



## **Church Army NZ report to Christchurch Synod 2023**

“Every challenge provides an opportunity for growth!”

For Church Army NZ there appeared a strong silver lining around the Covid cloud, as it forced everyone to take stock and wrestle with the deeper meaning and source of life and safety, to face uncomfortable questions. And the Churches up and down the country were keener than ever to avail themselves of our expertise in training their people in engaging in grappling with those questions and sharing their hope giving faith.

Trainers Brian and Stephanie Bullen are working hard to accommodate the increasing requests for training, coaching, and mentoring across many denominations all over the country and beyond! Ps Brian’s great digital expertise and ease in all things cyberspace are proving incredibly useful for increasing the impact of his outstanding ability to disciple disciple-makers which helps spread the load and grow capable co-trainers and evangelistic leadership in many churches.

Brian (and Stephanie) are currently training 11 groups, run 7 fortnightly leaders’ meetings, have trained around 200 individuals, and are coaching/mentoring/working with 16 churches/leaders.

The second year running, Church Army, as part of AFFIRM, provided one of the courses run through Bishopdale Theological College in partnership with BTC, SOMA and NZCMS.

Canterbury Kids Coach (CKC) is moving home and HQ to Lincoln but will continue to work with children and young families and to disciple not-yet Christians through Discovery Bible Studies, and personal mentoring.

If through women leadership development, Children’s ministry, working with the broken and neglected or developing catalysts and movement leaders, it’s all about equipping and empowering the next generation and expanding capacity to be obedient to God in growing His Kingdom. 2022, as any other year. If anything, we were busier than ever, as people realised their need for hope and sustaining power from outside their own abilities. There was a surge of interest in faith related conversations. We need to be equipped and ready to engage!

For that purpose, CANZ is working towards more and more collaboration with the local churches and other evangelistic organisations, like OAC, YWAM, NZCMS, SOMA, Latimer, Hope Project, Christian Network NZ, etc, to work more efficiently and effectively.

In 2022/2023 ND Capt. M Clark managed to procure Church Army UK's flagship Discipleship tool, 'Faith Empowered', a one year/10 session course, for the newly appointed Archdeacon of Regeneration and Mission, Mark Chamberlain, here in Christchurch Diocese. The first cohort has almost finished the course, and we are very satisfied with the material.

Capt. Monika Clark also spoke at a Cursillo conference, attended CHCH Synod, various Archdeaconry meetings, the 'Leading your Church into Growth' conference, help with an Alpha Course at St Timothy's, Burnside, some Laidlaw Leaders' Conferences, FGBMFI gatherings, ran a basic evangelism course at Holy Trinity Avonside and other South Island churches, helped at a South Island Church Camp, to name but a few things.

Our hope for the future is that CANZ will become even more effective as a catalyst for the whole Church in NZ to work together more closely and more effectively in reaching the laden and lost, empowering, and equipping ordinary followers of Christ to be the beacon for God's hope and love we are meant to be.

Ngā Mihi Nui  
Capt. Monika Clark  
Nat. Director of Church Army in New Zealand