



### Kia ora pastors' group convenors

Here is the Term 4 update, with various updates or ideas that could aid momentum or direction for upcoming pastors' group meetings.

- As a reminder, this is sent to one or two people from each geographic city/town pastors' group.
- If you want to add other local pastors to the group receiving this in your city/town, just let us know.

You will know there is sometimes quite a lot of information in some of these updates. God's Church is big.

- We encourage note-taking.
- Communication lines are foundational to *functionality* in unity.
- It is a sign of health that many are initiating things - while each group facilitator needs to sift and discern what should be passed on / leveraged locally.

The purpose is to highlight city and national things that might be overlooked otherwise.

**(i) In the calendar**

**(ii) Re spheres of influence**

**(iii) Re 'in unison strategies' - uniting in common goals to catalyse national**

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**(iv) With unity articles to conclude.**

Looking to all God can yet do

Dave Mann

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## **(i) In the calendar**

**Term 4 (October to December, 2024)**

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### **To look back first**

**Possible revision re Term 3 activities:**

- How did Marriage Week go?
  - What are we each doing to support marriages in our churches and community?

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### **Key opportunities to steward together (Term 4)**

1. ***The Send*** (Event)
2. Christmas (General)
3. 2025

- Possible prayer/planning guide questions (General)
- Introducing '**Gather 25**' - 1st March (Encouraged event)
- Hope Project - no Easter booklet delivery in 2025 (General)

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### **1. The Send - 23 November at Mystery Creek**



**Please mark the date / promote**

Saturday 23rd November

Mystery Creek, Hamilton

Registration \$30pp

[thesend.org.nz](https://thesend.org.nz)

**For whom:**

- Certainly our youth and young adults
- But also anyone older still looking for inspiration regarding their greater purpose and calling in life.

### The purpose:

*"We are gathering to respond to the need of our generation. Thousands will come together on this day and be activated into their missional and evangelistic calling. The time of spectator Christianity is over and our simple obedience can change history."*

### After the event:

As participants respond to serve, with responses collected, they will be proactively fed back to their own communities and churches to find ways in which they could serve.

For your encouragement, a few thousand have already responded in various ways via regional meetings.

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## 2. Christmas

(i) How do you individually and collectively intend to represent Christ to your community this Christmas?

(ii) Please note the vision below of Hope Project Christmas (it may be different to what you imagine), with a wide range of resources and ideas collated to support your efforts via individuals, businesses, churches and churches together.

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### Hope Project Christmas

Consider: It was logically always going to be the role of Christians to keep the CHRIST in the cultural festival of CHRISTmas.



**This goal of Hope Project Christmas is not so much that churches put up nativity scenes, but more-so that all churches encourage their MEMBERS to take initiative.**

- This way the initiatives of tens of thousands can be activated.
- *This is how we impact culture and cultural perspectives together.*

*"The most significant impact of the united Church will come about when the members of various congregations are united with vision across a community - not merely their leaders."*

### Summary notes for promotion:

- The nativity story naturally arises from a nativity display.
- Christmas carols are the most loved of all Christian songs by the public.
- If we don't keep the 'Christ' in 'Christmas' no-one will do it for us.
- **Resource:** A myriad of ideas from NZ churches have been collated at [AllTogether.co.nz/Christmas](https://AllTogether.co.nz/Christmas) - including resources, video links and more.

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## 3. 2025 planning

*"A vision without a plan is a dream  
A plan without a vision is a drudgery  
A vision with a plan is a destiny."*

### Important notes re Term 1 2025

#### 1. There is no Hope Project booklet delivery in 2025.

- See explanation and options in the grey box just below.

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#### 2. 'Gather 25' ...is a globally united prayer event - 1st March 2025

##### About and why:

- A globally united prayer for a harvest.
- *"Every continent; every denomination; across 25 hours"*



**Contact for Oceania - including NZ:** Ps Sanjai Kandregula.

The below details are passed on from Sanjai.

**To summarise the vision:**

- "For the first time in history, technology will connect the global Church in ways that were never before possible and a gathering of this proportion is going to be monumental."
- "We're going to pray for the world and for each other, worship together, and hear how God is moving in His Church—everywhere. This is going to be an EPIC 25 hours like you've never seen. And we want you there!"

#### **To do what:**

- "Gather25 will be an opportunity for the 2.5 billion believers across the world to gather in prayer, worship, and repentance, so that we can go out powerfully and collaboratively to reach the world."

#### **For application:**

- In each and every location (small or large), gather people together to pray on 1st March.
- Pastor's in about 20 NZ cities are being contacted currently - while all cities and towns are encouraged to host a united prayer gathering.
- Please head to [Gather25.com](https://gather25.com) to have more information and to tell us you're in.

**Auckland and the international telecast:** It is NZ's honour that the Gather25's 25 hour global prayer starts from Auckland on 1st March 6pm for three hours after which the telecast will move to Singapore. This will be broadcast globally on every platform available so that people can participate from anywhere and everywhere.

**For more:** [gather25.com](https://gather25.com)

**Contact:** Ps Sanjai Kandregula, 'Our City Church' Auckland  
[SanjaiK@ourcitychurch.co](mailto:SanjaiK@ourcitychurch.co)  
 027 6625 388

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### **3. Possible discussion amongst pastors re 2025**

**How might God's Church be engaged and represented in your city/town in 2025?** (Copy / paste / edit to suit yourself).

#### **Term 1**

**1. February - Waitangi:** Will churches be present / involved in Waitangi gatherings / events with the wider community? Other hopes / goals? What interesting local and national history stories could be uncovered, valued and told to congregations - as also on various public platforms?

**2. "Gather 25"** - will you do something together on 1st March 2025?

## 2. Easter

- Note again: There is no Hope Project booklet delivery or TV ads as noted above.
- What could churches do individually and together?

### **Other spheres of influence for possible united engagement**

**3. United prayer?** *What of the vision of your members being united to pray in every possible work place and school? What patterns would you like amongst yourselves as church leaders? Any combined church prayer gatherings? Possible participation with the international 'Gather 25' initiative - via a prayer gathering for the harvest on 1st March?*

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

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

## **Re no Hope Project Easter booklet in 2025: Why, and an option.**

This pause is purposed to allow the Shining Lights Trust to give focus to other areas of gospel innovation and resourcing.

- **2026:** The hope is to begin again - with fresh media - Easter 2026.
- **Prayer walking could continue:** While there is no delivery to unite around, churches could still prayer walk city-wide.
- **There remains a booklet option for some:** Supplies of some prior booklets are available. There are sufficient to cover some towns or suburbs. Enquire via [admin@shininglights.co.nz](mailto:admin@shininglights.co.nz)

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## **(ii) Spheres of influence**

### **Knowledge changes perspective**

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**The idea:** A single 'discovery discussion' somewhere in the coming 3 months, covering 2 or 3 areas + 'upcoming cultural seasons/festivals' each quarter. By doing this you can meaningfully yet simply discuss through all 8 spheres in a year - *thereby empowering the pastors with knowledge and perspective - to bless the city.*

**A result:** When your pastors stand to speak in the community they can now stand

as someone representing the efforts of the wider Church - instead of only their own particular congregation.

- These conversations can yield significant fruit.

## TERM FOUR FOCUS AREAS:

### The question to ask regarding each sphere / season:

What are our churches and people doing in this area in our city?

1. **SEASONS: 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. **SPHERES: Media and creative arts** - How are God's people engaging in these spaces locally?

3. **A FRIENDLY CONCLUSION TO THE YEAR: Thanksgiving for the year that has been** - Thank God together in prayer for all he has done in your churches, your members and in the city this past year.

### To encourage the wider body:

- Who could you pass on a note of 'thanks' to as a group of pastors - to encourage or thank them?
- What 'success stories' of things your members (or church) have done for your city this past year could you each share with your congregations?

**When we hear stories of courage it makes us bolder.**

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## (iii) 'In unison' strategies

**Unity is about working smarter - not harder**

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The purpose of this brief section is to remind us of simple goals that we could unite to pursue in our congregations - while each doing this our own way.



This can shape a united culture amongst our members.

Together, they can exert an influence on the wider society and culture.

Each goal listed below could also be applied through a leadership HABIT *that sits within the scope of what we already do as church leaders*. So this is no more work to do than not to do - other than the intentionality involved in establishing your ongoing shared vision.

*"If the output resulting from our unity is extra programs, we might soon become tired of it. However, if it could instead be about shared goals, we could each go to shape the thinking and practice of our members - and they could unite to impact the entire city!"*

### 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?

### Ideas we could embrace in common to make a difference

*This article lists 4 goal areas, with 14 applications which each church could do their own way — yet that could make a broad impact in our nation if these were to become the habits of 1500 churches.*

Read of 14 habits related to the above 4 goals in a print-ready format [here](#).

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Some amazing data, an idea and two unity articles are below.

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

We hope this is useful.

Looking to all God can yet do

Dave Mann

(Director - Shining Lights Trust )

[AllTogether.co.nz/pastorsgroups](http://AllTogether.co.nz/pastorsgroups)

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## (iv) For thought and reflection - related to unity

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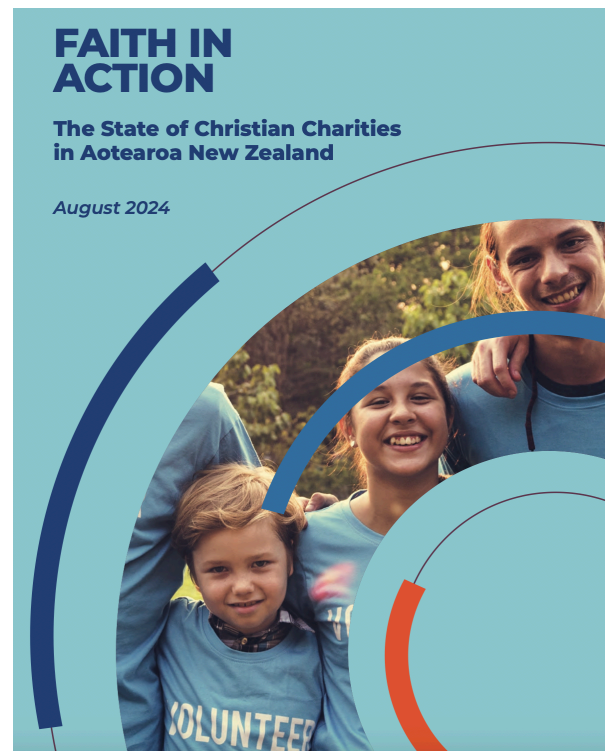
1. **Information:** Faith in Action Report
  2. **Idea:** Simple Christmas idea - with example
  3. **Unity article:** The LID on our unity is in what we can SEE
  4. **Unity article:** The unity goal we OVERLOOK.
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### Faith in Action Report

The 'Faith in Action Report' is outstanding.

The amazing information in this report was collated by researching data from the annual reporting of Christian charities. *This quantifies something of the Christian charitable contribution in our society.*

In view of coming political and media debates around the charitable status of churches, and regarding the paying of rates by churches - this kind of significant information will be very useful.



The report is available online via the image.

Huge appreciation and applause goes to those behind this - significantly including Christian Savings, Wilberforce Foundation, Auckland Church Network, World Vision, Laidlaw Centre for Church Leadership, Parry Field Lawyers, JBWere and Gemelli Consulting.

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### Simple Christmas idea - with example

Last year Rev Wayne Te Kaawa wrote this great article for Christmas from the Otago Times - click [here](#).

Three great stories to consider in all communication at Christmas are those of:

1. Jesus
2. Ruatara and Marsden,
3. Saint Nicholas.

How about someone writing a sensitive and interesting Christmas article to go in your local newspaper, telling stories - keeping Christ in view?

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## The LID of our unity is in what we can SEE

Provocative new article from Dave Mann

In this article I suggest that unity in NZ could yet go places it has never been in our brief history. I also believe this is God's heart and desire for us all - together.

However, more than this, I suggest the *wisdom* needed for this journey sits amongst us. I suggest the path toward our 'new destination' together *sits in the culture we create amongst ourselves - not in an increase of events and activities. It is principally about augmenting the way we think*. Different thinking will naturally produce different actions and possibilities - with results.



However, there is a limitation. A leader can only take people to a destination they can SEE. If we cannot SEE how things could be different, we cannot get there.

***I therefore conclude that most pastors' groups are about 20 intentional (and specific) conversations away from being positioned to SEE how things could be different.***

Click the image to read more.

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Otago Daily Times

News Sport Life & Style Entertainment Business Regions Features

## Putting the Christ into Christmas with words and deeds

Facebook 355 Twitter 6

Opinion

Recently I received a photo from a friend via Messenger to let me know that the first blossoms of the pohutukawa tree were in flower. Last year my friend and I discussed the significance of the pohutukawa tree to Christmas. Ruatara, a rangatira of Nga Puhi, invited missionary Samuel Marsden to introduce Christianity to his people in the Far North. Marsden accepted the invitation and arrived at Oihi in the Bay of Islands with the words "behold I bring you tidings of great joy". The date of this event was December 25, 1814, Christmas Day. One of the memories from that sacred moment is the pohutukawa tree was in blossom. Every time a pohutukawa tree is in flower it means two things to me, the kina (see urchin), a delicacy to many, is ready to be harvested and Christmas the day that Christianity arrived in this country is not far away. The

A photograph of a man with grey hair, wearing a purple shirt and grey trousers, sitting on a stone ledge outdoors. He is looking towards the camera.

# The unity goal we OVERLOOK

**Humorously also titled: "The unity article to end all unity articles"**

Provocative new article from Dave Mann

In this related article I ponder the somewhat strange dynamics of unity here in Tauranga at this time. There are some quite complex nuances to unity sometimes - which I briefly articulate.

My reflection on our city leads me to a conclusion that I will let you read for yourself.

If this conclusion is correct (which isn't difficult to argue - even if rarely applied), this ties directly back into what is suggested in the prior article above. *We can only do what we can 'see'.*



Click the image to read.

Personal feedback welcomed - [dave@shininglights.co.nz](mailto:dave@shininglights.co.nz)

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For pastors' groups: [HERE](#)

SLT articles on unity: [HERE](#)

SLT Messages / Q&A related to pastors' groups: [HERE](#)

SLT FB page for city pastors' groups 'Mahi Ngatahi (working together)': [HERE](#)

City by City FB page for city pastors' groups: [HERE](#)

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](#)

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