loans with Christian Savings up to \$500,000 (including the \$101,500) for other entities in the Baptist Community.
- The Baptist Union, on behalf of the Bay of Plenty & Eastland Baptist Association, has entered into an agreement in September 2024 to sell the property at Ninia Rd for \$1,310,000. This is due to go unconditional on 1 November 2024.

There were no other events that have occurred after the balance date that would have a material impact on the Performance Report (Last year - nil).

23. Ability to Continue Operating

The governance have considered the going concern principle and believe to the best of their knowledge that the organisation has the resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future.

24. Audit

These financial statements have been audited by a third party auditor. Please refer to their Independent Auditor's Report.

25. Correction of Errors

The following corrections of errors were made this year:

- The valuation of Shares in Christian Savings Limited has been reverted to the original cost as the shares are non-traded. This has decreased equity by \$4,386,822.
- Shares held by Baptist Childrens Trust in August Properties Management Limited have been recorded and the current account for August Properties Limited Partnership has been corrected. This has decreased equity by \$83,404.
- The shares held by the Baptist Union in CATAS Limited have been eliminated, decreasing equity by \$9,500.
- Some 2023 movements in the Waikato Baptist Association were applied in 2024, increasing equity by \$9,252.
- Depreciation not posted last year for the Waikato Baptist Association was corrected, resulting in an increase to equity of \$2,559.



AROTAH FINANCIAL REPORT

(THIS IS SEPARATE TO THE BAPTIST UNION OF NEW ZEALAND)

Arotahi (NZBMS & Develop Together) now has financial balance dates of 30 June. Due to the change, the 2024 financial statements will report ten months of operation. Our appeals don't necessarily correlate with our financial year.

This year, we have been very grateful to continue to receive income entrusted to the ongoing work, including \$800,000 from Bequests/Legacies, \$300,000 from Renew Together, and \$840,000 Donated to People & Projects.

Expenditure includes \$1.15m spent on Overseas-based people and projects and \$124,000 spent on New Zealand-based people and projects, including Mahi-Pai, discipleship flats, and Orbit, etc., but excluding costs of administration and resourcing of New Zealand Baptist Churches.

Due to decreased spend through COVID and significant bequests over the past ten years, Arotahi has a healthy cash position with currently \$ 4 million in bank/term deposits, with \$2.5m of this as general reserves. Mission Council is prayerfully considering how we best plan for the future. This involves

a mixture of investing in people and projects by spending reserves while also thinking of long-term investments with good financial returns for mission.

If you would like to receive the full accounts for Arotahi/DevelopTogether, please contact lauren@arotahi.org.nz or accounts@arotahi.org.nz

Arotahi Develop Together is a member of the Council for International Development (CID) and a signatory to the CID Code of Conduct. The Code requires members to meet high corporate governance and public accountability standards. We are committed to full adherence to the CID Code of Conduct. Complaints relating to alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct by any signatory agency can be made to the CID Code of Conduct Committee via office@cid.org.nz or Arotahi at complaints@arotahi.org.nz. More information about the CID Code of Conduct can be obtained from CID cid.org.nz