

NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION FOR
Christian Schools

Hononga Aotearoa mo nga Kura Karaitiana

THE WHITEBOARD APRIL 2009

Young Humanitarian Inspires Many in NZ

Over 3000 people of varying ages were privileged to have the opportunity to hear Hugh Evans, an inspiring and humbling young Australian leader with a captivating message of challenge and hope. Hugh was hosted by Bethlehem Tertiary Institute (BTI) at the end of March, and events were held at venues throughout N Z, starting with BTI's own graduation ceremony in Tauranga for teaching and counselling graduates. Dr Amy Edwards, Executive Dean at BTI, heard Hugh speak at a Christian Management Australia conference in Australia in 2008 and came back enthused and determined to bring him to New Zealand. "Hugh is an inspiration to young and old. His message is one of vision and hope combined with pragmatism and real possibilities." said Dr Edwards.



Hugh Evans has just turned 26 and motivated by his commitment to Christ has already clocked up many incredible achievements both as a businessman and a humanitarian. He holds Bachelor of Law and Science degrees from Monash University in Melbourne and is currently reading a Masters of International Relations at the University of Cambridge. He has been Young Australian of the Year, Junior Chamber Young Person

of the World and was the inaugural World Vision Youth Ambassador. He founded the Oaktree Foundation which is Australia's youth-run and youth-driven aid and development agency.

Hugh's tour of NZ included being keynote speaker at BTI's graduation event in Tauranga where he inspired and motivated the graduates in the teaching and counselling programmes. The theme of his message was that no young person should be restricted by age and that young people can and will change the world.



This message was also heard by students and staff at schools around the country as Hugh wowed crowds with his compelling and engaging presentation skills and stunned everyone with his personal story of commitment and dedication to work in the aid and development sector. Events were hosted by Bethlehem College, Elim Christian College, Kristin College and Middleton Grange – with many other Secondary Schools being invited to send senior students to these presentations. Ruth Vellupillai, Head of Senior College at Middleton Grange said "Hugh Evans highlighted for our school community the absolutely desolate existence that faces too many people throughout the world. His selfless dedication to

intervening in their situations and his boldness in tracking down resourcing for his audacious schemes were an inspiration that jolted many out of their seats of comfort into a more realistic perception of their relative place of privilege, and hence of their responsibility to make an effort on behalf those in need. Hugh effectively tore down the feeble excuses we make for doing nothing, and opened eyes to the possibilities that await whosoever will take up the challenge.”

As Luisa Schroder, Promotions Manager at BTI, travelled with Hugh around the country she observed that many students were congratulated and encouraged by Hugh for the work they were currently involved in with World Vision and other missions and community services. “Hugh was impressed with the high level of personal sacrifice and commitment many young people were already displaying at schools and churches around New Zealand”, Mrs Schroder said. During the week, over 700 people signed up to learn more about Hugh’s current humanitarian endeavour, the **Global Poverty Project**.

This project seeks to catalyse the international movement to end extreme poverty by creating a 90 minute slideshow that communicates the challenges and opportunities of extreme poverty and what can be done about it.

Hugh will be back in NZ to present the **Global Poverty Project** at public events in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin and BOP from 11-16 August. For more information and ongoing details visit BTI’s website www.bethlehem.ac.nz.



If young men like Hugh Evans do not stir us to do something about the poor, the teaching of the scripture should.

One way in which Jesus as a Jewish rabbi stood out as different was that He and His disciples had the habit of hanging out with the poor. So much so that he was often criticised for associating with “tax collectors and sinners”, the sort of people who extorted money out of others, who exploited their sexuality for monetary gain and who for various reasons were shunned by ‘good’ people. They had developed a lifestyle of helping the poor by encouragement, sharing wisdom, practical and financial support – sharing the love of God.

And now, two days before the Passover at which He would be crucified, Jesus and His disciples were eating at the table of a leper. A leper was the equivalent of a person infectious

with HIV. A woman came and broke a container of very expensive ointment which she poured on Jesus’ head. The container was made of alabaster, which meant that once it was broken and unsealed there was no point in keeping it. It had to be all used – an expensive choice. Some of the disciples present said “Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages and the money given to the poor”. But Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you have with you all the time and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me” (Mark 14:1-9) There is a time to express worship directly to the Lord while living a life of service to the poor. The Lord has blessed us with bountiful resources to do both. Indeed, serving the poor should be an act of worship to Him. “Whatever you did for the least of these, you did it to me”. (Matthew 25:31-46)

For many of us in our Christian school communities we cannot say “you always have the poor with you” because we don’t associate with them. We are annoyed when we see graffiti – a sub-group of the poor getting in our face. We protect our children from meeting them. We would like it if somehow they would just go away! On the other hand thousands of believers around NZ are getting their hands dirty, mixing with and serving the poor.

Jesus was anointed by the Spirit to minister to the poor, the prisoners, the sick, and the oppressed. (Luke 4:18) In an age when the gap between the rich (and moderately rich) and the poor is ever widening, the West needs to relook at the way we are addressing the problem. Too many of us are living for personal peace and affluence. Many of our Christian forbears had an attitude of “common wealth” not personal wealth. Our students need to catch the attitude that Jesus had toward the poor, and we can be part of the way they learn this.

There are a myriad of things that can be done. Here are just a few ways we could start to do this.

- Integrate the teachings of the prophets such as Isaiah, Micah and Amos on social justice into our social studies courses.
- Aim our food technology courses at projects which actually serve the old or poor in our community.
- Arrange with a nearby school in a poorer part of town a program whereby a Christian school family ‘adopts’ a single parent family as part of the extended family.
- Music and drama lessons could be working on productions for rest home residents.
- Senior students can do short term missions to the poor in another country or in NZ.
- A technology project to help a disabled person to landscape their home and garden.
- Do a study in economics on the cost of not helping the poor.

And so the list could go on. The following are some books which may help you get some good ideas.

Jambor, M. B. (1999). *Helping kids live their faith, service projects that make a difference*. Allen, TX: Thomas More

Kaye, C. B. (2004). *The complete guide to service learning*. Minneapolis MN: Free Spirit Publishing Inc.

Lewis B. A. (1995) *The kids guide to service learning*. Minneapolis MN: Free Spirit Publishing Inc

HEBRON STUDENTS IN COOKING FINALS

Principal, Geoff Matthews reports: A confidentiality clause in the TVNZ “Activate” Cooking Competition contract forbids me informing you of the outcome of this national secondary school cooking competition but I can tell you we are all very stoked with what these three Year 11 students achieved in Wellington last week. You will be able to see them on TV1 around June when the finals are screened. We will let you know the day and time closer to the event. So well done Clarence, Dawn and Kirsten and special thanks to Mrs Hart for training the students and accompanying them on the trip.



EXCELLENT NCEA RESULTS

The students of Christian schools have continued to achieve well academically. Many schools have superb NCEA and Cambridge results. For example, Kaitia's

Abundant Life School reports that in all three levels, 100% of all the standards submitted by their students were achieved or better.

TERM TWO PRAYER DIARY

HEBRON CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Hebron Christian College is a private Christian school teaching children from New Entrant to Year 13. The current roll is 307, the largest starting roll ever. The school is situated in Central Auckland but draws children from most suburbs of greater Auckland. The school has now twice applied to become an integrated school has both applications under a Labour Government declined. A third application is now underway.

- Enrolments, particularly in the Junior area of the school
- Senior secondary mission trip to Tanzania in July
- Health of staff & freedom from flu
- Spiritual blessing and revival in school
- Recruitment of LTR Accounting & Economics teacher for 2009
- Strategic building plan being developed

Items for Praise

- God's blessing on the school and staff
- Settleness and peace throughout school
- Two very successful Middle school & Secondary camps
- Very good pupil behaviour
- Stable & dedicated staff
- A new School Board chairman and Board members

Items for Prayer

- Successful application to become an integrated school

IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

In term 2 this year we celebrate our 23rd birthday. Our school caters for Years 1-13, serving families in West Auckland. Over the years we have added buildings and bought land with the vision of growth. However this year our roll numbers are down and we have been asking God about our future. One of the initiatives from the Board has been to apply for integration and our submission is with the Ministry. Meanwhile the school is in very good fettle – there is a good atmosphere amongst staff, students and families and we are enjoying the newly introduced Interact Curriculum.

We praise the Lord for -

- ✓ The impact of the new curriculum on the whole school community
- ✓ A unified, passionate school Board to direct us
- ✓ Although small, enthusiastic senior classes
- ✓ High academic standards reached by our students

We pray for –

- ✓ The integration decision – that it would be speedy and favourable
- ✓ Continual spiritual growth for all involved in our school
- ✓ Ways to reach out into the community. At present our Year 11s are teacher aides for Bible In Schools classes
- ✓ Each staff member, for wisdom in everyday situations

DRURY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Situated on 100 acres of land near Drury, South Auckland, this school is a mission based inter-denominational and international community.

Currently it serves just 8 families all of whom live on site. As the community is a retreat/refreshing base, it often has students from families involved in missions such as YWAM and operation Mobilisation, and local families who need a short break from home schooling. They identify with the prophecy about the tribe of Zebulun in Genesis 49 - being a haven for ships. They are currently working with people from the Philippines, Korea, Germany, USA, and the Solomon Islands.

Praise points

- A recent positive ERO report
- The rebuilding of the school building after the fire some years ago. They are very thankful for Mobile Men in Mission for their wonderful work.
- The refreshing experienced by the current international members of the school
- The positive influence they are having on a series of village schools in the Solomon Islands

Prayer points

- The needed for a house with about 8 bedrooms to accommodate the waiting list of people from overseas who want to come here.
- Ron Bagrey as he leads the school community

- The need for more permanent residents to help maintain the property and the work of the community.

DOO WOORI FELLOWSHIP SCHOOL

This is a small school of about 20 students on the island of Jeju on the south coast of Korea. It was established 2 years ago and has students aged from 6 to 19 using the Accelerated Christian Education curriculum. It has houses on site. Currently 2 families live on site. And there is room for more.

Praise points

- The regular Bible study groups are proving very popular and helpful

Prayer points

- Please pray for the families who are caught up in the pressure of modern Asian life – doing, doing, doing and having little time to relate to the Lord. Pray that the parents will take more responsibility for the spiritual growth of their families instead of allowing constant television and computer games.
- Please pray for more students and that there will be more families to come and occupy the vacant accommodation.

SOLOMON ISLAND VILLAGE SCHOOLS

Drury Christian School has the privilege of helping 10 village schools in the Solomon Islands. The aim is to work them towards self governance and self-sustenance. Twice a year personnel from Drury go to the islands and run two week training courses which involve virtually everyone in the village.

Prayer points

- That the elders of the villages and churches will catch the vision to own their communities' education rather than slipping into a mentality of dependency on the government and overseas gifts.
- That the parents will catch the idea that they have the prime responsibility to ensure their children are educated in the Lord
- That the people will be motivated to raise their own funds by embarking on local enterprises that will enable them to buy their own curriculum materials.
- That they will get the vision to reach out to other villages.