

MAORI POSTAL AOTEAROA

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Spring comes to Virginia Lake, Wanganui

Sept., 2013

Dear Prayer Partners

Tena koutou katoa! In beginning this newsletter, I would like to clear up a possible misconception concerning recent developments in Maori Postal Aotearoa. While our printing department closed at the end of March, **the ministry of MPA is still very much alive.** It was considered by the MPA Executive that the printery was no longer financially viable and so for this reason the decision was taken to close it and have the bulk of our work done by another local printer. Accordingly Hanton and Andersen were chosen and at this stage we are pleased with the deal they offered and the service presently given. This is really the end of an era, as up until now MPA has always had its own printery.

MPA BACK IN ORIGINAL BUILDING

Over the past few weeks we have moved the ministry out of the house we purchased for that purpose 9-10 years ago, back into the original MPA building that has been used solely as the printery at 13 Lowther Street. This move gives us more room and better facilities. It has meant doing some interior alterations to make it more suitable. We have turned what used to be the dark room into the new despatch room, which is more spacious than the room we were using for this purpose in the house. Half of one wall where we had a sink bench had to be replaced due to water damage over the years. We removed the old sink and bench, re-lined the wall and put in a new work bench without the sink. We then repainted the room in a much lighter colour and added extra lighting and shelves where needed.



HQ building. Photo taken in the early 1980's.



New despatch room with lessons ready to parcel.

There are now three workable offices in the front half of the building. The front foyer has been turned into an area for displaying MPA material making it more accessible for visitors so they can more easily see the literature available. The back half of the building that used to house the printing plant still requires some sorting out



Offset press off to its new home.

and some remaining equipment needs to be sold. The offset press and folding machine have been sold to Hanton and Andersen, the firm that now handles much of our printing. A Ricoh Laser Printer has been installed in our front office which handles all our short run work and its performance is proving very satisfactory for this purpose.



TECHNOLOGY CHANGES

Over the years that our printery existed there were some quite dramatic changes as we endeavoured to keep pace with technology. We have seen the progression from letterpress to offset and more recently to digital desk-top publishing-- from large bulky machinery to compact laptop computers. Thirty years ago all our typesetting was





done on a large Intertype machine, casting type from molten metal which then had to be assembled into pages with illustrations and photos added at a later stage. (This machine was purchased from the Hutt News near Wellington when newspapers were changing to cold type). Every month or so the type had to be melted down and poured into ingot molds ready for reuse. It all amounted to hard work. Photos



and illustrations were often difficult to obtain and reproduce. Now it is all much more simple with infinitely more range in typefaces and styles, on a small laptop computer. Type, photos, illustrations can now all be assembled at the same time far more quickly, accurately and cleanly.

INCREASING AMOUNT OF LESSONS MARKED AT HQ

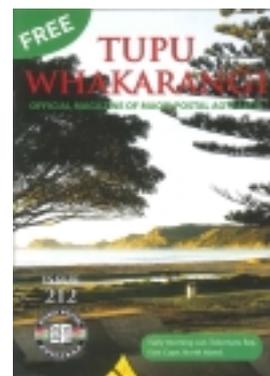
Because of the decreasing number of leaders in various parts of the country the trend seems to be that we are receiving more and more lessons at HQ for marking. We seriously need younger people to take on the role of leadership in needy areas of the country. **Please make this a definite matter of prayer.** Recently we have provided several interested people with copies of the MPA Leaders' Manual.

There is also a growing number of prison inmates receiving lessons, most of whom regularly send their work in for marking which is very encouraging. Many of these men are working through the advanced courses and a good number have completed the series on Romans. Correspondence from them reveals some have made commitments to the Lord and others have progressed spiritually. It is only the Lord who can truly break the cycle of criminal offending in these men. They need special follow-up after being released to ensure they do not get into wrong company and slide back into their old ways. Tony is handling much of this area of ministry. However, the increase in lessons returned does, of course, increase the work load as well as costs here at HQ. We would value your prayers for wisdom in marking and replying to students, and for the necessary finance to provide suitable material and postage in order to continue meeting this need.

TUPU WHAKARANGI MAGAZINE

So far this year we have managed to print three issues of the magazine and are planning a fourth before the end of the year if time allows and we can gather sufficient suitable material. We are encouraged by much of the feed-back we receive and the following is an email sent to us after publication of the last issue:

Thanks for my copy of Tupu Whakarangi issue 212. My wife brought it home from the Christian bookshop she volunteers at. It is the second copy I've seen and this time I have read every word. It gave me a thrill to read each article and an appreciation for more of the Body of Christ - people I have not yet met. I was born again as an eleven year old boy . . . but it has taken a long time to grow in the Lord and develop understanding of God's goodness and provision. If I'd had a copy of a publication such as yours earlier I'm sure the growth would have been quicker. Now at 67 years I share in leading a weekly scripture class at [a] Boys High School and have time for whatever God may require of me as a labourer in His harvest. Our children were enrolled in a gospel correspondence course . . . many years ago. My gifting is artwork - such as drawing comics or most types of painting. I feel privileged to at last have come across your publication and greet you with God's blessings.



The magazine goes into many homes, hospitals, schools, and prisons throughout Aotearoa and some even placed in court houses. 6000 copies are printed in each issue and quantities of the magazine are free to anyone who can put them to good use. Samples are gladly supplied.

APPRECIATION: A letter has also been received from an adult female student expressing appreciation for the lessons received over the years. She has found a good Bible believing church to attend and says that after being a practising Christian for a number of years she has finally been baptised. She says that the lessons have played a large part in this.

John Komene: We have received a recent report concerning John Komene, a well-known international Maori evangelist and faithful servant of the Lord for many years. *“Earlier this year in February John had a stroke which has permanently affected the loss of the use of his right leg and arm. Consequently he is now in a wheelchair and cannot write. In April John was admitted to Aria Park Rest Home in Epsom, Auckland and that is where he now resides. He is the most popular resident as he get many visitors. His memory is very slow and once he has grasped the thoughts and happenings about him, he does retain new memory but the recall a few days later is very slow. Many of the Brethren folk have knowledge of his being in the rest home and they also keep in touch with him”.*

MPA CALENDAR FOR 2014

The fact that it is time to design our calendar for next year is a “graphic” reminder of how fast this year is getting around! Once again we are planning for another 25,000 copies which should be ready for despatch around the middle of next month. In the past the calendar has proved a very worthwhile means of outreach not just in contacting new students, but as a witness as it is displayed in many homes, schools, marae, prisons and other strategic places throughout the land. It displays Gospel verses in Maori and English as well as advertising MPA resources. There is also a panel showing “the three steps to peace with God”. Please pray that it may be used of the Lord for His glory and be a vital link in the chain in bringing many into a saving relationship with Him. Copies will be made available to anyone who can use them “as widely and as wisely” as possible.

AROUND THE BRANCHES



Eileen Zinsli (Palmerston North): Eileen is encouraged by the enrolment of another Maori boy. He lives with his pakeha Christian grandma and she says he is a bright boy having got top of his class for one subject. Eileen is beginning to make headway with some other families after much visitation and discouragement. She had a lengthy conversation with one woman re same-sex marriage and what the Bible says about it. The fact that it has been legalised has created confusion. The “Tupu Whakarangi” magazine is much appreciated. She also has a regular contact with a well-known Maori activist.

Neil and Beverley Goodwin (Whakatane): A couple of months ago Neil and Beverley visited a man who looked very ill. The next time they visited, however, he looked much better. He had decided to change his lifestyle and had started praying every day, night and morning. He had some serious questions to ask about life after death and the Goodwins shared the Gospel with him. Pray that this man will take the step of repentance and salvation. He has been receiving the lessons for many years and has not been as receptive before.



One lady they called on was crying because it was her son’s birthday and he had been killed in a tractor accident. She was very pleased to receive the MPA material and have a chat. Another lady visited turned out to be an old schoolgirl from Tawera School and wanted lessons for her 10 children. Another six children were enrolled on that same road, making a total of 16 more that day.



Shirley Hatch (Rotorua): Shirley has taken the opportunity to do a short presentation to her local church body on her MPA branch work. She has presented the need for more sponsors for the families and students enrolled. The response was encouraging. The TW magazines are well received.



PRAYER: Please pray for Bill and Topsy Wynyard who have a large branch in Northland. Bill is unwell at present, having suffered a stroke earlier this month. They urgently need some faithful helpers to assist them in this work.

We have regular prayer times each week and would also appreciate your prayers for present leaders and that the Lord would raise up others. We greatly value your prayerful and practical fellowship through which this ministry is enabled to continue reaching into the homes and hearts of the people of Aotearoa. There is a leaders’ prayer list available and please check out our web site www.maoripostal.co.nz.

WHERE ARE THE WORKERS?

Matthew chapter 9, verses 35 to 38.

I believe these verses have special relevance for the days in which we live. “Jesus was travelling through all the towns and villages of Judea, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the Kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. **When He saw the crowds He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd**” (verse 36 NIV).

Jesus was never impartial to the deep needs of humanity. For this very reason He came from the glories of Heaven, veiled His own glory and entered this sin-sick world to bring healing and cleansing from the ravages of human sin. In order to do so it meant for Him all the horrors and suffering of Calvary. The instance recorded in Matthew 9 gives us a small glimpse into His heart of compassion as He saw the crowds. What moved Him most was their helplessness and spiritual fatigue. They had no answers for the havoc sin had caused in their lives. The various philosophies and theories of the day did not work. Civic leaders were struggling to cope with the many social problems and getting nowhere. Their religious leaders had let them down badly and as a result they were like sheep without a shepherd. People were left to their own dictates, and lacked purpose and direction. They were utterly lost in the morass of the resulting human chaos and unless their situation changed they would be eternally lost.

The moral and spiritual situation has not changed from that day until now. Apart from the life-changing Gospel of Christ people are still hopelessly lost and going on to eternal doom. The various philosophies of mankind have never brought lasting answers. Civic law has not cured human moral corruption. In fact where state authority has divorced itself from the dictates of the Word of God, it has only created greater chaos and added to the downward spiral. Human religion is completely powerless to deal with the situation and bring about the necessary change of direction. Essentially people lack any real direction and purpose in life. There is only one answer – Jesus Christ Himself and His Gospel.

But, as in the case cited in Matthew 9, although the need was so great, the workers were few. Jesus sought to fill the hearts of His disciples with His compassion for the people. He wanted them to see through His eyes the need as it really was – and He told them to pray to the Lord of the harvest for workers to be raised up and sent out into the field. This is a prayer that we seriously need to pray today. When this happens God especially motivates the hearts of those who pray and maybe this is

why we do not hear this type of prayer very often these days! There is a tremendous spiritual hunger in our society today, but *where are the workers?*



During the process of moving back into our original building I have been going through a lot of old correspondence going back over the last 30 years to see what should be kept and what should be discarded. I have been reminded of the many faithful people we used to have as diligent leaders and workers for the Lord in days gone by, who have now passed on to be with the Lord. Today there are far fewer of them and most are in the older age group. In view of this the words of our Lord are indeed relevant: “*The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field*”.

Yours in Christ

Graham and Evelyn Batson

