

The Call of God to Northland, New Zealand
Ken and Dorothy Bassett and Family

September, 2016, ekb

Found in www.pastornotes.com

While Dorothy and Ken and family were working part time in the Auckland Wayside Mission, from January 1971 to 1975, they received a “call” to work in Northland among the Churches.

PROPHETIC VOICE and CALL

During this time, Doug Maskell and other prophets, spoke prophetically to Ken about giving up the right to earn a living, at that time as a teacher, resigning from church ministry in the AWM, and going into Northland to assist in planting and growing new Churches that were soon to start appearing in the North.

VISION OF FLAMES IN NORTHLAND

During the mid 1970s, as Ken prayed with believers in Whangarei, the Holy Spirit gave a vision of the map of Northland dotted with tongues of flame, which increased in number and size until the whole of Northland was a blaze of fire. This vision was seen a number of times by various people.

FAITH CHALLENGE

It took Ken and Dorothy some time to get faith in their hearts, about not working in a secular way to earn a living. The Holy Spirit led them to Philippians 4:19 many times: “My God shall supply all your needs, according to His riches in glory, by Christ Jesus.”

PART TIME

From 1974 Ken reduced his teaching hours at St Kentigern College from full time to half time, so that some weekends could be spent travelling North to Churches who were asking for assistance.

FIRST CHURCH PLANTED

In 1976, a group in Whangarei planned to start a Church on October 1st, and said that they could not start unless Ken could be there. Ken rejected this at first, but the Holy Spirit confirmed this to be the case. And as Ken went North the Lord gave powerful Scripture confirmation. Psalm 115:14, 15. (KJV). The call involved the whole family. It is from this date, October 1st, 1976, that the time of working in the North has been reckoned.

FULL TIME

In January 1978, Ken and Dorothy decided that Ken should stop part time teaching senior chemistry at St Kentigern College, Pakuranga, and that they should take the step of going “full time” to Northland.

FAMILY

In January 1978, Ken and Dorothy’s oldest, Peter, was 19, Ian, 17, Lynne, 14, and John, 9. Sometimes Lynne and John would travel with Ken to a Maungaturoto Church, and to Oakridge Camp, which was Barry Smith’s base. This was on a part of the farm owned by Dave and Lynaire and Mike and Anne Porteous.

SUPPORT

Greenlane Christian Centre began in March 1981. At the end of the last meeting of Eastern Suburbs C.F., before the beginning of GCC, Terry told Ken that a group of believers had asked him and Jayne to start a Church.

Terry asked Ken if he would help to get the new Church established.

For several years, Ken and Dorothy were a little diverted from the North, to help in the establishment of GCC, until the Lord said very clearly, “Get back to Northland!”

Greenlane CC became our Auckland base and from an early date Terry and the Board have supported the ministry to the North.

Support also came from the Churches of the North that Ken and Dorothy visited, sometimes in veges, fruit, and frozen meat, as well as finance.

MANY OTHER CHURCHES BEGAN

After the establishing of the Whangarei Community Church in 1976, another group of 12 mature believers gathered to start another Church in Whangarei. In February 1977 they met in a garage in King Street and asked Ken to assist them in getting under way. Ken, and sometimes family, worked with this Church, “Christian Renewal Fellowship”, and Bible School, for many years. “CRF” also has a large Christian School from year 1 to year 13.

Around this time many Churches started to appear in the North and ask for help and support to get established: Ruawai C.F., Kawakawa A.O.God, Kaikohe C.F., Moerewa C.F., Kaitaia Abundant Life Centre, Christian Fellowship Wellsford, Parua Bay C.F., Titoki C.F., and Paihia Family Church.

For many years these Churches were visited three times a year for a week each visit.

The work was to encourage the leaders, preach and teach the Word, pray with leaders and visit Church members.

This work continued to expand and include Churches in Mangawhai, Ruakaka, Paparoa, Ararua, Rawene, Kaeo, Doubtless Bay, Russell, Kerikeri, Hikurangi, Awanui, Ruatangata, and additional Churches in Whangarei, Kawakawa, Kaitaia, Kaikohe, Kerikeri and Paihia. Anglican, Union, Baptist, Assembly of God, as well as nondenominational Churches, were included in this travelling ministry. Doors opened through relationships that were established.

DOROTHY AND KEN TRAVELLED TOGETHER

When the children no longer needed Dorothy at home, Dorothy and Ken travelled out together. It is much better working together in the ministry. The impact is far greater. Dorothy's strong gifts of hearing the voice of the Lord, and intuition are vital and necessary.

NORTHLAND LEADERS' GATHERING

In 1986 John Sinclair, a senior leader of Christian Fellowship Wellsford, encouraged a few Northland leaders to organise a Northland wide Leaders' Gathering, to be held every three months, in the Moerewa area. For the first fourteen years, until 2000, the numbers of leaders that met was about 20 to 25 on average. But the Holy Spirit spoke and said, "Now there will be increase." At that time the Leaders' Gathering had been meeting in two houses in Pakaraka, close to Moerewa, and the numbers increased rapidly to forty and then sixty. About 2008 the Leaders' Gathering was shifted to the Moerewa Church Centre, (which had been the Moerewa Hotel-the scene of violent opposition to the Police), and the numbers increased to eighty and sometimes more than one hundred have gathered.

Leaders come to the Gathering from Kaitaia and further north, and from as far south as Orewa and further south.

The purpose of this gathering is to assist relationship building, unity in the Body of Christ, leadership development, corporate worship, prayer for major issues of national importance, speak the prophetic word, share local stories from several Churches, pray together in groups of three, receive the preaching of the Word and have a meal together. Pastors Terry Calkin and Mike Porteous preached and shared at the last gathering on August 4th, 2016.

CURRENT EXAMPLE OF A VISIT TO THE NORTH

While Dorothy was staying in Tauranga with our son Peter and Jacqui, for the first three weeks of August, 2016, Ken visited the North.

On Aug 3rd, Ken travelled to Moerewa, and stayed with Howie and Vicki. (Founding Pastors of Moerewa C.F.)

Aug. 4th, Leaders' Gathering in Moerewa. Terry and Mike were the ministers of the Word.

Aug. 5th, to Village Church, Tornado Centre, Hikurangi, and stayed there for one week.

Aug. 6th, prep for Sunday, Aug 7th, preaching "Every Believer Must Eat to Live." (God's Word is our food.)

Aug. 7th, 1pm, 5 car loads to Kaikohe, Kowhai Park, main street, Open Air evangelism and healing. 10 adult men answered the appeal for salvation, an amazing miracle of healing all could see occurred, and many were prayed for. (Ken stayed back and had a sleep, at his accommodation in Otonga Road, Marua, with his hosts.)

Aug. 8th, to Kaikohe to take part in a Home Group where a key young leader made the decision for Christ.

Aug. 9th, outreach to Oakura to take part in a Home Group. Three needy locals received ministry.

Aug. 10th, ladies meeting at Hikurangi Church centre.

Aug. 11th, Rest day.

Aug. 12th, travel to Rawene to stay with retiring pastoral couple of "CrossOver" Baptist Church, Murray and Dorothy Nelson.

Aug. 13th, visit and share with new incoming pastoral couple, Graeme and Maureen Nelson whom we have known since 1981.

Aug. 14th, 4pm service to set in the new pastoral couple. Preached 2 Timothy 3:14 to 4:1-5. "Preach the Word." The Church venue was packed and the leaders of many Northland Churches were present. Dinner for all followed. After the service, Ken returned to Pakaraka, and stayed at Howie and Vicki's home for the week.

Aug. 15th to 18th, travel out from Howie and Vicki's to visit leaders in Pakaraka, Paihia, Kerikeri and Moerewa.

Aug. 19th, return to Auckland, and Peter drove Dorothy home on the 20th, from Tauranga.