



**A special welcome** to visitors to West, a place of shelter, faith and laughter. We are an all-age, all-stage community where everyone is included.

**We especially love having kids** involved in the whole service on Sundays, in all their wriggling, noisy glory, so please don't worry if you or anyone with you makes a bit of a racket – we're glad to have you with us!

**Morning tea** is part of our time together, so you're warmly invited to stick around for a fairtrade tea or coffee after the sitting-down part of the service.

Look out for people wearing blue **"Prayer Team"** tags – they will be happy to pray with you after the service.

See inside for more....

## A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

OCTOBER 2014

5 OCT Listening. Part 3.

12 OCT Early Gospel Stories in Aotearoa #1

19 OCT Early Gospel Stories in Aotearoa #2

26 OCT Early Gospel Stories in Aotearoa #3



If Sunday was a cake, it would be a birthday cake.

Let me do the not so hard work of reading and summarising the 4th chapter of Robbie Castleman's excellent book "Parenting in the Pew."

First of all, a recap. Chapter one is an acknowledgement that having children in our services is hard. Yet it can be a win-win-win if we help our children to "pay attention to God" – to worship – as it's good for us, our children and God.

Chapter two focusses on Sunday services being about worship. It's not about meeting our needs – though God often does that too! Jesus desires and delights in the worship (paying attention) of children – their laughs, their singing, their pictures, their involvement...

Chapter three highlights that children are needed by the church! Their very presence models and reminds and inspires the rest of us towards faith in Jesus. Their seemingly simple responses are acts of worship that are good for the church.

Chapter Four. What have your Sunday morning's pre 10am looked like in your life? "Hurry up!" "Stop fighting!" "Where are my shoes?" "Do we have to go to church today?!" "Ahh, I forgot to practise the memory verse!" "I'm stressed about organising lunch!"

"In the dictionary worship comes right after worn-out, worry, worrywart, worse, and worsen. Sometimes Sunday worship follows the same sequence!"

It doesn't have to be this way though, even for families with children!

Robbie suggests four key things have shaped her family's Sunday mornings to be times of joy and closeness.

1. Working to Worship Yep, it's another "w" word! Yes, we're a place of shelter, so Sunday morning is a safe place to come, and yet that doesn't always mean we have a one hour sit back and disengage from the world. That's needed by some people some (or lots?) of the time, but balancing that out leads us to working at our worship. What does working to worship mean? It means Sunday morning with each other and God is worthy of our energy, and our efforts to prepare well. If Sunday was a cake, it would be a birthday cake. Every cake is special, but a birthday cake is a little bit more special – it takes some preparation to do it well with shapes, icing, candles etc.

Is there a way God would like you to prepare for Sunday / birthday cake day?

2. Heart Preparation Preparing our heart helps Sunday mornings. Heart preparation is about checking our attitudes, for our attitudes don't only affect us but also those we team up with at the service, spouses, and children. Asking ourselves questions like: "Am I going because it's my habit?" Or, "Am I going to worship God with my faith community to give and receive for the week ahead?" Asking ourselves questions like: "Am I more conscious of how God sees me in worship?" Or "Am I more conscious of how others see me?"

3. Home Preparation What, if any, difference would it make in your household if it was acknowledged first thing on Sunday morning that "Jesus must be excited, this is his Special day!" (or words to that effect.) Jesus rose from the dead on a Sunday, God told us to rest one day a week. Could there be some special Sunday music? A special breakfast? Prayer? Preparation for the service (like going over a memory verse, offering, listening/watching to songs we'll be singing)?

4. Called to Worship God doesn't just suggest worship is a smart thing to do – God calls us worship him – it's a loving invitation/dare/ command. God is worthy of our worship, God is present in our worship (we don't have to ask God to be present!), Sunday mornings can be great times to prepare, and let ourselves be seen to our families how we prepare.

Andrew 😊

## west: making a difference

We have a portfolio of people & communities we support around New Plymouth & the world. The basics:

**Meryl A** You will have heard how both American doctors, who were infected with the Ebola virus whilst working in the SIM hospital in Liberia, have been healed. Praise the Lord! However another SIM doctor has contracted the same dreadful virus. He was 'treating obstetrics patients at SIM's ELWA hospital in Monrovia. He was not treating Ebola patients in ... the isolation unit, a facility separate from the main hospital...Upon onset of the symptoms, the doctor immediately isolated himself and was transferred to the ELWA Ebola isolation unit. Since that announcement on 3/9/14, he has been flown to The Nebraska Medical Centre, in USA. It is encouraging to hear that, on the day Dr Sacra was tested positive, 12 other Ebola patients were released from ELWA hospital completely cured.

Please pray for:

- Dr Rick Sacra's healing, recovery and for peace for his family (including his wife and 3 children).
- the doctors and medical staff caring for him; that they would know God's grace and protection.
- for protection for all of the other staff members continuing to treat people suffering from Ebola in Liberia and other African countries that have been affected.

(More information about this can be read on the SIM USA website, [www.simusa.org](http://www.simusa.org)) Blessings, Meryl

**Paul and Sarah B** began with part time training of the women in leatherwork and some academic studies. Every work day begins with a Bible story and prayer. After 3 months, their full time training

began with production of the leather bags as well as ongoing learning in leatherwork and stitching. They are already creating export quality satchels. The goal is for most of the products to be sold on the website [www.theloyalworkshop.com](http://www.theloyalworkshop.com) Paul and Sarah need prayer for their still pending Trade Licence, Tax registration and Export Licence. All three are needed before they can sell products overseas.

**Jo R** Give praise for unexpected friends, for continued good health and good conversations. Pray for a language helper to help her learn the local language and for safety as she travels on her bicycle.

**Tipan** has now moved from the Hostel, so we have a new sponsored child. Details coming soon...

Closer to home:

**Kingdom Resources West** provides budgeting to people in New Plymouth.

We love & partner with **Spotswood Primary School**, across the road. We're involved with HPP Reading, KickStart Breakfast Club, Pastoral Care, Mother's Day Brunch, Gifted and Talented Kids, Morning Tea for staff at the start of each term, Citizenship Award, and other areas individuals volunteer in. There are many ways you can serve our school community if you're interested.

Just letting us all know, there are children and teens in our Spotswood community that we have had a fair amount of contact with, who would love to have, and need to have an adult spend regular time with them.

## west: groups

**Play and Parent Support Group.** Exists to build friendships with local families, encourage them, Naomi is kicking this group off at the moment. It exists to build friendships with local families, demonstrate God's love, and provide stimulating learning and development for babies and toddlers. Thursday's 10–11.30am at Naomi's, for parents of children aged 0–3 years.

All men are welcome to share a drink and good conversation every second Monday at **Blokes and Cokes**, 7.30pm at WestBar. See Brian M or Will M, and the events section over the page for dates.

**Lasses & Lattés** - a chance for the women of our church (and friends) to get together - for good conversation and to build friendships, every second Monday, at 7.30pm at WestBar in

Westtown, (alternate weeks with the men's get together) All women welcome.

The **Rainbow group** meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons, at 1pm at Heather H's home.

**Carol and James McK** host a fortnightly 'Chocolate Fish' Bible study at their home.

**Get Real** is for all young people from year 7 students and upwards. We meet on the first Sunday of each month to hang out, study bible and eat. See 'events' section. Speak to Kathy M (753 2604) for more information.

The **Movie Group** will meet weekly at Wayne & Liane L's home on Tuesday nights to watch and discuss movies on the themes of our sermon series.

The **Music Group** If you would like to be part of the music group, we practice on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, meeting at the Church at 7pm.

**Family Groups** Everyone in the church is in one of four **Family Groups**, who meet for social and service activities throughout the year and help out in practical ways in tricky times. If you are new to West and would like to join a Family Group please speak to Alison.

The **Coasters** Group are planning a train ride outing with the Waitara Railway Preservation Society. The plan is to meet at 1.15pm for the 1.30pm Ride, on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Angela and Glenn are arranging this outing.

## west: people

The Ladies of the **Rainbow group** are interested in finding some suitable study books or study guides we could loan for our Bible Study. We would like to hear from you if you have some-thing that would be suitable. Please contact Maureen C or Margaret S.

Please continue to pray for and support those who are struggling with ongoing health difficulties, and those unable to meet on Sundays, **Les M, Lyn S, Lloyd D, Marlinka R** and **George and Elizabeth L.**

## west: events

**HAPPENING TODAY** Sunday 28 September After Church, a Finger Food Lunch for the over 60's will be held at John & Carolyn F's home. Please bring a plate to share.

5 October **Get Real.** 5.30pm at Church Building.

2,16,30 Oct Chocolate Fish Group, at James & Carol's home

5 Oct Get Real, 5.30pm at Church

6,20 Oct Blokes & Cokes at Westbar, 7pm

7,14 Oct Movies night at Wayne & Liane's

9,23 Oct Music Practice, 7pm at Church

13,27 Oct Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Westbar, Westtown

21,28 Oct Movies nights at Wayne & Liane's

28 Oct Rainbow Group at Heather H's home, 1.00pm

## west: pitching in

**Alison D** is co-ordinating our building bookings, and **Andrea M** is checking the Hall before use. Please contact Alison (751 1005) if you wish to make bookings. Current bookings can be seen on the Calendar on our website [www.westbaptist.org.nz](http://www.westbaptist.org.nz)

**Prayer** We have a committed group of people who pray for others when needs are made known. This is confidential, and follow-up only happens through Andrew. If you'd like to join the e-mail prayer chain (perhaps one e-mail a week at most, as needs arise)

contact Andrew. If you have a prayer request, see him too.

Would any teenagers or children like to join the prayer chain? Andrew can send out a simplified/appropriate version.

**Each month** we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$9,000 per month in offerings; in August our offerings were \$10,190.26.

If you'd like to set up an **automatic payment** or use envelopes to contribute financially to the work of the church, please see our treasurer, Brent G. (751 0010) The government will rebate a full third of what you give.

**Maureen C** now collects information for the **Newsletter**, which comes out on the last Sunday of the month, so please contact her (coopers\_nz@hotmail.com) with any info by the previous Tuesday.

<b>Cleaning &amp; Morning Tea Lawnmowing</b>	<b>5 OCT</b> Angela A Glen A	<b>12 OCT</b> Hester M Will M Wayne L	<b>19 OCT</b> Lisa A Alison D	<b>26 OCT</b> Liane L Wayne L Andy L
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*We should once and for all entrust ourselves to God, abandon ourselves to Him alone. We must not grow weary in doing little things for the love of God. God, who looks not on the greatness of the deed, but to the love of the deed.*

*Isa 40:31*