



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 2016

7 AUG James # 1
1:1 and Introduction
Seesaw Faith/Works

14 AUG James # 2
1:2 – 12
The hard & real stuff

21 AUG James # 3
1:13 – 18
The Start of Life!

28 AUG James # 4
1:19 – 27
True Religion



Being called “dear friend”, or “loved sister”, or “deeply loved one” might not be a common experience of ours – or maybe it is! I know when I have been told I’m loved by somebody (other than Naomi!) it takes me back and I feel quite deeply touched by these genuine affectionate words. These passionate types of phrases (Jesus’ brother) James uses when he writes a letter to followers of his brother throughout the world. We’re about to start working our way through the New Testament book of James.

Often athletes will make adjustments to their techniques after constructive criticism from their coach who wants the best for them. When we know we’re loved we’re far more willing to hear and take on board warnings, challenges and information that shows us we’re not heading in the right direction. James’ genuine love for the scattered church comes across clearly whilst at the same time saying hard things about how to express the grace we have received in Christ Jesus.

The heart-beat of James’ letter is to let our faith in Jesus be shown by our actions. Belief and works need to go hand in hand. The values of God’s kingdom must be reflected in how we live our lives.

James is adamant that the life that is dedicated to God will endure difficulty and hardship. Alec Motyer writes helpfully in his commentary on the book of James;

Christians are a special people, but not a protected species. Indeed, there is a sense in which they ought to expect even more than their share of the buffetings of life. This is because patient endurance of all sorts of tribulations is, in fact, God’s appointed way forward for his people to the maturity (1:4) and crown (1:12) he wills for them. Ask James, ‘Does the road wind up-hill all the way?’ and hear him reply, ‘Yes, to the very end.’

In all this James is no different from all the other teachers God has given us in the Bible. But he is different from teachers who have arisen and still arise, saying that there is an easy way to holiness – an experience, a technique or a blessing which will waft us effortlessly, even if not necessarily painlessly, to permanent loftier heights of living. All such teachings are not only without scriptural foundation – and so very plainly contrary to the teaching of James – but they are in fact recipes for disaster. They disappoint for this very reason, that there was never any hope that they could succeed. They are not God’s way. ‘Begin as a baby,’ says James (1:18). Grow from infancy and babyhood through adolescence to adulthood (1:19-25). Make sure your growth is a true, Christian development, and remember that it is by leaping life’s hurdles that you get to the tape.

As we enjoy the Olympics with all its stories of passion, commitment, sacrifice and hardship, may we also consider the life God has called us to live.

Andrew ☺

west: making a difference

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

Meryl. Hello to you all from Silverdale, north Auckland. I have just arrived back here after being with my sisters for a couple of weeks.

And now my thoughts are turning to meeting YOU again, especially those who have been part of the ministry in Korea through prayers and financial support. I will be in the lower half of the South Island in the middle of next month and so if you would like me to ‘pop in’ and share with you what I’ve been doing (individually or with groups), please do contact me (phone 022 301 8901 or email <meryl.ashworth@sim.org>) and we can organise something together.

Paul and Sarah B Our new Kiwi team mates have arrived pray God strengthens our relationship and makes us a tight team as we work together in a challenging environment and for his help in pacing ourselves as we work, as we have just recruited our third intake of women..

Jo R. Give thanks for the new intake of Trainees we have had recently, and the successful Encounter “Taster Course” that ran in July. Pray the staff who are coming in the next 6 months will have a smooth transition into a new culture and environment.

Please pray for **Jo** as her father passed away last Saturday after a short illness. She has returned home to be with family and to attend the funeral which will be on Wednesday. Please continue to pray for Jo, her brother and mother in the coming weeks, particularly when she returns to S Asia.

Carley Pray for wisdom in the new school year that I will know where to use my time wisely and who to give input to.. Pray for a science teacher and an English trainee teacher who can replace me and pray for a renewed sense of purpose..

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.

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, Erin, Syd, Margaret S. (& more!)

Spotswood Primary Chaplaincy: One of the things happening at the moment is Andrew co-leading two groups. These groups are focused on helping boys listen respectfully, take turns, and provide solutions to problems.

Hospital Chapel Service support. We're currently looking for people to support the hospital chapel service a few times a year.

west: groups

Awesome Whānau Parenting Course. For any adults wanting to develop in parenting skills. Starts Sunday 7 August, 3 - 5pm. 6 weeks. Dinner follows. Children welcome. Free. Contact Naomi for more info.

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.

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 August 11th and 25th 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. See Gary B if you are interested.

Get Real For all Year 7 – 13 students, and their parents/grandparents. Friends, fun, faith, food! We meet each Sunday during term time. 6.30 – 8pm in the downstairs part of our building. See West:events section for exact dates. Contact Hester or Andrew for more info.

Carol and James McK host a fortnightly 'Chocolate Fish' Bible study at their home.

See 'events' section for dates.

west: people

Over 60's Group May I have a volunteer to organise an event for August. Please contact Carolyn on 751 1305. Thank you.

The **church telephone/address directory** is currently being updated. If you have changed any of your details since the last one please let Heather B know ASAP. If

you are new to West and want to be included in the next directory please see Heather B.

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, Marlinka R.**

west: events

Get Real is a fun and safe place for young people (Year 7 up) to explore faith and build relationships. We meet on Sunday evenings from 6.30-8.30pm in the youth room downstairs.

31 July & 7, 14,21,28 Aug	Get Real, 6.30pm at Church	7,14,21, & 28 Aug	Awesome Whānau Parenting course
1,15,29 Aug	Blokes & Cokes at Westbar 7.30pm	8,22 Aug	Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Treehouse, Spotswood
2,16,30 Aug	Rainbow Group at Heather H's home, 1.00pm	9,16,23,30 Aug	Movies night at Grant & Megan's home
4,18 Aug	Chocolate Fish Group, at James & Carol's home	11,25 Aug	Music Practice, at Gary & Heather's,7pm
7 Aug	Soup Lunch at Liane & Wayne's home	21 Aug	Soup Lunch at Carol & James'

west: pitching in

Soup Lunches

7TH August - Liane & Wayne

21ST August - Carol & James

Trust Stuff. The Trustees and Board members met for dinner and discussion about ways the Trust could support the church with future endeavours.

There is currently a vacancy on the Trust Board. If you are interested or want to know more about it please contact Chris D. for details.

We have our **John D memorial DVD collection** downstairs. If you'd like to borrow something, please take it, record it in the notebook, and return it to the correct place on the shelves.

Each month we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$9,835 per month in offerings; in June our offerings were \$8,689.00.

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.

Cleaning & Morning Tea Lawnmowing

6 AUG
Judy W
Brian W

13 AUG
James M
Carol M
Jude S-M

20 AUG
Lynda L
Andy L

27 AUG
Alison D
Lisa A
Murray L

James 2:14-18.

What good is it my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.