





COMMUNITY FORMATION

This week we have not two but three **Community Lunches** with a special **'Mission style'** lunch on Wednesday hosted by NZBMS. Come and enjoy some potato roti—yum.

RSVP to events@carey.ac.nz so we can cater enough food.

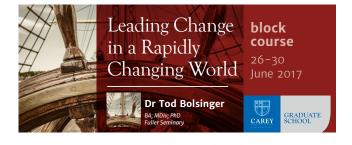
Chapel Speaker, Tuesday Lunchtime Interview and Wednesday Prayer will all be centred around Mission Week.

There will be numerous Mission Agencies on-site so please make them feel welcome and take the opportunity to chat with them about what they do and investigate options.













As followers of Jesus, mission is not an option. Isn't it what Jesus called us to? The specifics though may look a little different for each of us. Some of you are studying to serve in churches, some to serve on the global mission field, some to serve more deeply in the workplaces you find yourselves and all of us in the wider community. Wherever we find ourselves we engage in mission. And a little assistance and support to do that never goes amiss.

It's not uncommon for us to hear statements such as 'mission is not for me', 'mission agencies are too restrictive', 'I don't want to be accountable', 'our church doesn't need anyone else' etc. Digging deeper, it quickly becomes clear that such comments are borne from lack of knowledge, misunderstanding and wrong perceptions developed over a number of years. May I be so bold as to request, pastors—please gain some understanding before you take up a pastoral role so you will be able to support and guide the church you serve and the individuals who are called to very specific roles in mission. Individuals seeking to serve overseas—please

explore some options, understand some realities, ask some questions of different groups before you make your decisions. Supporters, prayers, friends, teachers—take the opportunity to learn for yourself so you can better support others. Many will tell you, it will only help!

This week is the annual Carey Mission Week. It offers an opportunity to engage directly with people and organisations who can resource you intentionally—in understanding of ministry opportunities, expertise, realities, partnerships and so on. These are very ordinary, normal folk who appreciate the opportunity to spend some time with the college community—to simply be, share conversation, hear what's on your minds, eat together and understand what's happening in the life of the college. Can I encourage you to look at information, talk to organisational representatives, or come upstairs and see NZBMS (we'll give you coffee!) this week. We're here to serve and resource you and we love doing so!

Rachel Murray

| General Director, NZ Baptist Missionary Society