



Kia ora pastors' group convenors

Here is the Term 4 update, for possible reflection prior to your upcoming Term 4 pastors' group meetings.

As a reminder, this is sent to just one or two people from each geographic city/town pastors' group we are aware of.

Its purpose is to remind and highlight various things for our cities and towns that are easily overlooked otherwise.

(i) In the calendar

(ii) Re spheres of influence

(iii) Re 'in unison strategies' - where we can unite in goals - which we apply our own way to generate broader long-term (cultural) effects.

(iv) Some articles for thought and reflection to conclude.

As an idea - because there is plenty here, as you read scribble short notes on things that stand out to you. This can help you find simple, sensible and timely things to bring to your upcoming 2 or 3 pastors' group meetings.

We hope this is useful and encouraging.

Looking to all God can yet do

Dave Mann

(i) In the calendar

Term 4 (October to December, 2022) - key opportunities to

To look back first

Possible brief discussion:

- How did Marriage Week go?
 - What are we each doing to support marriages in our churches and community?
 - Any highlights from the 'Forum on the Family'?
 - All sessions from 'Forum on the Family 2023' can be viewed on their YouTube channel [here](#).
 - NZ Christian Congress
 - For those who went - you heard perspectives and stories about what God is doing in NZ from about 50 Christian leaders. Any highlights? / What stood out for you?
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Term 4, 2022

Two things of note in the calendar. (1) Christmas, (2) Discussing your vision for 2024.

In the following section we consider some 'spheres of influence'. You'll note there is cross-over between these.

1. Christmas" - In Term 4 we naturally look at how we might represent Christ in our cities and towns at Christmas.

Where part 2 of this email goes wider, 'Hope Project Christmas' stands out as a very *simple* idea of note on the calendar.

'Hope Project Christmas' -

- is about the idea of God's people COLLABORATING across cities and nationally to encourage every possible Christian individual, church, business and combined church group to do something **creative** to return **nativity scenes** (and much-loved **Christmas carols**) to view, to keep the CHRIST in CHRISTMAS in our communities and nation.



We do this recognising...

- ...the nativity story naturally arises from a nativity display,
- ...if we don't keep the 'Christ' in 'Christmas' no-one will do it for us,
- ...and Christmas carols are the most loved of all Christian songs by the public!

A myriad of ideas have been collated at AllTogether.co.nz/Christmas including resources, video links and much more.

Please promote this simple vision to your congregation.

Please promote this single 'resource page' to your congregation - so we can all take ideas from one another, while 'lifting Jesus up'!

Consider...

- Floats in parades / Billboards by roadside
- Displays at churches - on roofs - on home lawns
- Displays and window decal in business windows
- Children's nativity hunt - finding hidden nativities in shops
- Christmas carols on the truck - in the carpark - up town - by the water... ...in the Retirement village, at the Rest Home, at school, bilingually with local Iwi.
- Fun community Christmas carol gatherings with songs, fun and short stories
- ...and much more

2. Late in Term 4 many will naturally begin to plan for Term 1, 2024

Here are some possible starting questions - for if you did have a November 'brain storm' for 2024:

The font below is deliberately small.

Copy and paste for your own use if desired.

Relevant planning to Term 1

1. February - Waitangi: *Will churches be present / involved in Waitangi gatherings / events with the wider community? Other hopes / goals?*

2. February/March - Hope Project Easter and the delivery / prayer walk: *Will churches unite again to pray through their communities while also getting the new Hope Project gospel booklet to many homes in unison with believers nation-wide? (Note: Easter is early in 2024 - leaving a shorter timeline for preparation).*

- Any other vision for a united endeavour at Easter?

Wider planning with a view to the year

3. United prayer? What patterns would you like amongst yourselves - and your churches - and your members (with others in their work places/schools) in 2024?

4. In support of youth groups? What could you do to enhance the unity of youth leaders and strength of outreach amongst youth - to see youth united in prayer and action in their schools, with combined youth events strengthening things?

5. Wider hopes and goals together for your city/town?

(Too busy to achieve more? Consider the article, 'Principles for managing agenda in pastors' groups' - which is chapter 14 of 'In One Spirit, found [HERE](#) - **Chapter 14, Pg 195**. A culture of basic intentionally can yield fruit. Like with anything new, the first year establishing the new thinking patterns and basic practices is the hardest).

(ii) Spheres of influence

Goal: To discover and enhance engagement by churches with the community.

The idea: A simple 'discovery discussion' - covering 2 to 3 areas each quarter (and therefore all 'spheres of influence' across each year).

- These conversations can yield significant fruit by way of what they catalyse.
- Don't have to take long - and that's only once a quarter (one month every three - to have VISION from your own pastors in the room).

TERM FOUR FOCUS AREAS:

1. Christmas - There is no limit to the creativity you can engage with in your community.

- As a starting point, what are churches, their members, Christians in business, Launchpad (Bible in Schools) volunteers in schools etc... already doing?
- As above, the idea of 'Hope Project Christmas' could then help everyone to get creative - to engage around the story of Christ Jesus.

2. Media and creative arts - How are God's people engaging in these spaces locally?

3. Thanksgiving for the year that has been - Term 4 is an appropriate time to thank (1) God together in prayer for all he has done in your churches and city this past year, and also (2) people in your churches who made a difference.

- Who could your pastors pass some 'thanks' and encouragement on to, to encourage people and groups who've served your city well this year?
- Idea: Each share 'success stories' in your own churches of things some of these volunteer workers have done in your city in your congregations.
 - This encourages a united perspective.
 - This increases vision for serving God in the city.

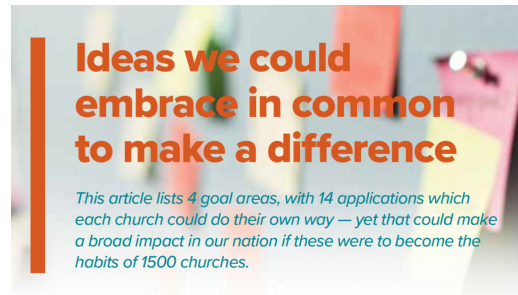
**When we hear what others are doing for Christ in our cities,
it makes us bolder!**

(iii) 'In unison' strategies

Unity is about working smarter - not harder

About

It's easier to unite in goals which we apply our own way than in specific programmes that require uniformity and additional effort.



HABITS we can embrace *within the scope of what we already do* can enable us to have a broad impact *together* - by way of creating common CULTURE and practice in and through our churches.

For example, what if in 20 years...

1. Our core messages were still being heard — despite cultural hostilities
2. Our members were better equipped to engage difficult conversations
3. Our members were engaging with increased cultural wisdom, knowledge and story
4. The Church as a whole was also stronger in prayer?

Simple habits we could all embrace to achieve these goals together can be viewed as a print-ready magazine article [here](#).

- There is significance to reminding church leaders of these simple habits because it can enable multiplication and a broad cultural effect.
- Through this we create the *context* from which new leaders for city and national level engagement will arise!

Below the 'sign-off' you will find some articles/resources.

The next update will be mid-January, prior to the start of Term 1, 2024.

We pray this is useful.

Looking to all God can yet do
Dave Mann

(iv) For thought and refection - related to unity

Roy Crowne - strategic engagement with pastors in eight of our nation's cities and towns

Roy Crowne is the initiator of 'HOPE Together UK', which connected churches together in 1500 separate regions of the UK in 2008. The movement has grown since then - and other unity movements out of it.



In September, Roy visited NZ and spent time with gatherings of pastors in the Kapiti, Wellington, Masterton, Invercargill, Rotorua, Cambridge and Tauranga (Tauranga meeting hosted at Holy Trinity in picture).

In a couple of weeks we will interview Roy, to give him opportunity to share from his heart a word of encouragement with us - reflecting upon his experiences here in New Zealand and what he saw - as someone with a notably broad experience-base in the unity space.
> So... ...interview with Roy - coming soon!

MEASURING EFFECTIVENESS: A tool for your city/town pastors' group

Roger Sutton works amongst pastors' groups in the UK.

This video (click the image) introduces a framework for measuring how you are doing as churches together - for your city.



- Handout / diagram 1 - [here](#)
 - Handout / diagram 2 - [here](#)
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5 Key Trends in Church Unity - by Ian Shelton (for NZ)



As a repeat from one of our NZ pastors' group convenors zoom meetings last year: Ian Shelton (One Heart, Australia) shared this message.

- Video is via the image (click it)
- Points summarised below.

About Ian

Ian is a highly respected networker, with decades of credential behind him, who - amongst many things, was part of an amazing move of God in the city of Toowoomba, Australia.

5 Key Trends - by Ian Shelton (Video [here](#))

As I've observed and built relationships with leaders in towns and cities across the English-speaking world, 5 Key Trends are emerging that are characteristics of City Gospel Movement.

- 1. The City is a Gift** - The church is seeing the city with fresh eyes - as a gift to humanity for its flourishing. The church is also seeing the city as its responsibility.
- 2. Structure and Strategy** - Deepening relationships between leaders is resulting in resources being devoted to strategic engagement with the community. Gospel Movement needs structure.
- 3. Diverse Leadership Teams** - Not only pastors but para-church leaders, younger leaders and female leaders reflecting a broader mix of gifting.
- 4. Civic Engagement** - The church is seeing the importance of relating to politicians, business and social leaders. Developing a single point of contact is crucial for effective communication with civic leaders.
- 5. The Harvest is in the Pain** - The church is hearing the cry of the oppressed and marginalised. In seeking to heal the pain of the city there will be a harvest.

OTHER UNITY RESOURCES FROM THE SLT++

For pastors' groups:

<https://alltogether.co.nz/pastorsgroups/>

Messages / Q&A related to pastors' groups:

<https://alltogether.co.nz/unitymessages/>

FB page for city pastors' groups, from the Shining Lights Trust:

'Mahi Ngatahi (working together)':

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/359827991384316>

FB page for city pastors' groups, from 'City by City':

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/315797175097647>

Book on unity: Free download of Dave's book

'In One Spirit' - free pdf - [here](#)

Book on unity: Free download of Colin Shaw's book

'A House for His Glory' - free pdf - [here](#)
