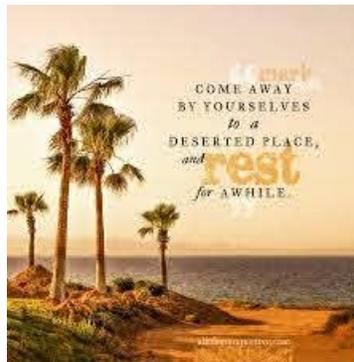


Kawatiri Karakia Korero Kai Koha (K5)

The Background and the Vision

A few years ago, I went on a **retreat**. A retreat is an extended time apart from our normal, everyday life commitments for the purpose of being with God and giving God our undivided attention. It is about especially setting aside time to be with our best friend – Jesus.

It is something I see Jesus inviting us to do. Jesus invited his first disciples to ‘Come away to a deserted place and rest a while’ (Mark 6:30)



The Holy Spirit also drove Jesus out to a wilderness place after his baptism (Luke 4)

Now, that doesn't sound too difficult, does it?

And so, the planning began. I needed some annual leave. Then, I needed a place to go – somewhere there would be a Spiritual Director who could be there to help me process what God may or may not be saying to me. Somewhere not too far away would be good. And somewhere that didn't cost an arm and a leg. Some 12 months later, I found myself on a plane to a North Island small inland town. I was met at the airport and taken to the room where I would spend the next week. The one window looked out on a rubbish bin.

Like a lot of folk who go on a retreat, rest was important, so that first day was spent catching up on sleep. Then came finding a rhythm of prayer, Bible reading and journaling. The frequent interruptions and mini sermons to digest were not quite what I had thought a retreat would be. And so, my questions and journaling began. I started to ask God what it was I needed. *What would a retreat venue be, where I, and those I ministered to, could experience God in a fresh way, and renew this vital relationship?* If retreat was a Spiritual Discipline that was important, then it needed to be available to all – regardless of income, or lack of.

I was conscious that I had had difficulty accessing somewhere geographically close and reasonably priced.

The vision started to form – a place where there was bush, sea and river; a quiet place to reflect and pray; a Spiritual Director who was available - but only if you needed them; maybe some invitations for reflection, if you chose to use them.



The idea of **koha** started to gel. *What if those who came responded in the way that was appropriate to their place in life? Maybe they would respond through a monetary donation that reflected their income? Or maybe their response may be to meet a need through one of the gifts God had blessed them with – baking, fishing, gardening?*

As with many dreams, we need to put them aside for a while. So, it was written in the back of a journal, and I returned to Canterbury and my busy life as a Prison Chaplain. As I met with men seeking to grow in their relationship with Jesus, I would, from time to time, reflect on this subject of retreat. *How could these men and their whanau manage to get time alone with God?* As a couple, we were certainly not in a position to explore this. *Or were we?*

The writer of Ecclesiastes talks of times and seasons; of the person who seeks and meditates on and ponders Wisdom's secrets (Ecclesiastes 14:20, Wisdom, being one of God's names). Clearly, if this was from God, it was for another season.

The Vision gets tentacles



Our elder son, Barnabas, was living in Franz Josef. Friends generously shared their holiday home in Hokitika. We had a sense that God was drawing us to the Coast. Visions and dreams often start out in a vague way. Over time, God clarifies them – or they evaporate.

We crept further north. We had a holiday in Westport – then in Ngakawau. We went to St Peter’s in Granity on Sunday morning. The legendary Brenda Larsen asked a question; “*Where are you staying?*” and then said, “*You can stay in St Peter’s flat*”.



And so, the first of many stays in the flat commenced, and with it, a growing sense that God would have us be in this area sometime in the future.

There was rainforest.



There was sea.



There was a river.



There were many places to reflect and experience God in nature and be refreshed and renewed. We also met folks who we knew who had spent a season of their lives in The Big House. And #2 son, Josiah, moved from Wellington to Murchison with his family.

The Cloud Moves



One of the images God has used through our marriage is the image of the cloud; a Biblical image the children of Israel were all too familiar with. When the cloud moved, they needed to as well. It can also be experienced as a restless spirit within us or a stirring of the waters. Where previously we were content, there was a sense that God is about to bring in some changes.

We had been casually looking at properties the length of the coast for some years. Then in March 2019, we noticed a property on Trade Me. Our friend, Grace also spoke to us about it. We immediately had a sense of arrival. Here was a place that could be our home yet could also provide hospitality and refreshment; a place of retreat for all who want to come; a place with a special room which over time became known as **The Sanctuary**.



Since purchasing 5 River Road, many have been able to come for short self-directed retreats and maybe some of you were able to come to the half-day retreat co-led by Watiri and Jacqui.

The Name – Kawatiri Karakia Korero Kai Koha. (K5)

Our physical location is 5 River Road, Hector 7822. The email is krimaawa@gmail.com .
(Rima=five and awa= river in Te Reo Maori).



Kawatiri

K5 is in Kawatiri District, named for the deep and swiftly-flowing Kawatiri/Buller River. *How deep and swift are the channels through which God's spirit can flow through each of us? Is K5 a place where the dredging can remove the silt that has accumulated?*



Karakia

Prayer is central to all that happens at K5. For tangata whenua, karakia were used to invoke spiritual guidance and protection, and were seen to increase the spiritual goodwill of a gathering, ensuring a better outcome. Over time, and in a Christian context, the term has come to include prayer, a grace, blessing, or church service. At its simplest, prayer is hanging out with God, yet it is also a great mystery that the Creator of the universe wants to have a relationship with me and you. So, karakia undergirds all that happens at K5 – before, during and after a visit here. It is also a place to explore new ways of praying and deepening your relationship with Jesus. **The Sanctuary** is the special room or Chapel that becomes the place to come away and pray – then korero.



Korero

The Maori Dictionary describes korero as “to tell, say, speak, read, talk, address”, and it is also speech, narrative, listening to stories, discussion, conversation, sharing information. Chaplaincy has given us both lots of practice at listening to others’ stories, of noticing where their story intersects with God’s stories. So, we’d love you to come and share your story with one or both of us at K5.

Kai

Across time and cultures, sharing of food has been part of relationship-growing. K5 values sharing of food and or drink as core to what we explore together here. The Gospels have lots of stories of Jesus caring for our physical needs and also receiving of hospitality from others.



Koha

This is your response. It reflects the mana of giver and receiver. It mirrors God's gift of salvation. We don't have to do anything or pay anything to receive this free gift. Jesus has done it all. However, our love response to Jesus is that we go and serve others - because of our desire, not because we are compelled to. For us, it is recognising that God will provide all our needs, and the abundant blessing we have received in coming to K5.

Nuts and Bolts

- You may come for 1 hour or 5 days.
- You can come as often as you like. Perhaps you would like time alone to pray in The Sanctuary
- You may choose to come for Spiritual Direction (often an hour a month), Clinical Supervision (also monthly), counselling, pastoral care, or a retreat (where you stay in our home, in a room with en suite, but sharing meals with us).
- The retreat can be self-directed or facilitated by me or a visiting Spiritual Director.
- We like to design your time around what you are needing, so it may be a mixture of some of the above things. Have a chat and see what works.

Who do we see coming at this stage

- You
- CAP (Christians Against Poverty) clients from Canterbury
- Spiritual Director trainees
- Anyone from across Te Waipounamu, who wants to have a few days retreat
- Whoever God sends (the exciting, mystery part)

You may like to check out the Facebook Page and Group; [Kawatiri Karakia Korero Kai Koha](#)

We have started already. We continue to prepare the property and the guest room. **The Sanctuary** is already available and being used by some of you. Spiritual Direction is happening.

We would love your active prayer involvement. Come vist.

