

9 February, 2024

Tēnā koe

Exploring the contribution a Christian school may make to enduring faith:

An Appreciative Inquiry of five alumni's Christian school experiences that fostered their individual faith journey.

Master of Professional Practice Research Project

I am writing to offer you the opportunity to participate in the above research project that is related to a course I am studying at Bethlehem Tertiary Institute. The aim of this research project is to explore the experiences of five past students of Christian Schools within the greater Christchurch region with a view to understanding what might be helpful to Christian schools to strengthen ongoing faith formation in their students.

I intend to explore the experiences and responses of five past students who:

- attended a Christian school in Christchurch between years 9 and 13 for at least three years and
- who have been away from Christian schooling for a minimum of three years but no longer than 13 years and
- have an ongoing Christian faith as confirmed by the person being interviewed

It is likely participants will be between 21 years of age and 31 years old.

Participation in the project is entirely voluntary and will involve a 60-minute, audio recorded, interview at a suitable location. The interview involves a semi structured discussion with questions to prompt thoughts and reflections. The questions will be provided prior to the interview. Interview recordings will be transcribed and shared with you to confirm they reflect your comments accurately and that you confirm you are happy with what is recorded.

As a participant you will be able to withdraw from this research at any time without giving a reason, and withdraw your data up until the time you sign to confirm the accuracy of the transcription of your interview. Should you wish to withdraw your data, please contact myself or my research supervisor as per details below.

Any information you give as part of this research will remain strictly confidential to me, my supervisory team and examiners. All participant data will be aggregated and no identifying data will

be used for the purposes of the thesis, or any potential research publication or conference presentation (as explained in the attached information sheet).

I have enclosed an information sheet to explain the study in more detail. If you wish to express an interest in participating, please complete the consent form at the end of the information sheet no later than **Friday 1 March, 2024** .

As this research project requires a limited number of participants, a random selection process will determine who is invited to participate. I will be in touch with you shortly regarding next steps.

This study has been approved by the Bethlehem Tertiary Institute Research Ethics Committee. Due to the small sample size no specific voice (e.g. gender, Māori, Pasifika) will be intentionally sought. Participants will be welcome to interview with whānau present should they wish.

Nāku noa.

Mark Richardson

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PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Exploring the contribution a Christian school may make to enduring faith:

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What is the aim of this research?

This project is an appreciative inquiry (focusing on positive influences) with 5 past students of Christian schools and seeks to discover what was impactful for each of the five students in relation to supporting their faith development while at a Christian school.

Has the research received ethics approval?

The project has been approved by the Bethlehem Tertiary Institute Research Ethics Committee.

Due to the small sample size no specific voice (e.g. gender, Māori, Pasifika etc) will be intentionally sought. Participants who identify as Māori will be invited to nominate their iwi/hapu liaison should they wish and a path towards an agreed interview process will be established with the participant. All participants will be welcome to attend the interview with whānau, hapu and/or iwi support as they choose.

What language will the research be conducted in?

The researcher is fluent in English only. The interview will be conducted in English and all transcripts will be in English only. Any participant is welcome to bring translation support with them. It will be only the participants' responses that are recorded for the purposes of this research.

Who can participate in the research?

I intend to interview 5 past Christian school pupils who:

- were involved in a Christian school in the wider Christchurch area for a minimum of three consecutive years from year 9 upwards and
- who have been out of the Christian school environment as a student for a minimum of three years and a maximum of 13 years and
- have an ongoing Christian faith as confirmed by the participant.
- The above means a participant will likely be between 21 and 31 years of age now.

What is involved in participating in the research?

Participants should be willing;

- to be interviewed one on one - researcher and participant
- to meet at a mutually agreed time and place
- to attend an interview no longer than one hour unless the participant willingly agrees to continue the conversation prior to the concluding time

- to their interview being audio recorded and subsequently transcribed
- to review the draft transcription of their interview and confirm it is a fair and accurate reflection of their responses and/or suggest changes to more fairly reflect their views
- to sign an approval of the transcription as accurate once any modifications have been made to more accurately reflect their views
- to have their anonymised data be included in the research findings and possibly published as described in the consent form

Are there any risks in participating?

Your confidentiality and anonymity will be protected in the final report.

Should you become concerned about the information you provide in your interview, you can choose to withdraw from the research at any time, without giving a reason, and withdraw your data up until you sign to confirm the transcription of your interview is a fair and accurate reflection of our discussion.

Should you have concerns about any aspect of the research you may forward these either to the supervisor of the research project (Dr Lindsay Fish) and/or me. Contact details are available on the consent form.

Should you find, through the interview and transcription process, you are challenged personally you may contact Bethlehem Tertiary Institute through Dr Lindsay Fish to access professional support and/or counselling support. I remain open to ongoing conversation in this specific area with any participant.

How will my confidentiality be protected?

Your name will not be used at any point in the research once the interview begins. For ease of reference and readability a pseudonym will be used in the transcript and final report. This will bear no resemblance to your name nor institution.

Your contact details will not be made available to any third party, including other participants, without your express permission. A copy of the recruitment letter, signed consent form, interview audio recording and transcript will be retained for five years by Bethlehem Tertiary Institute and then destroyed. The consent form and transcript will be stored separately to protect your anonymity. The same will be retained by the researcher in cloud storage in a password protected storage file accessible only by the researcher.

Is participation voluntary and how do I withdraw from the research?

Participation is entirely voluntary, and you have the right to withdraw without giving a reason from the research, and the right to remove your data at any time up until you sign to confirm that the transcription of your interview is a fair and accurate reflection of our discussion.

To withdraw, please confirm via email to either me (the researcher) or the supervisor of the research (Dr Lindsay Fish). Contact details are below.

Who can I contact if I have further questions about this research?

I am undertaking this research project as part of completing a Master of Professional Practice through Bethlehem Tertiary Institute and my contact details are below. Dr Lindsay Fish is supervising the research project on behalf of Bethlehem Tertiary Institute and is also available to answer any queries.

Mark Richardson

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Dr Lindsay Fish

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Dr. Peter Bray

School of Social Practice

Bethlehem Tertiary Institute

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Reply Slip – Please return to Mark Richardson by

- email mark.richardson@aidanfield.school.nz
- use the QR code OR
- Form link: <https://forms.office.com/r/Hs913xdtrC>



Returns date: Lodge your expression of interest by Friday 1 March, 2024

I would like to participate in the research project **Exploring words and action. An Appreciative Inquiry into what really forms faith through Christian schooling.**

- I have read and understood the details in the information sheet and supporting documents.
- I acknowledge I have an ongoing Christian faith, attended a Christian school within the greater Christchurch area for a minimum of 3 years from year 9 upwards and have been out of the Christian school environment as a student for more than 3 years but not more than 13 years.
- I agree to the terms for participants in the research and the expectations of being involved.
- I acknowledge that if there are more applications than places the choice of participants will be by random ballot, and if successful I will receive a Participant Consent Form.
- If randomly chosen to receive an invite to participate I give permission for my nominated iwi/hapu representative (identified below) to be contacted directly by the researcher for the purpose of developing and agreeing tikanga and process.

Please contact me as follows:

Name	
Email	
Iwi/hapu:	<p>If randomly chosen for an invitation to participate in this research I would like the following iwi/hapu representative to be consulted in relation to the design of this interview process</p> <p>My iwi/hapu:</p> <p>Iwi/hapu representative name :</p> <p>Iwi rep contact phone #:</p> <p>Iwi rep contact email:</p>
<p>Please note: The researcher (Mark) is fluent in English only. The interview will be conducted in English and transcribed into English. Any participant is welcome to bring an interpreter for language support if they wish. Equally, any participant is welcome to bring support if they wish</p>	

but must note that it is the views of the participant that will be recorded for the purposes of this research.