**Church Army NZ Report to General Synod/Te Hinota Whanui 2020**

**(GSTHW) in Nelson, 9th - 14th May**

We live in a time and culture that wrestles with change at an ever-increasing pace. For some change is unsettling, for others it can even be threatening, while others relish the excitement of new things and ask for more! It is challenging to remain focussed and faithful as ministers of the gospel but with challenges also come opportunities. We all know that the only constant in life is change, as Heraclitus so wisely pointed out. It’s a good thing!

2018 and 2019 were two of the busiest years Church Army of New Zealand (CANZ) has seen yet. We retained an active presence providing our Mission Partner stalls at New Wine Festivals, the South Auckland Hope Festival, Keswick Convention and other events. We took teams of new and young members to involve themselves in those great events.

We have also intentionally attended the Waitangi Days celebrations, if not at the Waitangi grounds then here in (South) Auckland.

In 2018 we held our bi-annual CANZ Board Conference at Flaxmill to determine a new 5 year strategic plan, an ambitious, faith-filled document of great expectations!

Another highlight of 2018 was the National Director having been asked to run three evangelism training events at Bishopdale Theological College: Their POMD event in March, the two-day School of Preaching in June and workshops at Nelson’s Diocesan Retreat weekend in October. This is adding to the impact CANZ is already having in Nelson Diocese through the CANZ officers working there involved in evangelistic parish work, and especially Kaye Dyer’s Women’s Ministry.

God blessed us with the inauguration of 2 Missional Hubs, one in Auckland and one in Hamilton with hope of seeing more to come.

We were also invited to attend the Anglo-Catholic Hui in Wellington, which was another milestone of CANZ’s trying to work towards unity in the Anglican Church. God honoured and blessed that engagement with many new open doors to fulfill our calling to evangelism and disciple-making discipleship in this nation.

We were privileged to attend the ordination of Rev Wai Quayle, the first Maori woman to be ordained as Bishop. We celebrated with such as CANZ has been pioneering Maori women in church leadership right from when we arrived in NZ in 1935. We also shared the delight in seeing an ex-Church Army Captain

Rev Steve Maina (formerly National director of Church Army Africa), being ordained as the new Bishop of Nelson.

Our willingness to work ecumenically with all who love and serve the Lord Jesus was greatly rewarded by National Director Capt M Clark being invited to co-lead together with Steve Addison and Colin Craggs the South Pacific Conference of the SDA in Auckland’s Plaza Hotel. We have also seen a greatly increased demand for training in evangelism and disciple-making discipleship from Anglican and other denominational churches and parachurches across NZ. We have also been offered some training opportunities in Australia, the Pacific Islands, India and other countries.

Though we invest in international relationships, we feel we need to focus on inputting into the local context through equipping (longterm) individuals, groups and churches/parishes, specifically training trainers, young emerging leaders, apostolic ministries, especially among the marginalised people groups. That’s why our ever expanding work with the marginalised, CKC in Christchurch, starting with the bus-ministry as a base for relationship building, leading into DBS’s (Discovery Bible Study/discipleship groups) and community action groups is so exciting.

Speaking up for the voiceless and powerless and introducing them to the best ally ever, Jesus Christ, and working in partnership with any person and organisation who sees this as their focus, marks CANZ activities and mission.

The greatest highlight of 2019 was to be invited to be part of the Ihu Karaiti Hikoi (40 Marae in 12 weeks, from Cape Reinga to Chatham Island) in 2019, a Maori lead interdenominational mission covering this whole nation!

Life on the Marae, especially if it is a different one every 3 days, learning about the vast variety of faith expressions among the different Iwi was a life and thought changing experience for the CANZ team.

A resulting blessing was the invitation to come to Kaitkohe to help the local churches strategise their outreach to their communities.. We will never forget meeting Rev Kuini, what an amazing woman of God!

Attending the Hui Amorangi in Kamo was another special time for ND Capy M Clark, being so freely welcomed, even allowed to sleep at the Centre, being it’s ‘Kaitiaki’ for that weekend and being allowed to work with the staff through the night to prepare the hangi (300+ portions!!) It was a true experience of being Whanau!

On a wider Anglican note; CANZ being pivotally involved in setting up the ‘Christian Community’ made me proud, as we were, together with other para-church organisations, instrumental in facilitating the space needed for Anglican unity in action.

2019 saw the National Director Capt M Clark more often in the Wellington Diocese than in her home patch of Auckland. She attended their Synod, the CMS Family conference - to witness Rosie Fife’s inauguration as the new CEO of CMSNZ. This is now resulting in new and exciting evangelism training opportunities with the Anglican Chinese Mission (ACM) and Wellington Diocese, and conversations with the Anglican Mission Board (AMB) about CANZ’s part in the bigger picture of reaching NZ with the good news of Christ.

Hopes for the Future: CANZ has relocated their headquarters to Mt Wellington, Auckland, to start a Missional Community and Training Centre. We will be training people in effective and culturally appropriate ways of evangelism and discipleship, based on the principles of CPM (Church planting Movements)

We have also been working with the Tikanga Maori Church plant in South Auckland, now excited about the joint mission work in the new estate in Drury. We will also continue our training efforts with the interdenominational missional focus on the new estate on Akl North Shore. We will also look to assist with local missions in Wellington, Nelson and Christchurch Dioceses.

2020 and beyond promises to be very exciting for CANZ!

Nga Mihi

Capt Monika Clark

National Director, Church Army in New Zealand