

# connect

May-July 2018

*In the  
beginning*

**TAKE IT HOME**

ASKING THE  
INTERGENERATIONAL  
QUESTIONS

**NICKELODEON  
KIDS' CHOICE  
AWARDS**



**baptist**  
**children**  
**& family**  
**ministries**



**baptist**  
**children**  
**& family**  
**ministries**

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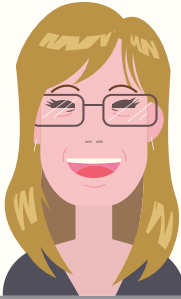
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**K**ia ora, whanau! It's been an exciting week. I have just found out that Dr. Holly Allen, co-author of Intergenerational Christian Formation, has agreed to add a New Zealand leg to her upcoming Australian tour. Holly is an international expert in this field and we are thrilled that she will be able to share with our pastors and leaders. Her book is theologically grounded and both inspiring and practical; I believe it is a must read for all church leaders. Holly will be taking sessions in both Auckland and Wellington. Details are on page 18 and extra information will follow soon, so keep a look out for an email update.

God is certainly gifting us with great international speakers this year, as we also have Dr. Mark Griffiths coming from the UK to teach the Children's Ministry paper at Carey Baptist College in September. This paper can be taken either for credit or for audit and is some of the best professional development you can do this year. Check out this link for a video of Mark talking about the paper and for info on how to register – [carey.ac.nz/events/childrens-ministry](http://carey.ac.nz/events/childrens-ministry)

Speaking of training, make sure that you mark your diaries for the SUNZ Way2Go conferences in three locations over May and June. This is a great opportunity to take your team for training, with a variety of workshop options for all levels of experience. See the flyer insert for registration details.

Mother's Day is around the corner so check out some last minute ideas in the resources section. And don't forget that Christmas is coming! Yes, I know it is only May, but Christmas has come early to our office. We are already in the final stages of planning this year's Advent Tree and we are VERY excited! There will be wisemen and camels, stars and angels and a very cute goat. This year's tree will be bigger (literally!) and better, so watch this space!!

Let me finish with a blessing for 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*

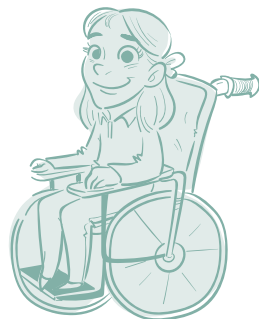
*Blessings,*

**Karen**





# PRACTICAL WAYS TO welcome families IMPACTED BY DISABILITY



**IF** welcoming is essential to showing acceptance of children with disabilities, how can we take steps to do so?

## MAKE THE BUILDING ACCESSIBLE

The best way to know if a building is accessible is by asking someone with a disability to tour the building and provide solutions. Think about handicap spots in the carpark, places in the church auditorium for wheel chairs and accessible toilets.

## SET UP A TIME TO MEET WITH THE FAMILY

The few minutes after a service isn't enough time to really get to know the family's needs. If you meet in the family's home, the child will probably be the most comfortable. So you'll get a better sense of the child and family dynamics. If you meet at church, offer to give the family a tour. Show them the ministry rooms and meeting spaces. Ask parents to identify potential issues that could arise. For example, if a child is a 'runner', parents may have concerns about the location of doors or stairs. If the child is present during the tour, it allows him or her to interact with the environment without being overwhelmed by other children and people at church.

## ASK SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

- What makes your child happy?
- What could potentially make your child upset?
- In the case of sensory overload, how can we help your child?
- What can we do to keep your child safe, aside from what we currently have?
- How can we redirect your child?
- Does your child need individual supervision?

## KEEP OPEN COMMUNICATION

While not all families are the same, chances are the parents of a child with a disability might want to take a few minutes of extra time at the end of a service or programme to touch base and find out how the child is doing. We best serve the children, when the church and parents work together.

## THE IRRESISTIBLE CHURCH

This website provides resources for church leaders on ways to relate to adults and children with disabilities—all for free.

[irresistiblechurch.org](http://irresistiblechurch.org)



*See pages 16-17 for further resources on welcoming families impacted by disability.*



**RAEWYN MOODIE**  
**C&F COACH, NORTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

I worked for many years as a children's and youth pastor and rejoiced to see young people choosing to follow Jesus, but was greatly saddened seeing a large number also stop following Jesus some years later. In researching what may have gone wrong for these young people, discipleship or lack of it, came up repeatedly. During the past 50 years the church has worked very hard at providing discipleship programmes for young people of all ages in churches, however I believe we have lost something as we have shifted discipleship away from the home.

Rich Melheim, who started a resource centre for parents, called *Faith Inkubators*, says "Parents have been, are and always will be the most important faith guides, mentors and teachers a kid will ever have." So, whether parents choose to leverage it or not, they are major influencers of their children's spirituality and faith.

Churches now have a choice to make. Will they take up the challenge to disciple parents and to empower and resource the families within their congregations? Ben Freudenberg writes, "Parents are the key faith developers for their children—they can have either a positive or a negative impact on their kids' faith growth. But either way, they'll have the biggest impact. You can have strong faith-shaping programs for kids at church, but if you're not partnering with homes, you risk producing kids who have weak faith."

However, many parents in churches feel ill-equipped to take on this role of discipling their own children. Some have no faith background themselves and some have come back to

**“Parents have been, are and always will be  
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a kid will ever have.”**

church after dropping out because they feel it is ‘good for the kids’.

*Take It Home* is an idea that many churches find meets the need to equip parents. Basically, parents go with their children one or two Sundays a year to a ministry time especially designed for them to participate together in a discipleship practice, such as praying, Bible reading, devotions, service, etc. During this time, parents and children have the practice explained, they are inspired as to why they should take up this practice, it is modelled to them and then they get an opportunity to practice it together as a family. At the end of the session families receive resources to take home which will equip them to continue the discipleship practice in their own homes.

Mark Holmen, who developed this resource, says that it is important to run the event at a time to make it easiest for the families to engage. Sunday is ideal as families are already at church together. As churches, if we just say that equipping parents is important, but we spend 99% of our budgets, time and energy on age segregated programmes, then we are not practicing what we preach.

I surveyed parents from 10 churches in New Zealand who have been running *Take It Home* events over a few years. Here are some comments: “Big thanks for organising a fantastic morning! I thought the participation of the parents with the children was so special! ... testimony on serving amazing and so practical ... I really enjoyed the interaction with my children today.”

“I appreciate the chance to fellowship with my daughters in their programme when we get invited and I like networking with other parents at *Faith at Home* workshops.”

“Really appreciate the *Faith at Home* workshops alongside the other families.”

Parents rated themselves as to how aware they were that the discipleship of their children was primarily their responsibility. Some parents wrote they were “aware but struggling to know what to do” before the church began on the *Take it Home* journey and afterwards said it had “Given me more confidence in sharing my faith”, “the knowledge received has helped me grow as a Christian parent”, “we have become very involved in helping people in our local community.”

NZ churches are also developing their own topics: hearing from God, worshipping together, Christian worldview, etc. ♦

*If you are feeling inspired to begin equipping the families in your congregation but want some more ideas, contact Karen at the Baptist National Centre or your local Regional Coach (see contact details inside the front cover).*

*BCFM are currently working on producing a New Zealand Take it Home digital resource that we hope to launch at Hui this year.*

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**For further reading:**

Mark Holmen, *Church + Home* (Gospel Light: Ventura, 2010).  
Michelle Anthony, *Spiritual Parenting: An Awakening for Today's Families* (David C Cook: East Sussex, 2010).  
Michelle Anthony, *Dreaming of More for the Next Generation: Lifetime Faith Ignited by Family Ministry* (David C Cook: East Sussex, 2012).



# Kids' Choice Awards

The annual **NICKELODEON KIDS' CHOICE AWARDS** show was held recently in the US. The show honours the year's biggest television, movie, YouTube and music acts.

Since the winners are chosen by kids, the show gives great insight into current kid culture. We know this is American, but our NZ kids may not be a lot different.

Here are some of the winners and what it tells us about today's kids:



## MOVIE:

*Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle*

Kids love adventure, the excitement of the unknown and challenges.



## CARTOON:

*SpongeBob SquarePants*

SpongeBob is optimistic, and brave. The show keeps kids' attention by mixing it up with various plots.



## MOVIE ACTOR:

*Dwayne Johnson (Dr. Smolder Bravestone, Jumanji)*

Kids admire people who lead them on an adventure, who have a strong purpose, are determined and who will push them outside their comfort zone.



## ANIMATED MOVIE:

*Coco*

Family bonds and ties are important to kids; they identify with Miguel, a young boy who pursues his passion in spite of his family being apprehensive about it; kids love pets.



## TELEVISION SHOW: *Stranger Things*

Kids love mystery, secret experiments and seeing supernatural forces at work.





#### MOVIE ACTRESS:

*Zendaya (Anne Wheeler, The Greatest Showman)*

Kids admire people who overcome discrimination; they relate with the story of an introvert who overcomes not feeling truly accepted and goes on to do great things.

Many kids identify with a loner who has few, if any friends and long to be known and loved by others.



#### INSTAGRAM PET:

*Jiffpom*

Kids love animals and pets.



#### FUNNY YOUTUBE

**CREATOR:** *Liza Koshy*

Kids love humour and Liza delivers with ridiculous jokes, facial expressions and comments.



#### MUSICAL YOUTUBE

**CREATOR:** *JoJo Siwa*

JoJo appeals to pre-teen girls. She documents routine, age-appropriate behaviours and activities such as being nice and doing chores. Kids are drawn to her willingness to be unique and her creativity. She also speaks out against bullying.

**Here are some tips for translating this insight into your ministry and using it to connect with and engage kids in your lessons, events, programmes, etc.**

- Take your kids on the 'adventures' found in the Bible.
- Bring mystery and the expectation of the unknown into your lessons.
- Turn your teachers into fun characters who take kids on Bible adventures.
- Show kids people in the Bible who overcame great difficulties and obstacles.
- Bring the entire family together for events and programmes.
- Use crazy experiments in your lessons.
- Show kids the supernatural forces in the Bible that battle each day.
- Show kids how they can be superheroes for God and do great things through His power.
- Give kids the opportunity to make a difference and show them the impact they can make.
- Keep kids interested by mixing things up and consistently bringing in new elements.
- Give kids opportunities to be creative with crafts, art projects, etc.
- Use humour wherever possible!



# In the beginning

**JANICE NORTON  
NORTHCOTE BAPTIST**

A few weeks ago I heard that our Pastor did a children's talk on Creation. Apparently one of the kids piped up "Why do you always tell the same stories?" I'm sure that got a laugh. And I assume the question sat there, unanswered. When I heard this story, I thought to myself, great question! I am always intrigued to try and work out what is going on in the minds of our kids when we talk to them about God, or read them Bible stories. So much of what is going on in their heads is not expressed, to teachers at least, although parents probably get more frank questions at home.

We told *that* story again as we launched into a new year in children's ministry. And throughout the year we'll be telling stories that they've already heard countless times. I think we should engage with that question!

We could begin by responding, "Why do *you* think we tell the same stories?"  
What's your answer?

For me, I was thinking that the stories have layers that as we hear them again, we hear more and deeper meanings. There's also the fact that the stories of the Bible are the living Word of God. Therefore, as they are read, the Holy Spirit brings the words to life so that something is received that God wants to communicate to us today.

In fact, there are many, many things that we do over and over. Our daily routines for example, of getting dressed, eating and doing housework.

Repetition is the basis of learning at school. I'm not talking about repeating the same facts, e.g. times tables, over and over. That's effective until you've learned them by heart, then you don't need to do it any more. Perhaps that's the mistaken thinking of the child, who thinks that the stories are simple facts to be learned on a surface level. But learning involves the repetition of routines that enable us to go deeper. "The sun rises in the east"—there's a fact that my husband will tell you in itself gives rise to a hundred questions, many of which the greatest minds struggle to answer.

The words of the Bible reach us on many levels. One of those are the 'facts', or head knowledge. It's important for us to acknowledge this as a vital part of our learning. We can learn words, verses and stories by heart, a bit like times tables, so that they are then able to be available to us when we need them. However, this is only

one aspect of 'head knowledge'. Kids want to know "did this really happen?" and that's when we can go deeper—looking at historical, cultural, scientific, archaeological, cosmological aspects. It's so important for them to know that we have a belief that is based on *reason*.

The stories of the Bible reach us at a spiritual level. Hearing them enables us to focus on an aspect of God's character so that we can grow in our love and knowledge

of Him, and also so that we can grow in the character that He is calling out in us.

There is a social aspect of hearing stories. As we gather to hear the stories, it is a social and cultural connection that binds us as a church family. As we become familiar with the stories, then they are not held exclusively by the pastor, but we can all share them. Children can teach other children, or adults.

Not only do they provide us with a shared experience with others who believe, but they also require something of us. We need to act on what we hear. What does

God require us to do as a result of hearing this story? What difference is it going to make on my behaviour? How can it help with that difficult situation I'm facing at school?

So the telling and retelling of Bible stories has both a social and moral impact. We hear, we think, we learn, we grow spiritually and morally. And as a result we become the people of God in our families, churches and our communities. ♦

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# ASKING THE *intergenerational* questions

**PETER HART**  
**SENIOR PASTOR, ILAM BAPTIST**

**Y**ou can't attend a service at Ilam Baptist Church without being aware of children! When everyone is there, we have around 85 kids on our books under the age of 16—roughly 45% of the total church community! The majority are at Primary and Intermediate schools—however, we now have 17 High Schoolers in the mix. The rest of the congregation has representatives from each decade up to the 70's. Altogether, we are quite a diverse bunch.

As a result, we have a constant question which we make ourselves ask in relation to everything that we do as church, "What does it mean to do this in an intergenerational way?" Or, put another way, "How are we going to involve and engage everyone in this?"

***"How are we going to involve and engage everyone?"***



Children really matter; we want to encourage our kids to feel that their participation, including in our Sunday services, is appreciated and valued. Our life together as a community involves diverse ages—so what we do together as community must reflect this. Of course, there are challenges in finding ways to involve the younger generations in planning; for example, logistical problems in arranging meeting times or with communicating. Children also need to be mentored and encouraged into participating.

In terms of Sunday services, we have found it helpful to identify three different scenarios for our planning purposes, and have a sense of the key differences:

- During term time the kids generally have their own programme (either a lesson or activity, or mentoring in small groups); however, on these Sundays they are also part of our service for the first 30-40 minutes, so intergenerational planning is needed.
- Some services during term time and during school holidays are specifically designated as 'intergenerational', with all generations involved in every aspect.
- Two or three services are actually led by the children (with adult support).

We always face challenges around worship and preaching. For example, what does authentic worship look like in a community of people with an age range from 1-75? For us, worship is not just about singing, although that is often a part of it. Our worship includes activities and reflective stations, as well as art and music. In our 'preaching', too, we explore how we can communicate the message of the sermon in ways other than a 20-30 minute monologue. Narrative sermons, engaging people through the power of story, are one approach. However, often the use of

***Our worship includes activities and reflective stations, as well as art and music. In our 'preaching', too, we explore how we can communicate the message of the sermon in ways other than a 20-30 minute monologue.***

reflective stations and other activities can be as powerful as the spoken word in exploring a text or topic.

Ilan has been on the intergenerational journey for some time. In some ways we still feel that we are novices, and certainly haven't found all the answers. For example, we know that we can do better at allowing our kids to generate the ideas, rather than having adults sowing the seeds of the ideas first. There are, though, some things which we do routinely, which have worked well for us:

- Having children involved in music teams—both in practices and on Sundays, helping them develop confidence.
- Encouraging children's involvement in sound and technical aspects of our services, with adult mentors.
- Encouraging families' involvement in activities together.
- Inviting the kids' 'Mentor Groups' (small groups with adult mentors) to take responsibility for setting up reflective stations.
- Being willing to experiment! (For example, we ran a whole service around "Hearing God in the silence", including a 15 minute segment of silent worship.) →

- Planning preaching series with activities for families to engage with at home. (In a recent series from Habakkuk we encouraged families to design and build a watchtower to bring along to one of the services, as they explored portions of the text of Habakkuk together within their family context.)

As we meet in a school hall, we have the advantage of being able to vary the shape of our set-up each week, to reflect what we have planned.

We have been reflecting recently about our understanding of church (in terms of our ecclesiology) from a Trinitarian perspective,

exploring what it means to see the church as a community of followers of Christ who are together in communion with the Trinitarian God. The Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit is a communion of three persons, mutually indwelling, mutually loving, mutually giving way to each other, mutually flowing together. How, then, does this sense of communion operate within our church? It must be through our practices, the things which we do together as we meet, the way we live our lives in Christ. Ilam Baptist Church includes people of all ages, so the way we operate as church in communion together *must* reflect this diversity (along with our ethnic and other diversities). ♦

## Ilam Baptist Church in action:

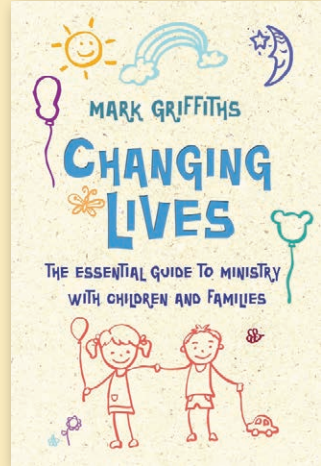


# Editor's picks

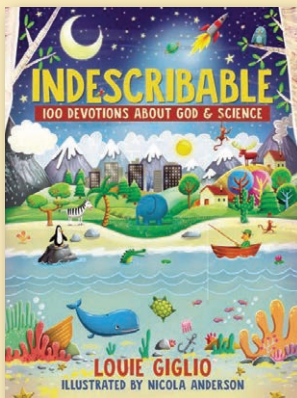
## CHANGING LIVES: THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

by **Dr Mark Griffiths**

Changing Lives covers everything you need to know about working with children and families—the why to, the how to, the when to, and the where to. Mark Griffiths looks at the history, theology, and practice of ministry with children and families. He shares his wisdom from many years' experience of leading hundreds of groups, assemblies, and youth services in the UK. Packed full of sample resources, Mark teaches how to communicate with today's children both in church and in school and the community. This shrewd and often funny book covers everything from the vision for ministry with children and families, to matters such as record keeping, home visits, timetables, child protection legislation and templates for lessons.



We are thrilled to announce that **Dr Mark Griffiths** will be coming to New Zealand (from the UK) to lecture at the Children's Ministry Block Course at Carey Baptist College in September. This is the first time we have had a lecturer from the UK teach this paper. Dates and registration information are on page 19.



## KIDS' DEVOTIONAL: INDESCRIBABLE

by **Louie Giglio**

Best-selling author and pastor Louie Giglio shows how the Creator of the universe and science come together in these 100 devotions for primary aged children.

Each devotion includes verses from the Bible, kids-friendly commentary about the natural world and how it relates to God, personal application and prayer.

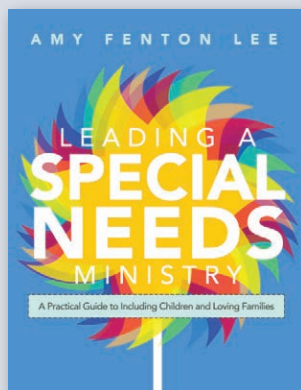
# Resources

## LEADING A SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO INCLUDING CHILDREN AND LOVING FAMILIES

by Amy Fenton Lee

What do you need to lead a special needs ministry? If you're not asking this question as a church leader, you are already behind. Families in your community are asking this question in every area of life—not just church. We need to meet families, families of every kind, and love them right where they are.

*Leading a Special Needs Ministry* is a practical how-to guide for anyone working to welcome children with special needs. This book is available for loan from our Resource Library.



## THE INCLUSIVE CHURCH

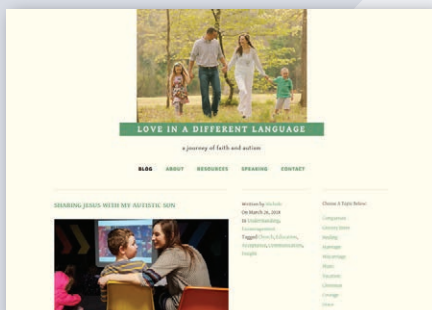
[theinclusivechurch.wordpress.com](http://theinclusivechurch.wordpress.com)

This website/blog is the creation of Amy Fenton Lee, author of *Leading a Special Needs Ministry*. It contains heaps of information and resources on how to be an inclusive church.

## LOVE IN A DIFFERENT LANGUAGE

[loveinadifferentlanguage.com](http://loveinadifferentlanguage.com)

This website/blog is helpful in understanding ways that we can minister with and welcome children with autism. Written by a mother, this blog could also be a great encouragement for families.



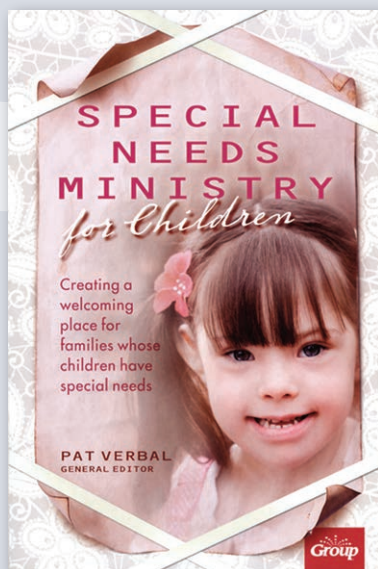


## SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY FOR CHILDREN: CREATING A WELCOMING PLACE FOR FAMILIES WHOSE CHILDREN HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS

**by Group Publishing**

This practical, insightful book is packed with case studies and personal stories from recognised experts in this ministry field. You'll learn:

- The best ways to reach the most overlooked group of people in your community
- How to launch a special needs ministry in your church
- How to promote your ministry and recruit the right volunteers
- What families with children who have special needs really need from you
- And much, much more!



## EVERY CHILD WELCOME

**by Katie Wetherbee & Jolene Philo**

*Every Child Welcome* is a guide for leaders and volunteers to assist in purposeful planning and skill development for a ministry inclusive of children with unique needs.

Experienced children's ministry leaders, and parents of special needs children themselves, the authors are superbly equipped to offer a thoughtful, thorough approach to creating a positive environment for children—one where all children will be able to digest the important concepts being taught.

**HOT OFF THE PRESS!**

**INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED**

**Dr. Holly Allen**

**IS NOW COMING  
TO NEW ZEALAND AS PART  
OF HER AUSTRALIAN TOUR.**

**AUCKLAND: 20 JULY** 9am-12.30pm

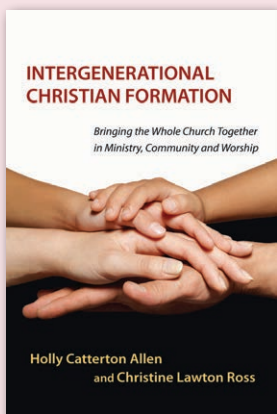
**WELLINGTON: 21 JULY** 9am-12.30pm



Dr. Holly Allen is Professor of Family Science and Christian Ministries at Lipscombe University in Tennessee, USA. She is co-author of *Intergenerational Christian Formation: Bringing the Whole Church Together in Ministry, Community and Worship*, one of the best books currently

available on the benefits and practices of intergenerational ministry. We are thrilled that Holly has agreed to add a New Zealand leg to her upcoming tour. Her wealth of knowledge and experience will provide pastors and leaders with food for thought as well as practical ideas for where to start, how to sell the vision and next stages. These workshops will be suitable for whole pastoral teams, so make sure that you share the dates with senior leadership.

**More information to follow,  
so watch out for email updates.**



**“‘INTERGENERATIONAL’ IS NOT SOMETHING  
CHURCHES DO—IT IS SOMETHING THEY BECOME.”**

» For a glimpse of Dr. Holly Allen, watch: [vimeo.com/189697942](https://vimeo.com/189697942) «

# Pin the dates

<b>19 MAY</b>	<b>It's Just a Phase Training Day by Strandz</b> Christchurch <a href="https://hopechurch.net.nz/blog/event/just-phase-training-day">hopechurch.net.nz/blog/event/just-phase-training-day</a>	
<b>26 MAY</b>	<b>Way2Go conference</b> Dunedin Mosgiel Presbyterian Church   9:30am - 4pm	 sunz.org.nz
<b>9 JUNE</b>	<b>Way2Go conference</b> Auckland Elim Christian Centre   9:30am - 4pm	
<b>23 JUNE</b>	<b>Way2Go conference</b> Wellington Silverstream Retreat Centre   9:30am - 4pm	
<b>20 JUNE</b>	<b>Children's Ministry Block Course</b> Dr Mark Griffiths Enrolment closes for credit students <a href="https://carey.ac.nz/events/childrens-ministry">carey.ac.nz/events/childrens-ministry</a>	 CAREY BAPTIST COLLEGE
<b>23 JULY</b>	<b>Children's Ministry Block Course</b> Course begins for credit students	
<b>20 AUG</b>	<b>Children's Ministry Block Course</b> Enrolment closes for audit students	
<b>3 - 7 SEPT</b>	<b>Children's Ministry Block Course</b> Lectures begin Carey Baptist College, Auckland   9:30am - 5pm	
<b>25 - 27 JUNE</b>	<b>Baptist Lead Conference</b> Hutt City Baptist <a href="https://baptist.org.nz/lead">baptist.org.nz/lead</a>	
<b>20 - 21 JULY</b>	<b>Intergenerational Workshops</b> Dr Holly Allen 20 July Auckland   21 July Wellington   9am-12.30pm   Details to follow	
<b>10 - 11 AUG</b>	<b>Invig Conference</b> Auckland <a href="https://invig.org.nz">invig.org.nz</a> Training for Bible in Schools teachers, chaplains and CM leaders	
<b>8 - 10 NOV</b>	<b>Baptist Hui</b> Central Baptist Church, Palmerston North	

## NEW PASTORAL & MINISTRY APPOINTMENTS

• Bethlehem Baptist	Mandy Cremer	• Hutt City Baptist	Wendy Jones
• Eastgate Christian Centre	Shirley Snoad	• Liberty Christian Church	Lara Sharp
• Franklin Baptist	Emily Stutzman	• Manukau City Baptist	Jamiee Spurdle
• Hillcrest Baptist	Jess Nesshausen	• Mt Albert Baptist	Winnie Huddleston

*"Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today.*

*Repeat them again and again to your children.*

*Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up."*

*Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (NLT)*

