



navigators

NAVIGATE

PASSING FORWARD THE BATON

BY SIMON CAYZER, NATIONAL DIRECTOR

“The generation ahead of us is retiring. Now it’s our turn to step up and own this Navigator Calling from God. We need to figure out how to pick up the baton that is being passed to us. When it is our turn to retire and we look back at what our generation did, what do we hope and dream we will see?” This is how Merodie Rose introduced a session she led during a weekend that launched our Navigator Leadership Community in 2021. In small groups we created pictures of what we imagined the Navigators would look like in 25 years’ time.

Dreaming together in groups that included our children was exciting. Many wonderful themes and images emerged. We imagined the Good News spreading through physical and spiritual generations and into new places. We saw a more diverse Navigator movement that reflected our diverse society. The Scriptures featured strongly as did the theme of ‘going together’ as we advance the gospel into Aotearoa. Hospitality and fun were seen as key parts of living and discipling among the lost.

As the weekend progressed God led us to focus on the Good News about Jesus spreading more into families, neighbourhoods, and workplaces. In response we formed three workgroups focusing on each of these important spheres of life and have been meeting in these workgroups over the past year.

The first purpose has been to grow as labourers

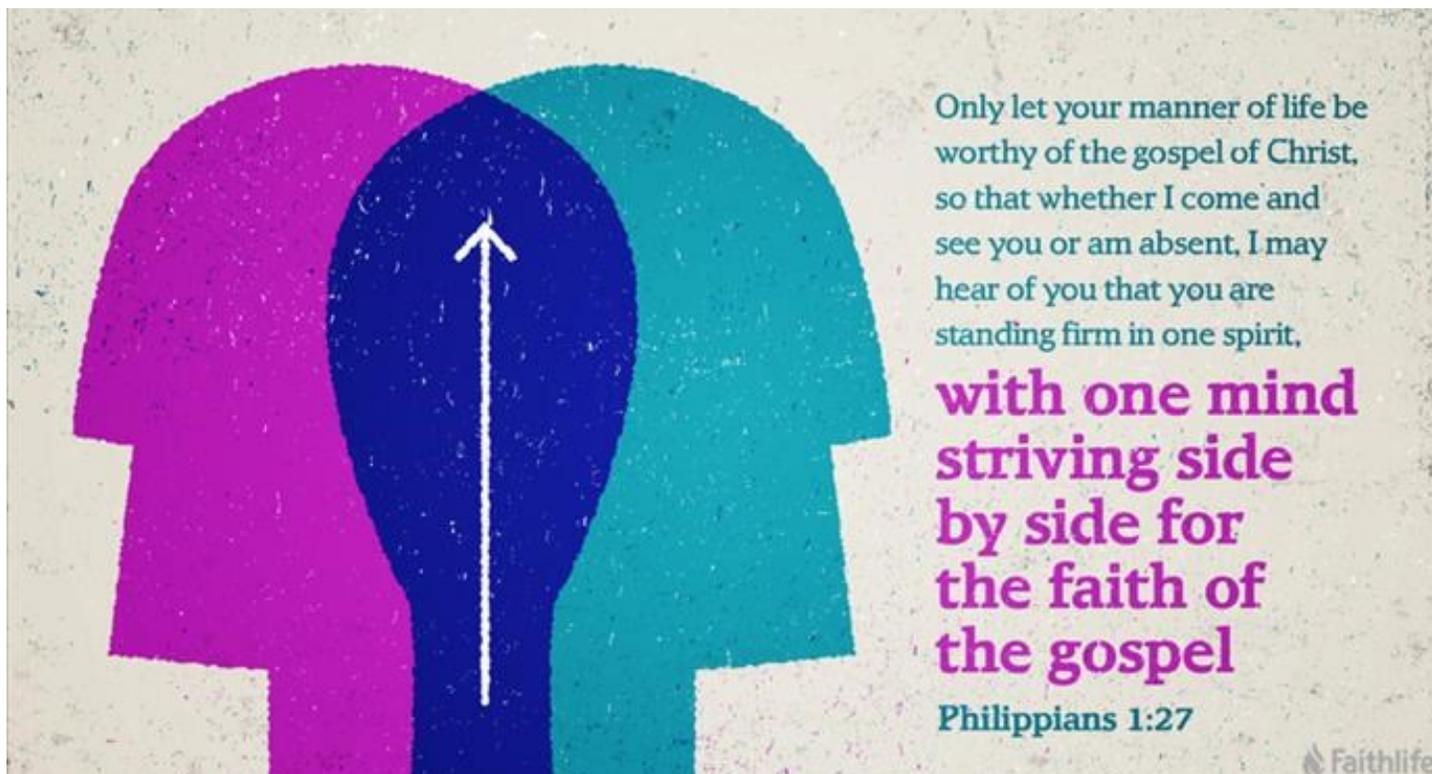
ourselves as we seek to advance the gospel into our own families, neighbourhoods, and workplaces. Our second purpose is to create initiatives that will help others advance the gospel into their families, neighbourhoods, and workplaces.

We have launched this Leadership Community to expand our Navigator vision into new places with a group of younger leaders. We are trusting God to strengthen our relationships with one another and also to help us grow stronger partnering relationships between staff and conventional income leaders.

As a community we are growing as labourers as we advance the gospel into our own relational networks and growing as leaders as we seek to influence others to be living and discipling among the lost. This is reflected in the focus of our workgroups.

At the centre of our Calling are labourers, followers of Jesus who live out and share the Good News about Jesus and who invest their lives in the faith journeys of others. Who labourers are and what they do is a key focus for the Navigators in 2022. Recently I talked with a group about ‘going together’ as one of the practices of labourers.

We reflected on how God has designed us to work together. Paul’s metaphor of the human body with its different parts shows us that we need one another and belong to one another. As I reflect on needing and belonging to others, I see a gap between my experience and these truths. How can we move towards labouring together more? *(continued on next page...)*



(Simon Cayzer con't.) In the letter to the Philippians Paul encourages the believers to live in a manner worthy of the gospel and to strive together as one for the faith of the gospel. Paul helps us to see what this means in the life of Jesus. Jesus emptied himself, He came to us, and sacrificially gave himself to bring us to God. To live in a manner worthy of the gospel involves similar actions on our part. It will mean thinking and acting in the interests of the people in our families, workplaces, and relational networks. It will mean taking initiatives to love, serve and grow relationships with the people in our neighbourhoods. It will involve sacrificing some of our own interests and plans so that we can join with God and others in their plans. Labouring together takes humility, initiative, and sacrifice.

We are learning about these and other truths in the Leadership Community as we seek to advance of the gospel more into Aotearoa personally as co-labourers and increasingly as leaders in our Navigator movement. Please pray for this wonderful group of people.

In the short updates on this page and the next, we wanted to give you a glimpse into the efforts of those who have taken up the baton and are pressing forward to lead our movement into the future in these workgroups. 🙏

PASSING THE BATON IN WORKPLACES

Our workgroup has been focused on two main areas, 1) seeing our work as good and a calling in and of itself because it is a part of God's redemptive work in the world, and 2) seeing work as a place where we can advance the gospel through living it out and sharing the good news with our workmates. We've spent time talking, praying and going to the Scriptures together as we've considered ideas and grappled with some of the challenges of advancing the gospel into workplaces.

As part of focusing on and learning in these areas together, we have been prompted to ask ourselves what steps we sense God would have us take personally. For one of the members of our workgroup, this prompted her to ask two workmates if they would read the Bible with her. One said no, but the other said yes and then began a discipling relationship. For another person, it led to her taking a particular role because she saw it as an opportunity to both serve the needs of the world and be among people who don't yet know Jesus.

We are currently working on a few interconnected initiatives, starting with taking some specific issues around calling and mission in the workplace to the Scriptures and sharing what we are learning with others through one-to-one discipleship and small groups. Our desire is to see people envisioned for seeing their work as part of God's good work in the world and be equipped as labourers for the kingdom in workplaces of every type across New Zealand. 🙏

PASSING THE BATON IN FAMILIES

The families workgroup is about encouraging and inspiring families with kids to use their day-to-day life to be mission-focused, make an impact and share the gospel right where they live, play and socialise. It has been an encouragement to learn that God isn't asking us to add heaps more things to our lives in order to be on mission, but instead that we can repurpose our time and activities with a kingdom mindset. School pick-ups, play dates, sports practices – these can all be situations where the goodness of God's kingdom can be lived out and shared.

Mission doesn't have to be extravagant, but it does need to be purposeful. For example, being intentional about getting to know other parents while you stand on the side of a sports practice or wait at school pick up. Or hosting a "pancake Saturday" for the neighbours where the dads and kids get together at someone's house and make pancakes while the mums get to go out and have brunch and get quality time together.

We're working on gathering stories of families living on mission in their everyday lives so we can put together a resource (Families on a Mission) with bite-size ideas to inspire and help other families to be missional and outward focused. This resource will also provide ideas to help parents to disciple their kids. If you have a good story or idea to share, we'd love to hear from you. You can email Dee at families@navigator.org.nz. 



PASSING THE BATON IN NEIGHBOURHOODS

We define neighbourhood ministry as a focus on the advance of the gospel into the lives of the people that dwell in the same physical place (street, suburb etc) as the labourer. Meeting together as 'neighbourhood practitioners' to think, pray, discuss and be intentional really helps with making the time, taking initiative, and staying focused. Our times together involve prayer, accountability, hearing stories and lessons, being reminded of why we do it (motivation), encouragement and grappling together with the issues. We have identified that finding like-hearted people to physically co-labour within our neighbourhoods is a massive challenge so meeting together online in this way has been really encouraging.

One of the initiatives we came up with was having a shared online commitments diary. In this diary, we put things that we were committing to try for the coming month, such as asking a neighbour over for a meal, praying consistently for particular neighbours or committing to volunteering consistently at a community centre. This helped to create accountability and a tangible next step. We would then give our workgroup an update of how things had gone, both the things that had been encouraging as well as what had been challenging.

We have also interviewed people who have been doing neighbourhood ministry for decades. Drawing from their insights and experience has encouraged and helped us to think about next steps and to figure out what we will need to help sustain both ourselves and others as we bring Jesus and His good news to our neighbourhoods. We want to help others to catch the vision for neighbourhood ministry, become part of it and feel supported. 

FAITHFUL LIFETIME ALONGSIDERS

AS WE LOOK BACK WE CELEBRATE THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED THE BATON FORWARD

BY BRENDA WANG

Jesus said, “How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of all garden plants; it grows long branches, and birds can make nests in its shade.” (Mark 4:30-32)

When he was teaching in 1955, Allan was helped by The Navigators’ Bible studies. Later, Allan and Maureen met Joe Simmons who had moved to New Zealand to begin The Navigators work. The Goulstones were influenced by the “great interest” Joe and his wife Marie took in them and their three children’s lives. They knew that the Simmons cared for them as people and that The Navigators were not “just an institution.”

In 1969, Joe invited Allan to work with The Navigators. This decision required Allan and Maureen to trust God for their income and to move from place to place depending on the needs of the ministry. As they prayed about the decision, God used Ezekial 22:30: “I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall... but I found none.” Allan responded, “Lord, if you are still looking for a man, and if I’ll do, I’m available.” This characterises the faithful service of the Goulstones: they are willing to serve God in whatever way God needs and calls. Over the past 52 years, Allan and Maureen have led campus teams in Auckland and Palmerston North, worked in The Navigators office in Christchurch, contributed to the Church Discipleship Ministry in Singapore and New Zealand, and served in the community.

Currently, in their late eighties, they’re sharing the gospel with their retirement village neighbours and discipling people. Maureen’s been involved in English conversation with international women and has read the Bible and prayed with numerous people. Maureen has maintained relationships for many years, sowing the seeds of the



gospel into those who aren’t yet Christians. There are not dramatic shifts nor quick transformations but rather, steadfast investment.

Over many years, they have visited and continue to walk alongside individuals and couples. They pray and journey with people faithfully.

They reflect, “Looking back, we are, today, discovering people from our ministries who have had and still have the hand of God on their lives and are discipling in their contexts all over New Zealand.” Like the mustard seed in Jesus’ parable, the people Allan and Maureen have come alongside are small seeds. But, when they are planted in good soil, tended to with care and watered spiritually, they grow to be plants that can provide shelter and rest for others. That impact will continue to have generational repercussions in God’s Kingdom. 🙏

SAVE THE
DATE



NATIONAL
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2022

OCTOBER
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RANGI RURU, CHRISTCHURCH

REGISTRATION LINKS @MING SOON



To Know Christ, Make Him Known, & Help Others Do the Same.

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