

gifts

www.presbyterian.org.nz/youth



fuel
for
dreaming



CHRISTMAS 2005

CONNECTING PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH LEADERS
AROUND AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

gifts



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NATIONAL YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR

I'm glad 'gifts' is the theme of this issue of Fuel. Most of you will have heard by now that I will be finishing up as PYM National Youth Coordinator at Christmas. We decided on the topic before I worked out that I was leaving, and as I find myself reflecting on four years of service in this role, one of the things which stands out to me is how rich the Pressie Tribe is with gifted people. We have so much to give. I've been inspired by the gifts I've seen people giving freely in their local communities, and amazed by what is possible when we put our gifts together and meet a need which is greater than what we can respond to on our own. When I see this happen I really believe we could save the world.

If I could name one hope for the future of the Pressie Tribe it is that we might better realise the abundance of gifts we have all been given, and use them together as the body of Christ to make Jesus Christ known in the places where it is needed most. I will take from these four years a deluge of good memories. I get the feeling too, that a new wave has emerged, and I look forward to seeing and supporting how PYM continues to make Jesus Christ known in the future.

I want to say thank you. I am reluctant to name any names for in doing so I am sure to offend... but I must make mention of a few: Firstly, I want to pay tribute to the people who came to the first ever meeting to organise something that would become Connect, and to the past and present members of the PYM focus group. None of them knew what they were coming to, or what their efforts would grow into. But they came, dreamed some impossible dreams, and made them happen. We have all been blessed by their vision and commitment to see the dream realised. Secondly, the PYM crew who have worked with me in Wellington over the last four years – Em Osborne, Jo Ryan, Monica Yeoman, and Kathryn Grant. I only hope they've received as much from their time serving PYM as PYM has received from all that they have given. I personally am grateful to them for the abundance of inspiration, sanity, synergy and chocolate which they have shared with me so generously over the last four years.

Remember, you are a blessing!
May your journey of faith be filled with much joy, laughter, hope and love!
Arohanui,



email: mo.mansill@presbyterian.org.nz



**KATHRYN
GRANT
PYM INTERN
2005**



This is the last time you'll hear from Kathryn in this space. Kathryn's had a great year as PYM intern 2005. We wish her every blessing as she goes down to study at Otago in 2006.

My year as PYM intern has been amazing for so many reasons. I've got to meet so many cool people and had my eyes opened up to so many things I had never thought about before. But one of the coolest things hit home when I was preparing to go to Auckland for a few days a little while ago. I was staying with a couple of different people in the PYM crew, all of whom I knew, but felt were more Mo's friends than mine. I changed my thinking though when Mo said to me, 'you know that even though you feel like you haven't gotten to know these people that well yet, they care about you heaps already, and will look out for you, just because you're part of the PYM crew.'

This made me feel pretty special, knowing that there's people spread around New Zealand who I might not be best buddies with, but will put me up for the night or go out for coffee with me, just because we belong to the same crew.

If you're reading this, it's likely that you belong to the PYM crew – so this blessing is yours as well! (Yay!)

The challenge for me though is to take up the call to go a step further, and share hospitality and care with those who don't get it and have stopped expecting it – those who get love and care and hospitality the least, and need it the most. So my aim this Christmas is to 'pay forward' the blessing. I hope this issue of Fuel inspires you to think about how you might do that where you are this Christmas.

Kathryn

kathryn.grant@presbyterian.org.nz

This issue:

GIFTS – **ALLISTER LANE** looks at what Paul has to say about them in the New Testament, **JO RYAN, FIONA MAINLAND AND KATHRYN GRANT** explore how we identify them, what we do with them and how we can give them away this Christmas.

GLOBAL MISSION NEWS

ANDREW BELL challenges us to think creatively about how we can give overseas, read about people giving overseas, **ANDREW COLGAN** checks out a new resource for overseas mission trips.

PYM NEWS

VIC COSTER tells about her first time at Connect 05.

...and just in case you didn't read the fine print, there's some things we've been trying to convince you of in the last 4 years... we finish up this issue with what we like to call 'the PYM rule for life'.

ON THE COVER

Photos from Connect 05 – the annual PYM tribal gathering held in Otaki in July.

FUEL



for prayer
and mission.

Gift

1. Something given; a present
2. A special aptitude, ability, or power; talent.

- COLLINS CONCISE ENGLISH DICTIONARY

CHRISTMAS IS A TIME WHERE WE PREPARE TO **GIVE AND RECEIVE GIFTS**. IN THIS ISSUE OF FUEL WE'LL BE EXPLORING **HOW AND WHY WE DO THAT**. AS CHRISTMAS GETS CLOSER, THE MEDIA WILL WIND UP THE MACHINE EXHORTING US TO BUY BUY BUY. WE KNOW THAT WE SHOULDN'T GET SUCKED INTO IT, BUT EVERY YEAR, IN BIG AND SMALL WAYS, WE DO. WE HOPE THIS ISSUE OF FUEL WILL **INSPIRE AND CHALLENGE** YOU TO OPEN YOUR THINKING AS TO HOW WE MIGHT **GIVE THIS CHRISTMAS IN A NEW WAY**. LOOKING AT THE TWO ASPECTS OF THE 'GIFT' DEFINITION ABOVE, WE WILL EXPLORE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE AND ENABLE YOUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO IDENTIFY AND GROW THEIR GOD-GIVEN GIFTS, AS WELL AS LOOK AT HOW WE CAN GET OUR YOUNG PEOPLE GIVING IN A MORE **LIFE-GIVING** WAY THIS CHRISTMAS.

GOD-GIVEN GIFTS

While the fruit of the Spirit are ways of recognising Christian character, the gifts of the Spirit are vocations, ways of serving God.

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. – 1 Cor. 12:7

We have ALL been given gifts by the one Spirit to use to praise God and serve others.

WHAT ARE YOUR GIFTS? *Read 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11*

PROPHECY – THE GIFT OF BEING ABLE TO SEE FAR AHEAD,
TO SEE THE LIGHT AHEAD AND TO FOCUS OUR EYES' ON IT

SERVICE – THE GIFT OF DEDICATING OUR LIVES TO OTHERS
AND TO GOD'S CREATION

PREACHING – THE GIFT OF SPEAKING WITH WISDOM

ENCOURAGING – THE GIFT OF COACHING AND BRINGING OUT
THE BEST IN OTHERS

GIVING – THE GIFT OF MAKING SURE THAT OTHERS
HAVE WHAT THEY NEED TO SERVE GOD

LEADERSHIP – THE GIFT OF SHOWING THE WAY TO GOD

HEALING – THE GIFT OF MAKING PEOPLE WHOLE WHEN
THEY HAVE PHYSICAL, MENTAL, EMOTIONAL OR
SPIRITUAL AILMENTS

MERCY – THE GIFT OF GOING BEYOND FAIRNESS,
OF STANDING UP FOR JUSTICE AND KINDNESS

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO GROW YOUR GIFTS?
HOW CAN YOU USE THEM TO PRAISE GOD AND SERVE
GOD'S PURPOSE?

gifts

ALLISTER LANE reflects on what Paul has to say about Gifts in the New Testament.

'Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good...'

- 1 Corinthians 12: 4

'Survivor' TV shows have ventured beyond just islands to houses, apprentices and even cooking. The various goals involve competing against others to defeat them in order to remain as the sole 'survivor'. Throw in maximum conflict for the viewers, because broadcasting bitchiness is a ratings winner!

We've heard it said that being a follower of Christ is counter-cultural and the comparison between the church and survivor shows should jump out to us as a sharp contrast. The church is called into being by Christ, and if I had to pick one word to define it, it would be communion – both with God and each other.

Paul asks the community of believers in Corinth about why they go for one gift all the time and forget the others. Is he worried they don't fully utilise the full range of gifts? Is he looking for all members of the church to be appreciated fully alongside the others? Paul introduces a metaphor that has never been trumped. He talks about the church being a body and each member making up a unique part of it. He's looking for unity not uniformity. It's okay to be different from others; we should expect that because God has given us different gifts. But the fundamental paradigm is recognition of the Holy Spirit as the giver of all the gifts to those in the church.

Paul reminds his friends that the gifts they have received are not to be selfishly pursued but used for the benefit of all. The church is the place to work out what our gifts are and to employ them. We may find a talent or passion in a certain pursuit and this may translate into an academic or professional career. It is worth asking ourselves why God has given the gifts he has. Is it to give us an edge on potential rivals as we seek personal success, or is it part of enabling us to serve others together, following the example Christ showed us?

May God give us the courage to reciprocate the trust he has given to us.



ALLISTER LANE

A youth leader in Wellington for, oh, ages, Alli is now learning lots of big words studying theology at Otago. He is a PYM legend. Among other things, he was one of the team who pioneered the first Connect in 2002.

What are our gifts?

HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE IDENTIFY GIFTS

While sometimes it might seem like as youth leaders we're expected to be all things to all people, on days when we have a little perspective, we realise that we have been given some gifts and not others. Together we are the body of Christ, and if we know what unique gifts we have to offer, that will give us the wisdom to give others space and encouragement to share their particular gifts, and the whole body will be the better for it.

It's worth taking some time to think about what you are gifted at, and helping the young people you work with to journey through this process as well.

A 'DISCOVER YOUR GIFTS' SESSION TO USE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Taken from session 5 of 'Creating a Pathway to Believe and Belong', a resource made up of 6 sessions preparing young people for baptism, confirmation and other forms of Christ-commitment available for \$5 from the PYM Office.

AIM...

- + To help the participants identify their God-given gifts and encourage them to think about how they might share them.

GETTING STARTED...

Give everyone a piece of paper and a pen and the following instructions:

- + Write a letter to yourself describing your gifts. Don't list them, write as though you are describing yourself to someone who doesn't know you. E.g. 'George has a real gift for listening to others...' etc.
- + You only have two minutes, so write what immediately and instinctively comes to mind.
- + After 2 minutes give the following instructions:
Make a list of 5 gifts from your letter.
Give out 5 plain cards to each person (business card size).
Get them to write a gift on each of the five card.

Tell the participants to keep these cards for the rest of the evening.

CHECK OUT THE SCRIPTURES...

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-31

Questions for discussion:

- + What does this passage say about how people can work and grow together?
- + How does your church use different people's gifts?

DIGGING DEEPER...

Shape game

Beforehand, cut 6 identical squares out of card. Cut these squares into 3 or 4 pieces, so you will have a collection of triangles, squares and rectangles. These shapes can be photocopied from 'Believe and Belong'.

Object of the game: for groups to make squares using all of the shapes put

before them.

The catch: No one is allowed to talk, they can share your shapes with each other, but not by taking, only by giving them away.

At two random moments during this game, tell the participants that they have to give up one of their cards with gifts written on them, so that by the end of the game they only have 3 gifts remaining.

Concluding punch-line

(feel free to fill out these points and/or put them in your own words)

- + When you hit 50 and you look back and survey what you've spent your young years doing, you want to look back and see that your life is worthwhile.
- Ask the participants to give up another one of their gifts so they have 2 left.*
- + For God's sake, be good at something. You all have God given gifts. If you're not sure about what they are, look at your two remaining cards – that might be a good starting point.
- + Once you've worked out what you're good at, once you've identified your gifts, look after them, work at them, let them grow.
- + Then, you have a choice – to keep your gifts for yourself and your own interests and ambitions... or you can give them away.
- + God needs you to give them away...

WRAP-UP...

- + Look at the gifts on your remaining cards and share them with your neighbour.
- + What hopes and fears do you have about growing these gifts?
- + When, how and where could you give these gifts away?

PRAY...

Finish with prayer that asks God to help us discover, nurture and make good choices about what we do with our gifts.

MORE IDEAS FOR IDENTIFYING GIFTS IN YOUNG PEOPLE

1. **Brainstorm** – ask each young people to write down 3-5 things they are good at
Read – some of the key passages in the bible that outline gifts of the spirit, and other books that explore this topic (check out the PYM library)
Explain – make sure people know what the gifts actually involve.
Discuss – share with each other what you have learned. Also encourage talking about these gifts with close friends and family who can offer a different perspective.
Celebrate – build up esteem and confidence by delighting with a young person when they think they have uncovered their spiritual gifts.
Encourage – work with the young person to find ways to put their gift into practice.
2. Encourage young people in your group to identify gifts in others. Sit in a circle and get each person to write his or her name on a piece of paper. Pass the papers around the circle, getting each person to write one or two gifts that they see in the person named.
3. Give each person a short survey to give to 3 family members and close friends, asking what gifts they have observed in that person.

RESOURCES

Network

This course was developed by Willow Creek (available in the PYM Library), and explains the various spiritual gifts and how you can identify and use them. It includes a survey of close friends and family, and an individual 'consultation' at the end where you meet with a church leader to discuss what you've learned about your gifts and how you can use them in your context.

Myers Briggs, Enneagram

There are many courses available to help discover your personality and individual characteristics. While they aren't about gifts, learning more about yourself and others is important in the process of learning how we can best serve God.



JO RYAN & FI MAINLAND

The ideas on this page were put together by Fi Mainland (soon to be Fi Barnett) youth leader superstar from Plimmerton Presbyterian, and Jo Ryan, who provides large amounts of wisdom and inspiration for PYM.

Youth Group ideas

Idea #1

At the start of 2006 get each young person to choose one gift they'd like to share. Throughout the year you can work together to find or create opportunities to do this, and encourage and challenge one another.

Idea #2

Get your young people to work together on a project for other people in your community, which will involve people with many different gifts. This might be a kids holiday programme, music or sports event, service project, anything you can dream up!

Idea #3

Partner up young people with older mentors who share a certain gift and can encourage them in it and share how they have been able to use their gifts.

What do we do with our gifts?

We've all got gifts and talents, but they're no use to anyone if we don't grow and share them. We've been given our gifts so that we can use them to worship God and serve others – so how do we get started, and how can we encourage young people to do the same?

START SMALL

- + Sometimes you just don't know where or how to start! Focussing on one thing at a time will make the challenge manageable. Start by picking just one gift that you'd like to "give away", and find just one way to you can do that. So if your gift is sports, you might choose to coach one school sports team, building relationships through sport.

SAFE PLACES TO SHARE

- + Jumping in the deep end is always daunting! If you think you have a gift for preaching, you don't have to go on the international circuit straight away. Instead, start by doing a devotion at youth group, then speaking in a youth service, then at your church service, then at a regional Easter Camp, etc...
- + Intentionally create safe spaces for young people in your church and community to try out using their gifts so they can make mistakes and try again with encouragement and support from friendly mentors.

DO IT TOGETHER

- + Journeying with others as you share your gifts is always a fun way to get started. Working on a group project is a great way for people with different gifts to work together to create something awesome.

ASK QUESTIONS

Remember to ask yourself regularly: 'Am I using my gifts to serve God and others? Or am I using them for myself?'

LEARN, LEARN, LEARN!

- + Make sure you keep developing and growing the gifts you have. Often using and sharing them is the best way to do this, but sometimes it's also helpful to read relevant books, attend workshops or talk with someone you admire in that area.

GET STUCK IN!

- + When it comes down to it, sometimes "the best advice is to get stuck in!" (thanks Ricky D, minister at student.soul) Heck, we'll only be around here for one lifetime, so why not give as much as we can! Get started, and you'll find that it's not as hard as you first thought.



goat \$50 tear fund



chicken \$10 oxfam



boat \$950 tear fund



bean field \$5 oxfam



safe water 500 people
\$500 oxfam



safe water 1 child \$5
tear fund



pig \$45 tear fund



orchard \$80 tear fund

WHAT IS YOUR YOUTH GROUP GIVING THIS CHRISTMAS?

When Christmas rolls around, one of the easiest ways of celebrating often involves swapping \$2 or \$5 gifts. It's fun, it's easy, and it's cheap. But really, would Jesus be into it? I just can't really imagine what Jesus would do with a novelty plastic animal that says "God loves me".

Here are some ideas to encourage your group to really give this Christmas:

1. Find out what organizations are receiving presents for children in need the Salvation Army, City Mission etc., and buy gifts for these kids instead of each other.
2. One youth group makes small decorated money boxes in November, in which they save their pocket money for a month. At the end of the month everyone brings their money to youth group, and they all go shopping for presents to give to the City Mission.
3. If there is a Trade Aid store near you (www.tradeaid.org.nz), make a youth group visit, and ask the manager to talk to you about buying Fair Trade. Encourage your youth group to think globally with their gifts this Christmas.
4. Promote Christian World Service's annual Christmas Appeal in your church. www.cws.org.nz provides resources to help you raise money for global causes.

The Global Mission Office has many suggestions of how we can 'Give Global' as individuals or in a group. Ideas range from becoming the mission contact person in your region, to financially supporting a bush missionary in Vanuatu, to sponsoring AIDS initiatives in Zambia.

For more information, visit the Work with us pages of the GMO website – www.presbyterian.org.nz/gmo or contact the GMO, phone Andrew or Lori on (09) 276 4313.

World Vision, Tear Fund, Oxfam and The Leprosy Mission all run schemes where you can purchase an item such as a goat, school textbooks, or a bicycle ambulance for a child, family or community in a developing country in the name of a friend or family member. You'll receive a gift card with a picture of your chosen gift. Items range from \$5 for a field of beans to \$950 for a fishing boat. For more information or to order a gift, check out the websites:

www.leprosymission.org.nz

www.tearfund.org.nz

www.worldvision.org.nz

www.oxfam.org.nz

The ideas on this page were put together by Kathryn Grant (PYM intern 2005) and Jo Ryan (PYM intern 2003)

PYM NATIONAL NEWS

Presbyterian connect

8-10 July 2005

National Youth Leaders Conference



In July, 200 youth leaders from across the country descended upon Otaki for Connect 2005, The National Pressie Youth Leaders Conference. Vic Coster tells us how it was.

When I first got the message on my phone from Mo, asking me if I'd write this, my first thought was "Crap, that was ages ago! All I can remember is that we had really good coffee and played a really long game!"

Thank goodness I wrote notes!

Then it all came back to me – counting the mandarins and cake slices at the Pak n Save, [M roped Elizabeth Isbister and myself into helping with the shopping when they arrived early in Wellington, which included counting out 600 pieces of fruit for morning and afternoon teas...] the car ride out to Otaki in the rain playing I Spy (I was so proud when I guessed precipitation!), the burning bush on arrival, catching up with old friends and making new ones.

Connect. I felt like a sponge, soaking up inspired teaching from Justin Duckworth (the man's a genius!), bopping along to the groovy and Godly tones of PIC Newtown, chatting with my small group over morning tea. I took away many things to ponder, one of which was to Go Deep, Not Wide (when you prune a tree it grows better). It is easy as a youth worker to think we are only doing the job well, if we are flat out and busy. Not true. In youth work, it can be hard to objectively measure how effective we are. Being comfortable to simply engage and journey with a young person, is vital.

Justin also examined the issue of social responsibility. There are simple and effective things we can do in our part of the world that have global impact. I sometimes face a bit of an inner struggle with what I am doing and what I'm not doing and why. I don't run a church based youth group, I don't run truckloads of huge events and it's often not appropriate to even mention Jesus to the majority of my young people.

Connect encouraged me in what I am doing – motivating youth to look outwards, to follow the example of Jesus and his active compassion (even if they don't know it yet!), building those crucial, long lasting relationships and journeying with my young people. Connect – awesome – I came away inspired, encouraged and excited about my call to community youth work – and connected, with others who feel the same!

VIC COSTER

Connect first timer and youth worker extraordinaire who cares heaps for young people in the sunny Cromwell community.





Presbyterian connect

30 June - 2 July 2006

National Youth Leaders Conference

What: National PYM youth leaders conference. A time to be connected, inspired, challenged, and appreciated for all you do.

When: June 30th - July 2nd 2006

Where: Forest Lakes Camp, Otaki

Theme: Evangelism: Making Jesus Christ Known!



Mission News:

ANDREW BELL CHALLENGES US TO THINK OUTSIDE THE SQUARE WITH HOW WE GIVE GLOBALLY THIS CHRISTMAS.

So here is the deal. We have a partner church in Livingstone in Zambia. They started a Youth Centre to minister to the youth who were in trouble. Some are victims of AIDS either having lost a parent/s or contracted the disease themselves. So they included counselling services in their plans. The GMO thought this was a great idea and provided the seeding finance. They were very grateful and sent photos of the new table tennis tables. We felt good about what we had done. Then we got another request. This time they were asking for a large television and a satellite television connection. Well hang on now. Most of us have got big screen TV's and Sky in our homes but is this a reasonable request when you live in poverty stricken Zambia?

The gift of Jesus as the Emmanuel – the God who is with us – expresses the extravagant love of God. God loved in the biggest, flashiest way he could. The giving of gifts at Christmas is meant to reflect this 'spirit of giving'. You know 'it is better to give than to receive' and all those good things. But a big screen TV and satellite connection? Consider for a moment why they have asked for a TV and you decide how extravagant their request is, in reality. All Zambians love soccer, especially the teenagers. The local taverns all have satellite connections and big screen TV's and allow the teenagers to come and watch and (sooner or later) give them a free drink or two. It doesn't take long for the teenagers to become the regulars, getting drunk, having unprotected sex and ending up as the next HIV statistic. If the Youth Centre is to really offer a safe alternative environment, they need to be able to compete by providing a venue that includes international soccer on a big screen. It is as simple as that. I don't think the request is extravagant at all, especially as many New Zealanders now have home theatres.

You have heard of sponsoring a child. How about sponsoring a satellite connection? You have heard about helping the poor, how about buying them a big screen TV? Lets not stop at books and clean water – lets be extravagant like the God of Christmas who we worship and serve.

God bless,

Andrew



ANDREW BELL

Note the change in Andrew's contact details – while Andrew continues his global mission work for the Presbyterian Church, he recently also became the chief believing and belonging initiator at St Andrew's in Otahuhu, Sth Auckland.

Global Mission Office, 1/22 Station Rd, Otahuhu, Auckland
Ph: 64 9 276 4313, email: globalmission@xtra.co.nz

Pray for...



SOPHIE PARNHAM

Last summer, Sophie, a youth leader and childrens worker at St Lukes in Auckland, spent three months in Thailand with Kathryn McDaniel, working alongside her in her prison ministry. This summer she is off to Wales as a Council for World Mission volunteer to work with the Presbyterian Church of Wales.



LIZ KOOISTRA

Liz, a youth leader from Wairau Presbyterian Church in Blenheim, is off to Hong Kong in March next year to work for an organization called 'Mothers Choice', an orphanage, and home for pregnant teenagers. The organisation provides services in 4 different areas – a baby care unit, a foster program, a 'Wee Care' unit for IHC children and the original home for pregnant teenagers.

Pray for both Sophie and Liz as they prepare to go, that they will have time and space to prepare practically, emotionally and spiritually for their trip.



CWS CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2005

This year's theme is 'Save the Earth, Save its Peoples' This year's appeal highlights the crucial relationship between people and the environment – how we care for the environment affects whether a sustainable future is possible for much of the third world. Give hope this Christmas by getting your youth group to support the CWS Christmas appeal. Youth churches will be sent a fab pack full of info about the appeal with ideas for worship, discussion, and action, plus more information about the places and people that this year's appeal money will be aiding.

FIONA SHERWIN, a youth leader from Forest Hill Presbyterian, went to the Sichuan province in China with five other NZers on a short term mission trip called 'WEC TREK' in September.

I wasn't sure what I was getting myself into to be honest, but I knew that God had some awesome things for me to experience. We started in Chengdu, a smog-filled city, and traveled on some very "interesting" roads! We spent our 5 days in Ganzi (4000m above sea level) praying up on the hill where the monastery lies and hanging out with the locals - on the street, visiting friends, or at the local hospital. Playing badminton with some locals and street kids was an awesome and tiring 4 hours, despite the fact that no one could communicate in each others language.

The best time for me was visiting a school that my Church has been involved with raising funds for; the kids there are so awesome! Being so high up, it's pretty hard to play for long, but we had fun! I also met the boy the Sunday School supports.

What I learnt from the trip is that even when there is so much that people need, there is hope through Jesus that people may be set free from the bondage they are living under. I learnt to adapt to the situation (like coping with a different diet). I learnt patience in frustrating situations (like language barriers). I had to learn to cope with seeing poverty all the time – and challenged about how I could respond in a way that would be actually helpful. I learnt that we need to be encouraging, listening and praying for our friends who are willing to go to the margins to be Jesus for others in need.



New Resources

CATALYST FOR CHANGE OR EMPTY EXCHANGE – MURRAY SHEARER

ANDREW COLGAN lets us know why he thinks we should check out Murray Shearer's recently completed Masters Thesis on short-term overseas mission trips.

What's it about?

As somebody who has often wondered whether short-term overseas mission is worth it, I found Murray's thesis a fascinating read. His research is focussed on people who have been part of "Discovery Teams" living for short periods with poor urban squatter communities in Manila and is primarily concerned with the extent to which the impact of this experience has manifested itself in their lives back home in New Zealand.

What did you learn from reading it?

It is easy to read and a refreshing contrast to what often seems an obsession with the impact on host communities among those talking about mission. What stood out for me was Murray's analysis of a "critical awareness" which developed in the worldview of many of the participants after their experience, resulting in a broadening of their Christian faith, changing priorities and, in some cases, a complete change of lifestyle. This is carefully linked to preparation for their trip and the extent to which participants engaged in the experience of "immersion" in the harsh reality of poverty without resort to distractions and comfort. The thesis also explores issues of openness and expectancy, relationships and personal reflection.

Who should read it?

Anyone who's planning to do an overseas ministry experience with young people well. Murray's work is a useful resource for those planning or participating in short-term overseas mission and especially for those processing the implications of such an experience upon reintegration back into a relatively affluent society.

Where do I get it?

1. If you want to order a copy, contact the PYM office to be put in touch with the author.
2. Borrow it from the PYM library: email mo.mansill@presbyterian.org.nz
3. ...or you can read the bullet point version here: <http://www.ora.org.nz/>



CATALYST FOR CHANGE OR EMPTY EXCHANGE?



MURRAY SHEARER

Websites:

Having problems with txt-mad people going too far?

Here's two options which can give you some ideas of how to deal with txt bullying.

Vodafone have put out a brochure which gives some suggestions. You can check it out here:
http://www.vodafone.co.nz/aboutus/VOD2738_responsible_mob_bro.pdf

You can also get advice from calling NETSAFE on 0508 NETSAFE (toll free) or 0508 638 723 or check out their website: www.netsafe.org.nz

Presbyterian



Hospitality

Presbytality

Got young people going to work or study in a new city next year?

Presbytality is about connecting young people on the move with youth workers/leaders they can relate to in their new home. It's about offering young people the opportunity to link up with a new church if they want to, but mostly, it's just about offering hospitality. Linking young people up with a youth worker who will take them out for a coffee and be someone they can catch up with in a new city.

What to do...

1. Fill out the details of your young people on the Presbytality postcard that came with this issue of Fuel
2. Cut along the middle line, and send the bottom half back to us with a stamp on the front
3. A youth worker/youth leader will make contact with your young person within two weeks of the postcard being sent in
4. We'll send your young person the contact details of that cool youth worker/leader or church they can hook up with if they want to at the place they're moving to.

If you need more Presbytality cards, send an email to: mo.mansill@presbyterian.org.nz and we will send them out to you.

Last word from Mo and the PYM office crew

Just in case you didn't read the fine print...

...here's some things we've been trying to convince you of in the last 4 years we like to call it the PYM rule for life

- + In, Around, Out
- + Young people are not a problem to be solved but a gift to be shared
- + Leadership is not about a position or a place; it's an attitude and a sense of responsibility for making a difference
- + Always say thank you... preferably with chocolate
- + After significant experiences ask: what stood out to you and why?
- + Seek 'Luminal' experiences – visiting our limits leads us to dig deeper in ourselves, our relationships, and in our faith
- + Dream dreams. Often.
- + Don't procrastinate, just get stuck in
- + Buy Fair Trade
- + Nothing's wrong in a brainstorm
- + Read
- + Ask not just "what would Jesus do?" but "where would Jesus be?"
- + You've gotta be in it long enough to make a difference
- + Don't just add Christianity to your life, LIVE IT!
- + Life is meant to be a journey – not a rollercoaster ride
- + It's about health, not success
- + Together Everyone Achieves More
- + Recycle
- + If not now, then when? If not you, then who?
- + Think 'challenges', not 'problems'
- + Pray
- + Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life
- + Always remember that the main thing we're about is making Jesus Christ known. Everything should start with and come back to that.

Be of good courage and know that you are dearly loved.

Arohanui,

Mo and the PYM crew 2002 - 2005

Notices

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

LEITH VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dunedin, Part Time

Leith Valley is looking for a part time youth worker, to help us take the next step as we grow our youth ministry. We'll provide a great bunch of young people, a supportive environment and some dollars. We're looking for someone with maturity, initiative and passion who can put together a leadership team and work in partnership with the church.

For a job description and/or more info: Rev. Richard Dawson; rdawson@ihug.co.nz

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Tauranga, Full Time

Holy Trinity is looking for someone who has strong leadership skills and experience in youth ministry to join their ministry team. This is a Full time paid position and would involve leading the growing and highly relational high school and intermediate youth ministry. The successful candidate will be passionate about youth and God. Holy Trinity is a large, vibrant, inner city, Anglican Church which is evangelical/charismatic. Closing Date for applications 15th December 2005.

For a job description and/or more info contact: (07)-5787718 or email: htadmin@holyltrinity.org.nz

WANAKA AREA YOUTH TRUST

Wanaka, Part Time

This position is offered through the Wanaka Area Youth Trust which is formed from all the churches in the town. The position will be part-time to allow for other employment or time to enjoy the many outdoor opportunities that Wanaka offers. There is funding available for training as well as travel to meet with other youth workers in Queenstown, Cromwell and Alexandra.

For a job description and/or more info: Jenni McDougall Free phone: 0800 114 438; 03 443 4678; email: mcdougall@xtra.co.nz

LINWOOD AVENUE UNION CHURCH

Christchurch, Full Time

We are looking for an enthusiastic youth worker to work with existing youth activities and to develop other programmes for young people in the area. Initially a part time position with the potential to develop into full time.

For a job description and/or more info: Church office - Phone: 389 5303 Email:linunion@xtra.co.nz

COMING UP

FAITH FESTIVAL NORTH

What: End of year celebration for Pressie youth

When: 9th-11th December

Where: Mangatangi – 70 km south of Auckland

Who: 13 years & up, accompanied by a youth leader

Cost: \$30

Why: PIC Newtown are leading worship, Brian Krum is speaking, heaps of fun, inspiration, cool bands...

More info: Contact Steve Millward: stevemillward@xtra.co.nz; (09) 232 7909

FAITH FESTIVAL SOUTH

When: 24th-26th February 2006

Where: Mosgiel A&P Showgrounds

Who: Youth with youth leaders

Cost: t.b.c.

Why: Great bands, speakers (including Paul Sommerville, Darryl Gardener and PIC Newtown's 'Connect' band.

More info: info@faithfest.co.nz; www.faithfest.org.nz



What: National PYM youth leaders conference. A time to be connected, inspired, challenged, and appreciated for all you do.

When: June 30th – July 2nd 2006

Where: Forest Lakes Camp, Otaki

Theme: Evangelism: Making Jesus Christ Known!

Any comments, queries or if you want to advertise job vacancies or notices or regional or national events, contact Mo Mansill at the PYM Office: (04) 381 8299 or mo.mansill@presbyterian.org.nz/youth
Read fuel on the web: www.presbyterian.org.nz/youth

fuel

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