



**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

SEPTEMBER 2014

**7 SEPT**  
**FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL**

**14 SEPT**  
**Can we trust the Bible? #7**  
Topic: How can we read the Bible accurately?

**21 SEPT**  
**SURPRISE !**

**28 SEPT**  
**SURPRISE !**



This is my third reflection on a chapter of Robbie Castleman's excellent book "Parenting in the Pew." Let me do the not so hard work of reading and summarising this for us.

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 the worship (paying attention) of children. He delights in their laughs, their singing, their pictures, their involvement... God call us to worship him, in fact, he commands it!

Like a new fluorescent highlighter makes a key idea stand out, chapter three exclaims that children are needed by the church!

Children are needed to remind the church vividly what it means to be great believers.

They show us in their unique ways how to respond to God. Responding to God is worship.

As children grasp something of faith for the first or second time, and they respond to that – eg. being moved emotionally at Easter, or realising and acting on the fact that God wants them to be a friend to the lonely - children remind us adults who are more familiar with the truths of scripture how we too should respond. They remind us what it means to be in awe at God's grace like those who first receive it.

Like Isaac singing along at full throttle.

When our children (young/teens) respond in worship, parents/adults need to listen to them.

Children are needed to model the accepting of truth into their lives.

They have the capacity to accept as truth what is told to them by adults.

As they grow they'll question this, and that's healthy and part of one's faith development. We to do well to take truth on board with questioning, and let it shape our lives.

Like Jonathon learning 2 Timothy 3:16.

Children are needed to help us grasp ideas of faith and things of God

They use and find stories, illustrations, and word pictures helpful for understanding.

And so do we! Our "children illustrations" are not actually solely for the children – they're for us too – they help us grasp things!

Like Nicodemus needed an illustration of the unseen wind in John chapter 3.

Like Caitlyn's (and others) senses being tested – to communicate how we can know things to be true.

Children are needed as they're great examples of being willing to believe, and this means their hearts have a great capacity for worship

Adults can struggle to embrace new thoughts about God, whereas children soak it in.

Like Aaron talking with Jesus during communion

Why do we include our children with such meaningful involvement?

Well, their prayers, curating, reading, drawing, colouring, computer, communion taking, preaching, offering collecting, listening, singing, questioning, sharing feedback, etc, etc, is all about them being an equal part of the family, and about their responding to God. And this involvement and responding is worship. And this worship is good for all of us, and is to be celebrated.

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 that two (American) missionaries connected with SIM were affected with the Ebola virus, and were evacuated back to USA. They are both continuing to fight the virus but their health is beginning to improve. "God has seen fit that missionaries should appear in the front pages of countless newspapers and TV shows. From Al Jazeera to the BBC and CNN, news anchors, journalists and their audiences are being exposed to the work of missions. Yet God has protected us and brought glory to himself." A well-known American journalist for CNN, Anderson Cooper, said this past week, "The bravery of the work missionaries do in all times is extraordinary." Perhaps what is more extraordinary is that God has seen fit for the press to state this.

**Paul and Sarah B** We are thankful things are going well. We have been in good health, kids are doing great, and the business is off to a fantastic start. We are facing some issues in the women's lives, and need lots of wisdom to know how to best support them. Also the women need courage and strength to take on these challenges themselves.

**Play and Parent Support Group.** Naomi is kicking this group off at the moment. It exists to build friendships with local families, encourage them, 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 Westown, (alternate weeks with the men's get together.) All women welcome.

**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** is a student whose education and board we sponsor in Feni Baptist Hostel in Bangladesh.

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

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.

**west: people**

Welcome Back **Erin!**

**Madison S-M** celebrated her birthday last week, and is starting school next Monday. GO MADI !!

**Mills'** - we're so glad Will is a superhero and that you're all safe and being well looked after!

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**

7 September **Get Real.** 5.30pm at Church Building. Potluck dinner and discussion

- 1,15,29 Sept Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Westbar, Westown
- 2,9,16 Sept Movies night at Wayne & Liane's
- 4,18 Sept Chocolate Fish Group, at James & Carol's home
- 7 Sept Get Real, 5.30pm at Church

- 8,22 Sept Blokes & Cokes at Westbar, 7pm
- 11,25 Sept Music Practice, 7pm at Church
- 16,23 Sept Rainbow Group at Heather H's home, 1.00pm
- 23,30 Sept Movies nights at Wayne & Liane's

**west: pitching in**

**Bed Pushing** – Our turn to assist with bed pushing at Taranaki Base Hospital on Sunday 21 September. Please contact Lynda C if you can assist.

**Seasons** Grief and Loss peer support program will be running training for volunteer group facilitators on the weekend of 13-14 September. If you think this is something you would like to do, or if you have any queries, please contact Judy W on 0800 765629 or chat at Church.

**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.

**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 July our offerings were \$12,298.91.

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>7 SEPT</b>	<b>14 SEPT</b>	<b>21 SEPT</b>	<b>28 SEPT</b>	<b>5 OCT</b>
	Erin R	Lynda C	Alison D	Val W	Angela A
	Tania S-A	Andy L	Lisa A	Allan W	Glen A
		Roi M		Alison D	