

# THE ENCOURAGER

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The magazine of Elevate Christian Disability Trust

## National Camp 2019

*The weather was so beautiful that all  
cabin times could be held outside*







# When praying, don't give God

Devotional:

## Who's Encouraging Who?

by Ken Brown



Do you know what IDOP is?

It stands for International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, and is held on the first Sunday of November each year. This year our Church considered how we could encourage those who suffer severely for the Gospel at the hands of religious or political extremists.

Why should we concern ourselves with their suffering? Because Hebrews 13:3 says, "Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners and those who are mistreated as if their suffering was your own."

How can we support our fellow Christians in their trials? By God's grace we can:

1. Ask the Lord to help us feel their suffering as if it was our own. Their courage in the face of such trials will help us keep our own suffering - whether we have a disability or not - in proper perspective.  
.....
2. Pray that our Lord will grant our persecuted brothers and sisters the where with all to endure their suffering with patience, joy and confidence, just the like Thessalonian churches in Paul's day, (1 Thessalonians 1:6-8) Open Doors founder/leader, Brother Andrew, says those suffering for the Gospel ask us to pray, not that their persecution will end, but that the Lord will enable them to glorify Him all the more through their suffering. They are continually mindful of the words of 1 Peter 4 verses 12-14 that the opposition they face as Christ's followers is itself, evidence of the effectiveness of their witness to the unsaved; "for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on" them (v14).  
.....
3. Write letters to our persecuted brothers and sisters. These letters bring them great encouragement. Organisations such as Open Doors, Barnabas Aid, and Voice of the Martyrs can give guidance re whom we should write to and how to go about it.  
.....
4. Write to the various media outlets, to our MP's and to our family/friends/Church re the needs of our persecuted brothers and sisters.  
.....
5. Send a gift to the family/Church of the suffering fellow Christian, generally through such missions as those mentioned in Number 3 above.  
.....

We can't stop the persecution. In 2 Timothy 3:12 Paul reminds us that *"all who live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."* We should not focus only on their plight, but on the power of God that enables them to face persecution with the joy and peace He gives them through our Lord Jesus.



Photo Source: Voice of the Martyr

Because 13 year old Susan in Uganda became a Christian, her father locked her in a tiny hut for 6 months, depriving her of food and other necessities. She only survived because her brother sneaked her a bit of food. Her ordeal has left her physically disabled and on crutches. She is now being cared for in a safe house. Her faith remains strong and vibrant despite her ill-treatment and disability, and she is a great inspiration to those around her.

Brother Andrew says those suffering the most severely for their faith share the Gospel more freely and boldly than many Christians in the "free West". May we be encouraged by their example to proclaim God's Word freely and fully to those who are lost. ■

## THE CABIN TIMES

National Camp 2019

**Cabin, Motel & Lodge times**, as one person wrote, are such a wonderful opportunity for intimacy and growth, and five of these can be seen in the front cover photo as the campers basked in the beautiful weather all weekend.



**Rapt attention  
at the leaders  
and new helpers  
meeting**



**And here's Cabin  
time with a  
difference, where  
provision was made  
for the children  
to have their own  
activities as the  
adults held their  
discussions**



**One of the congas that  
spontaneously formed  
during the Saturday  
evening dance**

## Ken Miller

was a wonderful supporter of Elevate Camp family, and people will long remember his smiling face welcoming them to camp.

***A tree was planted during  
camp in his memory.***





# *We don't change God's message*



Suz Holmes:

“DO I LOVE  
JESUS MORE  
THAN I LOVE  
MYSELF?”

**Onne Hiemstra writes,**

**W**as the invitation to be a guest speaker at Elevate's National Camp the most exciting thing of the year? Maybe – but probably not. Suz Holmes is no stranger to unexpected events. Suz, pastor at Manukau City Baptist Church, knows all too well that quite often God is working on her behalf behind the scenes. So, the invitation to join camp at Totara Springs during the Labour Weekend was another new experience to be trusting God, wondering what the message was that He wanted her to bring.

Suz' message on the Sunday morning was a direct hit for everybody present at camp, impossible to miss. How do you reply to a key question like “Do I love Jesus more than I love myself?”

Suz was clear about her response: “For 2000 years we have been in expectation that Christ could return anytime, so in fact, it is definitely closer than it ever was. Without doubt I can say I don't know when it will be, but I want to live like it is soon. I want to live like it's anytime.”

Suz does not mind being radical when it comes to trusting God. “Yes, it's totally not what our world teaches. But when we, as God's sons and daughters, rise up in the confidence of whose we are, we will live the life God planned for us. We will see many more come to know Jesus. That is when we love God more than we love ourselves, when we rise up with an eternal perspective on life, when we acknowledge our lives actually aren't our own, because Christ lives in us.”

Those who heard Suz the day before, when she introduced herself, knew that these words were not said easily. They didn't come from a study book, those can only be taught through lessons in life. The author of the book *Missing You – Finding Hope In Hardship* shared very honestly about her private cry-outs to God after losing her husband Mark in 2009, including a ten year battle with cancer, followed by the many challenges around the upbringing of her four teenage daughters.

In her sermon Suz used the story of Abraham and Isaac, and she quoted Jesus from Matthew 10:39. Suz: “Whoever finds his life in this world will eventually lose it, and whoever loses his life in



this world for My sake will find it, that is live with Jesus for all eternity. Basically Jesus is saying here, he who loves his own life more than Me will end up losing everything. Let's bring this down to us and our boring lives. What Jesus is really asking is: do you love your own life more than Me? Will you literally deny your wants, your flesh and even your needs on a daily basis? This question has rung in my ears for weeks. So I asked the Holy Spirit to help me out, and He told me to look at Abraham. So I studied the book of Genesis, chapters 11 to 25. This man had the most amazing relationship with the Lord. As I read and studied, I was like; "I want this relationship with the Father."

*“But when we, God's sons and daughters, rise up in the confidence of whose we are, we will live the life God planned for us.”*

To cut Abraham's long life short, Suz came to the following conclusions for our lives; "Let us learn to know His voice so well – through the Word of God and through taking time to listen to Him. Let us learn to worship whenever we can. Let us learn to be radically and instantly obedient to whatever He asks. Let us learn to believe what God says to



me and speaks over me. Very early Abram believed the Lord, and all his crazy promises, and the Lord counted him as righteous because of his faith. Let us have faith in the Word of God and in what God says over you."

What a great message to take home from camp. However, it does not stop there, as Suz pointed out: "Abraham never lived to see the fulfilment of that promise - in fact, neither did his son, or grandson. It was many generations later who got to live out that prophetic promise. Abraham didn't care because he loved God. So it got to the point in his life where he truly loved the Lord more than the promises in the future, more than his family, and mostly more than himself." ■

## CAMPS 2020

### Please take note and put in your diaries

Wellington CFFD	<b>6-8 March</b>	El Rancho, Waikanae
Kids Connect (C.B.M)	<b>13-15 March</b>	Motu Moana Camp, Blockhouse Bay, Akd
Auckland CFFD	<b>3-5 April</b>	Carey Park, Henderson, Akd
Christchurch CFFD Day Camp	<b>4 April</b>	Reformed Church, Cornwall St, Chch
Emmanuel Family Camp	<b>24-27 April</b>	Totara Springs, Matamata
Joy Ministries National Camp	<b>15-17 May</b>	Totara Springs, Matamata
Elevate National Camp	<b>23-25 Oct</b>	Totara Springs, Matamata



*Worry is the darkroom in w*

# COMMUNION

Manuele took the communion this year (shown right).

**These comments from the evaluation forms tell the story:**

- Good to see Manuele leading the communion.
- Fantastic and inspirational. Well done!
- I was very touched and ministered to, especially with the text of his speaking on the screen.
- He was amazing. Such a great message. Very inspiring.
- Wow! So powerful! So meaningful! I loved it.
- Praise God for him!! He was so impactful. My highlight of camp!!!



**Some campers relate,**

**“What does this camp mean to me?”**

- I loved all the excitement and anticipation on the Saturday night, and the pleasure it gave.
- Just awesome to be part of a great team, and I always just enjoy fellowship with many of the campers. With some I am now building a long-time friendship.
- On the Sunday worship I felt the Holy Spirit comfort in such a strong way that I found it hard to stand!
- I loved all the involvement, and how everyone looked out for each other and kept an eye out for those who might need assistance.
- The charisma and welcoming atmosphere were like a mini-heaven.
- The baptisms were fantastic, powerful, profound and prophetic.
- After Ps Suz’s very inspiring, encouraging, igniting, purposeful seminar, I am now more confident in the purposes of God for my life, what I will fulfil, and how I will fulfil them.







## Leslie Ann de la Ganar

*from the  
Philippines  
CFFD, writes;*

I am very much  
enjoying my time  
here in New Zealand.  
It was God's answer  
to my prayers that  
I would be able to

come back to New Zealand after a first visit 10  
years ago. I really felt so overwhelmed with the  
love and hospitality of the people here to me and  
to PCFFD as well. I loved being in the Drop in  
Centre for almost 2 weeks, and was so glad to be  
a part of the Elevate family there.

I was able to speak of our work in PCFFD and show  
the powerpoint and video. I also had a chance to  
do visitation to some people with disabilities, and I  
had a wonderful time with my sponsors and other  
sponsors of PCFFD ministry. I also had a chance to  
speak with the power point in Titirangi Baptist  
Church, the people there so warm and appreciative.  
At National camp I had many opportunities to talk  
to people and sponsors about the work of PCFFD.  
Our video was shown to all campers and followed

being interviewed by Ruth Beale, our PCFFD New  
Zealand Representative. This was well received and  
led to many favourable comments and discussions.  
Also, at National Camp a stall was run to raise  
funds for PCFFD, and a thousand dollars was  
raised. An offering was taken up for the Camp in  
the Philippines and over two thousand dollars was  
raised. I'm so thankful for these large amount of  
monies for the work of PCFFD.

At a three day break in Tauranga we visited Margie  
Willers, the co-founder of CFFD, and had such a  
precious time with her. We then travelled to Hawkes  
Bay where I spoke with Ruth Beale in a CFFD  
Hawkes Bay Fellowship Meeting. On the next day  
Ruth and I were the speakers in St. Peter's Anglican  
Church, and the people there were so generous.

Thanks so much to all the people who donated for  
my airfare to New Zealand and to all the people  
who treated me so  
well while I was in  
New Zealand, and  
who gave generously  
for PCFFD camp and  
for other PCFFD  
ministry.

*May God's  
overflowing  
blessings be  
upon you.*



## Pickup in the Rain

One night, at 11:30 pm, an older African-American woman  
was standing on the side of an Alabama highway trying to  
endure a lashing rain storm. Her car had broken down and  
she desperately needed a ride.

Soaking wet, she decided to flag down the next car. A  
young white man stopped to help her - generally unheard  
of in those conflict-filled 1960s. The man took her to safety,  
helped her get assistance and put her into a taxi cab. She  
seemed to be in a big hurry, but wrote down his address  
and thanked him.

Seven days went by and a knock came on the man's door.  
To his surprise, a giant combination console color TV was  
delivered to his home. A special note was attached...

The note read:

*Thank you so much for assisting me on  
the highway the other night. The rain  
drenched not only my clothes but my  
spirits. Then you came along. Because  
of you, I was able to make it to my  
dying husband's bedside just before he  
passed away. God bless you for helping  
me and unselfishly serving others.*

*Sincerely,  
Mrs. Nat King Cole.*





# Be fishers of men: y

## PART TWO

# HOW TO BECO BALCONY



*Margie writes,*

**Balcony people love from the heart. Balcony people accept you for who you are, not what you ought to be. There's no criticism or judgement...they just love you, and they tell you so, regardless of your failings.**

The early Christians were taught to be balcony people and to truly love others. Their teachers were Peter, Paul, John, James and other New Testament writers. Above all else, these men taught love. Christians were challenged not to love in the way that the pagans did, but by a special God-impetus love. They were to be set apart people with a set-apart love - "all men will know that you are My disciples if you love one another"! Loving each other, affirming each other, being balcony people, means there's no room for destructive criticism or judgmental attitudes.

The apostle James writes: "Don't criticize and speak evil about each other...If you do, you'll be fighting against God's law of loving one another".

St. Peter stipulated, "Get rid of your old feelings of hatred. Don't pretend to be good! Be done with dishonesty and jealousy- talking about others behind their backs." He also stated we are to show respect for everyone, and to love Christians whatever their nationality, culture or colour.

The apostle Paul forewarned, "Don't just pretend you love others, really love them. **Love each other with brotherly affection, and take delight in honouring each other.**"

When balcony people love, they do take extraordinary delight in honouring one another. They are NOT in competition with each other, and particularly they do NOT KEEP SCORE. It seems to me that too few of us honour one another. We are mostly interested in our own welfare, our own successes and achievements. Often we find someone else's gifts and talented abilities intimidating. True balcony people love with honour and respect, removed from competition.

To me, the entire sixteenth chapter in the book of Romans is the Biblical Balcony Person's chapter. It's where St. Paul illustrates what he preaches. He cheers all those dear people in Rome - he gives no false compliments, offers no building up of one person and belittling another, but straight from the balcony he conveys his love. My favourite balcony motto from St. Paul is that poignant sentence, "Whatever you do, please demonstrate kindness and love."

Another trait that balcony people learn is the ability to really hear others. They listen from the heart. Real affirmers are always searching for ways to improve their hearing. By contrast, evaluators are always talking. It's strange, but I figure it's just a part of human nature to be more comfortable with evaluating than with affirming. Sadly, the truth is we seem to enjoy being evaluators and basement people. Somehow we think that by offering our advice or opinions we'll sound intelligent - even blessed with uncommon wisdom. Yet being a balcony person and a dedicated affirmer is vastly different. People like this listen, and then instead of tearing others down, they build them up.



## ME A PERSON

Sometimes of course, we are called to be evaluators - but not basement people. Mothers, fathers, teachers, people in the legal and medical professions and many others are all evaluators from a wide spectrum of experience. However, even when we're placed into the evaluator's role, we will only bring wholeness when we evaluate from 'the balcony'. If we do not precede our evaluations with affirmation, it only results in useless rhetoric - it can be destructive to the point of being eternally damaging. Balcony people recognise that listening is very closely associated with loving.

One of the most severe problems confronting any pastor or Christian worker is the number of hours he/she must spend in counselling sessions. Often churches cannot financially employ a staff counsellor, so upwards of 80% of their time might be spent on a one-to-one basis with counselling. Is there any way to help?

If we could train people to listen without criticising, without giving disapproving looks, and without handing out condemning and judgemental statements, I believe we would bring about two powerful types of healing simultaneously. Firstly, pastors would be released to study, preach and teach, and secondly, these lay listeners would perform a scriptural and deeply needed ministry for 'hurting-hearts'. I'm not suggesting we don't need trained and highly qualified counsellors and psychologists. On the contrary, we most certainly do! However, as close as our backyard, there are hurting people who are desperately longing to have someone listen to them. They need someone to be supportive.

We must be open and honest about our own humanity. We then have little room to talk about someone else's. And once we begin to fathom the truth that God doesn't hold us accountable for

anyone else's actions or thoughts but our own, we can use this knowledge to help enlarge our capacity for 'heart listening'. Listening requires that we confront and understand our own fragilities and complexities. It means too that in view of our own humanity we perceive others in a different light. When we listen to other people we make allowances for them, as we would like them to do likewise for us.

Balcony people care from the heart. Affirmers are interested in finding ways to care for others. Evaluators also care, but only for their own interests, advancement and successes. Real balcony people are simply fantastic in their ability to pick up the baton of bearing one another's burdens, to run with it and actually win the race. I met one such affirmer in the USA some years back. His name was Francis Heatherley. I sat in awe of the remarkable ability of this busy man to sit and take time to bring out the very best in authors, members of his own family, and even in people who in my thinking were fairly unlovable. His extraordinary ability to love, listen and care was neither hoarded up within him nor stingily doled out on only a selected few. He lavishly spent himself on behalf of all others! And it was evident in the way that he listened to what people had to say.

**"The best man in the world is the man who helps himself, and the only way to help one's self is to help others!"**

I desired to know what made him tick that way. My curiosity had someone go ask him on my behalf, "What's the secret philosophy behind your brand of caring?" This was his reply- I had to mull it through before I comprehended his statement : "The best man in the world is the man who helps himself, and the only way to help one's self is to help others!" When I finally processed Francis' remarkable adage, I





# Things turn out best for people of the way things

remembered three men In an interesting parable told by Jesus. I suddenly gained a different insight. One was a Jewish Priest, another was a Levite, a Jewish attorney-type from the temple, and the third was a wealthy but despised man from Samaria. All three saw the naked, almost dead man, beside the road, but only one cared. The other two stepped around the man's battered, bleeding body and journeyed on their way.

They were evaluators. Perhaps they reasoned that their work was of more importance than attending to the man's wounds. Maybe they sensed time was money, and their schedules were too pressing to be interrupted. I can only guess at what their line of reasoning was in leaving the man to slowly die. But

I'm certain that after they gave the situation their evaluation and came up with the results of the 'quick and dirty' study, they simply did not care enough about the man to help him. Oh, to their defence, they probably 'cared' - - but not enough to act!

The Samaritan was a dark horse. He was a man who not only saw the need of another person, but actively set about helping him. He gave verbal, non-verbal, financial and physical care to a needy victim. In Chapter 9 of Luke's Gospel Jesus stood a little child up in front of His disciples, and these were His words, "Anyone who takes care of a little child like this is caring for Me. And whoever cares for Me is showing respect, and is caring for God who sent Me. "Your care for others is the measure of your greatness' ■

## Gardening for good



Plant 3 rows of **peas**:  
**Peace** of mind  
**Peace** of heart  
**Peace** of soul



Plant 4 rows of **squash**:  
**Squash** gossip  
**Squash** indifference  
**Squash** grumbling  
**Squash** selfishness



Plant 4 rows of **lettuce**:  
**Lettuce** be faithful  
**Lettuce** be kind  
**Lettuce** be patient  
**Lettuce** really love one another



Plant 3 rows of **turnips**:  
**Turnip** for meetings  
**Turnip** for service  
**Turnip** to help one another

**Water** freely with patience  
**Cultivate** with love  
There is much **fruit** in your garden  
Because you reap what you **sow**.



To conclude our **garden**...  
We must have **thyme**:  
**Thyme** for each other  
**Thyme** for family  
**Thyme** for friends and especially  
**Thyme** for GOD



[from [www.mikeysFunnies.com](http://www.mikeysFunnies.com)]



people who make the best out of things turn out.

## VERY SPECIAL BALCONY PEOPLE IN OUR LIVES



### Sandra Crashley writes:

Mike and I visited Margie Willers recently and she made reference to an article she wrote in the Encourager, which I had not read because I have had so many health problems over the past year or so. As soon as we arrived home I looked through the Encouragers and found the article, and recognised faces of our CFFD friends in Dunedin still gathering and going strong in the Lord after nearly forty years. I still remember our first meeting, and many of the amazing people who had turned their disability into the gem of knowing and getting closer to the Lord. What a wonderful example they had been to us, many of them now home with the Lord.

Then I read Margie's article about 'Balcony People', and it made me realise that she had been one of my balcony people. Just one such example from the mid 1980's when Margie flew to the South Island to make a tour of CFFD branches. At that time, I was the South Island Co-ordinator based in Dunedin, and I had organised Margie's tour from Christchurch to Dunedin. It was quite a full programme, and I wondered if Margie would cope, but she astounded us because she had so much energy.

Margie not only gave talks to Church congregations and Christian groups as she travelled, but was also interviewed on TV by Jim Mora in Dunedin for South Tonight, a programme with numerous South Island viewers. Jim later told me that he had not interviewed someone with such a handicap before, and was

wondering if he could pull it off. To his amazement, Margie had made the whole process one of ease for him, and he was delighted with the interview, and the whole recording was shown on TV that night. Jim was very taken with Margie, and told me years later that she had made an enduring impression on him, and from all the interviews he had done she had obviously been one of his 'Balcony People'.

At the time of Margie's visit, I thought that I was a normal able-bodied person because I simply ignored lots of health issues which often left me exhausted and depressed. I dealt with those health issues by pushing myself on, but in the middle of Margie's visit I hit the proverbial wall on the rest day I had planned. I was struggling to get housework done and meals cooked. Margie noticed my struggles.

To the delight of our children, upon arrival Margie had abandoned her wheelchair at our front door, and although she could not stand she 'walked' around our home on her knees which our children copied, but they could not move around as quickly as she did.

Midweek on the day I was struggling with my health, without saying a word Margie went to our hall cupboard and took out the vacuum cleaner and began cleaning the floors of our entire house, walking around on her knees. That day I cried tears of gratitude to God, and from that time, on many low days, I have often thought of Margie heroically vacuuming my home. She inspired me because she had not allowed the disability to handicap her, but had found novel ways to do things she wanted to do, particularly when she could help lift another person.

Margie has been and continues to be an inspiration to many of us from her Balcony position and I for one thank our Heavenly Father for bringing her into our lives. ■





# The greatest accomplishment but in rising again

## The Testimony of Cathy Harbour

*I have an amazing life. Praise God!*

It wasn't always like that. I had a wonderful childhood on the farm, but I was unhappy in my job, depressed, lonely, and hated myself. Bad choices led me to having a stroke at 38. After the stroke, I spent a year in hospital being angry and bitter, wishing I could die, and in fact, once I was out, contemplating ways I could make that happen, though the thought of making life worse, and the love of my family – Mum, Dad, my sister Sarah, her husband Malcolm and their two children, Rhyan and Charlotte – stopped me.

I'd been invited to the nearby All Saints Community Church in St Andrew's, Hamilton by friends, and one day I went but felt guilty, sad and unworthy. I had committed my life to Christ at 19, and was supported then by friends, but a change in circumstances meant I didn't have them, and I drifted away from God. I spent the next 19 years looking for Christ, but not aware of it. I now recognize that as spiritual emptiness.

At my lowest point, I met Matti. He saw me at my absolute worst, but still loved me just as Christ loves the church! We had 5 happy married years together despite recurring health issues he suffered, before he went home to be with the Lord. I seem to have found a balance between grief and joy for Matti because I know exactly where he is, praise the Lord, but it sucks



to be left behind. The Church community had surrounded us in love and supported us both.

Last July I was rushed to hospital in the middle of the night because I was struggling for every breath. I heard the Lord say, "Breathe, child,

breathe," and I felt His hand making my lungs work. It was discovered that I had massive clots on my lungs, and I was given blood thinners and oxygen for the 10 days I was there. Many people were praying for me, and this time in hospital I was calm, constantly singing scriptural songs, sometimes out loud, unafraid and at peace. The nurses were lovely, and it was nothing like my experience after the stroke. My lungs are now totally clear.

CFFD has allowed me to put my spiritual gifting of hospitality to good use. We have built a lovely support system/family in Hamilton, and everyone is welcome. My flat mates and I host this group which meets every two weeks in our home.

Philippians 4:12 *'In Christ who strengthens me I have strength for everything!'* I am weak and prone to bad choices, but Christ gives me strength to overcome my limitations. Ever since I gave God control of my life I have discovered freedom, joy and so much hope.

## The Obstacles In Our Path

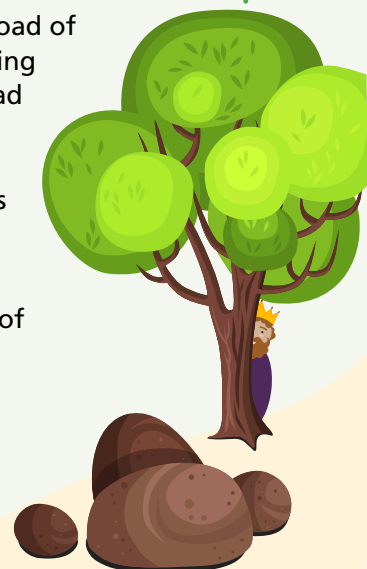
*In ancient times*, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way.

Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded.

After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway.

The peasant learned what many of us never understand:

***"Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition."***





# ent is not in never failing, in after you fall.

## To all the amazing people that brought National Camp together:

*Thank you, thank you, thank you!*

This is our second time attending this camp, and it has been wonderful coming along as a family. For our special needs son Benjamin it was really cool letting him roam freely and wander anywhere he wanted to go, and know that he would be safe.

We decided to leave his wheelchair in our room to encourage him to stand independently, and give him the opportunities to walk without being tempted to hop back into his wheelchair! Many people commented on his ability to walk too, which was such a delightful thing for all of us! It was also very supportive and encouraging to hear comments from those who'd only seen Benjamin in his wheelchair. For our daughter Amelia, it was lovely for her to connect with other children that have siblings with special needs. The kids program was fantastic (above). For us as parents it was also great to be able to attend worship and praise



upstairs, workshops, etc. We also had a lovely man named Bob who joined us as a buddy for Benjamin (pictured together). He's now affectionately known as Uncle Bob. The best part: Fellowship and sharing after breakfast.

Thank you again for the cool theme: Igniting the fire in our hearts for the Lord. It has certainly done exactly that.



*Love Tony, Debbie, Benjamin and Amelia*

## DON'T JUST SEE THE PROBLEM,

## *look for the opportunity*

When President John F Kennedy was asked how he became a war hero, he smiled and quipped, *"It was easy. Somebody sank my boat!"* While it's true that certain individuals have a vision and pursue it, many times adversity paves the way to success.

This was the case for a man whose small business was failing; 'I was paying a sheriff five dollars to postpone a judgement on my small factory. Then came the gas man, and because I couldn't pay his bill he promptly cut off my gas. I was in the midst of certain very important experiments, and to have the gas people plunge me into darkness made me so mad I at once began to read up on gas techniques and economics,

and resolved I would try to see if electricity couldn't be made to replace gas and give these gas people a 'run for their money.' That man was Thomas Edison, founder of General Electric.

Problems are wake up calls for creativity. If you choose to wake up, and get up, problems will prompt you to use your abilities, rally your resources, and move forward. The truth is, without certain problems we would end up in the wrong place, with the wrong people, doing the wrong thing. Out of pain comes purpose, and out of devastation comes direction. ■

*Taken from Workplace Ponderings*





# Success is all about the quiet



## END OF LIFE

## CHOICE BILL

*On the 13th of November*, before MPs went in for the final reading and voted, there was a gathering outside parliament of those with concerns about this bill who had come together to express their opposition to it. Our photo shows a group of Elevate people who were there, many with disabilities, some of whom had travelled great distances to express their views about the bill, such as John Fox (above) who had come from Christchurch, and Raymond Mok from Auckland.



Unfortunately, the bill has been passed, and there is to be a referendum alongside next year's General Election. Please make sure your family, friends, and colleagues know what this bill is about, and we encourage you to continue to pray.

## Crazy Life

A song written & sung by  
Daniel Leopard at National Camp

.....  
*It's a crazy crazy life  
But I'll be alright  
It's a roller coaster ride, better hold on tight  
Life's not always easy, but with God by your side  
There's no need to worry, or hide*

*God is there through it all  
It doesn't mean you won't fall  
He knows the feeling of a broken heart  
He counts your every tear  
Just cry out He'll be there  
He wants to take away all your pain*

*I haven't got the answers  
I haven't got the cure  
I haven't got the medicine you've been looking for  
But my God has all you need  
Put your faith in Him, believe  
That everything will be alright in the end*

*If you feel you've had enough  
And life is way too tough  
Just keep on praying to Jesus  
He's right there  
That's all I can say  
I can't take your pain away  
Jesus loves you and  
He won't let go*



## Advice from the ocean

Be **shore** of yourself,  
Take time to **coast**  
Don't be **shellfish**  
**Sea** life's beauty  
Avoid **pier** pressure  
Don't get **tide** down,  
Come out of your **shell**  
and make **waves**

## The Clock of Life

*The clock of life is wound but once,  
And no one has the power,  
To tell just where the hands will stop,  
At late or early hour.*

*To lose ones wealth is sad indeed,  
To lose one's health is more,  
To lose one's soul is such a loss,  
That no one can restore.*

*The present only is our own,  
To seeks to do God's will:  
Tomorrow holds no promise, for  
The clock may then be still.*

*So why not this very minute  
prepare for your eternity  
by trusting your soul to  
Jesus Christ  
Who died at Calvary*

*It only takes a sincere minute  
to confess who He really is  
And then when the clock of  
your life stops  
Your eternal peace will be.*

*Jesus loves you and God has a  
plan for your life **Jeremiah 29:11***



**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  
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<b>Joy Ministries - National, Auckland Central, West &amp; East</b>		
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<b>Bible Friends - Wanganui</b>		
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<b>THRIVE - Greerton Bible Church, Tauranga</b>		
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or direct deposit ANZ 01-0142-0029706-00

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

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The 2019

# National Camp

The whole camp watched the All Blacks semifinal



And erupted when they scored their try



But sadly, there was just one!!!



The early morning prayer time was well attended, and such a vital part of the camp



## WHAT IS ELEVATE CHRISTIAN DISABILITY TRUST ALL ABOUT?

We are an interdenominational parachurch organisation.  
We run meetings and camps throughout NZ.  
We have four groups:

- **CFDD** (Christian Fellowship for Disabled) mainly for folk with physical disabilities.
- **Joy Ministries** mainly for those with intellectual disabilities.
- **Emmanuel** for families with children with disabilities.
- **Torch** for those who are blind and visually impaired.

We have a Centre in Auckland which is our main office, and where we also run a **Drop In Centre** three days a week. We welcome people with disabilities, volunteers and family members.

"We  
welcome  
your  
enquiry"

### NATIONAL SUPPORT OFFICE

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