



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

SEPTEMBER 2016

4 SEPT FATHER'S DAY
Stories of Dads

11 SEPT JAMES # 5
James 2:1 – 13
Caring Fairly

18 SEPT JAMES # 6
James 2:14 – 26
Faith & Deeds

25 SEPT DAVID MOKO
John 4:3 – 30
Different view of woman at well



Kia ora whānau,

Below is most of an article written by Paul Windsor – International Director of Langham Preaching, former Carey Principal, and mentor and friend of mine – living in Bangalore, India. I think this article resonates so much for us in our challenge of joining God in his mission to our community. Enjoy:

It is eight years since Barby [partner in marriage] and I shifted our focus from New Zealand to the peoples of the majority world. Back then, in NZ, voices reminded us of the need to be resourcing mission with inspiring stories of relevance. Now, returning to NZ for two months (August-September), I find that our experiences have drawn each of those words into a deeper, fuller conversation.

Resourcing – but what about partnership?

The resourcing mentality can create a sense that there are those with something to give and then there are the rest of us, who have something to receive. The flow tends to be one way. Even with the best servant-hearted intentions, this often perpetuates a dependency. And yet when we consider the images of the church in the New Testament - body, temple, building – it is interdependency that is so striking. Everyone has something to give. Everyone has something to receive. Everyone is indispensable – in the global church, as well as the local one (1 Corinthians 12). Expressing these truths is best done through partnerships, built on the foundation of friendship, where we think clearly and humbly about how the church in the majority world can resource us.

Mission – but what about maturity? In global terms, the mission challenge in NZ is difficult. One of the most difficult anywhere. I have a special admiration for pastors who spend their entire careers battling this challenge with an evangelistic heart. And yet, further afield in the majority world, people are responding to Christ in huge numbers. There is plenty of numerical growth, but it tends to be growth without depth. The desperate need is for ministries which grow people deep into Christ. Discipleship. Biblical preaching. Theological education. Mentoring. It is this other mandate for the church in the New Testament – the maturity challenge, if you like – which surfaces so often. I find a certain irony about New Zealanders going on mission trips, offering an expertise they don't often have to countries

which usually do have that expertise. I wonder what a 'maturity trip' might look like?

Inspiration – but what about aspiration?

There are so many resources aimed at inspiring people in NZ. Events. Music. Podcasts. Conferences. Speakers. Sometimes I wonder if there is a danger of being over-inspired? The parrot on Inspector Clouseau's shoulder in the Pink Panther movies comes to mind - constantly being pumped up because it keeps deflating. Where are those lives that whisper to us the words of Paul, 'follow me, as I follow Christ' (1 Corinthians 11)? The life they live quietly draws us close and changes us. Such people did wander through my life in NZ (oh yes, they did!) – but now I find my life is awash with them. The genius of such 'fellowship' is that it plays on our aspirations. We want to be like that person who carries that whiff of Jesus.

Stories – but what about teaching?

The primacy of story here in NZ is evident for all to see. In the majority world, with its oral cultures, story is always going to be central. But here is the problem. Again and again, church leaders over there are saying something else to us. "We've tried stories. Come train us how to teach the Bible. That is what we need." In one country that comes to mind, they see such biblical teaching to be the way to secure their people against the threat of religious fundamentalism. In another country, such biblical teaching is seen to be the antidote to the prosperity gospel. In still another country, such biblical teaching is the helping hand by which the marginalised are drawn close and valued. In still another region, such biblical teaching is seen to be the antidote to a pervasive nominalism. It is the cry for simple, clear, accessible and transformative biblical teaching that is heard most often.

Relevance – but what about resistance?

In NZ nothing kills an idea quite like describing it to be irrelevant. But there is a problem here. The pursuit of relevance - fitting in with the surrounding culture, flowing with its trends in order to gain an audience - is barely visible in the Bible. In one testament the people of God are 'a light to the nations', while in the other they are the 'light of the world'. Light?! That sounds more like a life that contrasts, than it does a life that fits-in. The instinct here is more about going upstream, resisting the flow, than it is about floating downstream, going with the flow. How have we missed this? Is it partly because the love and justice of God has eclipsed the holiness of God in NZ? We sing a 'holy' here and there, but maybe if we taught it and lived it more, there would be a greater concern for resistance over relevance.

'Resourcing mission with inspiring stories of relevance' won't be going anywhere. But is it enough? No, it isn't. What about building partnerships which target maturity through an aspirational teaching which energises resistance? If we are willing to be patient, we might be surprised about the fruit this brings.

Andrew ☺

west: making a difference

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

Meryl. Is on furlough in New Zealand until the end of February 2017.

Paul and Sarah B May our new Kiwi mates, Jake, Meg, Lilliana, Tom & Ella feel settled, know His peace and find their groove here. May He grant us wisdom and strength as we are currently busy with brothel visits, recruiting for our 3rd intake of women.

Jo R. Freedom Encounter takes place this month, which means a busy month for me. Please pray I will prioritise my tasks well, look after myself and be aware of different ways in which I can help the Team.

Carley. Thanks to God for reminding me why I came to South Asia, and for the amazing students I have the privilege to teach. Pray for my continued language learning, that I can manage my time wisely between school and learning, also for God's protection over the school and the wonderful people I work with.

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.

The building **Awesome Whānau Course** is going very well with six adults regularly attending, along with their children. We are half way through the course, with three weeks to go. Thank you to all those who have helped with food or looking after children. Please pray for the families attending the course and the facilitators Naomi & Andrea.

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 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

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

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.

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

The **Music Group** practice will be on the 1st and 22nd September, 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 Andrew for more info.

west: people

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

An anonymous thank you –

Some time ago checking for mail was quite exciting. Every now and again I might find some coffee in my letterbox, or biscuits, or even a voucher for Countdown, but never with the sender's name. And this kept happening for a long time, was it a year? I'm not sure. I

never did work out who you were, and have never thanked you. I hope so much you're reading this to let me say you have posted me many hugs when I needed them most, and made me feel loved when I needed it most. Thank you.

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.**

David Moko is our NZ Baptist leader for Māori Ministries. David will be with us on Saturday September 24 for Kai & Kōrero... at Sangster's home, 6pm – shared dinner. David will interact with us around topics such as:

- Why are there so few Māori represented in NZ churches?
- How can churches operate in a more bi-ethical way – theological outcomes, social – emotional functioning and citizenship for bicultural churches?
- Does prejudices and racism exist in the NZ church?... how do we overcome it?
- Why don't Māori get over it ... do we know or understand what the 'it' is?
- Indigenous/Māori creation story, recognising God's fingerprints in these stories.
- How is God connecting with individuals, families and communities in NZ?
- Can Māori be fully Māori as a follower of Jesus?

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.

1,22 Sept	Music Practice - Gary & Heather's	12,26 Sept.	Blokes & Cokes at Westbar 7.30pm
1,15,29 Sept.	Chocolate Fish Group, at James & Carol's home	13,27 Sept.	Rainbow Group at Heather H's home, 1.00pm
4,11,18,25 Sept	Get Real, 6.30pm at Church	13,20,27 Sept.	Movies night at Grant & Megan's home
4,11,18 Sept.	Awesome Whānau parenting Course	24 Sept.	Kai & Kōrero with David Moko
5,19 Sept.	Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Treehouse, Spotswood		

west: pitching in

Soup Lunches - These are now over for 2016. A big thank you to all who hosted a soup lunch this year. Everyone who attended the various lunches had a great time enjoying each other's company and enjoyed the variety of soups on offer.

Each month we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$9,835 per month in offerings; in July our offerings were \$9,237.00.

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.

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

3 SEPT
Val&Allan W
Ang&Glen A

10 SEPT
AndrewNaomi
Erin R.
Roi M

17 SEPT
Sue J
Steve J

24 SEPT
Raewyn H
Ross H
Alison D

