

for unto us a child is born

MAKING PRAYER A PRIORITY

One of the first things you learn as a Christian is the importance of prayer, modelled in the Bible by faithful women and men and highlighted in the life and teaching of Jesus. Despite this simple truth, most people struggle to develop a healthy prayer life. Few people spend quality time in prayer and many adults are afraid to pray out loud in front of others. Possibly related to this, church prayer meetings tend to be the ones with the lowest attendance. Let's change that!

Where does prayer rank in your life, and the life of your church?
Does it feature? Is it a priority?
Is prayer an essential part of your relationship with God?

For many of us, there's a danger in seeing prayer as a means of getting God to do things – but prayer is more about communion with God - the place where our love and worship for God develops as we come into a deeper understanding of His love for us and our absolute dependency upon him.

That's why Jesus taught the disciples to start their prayers with

*"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven."* Matthew 6:9-10

Prayer is the ultimate acknowledgment of the sovereignty of God. It's where we submit our will to His, and seek His Kingdom, and His leadership over our lives. But prayer is also the place where we call out to our heavenly Father, where we come before the one who loves us, who extends His grace to us through Jesus Christ.

Prayer is a privilege, and a vital part of a healthy Christian life – so let's make it a priority during this busy season of Christmas and on into 2019. One practical way to do that is to set aside time on Saturday 23rd February to attend the Alliance Prayer Retreat. This is a concentrated time of prayer which teaches and encourages a richer prayer life and unites our churches as we spend time seeking God's favour together. Details are listed below and you can register online through our Facebook page or the website.

Rev. Andrew Marshall



ALLIANCE CHURCHES

Agape Alliance Christian Church
60 Ben Lomond Cres, Pakuranga
Saturday 7:30pm - Mandarin

Aihua CMA Church
76 Dundale Ave, Blockhouse Bay
Sunday 2.00pm - Mandarin

Blockhouse Bay Community Church
76 Dundale Ave, Blockhouse Bay
Sunday 10:30am - English

Chinese Alliance Christian Church
60 Ben Lomond Cres, Pakuranga
Sunday 9.00am - English
Sunday 10:45am - Cantonese

Central Christian & Missionary Alliance Church
193 Greenland West Rd,
Cornwall Park District School
Sunday 10.00am
Cantonese, Mandarin & English

Mount Eden Church (Korean)
@ St Barnabas Anglican Church
283 Mt Eden Road, Mt Eden
Sunday 2:30pm - Korean

West Harbour Church
145 Moire Rd, West Harbour, Massey
Sunday 10:30am - English

West Harbour Chinese Alliance Christian Church
145 Moire Rd, West Harbour, Massey
Sunday 2:00pm
Cantonese, Mandarin & English

Vietnamese Church Plant
Ps Phong - lechcaho@yahoo.com

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ALLIANCE NEWS

December 2018



A Christ Centred

Bible Believing

Spirit Filled

Missional Movement

of Local Churches



*Building Healthy Churches in
New Zealand and Overseas*

WE ARE FAMILY WE ARE THE ALLIANCE

The Alliance was born out of a passion for Jesus and a heart for lost people. We are a Christ-centred, Acts 1:8 family that believes all people should have the opportunity to hear the good news.

Christ is our foundation, and the local church our home. From the local church, we make disciples who understand God's calling—to become more like Jesus and to share the hope we have in Him. God's Word is alive and at work in us; His Holy Spirit transforms us, spurring us on to love and good deeds.

More than 130 years ago, this same reality stirred in the heart of Pastor Albert Benjamin Simpson. As he reached out to immigrant dock workers in New York City, his burden for lost people grew. Simpson rallied a small group of believers around a common vision to reach the unreached, unaware that they were paving the way for future generations of Alliance work. Today 6.3 million Christ-follower worship in more than 22,000 Alliance fellowships throughout the world.

Local Alliance churches provide the foundation for our worldwide mission through prayer and sacrificial giving. Worldwide, Alliance hospitals and clinics, radio stations, and schools proclaim the gospel. With a passion for lost people, the Alliance family continues to expand its reach into areas where there is little or no access to the gospel. Our commitment to reaching the world for Christ remains strong; our global team of more than 700 workers is trained in evangelism, discipleship, and church planting as well as meeting the physical and spiritual needs of people ravaged by poverty, disease, war, and natural disaster.

Long-term Alliance workers labour to see healthy, self-replicating churches established. Short- to mid-term workers come alongside Alliance ministries, bringing needed skills while shaping a new generation of Kingdom-minded believers.

We are creative and nimble, using our resources wisely to have the greatest impact. Because of their professional expertise, Alliance businesspeople have gained access to many countries that are closed to the gospel. In cultures where written communication is not readily embraced, we use oral storytelling to share the good news in ways that rapidly spread from village to village.

As we find new ways to bring Jesus to our neighborhoods and the nations, our message remains unchanged. We come from diverse backgrounds but are drawn together by our desire to see all people find new life in Jesus.

We are family. We are The Alliance.



This article appeared in the Special Issue of Alliance Life available from your Pastor or online.



LOCAL AND GLOBAL IMPACT

David Nuualiitia

In 1985 I went to the Philippines on my first ever mission trip. The population of Manila at the time was around 60 million. 33 years on, my latest mission trip it is over 100 million. The Philippines continues to rise on the economic scale of nations with people being one of their major exports, over 40,000 Filipinos have immigrated to New Zealand and millions more globally.

Spiritually the Philippines has a growing church with youth usually making up 2/3 or more of the churches. Though the Catholic Church is the majority faith, the Alliance churches are the largest group of the other churches. I did preach at one Alliance church, but the other assignments were with the International Christian Leaders Connection, a local denomination of just over 100 churches. We had 23 meetings over 12 days on the island regions of Visayas & Mindanao in the central & southern parts of Philippines. Personally, I got stronger both physically & spiritually as the trip progressed and felt God used this trip to encourage me, then in turn encourage the people I was ministering too.

The International Missions Team of the Alliance in New Zealand has focused on visiting and supporting nations that have a special interest within our churches such as Thailand, India and China as well as supporting ministry in other regions. Whenever scriptures talk about the uttermost parts of the world, I believe this refers to New Zealand and I believe we are both a receiving and sending nation. New Zealand is both a place of refuge and a place that supports the work of God around the world. A description for the current global mission situation is reciprocal. This is a two way flow, no longer just about foreign mission but the world has also come to our cities and our churches. People from across the globe are coming to New Zealand and revitalising the church and the church also reaching back across the globe to reach out to their families and friends.

I went to Philippines as part of a family team with connections to Philippines. Whether opportunities come through church, family or business, I believe God has created a diversity of connections through which the Gospel message of the Kingdom can flow.

I want to encourage all our members to recognise these formal and informal opportunities, to see God's Will done on earth as it is in Heaven. God never sleeps and never stops working, we need to recognise this work and ensure that we become a part of what he is doing in this world, both locally and internationally.



Congratulations to CACC

They have moved back into their recently renovated church building, and it is looking fantastic!

Pastors Retreat

The Alliance Pastors Retreat is happening on 3-6 December 2018.

Agape Alliance Christian Church

Is having its releasing service on the 5th January 2019 as it becomes an independent Alliance Church (formerly part of CACC). Regular services will be held 7:30pm on Saturdays at 60 Ben Lomond Crescent, Pakuranga.

Welcome to Rev. Albert Law

Central CMA Church is welcoming Rev. Albert Law and his wife Lucia with a celebration service on Saturday 26th January 2019.



Vietnamese Ministry Starting 2019

After 12 months of discussions we are pleased to announce that Ps. Phong and Van Nguyen will be starting a Vietnamese ministry with the Alliance in Auckland.

Praise God for answered prayer:

Visas for Ps. Phong and Rev. Albert have been approved and we look forward to working with them as they join the Alliance in New Zealand.

Missions Giving Targets Exceeded

Another record breaking year has seen \$18,058 raised at the Global Fusion fundraising event plus a special gift of \$10,630 from CACC will enable us to continue expanding our support overseas and release other funds for local church planting in New Zealand

A LEGACY IN INDIA

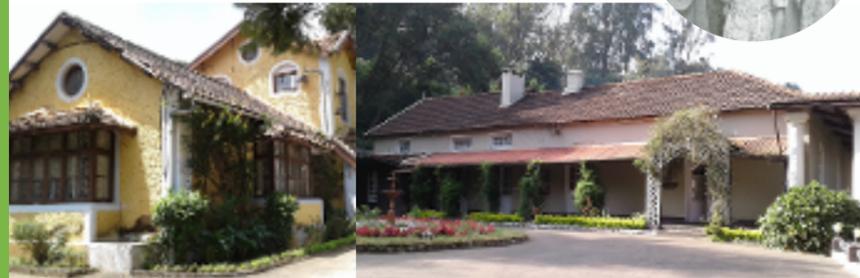
Carolyn Officer



My intrepid grandparents left New Zealand in 1931, spending six weeks onboard a ship bound for India where they lived for several years as missionaries. I have longed to visit India, and this year I joined the Alliance Vision Team travelling to Hyderabad, Mumbai and Delhi. It became the most epic adventure of my life to date, with many memorable moments standing out in my mind. On our first Sunday in the country I experienced an extremely beautiful church service. To my amazement some of my grandmother's favourite hymns were sung. I knew then that God had something special for me in India and I felt His presence throughout our travels.

Near the end of our journey, I travelled south to Ooty, a remote settlement in the Nilgiri Hills. Missionary families came there for respite from the heat of living on the plains. I first saw Ooty under the cover of darkness. Coming over the crest of the hill it was lit up like an idyllic mountain top village. It appears caught in a time warp, with little change over a century. Some significant moments for me included staying at the Montauban Guest House - where my grandparents stayed (and which still doesn't have hot running water!), walking the hallways of the home where my mother was born and discovering my mother's name in the 1949 yearbook at Hebron School.

I wanted to capture and imprint these memories in my mind forever - they gave me insight into the joys and blessings, sacrifices and struggles my family experienced long ago. I understand why India and its people hold such a special place in their heart, because they're also in mine. They chose to temporarily live a difficult, uncomfortable life, to leave an eternal legacy of God's love, in a land which needs God above all. I am glad for the opportunity to travel the path of those who came before me and see the impact of their lives ripple through time. Echoes of what my grandparents lived for and believed in, continues in the places and people they held dear. They left a legacy in India. What eternal legacy will we leave behind?



GLOBAL IMPACT WEEK

EMBRACING A CULTURE OF MISSIONS

I wanted to thank everyone for supporting Global Impact Week and embracing our culture of missions in the Alliance. We have a long history of being a missional movement and every year we host a guest speaker that we support overseas. This gives you a chance to meet them face to face, build relationships with them, and gain a greater appreciation of their ministry. This year we hosted Ms J. K. from Asia, who gave us some great insights into her ministry and the country she serves in.

Global Impact Week is organised by the International Missions Team which has representatives from almost every church, and together with the Pastors we're always looking for ways to improve the event. After feedback from our AGM this year we've already made changes to the scheduling of Global Impact Week 2019 to make it easier for everyone from our churches to attend. We'll also be working hard to improve the way we communicate so that you can stay informed and inspired about what God is doing overseas through the people we support - rather than just at Global Impact Week.

I had the privilege of traveling to India straight after Global Impact Week with our India Vision Team to visit our ministry partners in Hyderabad, Mumbai and Delhi. Keith and Annette Bennett (Destiny Rescue, Delhi), joined us for the entire trip and then joined Fiona and I as we travelled to Manila, Philippines to attend the Asia Pacific Regional Conference. The Bennetts had the privilege of sharing about their work at the conference and we were able to meet up with other ministry partners including Rev. Roland and Nancy Lumawag, and Rev. Chuanga, the new President of Myanmar, where we are helping fund a strategic building programme. All those we met expressed their heartfelt thanks for the prayer support and financial support they receive from our churches in New Zealand.

Rev. Andrew Marshall