

Good afternoon Moderator and commissioners. Thank you for offering me this opportunity to share.

I pondered what I should share with you in 5 minutes and decided that I'd like to share something that is very much on my heart at the moment and has been for some time. And as I love to tell stories, I'm going to start with a story....



Imagine.....The excitement is building up in your house. You and your 8 year old son have a shared passion for rugby. Rugby watching is something you love to do together. You plan your week around those matches on TV EVERY Saturday night. But this Saturday is even better cos you've managed to procure tickets to Eden Park (or Forsyth Barr, the cake tin etc) to watch the All Blacks play the Springboks – the match of all matches! You are both immensely excited about this significant and shared experience awaiting you.

Finally the day arrives. You head off early to ensure you get a good parking place and when you present your tickets, the marshal at the gate asks you how old your son is. You tell him that he is 8 years old. He then tells you that your son will be ushered off to another part of the stadium, where the kids will all be gathering together. They will watch the game from there and be guided through the game by someone who knows a lot about rugby. The adults will be watching from the “adult zone”.

Is this the way we do it when we attend sporting events? No! We sit together, cheer together, learn together, lament together, abuse the ref together. We experience the game together. We share the experience together and we build significant memories together!

So why do we do church this way?



The church seasons offer wonderful opportunities to celebrate and worship together. And the Advent and Christmas season particularly lends itself to sharing rituals, traditions and stories in our families and our churches.

Kids Friendly has been dreaming and scheming about intergenerational worship. We have recently collaborated with Malcolm Gordon to bring you this resource. It's called **Worship Together: Advent**. It's the first of what we hope we will be a series of intergenerational worship resources to encourage and equip churches to include all ages in worship during our important church seasons. Pick one up from us at the Kids friendly table in the morning tea area upstairs or download it from our website and give it a go.

For 13 years Kids Friendly has advocated for children. Sometimes when we've shared the Kids Friendly vision with churches we're asked "*Why should our church be Kids Friendly, surely we should be all age friendly?*" "**Absolutely we should be all age friendly**, but sometimes we have ignored children and we need to correct that before we can be all age friendly." We need to bring children back into our midst like Jesus modelled to his disciples. We've made huge progress over the last 13 years. Very few churches now ask "*Why should we be Kids friendly?*"

Welcoming children into all aspects of our church life is becoming the norm for many of our churches and many are reporting a marked change in attitude towards children by most of their congregation. It's been suggested that many of our churches and even our denomination has experienced a culture change! So today we are in a perfect place to reclaim our Christian faith's intergenerational roots.

The secular world is releasing research findings and promoting the benefits of all ages doing life together. There was a wonderful item on TV3 a couple of weeks ago about an intergenerational sharing at a kindergarten in Pakaranga Auckland. It featured retired Presbyterian minister Rev Jim Battersby. Have a look at it on our Kids Friendly and the PCANZ facebook page.



We are one of the few organisations that can have up to 5 generations together under one roof at any time, so let's encourage our people to know each other, love each other and share faith together.

Being intergenerational does not mean doing a whole lot of different things. It means doing the things we already do differently.

Our vision is to see all ages to learn together, worship together, serve together, pray together and play together.

If this is a vision that resonates with you the Kids Friendly team is here to serve and resource you in this.

Thank you Moderator.