

## Bernie Townsend



I have been a born again Christian, baptised in the Holy Spirit, as evidenced by tongues, for 30 years. I commenced in the Lord's service in the Roman Catholic tradition, serving on various parent-teacher positions, life groups and (Charismatic) cell group leadership, and Catholic Education Foundation .

### **Ministry highlights**

My wife and I have raised eight children and have served the Lord together in a number of churches and ministries in pastoral care, parish council, and lay leadership positions. We were members of presenting teams for Marriage Encounter for deepening communication for married and engaged couples. I was a Lay-Chaplain at Waikeria Prison with Hamilton Assembly of God and for three years my wife and I worked with a team of up to 6 volunteer people visiting monthly with groups of inmates based in Waikeria Prison. We developed and delivered an 8-week course for sex offenders based on Christ's desire for forgiveness and restoration, for all. The course helped these young men identify the wrong they had done and also the root causes of their offending. The course facilitated them to go through a process of forgiveness, healing and reconciliation that enabled them to move on. We also organised the Sunday services for the prison and worked with the Corrections service to ensure that we were delivering appropriate spiritual guidance and services.

I have completed a Diploma for Bible Study and Ministry. from Evangel College at Hamilton Assembly of God. Then I went on to complete a Bachelor in Theology with New Covenant International Bible College, degree conferred in 2002. My dissertation was based on experience in cross-cultural communication as demonstrated in our short-term mission work in India (Hydrabad, New Delhi, and Siliguri), Nepal, and Northern China (Xian) .

My wife and I were life group leaders in Vineyard church in South Auckland, and held a similar role in Elim Church in Porirua. We were leader- members of a small home -church associated with New Frontiers when we first moved out to the Kapiti Coast.(Kapiti is approximately 40 Kms north of Wellington). This involved the full range of church ministry including preaching. Then we

fellowshipped with Gospel Faith Ministries (GFM) - a faith-based prophetic outreach ministry under the directorship of Rodney and Jean Francis. The ministry is dedicated to bringing the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to Church-going believers around the world, and developing and sharing the Holy Spirit's prophetic ministry. We were also leaders and elders in Gateway Christian Fellowship, a small Pentecostal church in the Kapiti Coast. This fellowship is now closed.

I studied for post-graduate Masters in Theology degree with Tyndale-Carey wing of Laidlaw College. My thesis was on the Christian life and works of Octavius Hadfield. Octavius was an English Anglican missionary who worked amongst the indigenous Maori people in the Kapiti Coast.

### **Career highlights**

All of my secular work has been in the financial sector of central Government. In my early career, I lead the urban residential settlement of Porirua East, Titahi Bay, (both north of Wellington) and Highbury (Palmerston North). I spent time in the Government Computer Centre where I looked after Central Financial systems. I undertook a review of Teacher's payroll where we decentralized the processing into regional and local school centres. I also undertook a financial feasibility for Government on the viability of moving people from regional intellectually handicapped hospital centres. I established a job costing system for the National Film Unit. I worked in Treasury where I removed the need for all government financial transactions to be processed centrally in the Treasury. Local financial systems were able to be introduced by separate departments. Central information for government was provided by the transfer of monthly macro information and prayer support to staff who might as appropriate.

I have been privileged to have been part of a very successful and productive time in the New Zealand Public Service. This has included work in Treasury, Land Management, Economic Development, Telecommunications, Education, Welfare, and Housing. I have conducted my work activities with and for Regional Management, Political stakeholders, Boards, and Senior Governmental officials. My work has involved the management and development of financial and administrative recording and reporting systems, writing financial reports for internal managers and external stakeholders (including Government committees), developing Business Plans and running regular budgeting and performance monitoring reviews.

I have also spent time in the Tertiary Institute system, as Senior Tutor in Information Technology and also Accounting – Central Institute of Technology and at Manawatu Polytechnic. I developed course material for Diploma students in both disciplines. The courses involved self-paced learning, and required student work-placement and working closely with employers in industry.

### **Cross-cultural highlights**

My cross-cultural experience has included work both overseas and in New Zealand. At Housing New Zealand my role was to provide financial and business analysis support to the rural housing team across New Zealand. This team consisted mainly of Maori staff and I established a number of relationships where I provided pastoral and spiritual advice to Maori staff members as well as establishing relationships with Maori housing organisations and recipients of the Rural Housing programme services, the majority are Maori. In the short time we had with these people we

developed a wide range of presenting material and reviewing feedback. Most of the outreach work was conducted with persons all keen but with a wide range of literacy levels.

**Retirement**

I am now retired. I serve on several Boards on a voluntary basis, and I contract to Accounting for Charities Charitable Trust undertaking financial advice and governance assignments in the Not for Profit sector.

All of this experience in ministry, education and through my work contributes to the range of materials available through this website.

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