

Kaitlin Sampson is one of our young adults who is participating in our *Beyond Experience Kindred* programme for 2024. Kindred provides an opportunity for young adults to supercharge their leadership development and serve as a SUNZ staff member for one day a week.

Originally from Nelson, Kaitlin attends South West Baptist Church in Christchurch and has a passion for youth and dance.

Dance Experience in America

I have never experienced these two passions, dancing, and God, together in the same realm before. I have just come back from America where I was doing a summer dance intensive at a company over there that is faith-based. I have been in the dance world for a long time now but have never experienced the freedom and purpose that came with this dance experience before. I have come back to New Zealand with a purpose and a newfound love for dance. My audience when I danced used to consist of judges, examiners, classmates, teachers, and the people in the audience but now my audience is for one, God.



Kaitlin (second from left) with other dancers

Last year I had not even been dancing as I had lost the passion and love for it, only to return to it at the start of this year itching to get back into it. This opportunity to go to America came up when the dance company was offering scholarships to people wanting to come from another country, which I fortunately got. Everything after that seemed to fall into place and the next thing, I knew I was flying across the world to go and dance.

I now dance to give back to God. I dance to glorify Him and the gifts he has gifted me with. Dance is a powerful and beautiful way to express your feelings. An impactful way I got to learn and experience this was in a class that was called worship dance, and we did an exercise that was dancing through prayer. We danced while praying for our partner's prayer request that we had shared and prayed for before we started the activity. We created a movement from our prayer and then let the next move flow on freely.



Kaitlin (on left) with her programme director and roommate

I am so grateful to have been able to experience this and still cannot believe how amazing and life-changing this was for me.

Thinking big into the future, I would love to be able to open my own studio and teach classes. I have big dreams to have a company that tours performing pieces that touch audiences in a way they have not experienced before at just any other show. I hope that they would feel the presence of the Holy Spirit, they would read what our performance is about and hopefully it would spark a want to know more about this Jesus thing.



Find out more about *Beyond Experience*

<https://sunz.org.nz/leadership-development/beyond-experience/>

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