

Hawke's Bay Update

October 2024

The Hawke's Bay team has been busy over the last few months. We are enjoy getting out on the streets regularly and especially during after school hours as there are more people around to talk to. Teenagers have been enjoying engaging with our Bible riddles, and even some adults stop out of curiosity. Recently, we met a lady from one of the 50+ countries where the Bible is illegal and were able to talk with her and give her a Gospel booklet in her own language.



School holidays are always fun and fulfilling times as eager children and teens we know are free to join us for outreach. Maria and some kids camped at church in the first week of the holidays and did day trips for outreach in Napier, Taupō and Dannevirke/Palmerston North, as well as a trip to help with flood clean-up in Wairoa.

In the second week was the Riverbend FBI (Faithful Bible Investigators) holiday program. A record number of over 120 kids registered but winter bugs kept the day-to-day numbers lower than that at 80-90 kids each day. A team from YWAM was staying on-site so some joined in the holiday program with the local teenage leaders. They spent the afternoons together for team building, training and prep for the next day, and Maria enjoyed taking them through Walk Thru the Bible (Old Testament) as part of this. Each of us is based in our own local church and involved in various ministries there. We have also enjoyed visiting local churches and catching up with pastors in the area and seeing where there may be opportunities to work together for the sake of the kingdom. We have been



networking with various groups, including The Send which Kevin writes about:

The Send ministry movement is back this time visiting the smaller regions in Aotearoa. A movement started by two men in America who had the God given vision back in 2018 to activate young people around the world to take up the challenge of reaching their generation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. What a powerful effect they have had so far with God raising up teams of people and Churches in support. The Friday night meeting at Peak Vision Church Havelock North was a blast with uplifting worship and two amazing speakers sowing the vision of the heart of the movement to a packed auditorium of young people, youth groups and adults. About 20 young people also trusted Christ as Lord as Savior for the very first time after hearing an awesome gospel message at the end. Activation is one thing, but momentum is something else. The only way to keep your fire lit is by doing and then keep on doing what you committed yourself to do before God. So, Saturday afternoon O.A.C teamed up with the Send crew who sent three teams out to the region to share their faith. I teamed up with Shaman from Bangladesh who watched and observed how to proclaim the gospel to young people and total strangers on the streets in Napier. It can be trying at times when you get some kickback but the lesson to learn is never give up.

We have also enjoyed welcoming a new team member for a season, Andrei from Christchurch who is doing an internship with OAC. He is a valuable member of the team already with his enthusiasm and passion for the Gospel. He says: *I am looking forward to becoming more experienced in evangelism and learning how to be more effective for the sake of the Gospel. Really enjoyed a chat I had with Brian an older man who thought he was a good person and going to heaven. Had to go through a few of the Ten Commandments and eventually after going over them a couple times he realised he is not good enough to get into heaven but through what Jesus has done for him he realised this is how he can enter into heaven.*



Praise God for:

- Young people eager to share their faith that we can disciple and involve in ministry.
- Individuals, churches and organisations to network with in sharing the Gospel.
- Many encouraging conversations from our times on the streets.
- Many kids attending the school holiday program.
- Andrei can join us for a time.

Please pray for:

- Andrei as he settles into Hawke's Bay and continues his internship.
- Kevin with his various responsibilities as an elder at his church and with OAC.
- Maria's mum is quite unwell so she is spending more time at her parent's farm over the next couple of months as well as staying involved in ministry in Hawke's Bay. Please pray for the family over this time, that they will be a light to those around them.
- The lost in our community and beyond, that many will be saved (1 Timothy 2:4-6)
- Those who we partner with in various ways for the sake of the Gospel – and pray for more labourers!

Coming up:

- Riverbend FBI holiday program 7-11 Oct
- Duck Day Waipawa 12 Oct
- Flaxmere night market 7 Nov and 14 Dec
- Napier Christmas Parade 7 Dec