



A KIDS FRIENDLY WELCOME

January 2011

Welcome to a new "Kids Friendly" year. Where did that decade go? It seems only the other day that we were seeing the new millennium in.

It reminds me of the powerful **Next Generation** DVD where children suggest "you're losing us" and ask: "In 10 years will you have made a difference?"

How have we made a difference and impacted the lives of young people with Christ's love over the past decade and how do we plan to make a difference this year?

We know that people are most likely to come to faith before the age of 12, so **now** is the time to work out how we are going to connect with the children of our communities and share the love of Christ with them. (The **Next Generation** DVD can be purchased or borrowed from Kids Friendly).



WELCOMING CHILDREN

We are told that people form their first impressions within a minute of arriving at a place, event or meeting someone. If this is true then how do we welcome children so they know our church values them and celebrates their presence. Kids Friendly churches are urged to have a children's welcome table visible from the door where children can be welcomed by name. Many churches ask me to send sample welcome packs so I have recently written a resource "A Kids Friendly Welcome" that gives you ideas and samples for effectively welcoming children to your church. This and

all **24 Kids Friendly resources** can be downloaded

from our web pages: presbyterian.org.nz/national-ministries/kids-friendly/-kids-friendly-resources/resources-log-in.



Your password is in your Kids Friendly manual or email jill@kidsfriendly.org.nz to get it. Also take time to check out the many books, CD's and DVD's to borrow.

A Kids Friendly Planning Calendar 2011 is attached to assist you as you plan the year (let Jill know if you find any errors, it's a tricky task).



ARE YOU KIDS FRIENDLY?



- ☺ **There are 45 Kids Friendly churches.**
- ☺ **65 churches are working to become Kids Friendly.**
- ☑ We urge and encourage you to make **this** the year you review your ministry to children.
- ☑ Many of our churches are due to complete their bi-annual re-review.

Being "Kids Friendly" is an ongoing challenge that requires constant review. Shona from Clevedon says:

"We have recently re-reviewed our Kids Friendly-ness and have found it a very useful process that created a forum for open and honest conversation and encouraged us to set realistic goals for the coming year. A great way to start a new year!"

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