



Kia ora pastors' group convenors

Here is the Term 2 quarterly update – sent to only one or two people from each geographic city/town.

- Its purpose is to remind and highlight various things for our cities and towns that can become easily lost amongst the busyness of local church life.
- What you take from each update is entirely up to you.

This month - within the articles - we do a 'deeper dive' into youth ministry.

Simple strategic comments are found within the 'articles' section. (Section 4)

- What are the strategic gaps? (Four are identified.)
- What processes are needed to create a solution?
- If the vision is sensible, local church leaders in multiple places could take initiative to 'raise a standard' that could enhance youth outreach.

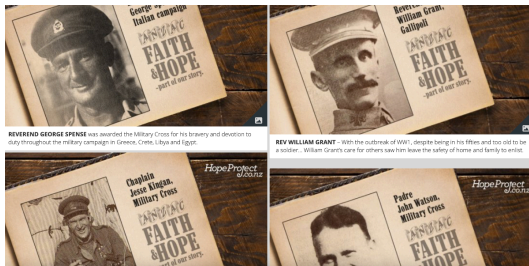
Looking to all God can yet do

Dave Mann

(i) In the calendar

Term 2 - key opportunities to steward together

REVIEW: Easter - How did various outreaching efforts and services go? Have any planned intentional conversational outreach equipping this year via their pulpits and small groups? Did youth have an outreach?



APRIL: ANZAC (Friday 25th April, 2025)

Many churches enjoy opportunities in this season. These need stewarding well.

While right upon us in the calendar, some stories of chaplains in the wars can be found via the image - as also does the movie 'Hacksaw Ridge'.

MAY: Internationally, May is 'GO Month'

Timed for Pentecost, tens of millions are involved annually in doing something to reach out with the gospel, from over 160 nations.



- GO Train (Train your people late-April / early-May)
- GO Pray (Start of May)
- GO Month (May)
- GO Day (Timed for Pentecost - Saturday 7th June)

"Everyone can reach someone and together we can reach the world."

GO DAY

GO MONTH

GO DECADE



JUNE: Matariki - Friday 20th June.

Matariki has no one meaning. It is a new year - with natural thematic ideas associated. How could this be an opportunity?

Where some pray to the stars as idols, clearly we do not participate. However, it's about a lot more than that. There are ways to 'lean in'. Read more [here](#), including reference to various contributions.

'Thinking Matters' conference

Purposed to help 'equip the saints' for conversations in today's world, the 2025 guest speaker is Wes Huff - a seasoned apologist and speaker, with some online fame these days also.



For 2025 the conference plan is a single one day conference: September 27, 9:30am - 6:00pm at C3 Church Auckland (Ellerslie).

(ii) Spheres of influence

This is about encouraging vision and activity amongst God's people in and for the city.

The suggestion is of a brief but very intentional quarterly discussion amongst pastors in each location - considering just two of the 'spheres of influence' each quarter + any upcoming key dates.

- This enables brief discussion covering all eight spheres across a year.
- The resulting knowledge empowers pastors to represent God's Church in the city, rather than only their own (local) church. This can be a significant dynamic change.
- Discussions would likely also highlight gaps that no one might notice or think about otherwise - enabling discussion and new innovation.

TERM TWO FOCUS:

- **1. Local and national government** - What are churches and their people doing within this arena? Identify, applaud and pray blessing on all efforts.
- **2. Recreational and sporting activities and clubs** - Many sporting activities kick off for winter in Term 2. What are churches and their people doing within this arena?
 - Note Chaplaincy here - with Sports Chaplaincy ([here](#)), while in the wider 'care' category there is [Hospital Chaplaincy](#), Seafarers (with a base in each NZ port), [Prison Chaplaincy](#), rest-home chaplaincy and more.
 - Note clubs 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? Pray blessing on them.

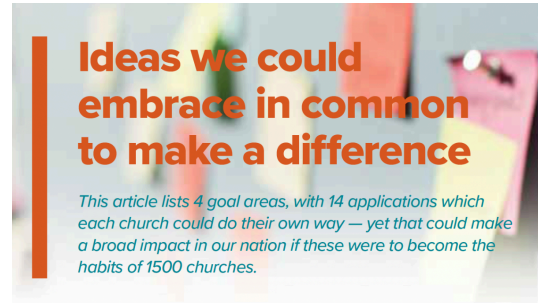
May we function 'as one' within each city and town
for the gospel (Philippians 1:27).

(iii) 'In unison' strategies

Working smarter - rather than harder

A culture of unity can yield more fruit
than busyness in unity might.

Some of the most effective 'unity'
approaches come about when
churches unite in common goals -
catalysing a broad-reaching unity in
action and focus as a result.



- > The above image / below links takes you to an article that gives 14 examples.
- > Another example would be the vision of seeing church MEMBERS initiating weekly prayer meetings in every workplace and school in our nation - by uniting to pray with other Christians in that place. (An article on how the united churches of each city and town could become more strategic in prayer is [here](#)).

Where the vision is believed in in many locations, national change amongst us all can result.

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

Note, a range of [articles and related resources are below](#). We pray these inspire fresh vision and hope.

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

We pray this is useful

Dave Mann

(Director - Shining Lights Trust)

AllTogether.co.nz/pastorsgroups

(iv) Thought and reflection related to unity

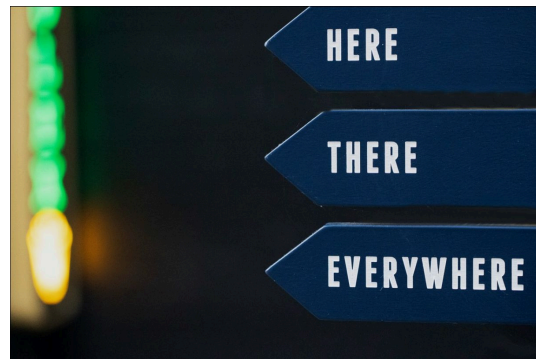
*Request: If you read a good unity article please send us the link.
We're always on the look-out for fresh thoughts to pass like the below.*

Unity - when we're pulled in too many different directions

Fresh unity article from Dave Mann

This year there were FOUR 'united prayer gatherings for the harvest' for NZ churches to unite in in each city/town. Each was brilliant - *but we can't support them all.*

What's the guiding principle if FUNCTIONAL unity is the goal?



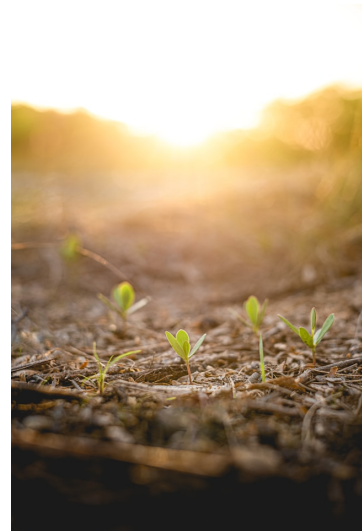
> *Click the image to read the article* <

How could closing churches produce growth?

Fresh unity article from Dave Mann

While it's sad when a congregational identity (location) needs closing, what if the way we go about this could be leveraged to generate new life and even growth?

This might be a particularly useful reflection for those overseeing many congregations, or for those are facing the challenge of a dwindling congregation that might need to surrender its individual identity.



> *Click the image to read the article* <

DEEPER STRATEGIC DIVE: HELPING NZ CHRISTIAN YOUTH MINISTRY

Our situation: NZ youth ministry has declined significantly - attending about a quarter of what it was 25 years ago.

1. Outreach equipping is needed.

- This is lacking.
- This is an identifiable gap.

Pastors could change this by requiring that every new youth leader:

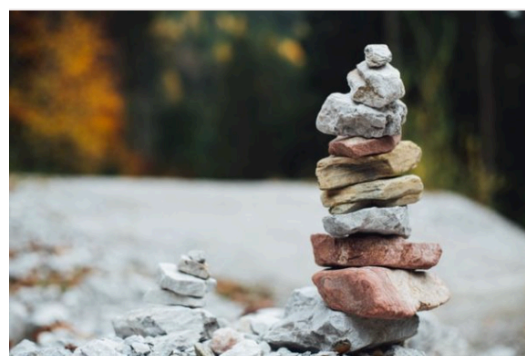
- (a) subscribes for the Godtalk.nz [updates](#)
- (b) watches through the [Godtalk.nz/leadership](#) videos (12 x 5min videos) when they start
- (c) and then commits to FOUR equipping / discussion times annually on outreach. (The [Godtalk.nz/equipping](#) videos can easily supply the content for doing this with the youth.)

(To assess this suggestion, take a look at what has been created.)

Based on current averages, many pastor's will need to make sure this happens approx every 18 months, because youth leaders change that often on average.



GodTalk — Equipping videos



How to lead a local youth leaders network

2. Youth leader UNITY in each place is needed

This is lacking.

This is another identifiable gap.

Pastors could change this -
...by encouraging and even 'requiring' (or intentionally facilitating) their unity with other local youth leaders.

This is about the CULTURE that exists amongst churches in a city - for the city.

United youth leaders last longer, and their groups can become stronger through initiatives taken.

IDEA: Find an older couple willing to host a BBQ breakfast one Saturday morning per school term - for the youth leaders of your city or town. (I.e. Provide great free food.)

- A youth leader is then prompted to invite the current youth leaders of the city or town, and to run their meeting.
- When youth leaders change, the host simply finds a new youth leader to take on that role - while still providing the cooked breakfast and location.

By what other means might the current deficit in unity and outreaching initiative to youth in many of our cities and towns be sustainably changed?

There is a starting 'guide' for running a youth pastors' city network at [Godtalk.nz/unity](https://godtalk.nz/unity).

3. SCHOOL groups are needed

This is lacking.

This is a third identifiable gap.

Pastors could change this by encouraging youth leaders that, just as both the pastor and youth leader unite together with other pastors / youth



leaders to pray about what they could uniquely do together but not apart, so also youth could UNITE to PRAY together in their schools about what they could DO.

(There is a very simple starting template for school groups at [Godtalk.nz/schools](https://godtalk.nz/schools) - but a lot more work is yet needed to revive a sustainable network of school groups nationally.)



4. United EVENTS are needed

These are lacking in our cities/towns.

This is a fourth identifiable gap.

Pastors could change this by sharing the vision with their youth leaders who now meet together.

What if the uniting of youth leaders, and the running of united events, become our new 'NORMAL' in NZ Christian youth ministry?

- A crowd attracts a crowd.
- Large events could put MOMENTUM back into youth outreach - building upon any existing outreach efforts of local youth groups.
- The above 5min video for youth leaders articulates the leadership logic - while the need remains leadership at the grass roots.

We pray these notes help.

NEW: A group of NZ denominational youth leaders and national youth outreach organisation leaders are now quietly connected and discussing this very vision.

Would you like to receive the information in this update a bit at a time?

The underutilised "***Mahi Ngatahi (working together)***" FaceBook page does this. It's a closed group, only open to church leaders who are committed to unity (ask to join). Click [HERE](#)

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](#)