



## *Imago Dei (image of God) and Faith Formation*

### **INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS COMPLETING QUESTIONNAIRE**

Thank you for showing an interest in this project. Please read this information sheet carefully before deciding whether or not to participate. If you decide to participate, we thank you. If you decide not to take part, there will be no disadvantage to you, and we thank you for considering our request.

#### **What is the Aim of the Project?**

The *Imago Dei and Faith Formation* project seeks to better understand faith and spirituality among people who have been baptised in the past five years. It is part of Dr Lynne Taylor's ongoing research on faith formation and pastoral care.

#### **Who can participate?**

Anyone over the age of 18 who has been baptised in a New Zealand Baptist Church within the last five years (in 2019 or later) can participate, regardless of their current church denomination or rate of attendance. The research is being advertised through Baptist churches and related channels.

#### **What is involved?**

Should you agree to take part in this project, you are invited to complete an online questionnaire that should take around 30 minutes to complete. The first question invites you to write a paragraph or two (or more); and other initial questions invite a short written response. Later questions will be much quicker to complete as they generally invite you to rank or rate responses. We hope that at least 100 people will take part.

Please be aware that you may decide to not take part in the project without any disadvantage to yourself. You can also skip any question you do not wish to answer. While we don't anticipate that you would experience any distress as a result of completing the questionnaire, if that should occur, we encourage you to seek support from a pastoral care provider in your church, or a trusted friend.

#### **What data or information will be collected and what use will be made of it?**

Information collected from you includes reflections on your faith journey and reasons for being baptised, attributes and characteristics of God and other Christians that are important

to you, your own aspirations and ideals, some information about your current spiritual practices or faith involvement, as well as basic demographic information (age, ethnicity, language, education, etc.). You will also be invited to indicate if you are willing to be considered for inclusion in a follow-up focus group.

Any names and contact details provided in the questionnaire will be removed before the data is analysed and will only be used to recruit for focus groups. All data collected will be securely stored in such a way that only the named researchers will have access to it, on password protected computers. Data obtained because of the research will be retained for at least 5 years in secure storage. Any personal information may be destroyed at the completion of the research even though the data derived from the research will, in most cases, be kept for much longer or possibly indefinitely.

Only the Principal Investigator (Dr Lynne Taylor), her Research Assistant (Dr Jessica Bent) and her Psychology Mentor (Associate Professor Daryl van Tongeren) will have access to raw data from the completed questionnaires.

The findings of the research will be made publicly available, including in blog posts, an online workshop for church leaders, an academic conference presentation, and an academic journal article but every attempt will be made to ensure that you will not be identified.

The research is funded by the University of Birmingham Psychology Cross-Training for Theologians Fellowship. (Dr Lynne Taylor is a Fellow.)

### **Can I change my mind and withdraw from the project?**

You may withdraw from participation in the study at any point prior to the completion of the questionnaire without any disadvantage to yourself. You may also choose not to answer any question.

### **What if I have a question?**

If you have any questions about our project, either now or in the future, please feel free to contact either:-

Dr Lynne Taylor  
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University of Otago  
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or  
Dr Jessica Bent  
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This study has been approved by the Theology Programme, School of Arts. However, if you have any concerns about the ethical conduct of the research you may contact the University of Otago Human Ethics Committee through the Human Ethics Committee Administrator (ph +643 479 8256 or email [humanethics@otago.ac.nz](mailto:humanethics@otago.ac.nz)). Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated and you will be informed of the outcome.



The questionnaire is here: <https://tinyurl.com/baptism2024nz>