



A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

At the start of this year I spent several days seeking the Lord in prayer. I asked God for a vision for the future, and prayed for the work of The Navigators. God impressed on me promises from the Bible, and an image of the future. The main promise came from Isaiah 44:3-4 which paints a picture of vibrant growth, inspired by God's Spirit.

Through the work of The Navigators Settlers Mission, men are experiencing the transforming power of the Gospel, and help from God and friends to overcome addictions and destructive life patterns. This work of God reminds us of the importance of having a heart for the whole person, of creating climates of grace, and relating with compassion for the vulnerable and broken.

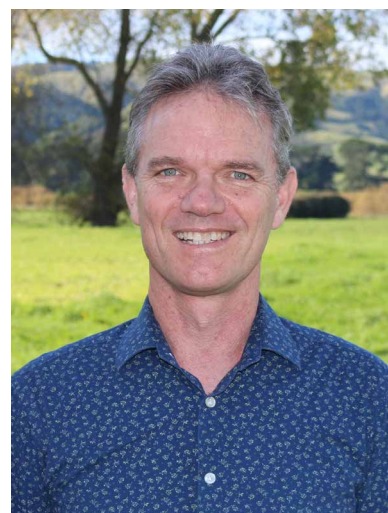
The Good News moves through families, workplaces, neighbourhoods and prisons as we live and share Jesus with the people God has placed us amongst. In all of these life settings, we want to see those who have experienced the Good News pass this on to others around them. When this happens we see spiritual generations, something we are beginning to see in Settlers, and that's exciting!

The image God gave to me earlier this year was of a 'sea of labourers'. I am asking God to fulfil His promise in Isaiah 44, and by His Spirit to raise up a new generation of men and women from diverse backgrounds to be workers for God, here in New Zealand and in other nations. May the stories in this Navigate inspire you as a worker for God's kingdom with the people God has placed you amongst.

Simon Cayzer
National Director

"For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and rivers on the dry ground.

I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring; and my blessing on your descendants. They will spring up like grass in a meadow, like poplar trees beside streams." Isaiah 44:3-4



STORIES FROM OUR SETTLERS MISSION

TO KNOW CHRIST, TO MAKE HIM KNOWN, AND TO HELP OTHERS DO THE SAME

In 2012, I met a man at the hostel, fresh from prison. I sensed he had a deep hunger to know more about God. We enjoyed some yarns together, and given an opportunity, he agreed to read the Bible with John. He struggled with literacy. His doubts and anxieties ran high, and he asked, “Would he be good enough?” But Anthony wanted a new beginning and he gave it a go.

Fast forward to 2017. It’s late on a Friday night when Police drop off a man at the hostel. He’s stressed, been trespassed, has no money. He’s a stranger in Christchurch, in search of a new beginning, but there’s no accommodation available at the hostel until Monday. “Come back tomorrow morning and we’ll see what we can do,” he’s told. He’s given

bedding and bread in a banana box, and he makes his way to the tree-lined church yard at the end of the street.

At 8:30 a.m. the next morning, Anthony responds to the opportunity to care for the stranger that day. They see the sights, share stories, walk, listen, challenge, laugh and eat together. Seven and half hours later, the man joins the queue at the City Mission night shelter. A few days later he says, “Anthony helped me calm down. He was quiet and listened. He’s genuine.”

The stranger met his first friend in Christchurch. And the next week, Anthony takes him to meet some of his friends. The man has since progressed to read the Bible and has prayed for Jesus to come into his life.



CALLED TO BE ‘HOW’ PEOPLE



Some guys we meet with left family behind when they were deported from Australia. Tim (not his real name) is about 35, battles health issues and drug addiction, and has lost his family support. His father visited around Christmas and a couple of us joined them for coffee. It was a rich time of sharing and getting to know both men.

Tim categorises people into ‘how’ and ‘what’ people. He says, “how people’s approach is: how can I assist you.” They are people who encourage and provide support to help him get through and make change. How people say, “I’m here to help you, don’t worry I’ve got that, I’ll pay for that, can I give you a ride?”



In contrast, Tim believes what people use and abuse and only care about themselves. He says, “When I haven’t got a car I don’t hear from them anymore. They are only interested in what they can get out of you.”

This is our challenge. God calls us to be how people – people who don’t merely look out for our own things, but for the things of others. We are called to have the attitude of Christ, who gave himself for us.

Disclaimer: While the people in the photos are involved with the Settlers Mission, the photos do not match the stories they are next to.

STORIES OF SCARY BIBLE READING CONVICTS AND ‘DUCK’ ANSWERS TO PRAYER



Des & Mercia Barton are Nav staff based in the Waikato.

A man I meet with was charged with a serious family-violence offence and in the police van on the way to prison he called out to God, “If you’re for real can you help me?” Arriving in prison he was double bunked with, as he put it, “A big scary convict who after a while picked up his Bible and started

reading it out loud!” For the first time in his life he realised God was real and the words were so comforting. After being transferred to North Waikato prison on remand Des shared the story of the cross with him one week and the Nav Bridge illustration the next and he came to Christ. He is now sharing his faith in prison, takes part in two Bible studies and is going to be baptised soon. He received half the sentence he expected as he pleaded guilty to all charges and wrote a letter of remorse because of his changed life.

Two men of Hindu belief attended a Christian church service in a high-security Auckland prison. Later, sitting in the yard and both as high as a kite, they discussed the service, laughing about what “Those crazy Christians had said.” One noticed some ducks flying overhead and called out “If you are God make those ducks land in the yard in front of us and we will believe in you.” God did just that! One man is serving his life sentence in the North Waikato prison. He is leading a Bible study group in his unit and has finished his first diploma in Christian Studies. He is like Joseph in the Bible and has become the head in his job in the prison. On his release, he will be deported back to India, where he is keen to share his faith with his family.



THROUGH CHRIST ADDICTIONS CAN BE BROKEN

I told him I wasn’t a counsellor and didn’t know much about addiction, but I could help him read the Bible. We agreed to meet weekly to read through Philippians.

“Thirteen,” he said, when I asked him which verse in Chapter 4 stood out. “Let’s try something”, I said. “We’ll read verse thirteen several times—each time we’ll emphasis a different word and see what stands out.

“Through”, he said, choosing a word. “I can do all things through Christ. Addiction recovery courses have been helpful for me but it is God who has made the real difference.”

“How has God made the difference?” “I feel like I have a relationship with Him.” There were tears in his eyes. “And that he is with me every day, helping me.”

We paused to thank God together.

Lynton is currently discipling several Settlers men. He is particularly focused on developing simple, practical, reproducible approaches to the Bible for these men.



PARTNERING WITH SETTLERS



Isaiah 61: The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.

Developing the work of the Navigators Settlers Mission is a significant step. To progress this initiative, we require financial partners. If you would like to become a part of the Settlers Mission financial support team—with a one-off gift, or as a regular financial supporter—you can donate by completing the enclosed response slip and returning it to the Navigators Office (in the envelope provided, or by email to kathryn@navigators.org.nz)



CELEBRATION AND COMMISSIONING

New Zealand Navigator Staff and Board members met at Merchiston House in Christchurch, April 8-9, to celebrate and thank Glen and Ann-Marie Morris for Glen's time as National Director, and to commission Simon Cayzer into this role.

Saturday was a rich time of hearing stories of God at work. Many staff shared how God was drawing people to Jesus around them, and opportunities God was giving them to disciple people. We heard how the Good News was being passed from generation to generation. Our hearts were encouraged and thankful to God.

Early in his role as National Director Glen was taken with God's sign to Moses of worshipping God on Mount Horeb, a future event in the life of Israel and Moses. This sign required Moses to trust God, taking him at his word, something Glen found he needed to do too. Isaiah 54:1-3 was a promise God impressed on Glen with the sense of preparing foundations for a new generation. 'Building the tent' for The Navigators has involved bringing on new staff, strengthening our focus on the 20s-30s life stage, intentionally focusing on leader development and creating resources for our movement such as the Backpack.

On Sunday we focused on God together and our vision for the future. As Chairperson of the NZ Navigators Board, Mike Paine commissioned Simon Cayzer into the role of National Director. Mike Shamy shared thoughts from 1 Corinthians 3-4 around the theme of being servants of Christ and faithfully carrying out the tasks God gives to us.

Simon shared promises God was putting on his heart for the Navigators. The big picture purpose of 'Filling the tent' was something God has impressed on Simon. As Simon has asked God how this will happen, God has highlighted the importance of labourers or kingdom workers, promises to trust God for, prayer and broad leadership. These are exciting days filled with opportunity as we follow God's leading, and stay true to our calling of taking the Good News about Jesus to people across our great nation and into the nations of the world.

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For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. They will spring up like grass in a meadow, like poplar trees by flowing streams.

Isaiah 44:3-4



Speaker:
Navigators National
Director
Simon Cayzer

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