

# The encourager

The magazine of ELEVATE Christian Disability Trust

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Inspiration  
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and much more



A Joy Minsinstries Play



Spenceley helping Mandy Lee



Halana



Natalie

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO THE FORE AT DI'S 70TH



*A devotion from Joni Eareckson Tada included here with permission*

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN EVERYONE FULFILS THEIR FUNCTION

If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. ***1 Corinthians 12:15***

**W**hen I was in Germany a few years ago to speak at a church, I was linked up with a blind woman named Elizabeth, who served as my interpreter. For five sessions we were at the microphone, me with my wheelchair and Elizabeth with her white cane.

During a break someone placed on my lap a magazine printed in English. It looked like good reading, but I couldn't hold it or turn the pages. Elizabeth asked me a few questions about the cover, so I said, "Look, how about if you hold it up and turn the pages. That way I can read it aloud so we can both enjoy it." We did just that.

After a few minutes Elizabeth and I attracted the attention of her pastor, who, upon watching us, decided to use us as an illustration for his sermon on 1 Corinthians 12. In short, we all have need of each other. Imagine, just imagine, a church in which each member used his or her strength to make up for another's weakness. Eyes see, ears hear, hands hold, and feet move the body forward. When everyone fulfils their function, the whole body benefits. When someone's not doing his or her thing, everybody suffers. My blind friend in Germany would agree: in the church body there's no such thing as a nobody.



What strengths do you bring to the body? Are you using them for the Lord? If not, give your pastor a call and offer to do your part.

And pastors, we all in the church body have need of those with disabilities in our midst. They have a part to play in your church. (see pages 4 and 5).



"I think the deaf interpreter is ad-libbing again"

**Notification:** In issue 142 of *The Encourager* (previous issue), on page 2 the devotion was by Pauline Stansfield which was not printed with the article.

### Cover photos clockwise from top left:

- Members of the Joy Ministries group brought a play.
- Spenceley, a very caring wheelchair taxi driver, helps Mandy Lee.
- Natalie who is blind sang 'Capable Hands' (all I need to know).
- Halana Janiszewski, without once looking at the Bible, did a faultless reading of 1 Chronicles 13, and received a standing ovation for doing so.

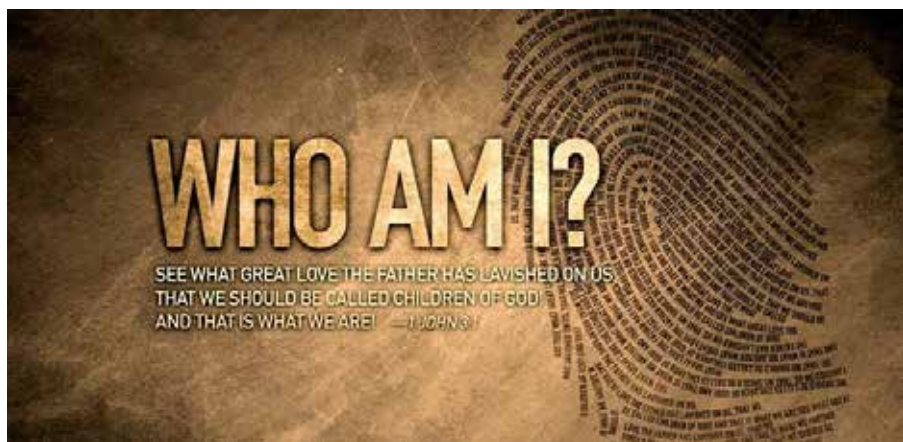


## NATIONAL CAMP 24TH – 27TH OCTOBER 2014

The Camp Theme is: **Who Am I..?**

📖 1 John 3:1

*"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"*



### **COST OF WEEKEND:**

Adults - \$170, 11-14 - \$110, 5-10 - \$75, 0-4 - Free

Adults fee reduced to \$160 if paid in full before 1st September (this is non-refundable)

**Closing date for all registrations is 1st October , but please, to help our organising, REGISTER WELL BEFORE THEN**

**YOU CAN NOW REGISTER ONLINE!** Registration forms are available to download from the Elevate website.

**Email:** [elevatedtccamp@gmail.com](mailto:elevatedtccamp@gmail.com)

Richard Goh, 118B Sunset Rd, Unsworth Heights, Auckland 0632 **Phone:** 09 444 3062

It's going to be a great camp. Make a decision now to come to National Camp!! If you've never been, give it a go – you won't regret it. We need folk with disabilities who have been before, and helpers who know the routine etc – you are invaluable. We cannot have a camp without you.

**Come and have FUN, FELLOWSHIP and go deeper into FAITH!**

## OTHER NEWS

- A Warkworth based ministry called Able to Worship for people with learning difficulties, has established strong links with "Fountains" a similar group which has been established in Liverpool in the UK. Sue O'Brien who was born in the UK is one of the co-founders and directors of the Warkworth group, and when she returned to the UK in 2012 she helped Cath Morgan set up this similar ministry at their home church in Liverpool. "We shared a similar vision, and after exchanging ideas Cath set up monthly meetings. Fun, faith and friendship is the theme of both groups, and the two ministries pray for each other and have set up pen-pals.
- Margie Willers book "Awaiting the Healer" can now be downloaded from Kindle Amazon for \$9.98 at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)
- DISABILITY AWARENESS SUNDAY is taking place as this edition goes to print on 15 June. We apologise for the wrong date in the last Encourager, BUT the great news is that if you didn't do anything YOU STILL CAN on another Sunday – Do let us know about it – Feel free to ring.
- Colin Winters who has led the Hawkes Bay Joy Ministries Branch for many years has gone to the mission field in Uganda at the Noah's Ark orphanage. Do pray for him and his family.



Each new day brings

## PASTORS – THIS IS WHAT YOU MISSED ON THE 22ND MAY

These photos were taken at ***“BEYOND DISABILITY – the unique role of the Church”***, the first conference ever run by Elevate and Laidlaw for pastors. Pastor Tim Lee (shown on the right) came all the way from Rotorua and was one of the speakers. Another was Immanuel from Laidlaw Bible College and the Principal Rod Thompson.



At intervals the conference broke up into groups of six to nine to hear different thoughts on a variety of topics, and much animated discussion resulted.

The day ended with a panel discussion and earlier the giving out of a booklet of testimonies. The whole conference was made possible by a generous grant from MSD's "Making a Difference Fund".



## IT'S NOT TOO LATE !!!

**Pastors – If you missed attending this conference you can still get hold of a great booklet given out there which through some 20 testimonies brings out the many avenues in which churches can be enriched as they reach out to bring those with disabilities into their church. Also, other people enthusiastically describe what their churches have opened up for them.**

The testimonies include a pastor relating the benefits people with disabilities have brought to his church, another young man with a severe disability describing how he through his church involvement has developed a passion to communicate the Gospel, and a pastor telling how after the Lord had challenged him about his lack of attention to people with disabilities in his church, made a visit to Joni and Friends headquarters in the USA and was blown away by what he learnt there, and how this has revitalised his church. Another pastor lost his fear of disabled people when he volunteered to take on a servant's role at our National Camp, while others with disabilities in the churches tell of how their churches have brought them forth strongly in their Christian walk.

**To get the booklet, ring 09-636-4763 or write to P.O. Box 13-322 Onehunga, Auckland 1643**

## THE IMPACT ON A CHURCH

There aren't too many churches who have a pastor who is right behind including people with disabilities in their church program, but Taupo Baptist has not just one but two such pastors!

### ***The senior pastor Keith Harrington tells about their experiences:***

"The impact on our church of our involvement with those with disability has been manifold. There is now a growing degree of acceptance of differences in our services.

"People comment if our Joy Ministry folk are missing. Those with disability are uninhibited in worship, which helps free our relatively conservative worship expression. A year or so back the Joy Ministry led the congregation in "This little Light of Mine", and the place just took off in worship. It was great to experience. We are seeing more and more folk involved in the quarterly Joy Ministry services. I think as a church we are finding the joy in diversity, and are growing in love for people. We are more diverse and healthier for it. I think that those with obvious disability by being part of our service helps others come to terms with their own struggles more easily – that none of us is perfect. It reinforces the grace culture.

"I am sure some visitors come and are put off by seeing so many with disability and so don't come back. That is why you really have to understand what you are doing and why you are doing it, and that there might be a cost. At times they can create noise and disturbance. However, others come and love what they see, and it reinforces their desire to want to come back. Some find it a culture shock to start with as they have not been exposed to people with disability before. Sometimes children and adults can be a little intimidated by some of our folk, and need to be gently educated."

### ***Pastor Wendy Emsley continues:***

"We are really careful about how much to push, but the funny thing is that now, because they feel that they belong, the Joy Ministry people make it happen anyway – they sign up for everything – so for example – if you are the person running the Light Party – then you have to find places for the Joy Ministry people,



as a visitor you are quite likely to be welcomed by a Joy Ministry person, and when during communion we ask for volunteers to help distribute it – they are up the front way before anyone else. I think that a lot of their involvement is because they just love to feel like they belong as part of us – just like anyone else – the need for belonging is a very basic one.

"Last year we baptised a person who couldn't read, write or express himself verbally like most other people (shown above). We used pictures, and asked simple questions of him, to which he was able to respond. I think that experience opened the eyes of many of our people that the Holy Spirit can speak to anyone. We are learning that having the Joy Ministry people as part of our congregation is a gift to us, they lead us in so many ways – enthusiasm, un-inhibition, simple obedience, no masks. They have taught us that it's OK to be broken, and actually once you accept that – you have a lot more freedom to accept yourself and others. We are learning that we need them just as much as they need us." ■





There are two parts to the Gospel:

# KRISTA'S STORY

By Mary Horning

Our first child was born in the summer of 1987. I dreamed of being a mother all my life and was thrilled the time had finally come, but I was not prepared for what happened that day. Instead of a newborn's cry as she took her first breath, there was only silence. The doctor held my baby up to me, quickly pointing out her misshapen skull, hands and feet. With concern she could not hide, the doctor told us our child was very sick. "She has obvious defects, which means there may be many more we cannot see." Gasping for breath, our baby girl was hurried to intensive care. Soundless tears fell as the commotion in the room faded and we took in the sobering news.

*Be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10a*

The next day as a surgeon studied her protruding eyes, sunken cheeks, and fused fingers and toes, he concluded she had Apert syndrome, a rare genetic disorder. "This is the worst case I have seen," he told us. "Your daughter has severe bone deformities all over her body which will require years of reconstructive surgery. You may think I can perform miracles and you will walk out of here with a normal child. But that will never happen. The only thing I know for now is the world will be a cruel place for her." Our hearts ached as the doctor's words went on and on. There would be hearing loss, speech problems, mental delays and much more. As if all this was not enough, he predicted our marriage would end. Doubt and fear consumed my thoughts. How much pain and anguish can we bear? Why was she born this way? Life seemed hopeless, absolutely hopeless.

*Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my saviour and my God. Psalm 42:5 (NIV)*



We chose the name Krista – follower of Christ – before she was born, and now we longed for it to be her identity. But what would the future hold? Would there be only anger toward the God who created her this way, or would she truly follow Christ? I asked the same questions of myself. I had been a believer all my life. Was this how God repaid me for my allegiance? All my hopes for a normal life filled with ballet, piano and school, looked petty now. I was desperate to hear God's voice, just to know He loved me and was still for me. Nothing else really mattered. Clinging to a promise from His word, we dedicated Krista's life to the Lord.

*"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." Jeremiah 29:11(NIV)*

A nasal bone obstruction made breathing impossible for Krista, since infants mainly breathe through their noses, not their mouths. Multiple surgeries to remove the bone and create an airway helped very little, and she remained in the hospital for six weeks until the doctors were confident she could breathe on her own. The day we came home was bittersweet as we set up arm loads of medical equipment to monitor her breathing and suction her airway. Now that Krista was home in our care, I lay awake most nights listening to her wheeze and gasp, anxiously begging God for the next breath to come.

It was a wintery November afternoon when my fear became reality. Scar tissue blocked one side of her nose. We rushed to the clinic only to be told our

# Believing it and behaving it.

surgeon was out of town and no other physicians knew enough about her condition to help. "But what if the other side closes too? She won't be able to breathe." "There is nothing we can do without your doctor." We wept, walking to the car. If the doctors could not help, who could? As we pleaded with God to show us what to do, our eyes were drawn to graffiti scrawled on the sidewalk. "Trust Jesus"

*I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. Psalm 121:1 (NIV)*



Decision after decision had to be made for Krista's care. Should we subject her to countless surgeries, any of which might claim her life? A team of surgeons performed her most gruelling procedure to date when she was four months old. Making an incision in Krista's head from ear to ear, they sawed the skull apart and carefully pieced it back together in a different way to make room for her brain to grow. Family, friends and people we did not even know prayed all day and night. Hours later, when surgery was over, Krista could barely peer through her swollen eyes. Layers of gauze encircled her battered head, hiding gaping holes and bloody stitches. We did not understand this suffering, but all the while God was there with us, quieting our restless souls.

*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through*

*the fire you will not be burned, the flames will not set you ablaze. "For I am the LORD your God, the Holy one of Israel, your Saviour." Isaiah 43:2,3 (NIV)*

Doctors visits were endless, surgery followed surgery. Krista hardly recovered from one operation before going in for the next. At times they appeared to be unproductive, making only slight changes to her quality of life. When Krista was two years old a specialist examined her fingers, joined together like mittens on her hands. He separated them one surgery at a time, leaving a thumb and three fingers on each hand. Now they were apart, but still stiff and unbending, attached to wrist bones and arm bones and shoulder bones that did not move either. ■

*So we do not lose heart. Though our outward nature is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 2 Corinthians 4:16 (ESV Children's Bible)*



Krista (centre) with her family

The second part of Mary's account will be featured in the next "Encourager" and tells how Krista came through 60 surgeries to graduate from High School and now works part time at a clinic that meets the needs of children with disabilities. Krista published the book, "JUST THE WAY I AM" God's Good Design in Disability, which on its first printing sold out in a month. This excerpt by her mother Mary is taken from that book, a book that is beautifully put together with a series of stunning black and white photos.

The book is copyright, but these excerpts are included here as we have been graciously granted permission by the publisher Christian Focus Publications. In NZ it can be ordered from Christian bookshops.







*"One man with courage"*

## DI'S 70th



70th's are always special but in the case of Di Willis even more so because it marked her approaching 40 years of devotion to following out the call that she and Margie Willers had received to set up and develop a ministry with people with disabilities all those years ago. She was keen to have items from groups who are playing a big part in her life, and on this page and the cover you see some of these.

Koreans have always been to the fore in the ministry, and the eleven below include students, interns, pastors and helpers who have all been to the Centre and some to National Camp as well.



Regular attendees at the Drop in at the Centre were keen to be involved



The Hendrys are a highly talented musical family who have come to the Centre and National Camp and are held in the highest regard. They entertained with tap dancing and playing piano accordions. The Voice Dance group who have been to our camps are seen here in their grand finale.



## GOD AT WORK BEHIND THE SCENES

On Di's persuasive request, I put it to my family, for the second time that "performing" at her 70th was not about us, but about being a blessing. With great reluctance they finally agreed to present an item, and so began my arduous task of rallying up in them the belief that Philippians 4:13 is truth!

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"*

The song "When it's All Been Said and Done" reflected what is of value to us as a family – "There is just one thing that matters, did I do my best to live for truth, did I live my life for You? Lord, I'll live my life for You." I then took it to our team. Every ounce of my being gave a stirring appeal (I felt a touch of Winston Churchill pulsing through me) as I encouraged our young ones that not only was this possible, but it was an amazing opportunity to grow in areas of their individual characters ... and that is what is of eternal value.

And so began our seven day journey along the difficult path of self-development and service. The head of the home was thrown into serious brain bending to access music scores off shore, transpose music, and lead different sections of practice – three different types of recorders for players who hadn't played them for a few years! Additional to the instruments, we had a beautiful young dancer who choreographed a simple, yet expressive

"There is just one thing that matters, did I do my best to live for truth, did I live my life for You? Lord, I'll live my life for You."



dance, from her heart. I was to learn the words to hopefully be able to sing, and the head would either join me on the night in either singing or playing.

What unfolded, amongst a roller coaster week of laughter and tears of frustration, was an opportunity to see individual personalities growing parts of their characters – self motivation, perseverance, discipline and self-control. I was delighted, and the head was amazed at the sheer tenacity that was blossoming as the date loomed closer. Finally, on the eve of the party, we sat together, prayed and by the grace of God, appeared to make a reasonable sound – halleluiah!

I had explained to our team that at three years of age, we couldn't expect our youngest member to participate on stage, so she wasn't included in the official choreography. Unofficially however, through careful observation and determination throughout the week's practices, she included herself!

Finally we were called onto stage, and I introduced our family. My heart swelled with joy as I saw our team serve. The compliments and encouragement we received afterwards were a rich reminder to me, and a lesson again for our children, that all we need to be, is willing and available. Yes, it can be uncomfortable in the process, and yes there is often a cost in time and effort. But the blessings are a far greater reward, as you see and hear of hearts God has touched through your service. ■



Fiona and husband Tim

*Fiona Van Amerigan*



Faith begins when man's power

## THE PHILIPPINES CAMP



*"Bondages of bitterness and un-forgiveness were broken, and many learned to forgive. The staff were amazed that these first timers, after just a day, felt so free and accepted that they were not frightened to come up in front."*

**A**fter a year's break the Philippines CFFD again held their disabled camp – there were 49 with disabilities, 4 companions and 24 staff including the cooks. The theme was "God has a Wonderful Plan for Your Life", just as God says in Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

For Lesley, who was the one who did most of the organization, it was a BIG challenge!! She had sleepless nights, camp was in her head morning till night and night till morning!! but God gave her a very supportive team. Her sister Hernalie accompanied her most of the time as she was organizing the camp, and this was such a help.

There were many new campers and they were all touched and blessed by God. How glad they were to witness many people with disabilities accepting Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Not only were the campers blessed but the team as well. Bondages of bitterness and un-forgiveness were broken, and many learned to forgive. The staff were amazed that these first timers, after just a day, felt so free and accepted that they were not frightened to come up in front, even though they didn't know the staff.

Pastor Neil Perion was the camp speaker. He contracted polio when he was nine months old, and this weakened his left leg, yet it did not serve as a hindrance to him becoming a speaker with a good

sense of humor and a passionate heart for motivating people with disabilities. He shared that when Lesley invited him, he could not say yes right away because he already had another booking, but as he pictured Lesley struggling up the stairs with such determination to meet him, this touched his heart and made him decide to drop his speaking engagement in Marikina City and take the PCFFD Camp instead. Knowing that the audience would be people with disabilities also inspired him to say yes. The topics he discussed were salvation, forgiveness and 'live, love, learn and legacy'.

The venue was great, the weather fine, the food yummy, the people friendly and the atmosphere awesome. They send thanks to all those in New Zealand who have unceasingly supported the camps, and especially for the huge collections taken at National Camp. It is very much appreciated. To God be the glory!! ■

*In place of the presents at Di's 70th, \$1247 was given for the Philippines ministry and \$320 for Elevate.*



## THIS SCRIPTURE BRINGS ME THROUGH WORRY

**M**y name is Stewart James; I'm a Christian who two years ago had an accident that left me an incomplete paraplegic. Before you read the rest of this I'd like you to read Matt 6:25-34. This is all about worrying. It roughly says; don't worry over life's troubles. It will not add another hour to your life. The Lord provides for the birds of the air and beasts of the fields, and how much more important are we than them. This is Important to me because I have always been a worrier and have liked this verse for a very long time, and it has come back to me again and again.

I was brought up going to church. My mother was a faithful Christian, but I did not really know what faith my father had. He gave us good morals but was over-handed with our discipline, so I grew up a little confused, knowing there was a God and only one God, but I never really knew Him.

I continued to go to Christian based events in my pre-teen years till I had my first encounter with the Holy Spirit. I was joining in with an after-school Bible class, and on one Saturday evening the class I attended had a shared dinner with people who had earlier been involved with the group, and had now grown up. I met a man who talked with so much passion about the Bible, and I remember thinking that I wished I had that same passion. But during my teen years I wandered away from the Lord. I knew He was real, but I wanted to do the normal teen things. When I was about 17 years old I was drawn back to church by what every teen boy wants- a girl! That didn't work out, but I found something so much bigger and important, a relationship with the Lord.

I developed a good faith in the Lord, but even though I had plenty of friends I struggled with being lonely, was depressed and had suicidal thoughts. A turning point came when I was 25 and was asked to help out with a kid's camp with CCS, The Idea was to integrate special needs children with main-stream children. At the beginning of the camp I was playing with some boys who were hanging off me, and it took



*If life gives you  
lemons, make  
lemonade!*

all my strength to keep on my feet, when it suddenly dawned on me - if this many kids like me, I mustn't be such a bad bloke. This was an important turn in my life, to be able to love myself. If you don't love yourself how can you love others?

This was the start of my youth-leading years which I have now be doing for 17 years, and am still doing. Then life took a dramatic turn. I had an accident that put me in hospital and I couldn't move my legs. For the first three days I worried about many things. Is ACC going to come through? How can I pay for a mortgage on a sickness benefit? What's going to happen with my flat mates if the mortgage falls through? But on the third day, I felt the Lord say, "you know that Scripture that's embedded in your heart". The tide turned, and I thought to myself. If life gives you lemons, make lemonade! That is to say, whatever life throws at you, do the best with what you have got! This does not mean that you will not fail. No, we will fail a lot until we meet the Lord face to face. But this means don't give up! The definition of a failure is not someone who fails, but is the one who gives up.



Never give up, for that is just the place and time

# THE AMAZING FAMILY RETREATS IN THE USA

**J**oni and Friends runs some ten Family Retreats throughout the United States, each in different localities. They have some similarities to our camps, but there are two huge differences:

- 1 They last for five days.
- 2 In New Zealand families with a child with a disability get a welcome and much-needed break when we are able to find a helper for their child. At Family Camps the whole family comes to camp where helpers look after their child throughout the day.

**Here are some accounts from Joni's newsletters of what it can do for the other family members:**

The Moore family have three young children including six year old Ana with Down Syndrome. They arrived at one retreat not knowing what to expect. Richard, the father, said, "I was sold the minute we crossed the bridge and saw people waving welcome signs with our name on them. We had to pull over and cry. In one joyous moment the isolation that is part of everyday life for families with disabilities was broken by God's love.

We are often outsiders because of Ana's disability. To be celebrated because of her is overwhelming.



*Matthew McIntosh & his family*

We are 'on' all the time at home. The retreat gives us true rest in Christ and reconnects us as a family. We have a chance to worship and hear God's word together, to finish a conversation. I tell other families with special needs kids, 'If you feel overwhelmed and need to find God's rest, if you need to be reconnected to your child or your wife, come to Family Retreat.'

"Family Retreat is encouragement, hope and strength we don't get anywhere else," say David and Tracy Brill (shown above) who attended a camp with their three sons. "When you have a



*David, Tracy Brill & family*

disability in the family, these things aren't found in the world."

At Family Retreat we get closer together as a family and closer to God" says Tracy. "Other families



"Family Retreat is encouragement, hope and strength we don't get anywhere else," say David and Tracy Brill

show us God's love and encourage us to press on.

David continues, "When we leave at the end of the week, we take the support and love of our family in Christ with us. We carry God's word with us all year long. You can't put a price on what God gives us at Family Retreat."

Matthew McIntosh and his wife have two children, Mya and Aiden shown to the left. He writes: "Men like me work and do our jobs. They don't talk about what's going on in their lives. But at Family Retreat, Bible Study and small groups with other men give dads a chance to bond. We talk about what good things having a child with a disability brings out. We so easily forget the positives because we live with constant therapies, doctor's appointments and the hard work it takes to pay for all those things. When we get here we're wiped out.

But as soon as we get here we let it all go. As a dad I know my children are loved at Family Retreat like Jesus loves them – unconditionally. So, for a few hours I can focus on my walk with Christ, who I am and what I'm doing as a father.



Nick & Matthew



Nick & Joseph had a great time!

And what does it do for the helpers who are called Short Term Missionaries. Let Nick Case tell you how his life was changed when he first attended one of these camps;

"I wanted to learn how to serve God and other people – and it happened! My first week I served Matthew, a boy with autism and Down Syndrome, I built trust with his mom and dad which gave them the chance to leave Matthew with me. They couldn't remember the last time they had that chance. I really felt I had ministered to them.

Brimming over with joy and new purpose, Nick signed on to serve for a second week. He served 11 year old Joseph and his parents – and he and Joseph did it all ...the waterslide, wheelchair races, karaoke, swimming, rock wall climbing. It was non-stop and

power packed. By the week's end they were inseparable.

Nick continues, "Family Retreat has opened my eyes. I love disability ministry. I have decided to base my college major in this area.

It's important for me to learn what God wants of me. I'm letting the Lord's plans unravel in my life now instead of my own. The fellowship and love here is unlike anything I've ever experienced. I want to come back because it's natural to want to be with your family, and Family Retreat is my family. ■

*One day when we get enough helpers we would love to run family camps here in New Zealand. In the meantime families with a child with a disability are very welcome to come to our National camps.*



True faith goes into operation when

## WHEN I THINK ABOUT THE CHILDREN, MY ANNOYANCE, DISAPPOINTMENT AND ANGER HAS TO GO



### *In-Kwon reports from Tonga*

From Monday to Thursday, we provide physiotherapy to around 40 children with severe cerebral palsy. Most of them are from poor families, and so we use our centre van to pick them up and drop them off. There are times I go to pick up children with disabilities in order to give them physiotherapy service, but I come back in vain. Whenever that happens, I find myself getting angry.

*"Do they realise how much money and time I have to spend each time? If they can't come, they should have called to let me know earlier. Next time, I'm not going to go pick them up until they call to let me know."*

Whenever I become angry at the children's caregivers, my wife remains quiet and then says,

*"Please think of the children."*

She's right. Even though I promise myself that I will no longer go to pick them up, whenever I think about the children lying inside a small room and their bodies getting distorted day by day, I don't know what I should do. I become negative and don't want to go anymore when I think about the irresponsibility of the parents, but whenever I turn my thoughts towards the poor children, there's nothing I can do but to go and pick them up again. Yes, there are times when I'm disappointed and there are times when I'm exhausted, but there are also times of joy. On April the 2nd, the parents of autistic children came together at the Mango Tree Centre to hold a ceremony for the 'World Autism Awareness Day'. This was the very first

ceremony for Autism Awareness Day here in Tonga, and a variety of people attended, including parents of autistic children, persons from school and hospital.

Also, a few days ago, the books about education for autistic children arrived, having been sent by a Korean lady who has an autistic child, and this made the parents really glad. Near the end of April, Becky from New Zealand came to Tonga to meet the mothers of autistic children. Becky has brought up an autistic child for 18 years and knows well of the hardships parents go through. She came to Tonga, paying her own travel expenses, so that she could talk with and comfort the mothers of autistic children. What a special time it was for Becky and the parents.

In Tonga, a small island in South Pacific, where nobody really knows what autism is and how to treat it, we were all really thankful and moved to receive books from that lady and the visit from Becky. It is incredibly encouraging, and we can definitely feel God's love through these events. We had been praying for years about how we could help these children, and now we can see that God has surely started to work in this area. While serving the children with disabilities, sometimes we wonder if it is right that we are giving it our all for this small number. But every time we have that thought, God helps us realise that we need to really value each and every soul, one by one. Again and again, we realise just how much God loves children with disabilities and their families. We are so thankful that He has sent us here where there aren't proper services and facilities, and has continued to use us in fulfilling His beautiful and precious works.



*I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. And because I cannot do everything I will not refuse to do the something that I can do. **Hellen Keller***

*Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.*

**John Wesley**

*A good person is like a candle.  
The darker the night, the brighter it shines.  
It does not make noises about its radiance,  
and does not lose its glow by sharing it with others.  
Let nothing overwhelm your steady flame.  
Keep on burning and be an inspiration to others.*



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## DO YOU KNOW GOD?

Perhaps you have not taken your first step with the Lord. The journey begins with your salvation. Jesus left heaven to come down to earth so that you could one day come up to Him in heaven. With His death on the cross He paid the penalty for your sins. If you will accept Him as your personal Saviour He will forgive all your sins and make you righteous in God's eyes (Rom. 1:16-17).

### **You can use your own words or use this prayer:**

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 on my behalf 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. Amen

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# AROUND NZ



Numbers continue to increase as word gets out to youngsters with disabilities of the fun and spiritual input at the "Kidz Connect" camps held each year

A first in the Fellowship - Two camps, Auckland and Christchurch choosing as their speakers a key person in another Branch - Joan Parker from Hawkes Bay and Ruth Beale from Wellington who speaks from her Philippines experience on Missions.



At the Auckland CFFD Camp people moved round the Mission outposts. Here we have Ruth of course sharing on the Philippines one and HK sharing on Korea.



Recovering from a serious operation was not going to stop Rick Hurrell from leading the worship at the Wellington Camp (seen above). Sadly he died soon after.



At Joy Ministries National Camp the craft was directed towards the theme "Walking with Jesus"