

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Our work is impossible in human strength alone. Without the Holy Spirit going before us, empowering us and drawing people, all our efforts are in vain. That's why we need prayer. Together we can make a difference in our nation.

WE NEED PEOPLE CALLED TO PRAY.

Our work is impossible without an army of witnesses. Those witnesses need trained evangelists to teach, encourage, support and lead them. Working together, witnesses and evangelists can make a difference in our nation.

WE NEED PEOPLE CALLED TO GO.

Our work is impossible without money. Without adequate finance the work simply stops. We have a vision of an army of witnesses throughout the nation supported by commissioned evangelists. By the steady giving of the people of God we can continue to develop and grow. Our nation can see and hear the gospel. Together we can make a difference in our nation.

WE NEED PEOPLE CALLED TO GIVE.

The Church Army In New Zealand

South Island Field Worker

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I can support this ministry

I will pray weekly / daily Enclosed is a special gift of \$ _____

Please send me information about.

The Certificate in Evangelism [] Other CANZ Ministries []

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Post to: Church Army in NZ, PO Box 26-209, Auckland 1030.

(SI Field Worker)



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South Island Field worker

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Newsletter
December
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Out and About

The last 3 months have just flown — not an unusual feeling when one is busy. One of the highlights was the rerun of the Evangelism course I did last year for the MIDip students at the Nelson BCNZ. For a bit of variety I also lectured the Pastoral course. It is a privilege to journey with these students.

It has also been a special privilege to lead the “You can do this” seminar— see page 4 for the gossip on this .



However I am still left with the challenge of the vast numbers of people who we are missing. Whether it is those who we call the open de-churched (i.e. those who have simply stopped going to church—no real reason of complaint; they have simply lost interest or found it to be of no further use or value) or those who are unchurched (i.e. those who have no Christian experience or background). What is becoming clear is that this is a rich mission field but it requires a radical rethink about how we talk and do “church”

Now be clear about this, Church as we know it is vital for most, if not all, who attend but for the vast majority of those outside it has little relevance and nor should it. It does not belong to them.

The challenge we face is to venture outside of the known and explore—(NB like any exploration this will be uncomfortable, threatening but challenging and exciting). The gospel of Christ is for such an adventure. It is not for keeping within the safety of our churches.

The fact is that for many this does not require a big shift—just recognising the opportunities God is giving us. Go well and blessings Richard

Another way to whisper into the ears of non-Christians in order to activate a search for God is by being, like Christ, extraordinarily loving

*M frost
A Hirsch*

Who do you look like?

So much reflection on Jesus portrays a man who is overly serious, who wrung his hands a lot, who was way too intense and deep, and had a unusual penchant for suffering and while there are certainly dimensions of Jesus' personality that fit this description (who doesn't do these things at times?), we feel that the dominance of this image is the result of our historical life-suppressing perspective on life, faith, and God. There is an entirely different way to read Jesus.

... the kind of holiness he exuded was the kind that didn't repulse normal "sinners." Rather, his was a very attractive spirituality. And yet he was not your ordinary evangelical guy. He was notorious (yes, that's the right word) for hanging out with the wrong types. In contrast with today, when so much of our Christianity is being with the right people in the right places at the right times, Jesus was always in the

wrong places, with the wrong people, at the wrong times, according to the religious establishment. We want to say that this is the Jesus we must rediscover to balance our excessively sober images of our Lord. We need his model of holy laughter, of his sheer love of life, of his infectious holiness, of his common people's religion, for our day. We want to say that being Christ-like is not only hard work, it is also a load of fun – you get to do what Jesus did and hang out with the interesting people. This is our eternal destiny, to be conformed to the image of Jesus (Rom 8:29) and this must now become a vital dimension of our messianic mission in the world. Being Christ like gives us a positive model of engagement, and this is why we need to imitate Jesus as our primary model for mission and evangelism.

“The Shape of things to come – innovation and Mission for the 21st century church” by Michael Frost and Alan Hirsch Publisher: Hendrickson 2003 Page 114

Jesus, when presented without all the churchy trappings, still has currency today



CONFERENCE ROUND UP



Summer Wine Geraldine
 Mon Jan 2 (Evening) to Fri 6 (Lunchtime)
www.summerwine.org.nz/sw/index.html



Men's Camp at Staveley
 24 to 26 March 2006 .

Details contact John Begg, Ph (03) 689-7679 email: wai.elim@ihug.co.nz

or Richard Dyer, Ph (03) 544 4322 email: richard@mightymessage.com
www.mightymessage.com



Women with Focus Weekend
 26 to 28 May 2006

Details contact Kaye: kaye@mightymessage.com
www.mightymessage.com

Can I be of assistance to you?

Two questions:

What is God saying to you about your church and the direction he wants you to take?

How can we assist you in achieving some aspect of this?

I run seminars—see page.4

Preach and teach on a range of topics—see web site or talk with me about the specific topics that would help develop and support the teaching of your church and/or group

I run parish camps, retreats, vestry retreats, men's breakfasts etc assist a church while the vicar/minister is away

or during an interregnum

Consultancy

Pastoral Supervision

Conflict and Mediation issues

World history is God's biography as written by God and people; God supplies the letters and people write the sentence.

Synod backs Cafe Church

The Church of England has supported changes in its traditional parish structure including a range of new church styles, such as "cafe churches".

The church's general synod, meeting in London, enthusiastically endorsed a report which looked at developing new ways of being and doing church.

The report conceded that the established church needed to change if it was to reach more people on their own terms.

Graham Cray, bishop of Maidstone and chairman of the working party which drew up the report, told the synod: "It is clear to us that the parochial system remains an essential and central part of the national church's strategy, but the existing parochial system alone is no longer able fully to deliver its underlying missionary purpose."

Creating new churches - usually called church planting - can be controversial if attempts are made to subvert existing parishes. The report however advocates any setting up of a church to be done in agreement with existing parishes.

James Jones, the Bishop of Liverpool, said that over time people found "new ways of belonging". He added: "It is into this culture that the gospel needs to be translated and proclaimed afresh to this generation ... Far from throwing

the baby out with the bathwater it is suggesting a new shape to the bath."

Some parishes are already pioneering ways of attracting worshippers. "Some people may be keen to meet with other Christians regularly, but it's no longer feasible for them to do that regularly on a Sunday. No one kind of worship can attract, much less hold, a major proportion of the varied population ... The church will be able to reconnect with society through a pattern of diversity and unity, rooted in the ... endlessly creative life of God."

The idea of "cafe church" which has recently caught the public imagination is one such idea which the report looks at. Rediscovering the place of food and drink in community and worship, cafe churches provide an environment which for many allows church to happen in a far more relaxing setting.

Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, told the synod: "We can say that already new kinds of church are appearing ... this is not an attempt to subvert the parochial system but to ask what are those questions which the system now is not answering."

-12/2/04

www.ekklelesia.co.uk

Together we have been making a difference

Over the past 2 years CA has been having an increasing impact on the church down here in the south. It has been an exciting adventure as we have begun to build up this ministry. Here is what I have been up to this calendar year:

Involved in 20 parish, taken 10 "You can do this" seminars. Attended 5 conferences one of which I was a keynote speaker, been involved in 4 camps, led 3 leader's retreats, attended two diocesan synods, lectured 2 courses at BCNZ Nelson and a men's retreat.

This has all been funded by the generous support of individuals, the Diocese of Nelson, St John's College Trust and what we have received from parishes and churches where we have been working.

For this ministry to continue we are going to need significant sponsorship and financial support. Together we have been making a difference and the feedback has been great. Please pray and consider if you contribute to this ministry that the difference we have begun to make may continue for the glory of God. There is a donation form on page 8.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this request.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Giving thanks for:

We praise God for the opportunity to teach at Nelson BCNZ this last term.

We praise God for the encouraging feedback from those who have attended the "You Can Do This" seminar. Pray for those parishes and churches who have hosted the seminar as they work out the learning in their life and ministry.

Praise God for a wonderful year and for those who are part of Church Army in the South, especially for Sue, Louise and Alison.

Please pray for:

Planning for 2006 and the discussions that we are having with churches that will open up ministry opportunities in the New Year.

Louise and Alison as they are commissioned as Associate Evangelists of CA in March — both are from Christchurch. The launching of the bus ministry 5 March. Contact Louise for details: puppets@paradise.net.nz

We give thanks for financial support that has been coming in and pray that this will continue and that a significant sponsor may be found for 2006.

Feedback

what people are saying ...



You Can Do This - being a friend to the friends of Jesus

- Very inspirational—makes me want to go and do it!
- Gave me useful tools to dialogue more effectively with non-believers
- Easy presentation
- Non-threatening approach
- 'Yes, I CAN DO THIS'
- You conveyed simplicity in all you presented.
- Surprised at how easy it is to speak encouragement into peoples lives.
- You showed us how to use questions as a means of evangelism as opposed to telling/preaching.
- A positive natural presentation—so many real examples to explain your point.
- Easy to listen to
- There was no prescription of what we had to do.
- This seminar made evangelism a natural consequence of our relationship with God rather than an obligation.
- Emphasis on personal spirituality and prayer as keys to evangelism rather than specific strategy or technique

Other seminars

Building Bridges Finding Hope

- *Radical Communities in a Divided Age*
- *Mediation and Conflict Resolution*
- *Building a Relational Church*



Home Partnership

A seminar to encourage you in your marriage and family life.



Other events

- *Leader's Retreats*
- *Camps*

Contact Richard Dyer for more details, cost and to book a seminar in your church.

The important questions are:

What is God saying to you about your church and the direction he wants you to take?

How can we assist you in achieving some aspect of this?

Kaye's Corner

2005 has been a good year. I have enjoyed the freedom to do some study even if it meant having to learn to write essays, however, I would have to say that mathematics is still far easier!

As well as study I have had time to wrestle with questions that have been rising over the years. Perhaps over the Christmas break you may have time to consider some of them too.

The first is the issue of settler and pioneer ministries. By settler ministry I mean the local church as we know it involved mainly in pastoral and teaching ministries. By the pioneer church I mean the people involved in mission and evangelism especially in new work. This is largely the domain of those gifted in the apostolic, prophetic and evangelistic ministries. While the line isn't hard and fast, our churches tend to train and finance settlers to the detriment of pio-

neers. When pioneer leaders are placed in the settler system they either conform or suffocate as their passion dries up. Either way, the church has lost much needed gifts. The question is: how do we identify, train, equip and fund these pioneers and give equal authority and recognition to their leaders? They cannot be



trained in the same way as settlers. Jesus trained his disciples by modelling; they caught ministry as they lived with him. Like attracts like when it comes to gifting and those we train tend to become more like us. So who trains the pioneers, the entrepreneurs and how? What teaching do people on the front line need to be equipped? How do we enable the settler and pioneer church to work in

partnership. Next letter I write more and share something of a vision God gave me years ago.

The second issue is connected. It involves a considerable change of mindset; a change from a Roman to a Celtic model of church. Let me explain. In NZ we are used to keeping sheep safe by putting them into a fenced paddock. A large ranch won't bother with fences but is more likely to dig a well knowing that the sheep will not stray far. The first is Roman, settler or traditional church with walls; the second is Celtic, pioneer or missional church. Jesus ministered Celtic style. He moved among the people, even those we might consider not our kind. His ministry was relational, low cost, and very mobile. Celtic ministry goes to the people to answer their questions on their patch. It means that more is required of us. Are we up to it? May the Lord bless you this Christmas. — Kaye