



A U C K L A N D B A P T I S T T A B E R N A C L E

Annual Report 2013

429 Queen Street, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

09 377 4063

www.tabernacle.org.nz

A view from the Senior Pastor



The church is a dynamic living thing, because it is about the people, together in relationship with one another and with God. Therefore every year is different, despite many things having to function in a constant way in order for the ministries to work well.

The key things that stand out for 2013 include: the fruitful work of God's Spirit in the lives of many new believers; the continued shift towards a multi-cultural church; the leadership re-structure trial, separating governance and management; saying farewell to John Catmur; financial challenges; combined outreach events and times of prayer and worship; ministry among the marginalized.

When I look at the church from my role, I see it from the inside out. Across the year we have had a talented and deeply committed staff team for whom I am very grateful (including John Catmur and his love for the marginalised). Many different people across the congregations gave themselves wonderfully well to the responsibilities of leadership and ministry and mission. Yet we have also had significant gaps in leadership, admin and management support. A culture shift has been taking place, leaving behind past attitudes and practices that have caused disunity. We have begun to identify significant challenges that lie ahead in relation to the property that we own.



Lindsay Jones, Senior Pastor

Church Board (Jan – Jun)

The Board began to consider how Church meetings would best be structured to align with the multi ethnic nature of our members. We identified a few cultural values and aspects of Christian character we believed should feature in the life of the ABT: honour, unity in diversity. The Board also affirmed the central role of mission and looked to encourage an across-the-ABT missions strategy and established the place of the 'Missional Community' in the ABT with the key example being Friends of Friends Fellowship (FFF). The Board was able to liaise with the Tabernacle Trust for the use of meeting space for ministries of Immanuel Church, FFF and Tempo.

The Board also strengthened or restructured the Management team, Finance and Property committees and reformed governance @ ABT in the form of a Governance Group (rather than a Board of Elders/Deacons) with each congregation electing a representative, approved by the wider church. This was taken on for a trial period of 12 months.

The Board entered a dialogue with the Tab Trust to explore how the church building might be earthquake strengthened.

Governance Group (July – Dec)

A smooth transition to the new governance structure was aided by the Board's preparations, a full administration review by Joan Watson, the work and support of pastors, operational staff, management team, and many volunteers.

Recognising the unique complexity of our multiple congregations, trusts and ministries, we have made it a priority to improve the systems that enable the church to function effectively, and to support future growth. Our approach is based on quality systems methodology, starting with document controls, and governance (particularly its responsibilities to members and to monitor and manage change).

These efforts led to meaningful engagement with members in formulating the 2014 budget, and

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Leadership and Staff

Pastors

Lindsay Jones, Kok Soon & Moey Yong Lee, Mike & Lin van der Vlugt, Phillip Porter, Lyndon Drake, John Catmur.

Missional Worker

Paul Chang

Church Board – elected members

Jan – June

Eunice Hall (Chair), Wayne Chen, Elaine Clarke, Andrew Thomson, Andrew Hall, Diwen Zhou.

Governance Group – elected members

July - Dec.

Andrew Lowe (Morn Cong) (Chair), Diwen Zhou (Chinese Cong), Heather Spinetto (Global), Joseph Ma (All Nations).

Management Team – elected members

July - Dec.

Judith Ofsoske, Ted Phythian, Shireen Chua, Sheena Duffy

Management Team – elected members

July - Dec.

(Lindsay Jones Chair). Marie Fitch, Faye Ansley, Andy Nicholls, Peter Townend, Jenny Hughes

Morning Congregation Elders

Marie Fitch, Himali McInnes, Philippa Teal.

Chinese Congregation Leadership Team

Kok Soon Lee, Tony Tay, Suzanna Fong, Victor Wong, Diwen Zhou, Joey Wang.

Global Core Leaders

Mike and Lin van der Vlugt, Heather Spinetto, Barbara and Gordon Stewart, Andrew Thomson.

All Nations Leaders

Joseph and Esther Ma, Simon and Karen Fletcher, Rina Tedja, Wayne and Sherlene Chen, Phil and Fay Tatiyaparnsuk, Rachel Lin.

Friends of Friends Fellowship

Paul and Esther Chang, Murray Dillner.

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Overseas Missions Committee

Shireen Chua (Deacon Jan - Jun), Elaine Clarke (Deacon July - Dec), Merinda Bruce, Desley Emslie, Bryce Necklen.

Tabernacle Missions Trust

Elaine Clarke (Chair), Andrew & Naomi Lowe, Shireen Chua.

Finance Deacon

Andy Nicholls.

Property Committee

Peter Townend (Deacon/Chair), Linton Conway, Alex Cropp, John Ansley (Ted Phythian, Geoff Duffy - part year).

Prayer Deacon

Simon Fletcher.

Tabernacle Trust Board

Glenn Teal (Chair), Bob Alexander, Nigel Fitch, Michael Jones, Anna Lee, Ian McInnes, Dale Ofoske, Joshua Teal.
Manager: Faye Ansley.
Accountant: Robin England.

Tabernacle Hostel Board

Dale Ofoske (Chair), Stephen Bier, Anna Lee, Glenn Teal.

Staff

Caretaker: John Ansley.

Church Administrator: Jenny Hughes.

Cashiers: Jeremy Teal, May Lee.

Finance co-ordinator: Jhon Blesia, temps.



cont.

undergird our continuing monitoring of the merger of Morning and All Nations congregations.

For 2014 we look forward to working with the members to formulate a permanent leadership structure, and to plan strategically and prayerfully for the long term sustainability and growth of our ministries and mission.

Management Team

With the decision to separate governance from management, a team has been established to oversee the management of the church and co-ordinate the practices of the admin church-wide deacons' areas. This includes a Tab Trust representative which adds further strength.

Each ministry area is expected to take responsibility and authority within the limits of their budget and annual goals, with matters outside of these referred up to the Management Team. A number of policies and practices have been created and put in place to guide this.

Church Office

Jenny Hughes writes "You never know what the day will bring as you enter through the door in the morning... The things that take place are as diverse as you can imagine, from ordering stationery to meeting the needs of a person who walks off the street, to organizing events at the church. The Tab is a popular place for weddings, conferences, seminars and outreach events. One of the jobs is to 'man' the carpark station. This can be very busy at times but is an enjoyable part of the job dealing with the varied people that use our carpark."

Our Caretaker John Ansley often jumps in to help here, along with several part-time cashiers who share this role with Jenny. There are plans for automation in 2014.

We have agreed to have Andrey Issabeyev join the team as Office Manager in January 2014 and look forward to him being with us.



Carols on the steps.

Combined Events

Worship services that bring all the congregations together are wonderful events, and 2013 was no exception. There was a great sense of being God's people as we lifted our voices in a variety of languages and caught a glimpse of our vision going forward. Combined times of intercessory prayer were also powerful moments of sensing God's presence among us. Easter outreaches and Carols on the Steps interfaced with the local community right out on the street front. It is amazing how many people are walking by. Christmas Eve services were again well attended.

Property Committee

With a building as old as the Tab, and used day in and day out by so many groups, the caretaking and maintenance, let alone longer-term upgrade work is a big responsibility for a mere 3-man committee.

Major projects this year have included recarpeting and installation of new data projectors in the auditorium, electronic security upgrade, and the repainting of the exterior of the building.



Easter outreach in Queen Street.

Finance Committee

We began the year with a reduced number in the committee, but with some important issues to address – the finances of the church were placed under significant strain during the year, resulting in very careful monitoring of the cash flow and the sad step of needing to release John Catmur from his pastoring role.

We were forced into the continuing use of temps to cover the Finance Co-ordinator's role; fortunately the projected 2014 budget included an Office Manager's role, and the hope that these things would be rectified.

We are grateful to Andy Nicholls picking up the role of Finance Deacon and Church Treasurer.



Christmas Eve.

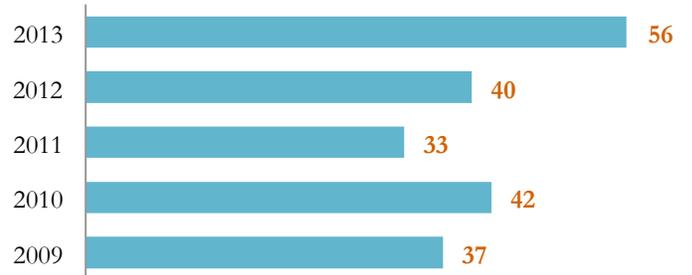
Average Weekly Total Attendance



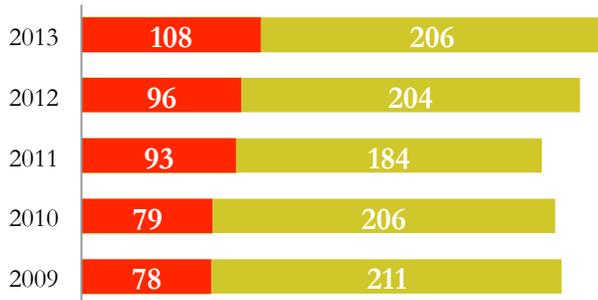
Average Weekly Adult Attendance



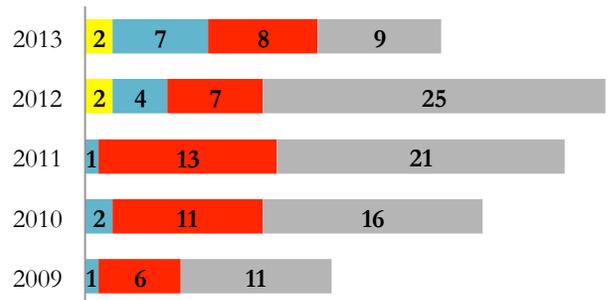
Average Weekly Child Attendance



Resident Membership



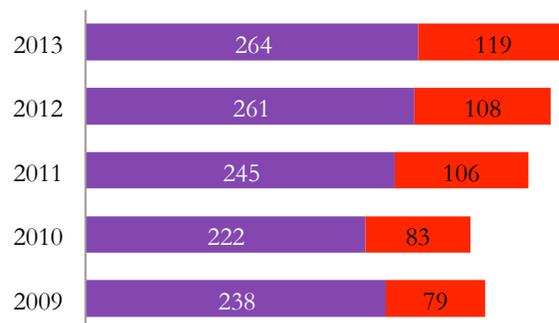
Total Tab. Baptisms



■ Chinese ■ M.G.A.N.

■ All Nations ■ Morning ■ Chinese ■ Global

Total Membership



■ M.G.A.N. ■ Chinese

Morning Congregation

Just over a year ago, the Morning Congregation gathered for a retreat day. The retreat set the scene for us to establish a new structure for the congregation over the following months, with elders, ministry leaders, and congregational meetings. This took place in parallel with the changes to the leadership structure of the church, and was part of a growing sense of our own identity as a congregation within the life of the Tabernacle church.

We had the encouragement of seeing baptisms, and people committing to our church family in membership. Links with the Hostel were established, which helped us to plan for greater involvement there in 2014 and we made a major change in our expression of fellowship by beginning a weekly Café Lunch after the Sunday service.

A particular highlight was the visit of John Walton, the noted Old Testament scholar, who spoke on the first chapters of Genesis. His visit in July, which was arranged in cooperation with Roskill Baptist, St Pauls, and Compass, attracted nearly 350 mostly young people.



Midweek Bible Study Group

We established a midweek Bible study group for professionals in the CBD, meeting in the Deloitte building at the bottom of Queen Street (in cooperation with TSCF and City Presbyterian). Our aim in 2014 is that this group will lay the groundwork for outreach to business people.



Sing 'n 'Play Parent and Toddler Group

One area of outreach which was a real encouragement came towards the end of the year, with the establishment of the Sing'n'Play parent and toddler group, led by a group of volunteers drawn from All Nations, the Chinese Congregation, and the Morning Congregation. The large numbers of people who came were all local, and many were relatively recent immigrants. God has been increasingly calling us to the heart of the city, and he has been bringing people from the heart of the city to us. That sense of call, shared with All Nations, is what led us to decide at the end of the year to merge the two congregations. We look forward in 2014 to seeing what God has planned for his church in this city.



Sing 'n 'Play, buggy traffic jam.

All Nations Congregation

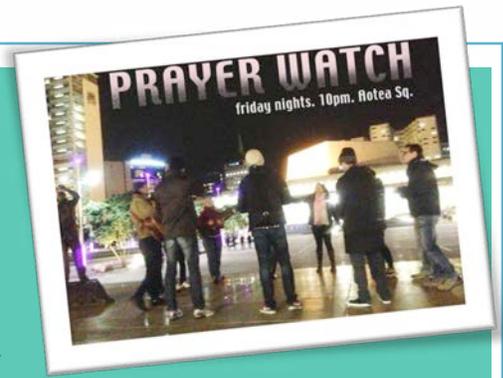
Highlights this year were our baptisms (two young men from Muslim families during Ramadan) and weddings, wonderful celebrations of God's grace among us.

Members from AN were involved in establishing a new evangelistic ministry to the CBD on Friday nights, and also helped establish Sing and Play. We also organised this year's 24 hours of prayer for the whole church, a wonderful time of joining in prayer for our city with brothers and sisters from all the Tab's congregations.

We received ministry from some outstanding preachers from East Asia.

This year we formally recognised a group of ministry leaders who we expect will go on to serve in significant ways in the life of the Tab over many years. Joseph Ma (Governance Group) and Simon Fletcher (prayer deacon) have stepped up into church-wide ministry roles.

Toward the end of the year we felt God was leading us to join with the Morning Congregation to form a new congregation with a good mix of internationals and European Kiwis. This will begin early 2014.



Mandarin Congregation

Our Bi-lingual worship services continue on the last Sunday of every month.

Regular weekly ministries include the Children's Fellowship, Youth Fellowship, Professional Fellowship, Family Fellowship, Senior Citizen Fellowship, English Bible Study, Children's Worship, Adult Sunday School, Adult & Youth Disciples Class, Alpha Class, Choir, and also include our regular care and visitation activities.

New ministries were started in 2013, these include Mandarin course for adults and Friday evening recreation activities.

Gospel events included:

- Chinese New Year Market Day, ASB Showground.
- Good Friday Musical evangelistic event.
- Evangelistic rally – Dr. Lee.
- Evangelistic rally – Dr. Zhao.

Special Sunday Worship Services:

Chinese New Year, 10 February
Easter Day, 31 March
Mothers Day, 12 May
Fathers Day, 1 September

Leadership events:

- Retreat at Cornerstone on 6 February
- Family camp at Formosa Golf Resort
- Bible seminar on the Book of Esther

Global Congregation

Highlights of this year have been the Easter outreach, end of year Global camp and a friendship camp. These have been evangelistic events which have fitted in well with Global's focus.

Previous leadership development, prayer ministry, preaching courses and spiritual retreats have resulted in equipping young people to take part in ministry, preaching and giving testimony and leading smaller groups. Many also serve in IT, kitchen, teaching English, organising social activities, artwork, Global strings (guitar lessons), and worship teams including dance (4), music and drama.

The Friendship and end of year camps and Easter outreach were highlights. Many Internationals were befriended through hospitality in homes, bush walks and weekly lunches.

This year we praise God for a good number of spiritual births of previously unchurched have come to faith, for those who have been baptised and for the many who have matured and taken part in leadership activities, we pray that this will continue.



Friendship Camp.



Global and All Nations Camp.

Global Ministry Groups

The English Learners bible classes continue to grow, the Saturday ministry is full and needs to multiply. Korean, Chinese and Japanese ministries continue to be passionate about friendship evangelism.

An encouraging attendance has been maintained in all groups, including the Wednesday meetings of several groups. The Koreans remain solid in its leadership and teaching, pastoral care and prayer. The Japanese meetings of "grapevine" are warm and hospitality excels. Its leadership has consolidated. The Chinese have enjoyed good numbers and benefitted from good teaching. Other groups such as the Brazilian group and families with young children also enjoy fellowship together.

We praise God for all those who give generously of their time and energy to continue to lead groups that contribute to building lives through languages meets in Level 3 at 10.30am Sunday morning with an "easy English" God's word presented in their heart service and an "English learners" bible class on Level 4.

Scripture Union Notes have been available in 2013. We appreciate the way this ministry is available to all congregations.

Worship Team

There are no Bible examples where lavish acts of worship are presented as an option in the business of corporate renewal. This year we held a number of events to help us become lavish in worship, well led by Andrew Thomson, and Simon Fletcher.

In December Gavin Wilson and Tui Sickling showcased the organ in contemporary worship at the Organ Centennial Celebration. This was an opportunity to worship with hymns. It was an outstanding success.



Gavin Wilson showcased organ in contemporary worship at Organ Centennial Celebration.



Our brand new drum kits.

Sound Team

There is new equipment everywhere. Brent Hayward managed the purchase of two brand new drum kits. Peter Townend and Chris Niles are carrying out huge work to overhaul the sound system.

We are grateful to them, to all our teams, to unsung workers like Ashish Bijwe and others, who make the whole thing work. We rely on them, so we can keep our testimony clear; that the power of God is here, bringing relational renewal.

Fuel

Fuel attendance was intermittent throughout the year and we had considerably less numbers from previous years. Towards the end of the year, there were many Sundays during which we had no children. On the positive side, the Jesus Story Book Bible curriculum provided great teaching to help children understand the overall biblical narrative.

Kidzone

Numbers are now about 35 with the addition of children from Immanuel Christian church, and three year olds from Global. We used the Jesus Story Book Bible curriculum, and saw a greater understanding in the children of who Jesus is. We have a great bunch of helpers on a four week on, four week off rotation.

Friends of Friends Ministry (FFF)

FFF are now able to use a new venue in the Tabernacle Trust building for fellowship time. This enables us to protect our members. Two members from North Africa and Central Asia were baptised.

FFF Christchurch was established in March. Two further Neighbour's Conferences were run in order to help establish FFF in Wellington and South Auckland.

FFF led prayer meetings, and overnight prayer during Ramadan. FFF held a feast in Level 3 at Ramadan. 50 people were present, including 15 Muslims. We shared the love of Jesus Christ with them.



Headway

Monday night's Headway group (average 10) gives a context where people from "Struggle St." can be real in discovering faith and purpose in life. Sadly leader and friend John Catmur left in June, his role was replaced by Linton Conway (supported pastorally by Phil Porter).

Strong links with the Cooking Club have combined to find a niche in outreach.

Tempo Prison Ministry

This ministry has involved at least 7 from our congregations in one-on-one visits and support to 6 inmates. Some have taken prison services. Four released prisoners have structured support and are being welcomed into our church community or helped in other ways. This work is growing in strength and effectiveness and is so near to the heart of God. Praise Him!

Missions Committee

Our terms of reference were reviewed and passed by the Governance Board in June.

Home - Austins, Norths, Fountains and Gentles.

Pat Lightbourne was decommissioned on her retirement from Afghanistan (Tranzsend). The City Group paid for time at a retreat centre to be debriefed as she re-enters NZ culture.

Tony Tay (Mandarin congregation) and Elizabeth Stevens (Global) went to assist in churches in Asia and Turkey. A short term Team (Mandarin congregation) went to Thailand.

Events - Coast to Coast, Kairos and Missions Month climaxing in the annual afternoon and evening which was well attended.

Mission giving was steady, meeting budget. A past accounting mistake enabled sending a little extra.

Tabernacle Trust

The Trust's work involves two broad sets of activities: Generation of income through management of its assets and distribution of surpluses to the Trust's beneficiaries (the Baptist Movement throughout NZ).

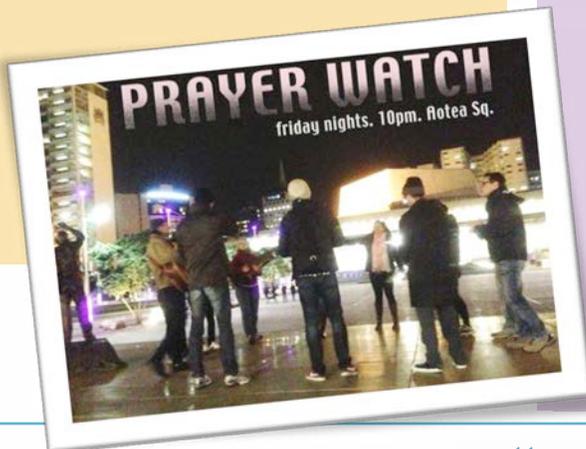
In 2013 grants totalling \$247,604 were distributed to 27 beneficiaries. Assistance was also given to the Tabernacle Church in the form of rent-free use of space in one of the Trust buildings for use by new ministry groups including: Headway; Immanuel Indian Fellowship; Friends of Friends.

Other Business:

The Trust purchased a 3 bedroomed apartment in Upper Queen Street to house the Tabernacle Church caretaker in return for demolition of the previous caretaker's housing to provide vehicle access to one of the Trust buildings several years ago.

The Trust purchased the Tabernacle Church's 40% shareholding in the Tabernacle student hostel to assist the Church's funding requirements.

Significant effort went into leasing negotiations which resulted in space being taken by several new tenants.



Missions Trust

The Investment Fund increased over the year from \$119,517 to \$126,181.

Interest for year to March 2013 was \$4,907 and of this \$2,696 was made available for grants to financially support our Tab Mission Team.

Grants made:

- \$1000 towards support to Elizabeth Little for urgent repairs
- \$1,300 towards Tab Missions budget shortfall.

City Pathway Trust

“To enable a faith community response among the marginalised in Auckland city”

A grant from the Tindall Foundation enabled us to give support to the CAP Money courses. We are grateful for the fundraising efforts which enabled us to start to build a base and give a small grant to Friends of Friends. We give thanks to God for the commencement of the Trust, the support and goodwill we have experienced, and the potential for what lies ahead as we continue to grow our funding base.

Prayer Watch

The Prayer Watch is an outreach team which heads out to Queen St or Karangahape Road late most Friday nights to pray for people, and worship God on the street. We've seen many lost people reach out to the Lord and some wonderful conversions to faith. It's been wonderful to see God at work.

Tabernacle Hostel Board

The hostel provides accommodation for 31 young students of all denominations, particularly those moving to Auckland to study and is part of the Church's ministry to young people.

We endeavour to help with the Christian growth of those who have made a commitment to God and to show love and encouragement of all the residents regardless of whether they have made this commitment or not.

Faye, John and Matt Ansley concluded their role of 7 years as Hostel Managers at the end of 2013.

Finance and Business Performance

The hostel has been almost fully occupied during the 2013 university year. This together with reasonably high levels of temporary visitors over the summer vacation periods has resulted in a small surplus of income over expenditure. This has enabled repayment of another \$10,000 of the long term loan from Baptist Action, and some redecorating of apartment units.

Hostel room rates are slightly cheaper than those for nearby university run hostels.

The hostel is a Charitable Company, with 100% shareholding by the Tabernacle Trust.



Auckland Baptist Tabernacle
429 Queen Street, Auckland 1010
New Zealand

Phone: 09 377 4063

<http://www.tabernacle.org.nz>