

# MAORI POSTAL AOTEAROA

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Mowhanau Beach, near Wanganui

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Dear Leaders and fellow workers,

*Tena Koutou Katoa.* Once again it is time I put fingers to the keys to write to encourage you in the important, vital work you are doing for the Lord. I have been doing a series of messages in a local assembly here in Wanganui working through Paul's letter to the Ephesians. It is indeed a mine of rich truths concerning our WEALTH in Christ (chapters 1-3) and in response to His blessings, our WALK in Christ (chapters 4-6). We also have a series of lessons through Ephesians that are available for personal and group studies.

One of the verses that stands out is chapter 1, verse 4, "*For He chose us in Christ before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight*". A couple of things are notable here: First, the Greek word rendered "chose" means primarily "chosen out of". As believers, we have been chosen out of the world to belong to God as His special treasure. Although we are still in the world, we are no longer a part of this world's corrupt system. Secondly, the Greek verb implies "once for all". So we were chosen out of the world, once for all, and this latter truth reinforces the fact of our eternal security. The fact that we were chosen "before the creation of the world" serves to remind us that we are not of this world. We are at present passing through an earthly scene, but we are citizens of Heaven, our ultimate destiny (Philippians 3:20).

The second part of the verse shows that our election in Christ also has a moral aim in view. We were chosen to be "holy (Gk. *hagios*) and blameless in His sight". "*Hagios*" means to be "set apart", and the believer is set apart for God with the purpose of reflecting His moral glory. We were not chosen because we were holy, but in order to be holy. As believers, we need to realise that we are the only means by which the moral glory of God can be visibly seen in this world today. This truth will have its ultimate fulfilment when we are transported from the presence of this sinful world into the presence of the Lord. It is then that God's plan for us will be fully realised. In the meantime we are to be "blameless" in motive and action. There is to be nothing in our behaviour that would hinder another person from coming to Christ.

And now we need to consider some more mundane matters.

## AGM 2014

A similar number of leaders and others interested in the work of MPA gathered at Lakeview Bible Camp on the second weekend in March. Despite numbers in attendance being less than some previous years, according to feedback, it was an enjoyable weekend of encouragement and fellowship. One comment we received since was, "*Praise the Lord – His Word was wonderful at conference and we loved being with you all*". Minutes should be available from our secretary in the near future.

One concerning factor is that camp donations totalled \$1026, but according to our March financial statement camp expenses were \$1350. Over the years, while we have indicated approximate camp expenses we have not charged those attending a definite fee and a freewill offering has been taken. Thus attendance fees have always been on a koha basis. This is not only cultural but also allows as many as possible to attend without individual costs becoming a barrier. Most years we have come out about even, but not so this year. If the hui is to continue we will need to give this some attention. Your thoughts and suggestions would be appreciated.



## A MATTER FOR PRAYER

I have just completed a review of our finances based on the first three months of this year and as things stand at present the outlook is a matter for some prayerful concern. By averaging out the expenses on our last monthly financial statement and projecting them out across the remainder of the year we will require \$135,733 total for the year to meet expenses. This figure does not include next year's calendar. (Our total expenses for last year were \$143,988 so we are on track for a similar figure this year). This means we need on average in excess of \$11,000 per month to operate at the present level. So far this year we have averaged \$6545.33 per month. If the present situation continues we will need to reduce operation drastically or be unable to operate within 6 months as present funds will be drained. One suggestion is that we dispense with the full colour covers on the lessons and return to the original format. **Your comments and suggestions would be helpful.** We are facing the problem of a shrinking support base with many of our supporters of past years having gone on to be with the Lord. Some of the smaller Assemblies who have faithfully contributed previously are either struggling financially themselves or no longer exist. Increasing insurance costs for some because of earthquake risk have been a contributing factor to their present situations.

We do have a house we were formerly using as our MPA office on the market at present but, even if the property sells in the near future (which doesn't seem likely considering the current state of the house market in Wanganui), unless our income considerably increases it is still going to be very difficult to maintain operation at the present level. Please give this matter urgent prayer and bring it to the attention of your Assembly/Church leadership if you are in a position to do so.

I firmly believe MPA is filling a vital role in propagating the Gospel in this land and is reaching into areas that otherwise may never be reached. There is potential for it to be doing much more depending on the availability of workers and commitment. It becomes even more important when we consider the demise of Bible in Schools in some areas. We have quite a thriving prison ministry being conducted from HQ here in Wanganui and this alone is very worthwhile as we see signs of real spiritual growth in some of these men. It would be a sad thing for the Assemblies to lose this ministry through lack of support or even to see it hindered. *Please pray.*

## LITERATURE QUANTITIES

This brings me to a related matter. We cannot afford to be printing material to be wasted. We are indeed happy for you to be receiving whatever quantity of lessons and magazines, etc., you can effectively use, but please make sure it is being *effectively* used and not just being stored up somewhere on a shelf or in a back cupboard. Good stewardship is required of us.

## TONY and RACHAEL

As most of you will know by now Tony and Rachael Ahie have been our assistants at HQ for more than a year now. Tony became involved first and then when we shifted MPA from the house back to the original building Rachael also became involved and both were a great help at a time when we had to be away with family. When we returned most of the shifting had been done and the four of us got into cleaning out the printery building, erecting benches and doing some interior painting in order to make the building suitable for our purposes once again. Since then both Tony and Rachael have been involved and we are aiming for them to eventually take over the management of HQ. They have managed HQ on various other occasions when Evelyn and I have had to be away. In the near future you may receive a phone call from them in order to introduce themselves and get to know something of the work in your area.



## *From Here and There*

**Doreen Hobbs:** We have just been informed of the passing of Doreen Hobbs who suffered a stroke on March 28<sup>th</sup> and in due course went to be with her Lord and Saviour on April 7<sup>th</sup>. She faithfully served the Lord for many years as a leader of the Hamilton Branch of MPSS and was a regular contributor to "Tupu Whakarangi".

**Jim and Beulah Pinkerton** (Waitara): Beulah has had a stay in the Waikato Hospital after tests showing she had three arteries inhibiting blood flow to the heart in the Taranaki Hospital for heart problems. She is now back home but needs to take things easier.



**Ken Brown** (Raglan) giving a certificate to Cyril Simon for completing Book 3 of the “Te Kupu Whakaora” series.

**Neil and Beverley Goodwin** (Whakatane) continue to make new contacts each month in the Eastern Bay of Plenty region. A niece of one of the families where Neil and Beverley regularly call was present last visit. She said that she needed to be converted and they had a profitable time with her in sharing the Gospel. She asked for the lessons for her family and so they have been added to the roll.



**Bill and Topsy Wynyard** (Northland): We are thankful to the Lord that Bill is making good progress after his recent stay in hospital. They now have John Shortland and a willing band of workers assisting them in the Northland region. It is intended that John will eventually take over the MPA work in that area.

**From a prison chaplain:** *We have just received the posters that I wrote to you about. I didn't expect so many. Thank you so much. We are going to put some up in the chapel and the others for prisoners who want them. We often get requests for such things as posters, correspondence courses, etc., and we are so pleased that there are groups such as yourselves who want to assist us in our ministry. Thank you so much.*

**FREIGHT COSTS:** Beginning with this month, in order to conserve costs we are sending you two months' lessons at a time. This will go some way at least towards getting our costs under control.

**EMAIL ADDRESSES:** There are three different addresses that you need to be aware of: -- To contact me personally -- [graham@maoripostal.co.nz](mailto:graham@maoripostal.co.nz). To contact the office (Tony and Rachael) [info@maoripostal.co.nz](mailto:info@maoripostal.co.nz). To contact Evelyn -- [evelynbatson@gmail.com](mailto:evelynbatson@gmail.com).

Finally, we would like to assure you of our continued prayers. Please join us in praying that we may know the Lord's plan for the future of the ministry of MPA.

Yours in Christ,

*Graham and Evelyn*

