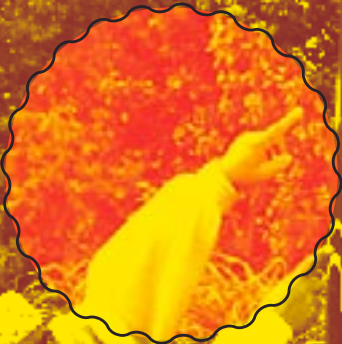


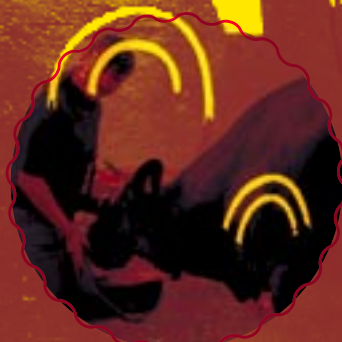
IMAGE



fuel
for dreaming



POSSIBLE^{ION}
AUTUMN 007



"You must become the change that you want to see in the world"

Mahatma Gandhi, Indian peace-maker

Quotable Quotes

"If you think you're too small to be effective, you have never been in bed with a mosquito."

Source Unknown

"For evil to triumph, it is only necessary that good people do nothing."

Edmund Burke

"Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself"

Leo Tolstoy

"Christians are supposed not merely to endure change, nor even to profit by it, but to cause it"

Harry Emerson Fosdick

"There are three kinds of people in this world: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what happened."

Anonymous

"Getting an idea should be like sitting down on a pin; it should make you jump up and do something."

E.L. Simpson

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

"Change your thoughts and you change your world"

Norman Vincent Peal

"The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; and the realist adjusts the Sails."

William Arthur Ward



greetings from steph

Welcome to the first edition of Fuel for 2007.

This issue is all about Mission and what that looks like for us.

What does mission look like for you?

Mission for me is ongoing and ever-changing, it drives me to do what I do and inspires me to think differently about the world I live in and the people around me. It is such an important part of my Christian world and yet so hard to describe!

Ultimately it comes down to a commitment to being a change-maker in my world – however far that stretches. Making changes locally seems a lot less daunting than trying to make changes nationally or even internationally! Change can sometimes seem like the ultimate 'mission impossible' no matter how necessary it is.

So this issue is all about **Mission Possible!** How we can be effective change-makers in our world locally, nationally and internationally and inspire our young people to be the same. We have asked some key people to challenge us about mission by sharing their thoughts and journeys with us. They have come up with some great articles, so why don't you grab a coffee and a comfy seat and prepare to be inspired about being a changemaker to see Mission Possible in your world!

Blessings,

Stephanie Redhead

National Youth Coordinator
South Island

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Cell: 027 235 9670

Office phone: (03) 208 6076



this issue

We explore what does it mean to make Mission Possible ?

- We introduce you to some of the new changemakers on staff at PCANZ
- Ryhan Prasad and Sara Hegan encourage us that it's mission possible even at General Assembly!
- Steve Millward shares his Faith for making Faithfest Mission Possible
- Jo Ryan gives us some great ideas for local, national, and global mission
- Heather Simpson looks at where?
- Andrew Bell is interviewed about common Mission Misconceptions
- We take a look at the latest youth developments in the Global Mission office
- Then we explore Nepal, Myanmar, Africa, Thailand, and Taiwan with presy people who've been there recently

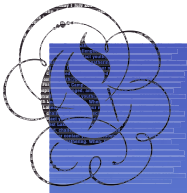
PLUS....

MORE FUEL - recommended reading, websites, movies, & music for further exploration.



was edited by Emily Wotton, Josh Firth, & Stephanie Redhead
is published by the Presbyterian Publishing Company Limited. PO Box 9049, Wellington, New Zealand
designed by andriano@mixmedia.co.nz





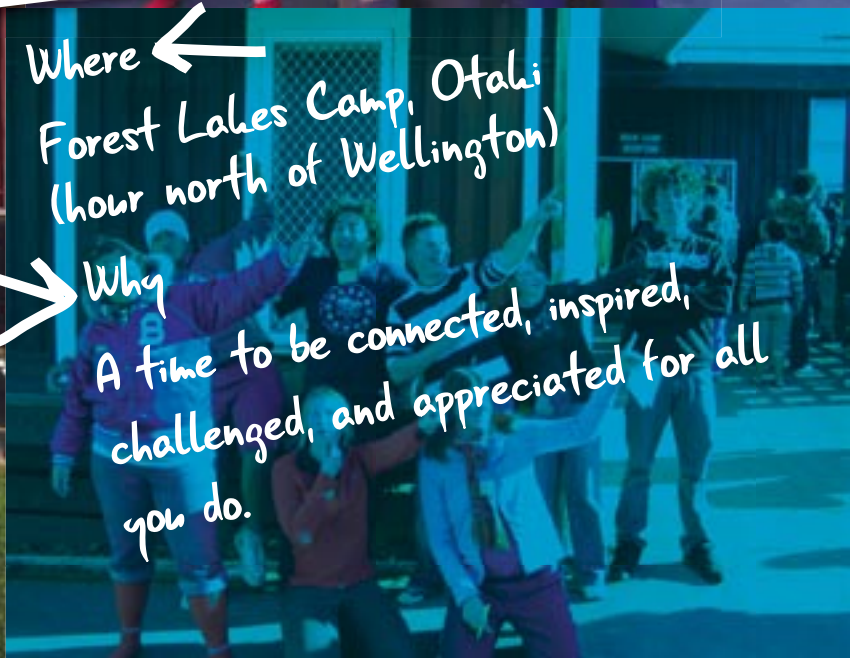
What National Presy Youth Leaders gathering.
When Friday 29 June - Sunday 1 July 2007



LOOKING IN
 LOOKING AROUND
 LOOKING OUT

Where ←
 Forest Lakes Camp, Otahi
 (hour north of Wellington)

Why →
 A time to be connected, inspired,
 challenged, and appreciated for all
 you do.



Connect is going to have an international flavour this year and you do not want to miss out on this!

We have a contingent of international guests coming from all over the Pacific joining us for the weekend in Otaki. The majority of these guests are here as part of a Council for World Mission youth conference that PCANZ is hosting. We are so excited to have them starting their time in New Zealand with us at Connect! We have set aside Saturday night for what we are calling our 'multi-cultural experience' and it is shaping up to be an awesome night!

Our other group needs your help. In response to our growing relationship with Vanuatu, PYM & the Global Missions Office have received interest from a group of youth leaders to attend Connect 07. This is our intentional mission relationship, and we're committed to strengthening our partnership with the church in Vanuatu. We will be taking up an offering on Saturday night to assist with the expenses of this trip. So please prayerfully consider how you, your youth group, or church can contribute to this exciting "looking out" venture.

We are also pleased to announce that our very own Neil Carter from St Johns - Rotorua will be our speaker this year. He has been heavily involved in all things PYM and has a wealth of knowledge and experience with young people. He will be speaking to us about a holistic approach to youth ministry and more specifically our framework of "Looking in, Looking around, and Looking out" You don't want to miss this year's cheeky and dynamic speaker!

More info



Check out the registration or contact
youth@presbyterian.org.nz

Esther 4:14 (TLB)

“Who can say but that God has brought you into the palace for such a time as this?”

CHANGE AGENT

A change agent, or agent of change, is someone who intentionally or indirectly causes or accelerates social, cultural, or behavioral change. Because of their importance, change agents are the object of scientific research. (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

**JESUS BELIEVED IN
MISSION POSSIBLE,
HE SET THE EXAMPLE OF
MAKING A DIFFERENCE
NO MATTER WHAT THE
COST. GOD CALLS US TO
BE CHANGEMAKERS, TO BE
SALT AND LIGHT.**

**“no eye has seen, no ear has heard,
no mind has conceived what god has
prepared for those who love him.”**

1 Corinthians 2:9 (NIV)

**“ Social Entrepreneurs don't just want
to organise problems. They want to heal
them. In doing so, they often create new
organisations, programmes or schemes ...
or try to change the culture of their existing
organisations. They explore innovations and
role models that move beyond just reacting to
and managing the problems ... towards being
pro-active and transforming them.”**

**Vivian Hutchinson, Executive officer of Social Innovation
Investment Group and the New Zealand Social
Entrepreneur Fellowship**

MISSION POSSIBLE

“The Lord turned to him and said, ‘Go in the strength you have.... Am I not sending you?’” Judges 6:14 (NIV)

“do not
and then

you. for i am the lord your god, the holy one of israel, your savior do not fear, for i am with you”

Isaiah 43:1-5 (NASB)

EVERY OFTEN, FRESH APPROACHES TO DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY WORK CAN BE TRACED BACK TO INSPIRED SELF-STARTERS, WHO UNDERSTAND INSTINCTIVELY THE WHO, WHY, WHAT AND HOW OF COMMUNITY WORK. THEY SWEAT BLOOD TO MAKE AN IDEA HAPPEN. YOU CAN'T BUY THAT SORT OF ENTHUSIASM ~ YOU CAN ONLY TRY AND SUPPORT IT WHEN YOU FIND IT. ~
Stephen Tindall, founder of The Warehouse retail stores, and founder and trustee of the Tindall Foundation

- ### TEN COMMANDMENTS OF CHANGE LEADERSHIP
1. EXPECT THE BEST
 2. LISTEN BEFORE TALKING; THINK BEFORE ACTING
 3. GET TO THE POINT, DON'T BEAT AROUND THE BUSH
 4. CHANGE WHAT THEY DO, NOT WHO THEY ARE
 5. MODEL THE BEHAVIOR YOU DESIRE
 6. ADAPT APPROACH TO THE PERSON
 7. PROVIDE FOR DIGNITY AND SELF-RESPECT
 8. APPEAL TO SELF-INTEREST; WHAT'S IN IT FOR THEM
 9. REJOICE AT SUCCESS
 10. CUT YOUR LOSSES WITH ENLIGHTENMENT, NOT GUILT

“I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know, the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.”

Albert Schweitzer

BE A CHANGEMAKER!

THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF A SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR IS ONE OF CREATING A SOCIETY WHERE EVERY CITIZEN IS A CHANGEMAKER~

Bill Drayton, founder of the international social entrepreneur network Ashoka

The Farmer's Mule

A parable is told of a farmer who owned an old mule. The mule fell into the farmer's well. The farmer heard the mule 'braying' -- or --whatever mules do when they fall into wells.

After carefully assessing the situation, the farmer sympathized with the mule, but decided that neither the mule nor the well was worth the trouble of saving. Instead, he called his neighbors together and told them what had happened...and enlisted them to help haul dirt to bury the old mule in the well and put him out of his misery.

Initially, the old mule was hysterical! But as the farmer and his neighbors continued shoveling and the dirt hit his back...a thought struck him. It suddenly dawned on him that every time a shovel load of dirt landed on his back... HE SHOULD SHAKE IT OFF AND STEP UP! This he did, blow after blow. "Shake it off and step up...shake it off and step up...shake it off and step up!" he repeated to encourage himself.

No matter how painful the blows, or distressing the situation seemed the old mule fought "panic" and just kept right on SHAKING IT OFF AND STEPPING UP!

You're right! It wasn't long before the old mule, battered and exhausted, stepped triumphantly over the wall of that well! What seemed like it would bury him, actually blessed him... All because of the manner in which he handled his adversity. Hey, that's life!

If we face our problems and respond to them positively and refuse to give in to panic, bitterness, or self-pity... the adversities that come along to bury us usually have within them the potential to benefit and bless us!

Remember that forgiveness -- faith -- prayer -- praise and hope all are excellent ways to "shake it off and step up" out of the wells in which we find ourselves!

Source Unknown

A black and white group photograph of approximately 12 people of various ages and ethnicities, smiling and posing in front of a house with white siding and windows. The photo is positioned at the top of the page, behind the main title.

New People to Know



We asked Martin Baker the new Assembly Executive Secretary of PCANZ a few informal questions to help us really get to know him a bit better. Martin may have a huge role overseeing the church's strategic development and everyday functions, but it's ok! He's a changemaker from way back; someone who knows about the issues, is passionate about the importance of youth ministry, and overall is a really nice guy.

What's in the stereo?

Fat Freddy's drop, Nick Cave & the Bad Seeds, and a new one by Johnny Cash's daughter – It's really quite good but I've forgotten her name.

What's for breakfast?

Porridge and soya milk a habit started since in the south island/ Harroways organic porridge from Dunedin is the best.

If you're not working, where would we find you?

Pretty keen skier, enjoy tramping, or out at our bach on Great Barrier Island. The family enjoy all of these too!

What book (aside from the Bible) are you reading at the moment?

'The Death of Adam', about rediscovering our Calvinism roots. Surprisingly interesting.

Tell us something positive you're enjoying about your work:

I think one of the very positive things about the way the presy church is organised is that it truly is a national organization. We work on developing strong national relationships across the country. And so one of the things we need to work at is to get young people better connected across the country in their diversity. I think that it is in those networks we will find the strength for the future. It's great to go all around the country and see people that you know and that you've met and know that we're all working together for the same thing and it's a very positive thing. I think there is real value in maximising the giftings of people in any people group across NZ and in the Presbyterian church that is a very big plus.

What's a challenge facing your role at the moment?

One of the big challenges is building up trust and that is a particularly big challenge in a national organization.



introducing



My name is **Stephanie Redhead** and I am stoked to be serving you all as your new National Youth Coordinator for the South Island.

To let you know a little bit about me: I'm married to Marty who is the youth director at our church and we live in Gore (Gorrre). I'm actually Christchurch born and bred and a city girl at heart but am loving life down here in the deep south. I am passionate about Jesus and young people and seeing the two connect.

I am excited about this new role because PYM is in a great place at the moment but there's still a whole lot of room for even more growth and development. Most of all I'm excited about working with YOU! My job is all about serving you, supporting you and doing anything I can for you

and your ministries. My job description involves speaking at various occasions from camps to services, providing consultation at regional or individual levels, facilitating workshops or training sessions and anything else that serving you involves. So please use me!!! I'm looking forward to getting to know you all and hearing about all the great things happening in your patch.

Bless ya!

Steph
xxx

PS. The PYM email and library requests come to me at the moment. I also look after the projector, so flick me an email if you're interested in booking it for your group.

Hi my name is **Robyn Burnett** and as of Feb 2007 I am the new Youth Director at St Margarets, Bishopdale in Christchurch. I'm also working for PCANZ as the Regional Youth Co-ordinator for Christchurch and assisting Stephanie in her work as National Youth Co-ordinator –South.

I'm a Southland girl through and through – most comfortable running around the farm and getting my hands dirty. On arrival in Christchurch, 1994 I made myself at home at Hornby Presbyterian Community Church while studying at Lincoln and have spent the last 5 years working on staff there. I've been focussing mainly on leadership/ discipleship training, youth mentoring and exploring the 'emergent church' with our evening service

I have a passion for seeing young people grow in God and experiencing God within their lives and I look forward in my new roles to supporting and resourcing leaders in the Canterbury region - helping them realise this passion outworked through their efforts. I'm really looking forward to working with Steph and the whole team and thank you all for being so welcoming – the whole process has been a great one so far :)

Robyn

DID YOU KNOW?

Last year Auckland & Wellington Presbyteries employed fantastic people to serve youth leaders in these regions? Get in contact and introduce yourselves if you haven't met them yet. They'll be even more exciting growth in these areas due to the care and support given by the foresight of this resource.

Emily Wotton Auckland Presbytery
Youth, Child, & Family Ministry Coordinator
ycfministry@xtra.co.nz

Alice Potts Wellington Presbytery
JYMC Worker
alice@bgi.org.nz

Final negotiations are taking place right now for the North Island Position and were unable to be completely confirmed when we went to print with this issue of Fuel. We can confirm though that the position is definitely filled and we are looking forward to some exciting progress with our new team approach to Presbyterian Youth Ministry nationwide!

WATCH THIS SPACE

Mission Possible: Even at General Assembly?

Kia Ora Koutou

This is what I got out of General Assembly 06 and what I perceived it to be. First of all it was pretty humbling and also provided a great sense of wider Church community and Whanau. I want to send a Big Shout Out to the PYM focus group for looking after all us so well at youth assembly and also assembly itself, they provided a really good home away from home for all the youth delegates. On the subject of youth there were not a lot of us at this thing (and I am including myself even though I'm 30!). I would also like to extend my aroha to Te Aka Puaho for making me feel welcome and included.

This was my first General Assembly and it really is quite inspiring to see a school hall packed out with people all interested in the life of our Church.

OK so I've got about one and a half paragraphs through without mentioning the whole sexuality in leadership decision thingee but I guess there's no escaping it, I am going to have to mention it.

Some people were saying the assembly was not just about the leadership issue and that there were other important matters discussed and there were - the Book of Order rewrite, the Focal Identity statement, Ministers Stipend Reviews and Assembly Levies. But having said all that, observing the emotional and somber mood of the assembly after the decision had been made is what really sticks out in my mind. It is sad to see our Church divided on serious issues but it is encouraging to see that there is a robust

system that handles these matters and allows our Church to function and move on in light of a big decision. It was really heartening to see the youth delegates speak at assembly on this and other issues and even though we may have held different opinions that did not stop us respecting each others point of view.

I met some pretty amazing people at Assembly and heard some really inspiring stories - one in particular was about Yams. This left me thinking that here in our Presbyterian Church Family we have a lot of people that care passionately about how we function and present the message of Christ. It follows that where you have a lot of passionate people you are bound to have disagreements from time to time, in fact some debates may be ongoing BUT the big thing is that we have a system that allows for the people and the spirit to be heard and then lets us decide. This system helps to preserve our Church unity and that is an important factor in the life of any community.

So GA06 was an awesome positive experience that really gave me a feel for how our national Church Whanau works and I appreciate being a part of such a passionate and caring community. Bring on GA08 in Wellington!

Ryhan Prasad

Ryhan is a Project Manager at BGI in Wellington and has also taken on the role of Convener this year for JYMC, the regional youth ministry committee.



“Both youth assembly and General assembly were huge eye openers in how our national church is run. It was inspiring being among so many youth, elders and ministers, who have a passion for christ and a vision for the Prebysterian churches’ future. At times it was heartbreaking to see the tension between people of conflicting beliefs and values, but overall it was reassuring that though there may be contrasting views on some topics, that doesn’t stop us loving our fellow brothers and sisters, and working together to spread Christs love”
SARA HEGAN





Faith for Faithfest

Don't you love bungee jumping? Anticipation, the jump, falling, the pull back, and then dropping again! The cost is another matter! What amazed me most was how quickly it was all over. Faithfest 04 and 05 felt a bit like a bungee jump to me. First there was the build up, the exhilaration of the jump and then they were over! My wife, Ruth, is an amazing woman; while I played tennis and drank cups of tea, she jumped out of planes! Parachuting-whoa! That is what I hope the next phase of Faithfest 07 and beyond will be like.

While on sabbatical in Dunedin, studying to finally become a fully-fledged Presy minister, Stuart Lange suggested to me the idea of running a Faithfest similar to the Mainland event that has been going on since 1987. (I know, it's true: all the great ideas come out of the Mainland and we Jaffas are simply playing catch up!) Anyway, I returned to my Church now known as Crossroads Christian Centre, south of the Bombay Hills, and as a Church we bought 18 acres! (We needed a large carpark!) The idea of Faithfest hung with me and as I shared it in 2004 with Mo Mansill, Emily Wotton, Kevin Finlay and others I decided to go for it. When Ruth and I were at Connect04 we saw the PIPC Newtown Worship Team and the Z Amigos and knew they needed to be at Faithfest04.

It was a big step of faith! God gave us marquees and staging through some very kind people, heaps of cakes through our Church, bands turned up, youth groups came and God came! Yes! So, in December 2005 we ran the second Faithfest. This time Geoff Lankow, Elliot Norton, and others, and everyone from my own Church contributed to it. It was bigger than 04 and God turned up again. We saw many young people connect or reconnect with Him. Awesome! Once again people gave time and money to the tune of thousands of dollars and through the amazing generosity of the Presbyterian Foundation we covered the costs and came out with a small amount of profit to put towards the 07 Faithfest. Where God guides He provides.

Now as we geared up for Faithfest07, it was another huge step of faith! We had an oversight team and we wanted it to really be a parachute drop rather than a bungee jump! You see, my original idea of Faithfest was never simply a camp; it's to be a movement! A movement where the camp is the stepping out of our plane and we meet with God afresh and each other,

and the prayer and the outreach team that will come out of Faithfest07, and the Youth Nights for the greater Auckland region in 07 are the parachute drop. And then this expands in 2008, 2009...and this not only encourages Youth Groups and Churches in our denomination in our country, but overseas in Scotland and other parts of our world too! The idea is that it will lead to young and old hearing the call of God on their lives to make a positive impact in this world for Jesus Christ as Bono and Mother Teresa and Billy Graham have! We have a whole generation who need to see and hear and feel the Good News of Jesus Christ.

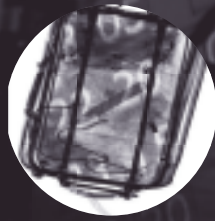
To take Faithfest to the next level and start fulfilling the dream for it I needed lot's of funding. In December, I received a letter from our Presbyterian Foundation to say they want to deposit the full amount into our Faithfest account to make it a parachute drop! Where God guides He provides. God and His people are amazing. If God believes in us, and the Presbyterian Foundation believes in us, how about you? If you want to be a part of something bigger in and through our denomination that I, and others, believe God is going to use: check out our web site and be a part of it - bring your parachute!

God is great and His people are amazing!!!

We can do some things better together than alone!

Steve Millward

Steve is the minister at Crossroads Christian Fellowship, and the enthusiastic changemaker that initiated Faithfest for the North Island. This is a local project that is already affecting the nation after just 3 years going!



MISSION POSSIBLE: LOCAL

Show your young people that making a difference locally is an important part of our Christian journey by offering them opportunities in your youth ministry to take up the challenge.

- 1. Have your youth group run a holiday programme for children in your community. Teenagers can be great leaders as well as having heaps of creative ideas. They'll have fun, grow leadership skills, and have a chance to make a difference in your community**
- 2. Give your youth group the challenge of serving a group in your community – this could be elderly people, families in need, disabled young people etc. Let them decide who they can serve and how, then help them put it into action.**
- 3. Let your young people plan a community outreach event – this might be a games night, sports tournament, dance, service project etc. to connect with young people in your community. Explain the purpose of the task and let them do the rest!**

MISSION POSSIBLE: NATIONAL

Take up the challenge of making a difference nationally by connecting with other youth leaders and community workers who are making a difference all around Aotearoa. We can learn from each other, support each other, share ideas, and together achieve mission possible.

- 1. Get in touch with Pressie youth leaders around New Zealand by coming to Connect 2007, getting in touch with the Presbyterian Youth Ministry Office (youth@presbyterian.org.nz), and subscribing to the youth connection email list (www.presbyterian.org.nz/2096.0.html)**
- 2. Connect with others involved in youth work in all sorts of contexts throughout New Zealand through the new National Youth Workers' Network (www.youthworkers.net.nz)**
- 3. Bring your youth group to regional and national events where they can be exposed to the bigger picture and meet other young Christians. This could include Parachute or Samstock Music Festivals, Easter Camps, Faith Festivals, regional youth services or other events happening in your area.**

MISSION POSSIBLE
IDEAS

MISSION POSSIBLE: GLOBAL.

Show your young people that making a difference globally IS possible by offering them opportunities in your youth ministry to take up the challenge.

- 1. Give your youth group the challenge of making your church a Fair Trade Church – let them plan how to encourage your church to make a difference globally through informed consumer choices. See (www.tearfund.org/Campaigning/Trade) for ideas.**
- 2. Challenge your youth group to raise money for a specific project overseas. Give them responsibility for how you raise the money. Your church might already have a relationship with a community project overseas, or you can contact the Global Mission Office for ideas.**
- 3. If you're thinking big, contact the Global Mission Office to find out about taking your youth group on an overseas short term mission experience**

Jo Ryan



Jo Ryan our former PYM administrator is an active member of StudentSoul who's currently studying in Dunedin. She is a definite changemaker promoting knowledge and action towards issues affecting us on local, national, and global levels.

Last year we at YET (Youth East Taieri) have been challenged by a quote from Tony Campolo that Lloyd Martin shared at Connect06

“Young people don't leave the faith because it's too hard, they leave because it's too easy”

Is it inherent in young people that they love a challenge – in our consumerist, self-centred, comfortable Kiwi world are we making things just a little too pleasant, safe, warm and cosy?

My colleague challenged his intermediate group with the call to serve others this term – one community student who comes along went away and organized to sell pizzas he made himself. He came back the next week with \$100 to buy sandals for leprosy victims. Another group (again interestingly community students) organized themselves to do crafts & baking and got permission to sell it at the local new world – they raised \$70. Another group did housework for a day and raised funds for leprosy sufferers overseas including buying a t-shirt they all signed to send over with the money to say who they were.

The year 9-11 youth ran a goat fund all year (just giving some coins each week of YG) so at the end of the year we sent away enough \$\$\$ to tear fund to buy 5 goats and change 5 families lives dramatically.

ANDREW HARREX





WHERE

Over 21 years in Peru and Ecuador as a missionary, I enjoyed the company of many people involved in short term mission. One, from France, summed up what many expressed – “the church in Ecuador is more alive and mission minded than the church at home. We need missionaries in our home countries!”

???
EVERYWHERE & ANYWHERE

**GOD IS
PASSIONATE
ABOUT HIS
CHURCH IN ALL
ITS SHAPES AND
EXPRESSIONS.**

Having lived in both worlds, I would suggest that mission is not an **either overseas / or local** option, it definitely includes both. It is great to be a part of a church where both global and national mission are recognized as essential.

Overseas and local mission have a lot in common:

God loves all of us, no matter our ethnicity, colour, age or creed.

God has set before all of us His commission – to love Him, and to love others. That means that no matter where you or I happen to be living and working we need to be in a growing relationship with God and with those around us, modelling Christ's love in both who we are and what we do.

God is passionate about his church in all its shapes and expressions. Whether it is a church in the slums of Guayaquil, the 'Back to Jerusalem' initiative out of China, an HIV/AIDS orphanage in Botswana, or the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand - God is inviting us to be involved in what He is already doing. Often it's just a matter of stopping long enough to hear what He is doing, and then becoming involved – wherever we are.

I have learned much from people who live subsistence lives. They have few resources yet their acknowledgement of God's faithfulness encourages them to believe in what is “yet unseen”. While I do see that here, we still spend a lot of time and energy comparing ourselves with what others have, or are doing, and so unhealthy competition emerges. Faith in a faithful God takes us beyond ourselves and our personal limits to what could be and what is His agenda.

Opportunities abound. No matter where we live, there are people to love and there are ways in which we can best express that love. The context may be different; language, theology, and the age and stage of church may all be different, but there are always people to love.

No matter where we are in the world prayer is a common language. It unites us and it takes into account all the aspects of our particular context. I have always been impressed by the depth of prayer amongst the people I have worked with overseas, the deep intercession, all night vigils, fasting, and their faith in the God of miracles. Not always as evident in our contemporary self-indulgent kiwi culture.

Both overseas and local mission is about building relationships. It is about listening to God's heart and being intentional about creating an environment for people to come to know the Son of God, to help people grow and be encouraged in their walk with Jesus, and for us to model what it is to be Christ-like. All we are and do needs to weave through God's love for the world.



Heather Simpson
Mission Support Manager

MISSION IS PARTICIPATING IN THE FLOW OF GOD'S LOVE TO THE WORLD.

MISSION MISCONCEPTIONS

So Andrew, what do you think is the most serious mission misconception?

As people we all face similar problems. One of the major misconceptions is that we all face the problems in the same way. In Mission we still can tend to lean towards the colonialist side of things where we might go to a poorer place and try to change and fix everything, when we haven't actually stopped to engage with the people. So I would say that one of the most common mission misconception happens when we turn mission into a set of objectives, rather than it being about people.

Ok so when is a mission trip not a mission trip?

There is a famous concept in Missiology (the science of mission) that "if everything is mission then doing nothing is mission". So we really need to be specific about what actually is mission. The simple answer would be Mission is all about giving, tourism is all about taking. It's not mission when we: gatecrash the party; when we prioritise our needs over the recipients; when it becomes more about the project than the people, etc. Things like that rob the point of mission. We can start to view the people as objects to conquest our plans over them rather than see them as real human beings. If you go to a country on a trip for two weeks and return no more knowledgeable about the people then you have missed the main point of mission.

What, then, does good mission look like?

Good mission has its starting point in understanding that we are all equals in the sight of God. Another definition of mission is that it's just one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread. So the best word in order to understand mission is friendship because we all know the wonderfulness of friendship. Good mission looks simply like someone filling a real need with a relationship with the people at the heart of it all.

But do I need to preach the gospel on a mission trip?

The old quote "Preach the gospel at all times - and use words when necessary" says a lot about mission, but I believe that it needs to be said as well. I think the essential core of mission is proclaiming the love of Jesus in words to accompany our actions. There are many people doing good deeds but the thing that makes it mission is that we're carrying the love of Christ.

Andrew Bell continues to inspire and challenge us all in his role as Global Mission Enabler for the National Church. St Andrews Otahuhu is also inspired and continuously challenged to grow with Andrew also based there as the minister.



Good mission has its starting point in understanding that we are all equals in the sight of God.

introducing → GLOBAL YOUTH



GLOBAL EMILY

There's another exciting development in the GMO office this year.... the first ever GMO intern:

GMO intern, that's me... 'Global Emily'. If someone had told me half way through last year that I was going to be living in Auckland for 2007, I would have laughed and said "no way" ! I have always wanted to be involved in mission at some stage in my life. I was keen to take a year out after school and do something different before I went to university, a type of GAP year. So then, a country girl from Darfield (a small town in Canterbury) ends up moving to Auckland in order to fulfill God's call. I had to say 'goodbye' to quiet, open spaces and 'bring it on' to crowds of people and traffic!

I am 18 years old, just out of Secondary School. I went to Rangi Ruru Girls' School in Christchurch and Middleton Grange for my primary school. I grew up spiritually in a little, country Presbyterian Church, the Malvern Co-operating Parish but during Secondary School I attended the Spreydon Baptist Church in Christchurch because they had a really encouraging youth group.

I am the first intern at the Global Mission Office, which is pretty exciting. While I work for GMO, I am also studying towards a Certificate in Applied Theology at Carey Bible College, Penrose, and will be working in the Ohahuhu community with various art programs for youth to get involved in. At the end of the year I am hoping to serve in mission overseas myself.

I'm looking forward to a great year of growth and learning more about Jesus while helping and encouraging others where I can.

Emily

The Global Mission Office is committed to getting young people overseas. For the last eight months Josh Firth has headed up the Global Youth Project jointly funded by PSDS and the GMO. Josh explains what he was able to achieve now that the project has come to an end.

What was the Project?

I have worked full time at the Global Mission Office dedicated to youth mission. We called it 'Global Youth'. It means I was dedicated to seeing momentum grow in my generation for Global Mission.

So what do you do?

My job was to get young people enthusiastic about mission as well as help create youth mission trips and opportunities. This involved anything from creating brochures and speaking at youth camps. A lot of work is needed to get the message out to young people.

What's different about Global Youth?

The most unique thing about Global Youth is that it's tailor-made for you. We take a "what-is-your-youth-group-passionate-about" attitude rather than trying to fit you into an existing project mould. Because of this we are way more flexible than other mission organisations, and of course we're Presbyterian! The Global Mission Office is part of the national church and exist solely to support the Presbyterian & Uniting youth around the nation. That means we'll look after you...

So what are the plans?

Already with Project07 we have several trips planned for this year. Movements are in place to see a trip from the southland region to Zambia, and a Dunedin trip to Malawi is also on the go. As well as these new initiatives, we would like to see new groups go to Taiwan, Vanuatu and Jamaica. We're encouraging follow up trips to Nepal and Myanmar. We want to continue and grow stronger relationships with global contacts and partner with them in the good work that is happening in their part of the world. Another exciting project has been organising a PCANZ hosted youth conference for CWM Pacific region churches. The delegates will be attending Connect07 as part of their time here, so do make them feel welcome!

Anyone can go on any of these trips, and they are all subject to gathering a minimum group of 5 people from around NZ- so if any of these places interest you, please contact the GMO. Now is good!!

Email: globalyouth@xtra.co.nz



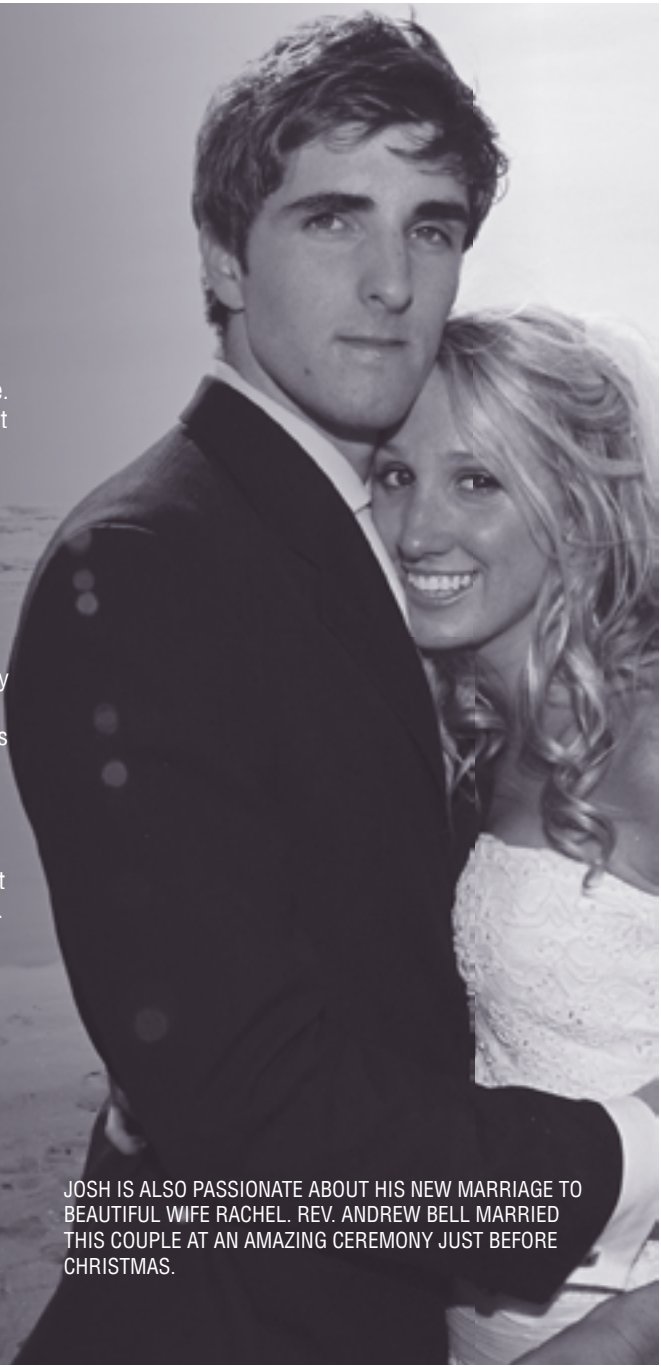
Passionate People

Passion is something that for a while now my generation seems to have lost. Our cultural identity as the youth of New Zealand can sometimes seem limited to standing to sing the national anthem only while the All Blacks do it, and having a mobile phone attached to our hands permanently. I hear stories of a generation before me that stood at rugby games too, like the 1981 Springbok tour. But that generation stood for a different reason. They were standing for equality and justice. It makes me wonder what our generation will be remembered for. Will it be remembered for continuing to carry the batten handed down to us? Or will we be the generation that isn't really remembered at all? A laid back generation that spends all of it's time floating from one thing to another, lacking conviction in anything.

Not if I can help it. Not my generation. I think it's time we get our passion back. I mean, it's not like racist apartheid in South Africa was the last injustice left in the world and now that that's ended we have no reason to care about what's going on. With Fair Trade, the Make Poverty History campaign, a better worldwide network of communication, and the accessibility of places that had been so closed before- the world has never been more ready for change. I want to be a part of a generation taking up our heritage as passionate people and taking ownership of the fight against the injustices around the world, our world. Actually I believe that mission is not just a nice idea that we can get involved in, but a call, a commission that Jesus himself gave us and the church that neglects it is the church that is missing its heart, a church that is dying.

PYM is taking up that call and over the past few years there has been a new wave of energy in mission developing. That's why I am so excited about the new things that are happening at the GMO. Rev Andrew Bell has been the Global Mission Enabler for nearly 5 years now and has been really encouraged by how our youth has been taking up the call. But he believes it's only just the beginning and continues to see great potential in the emerging generation. I have experienced great enthusiasm and I believe that youth mission can take off like never before.

Josh Firth



JOSH IS ALSO PASSIONATE ABOUT HIS NEW MARRIAGE TO BEAUTIFUL WIFE RACHEL. REV. ANDREW BELL MARRIED THIS COUPLE AT AN AMAZING CEREMONY JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

“injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.” MLK JR

MISSION FOR ME

I have found that the ability to understand the true sense of the word mission coincides with how I have learnt to understand the great quote from Martin Luther King Jr. He said quite simply that “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.”

Mission for me has become about a strong sense of connection between me and all the people of the world. It is a statement to the people around me that the indescribable acts of injustice are quintessentially my problems, whether or not they are anybody else's. Mission work is therefore primarily about understanding. I have discovered through my missionary trips to Haiti and Tahiti in the past that missionary work is not about turning up to a foreign country proclaiming that I have all the answers. Nor is it about telling people what to do because I feel like I have some righteous agenda. Both of these philosophies are hurtful to how I am able to get along with people around me, and is a sure way to be humbled by the intelligence and wisdom of the people in these countries.

This brings me to the second reason why I venture off to distant and at times very dangerous countries. That is, I aim to enter into relationship with the communities that we come across, hopefully with the goal of empowering them to be able to make better decisions for themselves and their communities. This is the heart of mission work! I am comforted by the life and actions of Jesus, and the way he was able to live these values to a standard that I will forever be reaching for. Jesus was an ultimate proclaimer of justice and was in essence willing to give his life to this cause. He was the man who refused to partake in meaningless tradition. He kicked the money changers over in the temples, he touched the untouchables. He healed people on the day of rest. Jesus was a man of mission; continually engaging in relationship in the most unnatural situations. I believe that it is missionary work that allows someone to really find truth because God is found most naturally through service. My trip to Nepal and Burma this summer gave me the most amazing opportunity to experience relationship, community, and a fight for justice in solidarity with my brothers and sisters who live on this earth with me. It is this that makes all the saving, the organisation, and the long bus rides over dirt roads in hot temperatures worth every moment. Missionary work is one of the greatest privileges that I have been given, and it's not just a window into another perspective, it is an experience that I could never let pass!

Geoff Cooper

Geoff was part of a team that went to Nepal and Myanmar (Burma) through the GMO this summer. With him were 2 others from St Lukes, Remuera - Andrew Colgan, Sophie Parnham and also Andrew Johnston from St Johns in Wellington. They spent 3 weeks in Nepal with an organization called Hope for the Nations. After that they spent a further 3 weeks in Myanmar, with most of their time spent at Tahan Bible College.





Mo and Kirk Morgan were in Africa for three months with the help and support of the Pressie Global Mission Office. They visited Global Mission Office projects and got their hands dirty as well as travelling in Kenya, Zambia, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Thailand.

Mo reflects on their experiences in Kenya...

Reflections From Africa

So what stood out to us?

While there was much that was different, there was much common ground. We sing the same songs, and through our conversations, we realised that there are many issues that are the same for young people in Kenya as in New Zealand. The Presbyterian Church is alive and well in Kenya. When people heard that we are involved in the Presbyterian Church, it opens the door to many new conversations.

We went hoping to have an experience where we might come to better understand global inequality and how we might respond. We have seen and heard much which has given us things to think about. At a prayer meeting in Nairobi, a man spoke of a recent trip to Sudan, where there are no roads, no water, but landmines aplenty, and many many needs. A comment that really stood out to us from what he said: He explained that the common experience for the Sudan people of Western Non-Governmental Organisation's is that they come, make promises, take photos and leave. He urged that there is a real need for Christians to bring a holistic, integrated approach to development.

One of the things that stood out to us (that we would change if we could) is that many 'working class' people leave school at the end of primary school as there is no money for them to continue on to high school - so for many, they're taken out of the running to do anything beyond manual or domestic labour at a young age. This is the case for many of the \$6 a week labourers on the building site. We talked with Katherine, one of the workers at the retreat centre, about some of the needs in the community and the lack of social workers in the area to follow them up. We couldn't help thinking, she'd be brilliant as a social worker in the area and when we suggested this to her, she said she would need to finish school and then do another course - and this wasn't really possible with her needing to provide for her family.



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Taiwanese in Town

Taiwan: known by the Taiwanese as the “sweet potato” for its kumara shaped coastal outline, I confess that before last year I might have assumed it to be like just like any Asian country. But when 6 young people from the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan landed in Auckland early November last year my perspective of the small country off the coast of China was radically changed.

They were a group of young people whose dynamic presence exploded into every place I took them and left me with the sinking realization that it was us who received the greater blessing to have hosted them.

They delightfully burst into cultural song and dance at every opportunity and had my sides often aching from laughter at their witty sense of humour. So it was my pleasure to give them a ‘real kiwi experience’ of culture, relationship and activities. Over 10 days we engaged in everything from learning songs at the Kids Club at St Andrews, Otahuhu, to horse riding, kayaking and sharing meals with the local Taiwanese churches, St Heliers and Te Aka Puaho in Ohope. And, of course, the journey would not have been complete without taking countless photographs of each new experience and everything that moved.

Taiwan’s political situation at the moment is a half-a-century-long tale of international rejection. Despite this, I found the Taiwanese youth to be inspiring in their love for God and their continual zest for adventure, but especially in their warmth towards everyone they met. It seemed that every

time I had turned around they had made friends with yet another stranger behind a sales desk, or random person on the street!

But after an only too short visit they left with the invite lingering for any NZ youth that care to respond to the friendship they so generously offered us. I hope to see a youth trip boarding the plane for their direction in the not too distant future.

Josh Firth

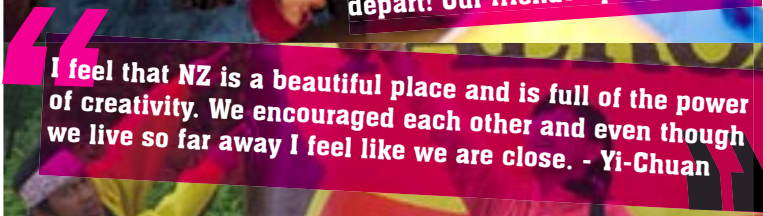
This CWM funded visit was the first major project Josh worked on in his new role as Global Youth Manager. A return trip is planned for June/July when kiwis will attend the CWM ‘Training in Mission’ Conference hosted by the Taiwanese Presbyterian Church.



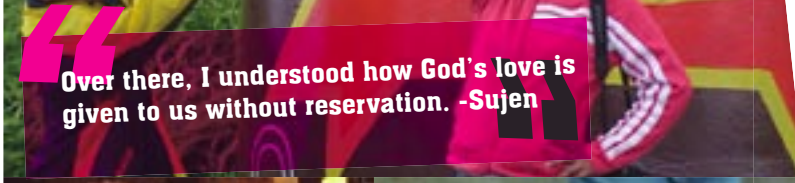
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My eyes were not only opened by seeing this colourful culture, but also by experiencing the love among different people. At first we were total strangers but by the end we were unwilling to depart! Our friendship happened so naturally! - Yinting



I feel that NZ is a beautiful place and is full of the power of creativity. We encouraged each other and even though we live so far away I feel like we are close. - Yi-Chuan



Over there, I understood how God's love is given to us without reservation. - Sujen



it was a pleasure to give them a real Liwi experience of culture, relationship and activities.



It was such a time of inspiration. I was encouraged to serve the Lord. - Hsiang-wei



music

GET UP STAND UP, by PBS: Documentary looking at the rise of anthems and the movements associated with them - www.pbs.org/getupstandup

THE NEXT: An innovative resource for youth workers which covers a NZ impression of Hip Hop expression - www.thenext.org.nz

MUSIC FOR CHANGE, by the Global Education Centre: fantastic new Global Bits resource available by calling or emailing them for a copy (04) 472 9549 or community@globaled.org.nz

BRING CHANGE, by Shapeshifter: one of my favourite songs by NZ legends

ONE GIRL REVOLUTION, by Supachick

movies

ROMERO - A true story about a man who spoke out against a savage dictatorship that massacred hundreds of thousands.

ROBOTS – great cartoon with fantastic messages on individual value, purpose & gifts as well as the bigger issues of consumerism and recycling

HOTEL RWANDA & BLOOD DIAMOND – powerful films that have stirred a tangible response towards these issues facing Africa, but impacting people worldwide.

websites

<http://prodigal.typepad.com/>

<http://www.tonycampolo.org/>

<http://www.sojo.net/>

www.changemakers.net

<http://persecutedchurch.blogspot.com/2006/06/when-is-mission-trip-not-mission-trip.html>

www.changemakers.org.uk : great resources available on PDF. Check out the issues tree and impact matrix chart contained in the citizenship workshop.

www.pbs.org/thenewheroes : section on how to engage with material includes submitted stories, also lesson plans in the teacher section and printable development articles on the parents page all very user friendly.

www.presbyterian.org.nz/globalmission: Presy Global Mission Office

www.globaled.org.nz: Global Education Centre

www.justfocus.org.nz: Youth Focus for a just world

www.changemakers.org.nz: NZ changemakers

www.casi.org.nz: Churches Agency for Social Issues

www.cws.org.nz: Christian World Service

www.worldvision.org.nz: World Vision

www.tearfund.org.nz: Tear Fund

www.oxfam.org.nz: Oxfam

www.habitatnz.co.nz: Habitat for Humanity

MORE FUEL





recommended reading

RUMOURS OF ANOTHER WORLD, by Philip Yancey: A new perspective from a trusted writer that takes into account all life experiences.

THE SHAPING OF THINGS TO COME, by Michael Frost and Alan Hirsch: Innovative mission for the 21st century.

THE RAGAMUFFIN GOSPEL, by Brennan Manning: God loves you. But how well do you really know it?

THE BIBLE, BY GOD: Read the book of Luke followed by Acts.

BLESSED UNREST— How the Largest Movement in the World Came into Being and Why No One Saw It Coming by Paul Hawken (Viking 2007) ISBN 0670038520

GETTING TO MAYBE — How The World Is Changed by Frances Westley, Brenda Zimmerman and Michael Quinn Patton (Random House Canada 2006) ISBN 0-679-31443-1

THE IMPOSSIBLE WILL TAKE A LITTLE WHILE — A Citizen's Guide to Hope in a Time of Fear by Paul Rogat Loeb (Basic Books 2004) ISBN 0465041663

“A stirring collection of essays aimed at people who still want to believe that ordinary people can change the world.”
Atlanta Journal Constitution

“This inspiring collection is such a song of hope in these difficult times.”
Bonnie Raitt

books below all available from the presbyterian youth ministry library

Email: youth@presbyterian.org.nz

101 WAYS YOUR CHURCH CAN CHANGE THE WORLD, by Gordon Aeschliman & Tony Campolo (SOC-Aes): A guide to help Christians express the love of Christ to a needy world. Practical, simple and effective suggestions for outreach projects, and a 13-week lesson plan.

BEYOND THE GOOD SAMARITAN, by Ann Morisy (SOC-Mor): A practical look at how community ministry unites both social responsibility and active Christian mission to serve the basic needs of those around us.

BUILDING A BETTER WORLD, by Dave Andrews (SOC-And): About the importance of community, and how we can make our world a better place by caring for each other intentionally.

COMPASSIONATE KIDS, by Jim Hancock (SOC-Han): Practical tips for getting young people to make a difference in our world. Contains heaps of creative ideas for inspiring young people to serve.

IDEAS FOR SOCIAL ACTION, by Antony Campolo, Wayne Rice & Bill McNabb (SOC-Cam-1): A handbook on mission and service for Christian young people covering a range of ideas for social action.

NOT RELIGION BUT LOVE, by Dave Andrews (SOC-And-2): A book about how Christ's vision of 'a radical spirituality of compassion' can be put into practice in the communities we live in.



MORE FUEL

tala page
on

thailand

How old are you and what do you do?

22 - uni student and Kids Friendly Ministry Worker at St Andrew's Otahuhu. I look after things like Sunday school, youth group, and our Mainly Music outreach.

So you went on a mission trip over summer, where did you go and what did you do?

I went to Thailand to work along side Kathryn McDaniel with the prison ministry (outreach to foreign inmates) she leads.

Prison ministry? What did that involve?

I was absolutely blown away by how much Kathryn puts into this ministry! We'd visit the men's prison twice a week - to talk to foreign inmates with bars and glass separating us. During the visits we take orders for food or extras e.g. clothing, writing material; pass on messages they have for family, friends, or lawyers; and of course just talk. Afterwards we'd get inmates letters from a prison official and order their goods from the prison food store. Lots of prep goes into orders, admin, & finances. It was humbling to be able to help people that have lost so much.

Was it scary?

I thought going from children's ministry to prison ministry was going to be a huge jump but it really wasn't. I hit it off straight away with the inmates and it was huge to think I could bring some sort of happiness to their day. At first I hesitated to talk about the 'outside world' but that's what they hang out to hear about - gives them a sense of normality. Not once did I feel awkward to be in that kind of environment - concrete buildings, rusted bars, and filthy smells - I felt safe, actually.

What was the most memorable moment for you?

I have to share two! Being inside the men and women's prison for a special Christmas visit was mind-blowing! Huge contrasts though- a worship service going on inside an open-space area and on either side, small courtyards with inmates going about their normal routine. Christmas isn't really celebrated

in Thailand so for prison officials to grant us a special inside visit was a big deal. Another special moment for me was meeting a Maori lady who has been in the women's prison in Bangkok for over 11 years. To meet any Kiwi when you're overseas is such a buzz, but to meet in those kind of circumstances is unreal. No silent pauses during our 15-minute visit; talking about everything from Maori haka, growing up in South Auckland, to what she wants to do when she gets out. What an amazing blessing that she was released and is now back in NZ!

What was the biggest thing you learnt?

Being in a different country, away from my own familiarity tested my true character. It also made me realise how special Kiwi and Samoan culture really are and I am proud to be both. It allowed me to see God at work in my life. I realise my path is lit ever so brightly; I am excited that Christ is my guide. The biggest change has been to my course of study at uni - I've jumped from Sociology/Pacific Studies to Education. I can't wait to be a teacher!

What would you say to someone who was thinking about going on a mission trip?

Before you go, make sure you know why you're going and what you hope to achieve from it. Being in the thick of it, experiencing new things will probably change that purpose and goals; but you still need to hold on to it. The children and youth of my church were the driving force behind me going on this short-term experience; I wanted to be able to open their eyes to the world of service, whether it's local or global mission work.

Tala shared a few of her thoughts during her stay in Thailand by keeping a travel blog online. You can have a look at it: http://www.travelblog.org/Bloggers/St_Andrews_OTAHUHU/

