



KĀHUI KI AOTEAROA

KIWI CURSILLO

Issue 56

February 2022

**NEW ZEALAND
ANGLICAN CURSILLO**

Inside this Issue

Editorial	3	Lay Leadership	17
Pilgrimage	4	Cursillistas "I WILL"	18
Seeking new Editor	7	Waikato Taranaki	19
Kāhui Ki Aotearoa	8	Challengers Lead to Growth	20
Alphabet Prayer	9	Called To Witness	21
Te Āhua o te Karaka	10	Alphabet of Faith	22
For by Grace	12	Rescue From the Bullies	23
Taranaki Workshop	12	God Knew Best	24
Vestments for Ambae	16	Handing on the Baton!	25

Kiwi Cursillo Editor - Janice Thorne

janicegthorne@gmail.com

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National Executive

www.cursillo.org.nz

NEO	Bishop Peter Carrell	<i>bishop@anglicanlife.org.nz</i>
NLD	Gail Spence	<i>gail.spence@xtra.co.nz</i>
NSD	Jill Woods	<i>jillwoods@xtra.co.nz</i>
NS/NT	Mary Dunn	<i>maryd@actrix.co.nz</i>

The New Zealand Anglican Cursillo Council (NZACC) is made up of the above Executive and Representatives (2) from each Cursillo Diocese.

Contacts for Diocesan Lay Directors:

Waiaapu	021 182 8182	Jennifer Whyman
Waikato/Taranaki	027 294 5139	Ariel McCracken (temporary)
Wellington	04 237 7045	David Kendall
Christchurch	027 342 3929	Mike Morley-Bunker
Dunedin	03 213 0757	Lynda Turner-Heaton

Editorial *Kiwi Cursillo-Kāhui ki Aotearoa*

February 2022

"Spirituality is not a static state. It's about movement. We can use the metaphors of growth or journey or talk about unwrapping the truth in our lives. It is a slow but constant process of transformation and it is what we are born for." So writes Joy Cowley, author of books of spiritual reflection and facilitator of retreats.

The aim of the Cursillo Movement is to show Christian laypeople how to become effective Christian leaders over the course of a three-day weekend, to take what they have learned back into the world, on what is known as the "fourth day." The method stresses personal spiritual development, accelerated by weekly group reunions after the initial weekend. While many leaders are captured by the Church to be ordained as clergy, no defined pathway exists for the spiritual growth of laypersons.

This Course in Christian Living, our 3-Day Cursillo, the pathway to our Fourth Day, is about growth. It's a spiritual journey. It's designed to change the way we feel, the way we act, the way we live. If we are open to it, something in us, about us, around us, through us shifts.

In his book *Spiritual Intelligence: A New Way of Being*, Brian Draper writes this:

According to the philosopher Danah Zohar (who coined the idea of spiritual intelligence), we live in a 'spiritually dumb' culture, alienated from each other, too busy to take time to reflect, and trying desperately to juggle the myriad pulls and pushes of life without cracking up. How can we find meaning from meaninglessness, hope from despair, reconciliation from alienation and wholeness from fragmentation?

Great questions, hugely relevant in this pandemic age.

Spiritual growth is a never-ending process for a Christian. We are called to be disciples of Christ. We are called to accept responsibility for the promise made on our behalf by our sponsors at our baptism. We are called to grow spiritually, to devote time to maturing our faith. That means that we too, like clergy, are called to be leaders.

In his book *Growing Toward Spiritual Maturity* (Crossway Books, 2004) Gary Newton identifies eight principles of spiritual growth and development, each one grounded in Scripture and in common experience. For Newton, the call to be loving witnesses to an unbelieving world should be the passion of every true follower of Christ. In its simplest form this will be through the way we live our lives, the ways we witness our faith. In its fullest form being a witness involves

sharing with others what we've experienced. Being a witness involves discovering and using our spiritual giftings to accomplish God's purposes (1 Corinthians 12:18). Being a witness involves teaching others, leading others, mentoring others, inspiring others. It involves the kinds of discomfort felt by the disciples of Jesus when they were challenged to leave what was familiar and confront resistance as they spread the Good News.

For the Cursillo Movement to accomplish its purpose, it needs leaders. Not a position of comfort. A way to serve Christ in this hurting world. As a child I hid behind my mother's skirts. Later in life I became a leader. Something happened in between. What about you?

He waka eke noa We're all in this together.

Gail Spence, National Lay Director

Pilgrimage

While teaching in an Anglican private school many years ago, I would start the day in chapel with the rest of the school. As a busy Mum of three, wife of a man trying to resist the call to ordination, facing a half-hour drive to and from the school each day, I came to appreciate this time of devotion, this space to orient myself to the tasks ahead, this space for me to be with God. We would sing the school song, John Bunyan's "Who would true valour see", all about being a pilgrim. The words floated, without deep attachment.

I then took up a position in a state school. Chapel time was no more. Karakia entered my days. I would visit the te reo Māori classroom and be there for karakia that began the lesson. I would farewell the students on their bus trip, sharing karakia before they departed. For the opening of our whare wānanga I joined the kapa haka group and shared not only karakia but mentoring from students as I struggled to learn words and accompanying actions. I learnt to find peace in my own classroom at the beginning and end of lessons, quiet, stillness, thoughtfulness.

The word 'pilgrim' came to mind in sharper focus when my late husband Richard undertook his pilgrimage in 1995 walking 800 kilometres on the Camino from France across the top of Spain to the shrine of St James in the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela. It was a solo effort; I was too deeply buried in full-time teaching commitments. I was at the stage of my spiritual development where I still felt I needed to create success in my life to give myself a sense of power, a sense of security. For Richard the pilgrimage had special significance. He was on

the path to ordination. I met him there, seeing him walk into Santiago, this changed man, for whom life would never again be the same. It took him years to process his pilgrimage.

Then I registered for a 3-Day Cursillo in the Wellington Diocese. Not knowing what I was in for, placing my trust in my husband - and God - I participated. Deeply anxious and unsettled on the Thursday evening, I wondered why I'd come. Friday, I understood. Richard's message to me was this: "You are now at Astorga" (a place on the Camino). I realised that I, too, was on a pilgrimage, a time to look for deeper meaning in my life, a time to let go of my need for control, a time to step up and commit to serving God in new ways. Cursillo moved me to a new stage in my spiritual development, leading me to be more truly selfless, show more compassion, rejig my priorities, give more time to serving others without counting the cost.

Yet, a nagging question remained. What is a true pilgrimage experience? The pilgrimage that's a departure from daily life, a time for leaving behind one's social status to share a common goal, to undertake a journey, to be engaged in sacred spaces and landscapes, a journey requiring courage, resilience, endurance. After Richard died, when I was desperately trying to piece together the fragments of my life, I resolved to find out.

In 2019 I joined a group¹ to follow in the footsteps of St Francis and St Clare through Italy, a journey of 21 days, of less physical endurance than other pilgrimages considering the distances we travelled. Our accompanying chaplain kept us spiritually focused with prepared commentary as we travelled, offering informal comment in situations that arose. The morning our bus was late and subsequently developed problems, he spoke of three blessings:

- ⇒ We were obliged to change drivers. This one doesn't text while driving!
- ⇒ The bus microphone wasn't working so he couldn't talk for so long.
- ⇒ In New Zealand how blessed we are that we have good maintenance.

The lesson from our chaplain? To turn time waiting into chapel time, to ask oneself, "What did I learn from this?" The worst thing on a pilgrimage is when everything goes perfectly. The downers, the difficulties, these help to work on life's realities back home. The journey is what's important, with plenty of space for the unexpected to happen. Unexpected things did happen, like my accident, breaking a bone in my hand as I tripped on uneven pavement in Assisi. In the

¹Led by Rev'd John Hornblow & Dr Jenny Boyack. See www.pilgrimagenz.nz

²Our chaplain was Archbishop Emeritus Sir David Moxon.

emergency department of two hospitals I was treated with such love, such compassion, such hospitality, that I could see God in what was happening. I came to see God in the faces, the hands, the minds of those who attended to me, those who refused any payment, those whose actions and being made the word flesh. My woundedness was clearly there for some purpose.

The pilgrimage was a deeply spiritual journey. It led me along a path from “what I think” to “what I feel” to “what I am”. I sensed the power of God moving through me. My theology, already in question, shifted. I moved from having a personal relationship with the transcendent Jesus – much like the relationship with a friend or lover – to become one with Jesus, growing familiar with his immanence [1 Corinthians 6:19]. This sense of oneness brings me pure joy. There is no more separation. “It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me”. [Galatians 2:20]. The mind-blowing lesson for me? Every day is pilgrimage.

I share some spiritual learnings/practices:

- ⇒ Quieten the mind through meditation. It’s hard to do. My busy mind keeps jumping to the “to do” list. I have to work really hard at this.
- ⇒ Think positive – always.
- ⇒ Look often into self and mind - what makes me feel conscious and alive?
- ⇒ Develop the happiness habit – this comes from within.
- ⇒ Give thanks.
- ⇒ Love others.
- ⇒ Calm down the non-stop chatter of the mind.
- ⇒ Consider everything I do is a sacred act.



Powerful symbolism is expressed in the whakataukī “Te tōrino haere whakamua, whakamuri” - “at the same time as the spiral is going forward, it is returning.” The (double) spiral on the chest of the kākā (2021 bird of the year) symbolises life’s journey forward, which ultimately takes us to the centre of ourselves.

My everyday life is grounded in contemplation, searching for the hidden wholeness within passing phenomena. God is in any road I take. As the priest told Richard mid-way on the Camino, “Your pilgrimage does not end when you get to Santiago”. I am deliberate about being present in the moment, present with God,

leaning into each second, taking in every detail, gaining a sense of trust, a connectedness to God. On my inner journey of the soul I meet a God who interacts with my deepest self, who grows me, who allows and forgives mistakes.

My pilgrimage continues. I have come to see myself as a spirit with a physical body, not a physical body with a spirit. The only thing that separates me from God is the thought that I am separate from God. Draper's³ words are a reminder. He writes:

- ⇒ You are not a consumer of this world; you are **in communion** with it.
- ⇒ You are not in competition – you are **co-operative**.
- ⇒ You are not a comparison – you are **incomparable**.

Gail Spence

³B. Draper, *Spiritual Intelligence – A New Way of Being*, Lion

Seeking an Editor. Is this YOU?

The New Zealand Cursillo Council (NZACC) seeks expressions of interest from Cursillistas for the position of Editor of *Kiwi Cursillo - Kāhui ki Aotearoa*.

NZACC wishes to ensure that this magazine continues as the focal point for sharing the good news about Cursillo within the broadening New Zealand Cursillo family and Cursillo in other countries.

If you have administrative giftings, an ability to use a computer, and a passion for Cursillo, you are qualified for this position. As Editor, you will appoint a Registrar to work alongside you to manage aspects of *Kiwi Cursillo - Kāhui ki Aotearoa*. The initial appointment will be a three-year term, its extension negotiable.

E koekoe te kōkō, e ketekete te kākā, e kūkū te kererū

The parson bird chatters, the parrot gabbles, the wood pigeon coos.

Humans, like birds, have their own unique characteristics. Do you have the giftings for this position? ...the accompanying sense of adventure? ...the call to serve Christ in this way?

If you would like to apply or get additional information on the position contact Gail Spence, National Lay Director (gail.spence@xtra.co.nz or 027-276-3065) or visit www.cursillo.org.nz for a job description and application form. NZACC would love to hear from you!

KIWI CURSILLO – KĀHUI KI AOTEAROA

Editor **Janice Thorne** has gifted 10 years to supporting Anglican Cursillo in Aotearoa-New Zealand through sourcing articles, editing and printing *Kiwi Cursillo-Kāhui ki Aotearoa*.



Janice tells us about herself: I did my Cursillo in New Plymouth WC9 in July 2009.

“I live just out of Te Aroha on the Hauraki Plains with my adult granddaughter, Shantal, who in many ways is my caregiver as my mobility is compromised.

I love gardening and, with the help of my walker, I can still grow our veges. I have a raised garden which is where I grow most things. I am passionate about not wasting anything and try to find a way to reuse everything. I used to do a lot of dress making and these days still sew for my family, especially my great granddaughter Sasha who is a year old in March. I spend most of my days working on the computer where I do admin, publish *Kiwi Cursillo-Kāhui ki Aotearoa* & *Tau* for the Third Order of the Franciscans. I also do the websites for TSSF & St Matthew’s, Morrinsville, where I worship.”

No stranger to grief, having lost two daughters, Janice remains optimistic, nourished by her deep personal faith.



Registrar **Ariel McCracken** has served alongside Janice to manage subscriptions, finances and distribution for *Kiwi Cursillo-Kāhui ki Aotearoa*.

Ariel offers this view of herself:

For 38 years part of the Morrinsville Community. Husband Dave was diagnosed with leukaemia in 1990 and succumbed 2 years later.

Children: Raewyn, a teacher, and James, who builds aluminium boats.

In 1999 Raewyn, James and I attended a Guide/ Scout Jamboree in Iceland. We enjoy travel and the Custom Vanning Association.

Once a Primary School teacher, I’ve been teaching music (piano, keyboard, theory) privately for 30+ years. I’m involved in Commercial Social Networking with a

passion for Health and Wellness. My Cursillo was Waikato Women's 8 (St. Margaret's Table). I've been on team for many 3-Day Cursillos, served as Lay Director and Proctor, and attended National Ultreyas. I've served on the Waikato-Taranaki Secretariat for several years.

The New Zealand Anglican Cursillo Council (NZACC) recognises the giftings, service and commitment of these two women of Christ who have worked together on 30 editions of our national magazine. They attend the same Church and share the same Group Reunion. Both have experienced personal tragedy. Ten years ago they responded to the call to use their God-given giftings to serve others through producing three issues a year of *Kiwi Cursillo – Kāhui ki Aotearoa*.

We are all called to live, defend, and pass on the faith as witnesses to the gospel message. Janice and Ariel, with your faith enlivened through the Cursillo Movement, your witness is an inspiration to us all!

Tēnā korua mo ō mahi manaaki i a mātou tautoko i te Kaupapa. No reira e hoa mā, ma te Atua korua e tiaki e manaaki i ngā wā katoa.

Thank you both for your help in supporting our cause. May the Lord bless you and keep you always.

Gail Spence, National Lay Director

The Alphabet Prayer



A grandfather was walking through his yard when he heard his grand-daughter repeating the alphabet in a tone of voice that sounded like a prayer. He asked her what she was doing. The little girl explained "I'm praying, but I can't think of exactly the right words, so I'm just saying all the letters, and God will put them together for me because He knows what I'm thinking."

Te Āhua o te Karakia - Prayer Amongst Māori

Leo Te Kira

Curslista and Anglican priest

Māori have always seen the need to pray and petition things unseen for their blessing.

Even before the coming of Christianity to Aotearoa Māori considered human effort as far too prone to failure when left to its own means - and we have always asked the powers unseen or 'Te mea ngaro' to protect, guide and bless our pursuits.

Today a substantial number of Māori maintain that 'te mea ngaro' is God although there are still a number of Māori who choose to trust in the pre-Christian spirits we once all believed in.

Māori still hold that before we begin a meeting, or start any project whatsoever, or travel to an occasion we must always pause and petition the good favour of God. As an Anglican priest of 28 years I can even give testimony that Māori are resolute that when new works of art with a Māori motif are exhibited -whether a carving, a mural or jewellery- they need to be launched with appropriate prayer prior to their public life.

Certainly too, when we enjoy food together Māori are equally resolute that we should first bless our food not only to thank God for its provision but also to give food the proper character as it enters us to sustain our bodies, minds and souls.

Some Possible Prayers to Begin Endeavours

Kia whaikorōria te Atua i runga rawa

He maungārongo i runga i te whenua

He whakaaro pai ki ngā tāngata katoa, Amine

Let there be glory to God in the highest

That there be peace on earth

That there be goodwill amongst people, Amen.

E te Atua aroha, ānei mātou e īnoi ki a koe.

Manaakitia tō mātou (hui/ haerenga/ kaupapa/ taonga)

Kia turuturu te tōmairangi ō tō atawhai i runga i a mātou

Ko Īhu Karaiti hoki tō mātou Kaiwhakaora

Amine.

Loving God, we pray to you.

Bless our (gathering/ journey/ project/ treasure)

That we may know the showering dew of your grace upon us

In Jesus Christ our Saviour we pray.

Amen

A Possible Prayer for Someone Facing Challenge

E te Atua aroha, ānei mātou e īnoi ki a koe.

**Manaakitia tō mātou tangata kaingākau ki ā mātou ā [[ingoa]] i roto i tātā
taumaha**

Ko Īhu Karaiti hoki tō mātou Kaiwhakaora

Amine.

Loving God, we pray to you.

Bless our cherished [[name]] in their time of real challenge

In Jesus Christ our Saviour we pray.

Amen

A Possible Prayer to End Endeavours

Kia tau ki a tātou katoa

Te atawhai o tō tātou Ariki, a Ihu Karaiti;

Me te aroha o te Atua; Me te whiwhingatahitanga

Ki te wairua tapu ake, ake, ake,

Āmine.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ;

and the love of God; and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

be with us all forever and ever, Amen.

A Prayer Over Food

E te Atua whakapainga ēnei kai hei orange mō ō mātou tinana;

whāngai hoki o mātou wairua ki te taro o te ora

Ko Īhu Karaiti hoki tō mātou Kaiwhakaora

Amine

Lord God bless this food for the goodness of our bodies;

and feed our spirits with your true food of life

In Jesus Christ our Saviour we pray.

Amen

Some Helpful Phrases Regarding Prayer

Kia īnoi tatou

Let us pray

Kia īnoi tātou mō [[ingoa]]

Let us pray for [[name]]

Ko te mea tuatahi ka mihi au ki te Atua, Nāna nei ngā mea katoa.

**Tēnā ka mihi au ki te Kaikarakia, nāna nei i whakatūwhera tō tātou arawhata ki te
Runga Rawa.**

Firstly I thank God, Creator of all things.

Then I thank our intercessor who led us in prayer and opened our direct stairway to
the Almighty One.

“For by Grace you have been saved”

We are blessed to be a member of our Cursillo family. In these trying times it is uplifting to know we do not walk alone – we have the wisdom of our Creator, the brotherhood of our Saviour and the guidance of the Holy Spirit – AND we are bound together in love. We are children of God – saved to do good works – to transform our environments in Christ – for Christ

I encourage you to read Ephesians 2:8-22

You will find acknowledgment: for what you do for Christ, encouragement, support for each other and your mission, permission to act in the name of Christ, equipping and motivation to continue.

Jesus Christ himself is our chief cornerstone –let us build on our strong foundation and be a house a family that is knit together in wisdom, love and empowerment – ready to support each other – ready to support those in need around us.

Wishing you the Peace of Christ – in this season – and always.

Jill Woods NSA

Taranaki Workshop

by Robin Stanford WTC16, St Matthew's Table

Background As the new boy on Secretariat I asked myself: **Why** join Cursillo? **Why** be a Cursillista? **Why** would I want to be a member? **Why** would anyone else?

My wife Joan, who attended the 3-day Cursillo weekend at the same time as me, had similar questions. Especially in the weeks and months following her Cursillo weekend. *You can read about her journey in the August Edition of the Cursillo magazine.*

As always, the answer lay in The Bible. The Great Commission. Matthew 28:19-20.

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Bruce Wilkinson in *“The Prayer of Jabez”* talks about *Living Large for God*. Chapter Three is about dreaming large – about how he set a challenge of obtaining a DC10 and flying to Trinidad to take over the island for God. It's worth a read. I think it's about time we took over the islands of New Zealand for God. The Jabez prayer also talks about ACTION. About actually DOING something. Which is just where God had placed me when I was asked to join Secretariat.

Preparation When Joan and I were first asked if we'd like to join Secretariat, we

spent a lot of time discussing it and praying about it. We agreed that if we were going to give our time to it, then it had to represent value for our time. Note that it wasn't that we didn't want to serve God, we already did that in many ways. However, it had to **deliver** for God. And **seriously deliver**. It had to meet the demand of ACTION for God. It had to represent **VALUE FOR OUR GOD TIME** – time we could be doing something else for God.

If you are doing the devil's work, then he leaves you alone; chase the dollar, worship other idols, be selfish and deny others any charity, seek arguments, destroy, have a quiet life. But as soon as you start to do God's work then Satan comes after you; whispering in your ear, tripping you up, putting obstacles in your path, undermining your self-belief: **if the devil's coming after you then you know you're on the right path**. I take heart when the devil is at work because I know that I'm doing what I should be doing. And I and other members of the Secretariat were being targeted by the devil – Good News!! So, I set to work developing an Action Plan for Taranaki Cursillo.

The Plan First: The Goal: (Start with the End in Sight). **To be disciples for Christ.**

And so it seemed to me as the new boy that we needed to revitalise some of our Cursillistas and at the same time set about recruiting more. But "How?". The straight road was crooked. There were many moments of doubt, of wondering if this was truly what God wanted me to do, of thinking "I'm too old and tired to do this.", "It's too big for me.", "I'm not qualified.". The devil whispering in my ear; God responding through random people telling me stuff and like when I happened across an internet statement that said Noah was at least 500 years old when he started building the Ark. Ammunition for fighting the devil!! So, Joan and I persisted. We prayed, we studied, we debated.

The strategy? To visit other churches in Taranaki and share the message of Cursillo. Someone once told me that a person needed to hear testimony about Jesus seven times before they would commit themselves to him. Now five or fifteen, it's a number, and I'm sure it varies from person to person and testimony to testimony. But testimony does need to be repeated. We go to church every week to have our battery recharged because hopefully we've been draining it all week. Every testimony is important. Without number one there is no number seven.

Similarly, how many times do we get a visiting speaker in our service who gives a passionate and enlightening talk for ten minutes and then is gone? Like a stone in a pond, they leave, and the water settles back into place. So, we should visit every church in Taranaki seven times. And each time we should share a message about Cursillo. And we should leave signs of our passing.

I was reminded that a prophet has no fame in his own town. We should visit churches where we are not known. When we have visitors arrive in our service, don't we all step up our game a little bit? Pay a little bit more attention? ***And surely Cursillo is about preparation and recharging to go into our communities and give testimony by our words, our actions.*** And Jesus sent the disciples out in **PAIRS!** Let's go in pairs – or even as a group! How wonderful would it be to have four or five Cursillistas arrive in the service? Let's make a day out of it – and stop somewhere for lunch on the way home...and enjoy the fellowship. Let's glory in God!

Imagine Cursillistas travelling around Taranaki every Sunday obeying God's direction! No lights hidden under bushels! Imagine ***enjoying being soldiers in God's army!***

The Challenges Not everyone has the gift of oratory. We need a message of just two or maybe three sentences, a two-minute soundbite, to share at the end of a service and before morning tea (remember those?). Indeed, we need seven messages, a different one for each visit. Seven separate messages that anyone can stand up and read.

Now this is going to take some organising! But our God is great! **AND DO NOT WORRY** –as Cursillistas **you will not be REQUIRED to visit other churches** if you do not wish to.

If you are keen to help, then you will simply be given a set of messages, training in them, and a choice of churches you might want to pick from.

Bottom line – if God wants us to succeed, we will.

The Workshop The Workshop was a gathering of almost 20 Cursillistas, lay and clergy, to start the process of developing those seven messages. Working in groups we explored the mission, reflected on our experiences at Cursillo, started to develop those messages. We had fun, we had battles, but the Fellowship was amazing, and everyone felt that they had personally learned something that day and that we were on the right track.

The Future All the thoughts and ideas from the Workshop Day, and there are MANY, will be sent out **to my mailing list**. They will not be the final MESSAGES. ***If you are not on my Taranaki email list (you haven't been getting emails from me) and would like to be, please let me have your contact details. Mine are at the end of this article.***

It has been said that whilst it's important to have an end towards which we journey, in the end it's the journey that's important.

"Yes, but what did you actually do for FIVE HOURS at the workshop?" I have

deliberately avoided answering that question because everyone's journey is different. Everyone's stage on their journey is different. Our workshop was **OUR** workshop. **Maybe you need your own workshop?** Joan and I are happy to run a one-day workshop for any Cursillo group who is interested and who want to start a new journey of their own.

Conclusion We need to be disciples and we need to recruit disciples. We need to heal our communities. We need to recapture New Zealand for God. We do not have to **talk** about our faith, we can give testimony by **the way we live** our faith.

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." We can be a **light** unto others. And we **CAN** do it because **we are not alone**.

Afterwards Joan and I had a refreshing beer in a local pub on the way home ...

De Colores - robinstanford2012@gmail.com Ph: 021584842



Robin and Joan



Vestments for Ambae?

Several years ago (January 2019) Joan and I went on holiday to Vanuatu to do some fishing and diving and all the touristy stuff. We had a great holiday.

Whilst we were there we met a group of four Australian citizens who were in Vanuatu to provide assistance as a private mission initiative following the volcanic eruption and subsequent compulsory evacuation of Ambae in 2018. They invited us to see what they were doing, which we duly did, marking it down as an interesting aspect of our vacation.

Later that year, after our church service, we had a visit from a member of the Anglican Missions Board who gave a talk on what the AMB are doing in the Pacific and Vanuatu, and the evacuation of Ambae, were mentioned.

Subsequently Joan and I decided to carry out our own mission to Ambae to provide whatever help and assistance we could.

In December 2019 we duly arrived on Ambae just as the residents were beginning to return. We stayed for four weeks helping St Patrick's Anglican College clean up from the after effects of the volcano and get the school ready for students to return. There are many stories to be told about that adventure. Those of you in the AAW will have no doubt heard Shelley Vette talk about St Patrick's which was a focus for their fundraising.

However, one of the results of the whole episode was that the vestments of the priest at the College, Father Henry, were damaged by both the ravages of the acidic volcanic ash which seeped into everything during the year the island was abandoned, and the equally devastating ravages of the unchecked vermin and wildlife.

We have been desperately trying to find replacements for these vestments for him. We got off to a good start but in March 2020 we went into lockdown and people rightly had other focusses for their attention.

Father Henry's brother is here in New Zealand and has been working the orchards of Hastings, but he and his countrymen are now planning to return to Vanuatu. They will hire a container to take their collective belongings back with them and there is room for some of the computer and school materials we have been gathering for them along with altar cloths and adornments. We will load a trailer and travel over there to deliver them.

However we have been unsuccessful in getting vestments.

What we are asking is that you all speak to your priests and churchwardens to see if there are any spare vestments. We are now running out of time as they will be going in a couple of months, so we are desperately seeking your collective help.

If you need further details or have made any discoveries which might help, please get in touch as soon as possible.

God Bless you all, De Colores

Robin & Joan Stanford

LAY LEADERSHIP IN CURSILLO

by Diane Mara PhD MNZM (Waiapu/Hawkes Bay)

It took several years for me to be persuaded to attend a 3-Day Cursillo. I had the normal range of excuses/reasons: being fully employed, a busy mother and a very involved member of community committees and networks. I was too busy to set aside three days of my life or so I thought.

However, when I finally did apply to attend Waiapu was holding its second Women's 3-Day Cursillo at Hukarere College. At first it all seemed to be a bit confusing, a string of talks around themes but as the weekend unfolded I felt very supported and cherished. I began to appreciate having the time to pray, listen, think and interact with other Christian women. Following on from that weekend I was involved several times on the Team planning and organising with a group of other committed Waiapu women.

When I was approached to be Lay Leader for a 3-Day Cursillo it helped that I had previous experience of what to expect given having been part of planning and running several weekends. The organisation and timelines are clearly set down for you as is the detailed script that takes you through each step of the programme.

You cannot lead without the support of others including our spiritual leaders and the planning team. You are the front and face of hours of preparation and planning which depends on every team member fulfilling their allocated tasks and responsibilities. Building trust and team relationships is key.

At each and every point it was important that we prayed together asking for the Lord's guidance and support. From the moment of appointment including gathering team members together we step out in faith surrounded by the experience and commitment of others. In my time of leadership there were several points of stepping out in faith. For me it was the training days, and I was nervous about whether I would cover everything within the time we had; most importantly the ever-present concern about how many pilgrims would be called to attend.

I recommend that leadership requires self-discipline including making sure you prepare physically by keeping fit (in whatever way you enjoy or are able) and ensuring you rest because from first planning through to the weekend itself requires you to be on top of a range of responsibilities including communication and preparation. In short, you need a high level of stamina and energy to sustain yourself.

Many unknowns are present, but the Cursillo documents and preparation provided me with a high measure of confidence in leadership for which I was most grateful. In addition to all the organisational aspects being a lay leader also deepens your own spiritual knowledge and faith. Each 3-Day Cursillo has a variety of participants, venues and demands but there is always spiritual leadership and reading of the

scriptures that carry you through. I am truly thankful for that rare opportunity. Reflecting back, I became aware of the important role of lay people in the church, a role which cannot be taken for granted. We need to be in partnership with ordained clergy to work together to “feed” our faith and our spiritual growth beyond weekly attendance at church and home groups. Cursillo in my view not only achieves the forging of such partnerships but also provides opportunities for time away just to focus on the Lord and to grow lay and clergy relationship moving closer to a shared vision of faith and grace of our Lord.

I am very grateful for the opportunities I have been given through Cursillo including spiritual growth which continues to give me strength and confidence to further explore my faith and belief. Often we do not realise our talents and strengths until we are placed in positions of responsibility and leadership such as those within Cursillo, being prompted by the Lord and others who sometime see in you what you do not see for yourself. This role is a real path of Christian service to our sisters and brothers in Christ. I thoroughly recommend anyone to go on this journey and I wish for you the same chance to grow closer to Christ, to love and service.

God’s blessings to you all, Diane Mara W2 Waiapu

CURSILLISTA’S ‘I WILL’

I WILL set my sights beyond personal renewal, and visibly overflow my faith to others.

I WILL transform from being self-centred to being ‘God-centred’, explore and cultivate my talents to serve God.

I WILL make a conscious effort to prepare my capability to respond to opportunities to extend God’s Kingdom.

I WILL actively assist in changing the traditional comfortable Anglican mindset and influencing other potential apostles.

I WILL look outside the church, study and assess how best to impact on my environment.

I WILL seek to visualise apostolic opportunities and actively attain those visions.

I WILL take appropriate opportunities to inject Christian thinking and values into all my environments.

I WILL try to encourage others in my Group Reunion to be as effective as they can be.

I WILL attend Workshops and leave them energised and motivated for a sustained and persevering effort.

*****I WILL LIGHT MANY SMALL FIRES*****

A reprint from the first Kiwi Cursillo 2003

Waikato-Taranaki Diocese Events:

We have been meeting face to face for group Reunions when possible and keeping in contact via email, phone and palanca.

At the end of January Robin and the crew in Taranaki ran a successful workshop on spreading the cursillo message.

Due to the present Covid Omicron alert, we have decided to postpone the Waikato Ultreya, which was to have been held on Saturday 12 March, until a later date.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Katikati Parish who are so disappointed to postpone this Ultreya for the third time.

The organisers of the Inglewood Ultreya scheduled for Saturday 5 March have also regrettably had to postpone

Some scheduled dates for your diary :

We are planning a Combined Ultreya on June 11th at Piopio.

(Please arrive at 12.30 for a 1pm start.)

The Taranaki Ultreya is scheduled for 10 September at Stratford.

The Waikato Ultreya is scheduled for 17 September at Te Awamutu.

Please continue to contact people with words of encouragement, a Bible verse, a prayer or just a friendly chat.

De Colores,

Ariel McCracken for the Secretariat.



Challenges lead to Growth in my Relationship with God.

Over recent times I have endured challenging times, not always of my own making I will say, but these have tested my faith in humans, in some friendships, and led me to look at my faith relationship with God.

For some, faith is a means of coping, and for others a means of lifestyle or how they live, BUT for Christians, our faith is what distinguishes us from others. It is part of who we are, and the community we belong to.

Faith exists because we believe in it. We defend it with our actions, words, and sometimes verbally, or physically when we realise we are under attack. It drives our decision making and ultimately, our faith becomes most critical when we experience turmoil, pain, and/or fear.

Hebrews 11:6 says “.....without faith it is impossible to please Him, for the one who comes to God must believe He exists, and that He proves to be the One who rewards those who seek Him.”

I got to thinking that we cannot live in fear, stuck in a “club”, or be withdrawing from testing situations, when God has so much more in store for us. In the Gospel readings we are encouraged to be more like Jesus, to be more loving, to be more giving, accepting others and encouraging others to do the same. Trying new things, making new friends, going to new places of worship, all requires faith. It requires believing that God is always with us, and He will make the way. It requires prayer and quiet reflective times with God, to have the confidence in the pathway he has for us.

Chronicles 16:11 encourages us to “seek the Lord and his strength: seek his presence continually.”

I take from this, that by having a plan to move forward in my development of a deeper relationship, I can ask Him for guidance. I can be productive in my journey by using my God-given talents. I need to read the scriptures daily (or at least regularly) to keep me on track, thus, I will obtain a more peaceful and fruitful life with Him who set me on this journey of servanthood. It requires us to be honest with ourselves, and with God, and with our mentoring fellow Christians, and to be brave in accepting constructive criticism.

So, you too, can move forward as I am!!

Ultreya. Heather Driessen, Rangiora Parish

Called To Witness

As we are well aware, witnessing to the love of Christ, is not only a responsibility of Cursillistas, it is a calling for all Christians. Read though what the Rev Pat Miller, President of NECC, USA, has to say . . . 2011

"I think that the Cursillo method is a perfect model for discipleship witnessing. Witnessing as a disciple of Jesus Christ means to share what you believe to be true about Jesus as the Son of God and how that means we are to live. Cursillo is a great way to do it. But it does mean that each of us has to live out the Cursillo 4th Day faithfully. It means that we have to be intentional about our participation in a Group Reunion where we share our successes and our missed opportunities to witness to the love of God. Group Reunions are where we get support for what we are called to do. Group Reunions are where we begin with our friends to identify others to whom we can be a friend and whom we can bring to Christ. Group Reunions are where we practise living a life of prayer, study and action.

It also means that to live a faithful 4th Day we have to gather with other Cursillistas on a regular basis to hear them share their lives with us. At Ultreyas we get the chance to hear how they witnessed about God's love and Christ's gift, not necessarily by the words they shared with someone, but by the actions of their life which witnessed to other people in some way (Witness Talk) . . .

Our witness is what we say and do, both in the Cursillo community, the Church, and the world. Many people have mistaken Cursillo for the 3 Day weekend, but nothing could be further from the truth . . . The 3 Day weekend is only a small part of our witnessing to God's love and mercy . . . Be faithful to the Cursillo method because it will equip us to live and work for the kingdom of God".

Excerpt from an article by May Carrell In Kiwi Cursillo #25, August 2011.

'If I were to let my life be taken over by what is urgent, I might very well never get around to what is essential.' *Henri Nouwen*

Alphabet of Faith

*There are a lot of people
reporters, writers, musicians, pastors, politicians,
just to name a few -
who are doing a lot of talking.
Some of it's helpful, some of it's entertaining,
some of it's alarming, even enraging.
Some of us may be spending far too much time
staring at a screen,
absorbing far more information and images and sounds
than ever before,
listening to all sorts of different voices like never before.*

*And it's not good for us.
We may call it "staying informed" and "staying connected"
but it's simply not good for us -
for our minds, for our bodies, for our spirits...*

*...We believe we need other people to tell us what to do and
how to do it.
But the truth is: there is only one voice we need to hear.
Our own voice. Our God-connected, holy energized voice.*

Because that is the only voice that knows us...

*...Psalm 46 gives us a reason to turn off the news, turn off the
computer, turn off the chatter:
"Be still, and know that I am God."*

from pp. 140-143 in ***Alphabet of Faith***, by Sarah Jewell

Psalm 71:1-6

Rescue from the bullies

Some translations call this “an old man’s prayer” (because of verse 9) but I chose to paraphrase this part from a child’s viewpoint. Every one of us has been a child; only a few have been old—yet.

1 Don’t let them make fun of me.

Let me hide myself behind your skirts.

2 Comfort me and protect me;

listen to my fears, and enfold me in your arms.

3 When I am in trouble, I run to you.

I have no one but you to rely on.

4 The big kids won’t leave me alone;
their hands reach out and grab at me.

Rescue me from their clutches.

5 From the time I was tiny, you have been my refuge.

I have always been able to trust you.

6 Before I was born, I felt safe in your womb.

As an infant, I rested on your breast.

You are all I have, and all I ever had.

from p. 85 in Everyday Psalms, by James Taylor

God knew best

*"If we could push ajar the gates of life,
And stand within, and all God's working see,
We might interpret all this doubt and strife,
And for each mystery could find a key.*

*"But not today. Then be content, poor heart;
God's plans, like lilies pure and white, unfold.
We must not tear the close-shut leaves apart--
Time will reveal the calyxes of gold.*

*"And if, through patient toil, we reach the land
Where tired feet, with sandals loosed, may rest,
When we shall clearly know and understand,
I think that we shall say, 'God knew best.'"*

Author unknown

Divine intimacy and human intimacy share the same dynamics. I believe one is a school for the other. Most people start with human intimacy and move toward divine intimacy. But I do believe there are a few souls who start with God's divine ambush, who first learn how to be vulnerable before God and then transfer this to their human relationships. Two who have taught me that best are Thérèse of Lisieux and Julian of Norwich. Both are among my favorite mystics, and both are women. Women, and those in touch with their feminine side, seem to have a readiness for intimacy, mutuality, and vulnerability that offers a central message for all believers.

Richard Rohr

Handing On The Baton!

It's time to say farewell and hand on the baton...

10 years ago I answered an ad in Kiwi Cursillo, got the job, and the rest has been history. It has been an honour to have had the chance to edit this encouraging National Cursillo Magazine and hear and tell stories that others may identify with and learn that we are never alone. I look forward to reading future issues from another persons perspective and I know it will reach out to all Cursillistas in New Zealand and abroad for a long time to come.

I want to acknowledge and thank my cohort and dear friend Ariel McCracken who has been a part of this 10 year journey, keeping track of the subscription forms, the number of copies to be printed and then mailing them, and making sure that all the subs are paid, etc.

Together we have worked through ups and downs with printing costs and postage costs, etc, and made a formidable team!

Love and blessings to all you readers.

De Colores

Janice Thorne



Our mission statement reads:

"The purpose of Cursillo is to strengthen and encourage us as Disciples of Christ, equipping us to become purposeful Christians in God's world, and helping us to engage more deeply in the ministry and mission of the church."

To ALL CURSILLISTAS 📢📢📢

This is to remind you that we cannot bank cheques for your subscriptions any longer as Westpac will no longer accept cheque deposits. Your alternatives are to use internet banking or phone banking to deposit into the Kiwi Cursillo account. If you do not bank this way you can make a deposit at your bank branch into the Kiwi Cursillo Account. The account number is on the subscriptions page at the end of your magazine. Let me know if you need any more information.

De Colores,

Ariel McCracken



Kiwi Cursillo Treasurer.



Keep Cursillo in your prayers . . .

Monday	Waikato/Taranaki Diocese- especially pray for a new Lay Director for W/T.
Tuesday	Wellington Diocese
Wednesday	Christchurch Diocese
Thursday	Dunedin Diocese
Friday	Waiapu Diocese
Saturday	NZ Anglican Cursillo Council
Sunday	Teams training for Cursillos/DDU's and the chance to have them in this Covid 19 climate.
All week	For a new Editor and Registrar



Be guided in your prayer by items within the pages of this issue...

Websites:

Episcopal Cursillo Website (USA) - <https://www.episcopalcursilloministry.org/>
British Anglican Cursillo Council - <https://www.anglicancursillo.co.uk/>
Wellington Cursillo Website - www.cursillo.org.nz
Waiapu Cursillo Website - <http://www.waiapu.com/about-us/cursillo/>
Christchurch Website - <http://cursillo.org.nz/christchurch/>
Bible Study (Nicky Gumbel) - <http://www.bibleinoneyear.org/>
Bible Readings - <http://www.biblegateway.com>

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