



Kia ora pastors' group convenors

Here is the Term 2 quarterly update – sent to only one or two people from each geographic city/town to remind and highlight various things for our cities and towns nationally.

Please take from it, for your meetings, whatever you feel God's Spirit prompts you to.

- (i) In the calendar**
- (ii) Spheres of influence (encouragement of an intentional quarterly discussion)**
- (iii) In unison strategies**
- (iv) For thought and reflection (articles)**

We hope this is useful.

Looking to all God can yet do
Dave Mann

(i) In the calendar

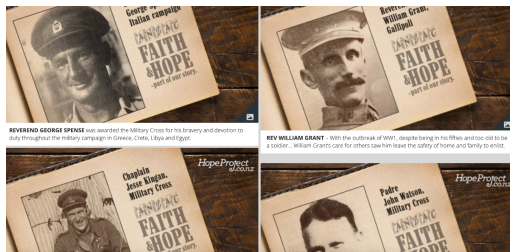
Term 2 - key opportunities to steward together

REVIEW: Easter - How did various outreaching efforts and services go? How did involvement with Hope Project go? How did any intentional annual conversational outreach equipping of members or youth go?

From Hope Project: We note the below graphic, which you can click for more information if you are not aware already. Thank you.

It is true — all supplies of this 'butterfly' booklet are to go in the recycling please.

We did not have rights of use for an image in it.
This is unfortunately necessary.
We ask for your trust and compliance.
For more click this image or freely contact us.



COMING UP:

APRIL: ANZAC (Tuesday 25 April, 2023)

Many churches enjoy opportunities in this season. Opportunities need stewarding well in view of the continuing wider cultural trend toward removing all Christian references from cultural festivals / holidays.

MAY 2024:

'The Send Experience Tour'

Please stay up to date with this national effort - targeting youth, young adults and 'young working age' to inspire a life of service to God.



To quote from 'The Send' team:

We are so excited to announce **The Send Experience Tour!**

We're blessed to be joined by **Francis Chan** (Crazy Love) & **Andy Byrd** (The Send) and together we would love to invite you to an evening gathering of worship and activation in a city near you:

- **Wellington** - Mon 13 May at the TSB Arena
- **Christchurch** - Tue 14 May at the Town Hall
- **Tauranga** - Thu 16 May at Holy Trinity
- **Auckland** - Fri 17 May at LIFE Central
- **Hamilton** - Sat 18 May at Gateway

These events are ticketed and selling very quickly. thesend.org.nz

SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER, 2024

'The Send' Event, Mystery Creek, Hamilton

\$30pp Registration open thesend.org.nz

MAY:

'GO Month' internationally

This continues as the largest united outreach mobilisation in history - being bigger each year since its inception in 2012, while generally not being that large in the West.



- GO Train (Last Saturday of April)
- GO Pray (At the start of May),
- GO Month (May)
- GO Day (Last Saturday in May - timed for Pentecost).

2024:

- There is no formal planned activity for GO Month in NZ this year.
- A 'GO Train' online event with evangelists bringing focused 15min equipping is planned for later in the year. These will be made available to churches later in the year amongst other local church outreach equipping resources found at globaloutreachday.com.au.

'Everyone can reach someone; together we can reach the world.'

JULY

'Forum on the Family'

4th & 5th July Save the date.

Details are available [here](#) or via the image - including an amazing line up of very smart speakers!



JULY:

Matariki - Friday 28th July

How could this be an opportunity?
How can we engage - noting pagan spiritual components are a part of this for some?

Our 2022 'intro to Matariki for pastors', which includes reference to various people's contributions, can be viewed [here](#). How could we learn in?

JULY - SEPTEMBER

'Thinking Matters' conferences

Thinking Matters is a NZ-based 'reasons' (apologetics) ministry. In 2024 they have six conferences.



The importance: This ministry focuses on serving NZ churches *in what is known to be the primary area behind the continuing high numbers of young adults leaving our churches*. Many would agree our NZ churches have undervalued discussion on rational reasons for believing our faith to be true, and to our own detriment. Thinking Matters exists to help us change that.

2024 Conferences

- Dunedin 19-20 July
- Tauranga 26-27 July
- Christchurch 16-17 August
- Auckland 23-24 August
- Hamilton 20-21 September
- Wellington 27-28 September

Quality speakers - including some well known names in apologetics globally:

- Dr Melissa Cain Travis (USA)
- Brendan Malone (NZ)
- Greg Koukl (USA)
- Alisa Childers (USA)
- Mary Jo Sharp (USA)
- Matthew Mittleburg (USA)

Weblink: <https://conference.thinkingmatters.org.nz/>

Note: Monthly 'apologetics nights' now also happen (by various names) in numerous cities to reinforce the faith of your young and old.

(ii) Spheres of influence

The encouragement:

The HABIT of a quarterly 'discovery discussion' for 15 to 30min embraced within each pastors' group, to learn of initiatives being undertaken by the wider body of Christ in two important areas each quarter - while noting any relevant upcoming seasonal opportunities.

The question: What are our churches and people doing in this area, in our city?

The strategic benefit for the united Church: Having discovered the scope of what is happening via churches and their people, we *celebrate* it, *encourage* it, *promote* it, *leverage* it, thereby *enhancing* it, maybe *expanding* it, maybe better *resourcing* it, while maybe *collaborating* more in it - or *innovating* in gaps we then discover - while certainly *praying blessing* on it together.

TERM TWO FOCUS:

1. Local and national government

Who are the key players from amongst God's people in your city and province who connect with these leaders locally to encourage, represent to, pray for and support them? What are they doing?

2. Recreational and sporting activities and clubs

Many sporting activities kick off for winter in Term 2. What is happening or could be happening where God's people are somehow engaged in a representative role - being present?

- Note Sports Chaplaincy ([here](#)) - maybe at this point also asking about other forms of chaplaincy - to know what is happening (Retirement homes, Hospital, Work place, Schools).
- Note other clubs / connection points for our churches also like [BB/Icons](#), church-based Scouts groups, [Girls Brigade](#), [Girls and Boys Rally](#) - or after school programmes, craft clubs, men's 'sheds' - and more.
- Who are the key people? What are the needs?

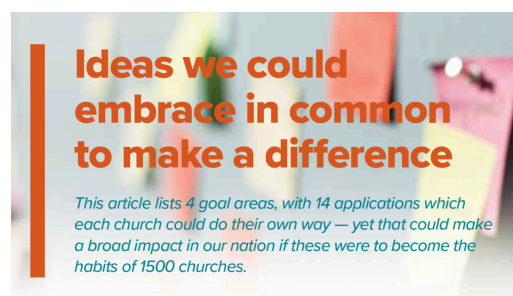
Discussion - Encourage - Pray

(iii) 'In unison' strategies

Working smarter - rather than harder

The most effective unity efforts will be those in which we unite in common goals *rather than specific methodologies*.

This approach to unity is about releasing each church to pursue a common shared goal their own way - knowing this can catalyse change on a broad (national) platform.



To remind of our core examples, 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?

Here are 14 habits through which our churches could catalyse change in these four goal areas - together - while each doing it their own way!

Printable format [here](#) (Or a blog without design [here](#)).

Sometimes it's the simple things that count the most.

Some articles are below.

The next updates will be sent prior to the start of Term 3.

Looking to all God can yet do

Dave Mann

(Director - Shining Lights Trust)

AllTogether.co.nz/pastorsgroups

(iv) Thought and reflection related to unity and the desired augmenting of culture

In city engagement information precedes action

15min interview with Mark Cowling (Gather Movement UK)

This video is passed to us via Ian Shelton - Australia.

Mark's role is 'Social Action Coordinator' in the unity space of his region in the UK.



From the interview: *"The local mayor said, "The church does some great things - it's laudable (praiseworthy), but its not very strategic and it could be more ambitious."*

Their vision together: ...is to 'put their heads above the parapet' to consider the wider picture - to improve the ways the churches engage. (Communication - coordination - collaboration).

An interesting point made: Information gathered re what churches are doing *is a foundation for united effort*, because it helps us to see who we are and what we are

doing TOGETHER, rather than only individually. Only from there can we see the gaps - while also enhancing practical collaboration / cohesion because of this new awareness we have of what we are all doing.

View the 15min interview [here](#) / via the image.

How is the strength or health of our unity to be measured?

Is it by the fact that we do meet together and get on well? Is it that we can stand together - uniting in prayer? Or might the higher measure be our ability to work together when it counts - or what of an even higher idea that the greater goal is *the release of our members to unite together* to enable a far more multi-faceted engagement within our city?

AllTogether.co.nz/measuringunity



The Royal Inquiry into Abuse in Care - and our churches

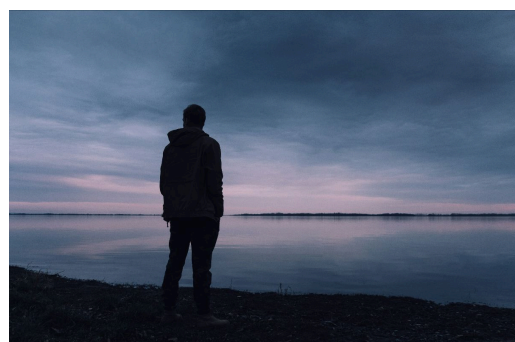
Update:

"Cabinet has agreed to a short extension to the final reporting timeframe for the Royal Commission into Abuse in Care from 28 March 2024 to 26 June 2024, Internal Affairs Minister Brooke van Velden says."

Information already passed on is below.

The 'Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in (State and Church) Care' was a good thing - needed - but also very unfortunate for our reputation.

How can we respond wisely when 'attacked'?



This article was written to give some simple pointers - the idea being that ALL believers be prepared for this, so we all respond wisely into the future.

AllTogether.co.nz/abuseincare

Storytelling - a strategy for restoring the spiritual consciousness of a nation

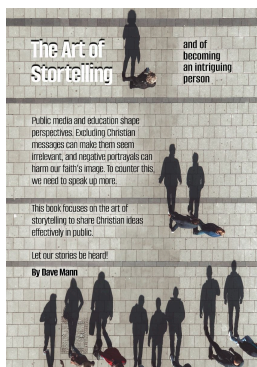
When a people are cut off from their history they are easily manipulated. What then of the fact that we NZers are generally cut off from our history? Even in the Church most of us know very little of the stories of our own heritage that explain how we became one of the most free, prosperous, equality-based and charitable nations on the planet - as also in all of human history.



Those who tell the history write the future. If Christianity is of no value to us as a nation, its voice and influence will be removed. But that isn't at all the case historically!

The way forward therefore involves engaging in, supporting and also creating a multitude of platforms for intelligent storytelling in the public square - while starting with a recognition that we must first become informed on this ourselves, and then also our members.

AllTogether.co.nz/storytelling



A free online book on 'storytelling and Christian witness'

"The Art of Storytelling - and of becoming an intriguing person", by Dave Mann

This is a very simple book - with some simple but hopefully useful points.

Free online as a PDF - or as an audio book (2 hours)

AllTogether.co.nz/rationalfaith

For pastors' groups:

alltogether.co.nz/pastorsgroups/

Messages / Q&A related to pastors' groups:

alltogether.co.nz/unitymessages/

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

'Mahi Ngatahi (working together)':

facebook.com/groups/359827991384316

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

facebook.com/groups/315797175097647

Free download of Dave's book on unity

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

Free download of Colin Shaw's book on unity

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