

# The encourager

The magazine of ELEVATE Christian Disability Trust

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**NATIONAL  
CAMP 2013!**



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## PLUS:

Inspiration

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and much more



christian disability trust



# When you play with sin,

## Joni Eareckson Tada brings a word about: **CREATIVE ENCOURAGEMENT**

*The Sovereign Lord has given me an instructed tongue to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. Isaiah 50v4*

The day had been full of appointments, my back was aching, my neck was stiff, and I was tired of sitting in my wheelchair. However, I couldn't go back to the hotel for several more hours. I was in the middle of autographing books, and at least seventy-five people were still in line.

Then, as I was halfway through the line, a young man opened his book, squinted at the pen I was clenching between my teeth, and said, "I'll bet that thing tastes awful." I nodded. He pulled out a can of Binaca mouth spray and said with a laugh, "Have you ever tried this on your pens?" I giggled and said no but agreed to give it a try. Holding my pen at arm's length, he gave the end a good squirt. It tasted great. The break in routine, the laughter, and that bit of creative thinking were all I needed to perk up my spirit.

I admire people who know how to encourage others by what they say and do. But even if you weren't born with that gift of encouragement, God can teach you. He wrote the lesson in the verse for today. The all-time great Encourager says He will give you His words

to sustain those around you. He even wants to show you, first thing in the morning, those who may need an encouraging word.

What does God require of you, His student? "Listen like one being taught." Cooperate with the Lord when He nudges you to say a kind word. Encouraging others costs no more than a bit of time and effort. Yet who can put a price on its value? Just ask the fellow at the autograph table.



*Thank You Lord, for instructing me to be an encourager. Teach me to listen attentively to You, and then to eagerly step out to offer whatever form of encouragement occurs to me.*

*Taken with permission from "Diamonds in the Dust".*

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## MAKING FRUSTRATIONS FRUITFUL

Every frustration you face can become fruitful – if you know how to use it. An army officer who was talking to some new recruits said; "Weather in war is always favourable, if you know how to use it." That is the point, if you know how to use it. Everything that comes to you in life is favourable – if you know how to use it. Everything, that is, except your personal sin. That is never favourable; its results are always evil. And yet even that can be turned into usefulness. God can help you use even your sins, now forgiven and conquered, to help others in their moral battles.

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*"Life," someone once commented, "is determined more by reactions than by actions."*

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Sometimes things happen to us without any action on our part – life forces situations upon us without our asking or acting. It is then that the reaction counts. You can react in self pity and frustration, or you can react with confidence and courage and make the thing that has happened work for you.

A woman I knew surrendered her life to God, and then troubles and

frustrations crowded in upon her. Her husband became extremely difficult, and so did her son and two daughters. After a period in which everything seemed to go wrong, her family said; "Mother, you have taken everything life has thrown at you, and you have used it to make you a better person. What is the secret?" She told them that it was her faith in Christ that had made her act like this. Nothing soured her; she made everything serve her. What a way to live!

*Taken with permission from "The Word For Today", by Bob Gass*

# you never play for free



Elevate Christian Disability Trust

## A letter to ALL Encourager Readers Did you know...

We publish and distribute 6,000 copies of Encourager four times a year. It costs \$29,000 each year to provide this inspiring magazine which is free of charge to all our readers. Our only source of income for producing Encourager (and running our entire Elevate Christian Disability Trust) is from donations from good folk like you.

Over the past few months donations have been rather low and we have been struggling to make ends meet.

**We urgently need your support. Can you help us?  
Any donation, large or small, is warmly welcome!**

Monthly donations by automatic payment are especially helpful, providing us with greater financial stability.

If you're able to assist, please email [info@elevatedct.org.nz](mailto:info@elevatedct.org.nz) for details, or mail this form to us. Thanks!!

**YES I CAN HELP!**

My name

Postal address

Phone

Email

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Amount pledged per month: \$10 \$25 \$50 Other:

I'll set up an AP by online banking  
Elevate's account number is: **01-0142-0029706-00**  
(If possible, please set up your AP to go out on the 1st of each month.  
Include your name in the reference field of your AP so we can record your donation.)

I don't have online banking - please mail an Automatic Payment form to me, and I'll take it to my bank.

**Please mail this form to us - we'll send you an annual receipt!**

ELEVATE CHRISTIAN DISABILITY TRUST, PO Box 13-322, Onehunga, Auckland 1643.

Elevate is a registered charity so you can claim back 33% of your donation as a tax rebate at the end of the financial year!

**You're awesome!**



# Don't mess with the turkeys, but

## WHAT WAS SPECIAL ABOUT THIS YEAR'S CAMP?

Undoubtedly the preaching of Loto. It was an inspired suggestion by Geoff Wiklund that we should bring Loto and his wife Maria out from the USA, and on page 5 you can read much about his impact. Another very special feature - this was the first time ever we have had two teenagers leading the teenagers group, and how well they rose to the challenge came out in the evaluations forms, one teenager even putting down that their highlight was the preaching of Loto, Manuele and Olivia – praise indeed!

**Each person of course has their own special highlights, and these vary tremendously from person to person, but the following selection conveys some of the deep impact camp has made on people.**

***“Do we have to go, I can't believe it's almost finished, it was so much fun!”***

These were the words that resounded around our car as we left Totara Springs 2012 National Camp. So the precedent was set, our family would most definitely return, but it would take a whole year!

For my husband and I, these were words that filled our hearts with joy, as finally our children were beginning to grasp the blessing of serving others. What a privilege it is to come to Totara Springs, to be provided with opportunities to learn how to express love through service, and to receive God's blessing and infilling as you give. Camp is a place where each of us learn to be more thankful, where we learn to minister and be ministered to, where we are humbled by the courage of those we have opportunities to serve, and where we are refreshed by the unique sweetness and purity of spirit that resides in those gathered here who love the Lord and seek His face.

What a powerful theme to challenge each of us 'Rise up and be Renewed.' Will our family choose to rise up again and plan for camp in 2014? Absolutely we will, as camp is a place to 'wait on the Lord and be renewed.' - **The van Amerigen family**

During this weekend I have enjoyed witnessing such positive changes in the residents I work with, as they have embraced new friends, enjoyed great social times, and soaked in the ministry and presence of God. I would love to return here with my whole family. - **Lifeway Support Worker**

Over the years the camp has changed in so many ways, but the most significant thing which never ceases to change is the way the people and God touch our hearts. In the early days, when our family of seven would come to camp, my favourite part was food, games and ice cream (even 2nd and 3rds!!) – but now my priorities have changed, and I'm more than happy to have 2nd and 3rd helpings of the fellowship with the people that come. I'll be up for next year! - **Nathan Hughes**

The atmosphere here at camp is amazing; there is such a feeling of being accepted for who you are. The people are friendly and caring, and the Love of God as they praise their heavenly Father really touches my heart. - **Kelly Abernethy**



## THE CALLING OF AN EVANGELIST

**Loto, the speaker at this year's National Camp,** is a blind evangelist whose mission is to open the eyes of those who are spiritually blind, and those who can see but are still searching. He described at camp his eye-opening testimony:  
"I finally reach the top of the ladder of a gangster's dream just to find out at the top of that ladder there's only room for one. So it's a very lonely place. I was determined to be a successful gang banger, and found out it was an empty dream that didn't bring the satisfaction I always thought it would. Along with a string of other disappointments and problems I blame this too on God. It was His fault my life was so messed up. I became suicidal and cared about nothing. I lived my life up and couldn't wait for someone to put me out of my misery. Gangs, drugs and girls were the only things that

mattered anymore. In fact my favourite thing to do while living a lifestyle of sin was watching girls dance. I danced the nights away, until the day I found myself staring in to the barrow of a sawed – off shotgun. I was blasted in the face and woke up the next day blind.

Because when you dance with sin nobody dances for free. But glory to God! Becoming blind was the beginning of the best thing that's ever happened to me. God only let the devil close the eyes on my face just so God could open up the eyes of my heart."



Those who were at the Camp loved his messages.

“ During his former life style of drugs etc a lady said to him; “If you sleep with the dogs you will wake up with fleas.” Loto related this and gave these telling thoughts:  
**“You are who you hang out with.”**  
**“Show me your friends and I’ll show you your future.”**  
**“Tell me who you are walking with and I’ll tell you where you are going.” ”**

Here are some of the comments taken from the evaluation forms:

“ He was incredible – absolutely perfect for the audience – really talented and inspirational – great thought-provoking messages – awesome, very practical – connected with everyone where they were at – very inspiring and real – easy to understand – exceptional, really enjoyed his humour and effective way of getting his message across – provided awesome revelations – made a great impact on me – a vibrant speaker – made me want to do more for Jesus – an awesome man of God and such touching messages – loved his passion and conviction – very realistic and down to earth – brilliant and hilarious – so inspiring and encouraging. ”



Many were deeply moved by his messages



# FEAR spells: False

## GOD PROVIDES THE PRAISE

*A new path lies before us;  
We're not sure where it leads;  
But God goes on before us,  
Providing all our needs.*

*Chorus – God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea,  
And rides upon the storm.*

*Thank You God, for little things  
That often come our way,  
The things we take for granted  
But don't mention when we pray.*

*The unexpected courtesy,  
The thoughtful kindly deed,  
A hand reached out to help us  
In a time of need.*

*Oh, make us more aware,  
Dear God, of little daily graces  
That come to us with sweet surprises  
From never dreamed of places.*

**Submitted at camp by Julie Swan.**

## WHAT WE SING AT THE CENTRE

**For birthdays, after we sing the first verse,  
we follow with a second:**

*Happy birthday to you,  
To God be true  
God bless you and keep you  
The whole year through*

**Many have asked for the words of our grace  
which is sung to the tune of Edelweiss**

*Bless our friends  
Bless our food  
Come O Lord and sit with us  
May our talk  
Glow with peace  
Come with Your love and surround us*

*Friendship and love  
May they bloom and grow  
Bloom and grow for ever  
Bless our friends  
Bless our food  
Bless all mankind forever*

## What a way to be welcomed!

**We liked these comments from Karl Johnston some months after being appointed Assistant Pastor to our sister organisation Joy Fellowship in Canada, about how he had been blessed in countless ways:**

- There was my introduction to Lori-Ann when she bypassed my outstretched hand and clamped onto me with a vice-like hug.
- The time I drove Alan into the table with his electric chair. I nervously told him I was sorry that he got stuck with such a lousy driver. He just gave me a big smile.

- The moment I told Bev that I was the new pastor. She asked me several times in a tone of unbelief, "You're going to be our new pastor?" Then to my relief she finally laughed and said, "ooooh, that's good."
- The first time meeting Phillip when he kept shaking my hand and pointing at the window. I didn't know what he was trying to show me, but felt comforted by friendly acceptance.
- Finally at camp, when Stephen asked me to wheel him up to a crying woman that he didn't know, so that he could give her a hug.

## SHORT NOTES ON THE NINE TRUSTEES



### ALAN PACE

Alan is an analyst and technical writer for large businesses. He was formerly a full-time worker in Campus Crusade for Christ and has been involved with the Ministry since 1992.



### HUGH WILLIS

Involved with the Ministry since its inception, he was Head of Maths at Westlake BHS for 15 years before retiring in 1995. He was the National Trust Chairman for 22 years and has been the Magazine Editor for 34 years. He has written 5 books.



### ALF RICHARDSON

Born in South Africa, he established his own veterinary practice in the UK and later South Africa. His church focus is in Pastoral Care and Counselling. He is the Spiritual Advisor for Christchurch CFFD.



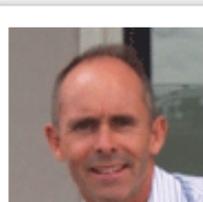
### JOHN HAWKINS

John works in Wellington at Victoria University as the Mechanical Technician in charge of the Engineering Workshop for the School of Architecture and Design. He has been heavily involved with the Wellington CFFD right from the start, mainly in the Chairman's role.



### DEAN BRENNAN

He has been involved with the Trust since 2007, especially in connection with the web page that he has set up. A freak accident in England left him a C4 Tetraplegic. Six years later he emigrated to NZ.



### NICK ABPLANALP

He was Owner and Director of one of New Zealand's largest privately owned IT companies. He has been "sold" on the Ministry ever since first attending National Camp in 1999.



### DAVID SENIOR

The present Chairman of the Trust, he has had a long association with the Trust from very early days. He is blind, on the Kaitaia local Council and involved in leadership in several groups in the disability sector.



### RUTH BEALE

Ruth works as a hospital receptionist at Hutt Hospital. In 1995, as the first CFFD missionary, she went to the Philippines to help set up the Philippines CFFD Branch. Becoming ill, she had to return home, but soon after started a sponsorship programme for the Philippines, and this has grown to help many children and staff.



### DI WILLIS

Di along with husband Hugh and Margie Willers was one of the co-founders of the Ministry. She works at the Centre and at home in a voluntary capacity. Her training as an Occupational Therapist has been invaluable in the Ministry.



# Life without God is like an unsh

“ I was full of what ‘they’ should be doing for special people like my daughter.

**God spoke and showed me it was ‘me’ not ‘they’.** ”

**M**y name is Linda Gill and I am married to a wonderful man called Graham. Twenty five years ago our third daughter Lisa was born. Sadly, on the very first day of her life she contracted meningitis, a terrible illness which left her with significant damage to her brain. Everything changed dramatically for us at that point, and our lives have never ever been the same. It has been at times overwhelmingly difficult. This wasn't exactly what we had planned for our family, quite the reverse in fact, and it has taken us along a path we never envisaged travelling...often, I say with shame, with much kicking and screaming.

Over the years we have encountered many problems, faced many challenges, but approximately seven years ago now we could see a new problem looming that was of fairly significant proportions. It revolved around the fact that soon Lisa would turn 21 and would have to leave school. She had been a very happy student at Waimea College in the Special Education Unit, and as those days



Graham and Linda Gill

were drawing to a close we began to investigate the “what comes next” for her life. She is not able to care for herself in any way whatsoever, and will never be able to be employed. What was organised out there for her to go to next? What on earth was she to do with her days? No matter where you live, whether you stay at home with parents, or move into what is called ‘residential care’, the problem remains the same – what to do 9am to 4pm every day of the week. You must find a ‘day service provider’. There are officially two of these in Nelson coping with very large numbers.

The more I looked, it became increasingly obvious that the choices were few and far between. I had the sense that what was being offered was limited, narrow and eventually isolating. Services were dependent totally on the government dollar to deliver, and as a result were sadly lacking. It was not at all what I had in mind for Lisa’s life. I was beginning to feel extremely discouraged. And I was not alone.

As I chatted to other ‘special’ parents, I sensed a lot of hopelessness and concern. Some had already given up their jobs and were staying at home with their adult children. One family had no help whatsoever and were in a particularly sad situation. Some were receiving funding from the government for their Day Service, and some were not. It was confusing, disappointing and more than a little scary. It was pretty much at this same point that I found myself discouraged on a different level. I had been dissatisfied with my faith, and I began earnestly to try to get closer to God. I felt that my faith was shallow. I wanted change. I decided to read the Bible with a change of heart. I would read it for one reason and one reason alone ... and that was to simply get to know God better – I was not going to read it to get direction, get guidance, get answers, I was simply going to read it to get to know Him. I think that up to then my faith had been all about what I was expecting from God, and I began



Lisa Gill

to wonder... 'what did God expect from me?'

I desperately wanted to just 'know Him', and He began to show me. He is a God who IS love. He's not just loving, He IS love. He is rich in mercy, utterly full of Grace, abounding in goodness, gentleness, forgiveness, absolutely dependable, trustworthy and faithful. He is active, and He is working on the earth. He is full of compassion, and I discovered He was so much closer than I thought.

**Psalm 116:5** "The Lord is gracious and righteous, our God is full of compassion."

I began to see on practically every other page of the Bible His passion for justice, His concern for those being treated unjustly, His concern for the poor, for the person who is marginalised, for those who cannot care for themselves.

I read...

**Psalm 97:2** "righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne."

**Micah 6:8** "He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?"

To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

**Proverbs 31:8** "Speak up for those who can not speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly, defend the rights of the poor and needy."

There was no mistaking it. I knew this to be true – but compassion and justice weren't necessarily my natural bent, and I guess God was

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“ The thought began to dawn on me that maybe, just maybe we could start something from our church that would provide... somehow...some way, something meaningful, something exciting and fantastic ”

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making sure I got the message.

To ignore this fact would be like taking my scissors and cutting out a good portion of the Bible. I was beginning to understand the full extent of the gospel.

I had said I wanted to know God, and He was showing me who He was by highlighting the things that He was concerned about. God cares about injustice.

The responsibility of living justly and ensuring others get a 'fair go'....lies, not with the illusive

'they'...it lies with each and every one of us...and that included me. To this point, I had had plenty of thoughts about what 'they' should be doing. 'They' of course is the favourite kiwi nick name for the government. I was full of what 'they' should be doing for special people like my daughter.

But...God was speaking to me and showing me that these were issues that He was concerned about. He cared, and that meant that I had to care too.

By giving my life to God I had joined His team, and there was a job to be done. I had joined forces with a living God who was at work on the earth, and I began to see that He had work for me to do.

The thought began to dawn on me that maybe, just maybe we could start something from our church that would provide...somehow...some way, something meaningful, something exciting and fantastic, some sort of program that would run every day of the week for those with very high special needs. A place they could come to each day, a place to be surrounded with God's love, a place full of music and joy, a place to be challenged and inspired..a place to be valued, honoured and supported to live the very best lives they possibly could. A place saturated with the fragrance of Christ, spreading everywhere the knowledge of Him. (2 Cor 2:14). I met with others and we began to dream about how this could be, what it would look like. Should we?? Could we??

To be continued in the next Encourager



# *Ships in harbour are safe, but*

## **Bible Friends, Wanganui continues to grow** *by Louise Rostron*

**A**s with many good things, Bible Friends began with a conversation between two friends. In this case, both women wanted to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, and they wanted to encourage each other in this.

One of these women has an intellectual disability and said, 'I really want to be a Christian. I have tried going to different churches in town, but they use long words that I can't understand. They do strange things that I can't understand. The songs have big words in them that I don't understand. I want to follow Jesus, but I don't know how. Can you help me?'

This was a wake-up call for the other lady. She realised that there was a whole group of people in our community that our churches don't cater for, because of the way we do things. In the same way that wheelchair ramps make churches

accessible to people with physical disabilities, there was a need to make Christianity accessible to people who have intellectual disabilities.

We now have a wonderful team of helpers. We use the church van to pick up and drop off people who are living independently and who could not get there otherwise. We have people who play music, lead worship, lead prayer and teach, as well as general helpers. Group members are involved in using their God-given gifts in helping one another and in ministry. Each evening ends with supper.

One of the highlights of our year is at Christmas-time, when we perform a Christmas play for family, flat-mates, friends and church family to enjoy. It is encouraging to be told by some people who come every year that for them, coming to our

performance is the highlight of their Christmas.

Another highlight for many of our members is joining in with the Wellington branch of the CFFD in their annual camp; we have found many friends there. Other special occasions have included baptisms and other celebrations - two of our group met at Bible Friends and got married!

We praise God for leading us week by week, and for supplying our every need. At times we have struggled to find van drivers, musicians, teachers or other helpers, but God always provides for us, though sometimes we have to be patient, and wait!

Editors note, The material put together by this group is quite exceptional. They have put this on a CD, and this is available from them directly or through Elevate.

## **COMING UP - Mark these in your calendar!**

### **DI WILLIS'S 70TH**

Di Willis will be having her seventieth birthday celebration on **Saturday 8th March**, and it will be "a time to thank God" event, and Di would love all who can make it to attend. CFFD Auckland is coming as a group. It will be held at City Impact Church, 794 East Coast Rd, Browns Bay starting at 7pm. No presents, just cards but donations to the Philippines would be most appreciated. Fancy dress or wear something pink, and please bring a plate.

### **WHERE IS GOD WHEN IT HURTS?**

Charles Hewlett, Principal of Carey Baptist College, who has had two very disabled children, will be speaking to families with children with disabilities on "Where is God when it hurts." The meeting is on Saturday 22nd March 2014 at Central Baptist Church, Hamilton. **Contact Heather Major - see page 15 for contact details.**

### **KIDS CONNECT CAMP**

A weekend in Auckland for kids aged 9-16 with physical or mild intellectual disability. Simple Biblical teaching and lots of fun! 21-23 March 2014 in Blockhouse Bay. **Contact Kirsty at Elevate.**

### **A DAY FOR CHURCH LEADERS AND MINISTERS**

**Thursday 22nd May** at the Centre. Different speakers will talk from a Biblical perspective about including people with disabilities in the church.

## WIDE RANGE OF RESOURCES ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED OVERSEAS

» The Trust has spent a lot of time updating and upgrading the Trust's publications so as to make them so much more relevant and helpful. The whole set of eleven booklets was given out at Leadership Camp to all the branches to take away, and copies were also sent to Canada and Australia, and the feedback from both these countries has been very enthusiastic. The aim has been that these should be, not just stored for reference, but put into action at once. In particular, "A Wealth of Ideas" has had much added to it as branches have shared the many different activities they have developed, and "Skits and Dramas" is now a highly polished production with many ideas and examples of very successful ones that have been performed.

Di Willis was invited to be the Guest speaker at this year's Conference of the "New South Wales Crossroads", and she took many copies of two of these booklets with her, which, as in NZ, were given out to those who attended. In the latest "Crossroads News" participants related their impressions of the

Conference. Di was described by one as "a passionate speaker who left many resources and ideas for our members and endeared herself to us all."

Another said, "she was just brilliant, and so full of enthusiasm that it was catching!" while a third referred to her "many inspiring stories of her journey with God" and said, "she was passionate about making sure that we connect first with our Lord, and then with others", while the Chairman said they had a "refreshing challenge as she lovingly shared from the Word, backed every one up with Scripture, and left us in no doubt of the importance of the work carried out by all Branches."



**Tokoroa. Northland CFFD revived this long-lost outreach idea when they made an overnight visit to Kaitaia, described here by Jacqui Gardener:** "20 people from six different locations in Northland including our guests from neighbouring Auckland, travelled to Kaitaia on

**In the early days of the Ministry a team from Auckland made a weekend visit to Kawerau and later to**

September 14 to enjoy the Far North hospitality, and bless them in return with two Elevate outreaches on Sunday the 15th. David and Phillipa Senior organised a visit to the Far North Museum. Then, due to inclement weather, our visit to 90 mile beach was replaced with a lovely relaxed afternoon tea at the Senior Family Cafe. We were then blessed with a hangi served at the Anglican church.

"We were billeted in various homes of members from the Kaitaia Christian Fellowship church, dividing into two teams for services on Sunday at the Anglican and Christian Fellowship churches. Afterwards we feasted at the Christian Fellowship church, on spit roasted pork, as well as other meats and salads. Just awesome! Their hospitality was outstanding, and the chance to share God's love and truth, demonstrated through the lives of those of us facing disability, was impacting and well received."



# Never look down on anybody,

## LEARNING FROM THE PAIN OF THE PAST

by Leslie Gilbert  
of Crossroads, NSW,  
Australia

To tell you about how I have seen God working in my life this year I need to first take you back about 13 years. To the days when we were discovering that our beautiful second child was different to the others. When we struggled to get through each day, and when I sometimes despaired of hope. To days when I learnt to fight for help. When I learnt to be persistent and not give up. To days when I clung to this promise from Jeremiah 29:11, *“For I know the plans I have for you” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you, and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

And the promise from Romans 8:28, *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”*

At the time I had no idea how God would do these things, but I knew that God was faithful, and that I could trust Him. So amongst the tears I learnt new skills and made new contacts as we continued to raise our son. As

I look back now, I see indeed that God is faithful, and that He does work things for our good.

We have seen our difficult young boy grow into a young man who has learnt so much and come so far. Life still is difficult from time to time, but now there is so much hope. So as I tell you how I have

seen God working this year, I want to share with you a poem by Corrie Ten Boom. As she shared this poem she would hold up a tapestry and compare the tangled back to the beautiful front.



Simon aged 6

### **The Plan of the Master Weaver**

*My life is but a weaving between the Lord and me,  
I may not choose the colours,  
He knows what they should be  
For He can view the pattern upon the upper side,  
While I can see it only on this, the under side...*

*Sometimes He weaveth sorrow, which seemeth strange to me,  
But I will trust His judgement, and work on faithfully,  
'Tis He who fills the shuttle, and He knows what is best,  
So I shall weave in earnest, leaving to Him the rest...*

*Not till the loom is silent and the shuttles cease to fly  
Shall God unroll the canvas and explain the reason why -  
The dark threads are as needed in the Weaver's skilful hand  
As the threads of gold and silver in the pattern He has planned.*

She then goes on to quote Psalm 121, *‘I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills.’* Now I don't have a tapestry to show you, but this jumper gives the same idea. Our view is the messy side, but God is weaving our lives into the beautiful pattern that is on the right side.

Now this year I believe God has allowed me to have a little look at the right side of my weaving. This year was one where I had it pretty much mapped out, and as May approached it was going much to plan. Then, on the 4th May, I had a phone call from

a gentleman that attends Crossroads. For those of you who don't know, Crossroads is a St Clement's fellowship group for adults with disabilities.

This man lived with his twin brother and his Dad. He rang me to tell me that his Dad had passed away overnight. He had with him and his brother a distant relative who had come over, and as we talked he said he would like me to come. So a little later I headed over to his house thinking I would offer comfort and support for the day, and that would be all I would need to do.

As I spent the day with them though, I saw many things that their Dad had helped them with that they would not be able to manage on their own. I saw many things that I knew that I had learnt over the years that would help them to remain in their own home. I knew who to ring to get support for them in the long term. I knew what to say to them so they could learn new things and how to help them achieve this. I also saw the only relative who was in Sydney flounder out of her depth, and although she wanted to help them, she did not have the skills or experience.

So on the 4th of May I made a decision that I would do everything I could to help them, because God had trained me for this. Through the hardship of raising our son God had taught me what I needed for helping these two men. I could not walk away. How could I have faced my Lord

on the last day and explained that I had left these men on their own. I could imagine Him saying to me, "but I trained you so you would be ready for this day", and instead I so long for Him to say, "Well done good and faithful servant."

So I stayed, and I continue to help them a couple of days a week. And so this year I have had a glimpse of the proper side of the tapestry, and how the pain of years past has been used to help and support these men. But I have also had a little surprise. I thought my tapestry was all about me. But in fact my tapestry joins and interweaves with the tapestries of others. The experiences of my life affect others, especially those

who also love the Lord. And the promise from Jeremiah about God having plans for me that will bring hope, also involve bringing hope to others, not just me. And in Romans God says He is working things in my life for my good, but He is also working things in my life for the good of others who also love the Lord.

So God has again taught me that life is not about me. Life is about using the gifts and experiences that God has given me in service of Him. So every day I strive to live in a way that will bring glory to Him. And indeed may I one day hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

## NEW LOGOS DEVELOPED FOR THE MINISTRY



CFFD  
(CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
FOR DISABLED)



JOY  
MINISTRIES



EMMANUEL



TORCH  
OUTREACH



DROP IN  
CENTRE

# The shortest distance between is the distance between your

## Faye Trethowen tells about: LIVING LIFE AS A BLIND PERSON

I began life in Cambridge in 1927. My brother Merv and I had an eye condition called Congenital glaucoma. Three years later we moved to a small farm in Hunua, fifty miles south of Auckland City, a major move. Dad, Mum, four sisters, two brothers and myself, the cows, the horse, and Mic the dog. I loved the farm life, being free to run and climb trees. I had enough sight to be able to see and pick the clean white mushrooms in the fresh green grass. This was about the time that I learned to knit. Winter evenings we all sat round the fire, and my father sometimes read aloud while my mum, sisters and I all knitted. It took me quite a long time to learn, as I didn't really have enough sight, but eventually I did learn.

I started school when I was nine. It had to be a boarding one because it was too far away to go as a day pupil to the only school for Blind children in New Zealand at that time - the Blind Institute in Parnell, Auckland, where they taught Braille. I hated it, had great difficulty mastering Braille and didn't like boarding. When I was twelve we moved to Manurewa which meant I now could go to that school on the train so no more boarding which pleased me immensely. After leaving school I faced the very difficult decision that I had to earn a living, but bought a Knitting Machine and people from all over New Zealand sent me their wool to knit the bottom bands and buttonhole bands for their hand knitted garments.

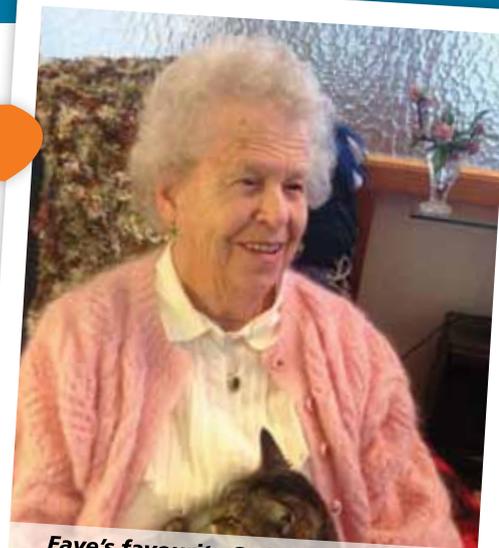
At twenty three I married Vic Trethowen. To keep house, cook and bottle fruit was no problem, my mother and family had taught me well, I just loved to do the things they did. Now it was time for my babies, which again was no problem. As my mother often had other babies to care for, I learned to change nappies, so when I came home with my own it wasn't difficult. The Lord blessed me with a son and two daughters. I learnt that I needed to find the Lord for myself. I learnt to pray about problems and the circumstances which concerned me, and soon this became quite normal for me.

At that time my marriage broke up. I went out looking for work which I could do, and was thrilled when I heard that Fisher & Paykel would like to interview me. I hadn't wanted to work in a factory, but that's what the Lord

provided. They were wonderful to me and I worked there for nine months until I heard that Middlemore Hospital needed someone to work as a Dark Room Assistant developing X-Rays. I worked there for about 10 years and wouldn't have left if they had allowed me to have a Guide Dog, but this they would not do.

I wonder if many Blind Cooks have the problems which I seemed to occasionally have. One time I couldn't find the dish cloth, but when I came to dish up the dinner, there was the dishcloth! Another time I was in a hurry and thought I had put Sago in the Tomato Soup to thicken it up a bit, but found it was birdseed! And yes, I made my custard with Bi-Carbonate of Soda instead of Custard Powder! Funny now, but it's usually when we are in a hurry that these things happen. Mostly it all went well.

When the children were teenagers I left the church that I had been brought up in and looked around a bit before finding a fellowship which taught about the Infilling of the Holy Spirit. That was a wonderful experience as it opened my Spiritual Eyes, making me feel much closer to the Lord. Later on I joined the Christian Fellowship for Disabled meetings and the Centre, where I enjoyed the singing and being a pianist there. We had a group of three blindies!! called "The Three Blind Mice." The keen Bible Studies were great to be a part of. I loved talking to people, and of course did masses of knitting. About twenty years ago I joined the Papatoetoe Christian Fellowship, very quickly becoming a pianist, at which I am still able to take my turn. They have always been so kind and supportive saying, "Oh, we forget that you are blind. That's always a compliment when people say that. For the last 18 years I've knitted baby clothes for the Leprosy Mission. These are sold around NZ, with the money going to the Mission.



Faye's favourite Scriptures are  
Prov 3 v 5,6, Jer 29 v 11, Heb 13 v 5

# a problem and its solution, knees and the floor

## Camps and events in 2014

7-9 March	Wellington CFFD	El Rancho, Waikanae
21-23 March	Kids Connect CBM	Motu Moana, Blockhouse Bay
11-13 April	Christchurch CFFD	Blue Skies, Kaiapoi
9-11 May	Auckland CFFD	Carey Park, Henderson, Auckland
16-18 May	Joy Ministries	Totara Springs, Matamata
24-27 Oct	Trust National Camp	Totara Springs, Matamata



The song "I am a friend of God" has such a catchy tune and has such a real truth to it.

**Are you a friend of God or do you want to be?**

We all do things wrong (sin), and that's why Jesus died to take "our sin" on the cross. He wants to be "our friend". We just need to ask His forgiveness, and to ask Him into our life.

**Do contact us if you have questions. (Some Scriptures: Rom 3:23, Rom 6:23, John 3:16)**



Prue Lusk



Brian Ferguson

### SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIED THIS YEAR

**Brian Ferguson**, CFFD Auckland Committee Chairman, huge involvement at all times, Trustee, National and regional camps.

**Prue Lusk**, one of the Founders of Wellington CFFD, Wellington CFFD committee, camps regional and National.

**Muriel Larsen**, Auckland Prayer Chain and CFFD committee.

**Ridd Harrison**, Advisor in early days, took Bible Studies at the Centre for several years.

**Murray Stevenson**, Auckland CFFD Committee, Joy Ministries.

**Bev Armstrong**, Torch meetings and camps.

**We so appreciate all the wonderful input of these folk who have died this year, and we pray for their family and friends.**

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Ann Bennett		06 355 2818
<b>Bible Friends - Wanganui</b>		
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# SOME CLIPS FROM NATIONAL CAMP 2013



**Tug of War**



**Communion**



**Judging the best Bible Character**



**Cabin Time**



**Nail Painting**



**Wonderful Fellowship together**



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We welcome your enquiry