

# encounter

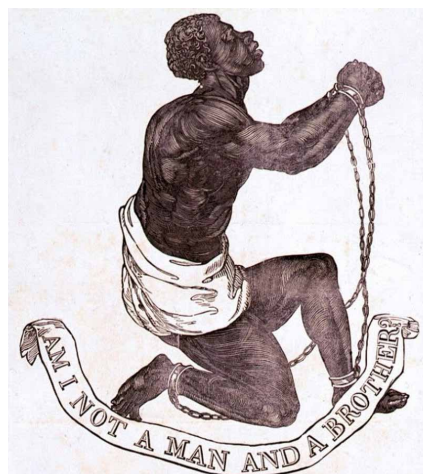
## Renewing the world

Dr Roshan Allpress  
National Principal/CEO

In 2 Corinthians 5, Paul wrote that to participate in Christ's redemption is to belong to a new creation – to enter into a “ministry of reconciliation”, continuing Jesus' work of reconciling the whole created order to its Creator. This mandate – by which the people of Christ redeem the original calling of humanity given to Adam and Eve – draws us into engagement in every sphere of life. As Abraham Kuyper wrote, “There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine!”<sup>1</sup>

All Christians are therefore called to engage in this renewal of the world – to work to heal relationships, care for creation, renew institutions, pursue cultural creativity, seek justice and order, grow resources, advance knowledge, and foster human flourishing in every way imaginable. This is our necessary response to the grace of God calling us into participation in the new creation.

In a broken and disappointing world, this also frequently involves the work of reform. Whether it was Reformers during the sixteenth century concluding that the structures of the Western Church needed to change, Evangelical activists



during the eighteenth century seeking to abolish the institutions of slavery and the trade in human property, or twentieth-century campaigners for Civil Rights in the United States and beyond working to change cultural and political structures around race, Christians throughout the centuries have seen the pursuit of social and cultural change as a good end per se, not merely a means.

Laidlaw's mission statement expresses our commitment to this universal Christian vocation as we equip students and scholars to renew their communities with a faith as intelligent as it is courageous. Lived out in classrooms, boardrooms, community halls, counselling rooms, reception desks, milking sheds and debating chambers, as much as in worship services and evangelistic outreach, the good news of

Jesus is embodied by the family of Christ at work. We train graduates who we hope will continue the long tradition of Christian social and cultural renewal in New Zealand and beyond.

In the twenty-first century, this renewal will require people who have done the work to prepare themselves to follow their particular calling. Whether your vocation is for ecological stewardship, educating children, entrepreneurship, relational flourishing, media and creative expression, or in whichever sphere you are called, Laidlaw has courses and programmes on offer in 2019 designed to help ground and expand your mission and imagination.

<sup>1</sup> Quoted in James D. Bratt, *Abraham Kuyper: A Centennial Reader (Grand Rapids, 1998)*, p. 461.



ENROLLING NOW FOR 2019

Check out our website for  
course offerings and timetables

[www.laidlaw.ac.nz](http://www.laidlaw.ac.nz)

# Sharing Life with others

Jenny Mackie  
Alumni Coordinator/Student Dean

A love for sharing life with people has been a core value in Andrew and Maree O'Brien's married life. With four children of their own, their home has always been open to others who needed to be loved for who they were. Now they find themselves doing this on a larger scale as Officers in Charge of the Manukau Central Corps of the Salvation Army.

The son of a lay preacher who co-founded the Ranui PIC and the adopted daughter of a Presbyterian minister, Andrew and Maree never dreamed that one day they would be donning the uniforms of the Salvation Army. During their younger years they had both come to the decision that they would serve God in ministry in the future – though Andrew's came with the stipulation, "I'll serve you but wait until I'm 40". After years in youth ministry and discipleship (discipling 120 people in the space of seven years) they drifted away from those early promises until "everything started crashing down around us". Hitting rock bottom became a turning point and God reminded Andrew of his promise.

Andrew came to Laidlaw in 2009, not so much to train to be a pastor but more to discover what it meant to be a man of God. His spiritual formation class had a



Maree and Andrew O'Brien

huge impact as he explored the idea of Christ forming in him. Needing to do an internship for his Bachelor of Ministries degree, he ended up again in youth ministry – but this time with the Salvation Army in Waitakere. After time away from the church they both found the Salvation Army a place they could fit back in.

Maree also took a number of Laidlaw papers for interest but was happy for Andrew to be the minister. However, Andrew was attracted to the egalitarian idea of true partnership in ministry that he saw in the Salvation Army and wanted to do ministry with Maree. It took time for her to adjust to the idea of serving alongside Andrew as a Salvation Army officer. The requirement to forego alcohol and wear a uniform were hurdles she had to overcome, but eventually she realised God's call was for her too.

In 2016 they entered the School for Officer Training at Booth College of Mission. Given their previous ministry experience, the usual two year training was reduced to one and in 2017 they were posted to the Manukau Central Corps as Cadets in Training, and commissioned as Officers in Charge early this year. Andrew has also taken on the role of Pacific Liaison Representative in the Northern Division, facilitating discussion within the Salvation Army about doing mission well within Pacific communities.

Among the community at Manukau they are in their element. They are loving being a restorative part of people's lives, and seeing lives transformed and developed through discipleship. They are both involved in men's and women's programmes as well as leading the regular Sunday services. The community ministries arm of their Corps has its own director and staff but the O'Briens come alongside to help transition people in their journey. It is ministry at the coalface among the most needy. The Corps supported the opening of the Manukau bus station to rough sleepers this winter by providing meals for seven weeks, and getting other local churches involved.

As a young adult Andrew was struck by the call in Isaiah 58:10, "If you give food to the hungry and satisfy those who are in need, then the darkness around you will turn to the brightness of noon." They are grateful to God that he has brought them to the place of answering that call.

# Honouring a Compassionate Heart

Jenny Mackie  
Alumni Coordinator/Student Dean

May Mackey, one of this College's oldest living alumni at age 98, received her Queen's Service Medal "for services to prisoners' support" at a ceremony at Government House in Auckland in October. After graduating from the then Bible Training Institute in 1947, May worked for over 30 years as a matron

of a number of hostels supporting and providing guidance to young Māori men and women coming to Auckland to seek employment or to learn trades. In 1982 she and her husband became prison visitors in the Department of Corrections Kaiwhakamana kaumatua volunteer programme.

She provided prisoners at Mt Eden and Paremoremo with much aroha and prayer support without judgment for over 30 years, until retiring at age 93. Family, friends, former hostel residents, colleagues in prison ministry and former inmates, gathered at May's resthome after her investiture to celebrate and honour this woman who has quietly



May Mackey

Photo courtesy: Anglican Taonga

followed Jesus' example in showing love to the broken.

# Influencing the next Generation

Jenny Mackie  
Alumni Coordinator/Student Dean

A distinctive feature of Laidlaw's Bachelor of Teaching programme is the ability given to students to choose their own placement schools to fulfil practicum requirements. Many end up working in one of those schools. This was true for Megan Connolly who chose Arahoe School for her final eight week full-control placement. A job offer followed, and Megan is now into her fourth year of teaching at this large 800 pupil school in New Lynn, Auckland.

She is currently teaching year 5 and 6 children in a Modern Learning Environment. In this large open space, 150 children are taught by five teachers. Megan has pastoral responsibility for 30 children, ensuring they keep on track with their learning and doing their parent-teacher interviews. It is with this group of children that she seeks to



Megan Connolly

build character and values, talking to them about being a good friend and how to cope when things get hard.

There is huge diversity among the children, both cultural and economic, with some from well-off families and others who come without lunch. Megan loves the richness of the cultural mix, with children from every continent in her syndicate. She also enjoys meeting to pray before school with other Christian teachers – a fellow Laidlaw graduate among them.

Megan has also brought a unique contribution to the school's offering

of extra-curricular activities. Her passion for unicycling has seen the formation of a lunchtime club. Last year attendance peaked at 50 children, though this year skateboarding is "the thing"! Megan has taken some of the children on the Bike the Bridge event, cycling over the Auckland Harbour Bridge.

Her love for working with children was developed through leadership in Girls Brigade and at Christian Youth Camps in Ngaruawahia. Megan continues to lead a Girls Brigade group and is now running activities at a Scripture Union summer camp for teenagers on Ponui Island. She also plays bass and keys in her church worship team and last year began part-time studies towards a Master of Education.

Megan's story is one example of many Laidlaw teaching graduates who are people of influence in the lives of children around New Zealand and beyond. Faithful, dedicated people who are demonstrating the love of Jesus through their teaching – alumni who do Laidlaw proud!

Laidlaw will be offering over 100 courses in 2019. Here are three...



## Mission Church and Community 505.515

(Lecturer: Graeme Flett)

Do you ever wonder where and how God is at work in the world? Explore God's mission and Jesus' ministry throughout the story of the Bible, the history of the church, across the world and in your neighbourhood.

*Tuesday evenings, Henderson and Manukau; Friday mornings, Christchurch (semester one), and by Distance Learning*

Find out more at [laidlaw.ac.nz/courses](http://laidlaw.ac.nz/courses)



## Theology of Suffering and Hope 921.615/715

(Lecturer: Immanuel Koks)

Have you ever sat with a suffering person and thought, "I don't know why this is happening" or, "how do I offer hope?" Explore scripture and theology to see how Jesus comforts and offers solidarity in the absence of answers, then discover how he offers a hope beyond our imagination.

*Monday afternoons, video linked to all campuses (semester one)*



## Vocational Theology R540.830

(Lecturer: Roshan Allpress)

Who has God called you to be, and how might you resource yourself theologically to lead in your field? Vocational theology is for anyone who wants to discern their vocation and develop a theological framework to inform daily living and practice.

*Saturday workshops and evening seminars (semester one)*

# Re-imagining the Gospel story

Jenny Mackie  
Alumni Coordinator/Student Dean

While most Laidlaw students spent their October term break catching up on assignments, Loma 'Uhila and fellow student Moses Maika trained a group of 32 children for two performances of the Biblical story at the Mangere Arts Centre. The group, called Kingdom Challenges, was the brainchild of Loma, a third year Bachelor of Counselling student.



Loma 'Uhila

Performing arts is in Loma's DNA. Growing up in a Tongan family, her father a pastor, it was normal to perform in front of her elders. After high school, Loma studied Performing Arts for three years with Best Training. She then worked for the Village Collective, an organisation equipping Pacific youth and their families with information relating to sexual health and wellbeing. Loma used performing arts as a presentation tool in primary schools and at community events.

It was during those years that Loma became aware of the boredom affecting many Pasifika children during school holidays while parents worked. She recognised the dangers of sitting at home using technology, with pornography so accessible. She pitched the idea of teaching children performing arts to two friends, and Kingdom Challenges was born. Their posters attracted 25 children, aged 5-12, to the first day. They have worked with this group of children for the last three years each October, ending with a showcase to families, friends and local ministers.

This October's production was performed in front of a packed theatre over two nights as Loma's team and

the children presented the story of the Bible through drama and music. It was a colourful, vibrant and funny show, reflecting the children's Pacific culture and artfully stringing together familiar Sunday School stories into the panoramic story of Scripture.

And how does Loma's passion for performing arts fit with a Counselling degree? While praying and fasting over her next step Loma was led to train in Counselling. She chose Laidlaw over other institutions when she discovered she could combine counselling and theology. The first year's focus on person centred therapy fitted naturally with her culture, and she loved her studies in narrative therapy in her second year. The invitational side to narrative therapy fitted with her script writing – rather than impose her point on the audience, she is using skills learnt to write scripts that invite the audience to think.

As she concludes her studies, Loma reflects that these last three years have been a period of much personal growth. She is looking forward to combining her counselling with her performing arts as she seeks to help others become the people God desires them to be.

## Advent Readings

Immerse yourself in Scripture this Advent



Laidlaw staff have compiled a set of free advent readings which you can download from [www.laidlaw.ac.nz/advent](http://www.laidlaw.ac.nz/advent) or order printed copies from Jenny Mackie, [jmackie@laidlaw.ac.nz](mailto:jmackie@laidlaw.ac.nz) or 0800 999 777

We thank you for your support of Laidlaw College! We'd like to wish you all grace and peace this Christ season.

If you would prefer to receive *Encounter* by email, please contact Jenny Mackie (Editor): [jmackie@laidlaw.ac.nz](mailto:jmackie@laidlaw.ac.nz)

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