

MISSION MANUKAU

Long-term outreach to South Auckland, New Zealand

Trevor & Chris Major

20 SEPTEMBER 2015

Quick Summary:

- We baptized and then married Cory and Michelle, and are working with the couple long distance
- We continue to build closer ties to our sister congregations in the Auckland area
- Chris stays busy teaching the ladies and the kids, while Trevor helps out with campaign follow-up

LONG-DISTANCE CHURCH

When I first got to South Auckland, there was a wonderful Christian lady there by the name of Michelle. Over the next two or three years, Michelle travelled and moved around, eventually ending up in Tokerau Beach — about five hours drive north of us. In the meantime she met Cory. Being in a very isolated place with no church, Michelle decided that she really needed the fellowship and support of her brethren, and attended the big Easter Camp in New Plymouth — about six hours drive south of

us. So, yes, do the math on how far they had to drive! Amazingly, Cory decided to join Michelle at camp. Several of us spoke to him over the weekend, and eventually we baptized him off one of the beaches nearby.

Michelle was over the moon, to say the least. She and Cory announced their engagement at Camp and asked me to do the wedding — my third for the year.

Of course, if you've been around a while, you'll hear stories about people who will

get baptized just to please the prospective spouse. Although Cory had a rough start to life, he's a genuinely down-to-earth good guy who clearly has the best of intentions. Nothing has come up in the last few months to change my mind on that score.

Since Easter, Michelle and Cory and some of his family have been Skyping in for worship on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. Distance is a challenge, but Cory is asking the right questions and making good progress.

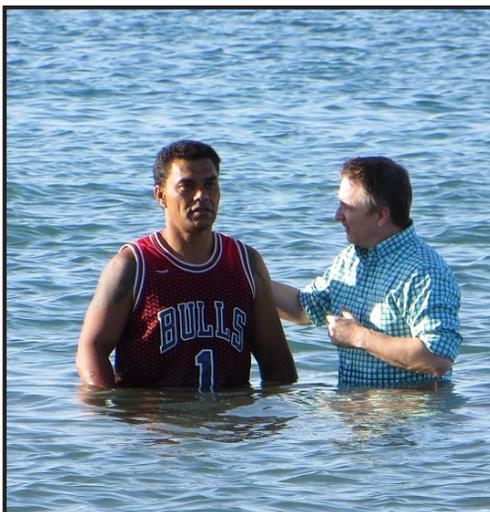
Tomorrow's Weather:

Grove City, OH: 23°C/73°F, mostly sunny

Auckland: 14°C/57°F, showers, gusty southwesterlies

Other goings on:

- One of our teens, Isaiah, was baptized recently. He's a great kid. We are praying that he will maintain his faith through what looks like a very promising sports career.
- We were blessed to have Richard Harp (Jonesboro, GA) teaching a PIBC class on the Pentateuch. Several students from the South Auckland and Mount Roskill congregations worked hard and received excellent grades for the course.
- Chris and I have initiated several one-on-one Bible studies. Only one is on-going as I write. Others have been contacted or sent materials, but have not committed further.



Left: Cory Tapara being baptized in the ocean off New Plymouth

Right: Cory weds sweetheart Michelle near their home in Tokerau Beach



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SISTER CONGREGATIONS

One of my biggest projects over the last few years has been to build bridges to congregations in the area and throughout NZ. There are about seven churches of Christ in the greater Auckland area. Four are "mainstream," for want of a better word.

Contact Information:

Home:
11 Olive Crescent
Papatoetoe, Auckland 2025
New Zealand
Phone US: 614-594-9392

trevor.major@gmail.com

Trevor's work is sponsored
by the elders of the Alkire
Road Church of Christ
2779 Alkire Rd
Grove City, OH 43123
Phone: (614) 875-1028

Please direct contributions to
the church, and note that they
are for the "Trevor Major
mission fund."

Morningside is a diverse congregation close to the city center. I've known their preacher, John Staiger, since I was a teen. Our two congregations swap back and forth on the first Sunday evening of every month.

Mount Roskill is a predominantly Samoan-language congregation who meet in our building on Friday nights for their mid-week Bible class. Like South Auckland, they are heavily involved in Leadership Training for Christ.

Auckland is another predominantly Samoan-language congregation. They recently lost the school hall where they were meeting, and are now using our building on Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons.

This level of contact brings us together to support each other's activities. Our goal is to strengthen the church as a whole in faith, unity, and brotherly love.

REPORT FROM CHRIS

I'm still keeping busy with teaching Sunday morning classes (9-11 year olds) and have started teaching the ladies' class on Wednesday nights based on the book *Magnificent Marriage* by Nick & Nancy Stinnett and Donny Hilliard.

Fortnightly my friend Elizabeth and I run a girls club for the young ladies of our congregation, where we teach them

CAMPAIGN FOLLOW-UP

It was a privilege to spend a few days with Kent O'Donnell in Palmerston North helping with campaign follow-up. Most of the people we visited had been given a "Searching for Truth" DVD by workers going door-to-door a few weeks earlier. Unfortunately, the most common response was, "No I've not watched it and no I'm not interested in pursuing it further." Basically, they had been polite

and accepted the DVD, but there was no real interest there. Still, it was important exercise in trying to find those who were truly searching for the truth.

This can be a demoralizing exercise at times, and so it was good to be there and support Kent in this effort. We encountered a few individuals who seemed interested, and studied with a couple of others. I appreciate the work Kent is doing.



Who says Christians can't have fun? Mike Vestal (Midland, TX) was our visiting speaker for a Sunday morning joint service with the Auckland congregation. It also happened to be Mike's birthday, for which he was rewarded a Samoan birthday cake (hog's head!) and serenaded by Fa'avae Fetu, a.k.a., the Samoan Elvis.

life skills as well as having devotional time.

Earlier this year I took some time off to reconnect with a lot of my family in the Gisborne, Hawkes Bay region of the country. I have 33 first cousins and a large number of them live in this area. I had been promising for the past three years to see them, but with one thing and another, I had not made it over

there. It was good to have the opportunity to see relatives. I learned more about my family history in those few days than I had ever known before.

Thank you so much to those of you who drop us notes by post or email or Facebook. You don't know just how encouraging the are to us both.

Take care and keep us in your prayers.