

NEW ZEALAND

Lindsey Chase | Supervising Missionaries: Brandon and Mollie Borders

QUICK LOOK AT NEW ZEALAND

- ◆ New Zealand is one of 26 nations that reside within the Pacific Region.
- ◆ New Zealand’s population estimates about 4.78 million people. About 74% are of European descent, about 15% are Maori, and another 11.8% are of Asian ethnicity.
- ◆ In 2018, only 33% of the population claimed to be Christian. **Only 16% of those Christians claim to attend church. Furthermore, an even smaller 9% claim to be active participants of the faith.** It has been stated that we are living in a “post Christian society”, and that seems to be evident here in New Zealand.

THE UPCI IN NZ

Here in New Zealand, there are a total of 8 churches planted throughout both islands. There are a number of preaching points as well, but the nation as a whole is in dire need for more works to be established, for hands to labor, and for leadership to arise!



KIA ORA + HAERE MAI FROM NEW ZEALAND!

These phrases are commonly used and seen throughout NZ as a friendly greeting! They are a part of the Maori language and culture.

Prior to my arrival in New Zealand, my heart and spirit have always been weighed with the immense burden for the Pacific Region to be reached by the gospel of Jesus Christ. I saw a



A LOOK AT THE PACIFIC REGION

This region is comprised of 26 nations, totaling over 457 MILLION people. The vastness of this region seems overwhelming, yet it **will** be reached, one soul at a time!

- The entirety of the Pacific region is divided into the North, Central, and South regions, with nations under their respective region. For example, New Zealand is under the leadership of the South Pacific region.
- Within the Pacific region as a whole, there are an estimated 1.3 million constituents of the United Pentecostal Church International (UPCI). With an overall population of over 457 million, as previously stated, this means that **roughly only 0.3% of the entire population is saved**. My heart breaks at these numbers but exposure continues to grow the burden.



large expanse of souls that were in need of hands to labor, that were desperate for prayers to be prayed, and were searching for a God to be revealed, for a restoration of hope, and for transformation to take place within lives, cities, and entire communities of culture. Within just a month's time here, specifically in New Zealand, that is already taking place. There is much to be done, but I am grateful to be even a small part and to give Him glory through it all!

The first three weeks consisted of training organized and instructed by amazing men and women of God that truly exemplify the word of God and His nature! I gleaned so much from each and every one of them; all that we have learned is being applied throughout the apprenticeship portion of this program. Pictured below is me with my certificate of completion with Jim Poitras, the Director of Education and Short Term Missions, and Brandon Borders, the appointed missionary to New Zealand.



Apprenticeship has begun!

After the three weeks of training, our instructors left (we miss them all greatly!) and our group of 18 is now under the full direction and leadership of the missionaries, Brandon and Mollie Borders. Our apprenticeship will be the latter portion of our stay here, 5 weeks long! We anticipate great things to be planted during these coming weeks and we know God will increase all of our work after we depart. Within our group, we have taken it upon ourselves to organize a large variety of intentional evangelistic efforts to reach the city of Hamilton (where we will



stay for the majority of our trip) as well as plant seeds for revival across the nation as a whole; we have complete faith that God has promised an explosion of revival for New Zealand and for the Pacific Region! In conjunction with our personal efforts of evangelism, we are all involved in multiple ministries at Grace Fellowship, a beautiful body of believers that the Borders are currently pastoring here in Hamilton, NZ. Everything from music, to the youth group, Sunday school classes, church cleaning, and teaching at the Bible school they offer here are just a few of the things we working with! I personally have fallen in love with the church family here and I pray we edify them greatly in our time here.

I wish I could include videos to showcase the worship, the fellowship, and the beautiful sights! Pictures will have to suffice! The pictures I have included range from group photos to snapshots of the altar to events taken place outside of the church. The top picture is our group with Bro. Roger and Sis. Becky Buckland, the Regional Directors of the Pacific Region. We had a wonderful time hearing from them our

first couple of days. The next picture is our group with the fellowship in the city of Auckland. We were able to attend church with them, we sang and gave testimonies in addition to preachings given by Bro. Poitras and Bro. Alan Shalm (former missionary to Pakistan and current missionary to Malaysia). The church put together a beautiful lunch for us following service!



Some members of our group with a lot of the youth of Grace Fellowship!

One Sunday immediately following service, our group along with Bro. and Sis. Borders and some of the youth trekked out to a city called Tauranga, situated about 1.5 hours away from Hamilton. Here in Tauranga there is a preaching point that the Borders and members of the church faithfully visit in order to teach and fellowship with about 3 individuals (sometimes more) with a Bible study and worship. The group as a whole was excited to “do the work of a missionary”: travel, teach, and change lives! At least in our minds that is what we envision missionaries doing across the globe.



Instead we got a real taste of what this life can entail. Upon arrival, we got word that we possibly had no access to the building we were to be having service in. We declared, no worries, we will have service outside if there's no rain! Then the rain came. We waited out the showers yet the individuals we were anticipating never showed up. Without defeat, we held a small prayer meeting outside our locked building followed by us worshipping and singing unto God (pictured above).

Right as we finished, the biggest, brightest, most extensive rainbow I have ever seen in my lifetime appeared over where we were standing. It began to stretch and grow, and we knew God was extending His promise and love over the city of Tauranga! We left that day with the joy of the Lord, knowing our efforts are not in vain and that HE gives the increase! (1 Corinthians 3)



After finishing what you see above, my newsletter still felt incomplete. So much has taken place here for this group, as a body and on the individual level. In the months and weeks leading up to this trip, I had conflicting views on what I could offer to this experience. There were bouts of feeling greatly ill-equipped in every aspect, whether it be financial, spiritual, or even skills-based. All I carried was my burden (and I don't mean my overstuffed suitcase). A burden to serve. I knew that my God is capable, I knew my God gives the increase, I was taking step after step of faith, and yet my faith within me felt weak. How could that be possible?

These past four weeks have proven to me that truly everything is for HIS glory; a principle so simple yet simultaneously oversimplified that we completely become unaware of the purpose. We become numb to our own desires and vain efforts to elevate ourselves through the veil of servitude. My Next Steps experience has undoubtedly been a reveal unto the true purpose and a pursuit of that same purpose: to bring God glory. Every soul that comes to Christ is another soul that will praise Him! Does He not deserve that?

In four short weeks, the biblical promise of God giving the increase and doing His part when we labor for Him and His Kingdom has been evident. This group as a whole and my personal time has been devoted to sowing seeds in prayer and through intentional evangelism efforts and we have already begun to witness increase being given. I understand the fruit of these sown seeds may be produced and reaped long after I leave this incredible country but — His glory is my reward. I see connections with souls taking root and beginning to flourish, I see young people of the youth group seeking more of God, I feel and watch as the church family grows in spiritual health with love for another. I see God receiving all glory from the nation of New Zealand, and from all the earth! I thank Next Steps and God for every ounce of what is being poured in and poured out, and I remain expectant for the remainder of this mission!



I thank all of you for every bit of support, no matter how it has been given! I am truly blessed. I love you all and there is more to come!