



# NAVIGATE

## LABOURERS: WE GO TOGETHER

This morning Juliet and I prayed with four friends before work, something we do together each week. We do this to support one another as co-labourers, and because we know that only the Spirit of God can transform people's lives. Prayer is the gift that enables us to participate in this holy work. Sometimes we see the influence of our prayers in the lives of the people we are reaching out to, in fact we commented on that this morning! Praying together is one of the ways we *go together*.

Internationally and here in Aotearoa New Zealand, The Navigators are emphasising the importance of living out our calling *together* with like-minded believers and *among* people yet to know Christ. There are many things that keep us from being on mission together and truly among people lost to God. We need to challenge cultural norms that keep us from pursuing our calling as God intends, and intentionally act on Spirit inspired ideas to be more *together* and *among*.

Mutua Mahiaini, our International President, shared this African proverb when he was with us five years ago: "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go with others." Navigator labourers do not flourish in isolation. We need to be in community with like-minded people who share our calling. We may survive alone, but

without community we can become discouraged and lose heart. Even the Apostle Paul, in his tireless labour for Jesus did not go it alone as the letters he penned remind us that he was always serving with others, e.g., "Paul, Silas, and Timothy..." He also partnered with people like Priscilla and Aquilla, Apollos, Lydia, and many others. (*see Romans 16 for further examples*)

In this issue of Navigate we highlight the idea of living and discipling among the lost together via this theme of 'We go together' with a reflection on a surfing community, trusting God with transition in Auckland, labourers serving together in the Settlers ministry, along with a Bible study on our Core Value #9 on interdependent relationships in the body of Christ in advancing the gospel.

We pray that these stories will encourage you. Join us in praying for God to knit us together in co-labouring communities committed to the advance of the gospel into Aotearoa New Zealand.

Thanks for going together with us!

Yours,

Simon Cayzer  
National Director



# WE GO TOGETHER: TO BE FRUITFUL

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON FRUITFULNESS IN THE NATURAL RHYTHMS OF LIFE

BY MERODIE ROSE

Reflections from a day alone with God at Sister Evelyn Retreat House, Sumner...

**October 2022:** I'm basking in the sun overlooking the sea, soaking up God's love and presence. I notice a surfer, bobbing, waiting for the synergy of the wave, alone in the sea. With his board to carry him. Waiting, watching. For that critical moment of exertion. To catch and ride the wave. The sea has already prepared for him the energy required for the movement. All that is needed is to spot and ride that wave. Lord, help me to sit. To give myself permission to simply bob. Waiting, watching for your wave in this season. To bring the energy I need for the movement – in a way that is exhilarating—not depleting.

**March 2023:** The surfers are out again. This time the surfers are out *TOGETHER*. I wonder if that will be a theme today. Who am I faithful *WITH*? Am I even faithful? I feel I have a way to grow in that area. In the boldness of advancing the gospel.

The surfers. They bob up and down, together. In the same sea, each affected slightly differently by the waves and currents depending on their unique position – waiting, watching. The more experienced helping the younger spot how the energy is flowing, moving, building – encouraging them to go for it, work hard in the moment to catch the wave. Safer together, less vulnerable, enjoying the shared experience, the stronger pulling one another out through the breakers when they crash overhead, to the peaceful calm through the other side. Who am I surfing with? Sometimes I feel more like I am beached. Constrained by the weight of what everyone else needs. Looking out but unable to go beyond to the freedom and weightlessness of bobbing.

When you look at the group, the surfers don't seem to be catching that many waves. I wonder does that really matter if you were evaluating their day out? Or is it more the being together in the environment that makes

it worthwhile? I think of how I tend to evaluate my own fruitfulness, often against what others are reaping. In any given moment some might be bobbing, others riding the waves. Perhaps I feel like I should be riding every wave someone else is riding. But actually, surfing is more time spent bobbing. Watching, waiting. My job is to be courageous and faithful in the specific waves I'm well positioned for, and to be there with the others, cheering them on, pulling them through the breakers occasionally. Waiting, watching. Not hesitating at the opportune moment.

I'm put in mind of how Jesus' fruitfulness was mainly 12 people (11 actually) for his whole life. A lifetime of living in God's will leaving 11 tangible fruits – plus riding the massive wave of the cross, His death and resurrection freeing the world from sin and death, making death the gateway to true life for all who believe.

Do our cultural expectations of productivity get superimposed onto our expectations of fruitfulness? Or is fruitfulness simply stepping into Jesus big wave of freedom and growing in fruits of the Spirit. I could sure grow in some of them! And most of them can only be truly expressed when we are *TOGETHER*. That's how I long to be Lord. Watching, waiting, together. Not hesitating at the opportune moment. Riding the waves of your good news flowing out into our world. 🙏



## WE GO TOGETHER: IN SENDING TO THE NATIONS



GERDION (L) WITH FORMER UNI STAFF NICK MADDY (R)

It was a crazy dream of ours to send someone overseas as an intern so you can imagine how excited we are to see a new graduate step out in faith like Gerdion Venter is doing now. Gerdion will join the Navs student team that works at Carleton University in Ottawa for 2 years. **Will you consider giving a one-off gift that will help meet his two-year need?** A gift of any type would be timely as Gerdion departs on **June 4th**.

**\$500** is the equivalent of \$20 a month,  
**\$1,000** is equivalent of \$40 a month,  
**\$5,000** is equivalent of \$200 a month.

He started with a monthly need of NZ\$5,000 and is now down to NZ\$1,800 a month. Over two years this is a total need of \$43,200. This will go towards his living costs, ministry expenses, development, training, travel, and a basic living wage.

Donations can be made via direct debit to this account: The Navigators: 06-0805-0039332-03. Include your name and 'Gerdion' as the reference. Email our admin, John at [john@navigator.org.nz](mailto:john@navigator.org.nz) to inform him of your donation. **It would be ideal to receive your donation before the end of May. Thanks!** 🙏

# WE GO TOGETHER: WITH ONE ANOTHER

A PERSONAL REFLECTION ON THE NEED OF FRIENDSHIP AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF OTHERS

BY LEAH SIMPSON

Many readers will know that in January of this year our family moved to Auckland from Christchurch to serve as new city leaders for Auckland Navigators. We are now three months in, and I can get to the supermarket without GPS – it’s the small things!

If only friendships were that simple. My husband Tim often sums life up at present as having our work, our schools, our house, but not our people. I’m finding that starting from scratch takes a lot of prayerful belief that God is good and faithful to me. In saying that, it’s quite hard to wrestle with what is my everyday circumstances and also hold this in tension with the truth what God promises. My current reality is that I can’t make new friends overnight, I can’t sort out friends for my kids and we are feeling lonely. There is a particularly deep pain for me in watching my kids struggle in this way.

During this time my mentor and friend had me read Psalm 23. I’m guilty of thinking of Psalm 23 as a bit overused. But in the process of memorising it, I’ve meditated deeply on the words and found them to be so meaningful. The opening line reads, ‘*The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.*’ I’ve found myself honestly telling God that I feel like I lack friends and his gentle encouraging response that he loves me, he delights in me and will always be my true friend. The psalm goes on, ‘*He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake.*’ Again, I’ve asked God how is this the right path when I see my kids so lonely? I noticed in asking this question I was also encouraged that here was a promise I could pray for myself and my kids.

<sup>1</sup> THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, I LACK NOTHING.  
<sup>2</sup> HE MAKES ME LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES,  
 HE LEADS ME BESIDE QUIET WATERS,  
<sup>3</sup> HE REFRESHES MY SOUL.  
 HE GUIDES ME ALONG THE RIGHT PATHS  
 FOR HIS NAME’S SAKE.—**PSALM 23:1-3** (NIV)

On one particularly lonely day I told God that I just wanted someone to reach out to me after many weeks of new faces and introductions. That was Friday morning. By Friday afternoon my phone rings. A person I’d really enjoyed talking to called to ask me how I was doing. After my call, I walked to school and another person I’d recently met invites one of my kids over to play. Then (would you believe it) later that afternoon another lady visited and said, “I really missed seeing you this week Leah, shall we have another coffee?” Three people reached out to me in friendship. I couldn’t miss how the Lord had heard me. I felt both loved by Jesus and stretched to trust him.

God has also shown me how he has not left us alone. Upon arriving our staff team – Brian and Amy Wachter together with Prakash and Liz Primulapathi and Kristina Wagner have included us in their lives like their own family. We have felt cared for and loved and given a safe place to express how we are going. We regularly share dinner and fun times together and this has been a blessing of being together in heart with a group of like-minded followers of Jesus.

The words of Psalm 23:6, ‘*Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life*’ proved true in this moment. 🙏

## FAREWELLING A FAITHFUL SERVANT

JOIN US IN THANKING JOHN MACCLURE FOR HIS SERVICE AS OUR ADMINISTRATOR AND WELCOME DEAN SMYTH



JOHN MACCLURE

John MacClure has served as National Administrator for 12 years, and before this he supported Kathryn Taylor in this role. John and his wife Liz have a deep commitment to our calling and are actively involved in sharing Christ and discipling people life to life, especially those on the margins of society. John has brought his

compassion and commitment to our mission to his work as our administrator. We thank John for his dedication in this role and the gracious and generous way he has served us. John, may you and Liz enjoy the opportunities that open up to you once you finish in this role at the end of May.

We are also pleased to introduce Dean Smyth who will serve as our full time National Administrator from June 1<sup>st</sup>. Dean lives in Glendowie, Auckland with his wife Philippa and four boys.

Dean has a strong background in administration working as the Executive Pastor for two churches over a period of 22 years. The selection committee has a sense that God has given us the person we need in Dean for the next season in our work. We welcome Dean and are looking forward to working and serving the work God has called us to together. 🙏



DEAN SMYTH

# WE GO TOGETHER: WHILE SERVING OTHERS

PERSONAL REFLECTION ON SERVING TOGETHER TO MINISTER TO SETTLERS IN CHRISTCHURCH



**BY LYNTON BROCKLEHURST**

One of the deeply satisfying aspects of being involved in the Settler’s mission is working as a team, praying together not just for names or even faces but for people we all know. We are always looking for ways to be together among our friends in all sorts of contexts, in cafés, on outings and at various recreational activities. We are also together among our friends at our regular weekly meetings where we share food, socialise, watch videos, read the Bible, and discuss what it means to follow Jesus.

God is showing us how to complement each other and spread the load even in things like prison visits. Currently three of us are visiting one prisoner. Each person bringing a particular contribution so that when the prisoner is released there is more than one person to turn to for support. In fact, a whole community awaits him. Recently several of us

teamed up to help a friend who was in the throes of an excruciating drug detox. One of the team took our friend out to buy food and various homewares while the rest of us spent several hours cleaning up the unbelievable mess resulting from months of synthetic cannabis addiction. We could just see the love and care breaking through his embarrassment bringing new hope.

Of course, we spend lots of time of one-to-one time with our friends, but we are always thinking of discipling people together, as much as possible following the pattern of Jesus and the early disciples.

“Our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. *You know how we lived among you for your sake*” - 1 Thessalonians 1:5 (NIV)

Teaming like this keeps both us and the people we disciple safe. 🙏

## WE GO TOGETHER: STUDY ON CORE VALUE #9

VALUE 9: INTERDEPENDENT RELATIONSHIPS IN THE BODY OF CHRIST IN ADVANCING THE GOSPEL

Draw a large box with four quadrants, like this one. Are these four terms positive or negative to you (mark + or -)? When you think of each one, what other words or images or feelings come to your mind? Write them in the quadrants. Then identify and explain which quadrant most describes how you and other local labourers relate to others in the Body of Christ. Which one do you think aligns with ideal labouring community?

INDEPENDENT +	CO-DEPENDENT -
PARTNERING +	INTERDEPENDENT +

Take some time to Read **Romans 12:1-8** a few times and take note of the facets of interdependency that you can observe. What do you learn about interdependent relationships from **Romans 12:1-8**?

- How is interdependency different from “the pattern of this world” (verse 2)?
- How can adopting the mindset of verses 3-5 help us be willing to become more interdependent?
- What area of interdependency is most appealing for you? . . . most difficult for you? Why?

Paul and Timothy lived and ministered inter-dependently with many other people among the Colossians, who themselves spread the Gospel to those around them (**Colossians 1**). As you read **Colossians 4:7-18**, write down their names. What else do you notice about their partnering relationships? 🙏



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