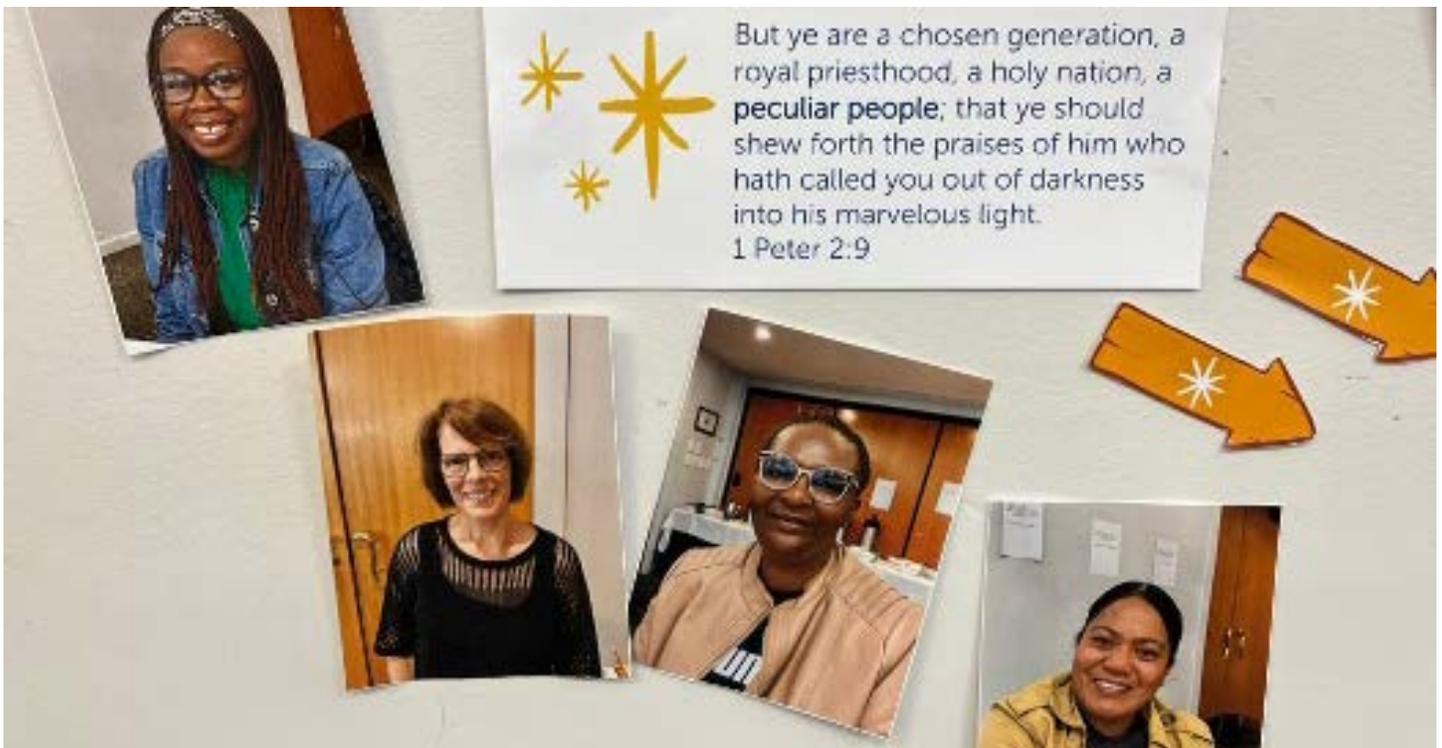


Bold Beginnings: New Zealand steps into the Teaching for Transformation Journey



Fifty educators from Adventist schools across New Zealand gathered in Auckland and Wellington to begin their journey of Teaching for Transformation. From communities in the North to the deep South, they brought their hopes for what Christian education could become. Some arrived curious, some unsure, and all wondering what TtT would mean for them, for their teaching and for their classrooms. Over the course of three days together those questions slowly gave way to discovery. Through instruction, conversation, reflection, prayer, laughter, and collaborative planning, teachers began to see how the core practices of TtT could reshape the way they design learning. They left not only with new tools, but with renewed purpose, energized and committed to inviting, nurturing and empowering learners to see and to live God's story here in Aotearoa New Zealand.

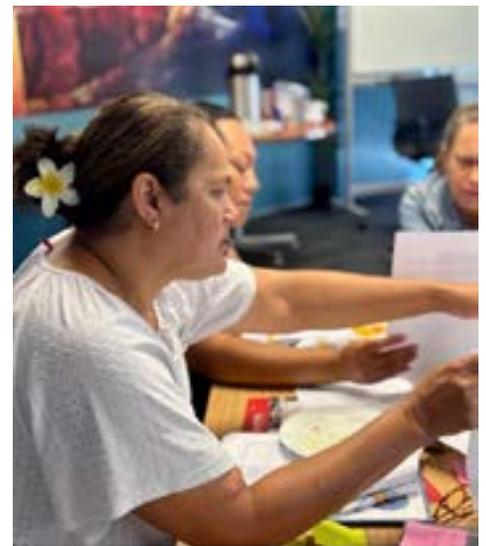




Opening Circles: Opening circles were characterized by contagious joy, new friendships, deep connection and worship moments as with multilingual greetings teachers welcomed one another into a shared *Brave Space*. These simple moments set the tone for the days - community learning together and courageously stepping into something new.



Core Practices: Listening, learning, sharing, and thinking deeply about the core practices. School teams worked side by side, exploring Deep Hope, Storylines and Throughlines, beginning the work of shaping a shared vision for how TtT will take root in their own classrooms and school communities.



Designing: Imagining, dreaming big, and designing for formation. Around tables filled with sticky notes teachers began crafting the first learning journeys their students would experience through the lens of their freshly minted Deep Hope and Storylines.



TtT takes root: What began in these gatherings now continues in classrooms across the country as schools step into their first year of TtT implementation.

From these teacher reflections, we can see how TtT is beginning to shape teachers, students and learning:

TtT has personally transformed my teaching by shifting my focus from 'what' I teach to 'who' my students are becoming in God's story. For my Year 2 and 3 students, this means I no longer just teach them to read or count; I invite them to know that they are part of God's Epic Love Story. Developing my own Deep Hope has given me an insight and ensures every lesson is an opportunity for them to practice living as disciples of God. It reminds me of my role that I am not only preparing my students to be a confident citizen of Aotearoa but are active citizens of the Kingdom now.

To be honest, TtT has helped me move beyond a 'checklist' mindset and reminded me why I became a Christian educator, and that is to help my students discover their unique place in God's story. Now, instead of just delivering lessons, I feel like I'm walking alongside them, proud as they do work that truly matters in the world. It brings me so much joy to see the spark in their eyes when they realize they aren't just 'doing school work,' they are making a real impact in God's Kingdom.

This learning has not only influenced my teaching at school, but also my life at home and in church. I often share these ideas with my family, and we talk about them together. I also bring this understanding into my Sabbath School class because I now see how important it is for children to understand God's big story and where they, and we individually, belong in that story.

I am becoming more deliberate about building learning around a bigger story and helping students see how their learning connects to real life and to God's world. The TtT practices are encouraging me to frame units with a clear purpose and storyline, and to think about what kind of people students are becoming through the learning.

We are deeply grateful to CACE and to Darryl De Boer, who regularly travels to the land of kiwi's, sheep, boiling mud and the long white cloud. Thanks for walking alongside us. We're so excited to be part of the TtT story.

