



Caring for Our People

Manaakitia ā tātou tāngata

October 2019

As-salāmu ‘alaykum. Peace be with you.

Becoming a Ready Church – it is a mindset

<http://www.methodist.org.nz/discussing-a-ready-church>

There are so many things that we need to be prepared for... all the pitfalls and trip hazards of life. And there are some outstanding reasons why we should consider adopting the concept of 'being ready'.

The Church and our communities have undergone some major events, and we couldn't honestly say we are ready if these events were to be repeated. As just one example, I share with you Greg Wright's thoughts about the earthquakes.

I invite you to reflect upon Greg's words and to consider the readiness of your parish and church. Is being Ready a path that should be taken, and what will it look like for your parish?

Earthquakes

Off the top of his head, rambling thoughts from Greg Wright

Preparedness

It was of a magnitude that it was never going to happen. We didn't think to be prepared for something like this.

We had practiced fire drills but not earthquake drills.

I doubt any of the churches have a working fire drill.

Communication and Technology

We tried to get in touch with all parishes that were involved and other parishes because everyone had an interest.

Communication was limited from the epicentre, and it was difficult to get comms in and out.

The theological college in Auckland became our hub for release of eMessenger emails.

We discovered our computer backups looked like they were working, but they weren't (prior to the days of easy cloud access).

Couldn't do anything for a fortnight until we ~~snuck in and~~ recovered the server from the red zone.

Buildings and Insurance

Church buildings may have been damaged worse than what otherwise would have been the case if the maintenance had been kept up to date. Such as leaks weakening areas that the quakes then fully broke.

One parish council had deliberately under-insured the building to save money. There were then complaints when the insurance only paid out at value insured.

We had the same problem with EQC as everyone else. We then requested we have one case manager from the Minister. We got a case manager, they lasted 10 days each, but it gave us one central file to deal with.

We got ourselves sorted and then the second earthquake hit and we started again.

Connexional Office Pastoral Care

As an office, while we didn't come together for 10 days however we stayed in touch very well. Pastorally we did the best that we could do, and then gathered out of town at facilities that were working. This was a highlight in the pastoral connexion in the office.

Keeping the office together by moving into the house at Maydell St was a very good move.... adversity bringing people together.

The Board of Admin. helped by giving permission to do what we had to do to sort things out.

The big stuff

Church faced the loss of life inside one of its own buildings, including one of its parishioners.

This is really why there is so much passion about getting our buildings up to the two thirds of New Build Standard (NBS).

Historic buildings are not worth lives. Lives are not a trade off situation. I never intend to appear in front of a Royal Commission again.

Reflection

With the religious buildings and the age of our populations we were extremely lucky that the quakes did not strike during services. Getting people out would have been extremely difficult.

Fixed line seating (pews) will not help us during an earthquake evacuation.

Fast forward to the Kaikoura/Wellington quake. I doubt Wellington was any better prepared even after what happened in Christchurch.

Final Comment

Best thing to do is to have earthquakes at night.

What we did well

The decision of the Board to deal with claims connexionally, one claim, one claim manager one negotiation. Parishes dealt with this office and it made things simpler for everyone.

Our insurance arrangements helped us out. We managed to get a lump sum pay out to do with what we wanted.

We worked with project managers for the sites who gave us technical information and were the in-betweens between us and the contractors. They carried out the negotiations for us with council, contractors, and quantity surveyors. We then had conversations with the insurance loss adjustors and included the PMs and QSSs.

What we would do differently

A huge shake up like this, should be used as an opportunity for huge changes, to seriously consider the face of Methodism in a region when given the opportunity for a clean slate approach.

This is a signal event and we are entitled to do something different from the status quo.

What we should keep doing

Keep reminding people that it happened. It can't get lost in the memory of time. People get bored and forget, but it has happened and will happen again.

We can't let information boredom fade this away.

Please hold the discussion with your parish about becoming Ready, and what this might mean to you and all the varied groups and committees within our Connexion.

Feedback your thoughts on becoming ready [Online \(click here\)](#)

Various methods of providing feedback can be found at <http://www.methodist.org.nz/discussing-a-ready-church>

***Whāia te mātauranga hei oranga mō koutou**
Seek knowledge for the sake of your wellbeing.*

Nā Trudy Downes

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Only two weeks until we ShakeOut!

Sign up to take part in New Zealand ShakeOut, our national earthquake drill and tsunami hīkoi, taking place at 1.30pm on Thursday 17 October.

It's important that we all know the right action to take in an earthquake and tsunami. Make sure you encourage others to get involved, practise their Drop, Cover and Hold and walk their tsunami evacuation route if they're in a coastal area.

Visit www.shakeout.govt.nz for lots of resources to help you share ShakeOut and all the information you need to hold your drill and hīkoi.

If you have any questions or queries, please email us at shakeout@dpmc.govt.nz

Have you started planning your drill?

1. Signal the start of the drill: there are lots of ways to start the drill, blow a whistle, shout 'earthquake!' or watch our live video on the [Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management Facebook](#) page.

2. Do the Drop, Cover, and Hold drill for 30-45 seconds:

- DROP down on your hands and knees. This position protects you from falling but allows you to still move if necessary.
- COVER your head and neck, your entire body if possible, under a sturdy table or desk (if it is no more than a few steps away from you). If there is no shelter nearby, get down near an interior wall or next to low-lying furniture that won't fall. Cover your head and neck with your arms and hands.
- HOLD on to your shelter (or your position to protect your head and neck) until the shaking stops. Be prepared to move with your shelter if the shaking shifts it around.

3. Do your tsunami hīkoi

- If you are in a tsunami evacuation zone you should practise your evacuation route, or 'tsunami hīkoi'. A tsunami hīkoi is a walk that takes you along your tsunami evacuation route either inland or towards high ground.
- Find out whether you're in a tsunami zone by checking out your local Civil Defence Emergency Management group's [tsunami zone maps](#)

Drill tips

- While you are doing the drill, imagine that it is real and what might be happening around you. Think about what you might need to do [before](#) a real earthquake happens to help protect yourself and your staff, students and school/preschool.
- After your drill is complete, have discussions about what you learned and, if necessary, make changes to your emergency plan.
- Instructions are also available for [people with disabilities or special requirements](#).
- Share your ShakeOut photos, videos, and stories on our Facebook page