

Rural Chaplaincy Training Day

A photograph of a rustic wooden cabin with a corrugated metal roof, situated in a dense forest. The cabin has a gabled roof and a small window. In the foreground, there is a large green backpack and several hiking poles leaning against the cabin. To the right, a green tent is pitched on a grassy area, with a red jacket and other gear nearby. The background is filled with tall trees and lush greenery.

The Very Rev Dr Graham Redding
29 April 2023

The background of the slide is a photograph of the University of Otago's main building, a large Gothic Revival structure with a prominent clock tower. The building is partially obscured by a dense line of cherry blossom trees in full bloom, their pink and white flowers creating a soft, textured foreground. The sky is a clear, bright blue with a few wispy clouds. The overall scene is bright and scenic, suggesting a pleasant campus environment.

Chaplaincy Studies @ Otago

- The only tertiary-level chaplaincy studies programme in Aotearoa
- Choice of 3 postgraduate qualifications: Certificate, Diploma, Masters
- No prior theological qualification needed
- Research-based inquiry integrated with practical application & personal reflection
- 4 core papers:
 - Chaplaincy in Diverse Contexts
 - The Chaplain as Ceremonial Leader
 - Pastoral Care in Dying, Grief, & Loss
 - Christian Ministry in te ao Māori
- One paper taught per semester via fortnightly evening Zoom sessions ... ideal for fitting around work & other commitments. Can be done from the comfort of home.
- To find out more: otago.ac.nz/theology

Chaplains as 'keepers of the cloak' (of compassion)

- The word 'chaplain' comes from the Latin word 'capella' or 'little cloak' & refers to a story about St Martin of Tours
- *Pro fide, pro utilitate hominum ...*
For faith, for service to humanity
- A ministry of compassionate presence to people of all faiths and none



The power of shalom

Walter Brueggemann (*Living Toward a Vision*) identifies 3 dimensions of shalom:

- 1) A vision of harmony for all creation
 - 2) A human community in which oppressed people have dignity & power
 - 3) Personal well-being
- Connotations of peace, wholeness, completion, harmony, prosperity, security, reconciliation & joy
 - Woven into the movement from chaos to order, culminating in the peace & joy of the Sabbath
 - Jesus: The one in who shalom is both declared & established



Chaplaincy: A Ministry of Presence

Being physically present ...
listening ... discerning ...
comforting ...

... in the manner of Christ, the
Incarnate One ...

... as an agent of assurance,
healing, reconciliation, & hope

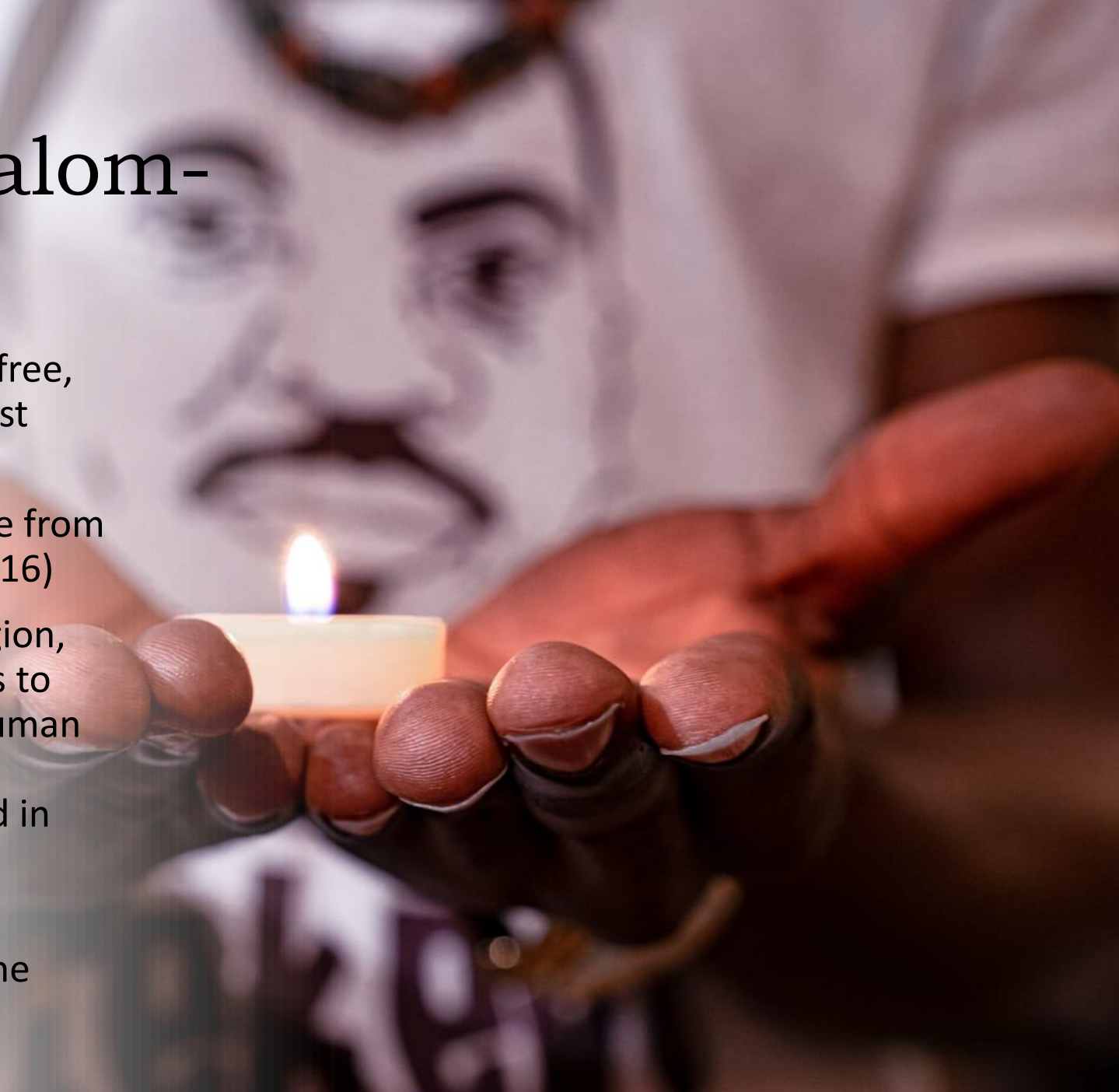


Chaplaincy: A Shalom-Bearing Presence

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28)

“From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view ...” (2 Corinthians 5:16)

- Chaplaincy transcends categories of religion, ethnicity, nationality, gender, and politics to uphold the dignity and worth of *every* human being, regardless of circumstance, in the knowledge that we have *all* been created in the image of God and, *in Christ*, been reconciled to God.
- Chaplains are guided by the parable of the Good Samaritan.



A group of people are crossing a suspension bridge made of wooden planks and ropes over a river. They are carrying large bundles of wood and other goods on their heads and backs. The background shows lush green trees and a cloudy sky.

Whakataukī

He manga wai koia kia kore e
whitikia?

Is a river never to be crossed?

The Bridge

Joy Cowley, *Aotearoa Psalms*

There are times in life when we are called to be bridges,
not a great monument spanning a distance
and carrying loads of heavy traffic,
but a simple bridge to help one person from here to there over
some difficulty
such as pain, grief, fear, loneliness,
a bridge which opens the way
for ongoing journey.

When I become a bridge for another,
I bring upon myself a blessing,
for I escape from the small prison of self
and exist for a wider world,
breaking out to be a larger being
who can enter another's pain
and rejoice in another's triumph.

I know of only one greater blessing in this life,
and that is,
to allow someone else to be a bridge for me.



The art of pastoral care

Japanese Stone Artist, Akie Nakata

“In order to bring out what is latent in the stone to the surface, I proceed very carefully. Am I forcing something that disagrees with the natural shape of the stone? I tread carefully. I put my paintbrush to the stone when I truly feel that it is the right brushstroke. In this sense, my painting is a dialogue with the stone. It is the stone that determines what I paint on it, not me. The art I want to create is a life newly born in my hands through my dialogue with the stone.”



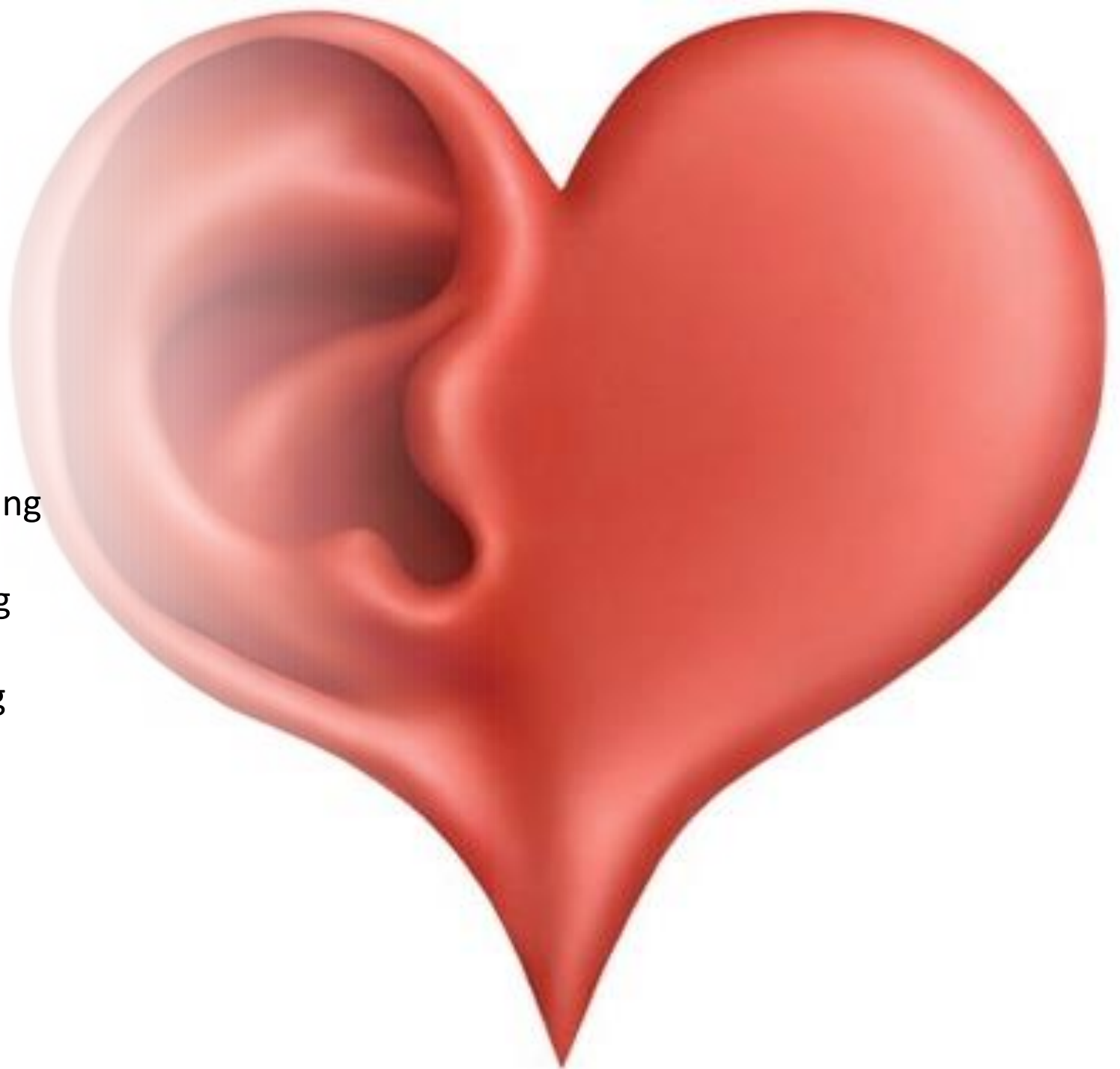


The chaplain as pastoral/spiritual carer

- Cultivating the arts of “deep listening” & discernment
- Helping people build resilience & find their own answers to questions of faith & meaning
- Deploying tools of faith in a manner that supports & complements the work of other health professionals
- Working for the restoration of shalom in all its dimensions
- A non-anxious presence

The art of deep listening

- Being attentive, taking time
- Creating space for story to be told (but not forcing it, or asking leading questions)
- Truly listening to what is being said
- Listening for what is *not* being said
- Observing body language
- Allowing silence
- Reflecting back



The art ... and gift ... of prayer

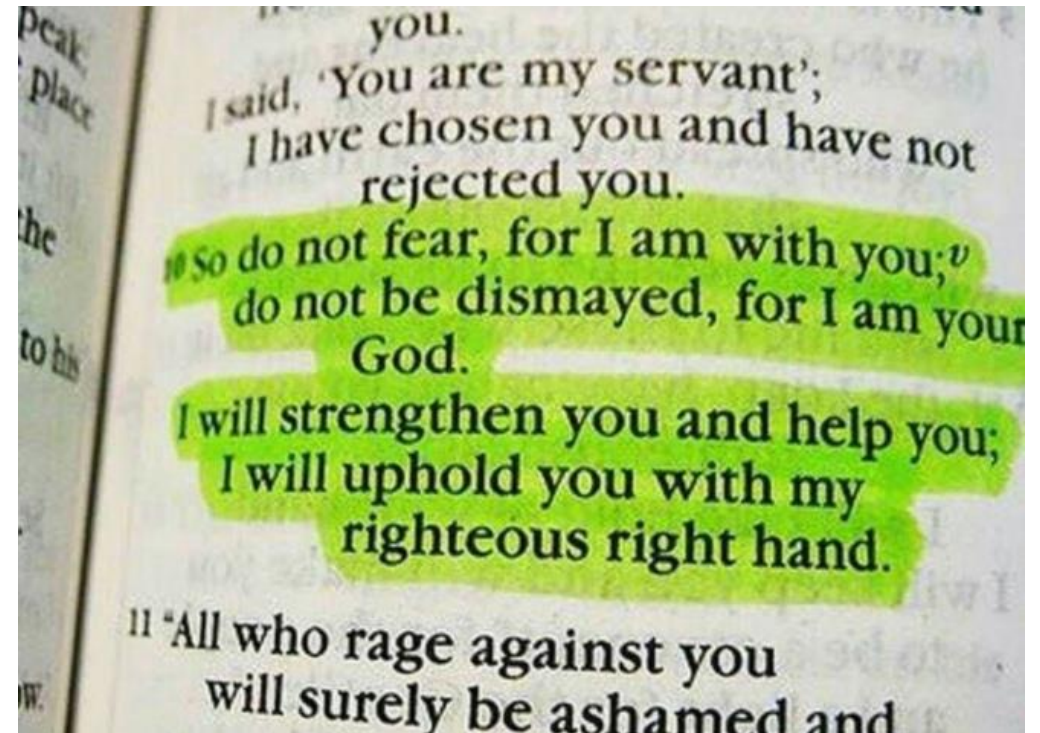
We cannot always find the right words to pray ...

... and we do not know how to pray as we ought ...

... but in Jesus, we have a Brother in prayer, a great High Priest, who teaches us to pray, gives us a prayer to pray, prays for us, and takes our faltering prayers, perfects them, and presents them to the Father ...

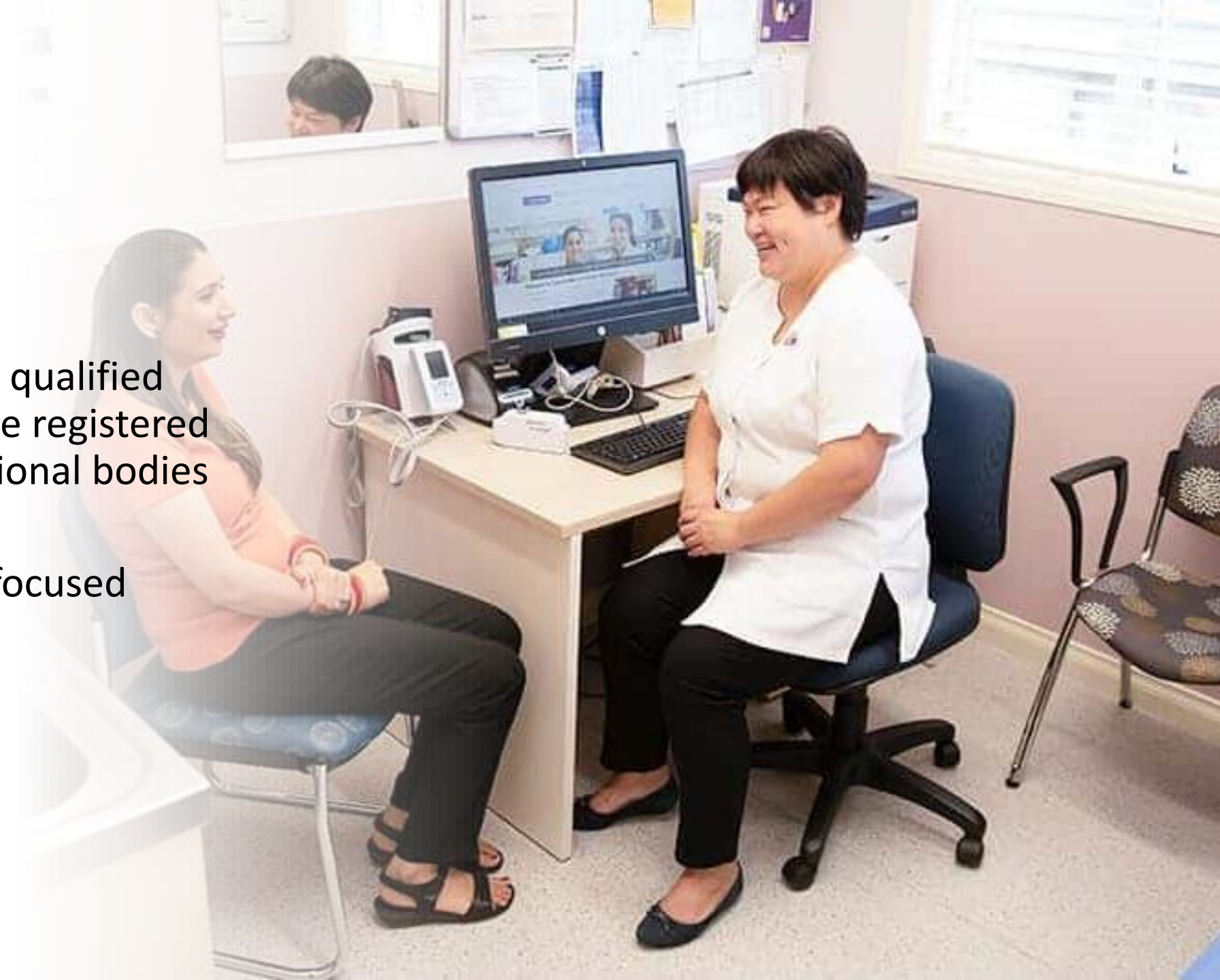
... and the Spirit helps us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words.

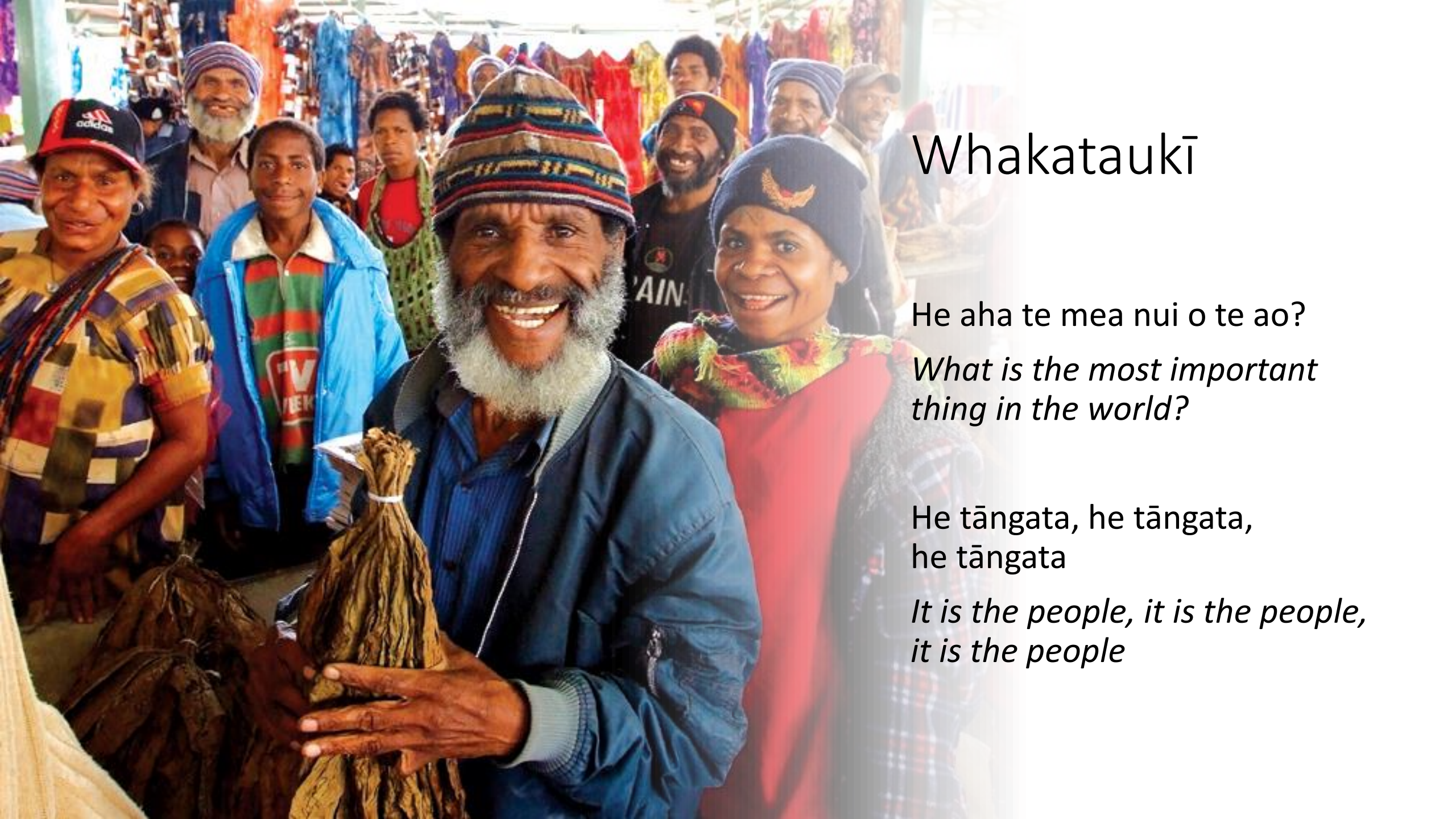
Prayer begins here.



Clinical care

- Provided by suitably qualified practitioners who are registered members of professional bodies
- Interventionist & symptom/problem-focused
- By appointment
- A paid service
- Secular
- ...





Whakataukī

He aha te mea nui o te ao?

*What is the most important
thing in the world?*

He tāngata, he tāngata,
he tāngata

*It is the people, it is the people,
it is the people*