



**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

AUGUST 2015

**2 AUG** Brian McLaren Reflections  
Lorde/LORD/Lord – what?!

**3 AUG** Brian McLaren  
6pm \$20. At West.  
Register with Alison or via Website

**9 AUG** Brian McLaren Reflections  
From Monday Evening

**16 AUG** Church – Who's In?  
Introduction #1

**23 AUG** Church – Who's In?  
Introduction #2  
Acts 2:41-47

**30 AUG** Church – Who's In?  
A Despised Traitor's Story  
Luke 19:1-10



In countries like Myanmar, North Korea, China and more, many people live life under leadership that has absolute power and control.

These sorts of leaders who *reign* their “kingdoms” with such incredible *authority* make life less than utterly miserable for others. Constantly people’s lives are at stake, as are their children, their wider families, and their future – it’s hard to imagine.

They live in fear of people who embody the saying ‘absolute power corrupts absolutely.’ What these warlords say - goes, what they want - they get. It is very clear who is the *master* and who is the servant.

If only the person in charge was good, if only they had the best interests of the people at heart. If only there was somebody that would come and sort the mess out!

Imagine what good news it would be in situations like this if the people heard of a good ruler coming, a new caring “King” who would seek the best for the people.

When we talk about Jesus being *King*, or *God’s Kingdom*, or Jesus being *Lord* – I suggest we struggle to understand and appreciate what these words actually mean. For us *King*, *Kingdom*, *Lord* remind us of somebody with absolute power – like Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe - very negative thoughts indeed. Alternatively these “King / Lord” type words might lead us to think of a country with a King or Queen like England – that actually have very little power or influence.

I want to suggest that neither of these is what we mean when we say “Jesus is Lord”, or when we say that we want to participate in and partner with “God’s Kingdom.” For example - take these lines out of one

of our common West songs “Come set Your rule and reign, In our hearts again ...Unleash Your kingdom’s power.”

Much of these thoughts and reflections come from Brian McLaren’s work on this topic. And it fits for us this morning having just finished a series talking about who Jesus is and what it means to follow him. Can you say “Jesus is Lord of my life?”

In Jesus’ day the people lived under Roman rule.

McLaren says in “A Generous Orthodoxy” that “In Jesus’ day, “Caesar is Lord” was the political pledge of allegiance, required in a way not unlike “Heil Hitler” was required in the 1930’s and early 1940’s in Nazi Germany.”

A person saying “Caesar is Lord” was declaring Caesar to be the greatest, the most powerful, and that one’s life was indebted to him. In fact, many of the Roman Caesar’s insisted on being worshipped due to their title and status and power. (There’s debate as to whether people like Kim Jong-il of North Korea ‘encourages’ ‘his’ people to think of him as deity / god-like.)

McLaren continues: With this backdrop to “call Jesus ‘Lord’ ” meant that there is a power in Jesus more important than the power of the king of the greatest state in history. To say “Jesus is Lord” was then (and should now!) a profoundly political statement – affirming the authority of a “powerless” Jewish rabbi with scarred feet over the power of Caesar himself with all his swords, spears, chariots and crosses.” McLaren, 90

The early church soon began to declare “Jesus in Lord!” Not in ways that remind us today of tyrants though! To a people trapped in atrocious conditions, marginalised, persecuted, hungry, facing death all day long, imagine the joy with which they could declare:

Jesus is Lord!

Jesus is Lord suggests authority and kingship.

Jesus is Lord suggests a master in relation to a servant or slave

Jesus is Lord suggests a master – teacher or rabbi.

To be unpacked more...

Andrew ☺

## west: making a difference

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

**Meryl A** Time has gone so quickly and we are more than half way through our summer term, with just 2 weeks to go. I am blessed to have 2 couples teaching with me in my co-workers' absence. They are each taking English classes in the morning, at four different levels, freeing me to teach the mission subjects in the afternoons as well as do all the administrative work attached to our course.

Some people have been asking me about my knee. I go to the hospital for a check-up on Tuesday (21st). Hopefully the doctor will tell me I no longer have to wear the leg brace. I am able to walk easily now without pain, although I do have to be very careful walking downstairs.

Meryl's full newsletter was emailed recently.

**Paul and Sarah B** We are giving thanks for a good rest in NZ. Please pray we will settle back into Kolkata life easily and the running of the Workshop. A big change is the kids [Mikayla & Malachi] starting at an International school and we're hoping they will settle into new routines well and will thrive in this new environment. Please pray for the renovations beginning on our new building.

**Jo R.** Please pray for my work which now includes teaching English & Computers to a small class, also for continued language learning and comprehension. Pray for teams & individuals visiting in the next months.

**Carley.** Please pray I will be able to continue language study while teaching full time at GEM school. Pray the teachers will be positive, organised and well prepared. Pray I will find time in all this business to spend time with God which helps me to be refreshed, encouraged and gives me the strength to continue.

**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, 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/caregivers 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 meet once a month on Sunday evenings. 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** practices will be on 13 August and 27 August at 69 Barrett Road, starting 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

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 23 August. Get Real.** Doors open 5:50, dinner at **6pm.**

**Monday 3 August** – Dinner and discussion with **Brian McLaren**, \$20. 6pm here at West’s church building. See website for more details [www.brianmclaren.net](http://www.brianmclaren.net)

**Over 60’s Function** - The next get-together will be at Cobb & Co at 6pm on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August. To confirm numbers please RSVP to **Val A.**

3 August	Dinner & conversation with Brian McLaren, at Church, 6pm	11,25 Aug	Rainbow Group at Heather H’s home, 1.00pm
3,17 Aug	Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Treehouse, Spotswood	13,27 Aug	Chocolate Fish Group, at James & Carol’s home
4,11,18 25 Aug	Movies night at Grant & Megan’s home	13,27 Aug	Music Practice, at Gary & Heather’s, 7pm
6,13,20,27 August	Play and Parent Support Group, 10am at Naomi’s	23 Aug	Get Real, 6.00pm at Church
10,24 Aug	Blokes & Cokes at Westbar 7.30pm		

### west: pitching in

#### Soup & Bun Lunches -

2 Aug	Lynda & Andy L
9 Aug	Margaret S
16 Aug	Megan & Grant
23 Aug	Alison & Chris
30 Aug	Hester & Will

**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 June our offerings were \$9,953.49.

**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.

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.

#### Trust Stuff

The West Baptist Community Trust held its AGM on 30<sup>th</sup> July. If you would like a copy of the financial and / or Chairperson report, please contact Val W.

The Trust is applying for funding from the Tindall Foundation (through the Baptist Community Ministries) to run the ‘Building Awesome Whānau’ parenting programme in our community. This is the latest programme in the Toolbox Parenting series and is especially appropriate for Māori families. Naomi S. has been trained as a facilitator and we hope to train up others as we go. Talk to Naomi if interested!

#### Cleaning & Morning Tea Lawnmowing

**1 AUG**  
Brent G  
Murray L  
James McK

**8 AUG**  
Liane L  
Wayne L

**15 AUG**  
Bedford family  
Jude SM

**22 AUG**  
Brian M  
Kathy M

**29 AUG**  
Tracey W  
Andrea M  
Murray L