

Interns make a difference



Max Westropp of Dunedin's Knox Presbyterian Church is a Global Mission intern at the Korea Support Centre for Foreign Workers. He holds a souvenir from the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), a strip of land that serves as a buffer zone between North and South Korea.

A variety of internships are available throughout the Church. We look at just a few taking place during 2015.

Presbyterian Youth Ministry internships

The PYM Bachelor of Youth Ministry internship has been run for three years, and aims to ensure that young people in the Church are supported by youth ministry practitioners who are well trained theologically and practically.

On completion of the internship, which takes three years to finish, interns are awarded a Bachelor of Ministry and a Diploma in Presbyterian Youth Ministry.

Presbyterian Church national youth director Matt Chamberlin says, "I think the real strength of this internship is the additional support and community that we provide. Participants get to engage in additional learning experiences together - like a bicultural visit to our Church's marae in Ohope - and build up a real sense of community."

Past intern, Conrad Demmocks, says, "Having the support of other PYM interns throughout the country has been particularly epic. Not a week goes by without being in contact with at least one other, discussing our ministries and studies or just chatting about life."

Madeline Enright, who has completed the internship, decided to get involved because she was studying theology and wanted a practical and challenging way to utilise what she was learning. "My teenage years included a significant amount of change, and I wanted others to know the importance of Christ, especially in a time of change."

To find out more about the PYM internship, visit www.pym.org.nz

Global Mission intern

During his time at the Republic of Korea (PROK) migrant centre in Seoul, Max Westropp has seen how much difference one person can make.

The Dunedin Knox Presbyterian Church member was given the opportunity to travel overseas when a Global Mission Internship became available in May.

Max is working alongside Dr Haesung-Kim, the founding minister of the Korea Support Centre for Foreign Workers, which assists migrant workers with Korean language skills, medical services, and workers' advocacy.

For Max, witnessing how God works in this part of the world is eye opening. "It has inspired me to see what positive change I can make before my time is up on this earth."

Max is being pushed out of his comfort zone by some of the food and cultural differences, and advises future interns to travel with an open mind. "If you have any pre-dispositions or pre-judgements, your internship will not work out so well for you," he advises.

Thanks to Max's positive experiences in Korea, Global Mission coordinator the Rev Phil King hopes to make the Global Mission internship available to other young people.

Kids Friendly connections

During her ministry training, the Rev Silvia Purdie became involved in an informal internship where she spent a month working with Jill Kayser, the Church's national Kids Friendly coach.

After completing the internship, Sylvia was excited by what she had learned. "I believe that an internship is a marvellous opportunity to get involved 'boots and

all' in a different ministry context. It is a far more effective (and more biblical!) model of ministry training than sitting in a room doing seminars."

In 2013, Henriette Wentink from Westminster College at Cambridge University joined the Kids Friendly team for six weeks as an intern.

Her internship was a huge success and inspired Jill to begin an internship which would be available to Presbyterians who have an interest in sharing the Kids Friendly vision.

This year the first official Kids Friendly internship will be undertaken by John Schoneveld, a ministry student at the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership (KCML).

Waitara's effective disciples

Another intern programme, the Christian Leadership and Mission internship, is offered by Knox Presbyterian Church in Waitara.

The internship was the vision of Knox children, youth and families co-ordinator Jennie McCullough's late husband, and been running for three years. It aims to develop young people to become effective disciples of Christ.

Past intern, Lisa Parsons says, "By taking part in this internship I had the opportunity to grow in my faith and experience many different things.

"My highlight was travelling to different places around New Zealand to help other young people learn about Christ and leadership. This included running a Transformers camp in Ngaruawahia."

For more information on the Christian Leadership and Mission internship see www.waitara.org.nz

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