

THE

Issue. 160 | August 2018

ENCOURAGER

The magazine of Elevate Christian Disability Trust

*Alexia and Marce
show the way to lead
a blind person*





*This photo and the others,
at the top of the following
pages, were all taken at
Joy Ministries National Camp*

Success is not measured but by what you

Devotional

by Mr Mitsuharshi

Taken from Magazine No. 28, June 1985



*Carried by his wife at CFFD
Camp at Okataina*

I believe very certainly that to love means to accept.

We are not to compare ourselves with other people. I learnt early on that I must accept ME. I had to accept myself who couldn't walk, who was unable to use both of my arms. I came to the realisation that I AM THE MYSELF WHOM GOD HAS GIVEN TO ME. If you compare yourself with other people then what comes out is a pitiable creature – jealous, full of self-pity and useless.

When I read the story of the man born blind it moved me deeply. Why was he born blind? Jesus said "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents; but that the works of God should be made manifest in him." We were made for God's glory; that is why we exist. Apparently what was important to the Master was how people used what they did have. We all must face up to the judgement day and I am sure that the Lord will size us up as to how we have used what we have been given.

In Japan I knew a young man. As a child he had contracted dysentery.

It was a particularly violent attack. He was left unable to talk. Not only that, he couldn't move his hands. He couldn't even shake his head, yet 3 or 4 books were published of exquisite poetry that he had composed. How could that be? The answer lay in a board on which were written all the characters in the Japanese alphabet. Someone would move their hand over the board and he would blink his eyes when the right one was reached, and that is how he made that beautiful poetry.

I said to him, "You are showing the glory of the Lord through your poetry. How many are the people who have known the wondrous works of the Lord through your poetry. Both you and I have a work to do and are being kept alive through the wondrous grace of the Lord." At that his face beamed with joy. Last year he went to be with the Lord, but in his life time and after he died he blessed many, many people.

The Lord has entrusted you and I with this life that He has given us and He wants us to respond in just a little way. We are to glorify the Lord with the bodies He has given us but we must respond to Him. ■

Auckland Helpers Seminar

Saturday 29th
September
9.15am - 3pm

Hear personal
experiences of disability
and learn practical ways
to assist people.

Register Now!

\$10 (includes morning tea)
Please bring your own lunch

To register phone 09 636 4763
or email reception@elevatedcdt.org.nz

Elevate CDT National Support Office
173 Mt Smart Road, Onehunga

ed by what you've done,
you've become

Elevate National Camp 2018

“What’s in me, for you”

19th - 22nd October

Totara Springs, Matamata



Our communities are full of people in need, physical, emotional and spiritual. As Children of God we are called to not only consider our own needs but the needs of others. You are a unique blend of strengths and abilities, created to do good works. Most importantly, you have Christ in you. You were made to have an impact on the lives of those around you. We would love you to join us as we explore what’s in us for others.

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ Matthew 25:40

Saturday Speakers: Edith Morris and Pastor Tim Lee

Registration is now open

Register online or contact your local branch.

Please register early to ensure you don’t miss out. There is limited accommodation, particularly for those needing higher levels of assistance.

Camp Fees

Adult:	\$200
11– 14 year olds:	\$130
5-10 year olds:	\$90
0-4 year olds:	Free

Enquires and Updates

Phone: 09 636 4763

Post: PO Box 13-322, Onehunga, Auckland 1643

Email: nationalcamp@elevatedt.org.nz

If you haven’t been before, National Camp is a life-changing experience for both campers and helpers. We would love you to consider joining us. Sign up to receive email updates leading up to National Camp - go to the National Camp section on the website. If you’ve been before you’ll want to come, helpers we need you.

Sponsorship and Donations

Every year we rely on generous donations from our supporters, to cover costs for camp such as transport, hire of shower chairs and hoists, and sponsorship for people to attend. Any donation you are able to make will help. You can give by **direct credit** (ANZ 01-0142-0029706-05 with your surname as reference) or cheque - and now we have our own **give a little page** where you can give towards this:

givealittle.co.nz/cause/elevatenationalcamp

Day Visitors

If you are considering visiting over the weekend you will need to let us know (at least two weeks before camp). A day visitor information sheet will be emailed to you with all the information you need to know (please note that there is a cost for meals).

Change in Allocation of Helpers

Over the years it has been a blessing for many people attending our camps to be provided with helpers. The camper/helper relationship is foundational to how our camps function, and we will continue to provide volunteer helpers for campers needing general support and basic assistance.

Due to changes in Health and Safety requirements and the level of training needed to safely provide assistance, we now require campers with a higher level of care to bring their own caregiver, appropriate friend or family member. This includes campers with complex care needs, those who use a hoist to transfer, or those needing significant assistance to transfer.

This decision was not made lightly as we are aware this may make attending camp more difficult for some people. Application can be made for assistance towards caregiver camp fees if required. If you are unsure if this change affects you, please contact us on nationalcamp@elevatedt.org.nz or phone 09 636 4763 to talk to Di or Kirsty.

National Camp is the highlight of the year for many people. Both campers and volunteers come away impacted by the weekend. Last year Robert told us “This is the best camp I have ever been on. Love in action and a sense of God’s presence.”



A diamond is just a lump of coal

PART ONE:

Deborah's STORY *told by her Mum, Jenny Barkley*



Deborah's story began before she did. I was sitting reading Judges one afternoon and came to the account of Deborah.

I was familiar with the details of the story, however, I was suddenly struck with surprise that we had never considered 'Deborah' as a potential name when we were expecting a baby. With six children ranging in age from nineteen down to three I thought we had done our dash, but as I tried to continue reading I heard the name 'Deborah' echoing louder and louder. "It's a bit late to tell me now", I said to God. Still, I was stalled there, unable to move on for the noise inside my head. Finally in exasperation I said, "Ok, if we have another baby and it's a girl we will call her Deborah". The noise turned off, as if with a switch. A year later when I realized I was pregnant we were not ecstatic. However, a couple of days later I remembered the incident and thought joyfully, this must be Deborah. I certainly hoped so as we already had five boys. Deborah was the sister Naomi had prayed for over the last five years.

Reading plays a significant role in our family and long before Deborah could walk she would hold a book and stare in fascination, copying us exactly. As a toddler she would pull out the box of Golden books and go through them page by page, book by book. It was great as at that point I knew I had over an hour of uninterrupted teaching time. Deborah's physical development was normal, she crawled beautifully and ran around after her older siblings. However, at the age of two, one of Deborah's eyes suddenly became intermittently skewed. Eventually, aged four, Deborah had an operation to straighten the eye. We began formal lessons at five. Conditioned by her years of book browsing, by the age of six Deborah was reading well, and rapidly progressed to chapter books, romping through the Laura Ingalls Wilder series. Her physical skills were not as advanced, skipping took a long time to come together, as did riding a bike and playing the recorder, but perseverance saw her master these achievements.

By the age of seven Deborah was reading around **five books a week, usually three simultaneously to give her variety!** She would write long rambling stories in the style of her current reading matter, which she would read very dramatically to our home school writing group. The other mothers were green with envy.

About now we ran into toileting trouble. As a youngster Deborah had a Rolls Royce bladder. On library trips to Christchurch I would have to insist that she use the facilities. She would

rather wait all day till she got home. Now she began to use the toilet frequently, like five times in half an hour. The doctor checked her blood sugars which resulted in a quick trip to hospital. Two days later all the doctors could say was she does not have diabetes, and they suggested the high readings were the result of faulty equipment, ie they didn't know. My local doctor did lend me a kit to try to calm my fears, and I continued to monitor Deborah's blood sugar levels for several weeks. Tears, she hated pricks. Eventually I accepted that diabetes was not our problem.

The toileting trauma continued, she was checked for UTI and we were told to retrain her bladder and mind by slowly stretching out the time between toilet visits. At this time library visits were fraught. Deborah did not want to leave the vicinity of one toilet till she knew where and when the next would be available. It took me over a year to normalize the toileting issues. This was stressful when placed alongside her older siblings moving into high school level education, learning to drive, transitioning to the work force, leaving home, getting married, grandchildren arriving and menopause.

She started to struggle with her school work, and would say to me, "I'm not as clever as you think I am," a comment I summarily dismissed. Looking back I can see that her deterioration began around here, but as she was still reading better than any of her contemporaries it seemed foolish to worry about it. The year she was twelve we were

al that has endured a lot of pressure.

back at the doctor checking for a UTI after an isolated wetting incident. I was horrified to find her in the obese category for her age/height and did not want her heading into the teenage years over weight. All my other children were positive bean poles and I was again concerned about a background 'something'. We set up an exercise program which Deborah embraced with her usual enthusiasm. She began walking, then running the length of our kilometer long driveway each time we went out. Exercise took over from reading as her preferred occupation. Although for all her efforts she never lost any weight, Deborah did grow taller and grew into her weight, eventually looking much trimmer.

The next development was wetting herself, day and night. So now it was wee and poo charts from Nurse Maude and we discovered Deborah's bowels only moved every two to three days. This was thought to be the problem, so we began on diet changes, but the wetting continued.

Eventually a woman who had worked with Alzheimer's sufferers gave me a sharp shove and back to the doctor we went. This time the doctor took blood tests, listened to my concerns and arranged a referral to paediatric neurology, which took over three months. During that winter of 2014 I got up every night to toilet Deborah, but we still had wet beds over half the time. Her reading had dropped back to Geronimo Stilton books which I found mortifying, but fortunately there were lots of them. We were repeating her math book from the year before, but I had to sit with her

to get anything done. It was the same with an essay writing course she was doing. Deborah became less and less able to write for herself, let alone plan the writing, though her vocabulary remained rich and varied, as did the individual sentences.

During this time we attended a session run by the Christchurch Medical School aimed at helping with bed wetting. The supervising psychologist was excellent, listening to my concerns with total concentration and following the interview with prompt action. She contacted our GP and referred Deborah to Youth Psych Services, not because she thought it was a psychological problem, but because that offered the quickest entry point into the hospital system. Within a week we had an appointment but chose to wait for the neurological appointment six weeks later, which had arrived by then. Over the past two years I had read many books about various learning disabilities, wondering if there was something wrong with Deborah that I had missed because of her advanced reading level. However none of the descriptions included patterns of deterioration.

Finally in September 2014 we made it to Paediatric Neurology. They took us seriously and ordered a raft of blood tests, an ECG and MRI. The bloods came up negative as did the ECG, which left us hanging. There was a two month delay before we got the MRI. The sympathetic manner of the technicians as they



Jenny & Deborah's Family

wheeled her out of the coffin like structure warned me that the news was not great. Deborah's brain was basically 'stuffed' and there was nothing they could do. We received further information at a Thursday appointment, talking of the expected degeneration of motor skills, eating difficulties, psychosis and a raft of dreadful outcomes. That was an awful week, with normal life continuing around us; and at the end of it we had to tell Deborah, our family and friends.

Deborah and I flew to Auckland and took refuge with my family while Ross told people. Of course they were all devastated, and it seemed we were spreading around so much grief. Our friends prayed, oh how they prayed, and we could feel that support. "Underneath are the everlasting arms," but I would wake up day after day with tears rolling down my face. It was so hard to remember that not only was this the worst she had been, but it was also the best she might ever be. I did not want the time she had left to be filled with tears.

Deborah remained predominantly cheerful, a tribute I believe to the many prayers ascending on her behalf. We went away again in February, on an extended road trip around the North Island. In March with her sister and family we walked the Abel Tasman Great Walk,



The heaviest thing to carry

chosen because our packs could be transported by boat, and if necessary we could opt out. Deborah walked the whole way with only a single fall. Despite the heavy rain at times, it was a triumph. A month later she could not manage 1 km on a flat path. That was devastating. She had also got to the point where she could no longer read or write.

In May 2015 Ross and I left Deborah with family and headed south to Ranfurly to a week-long retreat at

the old TB Sanatorium. I went in weeping and came out dancing, literally. Through the other very ordinary people there God spoke to us and assured us of His love, His care and His plan. These words were given to us by a woman who had never done anything like this before. "Deborah is my child. I am watching over her. Her life is in My hands and I treasure her. You may not know what is happening but I do. In your darkest moments My light shines around you and

your family. My unseen presence is surrounding you all, holding all your hearts in My loving arms." She then saw a picture of Jesus surrounded not by sheep but by our family. No wonder we were comforted. Many of the sixty participants had their lives significantly touched and left filled with joy. Her smile was still running at 1000 watts, and people often commented on her radiant demeanor. ■

Part 2 of this article will be given in the next Encourager.

BOOK REVIEW

Russia Changed My Life

by Pauline Stansfield

Do you remember where you were on the 20th of July, 1969? Pauline Stansfield does.

It is the date on which the Americans claim to have achieved their landing on the moon. Pauline remembers she was in a hospital ward in the small town of Vyshni Volochek, half way between Moscow and Leningrad (now St Petersburg). She vividly remembers the excitement on the faces of her nurses, as Neil Armstrong took his "one giant leap for mankind" on the black-and-white TV channels that day.

Pauline, born in Auckland in 1939 and still living on the North Shore, decided last year it was time to write her autobiography. Looking back, Pauline thinks the most "interesting time" was when she worked as a nurse in the Royal Free Hospital in London, training to be a tutor. In the summer of 1969 she decided to make a trip on her own to Russia. Obviously, this was a great adventure. We are talking the height of the Cold War era. A long story short: on one of these bad roads a loud bang was heard, the minivan carrying the tourists spun across the road, somersaulted a couple of times and landed upside down in a shallow swamp. Pauline found herself hanging half in and half out of a back window. A passing truck was hailed to bring the injured to a local hospital. Pauline realised she was a paraplegic from now on, having no feeling left in both legs. She survived a horrible crash, but would spend the next years learning to live life in a wheelchair.

In her book Pauline shares about the many lows she experienced, about the failing standards of the nursing care provided. She mentions joyful moments with locals;

and with her Dad, brother and friends as they manage

to visit her. With a stunning memory Pauline is able to introduce the reader to the many people she met. With her nursing background, she is also able to explain with detail about her treatment in Russia and later during her rehabilitation in the UK. An especially interesting feature is the addition of the diary her father Harold kept from June 1969 to March 1970. Pauline's best friend, Elaine Blick, is offered a chapter to tell us how she managed, with help from the British Embassy, to spend time with Pauline during her long spells in the Russian hospitals.

The book is a testimony to how the accident did not stop Pauline from seeking the best. In 1973 she returned to New Zealand and continued her career in teaching (nursing and piano) and in volunteering, being hugely involved in many branches of the Disabled Persons' Assembly on the North Shore.

Having read this compelling life story, the reader wonders if it was really "Russia" that changed Pauline's life. Sure, the accident happened during a historical time in a truly interesting nation, but Pauline emphasises that over these challenging years her faith grew in a God who is in control, all the time. The final line in her testimony reads: "I may be in a wheelchair, but I have been able to lead a full and satisfying life, and I continually thank God for His goodness to me."

- Onne Hiemstra

(staff member in the Elevate National Office)



Anna Pyle's Testimony

Anna met her husband Jeremy at CFFD Northland and at the National Camp!

I grew up in a loving, non-Christian family. We attended church at times when staying with Grandparents, and I always thought there was something more to life. I came to know the Lord when I was 16.

I was born with hearing loss which my parents didn't find out about till I was three. I was very behind with my speech and needed a speech language therapist to catch up. During a lot of my schooling years I had a teacher aid to help make sure I kept up with the class. In high school I started to resent having extra help, as I just wanted to be "normal" and not stand out. I wanted to be independent, and didn't see my hearing loss as a disability, resenting it when people associated it as a disability. Despite this, I think it has shaped me into being more compassionate for those who have disabilities, and I have always wanted to help people to strive to be more independent.

I eventually became an occupational therapist in neuro rehab, working with people who have had changes to their brain, such as a head injury or stroke. I really love doing this, especially when people make great gains like walking for the first time or being able to feed themselves again. I've also always enjoyed teaching others how to help people with a disability.

After working as an occupational therapist for a few years, I went over to the States to a Camp for people with disabilities through a Camp America Program. It was amazing! I had an incredible time - it is so rewarding seeing people try something for the first time, particularly things we may take for granted such as going for a swim, or down a bouncy water slide. It was also a great insight into caring for people 24/7, since my work has always been a Monday to Friday job, and consisted of teaching loved ones how to care for someone 24/7 but not actually doing it myself.

I went back again for two weeks the following year to volunteer, as I really missed the camp and campers, but knew it wasn't sustainable to try finding work in New Zealand for nine months and going to the States for three each year. That's when I decided to look into

going to the National CFFD camp,

and went for the first time in 2015. I really felt God had me right where He wanted, trying to help people with disabilities enjoy being at a camp just like anyone else would. I feel that I always gain more from helping people than the person being helped does!

It was incredible seeing campers' true joy - no matter what their circumstance, they were joyful and praising the Lord. I think they really show true understanding of Phillipians 4: 4.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"

I found that quite a few people at camp that I talked to, truly rely on God in the good and tough times. It's just like what Paul says in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

"But He said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, I am strong"

It is very easy for us to get caught up in our own lives and to rely on our own strength, often forgetting to include God, whereas God wants to be in our lives 24/7, not just when things are getting tough.

I think generally most people with disabilities don't want to be treated differently. They want to be loved, to give things a go, to be included, and not feel sorry for being the odd one out, or to feel like a burden. It's exactly how I felt about my hearing loss in school which I believe God has used to help me to relate more to others with disabilities. It has been amazing getting involved with CFFD. With Disability Awareness Sunday, it is a great reminder that we are all human, want to be loved, and want to be as independent as possible. Is there anything you could be doing to help a neighbour or a friend? Or could you ask someone to help you so that you are included?





Never look down on anyone.



Part Two

THROUGH FIRES OF ADVERSITY

By Margie Willers - who has Cerebral Palsy, and is Co-founder of the Ministry.

God wants a people who will love Him, who will worship Him, who will please Him regardless of His blessing or lack of it. We see another model of the ideal when after Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego were threatened with a fiery death if they refused to worship Nebuchadnezzar's idol they responded by stating, "Our God can save us from your fire. However, even if He doesn't, we will never, ever bow down and worship your god." The blessings and the trials are not the point at issue. The point at issue is faithfulness.

The Apostle Paul was a man of courageous faith. He rejoiced, and learned to be content with whatever state he was in. Do you realise we can be going through one of the greatest trials ever faced and still be in the perfect will of God?

Paul's 'thorn in the flesh' remains a mystery. Paul operated in the supernatural – so how come this man wrestled with a problem? It embarrassed him. Three times he pursued God to have it removed. God gave a definite no. That obviously was the end of the matter. Paul accepted God's grace was sufficient.

God doesn't give us everything we ask for. If we had it all our own way half of us would be married to the wrong person, others would have gone to Timbuktoo, and most of us would be in all kinds of stupid situations. Nevertheless, faith is a matter of living for God and trusting Him when we don't have all the answers?

In Job Chapter 7 verses 17 and 18 we read:
"What is man that you should magnify him, that you should set Your heart towards him?"

What does it mean to magnify a man? Let's visualize placing an acetate on the light of a projector. What was not visible to the naked eye becomes clearly seen on the screen. So it is with God when the light of His favour shines upon a man and his work. It is God who exalts a person. When God removes the light of His blessing, the person becomes like any other.

"And You examined him every morning. And You visited him every morning'.

Isn't this encouraging knowing that God doesn't put His saints in something and then walk off and leave them? NO! God came and sat on those rotten old heaps of ashes and communed with Job.

*Those He trusts He tests with fire
To strengthen and complete –
and those who have the greatest worth
Must bear the greatest heat!*

*God may take you right to boiling point but He will
not take you beyond what you can endure...*

*I walked a mile with PLEASURE
She chatted all the way.
But she left me none the wiser
For all she had to say!*

*I walked a mile with SORROW
Never a word said she,
But oh the precious things I learned
When SORROW walked with me!"*

In 1 Peter 4:12. Peter talks about 'the fiery trial'. From my experience and my understanding, few of God's people go through life without encountering their personal 'fiery trial'. All of us, somewhere, will face something.

"Lord, I can do anything but that, go anywhere but there. Do anything but this to me. Oh God, please don't let that happen" How many of us go through these fears and come out with those stipulations?

The thing we fear is exactly what we go through. But Job knew that what came to him came from God, and he bowed both his head and his heart, and he worshipped.

Job in chapters 13 and 15 had three friends who claimed to be his spiritual counsellors. They knew all the answers to his situation, what force to reckon with, as they imposed their great insight and guidance. Their attitudes are feisty. Their accusations stinging and unreasonable. These guys had the potential to blow him apart, to destroy him completely. Now, this is terrifying stuff! And job almost falters, but not quite. "Yea, though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." I have met a lot of people through my life who are good at giving prophecies and getting guidance, especially when those they advise are vulnerable. The amazing thing is - the majority of them never receive such insight for themselves.

The thing we fear is exactly what we go through. But Job knew that what came to him came from God, and he bowed both his head and his heart, and he worshipped.

Job's counsellors started from an incorrect basis. Their insights were all wrong. Job's situation was not because of sin. PRAISE GOD for Elihu, Job's fourth friend. He not only knew the will of God, but he sought and knew the mind of God. I'm extremely grateful for the 'Elihus' in my faith-journey – godly encouragers who've come alongside my wheelchair, prayed, wept, and believed, and were instrumental in assisting me into the realisation of goals that God

proposed for my life. However, I assure you, nothing of lasting impact is ever handed on a silver platter, and Godly maturity is often wrought in the furnace of affliction.

CONCLUSION:

Job's faith remained undaunted. He trusted God no matter what. And triumphantly he declared, "I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES, AND I SHALL STAND AT THE LATTER DAY UPON THE EARTH, AND THOUGH MY SKIN HAS BEEN DESTROYED, YET IN MY FLESH I SHALL SEE GOD." [JOB 19. 25-26] It's a positive acclamation. It's the Spirit that counts. The Spirit can NEVER be destroyed. NEVER!

Job also said, "I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes." And that's where a man must be, before God can trust him. God must conquer the man He trusts with His great thought and plan. Forgiveness and repentance were the keys to releasing the fulness of God's blessing.

The end result was that Job's attitude changed. It is attitude that makes the fundamental difference. Job built an altar. He provided a huge sacrifice and repented on behalf of his three friends. Because of Job's willingness to stand in the gap on their behalf, his friends are spared the judgment of God. WHAT AN AWESOME THING! Are we not all challenged? Accomplishment for God is "aiming for His ultimate for others, not for ourselves".

God's aim was to bless Job with twice as much wealth as he began with, but initially he would not have been able to handle the prospect. Firstly, God restored to Job twice the cattle, crops, position and power. The Bible states: "His daughters were beautiful women - the fairest in the land." The man is also twice as humble, meek and trustworthy. He is twice as matured. And, His character is enlarged. In the process of working with Job and with any of us, God has to be prepared many times to be misjudged and misunderstood. That He is willing to be by the one He is seeking to bless and enrich is evidence of His love.

Suffering is not to demolish us. Suffering is to develop us. Now, here's our challenge – with bowed heads and hearts, let us exclaim: "As for God His way is perfect." ■



*If you want to be rich, give.
If you want abundance, give more.*

Hawkes Bay Visit July 2018

Praise God for a doctor's persistence!

Joan Parker (pictured on the right with Hilda Poulain) has been the leader of the Hawkes Bay CFFD for 24 years now, but she came so close to not being involved at all. She was in a charismatic prayer group and the doctor who was leading it saw something on the computer about a camp at Matamata. He said to Joan, "I would like you to go to that", but Joan said flatly, "NO!". to which he replied, "You ARE going!, and I will pay!" The rest is history!



We want to honour our army of helpers throughout NZ

Throughout the branches we have so many great helpers who are so reliable, who work quietly in the background, do not seek the limelight, but are there till all that is needed is done. Derek Young from Hawkes Bay is one such person, And, in honouring him in this article as their committee did recently, we are honouring the whole band of helpers who make the ministry tick, but do it all as a service to our Lord Jesus, and are there whenever needed. Joan said, "What a treasure Derek is, always available to help, comes to every camp, took on the role of secretary, later put together our newsletter, so good with fundraising for the bus etc, and is a light to all the others in all our activities!



If you want to be poor, grab abundance, scatter.

After camp

TURN IT INTO ACTION

This is part of one of Vanessa Creamer's messages she gave at the Auckland CFFD Camp on the theme "Be still and know I am God".

There is nothing worse than going to a camp, getting all fired up, then going home and not turning it into action. In this day and age we are so busy that when we leave camp it's straight back into normal life. It is hard sometimes, to put what we have learned into action.

At the recent Auckland CFFD camp we looked at things that distract us from God (such as being busy, and not reading the Bible), and looked at ways to listen to God. This list was endless!

- *Hang onto the truth. Find yourself a go-to verse of a promise that you can claim as yours.*
- *Keep on worshipping.*
- *Listen with your ears, read with your eyes, think with your minds – and allow the Holy Spirit to supernaturally help us to understand and know who Jesus really is.*
- *Read the Bible. Sometimes reading small sections, or large chunks at a time. Or consider following reading plans - a Psalm, a Proverb, an Old Testament and a New Testament chapter every day. Get into that Word – it was written for you!*
- *Go to church and worship with others.*
- *Pray - talk to God!*
- *Read devotions prepared by others.*
- *Meditate – be still and know that I am God. Go to a particular place, One Tree Hill, or a beach, to pray/spend time.*
- *Art – reflective art, colouring in – God is a creative God, and if He has given you the gift of creativity, use it! Use art to express Biblical truths.*
- *Write Poetry / Letters to God / Journal / Gratitude journal.*

To live the life that we desire, we need to do less of the busyness and things that separate us from God, and more of the listening and learning from God.

We also looked at the question, who is responsible for your life? Who has the ability to control the way you live your life? When we are actively focusing in on listening to God, we tend to be more responsible for our own lives. We can do things – turn off the TV. read the Bible. go to bed at a reasonable hour, spend time in God's presence and go to church. But if you are not purposeful in this, the world passes by. Others take control. We start to drift, instead of focusing on moving forward.

It isn't just spiritual, but it is also physical – the more you own and take responsibility for your life, the more things will change for the better. I know that I am responsible for what I eat, or in deciding whether I will go for a walk, or to sit and play a game on my phone – but ultimately, it is my life and therefore my responsibility. But it is difficult, sometimes, to make the right choices.

Our enthusiasm and constant activity often leave no room for quiet times with God, reflection, accountability or rest. Rest is vitally important. Some of those coming to camp for the first time feel irked that everyone has to rest in the rest period, but by the time they've been several times they look forward to the rest time. I encourage you to take time to stop and rest. Take time to soak in God's word. Take time to carve out time for yourself, to go for a walk around the block and enjoy spending time in God's creation. Take the time to be creative, draw or paint, write a journal or a poem. Take time to simply pause, and be still, and allow God's presence to draw near. ■



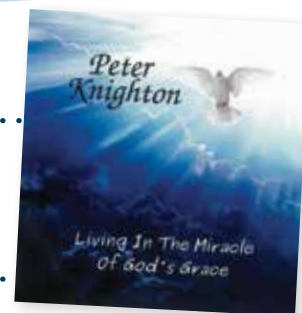


The person who rows the boat



Living in the miracle of God's grace.

THE TESTIMONY OF PETER KNIGHTON



Peter's favourite verse is Jeremiah 29 v 11

"I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil to give you a future and a hope."

T*o fully tell my story I must start while I was in my mother's womb.* The year would have been 1975 and mum was six months pregnant, when 2.4.5 spray from the farm across the road drifted in the wind onto our roof and contaminated our water tank. It didn't affect mum because her immune system was fully developed, but because mine wasn't it affected me.

On November the 28th 1975 I was born a healthy baby boy. I grew normally until I was three months old, but then my growth began to slow down. I didn't like lying on my front and wouldn't learn to crawl, so my parents bought me a walker. At nine months of age I was pulling myself up on the furniture, when I had a fall. My parents found a lump behind my ear which the doctors thought was a bruise. When it didn't go away, it grew. I went in for surgery, and they found it was cancerous. I was diagnosed with a very rare and often terminal form of cancer. I started chemotherapy when I was ten months old. A year later I was in remission, but six months after that the cancer had returned and I had to do another year of chemotherapy. It caused damage to my brain, which led to major speech impairment, frontal lobe damage and ataxic cerebral palsy, which affected the right side of my body. At five years of age I started school at St John's Primary in the East Coast Bays. As most of the children heard how sick I was they alienated me, but they eventually grew to accept me.

In the years that followed I have endured many trials in my life: falling at school and cracking my head, walking in front of a car that knocked a hole in my

head, tripping and falling through a plate glass window, to mention just a few that resulted in some of my many trips to hospital..

At nine I had a high fever and developed epilepsy with uncontrolled seizures. These came less often, but I now have 'absences' and more time in hospital. Once I went over a fence to retrieve a ball, a dog lunged at me and ripped open my chest. Two very difficult times came when I befriended an old man who sexually molested me, and the other when attending a computer course a young man punched and raped me when I turned up early. I tried to throw myself off a roof, but a friend knew about it and sent for an ambulance.

Throughout my life I have had many operations, and many doctors predicted I would live in a wheel chair or talk with a stutter, and even how long my life would be. I believe it was the fact that I've always had an awesome sense of determination and a loving spiritual upbringing, that I am still alive. I am sharing my testimony, not to exalt myself, for I see myself as no higher or lower than any other human, but to exalt the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, and to testify that Jesus is still able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all else, It is my heart's desire to one day share this awesome testimony of God's miracle working grace throughout the world, But if I can touch one person's heart and they can give themselves wholly and completely to Jesus to be their Lord and Saviour, then sharing my testimony would have been worth it. PRAISE be the name of the LORD!!!!

Enable

by John Williams from *Through the Roof*
"The Vital Link" Magazine in England

I was born eight weeks premature and diagnosed with a severe muscular disability.

Doctors said that I would never walk, talk or be independent, but by the grace and power of God I have overcome these life-limiting obstacles. I lead a ministry called Enable. As an initiative of The Message Trust, we seek to help people with seen or unseen disabilities connect with God and understand that they're created intentionally, intricately and for a God-given purpose. I live with cerebral palsy and am now able to inspire and encourage those facing the same difficulties.

The Lausanne Committee for World Evangelism identified that 90% of people living with a disability have not been effectively reached with the Gospel, making them one of the hardest-to-reach people groups. But they're not really hard to reach, we just need to know how Enable partners with churches to help them serve and welcome those with seen or unseen disabilities. As well as this, we deliver lessons in schools on respect, hopes, and dreams, with the intention to challenge perceptions of disability and encourage pupils to identify areas in their own lives where personal circumstances may be holding them back from achieving.



I see God at work as I share my story in schools. Only recently one student approached me after a session in a college to express that he was going through a really tough time with his disabilities, but that I had really inspired him. I was able to encourage him to speak to his chaplain to get further help through this tough time.

"I see God at work as I share my story in schools."

It has also been amazing to see the work God is doing in churches through Enable. One church recently said that until I shared the stats and figures alongside my own personal story, they hadn't realised that there was such a need. Now we are working together towards making their church accessible.

Please pray that more doors will open in schools and churches so that the team and I can bring the good news of Jesus to more people with seen and unseen disabilities.

Our Staff at the Centre



Alison Roberts

I am the Kitchen Manager at the Drop In Centre. I live in Mt Wellington with my husband and two school aged children. We attend Mt Wellington Community Church.

My first contact with 'Elevate' was as a buddy at two National Camps about 14 years ago. Those camps had a big impact on me. In the years that followed I was busy at home with my young children, but I continued to receive the Encourager magazine. About five years ago I brought a church friend along to the Centre, and

then continued as a Volunteer on a Wednesday morning. I was doing part-time Home Help work when I heard about the job vacancy at the Centre.

During the past 18 months I have learnt so much from the staff, volunteers and clients who attend the Centre. I enjoy the positive and caring work environment. My main duties are to serve morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea three days a week and to clean the Centre. It is a busy kitchen and I am grateful for the long-term volunteers who assist me. I am thankful to God for enabling me to serve others in this role.

NOTE It is your donations that enable the Trust to pay Alison and the other staff who are all so essential in running the Centre.



If you want work well done, select a busy

What's been happening in the Philippines?

Leslie de la Ganar writes,

We had a field trip for our PCFFD members on July 25. It served as part of celebrating National Disability Week. Our first destination was to a place where 80 percent of the staff have a disability, mostly being in wheelchairs. They do handicrafts, ecobags, make wheelchairs and armchairs, and pack medicines and vitamins.

Our goal in visiting this place was for our people with disabilities to learn that even though a person has a disability, he/she can still work, and can live a decent life in our society/community. Afterwards we went to Luneta Park, one of our National Parks. Not one of our group had been there before, so it was really an exciting adventure for them! We spent much of the time singing Christian songs, a real witness to all around.

After our camp we spent time on home visitation of some of the disabled participants, especially the 'small people', so we could follow them up and give out the DZAS radios to nourish their spiritual lives. Sadly, we heard that the children of these 'small people' were not going to school because of the bullying they get there.

In our June fellowship we gave out a birthday cake to all those who had birthdays in the months April to June. No wonder they were delighted, as for many it was the first time they had ever had a cake!



Making handicrafts such as educational toys, penholders, décor, etc.



Sir Ramon, our tour guide in the compound.



Singing Christian songs in Luneta park



The group gathers for a photo



This is Jay Paul Angelo,

He is a new Staff Worker for PCFFD in the Philippines who urgently need sponsors. He has one sponsor of \$30.00 per month already but this amount hardly covers his living expenses and sometime he doesn't have enough money to buy

food! Jay Paul has cerebral palsy and has just completed his Bible College studies. He felt the Lord calling him to work with PCFFD and has been helping with the Camp, visitation and fellowship meetings.

If you wish to sponsor Jay Paul, the commitment is \$30.00 per month. He needs at least two more sponsors.

Please contact Ruth Beale PCFFD NZ Office P.O. Box 45-105 Waterloo Lower Hutt.

Ph: 027492178

E: pcffd.sponsorship@elevate.org.nz

person – the other kind don't have time.

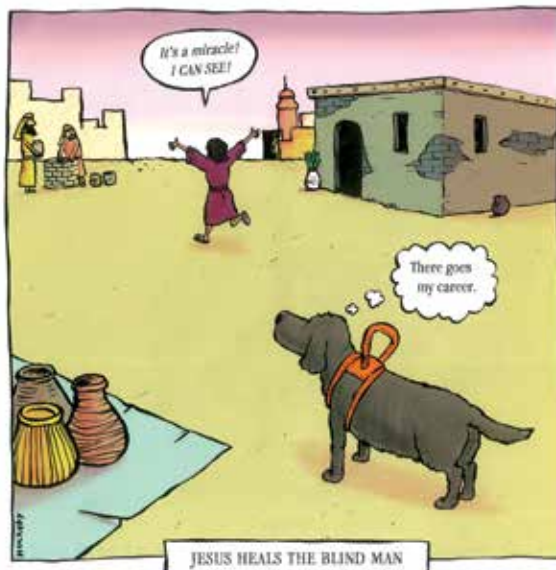
DO YOU KNOW JESUS?

Often we know ABOUT Jesus but we don't KNOW Him.

There are three reasons why you need Him

1. *You have a past. You can't go back, but God can. Read Hebrews 13:8. God can wipe the slate clean and give you a new beginning.*
2. *You need a friend. Jesus knows everything about you and wants to be your friend.*
3. *He holds the future. In Jesus you are safe and secure. See Jer 29:11-13*

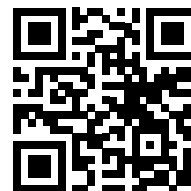
If you want to become born again, ask the Lord for forgiveness, and to come into your life. Jesus is the same today yesterday and forever.



Bible Tails™ Calendar - calendars.com



Attention - all those who have changed their email addresses PLEASE tell us your new ones



Did you know that we can email you when the latest Encourager magazine is up on our website? To sign up, scan this QR code, phone us or update your contact details on our website.

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Joy Ministries - National, Auckland Central, West & East Jan Bridgeman	bridgeman@extra.co.nz	027 641 2653
Hamilton - Jeni Hawker	jenihawker@gmail.com	020 401 47198
Whakatane - Wanda Hughes	bwtroop@gmail.com	07 312 3330
Hawkes Bay - Brad & Karen Spurgeon	spurgeonnz@gmail.com	06 876 1106
Taupo - Wendy Emsley	taupochaplain@gmail.com	07 378 9275
Masterton - Brenda Morgan	bpbeacgan996@gmail.com	06 377 3125
Blenheim - David Clode	clode11@slingshot.co.nz	03 578 0598
Other ministries around the country		
Able to Worship - Warkworth Methodist Church Jenny Trotter	k.jtrotter@gmail.com	09 422 7358
Kumbayah - St David's Presbyterian Church - Palmerston North Ann Bennett		06 355 2818
Bible Friends - Wanganui Louise Rostron	rostrons@extra.co.nz	06 344 5955
THRIVE - Greerton Bible Church, Tauranga Ray Harvey	ray@eol.co.nz	027 284 9433



If you would like to help with our costs you could send a donation to: ELEVATE P.O Box 13-322, Onehunga, Auckland 1643 or direct deposit ANZ 01-0142-0029706-00

I wish to give for the magazine: \$

I wish to give for general running costs: \$

Name:

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Group gatherings

around the Country



National Joy Ministries Camp



Hamilton Joy Ministries show God's abundant treasures (promises in His Word)



"Auckland CFFD's got Talent"



Auckland CFFD North meet with a focus on Hearing Dogs



Joy Ministries Wairarapa show their 15th Anniversary Certificates



International Day at the Centre