

Dates to Remember	
Thursdays	7am MUP Prayer meeting in the Church House
Sat 28 Feb	8am Men's Breakfast
Tues 17 Mar	10am CWCI Fellowship Day for Women



**Church Office Hours:** 9am - 12noon, Mon - Fri (excluding public holidays).

**'Prayer Chain'** – Any matters requiring confidential prayer support, can be referred to the Prayer Chain Group. Contact Val Judd or Elaine Oates.

**Monday Bible Study** – Meets weekly at 2.30pm on Mondays in the church house. See Elaine Oates for more info.

**Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study** – Meets weekly at 1.30pm in the Church House. Contact Maureen Wilson for more info.

**'Men's Group'** – Meets weekly on Tuesdays at 7.30am, currently at Noel Dunn's place. Contact John Hawksworth for more info.

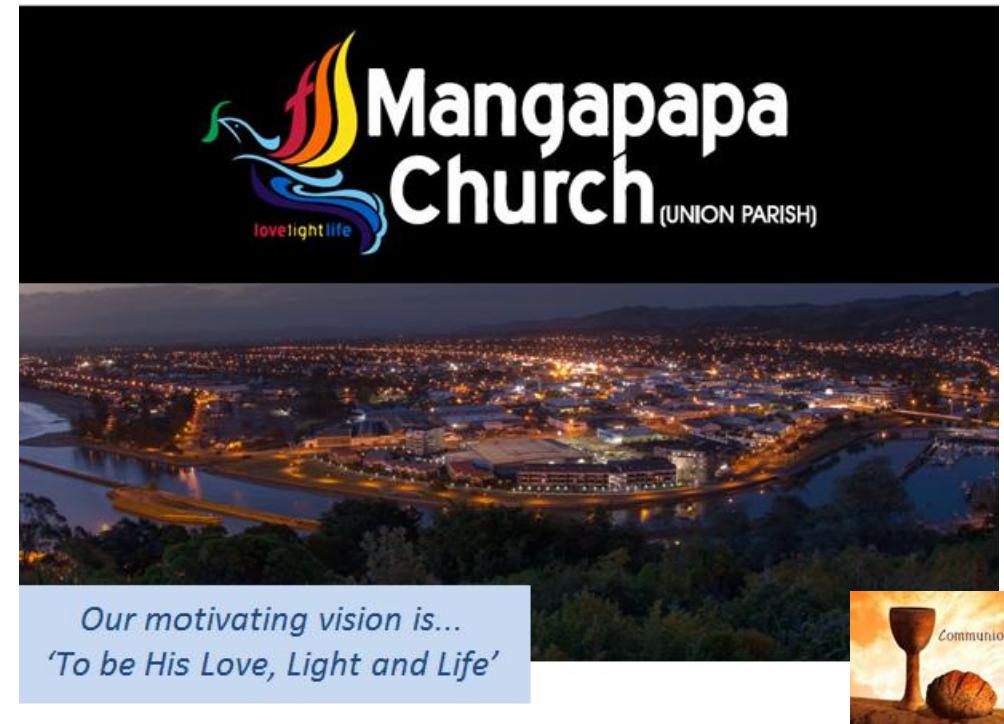
**'Womens Lunch Study Group'** – Meets fortnightly on Thursdays at 12noon in the Church House. Bring your lunch. Next meeting will be 19<sup>th</sup> February. Contact Amanda Lewis for more info.

**Women's 'Growth Group'** – Meets fortnightly on Thursdays at 1pm at Diane McLean's. Next meeting will be 19<sup>th</sup> February. Contact Diane McLean for more info.

"Wishing you a year full of answered prayers, open doors and unstoppable growth." - Anon.

**Giving/Tithing** - If you wish to tithe or make a donation to Mangapapa Church, our account number is: Mangapapa Church, 03-0638-0381084-00. Please make sure you say 'tithe' or 'donation' in the reference. If you would prefer to give using our 'Envelope' system, then see Jenny Phin who will set you up with envelopes allocated to you.

Today	Next Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> February
Greeters	J Dyas, L McAra
Ministry Team	A Russell
Cups of Tea	A Dehne-Walker, L Hindle
AV & Sound	E Oates / S Patrick
Counters	Noel Coffey
	G Stevenson



*Our motivating vision is...  
'To be His Love, Light and Life'*



**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**10am: "First Things First – Pursuing His Purpose"**  
*With Communion*

**Leading: Angela Paton      Preaching: Shane Roche**

**Duty Elder: Stewart Patrick**

**Church Leader:** Shane Roche      **E-mail:** shane@mup.org.nz

**Church Office:** Dione Russell      **06 867-9604      9am – 12noon**  
**E-mail:** [office@mup.org.nz](mailto:office@mup.org.nz)      **Website:** [www.mup.org.nz](http://www.mup.org.nz)  
Mangapapa Church, PO Box 2146, Gisborne 4040

**Elders Team**

S Roche: 027 501 6584  
A Russell: 027 815 1635

S Patrick: 021 047 0795  
Clement: 027 855 5949

*Kidzspace (4-8yrs) go out with Ashley Mountfort this morning.  
Matrix (9-14yrs) go out with Raewyn Theobald.*

**If you have cold, flu or COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home and don't share them.**

## **First Things First – Pursuing His Purpose**

Most of us - if not all of us - are pursuing something. We're chasing after a job, a dream, money, family, change, truth, love ... purpose. Some of these pursuits are good and commendable; others less so - but all of them are deeply human and understandable.

As Christians, we can sometimes find ourselves feeling far from where, or even who, we're meant to be. This Sunday, we'll take time to explore what our faith calls us to pursue first: His kingdom. We'll reflect on why our priorities matter so much, and how putting first things first reshapes our lives, our faith, and our future.

*Key Scriptures: Matthew 6:33, 1 Timothy 6:11, Colossians 3:1-2, Proverbs 16:3*



### **The Treaty Of Waitangi, And Christian Faith And Values**

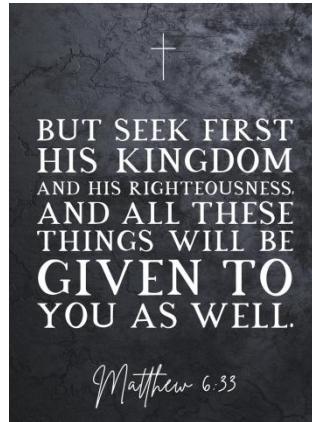
The background to the Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi included a remarkable move of God among Māori, from the 1830s onward, with very large numbers embracing Christian faith, and the concern of some influential British humanitarian Christians that the British government should step up and protect Māori from the injustices and oppression of lawless and unregulated colonial settlement (which was already beginning, through the New Zealand Company, which had little or no regard for Māori wellbeing, and which was purchasing huge tracts of Māori land to sell to thousands of new settlers).

Understandably, many chiefs were extremely cautious about the proposed Treaty, and it only got over the line because of the reassurances given by missionaries, who were held in high regard by many Māori.

The English and Māori versions clearly reflect different cultural perspectives. But in both versions the Crown and the chiefs agreed to a British Governor (kawanatanga), to the retention of chiefly authority (tino rangatiratanga), lands and fisheries, and to Māori having the same rights and privileges as British citizens. The Treaty was a civil agreement, not a sacred text as such. Nevertheless, some Māori (and others too) have seen it in covenantal terms, akin to some biblical covenants.

Tragically, under the weight of massive colonial immigration and settlement, the Treaty before long became widely disregarded and breached, especially regarding land, and Māori language and culture were increasingly marginalised.

**There is nothing the nearness of Jesus cannot overcome.**



In recent decades, the work of the Waitangi Tribunal to bring some redress, and the efforts of wider society to honour Māori as tangata whenua, are consistent with Christian principles of justice, reconciliation, and loving your neighbour as yourself. With all the ferment that can sometimes take place around Treaty issues, it is important that Christians be guided not by politics and fear, but by the spirit of Jesus. Of all people, surely it should be Christians (whether Māori, Pākeha, Pasifika, Asian, or whatever) who are great examples of inter-cultural respect, friendship, and generosity. As James 3 says, "Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness".

Whatever our culture, it remains critically important that Christians honour and worship God alone (Exodus 20:3; Isaiah 44:6, 45:18, 21-22).

Let us pray for a wonderful, God-sent renewal of vibrant Christian faith in this land – among Māori, Pākeha, and people of every culture.

*by Dr Stuart Lang, NZ Christian Network*

### **Fellowship Day for Women – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

Christian Women Communicating Internationally (CWCI) would like to invite you to a day of Bible teaching at Mission Hall (707 Gladstone Rd) with Melbourne speaker Julie Potts. Commences with morning tea at 10am followed by two teaching sessions. Lunch is provided, followed by an afternoon session and finishing at 3pm. For more info check out the poster on the church noticeboard.



**Ruel Philippines Box** – The latest box has just arrived at the Ruel children's home on Romblon, Philippines. They say thank you so much, it is **SO** appreciated!

*Angela*

*(This is the box that you donated items towards in September/October, and was sent over in November of last year.)*



**Foodbank** – Our current foodbank needs are: Weetbix, spreads, muesli bars, biscuits, UHT milk, milo/hot chocolate, tuna/salmon, canned corn, dishwash liq, washing powder, 2 Min Noodles.