



**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

JULY 2015

**5 JULY** Mark's X Files – the Truth is in there  
What does it mean to follow Jesus?  
Mark 8:34

**12 JULY** Mark's X Files – the Truth is in there  
Listen carefully  
Mark 4:1-20

**19 JULY** Mark's X Files – the Truth is in there  
Ask Humbly  
Mark 10:36

**26 JULY** Mark's X Files – the Truth is in there  
Choose Wisely  
Mark 6:16-28



A couple of weeks ago Naomi and I spent the weekend at a marriage course called a “Weekend to Remember.” It was run by the organisation “Family Life.” We decided to do this to invest in our relationship. We wanted to be able to reflect on how our marriage has been (for 12 years now!) We wanted to talk about how we are now. We wanted to dream and plan for our future together. Having a semi-structured time away with input provided a great basis for this – it made it easier than just having a weekend away and hanging out. Of course that doesn’t mean to say we (ok, not so much Naomi, just me!) weren’t a bit apprehensive about this weekend! We didn’t know what the quality of the content would be like. We didn’t know how it would be for us talking about marriage and family for a whole weekend. I figured it wasn’t going to be all chocolates and sleep-ins – I was prepared for the inevitable challenges I would receive, and I was in no doubt that I’d feel uncomfortable as some of my “growth areas” were exposed.

We were treated to an absolutely incredible time. The live presenters were excellent communicators. The content was the best I’ve come across on marriage. There was plenty of space to reflect both

personally and together as a couple. Though systematic and thorough, it wasn’t over-whelming, but rather it was clarifying - a handful of action points feels quite manageable. Yes it was challenging, but to be honest I would have been disappointed if it hadn’t been – challenges are healthy things most of the time. At the same time it was really affirming, as things discussed and illustrated were often things we’re doing, or aware of at least. With even my most critical thinking cap on – I’d give a “Weekend to Remember” a 9.5 out of 10. It’s that good! If you’re married, please consider doing it! (This isn’t just for “young” couples, there were pre-married couples, right through to empty nester’s – about 40 couples in total – and no, you don’t have to talk to anybody else!

Some key take home points for me were:

- “Every marriage is either moving towards oneness or drifting towards isolation.” This oneness involves unity with each other – a tender merger of body, soul and spirit. Let’s not drift!
- It’s a myth that ‘couples will naturally grow closer together’ – the reality is, we naturally drift apart. Difficulties do not mean there is something wrong with a marriage, for people are different – and so we should expect difficulties. The challenge is in how we respond – for how we respond drives people apart, or binds people together towards oneness.
- When mistakes inevitably happen, choose to bless rather than punish.
- For a healthy marriage it is better to seek to understand, rather than seek to be understood.
- Therefore, a challenge is to be a life-long learner of our spouse!

Andrew 😊

## west: making a difference

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

**Meryl A** The MERS virus has arrived in Korea from the Middle East. It seems half of Seoul are wearing face masks to protect themselves.

All classes in our university were cancelled this past week, although the library has been open for students to study for their exams next week. Please pray for this country, and that the fear which surrounds people will lead to an understanding that peace can only come through Christ. At the moment

we are between courses - the next term is due to start on the 30th June. We don't know how fear of the virus will affect our prospective students. Pray for them.

**Paul and Sarah B** are in New Zealand during July to organise new Visas and passports. Please pray for a smooth & successful application process. Pray over our speaking engagements, catching up with people and for a good rest and relaxing time. This

will be our longest time away from the Business and we are anxious about it. Pray all goes well.

**Jo R.** Give thanks for good health, personal and spiritual growth through difficult patches brought on by the heat and other frustrations. Pray for further language acquisition and comprehension and for relationships to further develop in the local community.

**Carley.** I am slowly readjusting to the heat, noise, chaos etc. Please pray for language study, I will be studying thru the July holidays. Pray for preparation for the next school year at GEM school starting in August. I will be teaching some O level classes. Pray that both teachers and students will learn well and understand the content taught at this level.

**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.

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.** 10am Thursdays at Naomi's. All (aiming for local) parents with children under 3 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.

**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. This course finishes on July 3. See Andrew if interested in another one.

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 July 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 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

Congratulations **Maureen and Jim** on the birth of grandson Alexander!

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

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

## west: events

**Each Sunday – Soup Lunch.** 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 know others more.

**Sunday 28 June Get Real.** Doors open 5.50, dinner at **6pm.**

**Sunday 26 July. Get Real.** Doors open 5:50, dinner at **6pm.**

**COMING UP:** Monday 3 August – Dinner and conversation with **Brian McLaren**, \$20. Brian is a prominent Christian pastor, author, activist, speaker and leading figure in the emerging church movement. For more information about him see his website [www.brianmclaren.net](http://www.brianmclaren.net)

2,9,16,23 30 July	Play and Parent Support Group, 10am at Naomi's	13,27 July	Blokes & Cokes at Westbar 7.30pm
2,16,30 July	Chocolate Fish Group, at James & Carol's home	14,28 July	Rainbow Group at Heather H's home, 1.00pm
2,23 July	Music Practice, at Gary & Heather's, 7pm	14,21,28 July	Movies night at Grant & Megan's home
6,20 July	Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Treehouse, Spotswood	26 July	Get Real, 6.00pm at Church

## west: pitching in

### Soup & Bun Lunches -

5 July	Liane & Wayne
12 July	Lynda & Andy
19 July	Naomi & Andrew
26 July	Judy & Keith

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

**Each month** we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$9,600 per month in offerings; in May our offerings were \$10,501.50.

### Trust Stuff

Did you know church has a community trust? The West Baptist Community Trust was established in 2005 to support the church in its community work. The current trustees are: Chris D. (chairperson), Val W. (secretary), Stuart W. (treasurer), Hester M., Marcel S. and Alison D.

The Trust has secured funding for a range of projects over the past ten years including parenting programmes, the Family Mentor Pilot project, the annual Citizenship Cup award at Spotswood Primary School, the annual Mother's Day Brunch and ongoing programmes such as the Breakfast Club and the Bread Run.

Tracey W. co-ordinates the Breakfast Club and Alison D. co-ordinates the Bread Run. They would love to hear from you if you can volunteer some time to help out.

The Trust depends on donations and grants to fund its various projects. The Trust would like to secure ongoing funding to provide fuel vouchers to the bread runners from time to time; to provide bread and spreads for the Breakfast Club; to cover the catering costs for the Mother's Day Brunch (it cost about \$350 this year).

### Cleaning & Morning Tea Lawnmowing

#### 4 JULY

Andrew  
Naomi/Erin  
Allan W

#### 11 JULY

Angela A  
Glen A

#### 18 JULY

Sue J  
Steve J  
Stuart W

#### 25 JULY

Hester M  
Will M

#### 1 AUGUST

Brent G  
Murray L  
James Mck