



Lloyd Capon

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 assembled in the area near the side exit door – they will be happy to pray with you after the service.

See inside for more....

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

JUNE 2015

7 JUNE Mark – the Truth is in there
Why did Jesus come?
Mark 2:1-12

14 JUNE Mark – the Truth is in there
Why did Jesus die?
Mark 8:22-33

21 JUNE Mark – the Truth is in there
Why did Jesus rise?
Mark 14:27-31

28 JUNE Mark – the Truth is in there
How can God accept us?
Mark 10:13-16



Over the next few weeks we'll be diving into the Gospel according to Mark. The reason for this is that we want to have a regular diet (each year) of a series through a Gospel (ie Matthew, Mark, Luke, John), a series in a New Testament letter (eg Philippians, Hebrews), and an Old Testament series (eg Malachi).

We're reading through Mark (see weekly e-mails for reading passages and questions), and so I thought I'd give a bit of further info to help fill out the context Mark was writing in, and answer some common questions about his writing.

First of all, the earliest copies of Mark were called "the Gospel according to Mark." That is fitting, it is correct. The Gospel is the Good News, and this is entirely centred on the person of Jesus. Mark is writing about the Good News that is Jesus – from his perspective... so... who is Mark?

Mark is more than likely John-Mark, son of a woman named Mary, in whose house the early church gathered in Jerusalem (Acts 12:12). This is where the last supper was held too (Acts 1:13-14; Mark 14:14). John-Mark accompanied Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey. However he bailed on the trip, Paul got angry, Mark wasn't allowed to go with Paul again, Barnabas disagreed, so Barnabas took Mark on the next trip, and then later Paul got himself together and made up with Mark. A final New Testament reference shows Mark labouring for God's Kingdom with Peter in Rome (1 Peter 5:13). There are numerous references and support to Mark being the author throughout the first four Centuries.

But hang on... didn't the New Testament books need to be written by one of the 12 Apostles or Paul? Was this Mark fella trustworthy? How did he know what Jesus said and did? And why did it take him so long to write it down? (Mark wrote in about 65AD – roughly 35 years after Jesus' death).

The unanimous witness of the early church was that Mark was a faithful interpreter of the apostle Peter. The trustworthy tradition (as is recorded in multiple places) says that Peter was a key source for Mark's gospel – indeed, that the second gospel was in many respects "Peter's Memoirs." Due to Mark's closeness to Peter and the support for the accuracy of what he records, it was deemed entirely appropriate that Mark should be in the Bible, or more importantly, called the authoritative word of God.

The historical background for when Mark was writing was that Nero was the Roman Emperor who had just started gruesome persecution of Christians. It's likely Peter was killed within a year or two either side of Mark's writing. Jerusalem was soon to be destroyed in AD 70.

Our focus is very much on Jesus. Whilst reading, look out for answers to: Who is Jesus? Why did he come? What does it mean to follow him?

You may also like to look out for distinctives of Mark, such as; his emphasis on the authority of Jesus, Jesus being a servant, Jesus being called "Son of God," discipleship, faith, people who are commonly thought to be inside or outside of faith (Mark challenges his readers on their assumptions), on the unexpected silencing of people and demons saying who he was, and on the journey firstly around Northern Galilee and then to Jerusalem. The way Jesus goes, is the way his followers must also go.

I hope you enjoy your reading, that you're nourished by it, and that you are captured more by the Good News – Jesus.

Andrew ☺

west: making a difference

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

Meryl A Please refer to Meryl's 'Kiwi in Korea' updates that Alison has sent out recently.

Paul and Sarah B Things are pretty full on here at the moment. One of our ladies and her son are staying with us because it is not safe for her to be at home. We are pretty tired and would appreciate prayers.

Jo R. I am thankful for recent time away and space for reflection. Also for the rain and cool breezes that offer some respite from the hot weather. I am privileged to be living in this community and thankful for the love shared with me. My prayer is to learn how to love others unconditionally and for wisdom and discernment in all kinds of situations.

Carley. Huge praise for the supporters who have allowed me to return to South Asia as a long term worker with Tranzsend. I am glad to be back.

Alton Chakma is a student whose education and board we sponsor in Feni Baptist Hostel in Bangladesh. Our sponsorship enables Alton to live in the Feni Boy's Hostel which provides food, education, clothes, medical care and spiritual development in a sound Christian environment.

Closer to home:

Kingdom Resources West provides budgeting to people in New Plymouth.

west: groups

Play and Parent Support Group. 10am Thursdays at Naomi's. All (aiming for local) parents with children under 3 are welcome.

Kōrero Te Reo Roopu (Speaking Māori Group.) Thursdays 12pm at Naomi & Andrew's for shared kai and to practice speaking Māori language. All speaking levels are welcome!

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, every second Monday, at 7.30pm at the Treehouse on Devon St West. All women welcome.

The **Rainbow group** meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons, at 1pm at Heather H's home. See 'events' section for dates.

Carol and James McK host a fortnightly 'Chocolate Fish' Bible study at their home. See 'events' section for dates.

Congratulations **Rachael** – awesome academic results and award!

Congratulations **Claudia** – gymnastics competition winner!

The **Mills' new home** is on schedule for a late July shift in – yay!

Welcome **Sarah** – it's great having you with us the last few weeks!

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.

Get Real is for all young people from year 7 students and upwards. We will be meeting every four weeks for the rest of 2015, on Sunday evening. When we hang out, we eat, have fun, and talk about life, faith, and Jesus. See 'events' section for our next date. Speak to Hester or Andrew for more information.

Christianity Explored Group. This group is meeting to learn and discuss about who Jesus is, why he came, and what it means to follow him.

The **Movie Group** will meet weekly at Grant & Megan's home on Tuesday nights to watch and discuss movies on the themes of our sermon series. On the first Tuesday of the month members take part in a Quiz night at Westbar at 6.30pm.

The **Music Group** practice will be on June 18th at 7pm. If anyone is interested in joining the Music Group, we would love to have you come along and join us. We would especially love to have some new musicians and singers. Most practices concentrate on learning new songs.

west: people

Well done **Murray** – on running a great 50th celebration of Base Hospital's Chapel. Long may it last.

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 **Elizabeth L.**

west: events

Sunday 7 June – Soup Lunches start. Each Sunday until 30 August. EVERYBODY is invited and welcome to bring some bread (or other) to lunch. The host and location for each lunch will be on the whiteboard in the Church building. This is a great time to get to spend together, to eat yummy food, and to get to know others more.

Monday 8 June. West Baptist Community Trust Trustees and Leadership Board meeting.

Sunday 21 June Get Real. Doors open 5.50pm, dinner at **6pm.**

The next **Church Meeting** (previously Quarterly Business Meeting) is on 28 June. We have three of these meetings a year, straight after our service. Please come along. Amongst other things we'll be discussing how we can best care for one another. (Pastoral care.)

COMING UP: Monday 3 August –please keep this evening free for a dinner and discussion with Brian McLaren. We will be selling tickets to this event. More details coming soon.

1,15,29 June	Blokes & Cokes at Westbar 7.30pm	8,22 June	Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Treehouse, Spotswood
2,16,30 June	Rainbow Group at Heather H's home, 1.00pm	9,16,23,30 June	Movies night at Grant & Megan's home
4,11,18,25 June	Play and Parent Support Group, 10am at Naomi's	18 June	Music Practice, at Gary & Heather's, 7pm
4,11,18 June	Kōrero Te Reo Roopu, 12pm at Naomi & Andrew's home	21 June	Get Real, 6.00pm at Church
11,25 June	Chocolate Fish Group, at James & Carol's home	28 June	Church Meeting, following Sunday service
8 June	WBCT Board meeting		

west: pitching in

Soup & Bun Lunches -

7 June Heather & Gary

14 June Murray L

21 June Tim & Isobel B

28 June Kathy M, Lyn B, Val W

We'd love some new people on the cleaning and morning tea roster! See Alison or Roi.

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 If you have a prayer request, please see Andrew. If you'd like to join the e-mail prayer chain as a pray-er, please talk to Andrew.

Each month we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$9,600 per month in offerings; in April our offerings were \$10,635.10.

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 with any info by the previous Tuesday.

Cleaning & Morning Tea Lawnmowing

6 JUNE

James McK
Carol McK
Andy L

13 JUNE

Lynda L
Andy L

20 JUNE

Alison D
Lisa A
Syd B

27 JUNE

Val W
Allan W

4 JULY

Andrew
Naomi/Erin
Allan W