

The encourager

The magazine of ELEVATE Christian Disability Trust

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The National Leadership Camp



christian disability trust



The way of obedience is

David's pain is our pain too.

Psalm 38. A psalm of David - a petition. *By: Mike Potter*

Mike Potter, a T12/L1 paraplegic who works for cbm as Marketing Manager, brings a devotion from the recent *Theology, Disability and the People of God Conference* held in Auckland:

David's pain is our pain too: Psalm 38 is a humble petition that gives us insight into David's honesty before God. Clearly David was in a low place, most likely writing after the death of his son, the result of his affair with Bathsheba. In the depths of sorrow, grief and remorse he feels the pain of his sin: physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually.

Experiencing pain is a significant aspect of being human, and often a chronic companion of life with a disability. People with disabilities and their immediate families share a relationship with pain that varies in nature and intensity across physical and social dimensions, both persistent and temporal.

Sensing bodily pain is part and parcel of being human. Paul Brand was the first doctor to point out that loss of the sensation of pain was the cause of the symptoms associated with leprosy. Physical pain is generally our friend. It tells us something is wrong, that we need healing. Yet for people with disabilities there is a depth and breadth of experience of physical pain in a daily reality, sometimes through extreme messages or phantom symptoms.

What about emotional pain? Guilt, sorrow, fear, misplaced anger and rejection are just some of an endless list of what ails all of us emotionally. In my own life frustration and anger have become more prominent through disability. Each of us carries emotional pain and scars on our journey. Like David we need a God familiar with our suffering to heal our inner wounds.

Social pain stems from disconnection with community, friends and family. All of us suffer from social pain in some regard, yet disabilities, in my experience, are often found at the extreme end of the social pain



MIKE AND HIS FAMILY

spectrum. Our society needs greater awareness of the isolation experienced by the marginalised in our communities. Followers of Jesus have a role to play in resourcing opportunities for everyone to participate fully in family and society.

We can all learn from David's trust in God alone to bring healing and restoration to what truly ails us. For David, only God has the compassion and capacity to restore him, to forgive his sin and heal his pain. We too have this hope.

Jesus Christ, Son of God, a man of sorrows, one who is familiar with our suffering. Jesus offers healing for our brokenness and pain. Recognising our spiritual pain is a starting point for us to cry out to God. As we declare to God the pain in our bodies, our minds and our relationships, we in faith receive His promise to His people, of a future where our tears will be wiped away and there will be no more mourning, pain or death! (Revelation 21:3-4) Hallelujah.

It was C. S. Lewis who wrote in *The Problem of Pain*, "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world....No doubt pain as God's megaphone is a terrible instrument; it may lead to final and unrepented rebellion. But it gives the only opportunity the bad man can have for amendment. It removes the veil; it plants the flag of truth within the fortress of the rebel soul."

National Camp 2013

25 - 28 October, 6pm Friday to 2pm Monday,
Totara Springs, Matamata.

RISE UP, BE RENEWED

📖 Isaiah 40:31

"Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength, they will rise up on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not grow faint"



COST OF WEEKEND:

Adults - \$160, 11-14 - \$110, 5-10 - \$70, 0-4 - Free

Adults only pay \$150 if paid in full before 1st September, but this is non-refundable.

Closing date for all registrations is 1st October 2013.

It is a huge help for our organising if you register as early as possible.

- All cheques made payable to Elevate Camps.
- To make a deposit into our ANZ bank use **01-0142-0029706-05**.
- Use the first initial and last name of the camper.
- Send registrations to the Camp Registrar:

Mail: Richard Goh, 118B Sunset Rd, Unsworth Heights, Auck 0632.

Email: elevatecdtcamp@gmail.com.

Phone: 09 444 3062

You can download a registration form from our web page, and we are still working on setting up an on line way to register.

We are bringing from the USA as our speaker a blind pastor – LOTO LEALAIMATAFAO and his wife.

RISE UP, BE RENEWED:

Can anyone help sponsor a person's fees, general expenses or Loto's fare?

You can read Loto's testimony on page 4. Do encourage new folk to come as well as those who have been before. **IT'S GOING TO BE A GREAT CAMP!**

HELPERS SEMINAR

28th SEPTEMBER, AUCKLAND



9:30am to 3:00pm

Cost is \$10 (no lunch provided)

173 Mt Smart Road, Onehunga

(09) 636 4763

info@ELEVATEcdt.org.nz

www.ELEVATEcdt.org.nz

- Sign up for a day of learning and laughter.
- Hear personal experiences of disability.
- Learn practical ways to assist and communicate



In every desert of trial God

Loto Lealaimatafao

This year's National Camp speaker.

"Amazing Grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see."

These timeless words to the endless spiritual hymn could as well have been written by Loto. The blind evangelist has committed his life to opening the eyes of those who can see better than him, yet are blinded by the very things that took his eyesight away. Founder of Loto Ministries he leads a team that share an extraordinary vision, "Bringing the Way to the lost, the Truth to a deceived generation, and the Life to this dying world." It was a dream come true as Loto's parents moved their family from the Samoan islands to Fresno, California. Unfortunately the American dream turned into a parent's worst nightmare as their youngest became engulfed with the temptations of the street life. Lured by the false love and deceiving embrace of gangs and drugs, Loto was hurled up into a whirlwind of disappointments, hopelessness, and self destruction. "I got to a point where I woke up mad at God for waking me up another day," he said. The violent cycle came to a sudden

end for the Samoan as he found himself standing face to face with a sawed off shotgun. On the late afternoon of August 30, 1994 Loto Lealaimatafao was shot in the face with a sawed off shotgun and lost his eyesight. Needless to say, his life was changed forever.

He however, would be the first to tell you not to feel sorry for him. In his own words, "Becoming blind is the best thing that's ever happened to me. You see, God only let the devil close the eyes on my face just to open up the eyes of my heart." Life changing words that have echoed through auditoriums, stadiums, classrooms, churches, correctional facilities, and the streets he once called home. If you were to ask him what are some of his favourite parts of this journey, with unreserved enthusiasm he would say, "Jesus! Without Him none of this would be possible. If all of this got in the way of my relationship with God then I would ask Him to take it all away. Second is my favourite ministry, my family. As a father of five incredible kids and husband to the most perfect embodiment of Proverbs 31, I have truly drank from the overflowing cup of joy for which men would trade a thousand lifetimes. I wouldn't trade my family in for the

world, but would definitely trade the world in for my family. That is why I am overwhelmed by God's amazing grace. That He would give His only begotten son Jesus Christ for a wretch like Me!....Simply amazing.

With methods that are relevant and adaptable to the ever-changing flow of pop culture, Loto Ministries is able to disarm the hardest of hearts and challenge even the most vulnerable to come face to face with themselves. Just recently God has expanded the ministry to overseas where Loto Ministries motivates and equips the local churches and government to impact their young people with the same methods that have made Loto Ministries so successful, while also staying sensitive to the social climate and culture of these areas. After winning a talent show the hip hop artist went on to release his debut album "Even If." Being a member of Cornerstone Church in downtown Fresno, involved with their 180 youth ministry leadership and being a life coach to our world's future people, are some of the joys he holds nearest to his heart.

Taken from the cover of Loto's album "Even If"



Disability Awareness Sunday

It was great to hear how many churches were involved. We love hearing specifics. Do let us know about your experience.

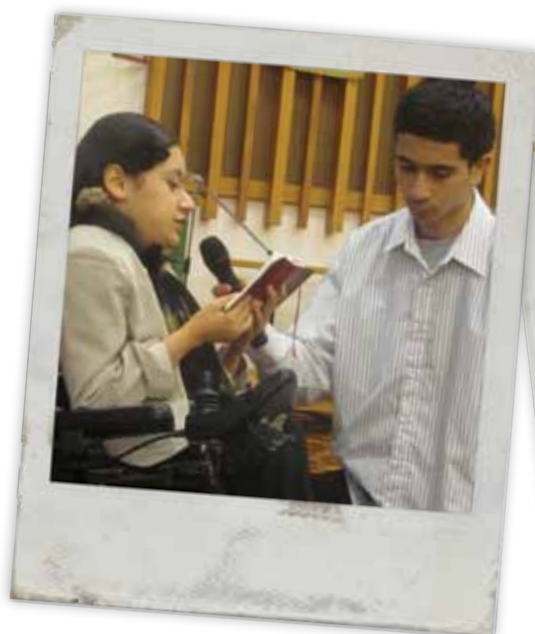
The Trust was involved in one at Manurewa Methodist Church that proved to be quite exceptional. The pastor had gone to great lengths preparing for it, even to putting the Trust logo on each page of their bulletin, song-sheet and overheads. He had each part of the service involved with people with disabilities.

Marci Rota, who is blind was one of our team, and the church included her as part of their worship team, one of whom had had a stroke and was playing the organ with his left hand and his left foot.

Marci also, in individual items, gave her testimony and sang a song with her guitar. Tere, our receptionist at the Centre, opened in prayer and gave her testimony. The pastor also prayed and read out the Beattitudes for People with Disabilities

Skits on the right and wrong ways to help those with disabilities caused much laughter and got home important messages.

The pastor had arranged for two young people in his congregation, both in wheelchairs, to each read out a scripture. Angela Futter, who has been a counselling student at the Centre, talked on her experiences while with us, and the "icing on the cake" came after we had talked with the pastor's son about camp, when as we were leaving his sister came up and said the youth group had talked about it and were hoping to come to the camp.





We can do no great things, only

Jo Petterson from Hamilton tells, **How God has been so good to me!**

In September 1994 a drunk driver went through a red light in Hamilton where we live and smashed into my boyfriend Bruce's car. In the passenger seat, I hit my head on the door pillar causing severe traumatic brain injury. God arranged for an anaesthetist to attend the scene, and she resuscitated me. Bruce and I went to Waikato hospital by ambulance. The hospital was my home for the next six months.

Doctors put me in a drug-induced coma for two weeks but it would be six weeks before my parents could see any trace of the original me in my eyes. Those six weeks were incredibly hard for my family and friends as I thrashed my head from side to side and kicked violently. My church family and people all over the world were praying. I have no memory of this time.

Slowly I regained some normality, my body was still very incapacitated, but before long it was almost certain that I had suffered no cognitive damage and no memory loss. Very unusual for a brain injury! When I left hospital I was not talking properly, walking or swallowing safely. I had pins and needles and weakness in my right side and double vision, but God had given me a determination to improve, and faith that He would use this for good. I thank and praise our Heavenly Father for being our rock and fortress and very present help in times of trouble!

My family made the decision that I would live with my mother and that she would look after me. I was 24, and after six years of independence found this decision incredibly hard, but felt I couldn't say anything as Mum had suffered a lot over the last five years, and I chose not to add to her trauma. I stuffed the anger inside and put on a good face, but inside I felt like a 'non-person'. When our choices are taken away from us we feel de-humanised. It made me realise why God doesn't force us to serve and love Him. I was angry for a long time, and when I finally confronted Mum she said they had talked to me about it, but unfortunately it must have been before I was really 'with it' and I had no memory of this occurring.

Bruce had a broken pelvis and a bruised lung from the accident, but was otherwise unharmed. He visited the hospital nearly every day. A couple of months after I left hospital Bruce asked me to marry him. With the

aim of walking up the aisle, I continued to work hard at my physiotherapy. I also had an operation to correct the squint in my left eye. After a stressful engagement our wedding day was amazing, and I walked up the aisle on my Dad's arm. A group of staff from the hospital attended.

Fast-forward almost seventeen years and we have two beautiful children, Timothy, born in 2003 and Rebekah who arrived in 2007. I am a stay-at-home Mum and loving it, but have experienced real struggles getting used to home-help and sharing my house and children with other women. On the upside, I have met a lot of people and learned a lot about working with others. My mum lives fairly close and helps frequently. Although this was definitely not in my plan, God has been my hope and strength as He has taught me much, and rocked the foundations of my once very independent spirit.

I have a great extended family, wonderful church family, amazing friends and a hope that covers this life and extends into eternity. Wow, I am blessed!



An incredible mission of faith.

Prabhu and Nancy Rayan, who have come to our National Camp continue with their world-wide ministry. After praying for 10 years for Fiji they sensed the time was right to realise the vision they had to go to that land. They went to their travel agent and told him of their predicament that there was no money in the bank. He happily replied, "I have been with you for the last two decades and I have seen the Lord providing for your travel. Take the ticket and go for your mission, and pay me when you return!" Praise God that they were able to pay him before they returned.

They shared their vision individually to 16 pastors, and in another 10 seminars reached many more church leaders as well as pastors. One confessed that theirs was a forgotten message in that part of the world, and he would do his best to bring this awareness to all the other churches. Another said, "This will now be our passion and mission," while another said he now realised that as a church they had failed to reach out to disabled people, and that this was now the right time to create awareness of this vision.



**HELEN
KELLER**

"My problem is not my disability, but the attitude of the people towards my disability."

"The church is the only society (institution) that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members."



**ARCHBISHOP
WILLIAM TEMPLE**



**JONI
EARECKSON-TADA**

"God permits that which He hates, to accomplish that which He loves."

"The problems of disabled people will not be solved by more government programmes or better health care, but by the redemptive power of Jesus Christ demonstrated in His people. We need to remind ourselves again that His strength is made perfect in our weakness."



**DOCTOR
BILLY GRAHAM**

Change of Attitude after coming to CFFD

God didn't figure too highly in my books six years ago. I begged in the streets for gambling and drink money. I abused and threatened people. True! I had, had a stroke at twenty eight, had mental illness and had cancer - but it was no excuse for acting this way. That was the lowest of lows. At the time I was really lonely.

Three years ago, Eleanor asked me to go to the Northland Christian Fellowship for Disabled, and I haven't looked back. Having somewhere to go and meeting so many believing people changed my attitude.

I have friends now and I don't pester them for money. I no longer beg in the street and get taken home by the Police. I have a flat of my own with a cat called Timberly who I spoil. I have money of my own now and a certain amount of self-respect. Every Monday night I cook for people like myself who have mental illness - there are usually about ten of us. We have a great time and they love my cooking!

If you can call that finding God, well I guess I have!
God Bless! Liz Piripi



God doesn't call the qualified,

Margie Willers writes,

Allow me to share from the 25 years when I was active in Christian Ministry. That season proved an awesomely, amazing adventure – running with God dreams, and God assignments. I revelled. I thrived.

Suddenly, on July, 7th 1994, my life changed. The medical diagnosis - Rheumatoid Arthritis. I had been born with severe Cerebral Palsy. I was passionate about my ministry call and the undertaking of motivational speaking agenda. Surely, God would never allow an auto-immune disorder, a disease that imposed constant pain and physical fatigue, and would rob me of the joys and immense privileges of public ministry. NEVER!

Reality hit: I'd reached the end of my 'cope-rope'. Speaking agendas were no longer a possibility. An overwhelming grief had me plummeting into the depths of despair. Frustration. And, questioning "God Why"? "Why"? "Why"?....

It became a prolonged process. Nevertheless, through my tears, pain, striving for answers, I learned God allows our 'whys' when we ask with an OPEN HAND – not a clenched fist.

Eventually I discovered that lasting fulfilment is not found in actual 'ministry'. The fact - and the challenge is that, as we look after our depth of relationship with God, He'll look after the breadth of our 'Ministry'. When a door closes – He often opens windows! In short: my computer technology provided me with an effective 'communication window'.

Now I wondered, could it be possible that a more effectual ministry might be birthed as a writer? Some months lapsed. To my surprise and delight, my written work found favour with editors working with 'global connections'. What excitement! A world- wide publication! I'd never travel to these countries in the flesh, but God hadn't finished with me – WOW!

Let me suggest: We are never going to have impact upon a watching world if we are constantly found

leaning over fences gazing at and hankering for greener pastures on the other side.

Sometimes God doesn't seem fair. I don't know why one person seems to live a financially blessed, hassle-free, charmed life, while another experiences trial after trial. An omnipotent God works His wonders in many ways. Don't expect Him to work just your way. He revels in variety. He uses us. Fills us and develops our potential in service in a variety of ways.

Next time you are tempted to complain about 'unimportant' stuff, ask yourself, "What would I exchange for what I have?" Then count your blessings, not your problems. You'll always discover the scale is up in favour of God's blessings.

Let's be positive! A caption on my office wall reads: I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life. He gave me life that I might ENJOY ALL THINGS. So, let's seize every available opportunity to make our mark – and mark it with impact.

Never take tomorrow for granted.

God has gifted unique abilities to each person, but we must not fail to recognise that with these, each of us also has special limitations. The Apostle Paul wrote: "The Body of Christ has many members with varying functions." We often mouth the metaphor without learning the real lesson.

You may have read the parable written about a school of animals. It tells of a duck, a rabbit, a squirrel and an eagle who attended a school. All four animals were required to take the same curriculum of running, swimming, climbing, and flying.

The duck, an excellent swimmer, injured his feet while trying run and was reduced to average in other subjects, notably swimming.

The rabbit was a great runner but he developed a twitch in his leg muscle in his make-up work in swimming and this slowed him down to average speed in running.

I learned God allows our 'whys' when we ask with an OPEN HAND – not a clenched fist.

He qualifies the called

Max Lucado

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life. He gave me life that I might ENJOY ALL THINGS.

The squirrel, the best climber, was frustrated by flying class. He too, suffered from exertion, and eventually earned only mediocre grades in all other subjects, including climbing. The eagle was well able to beat all the others in getting to the top of trees by using his own unique method. However, when he was forced to use his wings to climb like the rest of the animals, some of his feathers were torn out. This severely hampered his ability to fly.

Eventually the demands of the curriculum diminished all the animals' special abilities and reduced them to the same level of mediocrity.

Again, I quote the Apostle Paul: "I would not boast except in regard to my weaknesses."

Most of us don't even want to admit our weaknesses let alone boast about them. Our preference would be to keep them hidden out of sight. I figure the much debated 'thorn in the flesh' that Paul refers to is NOT sin, but our physical limitations. He challenges US to Face up to them. There are certain things beyond our abilities we cannot do. It's a fact!

In Philippians Chapter 6 verse 13, Paul expresses how he learned to be content whatever the circumstances

– whether he was well-fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or want. And, he declared, 'I CAN DO ALL things through Christ.'

If Father God demands something from us, we can do it, regardless of our circumstances and Inadequacies. He will equip us. And He will empower us with a supernatural enabling. Never forget: God promises to provide all our needs – not our wants or our wishes.

God is a practical thinking God who is out-working His ultimate purposes in and through our lives. I consider attitude and outlook to be imperative. Let's pursue realistic and obtainable Goals. And as we make ourselves available for developing positive attitudes and realistic pursuits, we learn the lesson of the parable.



THE ILLUSION OF INDEPENDENCE

'Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding"

"Many cultures stress the importance of being independent, that is, not needing anyone to help or assist one on one's journey. Being 'self-made', in this view, is a sign of competence and strength. Being dependent on anyone or anything is a sign of weakness. In reality, this is an illusion – we all need each other, and we all need God. No one 'makes it' alone. We are, in fact, interdependent upon God and one another." (Beyond Suffering by Joni Eareckson Taka & Steve Bundy with Pat Verbal)

I read this recently and it got me thinking. Every person is dependent on God, whether they know it or not. James 1:17 tells us that even every good gift is from God. The good in my life is because of God, not because of me or what I think I have achieved in my own strength. My

dependence on God is immense and endless, and I think that's just how God wants it. God also made us to be interdependent, to do life together and to support each other. Ephesians 4 and 1 Corinthians 12 describe how we are the Body of Christ. A body can only be healthy when all the parts work together, not independently. We are also a family, as God's sons and daughters, and family should be able to depend on each other. Maybe when we can learn to be content in our dependence on God and our interdependence with each other we will be closer to being the church God intends us to be.

Kirsty Anderson





You can never cross the ocean
without having the courage to lose sight of the shore

Leadership Camp 2013

IDEAS DRAWN FROM THOSE AT THE LEADERSHIP CAMP.

A feature of this year's camp at the sessions was the way, as people contributed, their ideas were put on the white board, later typed out and after camp sent out to each person so that this valuable input could be recalled later and not lost from the memory. As an example, here is the feedback from Alan Pace's Session on Vision.

When people were asked what do you imagine the Vision for the ministry will be achieving in 5 – 10 years, their replies were:

More people nurtured by churches.

More churches aware of people with disabilities.

People with disabilities exercising their gifts:

- By serving
- By taking the initiative in this
- By developing as leaders.

Bringing more disabled people into the churches.

Accessible churches.

Pastors committed to including people with disabilities.

Meeting the needs of those with disabilities so they can fully participate.

Educating pastors and church leaders.

Revelation to the Church that all are broken (no distinction).

Belonging – building together, contributing.

Churches learning to see the person first, not look at disabled as a problem.

Teaching life skills – equipping pwd to be involved in the community and the church.



Alan Pace

And what do you think our call as leaders will be to go out and do?:

Identify where the pwd are (through organisations etc) and get involved with them.

GO to the group homes, visit and make friendships.

Invite them to events. Invite disabled to dinner and then have a service.

GO to church leaders and build relationships with them to get their support.

Help them to see how they can reach out to the community within their programme.

Build relationships with Disability Service groups and Caregivers.

Seek to take many more services in churches and run seminars for the congregations.

IDEAS GAINED FROM THE ACTIVITIES OF OTHER BRANCHES.

Branches and ministries responded well to the request to send in reports of their activities over the past two years, and as a result an interesting 12 page document was given out at Leadership Camp. Here are just a few snippets from it:

Hawkes Bay

"The ongoing support we get from Havelock North Village Baptist has been phenomenal over the years and this year has been no different. Not only do they sponsor people to go to camp, many people from that church have been to the camp themselves and they encourage others to go. A couple was very generous in paying for a bed to be delivered to the camp site from Auckland for Vaun. At the carnival two years ago we had several people make cakes, loaves, jam etc. Arataki donated some of the honey which was one of the most popular items at our stall. In three hours we raised over \$700. We got a surprise right on Christmas. The Tasman Smith Charitable Trust found out about the work we do and decided to bless us with \$5,000. This was one of the highlights of the year."

Wellington

"Lyn Hawkins continues to pull the genie out of the bottle so to speak. The branch has been very blessed with the funding that the Minister of Finance manages to coax out of people even in these tight financial times. We have had success with COGS, TG McCarthy, Ann Sinclair, Rehab Welfare, Wallace Trust and CJB Norwood.

These trusts and their generosity have enabled us to continue to heavily subsidise our camp as well as transport etc. They also enabled us to have a very good committee retreat this year.

Visiting is not an official branch or committee activity, but two of our committee have committed to going out once a week to visit our folk who seem to be very receptive to the visits.

They talk and encourage the folk they meet with, and prayer is always a big part of the visit. It is also a bit of a low as there are only two people visiting. We hope to encourage more to take up this mission."

Northland

Told about the fascinating activities they arrange for their meetings and described the Nov 2011 one as: "Crazy, Christmas, Conversation, Cheerful, Chocolate, Chatter, along with Festive, Food, Fun and Frivolity!"

Dunedin

Has always included the Joy Ministries folk at their meetings and it has been this way ever since 1981. "We have had another enjoyable year with an average attendance of 60 folk at the monthly fun, friendship, music and generally good 'getting together from all over Dunedin' time. We organise Wheelchair taxis for 17 folk, and volunteers help with transport for others. We certainly couldn't do without the totally committed United Taxis Company who have been transporting our folk for 30 years!!!!!!We have a different theme each month which

includes puppets telling Bible stories, Prayer Tunnels, Communion twice a year, Picnics twice a year, talent quests, fun quizzes, Disability Sunday Services at a different church each year and last month we had a wonderful Wheelchair Dance in a big hall which was wonderfully attended."



The images at the top of the pages are from

Dunedin CFFD meetings.

God does not comfort us to but to make us comforters



Can You Help This Amazing Lady?

How wonderful it was to have Ruth Beale at the Leadership Camp so soon after coming home from her latest major operation. Yet again she has come through a near fatal illness, and straight away she wanted to throw herself into her great passion of organising sponsorship for the children in the Philippines.

To date there are 99 Children and 26 Staff Workers that have been or are currently in the PCFFD sponsorship programme. This is a far cry from what she started with small beginnings in 1995 where there were two Children and two Staff Workers who lived by faith but didn't receive any funds from PCFFD. 34 of these Children with disabilities are currently sponsored and two waiting for sponsors.

There are also 13 Staff Workers currently sponsored, and as you are probably aware that sponsorship for Staff Workers is very important, as without workers there wouldn't be a sponsorship programme. After National Camp 2012 we had every Staff Worker with sponsors, which was wonderful. Since then three sponsors have had to drop out due to financial reasons, so there are now three half sponsorships that need to be found.

Ruth writes: "It is always a struggle to find enough sponsors to cover the ever growing needs of the ministry, as it seems like the audience that we currently have is saturated. I am always looking for anyone who would wish to sponsor, but I have only a limited circle of contacts. The other major difficulty is when sponsors miss payments for whatever reason. They don't seem to realise that these payments are like wages for the Staff Workers, and if the money doesn't come through from NZ this puts the Staff Workers under considerable financial strain as they rely on this money for daily expenses. If this happens, it is important to let me know asap.

"Sponsorship contributions had to be raised April 2012 as the cost of living has increased dramatically all over the world. So the commitment for a child is \$25-00 per month and a Staff Worker is \$60.00 per month. This does not cover all the expenses of a Staff Worker but is a help. For a number of sponsors the Staff Worker sponsorship has been halved

to \$30.00 per month so that it can be affordable for all. This has meant a considerable increase in the workload with so many more letters to write to sponsors.

"Looking to find ways to generate more funds asks for more inventive measures as most people are committed in their giving, so I have been making cards to sell. We raised over \$700 at the last two National Camps from selling cards and the toys that Ken Miller has donated.

"I have been very impressed with the number of CFFD Branches that are sponsoring a Child or Worker. At present there are nine Branches of CFFD or Joy Ministries who are sponsoring a Child or Worker. As an example one Branch Committee half sponsor a Worker for \$30-00 per month; so each month at their committee meetings their chairman collects \$5.00 from each of the six committee members which equals \$30.00. So may I encourage the Branches that don't sponsor a child or Worker that they might like to consider it and support our own mission field?"

Can you help Ruth (39 Durham Cres, Epuni, Lower Hutt, 5011), with this passion of hers?



If you would like to help with our costs you could send a donation to:

ELEVATE P.O Box 13-322, Onehunga, Auckland 1643

I wish to give \$.....for the magazine

\$..... for general running costs

Name:.....

Address:.....



THE PHILIPPINES REPORT

Briccio's 50th birthday was celebrated with roasting a pig on the basketball court for everyone living in Hebron (150). It included one of the traditions over here - 50 people one by one pinning money on his shirt! Imagine what must happen to a bride's dress!!

We were very happy to join in the celebration of the 35th National Disability and Rehabilitation Week for Persons with Disabilities held in our own Hebron Covered Court, and along with our SPED students there would have been around 260 disabled and able bodied who came from 34 different villages.

During our seminar on Social Enterprises for Persons with Disabilities in Nueva Ecija Province we visited one of the livelihood centres where they are making school desk and chairs. Most of the workers are orthopedically impaired or hearing impaired.

Please pray for:

- Ruth Beale's continuing recovery to full strength.
- \$130,000.00 needed for the completion of the building project for children with disabilities. .
- Placing eight children with disabilities for the new home – preferably for wheelchair and crutch users who could become future leaders for people with disabilities.
- Two caregiver personnel to take good care of the children in the new home.
- Venus Sarmiento, our occupational therapist who would love some new educational materials for her work costing approximately \$100.00.
- Completion of the tiles classroom project. We have enough tiles for eight classrooms, but the cementing and the labour will cost \$3,500.00.
- Can you help with these needs.



This new member of the group is very talented in singing inspite of his disability, we were all encouraged.



Our SPED students gave a special dance presentation during the events.



Hinemoa won the Elevate prize at the Big Event for a dinner out, and shared it with her disabled daughter (on the right) and family.



A meeting was held recently at the Centre by Elevate and Emmanuel for parents with children with disabilities. The speaker was Charles Hewlett who brought a very deep message, "Where is God when it hurts?" He spoke from personal experiences with his two very disabled children, and read parts from his book. The meeting later broke into small groups for discussions.



The progress on the first floor of the House of Love and Compassion. There will be a second floor for classrooms of SPED High School Deaf

Thanks to the two people who responded to the appeal for large screen TVs for the Centre. Greatly needed and appreciated.



Grace doesn't promise the But the presence of God

BOOK
REVIEW

The Triumph of Trust between a man and a dog

Michael Hingson, who is blind, had come early to work this day, taking his guide dog Roselle as he does wherever he goes. High up on the 78th floor of one of the Twin Towers he started to work, when at exactly 8.46 am, he heard a tremendous boom. The building shuddered violently, began to groan and slowly tipped over maybe some twenty feet. What was it – an explosion, an attack, a gas explosion or something hitting the building? Or maybe an earthquake. As the building continued to tilt Michael prayed silently, “God, don’t let this building tip over. Tearfully he and his friend David said goodbye to one another.

Then slowly, miraculously the tilting stopped, and the building started to right itself. The windows had blown out There was smoke and fire all round. Michael remembered the training sessions for an emergency - Avoid the elevators. Take the stairs and don’t panic. Roselle however sat as calm as ever. Had she sensed danger she would have acted differently. David and the company guests set off along the lobby while Michael made a hasty call to his wife. Then, clutching Roselle’s harness he said softly, “Forward,” and they too moved out, met up with David and walked down the lobby before turning into a stairwell and starting on the first of the 1463 stairs they must cover to reach the ground.

Usually Michael says he doesn’t count stairs, but this time he counted for something to do. The people around them had cell phones, but they didn’t work well in their steel and concrete cave, so as they descended it was mostly quiet. Roselle started to pant. The temperature was still comfortable, so she was panting, not for the heat but from the intense concentration needed to focus and guide Michael and the others down the steps. At some landings there was a strong smell of fuel. Fumes were floating along the air currents infiltrating the ventilation system, and soon everyone could smell it Someone suggested aviation fuel, and the thought came that maybe a plane had hit the tower. Ten stairs, turn, and another nine stairs, brought them to each landing.

Again and again a cry goes out, “Pull to one side so a

burn victim can pass by.” Then after a while no more come past and they wonder why, surely there must be more injured?

A woman cries out, “I can’t breathe”, and the group takes time out to calm and reassure her and then move on. Suddenly a thought hits Michael. I can be a guide. If the lights go out Roselle will guide me and I can guide the others. He calls out to the group, “Don’t anybody worry, Roselle and I are giving out a half price special to get you out of here if the lights go out.” Immediately the fear lifts from the group. The importance of knowing just how helpful the dog could be had hit home..here they are, a long line of people on a journey that none of them wanted or anticipated, but they are in it together.

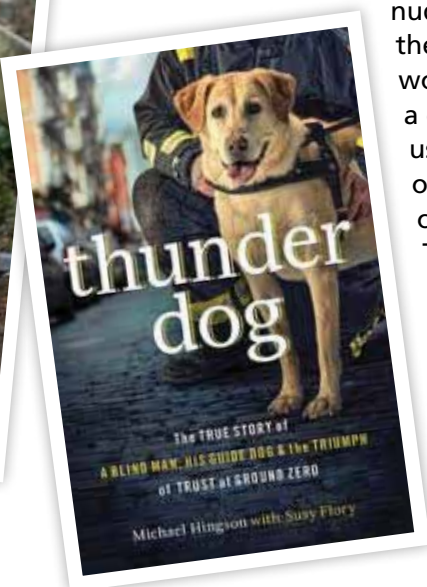
There is undercover fear all round with the general panic level increasing the lower they go. At the 30th floor fire fighters start passing them on the way up. As more fire fighters pass, spontaneous clapping breaks out. Progress becomes slower and slower, and now they are down to a crawl. Finally they are out! They start moving away from the building when there is a cry, “Get out of here. It’s coming down!” The South tower emits a deep rumble that becomes a deafening roar as they desperately run to get clear.

A monstrous dust cloud three hundred feet high roars at them, enveloping them in a thick toxic blanket of smoke, gases, vapours and pulverised concrete dust. The cloud moves too fast for them to escape it, and they are blasted with sand and gravel. Still Roselle leads on, she can no longer see, and they are both running, but her leading is sure. Suddenly in the murk they sense an opening and turn left – Praise God it is an underground station. They move in, still running, when Roselle suddenly stops. Michael feels with



his foot and finds the ground is about to fall away in front of them – they make out a flight of steps leading down to the trains.

They reach the bottom of the stairs when a woman's voice cries out "I can't see! My eyes are full of dirt. I don't want to fall into the subway." Once again Roselle plays a vital part. Michael gives the dog a nudge and they walk towards the voice. "Please don't worry. I am blind and I have a guide dog. She will help us and keep us from falling over." The woman responds clutching Michael's arm. This time the blind really is leading the blind - helping this lady is what teamwork is all about.



These are just snippets from the book, "Thunder Dog", but the full account of Michael Hingsen, along with fascinating insights into his life can be read in this book he has written along with Susy Flory, Thomas Nelson productions, available from Christian book shops.

DO YOU KNOW GOD?

If you've never met Jesus, He is, at this moment, knocking on the door of your heart. He longs to have a personal relationship with you. In fact, He loves you so much that He died for your sins so you could have fellowship with Him now and spend eternity with Him in heaven. All you have to do is open the door and invite Him in as your Lord and Saviour. You can use the following prayer or your own words.

Lord Jesus, I believe You are truly the Son of God. I confess that I have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. Please forgive all my wrongdoing, and let me live in relationship with You from now on. I receive You as my personal Saviour, accepting the work You accomplished once and for all on the cross. Thank You for saving me. Help me to live a life that is pleasing to You

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Emmanuel - Ross Sullivan	sullivan@family.net.nz	09 838 1018
Torch National Alan Little Auckland - Leyna Coleman	vision@inspire.net.nz	06 367 5900 09 832 0130
Joy Ministries National Auckland - Jan Bridgeman	bridgem@extra.co.nz	09 818 3858
Whakatane - Wanda Hughes		07 315 5012
Hawkes Bay - Brad & Karen Spurgeon		06 876 1106
Taupo - Wendy Emsley		07 378 1413
Masterton - Elizabeth Churchill		06 378 7584
Blenheim - Johanna Warren		03 579 1164

Other ministries around the country

Able to Worship - Warkworth Methodist Church Jenny Totter		09 422 7358
33.3 (Jer 33.3) - Te Puke Baptist Church Leslie Schwass		07 573 6421
Group for intellectually disabled - Hamilton Baptist Church Jenny Hawker		07 855 0946
Kumbayah - St David's Anglican Church - Palmerston North Ann Bennett		06 366 1005
Bible Friends - Wanganui Louise Rostron		06 344 5955

Elevate Christian Disability Trust



The umbrella organisation for the organisations below:

- 1. THE CENTRE
- 2. CAMPS
- 3. CFFD BRANCHES
- 4. EMMANUEL
- 5. JOY MINISTRIES BRANCHES
- 6. TORCH
- 7. THE MAGAZINE + LITERATURE
- 8. SEMINARS & SERVICES

1. **Centre:** The Drop-In, Operations, Administration, National, Overseas, Libraries, Books, CD's, MP3's etc
2. **Camps:** National and Regional
3. **CFFD:** Mainly people with physical disabilities
4. **Emmanuel:** Families with children with disabilities
5. **Joy Ministries:** Mainly people with intellectual disabilities
6. **Torch:** Those who are blind or visually impaired
7. **The Magazine** throughout NZ and overseas
8. **Seminars and church services** as well as other outreaches

	Although things are not perfect		Joy would cease to be		Start every day with worship
	Because of trial or pain		Keep thanking Him for all the things		To "thank" is a command
	Continue in thanksgiving		Love imparts to thee		Until we see Him coming
	Do not begin to blame		Move out of "Camp Complaining"		Victorious in the sky
	Even when the times are hard		No weapon that is known		We'll run the race with gratitude
	Fierce winds are bound to blow		On earth can yield the power		eXalting God most high
	God is forever able		Praise can do alone		Yes, there will be good times & yes some will be bad, but...
	Hold on to what you know		Quit looking at the future		Zion waits in glory...where none are ever sad!
	Imagine life without His love		Redeem the time at hand		

Taken from the internet.



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We welcome your enquiry