



**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

FEBRUARY 2016

**7 FEB** Esther's Open Plan Life  
A story about a woman, her cousin, a king and a bad guy

**14 FEB** Esther's Open Plan Life  
Great Expectations

**21 FEB** Esther's Open Plan Life  
Great Expectations #2

**28 FEB** Self Denial Introduction #1/4  
He Waka Eke Noa – Everybody in one canoe with no exception



Our family has had a really fun holiday with a lot of big family events. Christmas Day, my brother's wedding, and my sister's wedding last Saturday which I led.

We have done a lot of driving! 3000km! That's a lot of time in the small space of a car!

Many of us have had full house with friends and families staying, or us staying with them – full homes mean smaller spaces. And some people have stayed in tents – again – small spaces.

These small spaces can be fun for a time, but they're not what we generally prefer, small spaces are not what we naturally choose. We're much more attracted to open spaces.

Like the outdoors, bush walks, mountains, beaches.

Like indoor – outdoor flow where we can eat outside.

And especially in our kitchens and work place offices where we are drawn to having an open plan set up.

Where kitchen flows seamlessly into dining room – it's Open Plan.

Where one's office space flows into another's, and into another's – it's Open Plan.

There are lots of benefits of living open plan style:

More noise / energy – that often brings more fun and motivation. Less boredom

People can cook and prepare whilst still engaging with others. Less isolation

There's interaction, friendships can form and deepen. Less loneliness

Homework can be supervised while dinner is being cooked. Less work to do!

Teamwork & Community & inter-dependence are enhanced. Less independence

People are generally included, involved, welcome, inspired, learning, challenged, accountable and connected.

There is so much about living and working in an open plan style that we are attracted to and that we all benefit from.

One of the challenges with living in an open plan is if there are walls already established.

Walls are like barriers or dividers – inhibiting what we really want. Walls block the helpful. Walls suffocate what is life-giving.

And of course it's hard to change the spaces we live and work into open plan if they are not already. And it always costs.

I want to suggest that there is much benefit to having Open Plan Lives.

Having an Open Plan Life is going to be a key theme for us this year.

An open plan life is a life that is:

Open to God leading us in ways that might be new

Open to interacting and working with others

Open to welcoming people as they are

Open to sharing our time, energy and resources

Open to learning about who God is and who we are

Of course like the walls in a home or office that hinder this good stuff, we too have walls in our lives that can hinder us leading as full and as healthy and as life-giving a life as God desires for us.

Walls come with being human - but walls are problematic. Here are five walls that need breaking down:

E\_\_\_\_\_

F\_\_\_\_

L\_\_\_\_\_

G\_\_\_\_\_

P\_\_\_\_\_

Throughout 2016 we'll be looking at what it might mean to live an open plan life in relation to walls and opportunities.

Kia kaha mō tāu haerenga - Strength for your journey

Andrew ☺

## west: making a difference

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

**Meryl A** writes from a cold Korea. On the day of writing the temperature was from -1 to -13 degrees, (but it felt like minus 15°). Most of the students of our winter term are new, with only two returnees from ACTS and another from 2013, when our course was held in the SIM office. As often happens, some students attend our course because they want to improve their English (pray that God would challenge them about missions) but most want to serve the Lord overseas on the mission field. One of our returnees will leave Korea with her family just weeks after this term finishes, going to a nearby country as long term 'mission workers with SIM.

**Paul and Sarah, Mikayla & Malachi:** (Kolkata, India) Pray for Paul and Sarah as they navigate all that is involved with the running of the Business.

**Jo R.** (India) Pray for Jo as she manages a heavy workload. Pray for times of rest and quiet amongst the busyness.

**Carley** (Dhaka, Bangladesh) writes of the busy time she has had around Christmas with exams and a school camp in Chandpur. Her health has not been the best recently, and she has requested that we all keep praying for her health. The NZBMS Conference was a time of healing, and Carley is looking forward to a few friends from NZ joining her to celebrate her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday soon. Carley asks that we also pray that GEMS continues to grow in God and that in everything she does, God will be glorified.

**Alton Chakma** (Bangladesh) Please pray for primary school aged Alton whom we sponsor to live in the Baptist Hostel in Feni. Our sponsorship

provides him with accommodation, christian nurturing and education, food, clothes, medical care, and full education at the local school.

### 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.

Our **Christmas Hampers** were very well received! We delivered 12 wrapped, full, delicious and (mostly) nutritious boxes to some Spotswood Primary School families. Great work West!

We will be running a **Parenting course** later in Term one. It is called **Awesome Whānau**.

**Spotswood Primary School:** We have people volunteering with serving kids breakfast, reading with children, making morning tea for staff, and on the Board of Trustees. If you're interested in finding out more of what's involved in serving, speak to Andrew, Tracey, Syd, Robyn (& more!)

## west: groups

**Play and Parent Support Group.** 10am Thursdays at Naomi's. All (aiming for local) parents/caregivers with children under 3 are welcome. We start again on the first Thursday of each term, February 4.

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, commencing 8pm. 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.

**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 Westside Grille at 6.30pm.

**The Music Group**

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. See Gary B if you are interested.

**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, Lyn S, Lloyd D, and Marlinka R.**

Congratulations **Heather and Gary** on 40 years of marriage!

Congratulations **Kathe M** on turning 80!

To our school students, teachers, support staff, and University students – we hope you have a fantastic start to the academic year.

**west: events**

**Over 60's Group** - A shared lunch will be held at John & Carolyn F's home, on Sunday 21 February after church. We will talk about taking a trip on the "Blue Boat" up the Mokau River.

**Get Real Pool Party and BBQ!** See West Weekly for exact details. For all Year 7 students and older, and their parents/grandparents. Friends are more than welcome! Please bring some meat for the BBQ and a salad or dessert. We'll pull off some mean bombs and share the 2016 plan ... good times!

**Beach @ 5.30pm each Sunday.** Bring a picnic dinner to town end of Ngāmotu Beach. Relax, swim, eat, chat, play, make friends, form friends, enjoy ☺

- 1,15,29 Feb Blokes & Cokes at Westbar 7.30pm
- 2,16 Feb Rainbow Group meet at Heather H's home, 1pm
- 4,18 Feb Chocolate Fish at James&Carol's
- 4,11,18,25 Feb Play and Parent Support Group, 10am at Naomi's
- 8,22 Feb Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Treehouse, Spotswood

- 9,16,23 Feb Movies night at Grant & Megan's Home
- 21 Feb Over 60's shared lunch at John & Carolyn's home

**REMEMBER – AGM - Sunday 6 March.**

**west: pitching in**

**Each month** we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$9,600 per month in offerings; in November our offerings were \$10,214.25. In December our offerings were \$9,084.67.

**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.

**Cleaning & Morning Tea Lawnmowing**

**6 FEB**  
Sue J  
Steve J

**13 FEB**  
Hester M  
Will M  
Allan West

**20 FEB**  
Brent G  
Murray L

**27 FEB**  
Liane L  
Wayne L  
Stuart W

**5 MAR**  
Bedford family