

# Biblical Reference

**Thank you for including Christians Against Poverty in your Christmas Appeal service.**

Your church will be enabling individuals and whānau in hardship to have a new beginning this Christmas.



**You may choose** to (1) deliver a short/ impactful mention of the Appeal, eg. a few minutes during notices; (2) take up a mission offering; or (3) dedicate your service to this important topic.

**Refer to the helpful tips** document for ideas on how to use the supplied resources in your digital pack at [capnz.org/christmas](https://capnz.org/christmas)

**CAP's primary Biblical reference for the appeal is:**

*"The Word became human and made his home among us."* (John 1:14a NLT)

Alternative translations can be used, as appropriate for your church. Further, the surrounding verses in John 1:1-18 are a profound reminder of new beginnings this Christmas – Jesus is with us, God among us – and on the move within our neighbourhoods.

**In the video CAP also references Isaiah 7:14b (NLT):**

*"She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us')"*

## Video script and video use

During your service, CAP recommends playing the full [3min:40s](#) video of Roy's story presented by Esther Greenwood, CAP's Gospel Engagement Manager. However, if you have limited time (or prefer to introduce and conclude Roy's story from the pulpit), you can use the [alternative version](#).

**You can read the video transcription, printed below for your convenience**

*There are two ways you could use the transcript:*

1. Prayerfully read Esther's words below. Feel inspired through Wairua Tapu/Holy Spirit as you build on this and prepare your Sunday message; or
2. Use it as a starting point/introduction. Finish with the shortened 90-second version of Roy's story from the pulpit, or as part of your presentation.

The video transcript below could be a springboard to you get started. It contains helpful info that you can adapt and incorporate into your sermon. (Please keep the statistics/practical information about how CAP works as close to the original as possible)...

# Transcribed Video Script



This year, across Aotearoa, individuals, mums and dads, want a home that's free of poverty. Free of unmanageable debt.

Where sleep isn't interrupted by the panic of how to afford next week's kai. Where debt collectors are not calling...

Into this, we invite Jesus. *"The Word became human and made his home among us."*  
(John 1:14a NLT)

And now, with Jesus at work in local neighbourhoods – with CAP and the local church – you can make a new beginning possible for New Zealanders, this Christmas.

2023 has been a difficult time.

With the rising cost of living, CAP expects 51 first-time callers every week in the lead-up to Christmas. Fifty one New Zealanders each and every week. These are people in money chaos.

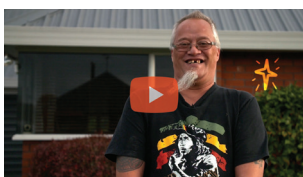
With your support, there will be a CAP first responder to take their call. Where bookings are available, there'll be a Debt Coach from the local church to visit their home – to start building friendships, building relationships.

CAP will gather their bills and debts.... will negotiate with people's money lenders. And CAP will create a plan, enabling clients to pay off their debt... using their own income .

This is the care Roy received – after 12 years of homelessness and unmanageable debt.

A new beginning.

>> Here is where you could play the shortened 90 second version of the video (Roy's story alone)



With CAP, hope starts with the very first phone call.

With an invitation for prayer. As Roy says, *"A realisation, that I'm not alone."*

Once people have a CAP budget – life's needs like food and rent are taken care of – people have the headspace to deal with their debt, and to start focusing on what's most important, to them.

CAP clients get a hands-on experience of budgeting and saving. It creates life-changing habits. For whānau, this means growth in financial resilience.

Roy says *"These days, I like seeing other people happy! Every day I challenge myself to do something better. Whether it's buying people coffee. Or buying them lunch."*

**This, to me, is a picture of God's economy. The local church, you – opening doors for CAP clients to start strengthening their relationships.... *with money, with self, others, and with God.***

**Jesus. Immanuel. God with us.**

**So, this Christmas, will you help to give a person like Roy a new beginning?**

**When you donate to CAP, you'll ensure new CAP clients receive free practical help, emergency food if needed – and a local church to walk alongside them**

**Answer the call this Christmas by giving to CAP today.**

**You can donate at [capnz.org](https://capnz.org)**

**With 51 New Zealand households expected to call CAP each week, your help is vital.**

**Kia ora. Thank you for enabling a new beginning this Christmas.**

## **Supporting PPT Slides:**

Accompanying [slides](#) can be used during announcements, as part of the service, integrated into your sermon presentation, or shown at the end of the sermon. CAP has designed these resources to be flexible for your needs. They serve as an excellent visual aid when people are completing their donation postcards.

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## **Thanks for your time, effort and partnership as a church**

- If you have any questions about using these resources, please don't hesitate to contact us at [christmas@capnz.org](mailto:christmas@capnz.org). We are happy to assist. You can also visit [capnz.org/faq](https://capnz.org/faq)s
- For more info on how CAP Debt Help works, [watch this handy video](#)
- If any community members need free help themselves, encourage them to visit [capnz.org/get-help](https://capnz.org/get-help)

## **About CAP**

CAP walks alongside whānau – ending money chaos in Aotearoa. Freed from debt and poverty, people are financially resilient – as they strengthen their relationships with *money, self, others and God.*

- CAP provides FREE practical Debt Help, in partnership with 46 local churches.
- Over 2,300 New Zealanders in hardship have gone debt free – and released to pursue their whānau goals for the future.
- Free CAP Money courses are available – so far 17,800+ New Zealanders have learned how to 'spend, save and budget well'.