

February-April 2019

TO TRAIN?

DO KIDS **REALLY**NEED TO GO
TO CHURCH?

FAITH FORMATION RESOURCING

HALLWAY ANTICS





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not sure what you think about New Year's resolutions, but I always find them bothersome. Maybe it's because of the guilt that sets in when I break them! Have you set any for this year? If you haven't maybe you'd like to help me with mine—to make time with God more of a priority. Those of us with a Martha complex can find we get so busy with the work of ministry that we forget to spend time at the feet of the one for whom we are doing the ministry—now, be honest, I'm sure I'm not the only one who does this! Maybe you'll be inspired by some of these ideas:

- Join an online Bible Study group—this is great for accountability
- Start a thankfulness journal
- Put a framed quote and/or Scripture on your desk or wall that reminds you to 'look up'
- Schedule a spiritual retreat (or two!)
- Regularly pray with a friend or colleague with whom you are willing to share the hard things of life
- Listen to podcasts and sermons during the week—the car or the treadmill are my favourite places for this.
- Learn what brings you closer to God and do more of that maybe it's listening to worship music or a walk in nature...

Whatever you choose to do remember that sitting at the feet of Jesus is "the main course" (Luke 10:42 The Message).

The start of a new year can bring joys as well as challenges. My challenge for the next 3 months will be to fit in 6 months' worth of work! My joy is that this is because I will be on Sabbatical for 3 months. I am currently both excited and scared; excited that I get time to recharge and read all those (ministry) books that have been piling up, and scared because there's lot to do before May! That aside, it's a huge privilege to have this opportunity and I'm really looking forward to what God will reveal to me.

As we start this year I want to pray this blessing over each of you:

May the Lord bless you and protect you.

May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord show you his favour and give you his peace.

Numbers 6: 24-26

May 2019 be a time of WONDER; wonder at who God is and at what he can do in and through us all.

Blessings,





DALE HUDSON RELEVANT CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BLOG

ere's a common scenario. Single young adults head off to college and drop out of church for various reasons. They meet someone, get married and have their first child. The weighty responsibility of having a baby causes them to go back to church. They want their child to grow up to be a good person and taking the child to church is seen as a great way to help with this.

But there is also another scenario that is playing out more and more often. And that's this—parents opt out of church and look for other ways to teach their children various life lessons.

This is becoming more frequent. Worldwide, the total number of people who are nones (claim no religion), is increasing. The number of people who claim no religious affiliation is expected to rise from 1.17 billion to 1.20 billion by 2060.

Though more and more people are claiming no religion, young couples are still drawn to church on behalf of their kids. Even in cases where the parents are nones, deep inside they feel an obligation to take their young children to church. Church is seen as a place that can help instil core teachings so their children can become productive members of society.

But do kids really need to go to church? Does it really have a lasting effect on their lives? The answer is YES. A big YES. Besides the obvious spiritual benefits, attending church has great benefits for kids as they grow up:

- · less drug, alcohol and tobacco use
- · lower rates of depression and suicide
- · better sleep quality
- · greater hopefulness
- · better life satisfaction.

But... there is a clause that parents must keep in mind. Though many children are attending church, it is inconsistent and sporadic.

This means a big percentage of children who attend church, are only establishing a weak, shallow faith due to infrequent attendance. In other words, it's hard to build a solid spiritual foundation in kids' lives, when they are missing 50-75% of the lessons.

And yes, parents are the biggest influence in their child's spiritual life. But a parent who is only bringing their child to church once or twice a month, is probably following that same pattern in discipling their child at home.

Speaking of parents, let's dive a little deeper on that topic. For young parents, parenting can be hard and exhausting. The church becomes a place that can help them cope with this and get through the different phases of childhood. The church becomes a support network for them.

A big percentage of children who attend church, are only establishing a weak, shallow faith due to infrequent attendance.

That's one reason why I believe you shouldn't 'require' parents to serve in children's ministry. For a young mum with a preschooler, the last place she needs to be on Sunday morning is in a classroom full of preschoolers. We must stop 'guilting' or 'requiring' parents to serve in their child's environment at church. I'm not saying we shouldn't encourage parents to serve. We should. And for many of them, serving in their child's environment is a joy.

But notice I said 'joy'. If it's not a joy, then help them find somewhere else to serve that they can be passionate about. You want people serving in your children's ministry to be called to that age group. You want volunteers in your children's ministry who are excited about being there, not someone who is required to be there. Jury duty and school are the only places people are required to be and I don't see many people jumping for joy when they have to participate.

I believe there are some big questions we must find answers to, if we are going to be effective in making disciples in the next generation as well as their parents.

Questions we must answer like...

How do we encourage families to attend church more consistently?

How do we help parents find places to serve that bring them joy?

How can we better equip parents in their role of discipling their children? ◆



PATSY WAY CHILDREN'S PASTOR, WINDSOR PARK BAPTIST

Maybe it's because I am a pragmatist at heart, but I do love it when pragmatic solutions end up bringing kingdom results. This is what has happened for WindsorKids. In seeking to improve the entry point to their ministry space, they found that they had stumbled on a great way to encourage church attendance and create a sense of anticipation and excitement. Patsy Way shares their story.

ver the last year WindsorKids has been through an ongoing process of evaluation to ensure we are keeping up with the ever-increasing changes to the safety requirements of running a children's ministry. One of the more significant changes we made was streamlining our entry and exit points on a Sunday morning. This meant that to enter the programme each week our children had to make their way down a long, empty and intimidating corridor of ministry offices.

With 1 Corinthians 13:11a "When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child," in mind, we approached this empty corridor as an exciting blank canvas, an opportunity to creatively live out our core value of making our children and families feel welcomed. We wanted to create a sense of wonder and excitement on a Sunday morning. Due to the building being multi-purpose we couldn't make permanent changes to the corridor so we started experimenting with décor that could easily be set up and taken down.



Pinterest to the rescue! Each week we now transform our corridor into a maze, or giant hopscotch, an obstacle course, cover the floors with bubble wrap, create streamer curtains, fill the corridor with balloons, put up arrows, pump out the bubble machines or squirt the children with silly string. Each week the entry way is different and we love seeing the children's excitement as they discover what is in store for them that week. We have also rostered parent volunteers on to stand at different points of the corridor to welcome the children, give them a high five and add a personal touch. We get our leaders and children invested in 'the entry project' by regularly asking them for ideas and then finding creative and budget-friendly ways of carrying these out.

The average attendance rate for our families in 2017 was 1-in-6 weeks. Six months into this new initiative we were at

1-in-3 weeks. Whilst we recognize there are so many factors affecting church attendance, we love seeing our children speed into church and to their corridor and we love having children ask us what they missed the week before and what's coming the next week.

Take outs:

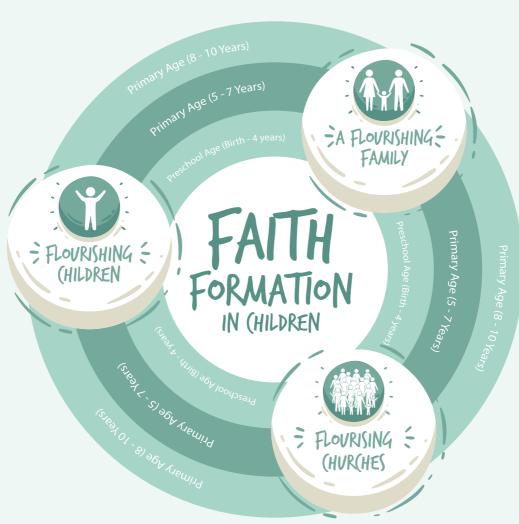
Why do you think WindsorKids had such a dramatic improvement in attendance?

How excited are your kids about coming to your Sunday or weekday programmes?

What could you do to spice up your ministry space or entry point?

Faith Formation CHART

you were asked what faith formation looks like in the life of a child I wonder what you would say? Would you easily have an answer, or would you need to ask for time to research one? It's an important question but one that many CM pastors and



leaders don't readily know how to answer. Yet knowing what faith formation looks like for children is as important as knowing what healthy eating looks like. So in the spirit of helpfulness and collaboration, we decided to provide our churches with some answers to this question.

We talked, and read, and researched, and talked some more, and have come up with a framework that we hope will be useful to you and your church. We've framed them around the things that are needed in order for children and their parents to flourish in faith. We also included some strategies for helping churches to flourish. All of this information has been incorporated in a user-friendly chart that is designed to go on the wall in your office or CM space. It's in an easy to understand format that enables you to evaluate what you are doing, alongside knowing what next to do.

We have broken the stages of faith development into three age brackets—preschool, lower primary and upper primary. Each age bracket shows what is needed for the child, the family and the church. We've also included the areas that are common to all ages. Interestingly, regular church attendance came up as needed by all ages both for children and for families.

These A2 sized charts are available for purchase through our resource website—

www.athomeandchurch.org.nz. We are also in the process of producing a small version that can be used by parents in the home.

We encourage you to use these charts as discussion points for your team meetings as well as with other staff members. The section on the church would be great for a staff meeting.





@HOMe+ CHURCH

Our new resource website has products for both church ministry

and families. The resources are separated into two sections—@church which caters for ministry and mission with children, and @home where there are resources designed for families to use in the home. We are continually adding to the product range so make sure that you check regularly to see the new items. •



RACHEL SANGSTER CHILDREN'S PASTOR, SOUTH WEST BAPTIST

hen I heard that Mark Griffiths was lecturing at the biannual Children's Ministry block course, my registration was immediately completed and flights from Christchurch booked.

I have had the privilege of hosting Mark in Christchurch several times over recent years for conferences and seminars and have heard him teach and inspire various groups of people, both younger and older. I was not going to miss out on hearing more!

The topics Mark covered were vast, ranging from research methodology, historical perspectives of children's ministry and evangelism, to theology of children, and faith development theories. From ecclesiology and sociology all the way through to the why, how and what of creative programme planning and innovative storytelling.

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn." — Benjamin Franklin

This quote from Benjamin Franklin sums up how Mark led us over the week. He is an empowering, humble leader who knows that God has given us all many gifts and talents, and he drew that out of each of us over the week. The cumulative knowledge, experience and passion in the room was exponential, and Mark drew on this as we all learned together.

I was particularly moved by a story Mark told of an old vicar whose eldership wanted him removed from office because he was 'not successful'. When asked to give a report on how many people he had brought to faith that year he said, "I have only led one little



boy to Jesus." That little boy was Robert Moffat, who years later gave a response call to a congregation asking, "Who will go?" A young David Livingstone stood up and boldly responded, "I will go!" Minister to the one. Peter preached, and thousands were saved, but the very next day he reached out to the one-the leper and he was healed. It is not about the spectacular, it is about the significant. When I leave this earth for my eternal home, I don't want to be remembered for the flashing lights or the loud music or the best themes and props or elaborate crafts and activities—I want to be remembered for the 'ones'. For those I listened to, spoke with, praved with and loved.

Mark encouraged us to take a good look at ourselves. Luke 10:1-11 describes God sending harvesters into the harvest fields, "Go! Don't take a purse or bag or sandal." We spent some time contemplating what it looks like for us personally to travel lightly and to

not bury ghosts of the past, but rather to let the Holy Spirit transform us so we can then minister from this holy place of transformation. We can have the best storytelling techniques, high tech media and great activities, but who we are speaks louder than all this. Children don't care what you know until they know you care. They care about who you are not what you say.

"I can't hear what you say because who you are is screaming at me." — Zulu proverb

Annette Osbourne, from Scripture Union NZ was a guest lecturer for one of the days. She is a virtuoso in Children and Families Ministry, especially in our NZ context. She captured me in her opening sentence when she asked, "Do you know the meaning of the word, aleatoric?" She went on to describe it as a musical term (often used in the jazz →

genre), where the musicians have an idea where they want it to go, but parts of the music are left open to 'chance'. Musicians weave together parts, to make a piece of music that couldn't have been done alone—it needed the community to make something beautiful. She and Mark, both talked at various times throughout the week about the importance of family and community in inspiring a lasting faith in our children. I was challenged to consider how my faith community can up our game in empowering our parents, and how we can show the tamariki of our community that they belong, are important, and are cherished by us all.

"There's not a growing church anywhere in the world that doesn't invest heavily in boys and girls and families." — Mark Griffiths Apart from the wonderful speakers and the incredible hosting by Karen Warner and her team, the other aspects of the week that I really enjoyed were the opportunities to reunite with old friends and establish new ones; the times of discussion on all kinds of topics at our group table; and networking with a different passionate Children and Families Minister each lunch time down at the local café! It was a week out of my normal routine and one that was extremely well spent. I thoroughly recommend taking the opportunity to undertake study and training—you won't regret it!

For more information about training at Carey, contact Karen Warner: phone: 021 279 0919

email: karen.warner@baptist.org.nz

Called to give your best to children & their families?

2-6

This course has been specifically developed to support the needs of Children and Family Ministry workers and leaders.

All of us are part of a family of one sort or another. How do we make sense of family in today's complex world? How do social and cultural changes influence our understanding of what families should be like, including marriage, gender roles, and parenting?

Through this course you'll examine the family and family life in contemporary New Zealand from theological and sociological perspectives and be challenged to think through the implications of such perspectives and family trends in New Zealand for church life and ministry.

Enrol at carey.ac.nz by 26th June
Credit: \$731 (NZQA credit towards further study)
Audit: \$320 (For interest only. No assignments or course work)

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BRONWYN OWEN FROM INVERCARGILL BAPTIST CHURCH SHARES HER STORY OF STUDYING REFLECTIVE FIELD EDUCATION AT CAREY BAPTIST COLLEGE.

ealising that there was so much more to children's ministry and children's faith than just the hour programme on Sunday mornings propelled Bronwyn to take on a new challenge. Along with being a busy mum of four, she took up the position of Children and Family Pastor at Invercargill Baptist and started study at Carey, A friend had recommended the Reflective Field Education paper as a great place to start.

"I was hoping to achieve a wider understanding of children's ministry and how we could 'do' ministry each week." says Bronwyn. "What I gained was so much more... I came to see the holistic nature of children's ministry; church, community, families and myself as a leader all being intertwined. It's not just the delivery of a Sunday morning programme. It is more complex than that."

Bronwyn's role is busy and rewarding. from overseeing and being involved with the Sunday morning programmes, Faith@Home workshops, social events, Grace meals and intergenerational/all age services. She has been hugely impacted by gaining a better

understanding of the importance of building relationships with children. The readings and reflections she has done through the course have enabled her to grow and learn and this has in turn impacted her ministry.

The Reflective Field Ed course is done by distance and enables Children and Family (C&F) leaders and pastors to connect. "It was fantastic getting to speak to other pastors and see C&F ministries in action at other churches. This course was a great way to start studying at Carey. The coordinator, Rachel Roche was there to bounce ideas off and offer guidance. I love working with children-I'm excited by what God can do not only in their lives, but also what He can do for the whole church through children. The study has helped me realise, and learn, and see, more and more what God desires for children and their families and the call He has placed on the church to nurture those relationships. I feel a real desire to see children as fully belonging to our church in all aspects, from worshipping and serving, right through to outreach—not simply as a separate church ministry."

Falth **@**НОМе resource



he family is the most powerful influence in the faith formation of children and teenagers. Parents are the first educators of their children and provide the foundation for spiritual life. The home, therefore, is the primary place where faith is nurtured.

We know that parents want the best for their children, but parenting them can be a complex and often confusing task. This is where the church can partner with parents by walking alongside them. It's about preparing children to face the realities of life and to eventually be able to handle them without parental guidance. In this challenging and fast paced world, churches need to provide families with support and empowerment.

"What happens in the home is more important and influential

than what happens at church when it comes to faith formation and behaviour. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to realize we spend way more time at home than we do at church."

Mark Holmen, Church + Home

So, how can we empower families to pass on a saving, transforming, life-changing relationship with Jesus to their children and to the next generation? A number of our churches have begun doing this by utilising the concepts in Mark Holmen's book Take it Home. This book outlines sessions where parents and children are trained and encouraged together. These churches have found it a great way for the church and the home to partner together in the journey of discipleship.

In conjunction with four of our churches, we have developed a resource that uses the Take it Home model and contextualises it for New Zealand churches. We've called this resource Faith@Home. The resource consists of a manual and online session outlines. The manual covers: what is a Faith@Home session: an overview of how to run the sessions; topic outlines and purpose; 20 Faith@Home sessions; a template for changing them to fit your context; extra resources for the sessions.

The manual can be purchased through our website or downloaded for free. You can check out the resource on our website-

www.athomeandchurch.org.nz.

A big thank you to these people for allowing us to publish their material: Raewyn Moodie, Brigitte Crowe, Jan Ozanne, Wendy Weusten.

FAITH@HOME TOPICS

Age	Year group	Topic	What it teaches
0 - 1	Newborn	Parenting—the First Years: Baby Dedication	As parents prepare to dedicate their child, the church can encourage them to consider the importance of spiritual parenting supported by a faith community.
2 - 3	Preschool	Family Blessings— two sessions	Praying blessings over children is biblical and a simple way to teach parents to pray for them.
		Story and Song	Using story and song in the early years to create God moments in the home.
		Grace and mealtime routines	Using grace and other mealtime routines as simple ways to build faith into the early routines of life.
4 - 5	Kindy-Year 1	Prayer	Encouraging parents to consider different ways they can incorporate prayer into everyday family life.
		My Church—can also be done with Years 2-4	What is the church and why is it important? How to help our children understand we are all a vital part of our faith community.
		Devotions/Faith talk	Communicating and passing on devotion to God in the everyday moments of life.
		My Bible	Encouraging and resourcing parents to use the Bible at home and think about the messages they are giving their children about God's word.
6 - 8	Years 2-4	Worship	What is worship? Why do we worship God? How can we create space in our homes so we can hear from God and focus on Him?
		Service	With children growing up in a "what's in it for me?" society, how can we help them care about and be willing to serve others in response to God's love for them? How to involve children in serving God and being the hands and feet of Christ in our homes, communities and churches.
		Fight for the Heart	Teaching parents to value their relationship with their child and acknowledge the child's own faith journey.
		Worshipping together (Parenting in the Pew)	Teaching parents how to encourage attendance and engage their children in multi-age worship services.
9 - 12	Years 5-8	My Identity	Helping children to see themselves as God sees them.
		Hearing from God	Being able to understand how God speaks to us is vital if we are to develop a close and authentic relationship with Him.
		My Media, Gaming and Electronic Diet	Empowering parents with information and tools to help them guide their families effectively into safe and healthy media habits.
		Family Roles and Responsibility	Inspiring and equipping family members to be mutual contributors, giving to the life of their families.
		Establishing Another Voice	To help students identify and establish an adult faith mentor, other than their parents that they can turn to for advice and support; to build intergenerational bridges.
		My Time, Talent and Treasure	Hearing what Jesus has to say about how we use our time, treasures and talents. To be challenged on how God might shape what we do when we hand it over to Him.

Resources

BACK TO SCHOOL

It's great to see that quite a few of our churches are taking part in 'back to

school' blessing events. A Back to School blessing event is held during the worship service about the time that students and teachers return to school at the beginning of the year. The aim is to pray for the children and to encourage them to feel excited and supported by their church community, and by God as they go back to school.

The children bring their backpacks to church and a special tag or pin/badge is given to them to attach to their bags. It serves as a daily reminder that God and their church family go with them!

This year we have backpack tags available to purchase online as well as a range of other free back to school resources you can use in your ministry.

Visit our website and click on 'Back to School' on the homepage: www.baptistcfm.org.nz

Easter **@Home**

@home+church, our Baptist Children and Family Ministry resource website, will once again provide a unique Easter resource to support faith conversations in the home. Keep an eye out for the Easter@Home resource that will be launched in February 2019.

READ SCRIPTURE APP

This new app is available on the Apple store and Goggle Play. The app features hand-illustrated Bible Project videos explaining difficult concepts and themes alongside scripture text. A thematic reading plan constantly highlights the bigger picture so that you can always see this as you read. This is an excellent tool to use and share with adults, teens and intermediate aged children... and, it's free!!!



Bibles for Kids

There are so many Bibles available these days that it can be tricky deciding which to choose. When it comes to translations, I think that the NLT is a great version for children. It is easy to read and understand and would be my choice for Bibles for your CM.

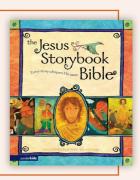
For reading aloud it is hard to go past the *Jesus Storybook Bible* and *The Rhyme Bible*. For children who are not keen readers *The Action Bible* is fun and engaging. I also think the new easy-reader version, *The Big Little Bible* from the Bible Society is also a great choice.

Here are some of our top picks:

JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE

This is a truly lovely children's Bible that does SO many things right. The best thing it does is trace the story of Jesus through the whole Bible—it shows how every story points to the ultimate story in a way that is very graspable.

The Jesus Storybook Bible contains 21 stories from the Old Testament and 23 stories from the New Testament, presented in an easy-to-understand way that makes learning about the Bible as fun for younger children, preschool and below, as it is for older children, kindergarten to sixth grade. | *Age: 5-10 years*





ACTION BIBLE

The Action Bible presents 215 fast-paced narratives in chronological order, making it easier to follow the Bible's historical flow—and reinforcing the build-up to its thrilling climax. The stories in The Action Bible communicate clearly and forcefully to contemporary readers. This compelling blend of clear wring plus dramatic images offers an appeal that crosses all age boundaries.

| Age: 9-12 years

THE BIG LITTLE BIBLE

This unique book and app for children helps developing young minds discover more about how the big story of the Bible fits together. It also helps them get used to reading real Bible text.

The Big Little Bible features 30 of the most popular stories taken straight from the easy-to-read Contemporary English Version as well as over full-colour 100 illustrations. Each of the 30 stories also contains thought-provoking questions to help children and adults talk about the story together.

| Age: Pre-school and early Primary



Editor's picks

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY MAGAZINE

childrensministry.com/about-us

Children's Ministry Magazine is the most read magazine for children's ministry! It's packed with practical, authentic ministry ideas to help you become even better at what you do best—lead kids to Jesus. You'll get sound advice and encouragement from today's children's ministry experts, and hundreds of ideas that'll have kids begging to come back!



EVERY ISSUE OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY MAGAZINE EQUIPS YOU WITH:

- Proven methods for recruiting, the #1 need in children's ministry.
- Established strategies for building a healthy team.
- Culture facts and trends to keep you current with kids.
- · Practical ways to make the most of your budget.
- Inspiration and encouragement when times are tough.
- Tools you need to change children's lives forever.

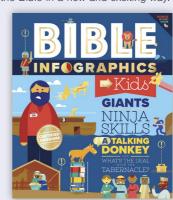


BIBLE INFOGRAPHICS FOR KIDS: LET YOUR KIDS SEE HOW FUN THE BIBLE CAN BE

The Bible is far from boring, but sometimes it can feel that way to kids. Spark their excitement for God's Word with this craze-mazing collection of infographic spreads designed to make the Bible come alive for kids and adults alike. These colourful creations visually depict the key concepts, important people, and most unusual facts from the Bible in a new and exciting way. For instance, did you know?

- You'd need 7,453,506 soccer balls to fill up Noah's Ark.
- There is a talking donkey in the Bible.
- Roughly 3-4 million left Egypt during the Exodus.
 Imagine the entire city of Los Angeles leaving town and wandering in the desert for 40 years!
- The phrase "a leopard can't change its spots" comes from Jeremiah 13:23.

In addition to the incredible infographics found throughout, families will love playing a Bible timeline board game that folds out from the middle of the book.



Pin the dates

8 FEBRUARY	Carey Reflective Field Education MF501 & MF601 Enrolment closes Visit: carey.ac.nz/study/specialist/child-family-leadership	
23 FEBRUARY	First Things First Training (by CBM) Auckland Visit www.nzcmn.org.nz for details	
7 MARCH	Spark Plus—training for anyone who works with children Auckland 7.30 - 9.30pm Cost \$5pp 473 Great South Rd, Penrose	
23 MARCH	Special to God—Meeting the needs of Special Kids (by CBM) Auckland Visist www.nzcmn.org.nz for details	
29 MARCH	Safety First training Auckland 9 – 12.30pm Email Karen for details: karen.warner@baptist.org.nz	
6 APRIL	Ministry to Young Children (by CBM) Visit www.nzcmn.org.nz for details	
25 MAY	Way2Go Conference Dunedin Mosgiel Presbyterian Church 9:30am - 4pm	
8 JUNE	Way2Go Conference Auckland Church Unlimited, Glendene 9:30am - 4pm See website for details:	
22 JUNE	Way2Go Conference Wellington Samuel Marsden Collegiate School 9:30am - 4pm	
11-14 JUNE	Leaders 2 Go Conference Australia Sydney Contact Raewyn Moodie for details about the team from New Zealand who are attending: candrmoodie@gmail.com	

NEW PASTORAL & MINISTRY APPOINTMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

APPOINTED

Matua Baptist
 Sue & Roger Wilks

Napier Baptist Robin Graham

• Te Awamutu Baptist Celeste Edkins

Wainuiomata Baptist Andy Aldridge

CONCLUDED

"There's not a growing church anywhere in the world that doesn't

invest heavily in boys and girls and families."

Dr Mark Griffiths

