

" #2kC- To Know Christ"

Kia ora! Malo e lelei! Talofa lava! Bula vinaka!

From both of us on the Presidential Team,

greetings to everyone who has committed to being part of TYC 2018!

We hope it will be an exciting and enriching time when you come "to know Christ" much better.

There are probably times when we have all thought:

"I wish I'd been there when Jesus was on earth!"

"It was easier for the disciples to follow Jesus because they shared life with him for three years."

"What would it have been like to meet Jesus face to face?"

However, not everyone who met Jesus recognised who he was and even his disciples were sometimes confused and puzzled by him. They were hoping for a leader who would make life easier, certainly more just and fair, but instead he healed the sick, befriended people on the fringe, challenged the religious authorities and talked about suffering and rejection. Some argued that Jesus' untimely death meant that his life was a failure and proved that he wasn't anyone special. So who was he? It was as they lived in the light of their experience of Jesus that the disciples began to understand who Christ was. As they trusted the Spirit, they found inspiration and insight, courage and faith. So maybe those early followers didn't have a huge advantage over us after all and found it just as challenging as we do!

" #2kC- To Know Christ" is an opportunity to worship God and to get to know Christ better, to read and reflect on the stories we know about him and understand better who he is. As Christians, we commit to follow in Christ's way and stay connected through God's Spirit; one way of expressing this is to say we are "moored to Christ". That is one side of the Christian life, being connected to the One whom Jesus knew as his "Father in Heaven", his source of love and strength.

The other side to Christian living is to discover the living God among us. Jesus' mission was to bring abundant life, peace, well-being and justice to an unfair world where people were troubled and worried, suffering and treated unfairly. We are called to carry on that work and "move into mission", recognising Christ in the face of a brother or sister, or stranger in need, and sharing and receiving care and compassion with them.

So, we hope "#2kC- To Know Christ" will be a time to know God better through worship and Bible studies, to recognise Christ in others and make new friends, and to recommit to share in the work God is doing in the world around us.

We'd love to hear from you afterwards about how camp helped you to be "Moored to Christ, Moving into Mission"! What has "#2kC- To Know Christ" meant to you?

Prince and Viv

Rev Prince Devanandan
email: princd@methodist.nz

Viv Whimster
email: vjwhimster@gmail.com