

connect

November 2020

Kids' Club

baptist
children &
family
ministries 
manatū iriri whānau tamariki

CARING FOR
OUR FAMILIES

THE CERTAINTY
OF CHRISTMAS

COVID-19 HANDED US A LEMON
AND WE HAVE MADE LEMONADE

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editorial



At the moment I seem to have the words “It’s the end of an era” constantly floating through my mind. This will be my last edition of *Connect* magazine, as the role that I am currently in has been disestablished. For 9 ½ years my job has been to inspire, equip, and support our churches so that ministry and mission with children

and their families can flourish. This department has been doing that for even longer. But it is the end of an era and times are changing. It has been such a privilege to journey with you and your church as you have sought to grow resilient child disciples. There has been much laughter, and at times a few tears. I have learned many new skills, including how to do webinars (that one terrified me!!) and update websites. I have met more wonderful pastors and leaders than I can count, journeyed to far off lands to gain new knowledge and ideas, met some of our best international practitioners, sat in Carey classes with Children Ministry legends, and watched the face of Children Ministry in New Zealand change and grow. We have been richer for journeying together, and we have welcomed Jesus as we have loved and fed his lambs.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for the ways that you have helped me to grow as a leader, stretched my faith, and taught me just how very much God loves his church. I know that my new role as Leadership Co-ordination Director for the Baptist Union will keep me in contact with many of you, and will also mean that the influence of Children & Family Ministry can come with me—but I will miss this job!

In the last few weeks these words from Hebrews 6:10 have been both an affirmation of the past and an encouragement for the future—and God’s words of support as I move forward—but I also sense that they are words for some of you as well:

“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.”

Kia kaha e hoa. May God continue to richly bless you and your ministry, and may you know his peace in all you do.

Ngā mihi nui,
Karen





Loss, Laughter & Love

RACHEL ROCHE
FRANKLIN BAPTIST CHURCH & CAREY BAPTIST COLLEGE

Catchy title right? I can hear your brain whirring... *“Three point article with alliteration. Cute picture to draw us in, and how will she apply all this? COVID-19... yes, there must be an angle in there somehow. A year ago the thought would not have crossed my mind, but today I look at everything and think, ‘How could that relate to our Covid filled world?’ Oh yes, the word loss in the title connects to COVID. Hmm, how does the cow and the kid fit in though?... not sure... oh, she is involved in children’s ministry somehow. That will be it!!”*

Am I right? Well maybe not quite, but I have met enough pastors and leaders to know how your brain may work. Always on the job, always seeing the connections, always navigating so many spaces at once. In all ways being all things to all people.

Each week I am seeing so many of you who are tired, some even go so far as to say they want this year over with. Sadly some are burning out, losing jobs, and unclear on direction. In amongst this I have been asked to write an article that will speak to the now, and resource you for tomorrow—the unknown.

The reality is nothing can prepare you for the unknown. Scripture makes it very clear we are not to worry about tomorrow (Luke 12:22-34). God knows our needs and will provide for us. Having faith and trusting our future to God is a radical concept in today's world of control. This pandemic has exposed so much and accelerated us into spaces many of us never knew we needed to go. As we navigate this crazy time I have a few reminders and action points.

This pandemic has exposed so much and accelerated us into spaces many of us never knew we needed to go.

- The loss we have suffered is great—and the impact of that loss is far from over. It is not an excuse, or a cop out to acknowledge the toll of the past months on you, your family, your ministry, and your spiritual life. Loss is followed by grief. Taking time to grieve does not mean you are letting the side down, but being real. In a safe space acknowledge your disappointment. Take the time to grieve the losses you have encountered. It has been said before, and it will be said again, **be kind to yourself**. Look after yourself. Do those things only you can do.

ACTION: Have an honest chat to someone about how the past six - eight months has impacted your world.

- This year is not a mess or a mistake. You are leading and living through this and God is already in it. What will you take from this season? Will you grumble and look to the hard stuff, or will you rise above it and look to God? I am not casting stones or judging, as I speak to myself too. I could have named this article “The Journey from Grumbles to Gratitude.” Just as Paul wrote from jail spurring on the church of Phillipi, I encourage you to focus on, “whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” (Philippians 4:8).

ACTION: Today might be the day you need to start a list of the things you are grateful for.

- Take some time to assess your reaction to crisis. With hard stuff piling in, many of us react by trying to escape, or seek comfort. Often we divert to unhelpful thoughts, or unhealthy habits. The challenge is to focus more on the good, pure, and true, so that we can gain a healthier perspective. →

ACTION: Are the things you are filling your emotional tank with joy giving or joy stealing?

- I recently learnt that we are only as resilient as the extent to which we lean on God. Naively, I had thought resilience was a concept we taught children, a worldly construct for being able to cope with anything and everything thrown our way. The truth is, the more time we are in God's presence the more we can cope with. Now is the time to rely on God like never before. Linger with the following words: resilience, renewal, refreshment, and revival. Look up some scripture that reminds you of the importance of these concepts.

ACTION: Grab your diary right now and schedule in some Jesus' time.

- Archie and the cow—yes, we still need to address the 'cow' in the room. You could draw many parallels between your life and the picture above. I simply want to say that this wee chap is just having a yarn to his friend, who happens to be a rather large cattle beast. He is not worried about the possibility of harm, disease, or performing for onlookers, but is simply being in the present, having a chat.

Children teach us. Most often with children there is no reason or ulterior motive—nothing beyond the work of play, enjoyment and fun. I wonder how often you play? The gift of play is given to each of us, but more often than not we abandon it for the more serious work of 'adulting'. I wonder what would happen if we played more? If we took more time to enjoy the many gifts we have been given? Such a gift might be to relish the pages of a good book, feel the smooth road against the tyre of our bike, hear the chatter of grandchildren, smell the freshly baked bread, hold the hand of our dearest love, taste the cool clear water that runs from your taps, or listen to a great symphony.

ACTION: Take some time to step aside, curl up without a care in the world, sit by a 'cow' and enjoy the moment.

Lift your eyes. Look beyond the loss. Look above your circumstances. Lift your eyes. Where does your help come from? The Lord God almighty, creator of heaven and earth. The Lord asks us, calls us, to trust, hope and believe in him. The worries of tomorrow are his.

You are loved. Take some time to dwell in that thought. Remember to laugh and rediscover play.

Pause, remember and celebrate. Pay attention to this moment. The blessings are here. Here in Aotearoa we are given so many gifts. Relish the good... and take some time to have a chat to the cow who may seem a threat, but right now is a friend, offering a fresh perspective. ◆

You are loved.
Take some time to dwell in that thought.

This article was originally published in the Carey Baptist College monthly newsletter.



Kids' Club

AFTER SCHOOL MISSION

LOIS RODLER
PIRIMAI BAPTIST

I clearly remember, fifteen years ago, seeing kids walking around our church neighbourhood and wondering how these kids would hear about the wonderful love God has for them. Who would tell them about Jesus and how?

A deep stirring was beginning within me and a serious hunger to see these kids reached, that they would know their Creator and how special they are to Him.

Before long we had launched our Kids' Club! A weekly programme on Wednesday afternoons from 3-5pm for primary-aged kids.

We started with a team of six adults, our own kids, and about six neighbourhood kids who came in response to a leaflet drop. It didn't take long until those kids told their

friends and we grew to a steady 30-40 kids each week.

Over the years we have had hundreds of kids come through our club, some for a short season, but many attend for years, often staying on as helpers in their Intermediate and High School years. Most children have a natural openness to hearing about God and responding to His message of love. We have aimed to build a culture where we talk to Him, are open to hearing from Him and encourage kids to journey with Him. Being a sower of seeds into the good soil of children's hearts, I pray that every single one will enter His Kingdom at some stage in their life.

Kids' Club has been a meaningful place for adults and teens to serve, with →

long-term relationships being built between these team members. We have developed a schedule that works well for us and once established, is pretty easy to maintain. It looks like this:

3.00PM

Doors are open, rego table is manned and free play activities are set up. As the children sign in they put on their name badge in the colour of their group. Kids sign up for their chosen 'option' and can opt to put their name in the Food Challenge box. The afternoon tea table is ready at 3:15pm and kids line up for a couple of pieces of baking/ biscuits and a piece of fruit. A crate of cups by the water tap is always available.

3:30PM

Pack up music plays and everyone helps. Everyone sits in their small groups, which are gender/age specific with a consistent leader. They fill in a 'treat slip' where they choose what goodbye treat they'd like.

We use pretzels, dried apricots, dates and the smallest lollies available. These are in containers on the stage table and can be used throughout the programme as rewards. The points board has started, manned by a young high schooler or intermediate kid.

3:35PM

Food challenge: Names are drawn from the food challenge box and the challenge is on. Kids love this part. We usually have 4-6 kids drawn each week. We play a fun music track through the challenge—the same music always.

3:45PM

Options: This depends on what ideas our leaders have, but here's a few of our tried and true ones: we always have games (in the auditorium or park next door), and baking—one group doing waffles and one doing donuts. These options always have a long waiting list. Play-Doh, beaded bracelets, lego, kinetic sand, and card making are other





options we currently use. All option groups have about 4-6 kids, other than games which is unlimited.

4:10PM

Worship: Our song leaders (usually teens) lead us in two action songs and one worship song. This is followed by a time of open prayer with a soft instrumental track. Over the years we have built a safe culture of worship and prayer. Our leaders all worship authentically in a way that an observing child can recognize, and this helps build the atmosphere. We also explain what worship in song can look like and why we do it. In our experience, children are very open to God's Spirit and can easily connect with Him during this time.

4:25PM

Message: We have a theme for the term, this past term has been 'Pets'.

Other recent themes have been: Jesus said, "I AM"; Journey with Jesus; My Life Rulz; Good, Good Father; and Crafty Christmas.

4:45PM

Small groups: Leaders and kids discuss the message and how it applies to their lives. There are notes for the leaders to follow and usually an activity. Each group has a scrapbook that they use as required (either for drawing or doodling).

4:57PM

The winning groups are announced and prizes given. Name tag containers are dispersed to groups with their goodbye treats inside. Kids trade their name badge for their treat.

If you would like any further assistance or discussion around starting a Kids' Club or copies of the above-mentioned resources, I would be very happy to help. Feel free to email me at: lois.rodler5@gmail.com

Fifteen years on, it has been my delight to meet up with some who are now older teens or young adults. Without exception their memories of Kids' Club are of it being a place where they felt happy, safe and loved. ♦



**COVID-19 HANDED US
A LEMON AND WE
HAVE MADE** *lemonade*

WENDY JOYES, HUTT CITY BAPTIST

At the start of 2020, when I was still able to pretend COVID-19 was something for Wuhan and Washington, we started the year at Quarry. Then lockdown came. All the careful planning was out the window and we were in a rapidly evolving environment. To support families during lockdown we put together activity packs so families could do a form of Quarry at home. We emailed links so families who did not want to risk a hard copy could still be involved and to make finding video links easier. We started Zoom meetings for children a few weeks into Alert Level 4 once the initial mania had settled. For children who had birthdays during lockdown I filmed personal birthday messages which were emailed out. I filmed daily devotions which were uploaded to Facebook. All this and more were distributed to families weekly via a newly formed electronic newsletter.

I'm a collector of things but also ideas. The ideas I'd been collecting had been

bouncing around in my head and had been seeking a framework. Would lockdown provide the reading, reflection and processing space I'd hoped it would? No. Well, not until right near the end during the last week. A switch suddenly flicked and I don't know how or why. I'm only grateful that God provided.

The best way to explain what the main ideas were is to describe how as a Sunday morning children's ministry we came out of lockdown and into Alert Level 2. As we all know our national mantra "be kind" and as a Quarry team that was our guiding principle. The first couple of weeks back we focussed on relationships and comfort zones. We did this by having less large group time and more small group time. Small groups were self-selected based on interests and learning styles and not on age or gender. Knowledge of spiritual styles was outworked in the small group time increasingly over the

next few weeks. Eventually the programme naturally crystallised into similar to what we have today.

So what does our programme look like today? To be honest, to an external observer not a lot different than what it looked like before, but the thinking is quite different. When the children arrive they go straight into small groups where they have morning tea, register, and have a chat (discussion starters provided). This time is primarily about relationships. Children then move to the large group time. The focus is community and content. We celebrate birthdays, welcome new people, sing, and work on the memory verse. This is also the time for the main teach. The main teach has moved from being simple story telling or a shorter version of a three-point sermon, depending on whose turn it is. We now have a story title (always from the bible), a bottom line, and a think challenge. Some stories have more than one learning that can come out of it but we are choosing to focus on one only, which aligns with the theme of the term. The story title is communicated to families in advance

The aim of this is to continue the communication and home discipleship.



and the bottom line and think challenge during the subsequent week, via the email newsletter and social media. The aim of this is to continue the communication and home discipleship that was appreciated and produced spiritual fruit during lockdown.

After the large group time, children then go to Choose and Chat groups. This time is about responding to the main teach and bottom line, and exploring the think challenge further. Children choose which group they go to—there are no restrictions around age and gender like in small groups.

The work on spiritual styles by David Csinos has been instrumental in developing our Choose and Chat time. It has also provided a useful framework for evaluating our programme on a weekly, term, and annual basis. More than one team member has a background in education, so learning styles is another useful overlay. All children are exposed to everything, and all children get a chance to explore deeper their own spirituality. Christian formation is not just about knowing bible stories. It is about having a personal faith and becoming life-long followers of Jesus.

This work has had spin-off effects into other areas of children and family ministry within our church. We have started Waffle Wednesday, a discipleship group for children wanting to go deeper with God. We have families wanting to be involved with after school outreach clubs, holiday programmes, and social events. COVID-19 handed us a lemon and we have made lemonade.

Thank you to Karen Warner, Lois Rodler and the other members of my Zoom cluster group, established during lockdown, for providing the space to explore these ideas and the support to make it happen. ◆

If you would like to talk to Wendy about ideas in this article you can contact her at: children@huttbaptist.org.nz.





THE CERTAINTY OF *Christmas*

ANNETTE OSBORNE, SCRIPTURE UNION NZ

Dr Seuss tells the wonderful story of a Grinch who is not a fan of Christmas. It's too noisy and disruptive. So, he creates a plan to steal it. Late on Christmas Eve he sneaks down to the village below and takes all the presents, decorations and food. But the Whos of Whoville, in the village below are not to be stopped! Come Christmas morning, the Whos join hands in a circle and sing with joy! The Grinch cannot resist the sounds of joy, and realises that "maybe Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more." The final scene sees him seated at the feast, invited to be part of Christmas.

As followers of Jesus we know that Christmas is more than the trimmings. It's more than just food or decorations or presents. God came to dwell with us. That's how much we are loved! That's worth celebrating.

This year, Scripture Union is focusing on 'The Certainty of Christmas'. In our uncertain times, people are looking for hope and

meaning. They may well feel that the Grinch has stolen much from them this year, and is threatening to steal Christmas too. But in the midst of these challenges, we can be certain of God's love for us and presence with us. This is such an important message for 2020. The Grinch can't steal that!

We have created a set of resources looking at this theme of certainty, and exploring the love of God in times of change. This includes; an after school programme session, a community event, two intergenerational church services, and ideas for Christmas at home. Each resource comes with tips on how to adapt it to different COVID-19 level restrictions. All these are available for free from our website: www.sunzbreakthrough.org.nz.

***In the midst of these
challenges, we can be certain
of God's love for us and
presence with us.***

Here are a couple of our intergenerational ideas to share with you.

WHAT THE GRINCH CAN'T STEAL

We have created an intergenerational church service, based on the story of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Set up an old rocking chair with a large lamp. Invite someone with an excellent reading voice to read *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and explore together the certainty of what God offers us through the events of Christmas.

GOD HAS A PLAN

All through the Bible God's plan is revealed. Christmas is central to that plan. With all ages together, explore this unique set of events in an interactive way to celebrate the certainty of God's plan.

THE JESSE TREE

With everything this year has thrown at us, this year we want to keep it simple. This

Advent it is good to remind ourselves of the certainty of God at work in our world, though the stories of his people in the Bible and their part in the whakapapa (lineage) of Jesus as we prepare for what might be a Christmas quite unlike we've ever had before.

Jesse Trees are a very old Christmas tradition and first started in medieval times. They are used to help tell the story of the Bible from creation to the Christmas story. This resource is designed to help families prepare for Christmas and the celebration of Jesus' birth. It includes 26 pictures and corresponding short Bible readings. The journey begins on 30th of November.

A big thank you to our friends at SUNZ for writing, and freely sharing these awesome intergenerational Christmas resources: www.sunzbreakthrough.org.nz. It's one of those years when having someone else do the work is just THE BEST!!! ♦



\$5.50
EACH
GST & shipping
cost not included

Advent tree & Storybook App

This Advent resource is designed for families to use in the weeks leading up to Christmas. The product includes a pop and slot tree, 24 decorations, and codes to access The Advent Story through an app (only available from the Apple Store in 2020, all other users can access the story through our website).

To order the trees in bundles of 5 visit our website: www.atthomeandchurch.org.nz



Caring FOR OUR FAMILIES

BRIGITTE CROWE
WHANGĀREI CENTRAL BAPTIST

At Whangārei Central we have had multiple conversations and questions around what our family attendance looks like in the 'new normal'. In conversations with families, they gave me a few reasons and really good insights, which is probably why I am not too worried at the moment. Here are some of the reasons given for their attendance or lack thereof:

- The children are tired from all the school Zoom meetings, emotionally and mentally. So they need rest.
- The parents are tired from having to work from home and having to home school. Many of the parents struggled to cope with their own work, the children's schooling and being available 24/7.
- The shock to the system of a very unexpected and fear-ridden year with COVID-19.
- The lack of normal support because everyone was in the same situation.
- The toll on people's resilience in the face of so much change.

I don't think we can afford to underestimate how exhausting this year has been and will continue to be—for all of us!

I understand that people not attending church impacts the functioning financially, but as a pastor and a counsellor, I have to factor in that these are real issues for our families.

So pastoral care has moved away significantly from what happens on a Sunday morning. I have been writing letters to the children, expressing our love for them and highlighting their gifts as I remember them, calling forth God-given talents. I have been writing 'thank you' cards to parents and people who I knew were caring for families 'because God said', expressing our gratitude as a church and on behalf of God's Kingdom, for their resilience and their compassion.

I have delivered flowers to people in our community when we heard they could do with encouragement, even though they are not members of our church.

I have even encouraged our families to have a reset or recalibration button, to pray and decide together what a 'going-back-to-church' date will be. These may seem like miniscule things in the life of our families, but we can see how this level of care is slowly but surely bringing our families back. In the words of one of our mums, "You make us feel like we matter, you make my children feel like they matter to you."

Can I encourage you to not get frantic, but to find within your own context,

***"You make us feel like we matter,
you make my children feel like
they matter to you."***

your own 'reset button'. Let us become known as faith communities who love our people empathically.

We did not lose our connectivity, it was stolen. We did not lose our mobility, it was stolen.

Yes, many things have been stolen from us this year. However, how we love and care for our families, and living our faith cannot be stolen from us.

When I saw the eager and earnest little faces of two boys returning to church, I praised God. When I talked with a group of 24 kids about the question God asked in the Garden of Eden; "Where are you?" and their answers were: "God asked the question because He loves us, whether we love Him or not" (10 year old boy) and, "God asked the question because He wants to protect us" (7 year old boy), I knew the seeds sown little by little through miniscule acts of being present, have taken root.

May God give us the grace to live this verse:

***And let us not grow weary of
doing good, for in due season we
will reap, if we do not give up.***
Galatians 6:9 (CEV) ♦

SOME TAKE AWAYS:

In what ways can you continue to connect with your families even if they are not attending on Sundays? How can you show them that they still belong and that they matter? What might you do to find out how they are feeling and what they most need?

Saltiness OR Fruitfulness

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

JO HOOD
MAINLY MINISTRIES

You probably know the verses from Matthew where Jesus spoke about the light on the hill and the flavour of salt. What does it mean then, to be salty in your setting? And in John 15, he talked to His disciples about fruitfulness.

SALTINESS

Saltiness is all about 'us' whereas fruitfulness is what God brings about.

The examples here sometimes come from settings resourced by mainly Ministries. You can apply them wherever.

- We act 'normally' in a way that allows Jesus to be seen. We don't force an agenda. We provide a space for people to consider who Jesus is. It's a matter of both/and.

- We are hungry and expectant for Jesus to be seen.
- We are observant to the needs of others.
- We are willing to pray, there on the spot, for people who express they have a concern, a care, or a celebration. We are also willing to spend time caring, providing a meal, and being generous. And we'll pray, in our own time.
- We prioritise people over tasks. Generosity is shown in time spent with people.

Without saltiness it's hard to see fruit that has eternal significance.

- We place an importance on our personal journey as a follower of Jesus, prioritising time with Him.
- We strive to maintain our identity in Jesus.
- We identify followers of Jesus from other churches and involve them in our prayer times. This is being Kingdom minded and loving each other. *“This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.”* John 15:12.

Without saltiness it’s hard to see fruit that has eternal significance.

Almost every week, one group publicly speaks about their church. “James made a comment on Sunday about this verse. I thought it was something you all might want to know.” James is the minister who appears at the session regularly. One mother said she would start coming on a Sunday because Tuesday wasn’t going to work anymore. “Did you realise we don’t do this group on Sundays? We do church though and it looks like this ...” Mum has been coming with her child.

FRUITFULNESS

Fruitfulness involves God. In the parable of the farmer, the ground is prepared, the seed is sown but the germination and the growth of the seed happen through God’s activity.

- Easy to observe is the fruit of growth in the children. The sessions provide a place where they can learn, develop and experience educational concepts. And grow in school readiness.
 - Children who have additional needs, both physical and emotional, engage with the session in increasing amounts.
- Adults sing the God songs after previously appearing disengaged.
 - Adults speak about the toughness of life and then are open to prayer.
 - Adults ask to be prayed for.
 - Adults take the Trypraying booklets and comment on prayer generally.
 - The fruit of the spirit is noticeable in more and more of the families. There are changes in people who attend. Regular conversations are happening; people are asking about who God is, what Jesus has done and questions are asked in response to something said in a Think Spot.
 - Team members mature in their faith and speak about the activity of God, not only to other team members, but within their normal conversations with people who are not yet followers of Jesus.
 - Church support is visible because your church knows that ‘people attending on Sunday’ isn’t the main game. The most important outcome, is that people are being drawn towards a relationship with Jesus. Church love what you are doing, want to get involved and regularly ask how the sessions are progressing.

SALTINESS AND FRUITFULNESS

As you and your team consider these two terms, work on how you can become more salty and identify more fruit. Whether your place of service is on Sundays or some other time, as followers of Jesus we can all be salty and fruitful no matter where we are, no matter what day of the week. ◆

Jo Hood leads mainly Ministries, a new umbrella structure, committed to providing solutions for the local church to use in building relationship with and connecting with families in the community.



Resources

THAT'S A WRAP, THANK YOU!

Thanks to our creative friends at mainly music, we are able to offer you an easy way to say thank you to your volunteers this Christmas. We have a downloadable template on our website that can be used to wrap around a block of chocolate—and we all know how much people like chocolate! There is even space on the back to add a personal note of thanks. The wraps come in two sizes—both Cadbury and Whittakers sized blocks. To download these wraps go to www.baptistcfm.org.nz

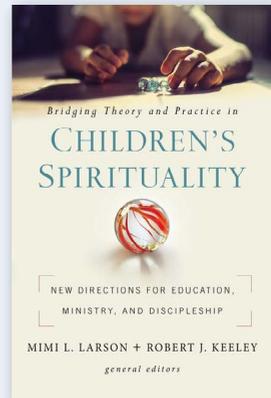
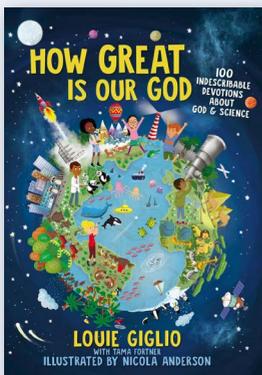


BEST READS

Those of you who know me well (or who read this magazine regularly) know how much I love to recommend books, and I do have a couple of great ones to share. The **BEST** children's ministry book I have come across this year is *Bridging Theory and Practice in Children's Spirituality*, edited by Robert Keeley and Mimi Larson. I loved this book so much that I wish I could give each of you a copy as my farewell gift—unfortunately, the best I can offer is two free

copies to the two people who most inspire me with why they should receive the book for free. To be in to win, email me ASAP with your inspiring “me, please” pitch. Alternatively, Book Depository have it available for the cheap price of \$30.45—**a bargain for a book this GREAT!!!**

My second recommendation (also available on BD) is *How Great is Our God, 100 indescribable devotions about God and Science* by Louie Giglio. This devotional is aimed at children aged 6-9 and is also suitable for families to read together.



CHOOSING CURRICULUM

“Can you recommend a curriculum for our CM?” has probably been the most asked question in all my years in this job. My usual response is, “What sort of curriculum are you looking for and why?” So, before I give you some recommendations, go away and answer that important question, and then come back and read the following. 😊

Here are a couple of goodies that I have recently come across—BUT keep in mind that there is NO curriculum that you can ‘plug and play’. Every one will need some tweaking and changing to fit your context:

1. **Grow Curriculum**—available for both kids and youth. Their byline is “Everything you need to grow your volunteers, parents and kids.” Pretty big claim! It does look great but is pricey. Visit: www.growcurriculum.org
2. **Disciplr**—a multi-curricula platform (think Netflix for curriculum) that has lots of choices and comes with a size-graded payment plan. My church uses Tru from this platform, but there are other great choices as well. Visit: www.disciplr.com

BACK TO SCHOOL

Over recent years, in collaboration with our denominational partners in the NZCMN, we have provided resources to help you celebrate and pray for your kids as they return to school in February. For 2021 mainly Ministries has picked up the resourcing role for the denominations and will be putting out a resource that you can use at the start of the year to encourage and bless children and families. Look out for more info on the BCFM website and Facebook pages. You can also visit this website: www.mainlyministries.org.nz





Reach out to more local families

We specialise in proven community engagement solutions that strategically connect with your church's purpose.



We'd love to chat about your dreams for connecting with families and their children in your community and the positive impact that could be made. We partner with many expressions of 'church'. It is our intention to support and resource you. And to contribute to your church through a sustainable, fun, weekday connection.

Find out more

Email nzsolutions@mainlyministries.org

Phone 09 629 6073

Together, revealing Jesus ● mainlyMinistries.org.nz