



# Mother's Day Brunch

**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

MAY 2018

**6 MAY** What is the Gospel? #3  
Being set free is Good News!

**13 MAY** Mother's Day Brunch  
Spotswood Primary School 10am

**20 MAY** Jamie Allen  
Being a Catalyst

**27 MAY** What is the Gospel? #4  
How did we get such a distortion?



Last Saturday Mad Man Maxheartrate McKillop and I had an adventure! 22km running through the hills and valleys around Waitomo. In the photo you can see by the way we were dressed that one of us was taking it seriously – me. The other was looking like a school boy with long socks, dark shorts, school bag and a long sleeve shirt!

We ran through the bush, through streams, up and down rutty farm tracks, (walking included), along a ridge with stunning views, and through this cave.

The cave was actually very dark, extremely dark! Neither of us knew to take a torch, but fortunately somebody came alongside us with a torch, just at the right time. I would have been literally crawling otherwise – and at some point would have discovered/fallen into the stream going through the cave!

In life sometimes we don't know where we are going, or what to do. In these times how good are friends alongside us, and people to light the way?

At the end of the race I saw lots of very dirty people who had obviously fallen in the mud. Yet each of them got up and kept on going. No doubt they had encouragement and support along the way.

People who are supportive, encouraging, present, and shining light on the way forward are just what we need sometimes aren't they? They are like gold! Last week Judy spoke about children and youth who need extra space and support to process their grief, loss, and anger. These golden people help build safety, strength and resilience into young people. They are present in times of darkness, light the way in times of uncertainty, and encourage to get up and keep going instead of staying stuck in the mud.

Some of our youth group youth need golden yet normal people like this. As do kids at school. Some of us probably need them too!

How can we be a light bearing, present, encourager this week?

Who has been a light bearing, present, encourager for you in the last while?

Andrew 😊

## west: making a difference

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

**Meryl** We have had and are having an amazing term with students so interested in missions, they are sitting and drinking in the information from our mission classes. One lady is very soon returning to the Middle East – I have heard her say more than once 'How can I do this in Arabic instead of in English?' A newly-married couple are at present looking into mission organisations with which they can leave for overseas next year. Tomorrow morning, 4 members of SIM Korea, including the director and his wife, will be attending our course and speaking with various students, answering questions in class as well as chatting informally over lunch. Pray for good contact and understanding.

We have really enjoyed the glorious Spring weather. Each time I have travelled into the city on the train over the past few weeks, I have passed orchards full of fruit trees in flower, with promise of what's to come. We have enjoyed beautiful cherry blossom flowers, both at the Yanghwajin Foreigner Missionary Cemetery as well as on the nearby Yoido island, one of the best areas in Seoul for viewing the flowering cherry. And now that those blossoms have finished, we are now enjoying the huge variety of azaleas and other summer flowers on display at ACTS university and elsewhere, seen in white, lilac, purple, cerise and red colours. God's nature is so Beautiful!

Thank you to those of you who are part of this ministry through your prayers and financial support. You are part of changing lives, firstly, lives of our students and then lives of people they in turn come into contact with, both here in Korea as well as overseas. May God bless you richly for your love and involvement.

With grateful thanks, Meryl

**Paul and Sarah, Mikayla and Malachi (S Asia):** As we go into the hot season, may he sustain us and strengthen us day by day, as we seek to serve him here. May we have the opportunity to celebrate well for our family's May/ June birthdays.

**Carley (S Asia)** Pray for Gems School as we get closer to the end of another school year. May the skills being taught in the classroom have a lasting impact on the students and their families.

**Jo R:** Has just left South Asia and is travelling back to N.Z. for her Wedding in July. Pray for those who

are managing her workload while she is away that they will cope well with the extra work and that all systems will continue to function as normal.

### **Closer to home:**

We love and 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.

**Spotswood Primary Chaplaincy.** Andrew is a part of the school's pastoral care team which meets weekly to collaboratively support children and their families. He also spends time with staff and children.

**Hospital Chapel Service support.** Hospital Chapel Service Support: West helps with the hospital chapel service occasionally. If you'd like to find out more, please contact Ian & Jill M.

## **west: growing**

All men are welcome to share a drink and good conversation every fourth Monday at **Blokes and Cokes**, 7.30pm at Westside Grill (formerly known as 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 on the themes of our sermon series. On the first Tuesday of the month members take part in a Quiz night at Westside Grill at 6.30pm.

**Carol and James McK** host a fortnightly 'Chocolate Fish' Bible study at their home. See 'events' section for dates. Anyone looking for a fortnightly home group is welcome to check us out.

**Music & Play** For parents and children under 5 years. We meet every Friday at 10am. Koha. Contact Shirley P on 751 0711

**Youth Group** Fortnightly Saturday events for young people who are school year 7 through to year 13 (Form 1-7.) There are also fortnightly Sunday faith discussions for year 9-13.

Contact James M to be put on the text message group to find out about the events or any other info. Put a facebook request to the Transit Youth facebook page for updates, and Andrew will give you access to the closed group.

**The Music Group** This month's practice will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May, 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.

**Music lessons with our youth and children** An idea being talked about by a few people, is whether we might be able to help teach some of

our children and young people to play some instruments? This is with a view to building relationships, passing on skills, and perhaps having them join our music team one day! Would anybody

(or group of people) be interested in getting heads together to explore this more?

### west: in our community

Our annual **Mother's Day Brunch** for Spotswood Primary School families is on Sunday 13 May at 10 a.m. This is our service. Please sign up on the purple noticeboard to participate in something. Please come and get to know others in our community.

### west: people

Most of our notices, as well as brief Sunday reflections are sent via an e-mail called the "**West Weekly.**" If you'd like to receive this, please contact Andrew or Alison.

Please continue to **pray for and support** those who are struggling with ongoing health difficulties, and those unable to meet on Sundays **Eric P, Ruth S, Lyn S, Marlinka R, Kathe M, Jocelyn D.**

### west: events

**Mother's Day Brunch** 13th May 10am at Spotswood Primary School Hall.

#### CALENDAR:

1,15,29 May	Rainbow Group at Heather H's, 1pm	10,24 May	Chocolate Fish Group, at James & Carol's home
3,24 May	Music Practice	13 May	Mother's Day Brunch at Spotswood Primary school hall, 10am
4,11,18,25 May	Music & Play, at West. 10am	28 May	Blokes & Cokes at Westbar 7.30pm
5,19 May	Youth Group 7 – 9 pm		
7,21 May	Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Treehouse, Spotswood		
8,15,22,29 May	Movie Group at Grant & Megan's		

### west: pitching in

**Great work** by the **Working bee** people!! Our grounds are looking good!

**Each month** we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$9,500 per month in offerings; in March our offerings were \$11,448.

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.

<b>Cleaning &amp; Morning Tea Lawnmowing</b>	<b>5 MAY</b>	<b>12 MAY</b>	<b>19 MAY</b>	<b>26 MAY</b>	<b>2 JUNE</b>
	Lynda L Andy L	James McK Carol McK Wayne L	Roi S-M Jude S-M	Alison D Lisa A Andy L	Michael P Elizabeth P