

THE ENCOURAGER

Issue. 169 | November 2020

The magazine of Elevate Christian Disability Trust



Embracing
Technology for
National Camp
Online 2020!



See pages 4, 5 & 16 for more!



This photo and the others at the top of the pages, show people involved over Labour Weekend

"Fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you with a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love,

The Tree

A devotion shared at the Labour Weekend National Camp Online 2020



"He is like a tree planted by streams of water" Psalm 1:3 (NIV)

Introduction

Hello my name is Teremoana Va'a.

People often look at trees for their beauty. However, trees are important in a number of ways. Trees are used to represent life and wisdom. Like us, trees grow and change with every season. Just like me! I grow in resilience and strength.

The Leaf

The righteous man shows evidence of being alive like the fresh green leaves on a tree that has been nourished. Leaves are like people. They come in a wide range of shapes and sizes, and they change colours according to the seasons.

The Roots

People cannot see what is going on under the ground, but there are unseen roots that are firmly planted below the soil. Roots serve a very important purpose. They hold water and nutrients, and disperse them to

all parts of the tree. The righteous person thrives the same way as a tree does because of strong roots. The tree that you see standing tall above the ground can endure storms and strong winds because of its underground work. In those weather conditions, trees might bend, but they do not break because of their strong roots. The godly man is strong and stable with roots that grow unseen. When we look at people, we cannot see what is going on underneath. However, that is where the real work takes place.

CAMPS 2021

*Camps intended for next year.
Please take note and put in
your diaries.*

Wellington CFFD	Waikanae	5-7 March
Kids Connect	Auckland	19-21 March
Auckland CFFD	Auckland	26-28 March
Christchurch Day Camp	Christchurch	10 April
Emmanuel Family Camp	Matamata	16-18 April
Joy Ministries National	Matamata	21-23 May
Elevate National Camp	Matamata	22-25 Oct

when I laid my hands on you. For God has not given us
and self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:6-11 (NLT)

Scriptures from
Speakers

Covid has brought a breakthrough in inclusion

by Fiona Gosden

As the country adjusts the rules on lockdown, and our churches might be talking about returning to meet physically in a 'COVID-19 secure environment', we must consider those who cannot physically access church regardless of the virus. I believe that during lockdown, churches have had space to experience a life without access to worshipping together, fellowship and serving in the way they would usually choose. Of course, church is still church

when meeting online, and we have heard from disabled people who have been able to access church meetings, small groups, and other offerings for the first time since their church has moved online. We want to celebrate these breakthroughs in inclusion. I think we do need to be careful, however, that when churches begin meeting again physically—whenever and however that might be—disabled people will not be encouraged to join online church as the sole alternative to attending church. ■



Taken from The Vital Link in England

Leaving a Legacy

Have you ever thought of leaving a legacy to "Elevate CDT" in your will?

We have been so blessed by the thoughtfulness of the late Ken Miller who did just this, and years later we received it just when we had a big financial need.

If you are interesting in "Leaving a Legacy" please email legacy@elevatecdt.org.nz





'Not by might nor by power, but by N
Zechar

COURAGEOUS FAITH



NATIONAL CAMP 2020 ONLINE

We were blessed to have Ps Geoff Wiklund, Ps Suz Holmes and Hamish Muir speak over the weekend. Their messages will be available in audio and written formats on our website for those who weren't able to connect with us online.



Ps Geoff Wiklund, our camp pastor, took up the challenge of prerecording his messages for us.



Ps Suz Holmes, one of the pastors at Manukau Baptist and our guest speaker at last years National Camp, was excited to join us again.



Hamish Muir, our camp security, often also holds a workshop as he is a great communicator.

PS GEOFF WIKLUND

As always, Ps Geoff's honest messages both encouraged and challenged us. He highlighted why its important to have 'The Courage to Say No' and hold to our values. "That's where you say: Hey listen, we've got some standards here, and we're not moving from those. Our behaviour is dictated by what the Bible is saying to us..." And that 'The Courage to Say Yes to God' can be hard sometimes but carries great blessing. "So it's incredibly important we realise there's a power that comes from us having the courage to live a Christian lifestyle."

Ps Geoff summed up his messages by bringing us back to two key foundations of our faith, which are love and the Word of God. "God is love, that is what this Scripture says. If we are going to be like Him, then you and I need to love..." "I want to say to you today: that is the key thing. You and I, we've got to hear from God..." "if we want to have love in our lives, the Word of God has got to live in here."

PS SUZ HOLMES

This year has held a lot of uncertainty and change for all of us. In her workshop, From Fear to Faith, Ps Suz acknowledged that "life is really unstable at the moment..." but she reminded us that as Christians we are told not to fear. She shared many of the verses that tell us not to fear, and emphasised that this theme of 'do not fear' was constantly repeated throughout the Bible. "Because you know what, the Almighty God knew we would constantly struggle with fear when sin entered the world. And so He repeated from beginning to end of the Bible this theme, don't be afraid."

By discussing some of the names of God and their meanings, Ps Suz challenged us to move from fear to faith. "Fear can look bigger and bigger, and bigger, and bigger, as we dwell on it more, and more and more. But the reality is fear is nothing in the place of God. Fear is totally overwhelmed by who God is and His many names. Fear has absolutely nothing, it's small, it's insignificant, and then God in all His bigness He just covers it and heals it because this is who He is. He is God, He is these many things. And each fear is done with when we get to know God personally."

HAMISH MUIR

Hamish's workshop, 40 Days and 40 Nights: A long Journey, was an exploration of examples from the Bible of people who chose to live with courageous faith. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had courageous faith to stand firm in their beliefs. Esther had courageous faith to walk before the king and ask her petition.

It was also a great reminder of the support and strength we have in God. Hamish says, "...we need to know we have a living powerful God that is standing up for us." And "if we actually have courageous faith, if we know that God is on our side, He is for us not against us, then any weapon that is formed can not be *against* us. That we can stand where we are..." "The Holy Spirit is always with us! We've got to remember that we succeed not by my might or strength but by His Spirit says the Lord."

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

*"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but
of power and of love and of a sound mind."*

AROUND NZ DURING NATIONAL CAMP

Even though we were unable to all meet together for National Camp this year we still wanted to hold something. So National Camp 2020 Online was the solution! Using ZOOM we held a very different version of camp. Five of our regional groups rose to the challenge of gathering together in their region to connect to camp online.



AUCKLAND CFFD had about 45 people get together for a lunch on Saturday, and then connected online to watch National Camp Online in the afternoon.



NORTHLAND CFFD had 33 people gather together on Saturday for lunch, a team trivia competition and joining National Camp Online for the afternoon.



WAIKATO CFFD had between 20 - 30 people together at different times during the weekend connecting into National Camp Online. Here they are taking part in the regional sports competition.



WELLINGTON CFFD had about 20 people gathered together on Saturday afternoon. Unfortunately they experienced some technical issues and couldn't get sound.



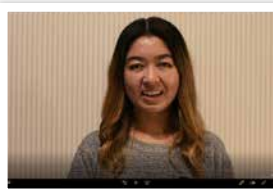
EMMANUEL SUPPORT decided to hold their annual Parents Retreat over Labour Weekend this year, so they could join National Camp Online. There were 12 parents who stayed the 3 nights, and 3 families joined on the Saturday as there was a children's programme that day.



MORNING DEVOTIONS ONLINE



MANUELE TEOFILO AND KIM CLARK reminded us to have courage to share the Gospel and use our talents.



OLIVIA SHIVAS shared about how we need to be attached to God and depending on Him to produce the fruit of the Spirit in us.



TEREMOANA AND LANI VA'A highlighted the importance of having strong roots and believing God's promises for us in the Bible. (See page 2)

ENCOURAGEMENT CONNECTION AND IMPACT

Although we couldn't be together in person, the opportunities to connect were still impacting. One camper said 'Cabin Time was brilliant. It's not an exaggeration to say it felt like I was there in an actual camp cabin time.' Another camper said they received 'encouragement to keep on keeping on in my faith.' We also loved hearing what some of the campers were now going to have 'Courageous Faith' to do!



"What, then, shall we say in response to these things?"
Roman



POINTERS FOR

LEADER

PART 2



Margie Willers continues,

If you have a GOD-VISION, then express it with PASSION and embrace chances to make written or spoken presentations – even if this scares the socks from off your feet. Be like the turtle: He never gets anywhere unless he sticks his neck out: You might be utterly amazed how many people will be eager to come alongside and give their wholehearted support.

If you apply for a role and miss out, then it's totally understandable to feel disappointed, even gutted. However, there are numerous opportunities to which you can bring a positive difference without an official position. If you aren't comfortable tackling extra work challenges without the recognition of a title, that may be an indicator that you do not have the right motivations for leadership as yet. REMEMBER: "GOOD LEADERS CARE; GREAT LEADERS SERVE."

HOW CAN I LEAD WITHOUT A TITLE?

You'd be surprised how many things you can volunteer to do to upgrade your leadership skills. Join a committee bringing fresh blood and fresh ideas and goals to the table. But... Be aware, often you will learn just as much about leadership from helping and supporting others on the team as actually leading.

Allow me to bounce these suggestions for your consideration:-

- Befriending and being a buddy to a disabled person, taking him or her for a drive, to your home for a meal, or to a movie, or Mc Café.
- Maybe organising weekly art class sessions.
- Baking scones or making soup for the homeless. Aim to reach out into your local community.
- Volunteer time working in an Op-Shop.
- Sports activities. Encourage team participation by including people with a disability.
- Head a coffee team – at the Centre or at your church.
- Be a tutor or a mentor.

The list is endless.

It's all about 'rolled-up-sleeves-Christianity' - often the suggestions listed above have a greater impact than a sermon!!

Conclusion from Bear Grylls: 'It's in the quiet, unseen moments of giving time and simple kindness, that we truly define ourselves – that's leadership. Remember, if you pursue to action these things outside of an official role, or in your own free time, it will be even clearer that you genuinely desire to learn and be instrumental with and when change happens.'

things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"
1 Cor 8:31



What are you waiting for? Lead on! There's much more ahead...

WE GET INSPIRING LEADERSHIP FROM

BIBLE CHARACTERS:

- **JESUS...** Leaders make sacrifices, lead by example and practice servanthood leadership.
- **NOAH...** Leaders carry out what is right – even if they're the only ones doing it.
- **ABRAHAM...** Leaders leave their comfort-zone.
- **JOSHUA...** Leaders get involved in the action.

- **DAVID...** Leaders are not afraid of giants. They're willing to take on insurmountable obstacles or challenges.
- **ISAIAH...** Leaders take initiative.
- **JOHN THE BAPTIST...** Leaders tell it like it is.
- **PAUL...** Leaders are passionate people.

Taken from Doug Price's – 12 most inspiring leadership lessons Bible characters



DEVELOPING INTO A PROLIFIC AUTHOR IN HER SEVENTIES

Toria Newman, a 70 year old member of the CFFD Waikato branch, has just completed her fourth book, a detective novel about Toria's alter ego Robbie, a young woman with Spastic Cerebral Palsy, who loses her dear friend Joel in very suspicious circumstances. The book is also an awesome testimony of Toria's faith, and her special way to cope with her personal battles. The book is about this young woman Robbie, and you can tell she's a younger version of the Grand Lady that Toria is today! Amazingly, Toria is now working on a further two novels.



*"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for
has enough trouble of its own today."*

*Diane and Robin Green,
and Young Ran,*

What the Centre means to us

Written by Diane Green

I first came to the Centre in the 1990's. At that time it was in an old house in Balmoral and then moved to where it is today. God's presence in that building was incredibly strong. Young Ran and her family, possibly the first Korean family in Auckland, could not speak English other than the odd word, and understood very little, but our church at the time put us together as we both had children the same age, and Di Willis had suggested that I take Young Ran to their house to help with collating "The Encourager" as no English was needed. Young Ran indicated to Di that she would like to cut hair for disabled people as she had a very young disabled niece in Korea, and this had sparked her interest. One week we would come on a Tuesday, the next a Wednesday and the following week a Thursday. Then we would repeat the cycle. That way, people could get their hair cut once every six weeks. It was great, because Young Ran and I got to know all the people who came on the different days.

I loved the Centre right from the first visit, and immediately felt unconditionally loved and accepted. I think Di, Leila Corban and Amanda Barclay are the only people who are still part of Thursdays. Amanda always welcomed us with a big hug every week, and played a big part in us feeling welcome. The prayer meetings were awesome, with Jacqui Gardner, as she now is, leading the worship with her autoharp. The Centre and helping with the Magazine were a lot of fun, and there was a lot of laughter. I often prayed for people with Young Ran when she was cutting hair, but I also received a lot of ministry from



various people too, and received far more than I ever gave out.

After four years Young Ran got her Driving Licence, and I felt called by God in another direction and could not manage to go to the Centre anymore with



the added commitment, but just last year my husband Robin suggested we should start going to the Centre together, Young Ran said that she also would like to start coming again too. She had continued coming by herself for many of the 25 years after I had stopped. Robin had not gone to church because access was difficult, and the services were too long to sit through, but he had become isolated. Di Willis had periodically encouraged him to go to the Centre and he knew he had been faithfully prayed for in the Thursday prayer meetings since being struck down with a weird syndrome, nearly 11 years ago.

That is a very long time for Elevate to have kept praying for him and he was very grateful for the prayer cover, as even though he had not been healed, the rate of deterioration had been a lot slower than expected, so we are very thankful to God for that.

... tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day
own." Matthew 6:34 (NIV)

The only activity he had had was playing chess on Mondays when a couple of friends came for 3-man Chess!

Robin says he now looks forward to coming to the Centre every week and being part of it. He says each person is valued and plays a part, whether guest or helper. We all need each other. He enjoys talking to

people and getting to know everyone, and also enjoys the morning activities and the prayer meeting. He hopes that he brings something to encourage others and show support for the ministry. We are told "not to hide our light under a bushel," and he hopes that the light of Jesus in him shines out in some small way to others. We are "blessed to be a blessing" and he receives far more than he gives out. ■

Why I volunteer at the Elevate Drop In Centre

Annette Handley



Jesus is there, at the "Centre" of it all.

Here is a family I'm drawn to, this family of faith. I love that.

The Gospel is proclaimed - a good God is when people are infinitely treasured and valuable.

We can bring our trials and problems to share and be encouraged, elevated once again, and we leave refreshed.

It's a fellowship where acceptance is not determined by performance - most unusual!

It's such a privilege to be a special part of this fellowship.

It is not difficult to give your life to Christ

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN? You could do so by following these four steps

1. **Confess you are a sinner.**
(Read in the Bible 1 John 1 v 12)
2. **Ask Jesus to come into your heart and life as Saviour and Lord.**
(1 John 1 v 12)
3. **Thank Him and tell someone that you are a Christian.**
4. **Read the Bible, start praying, find an active church and tell others of your new faith**



This was a service held at All Saints Community Church, taken by C.F.F.D Waikato on the Sunday of Labour Weekend. We would encourage churches to have individuals or groups from the ministries to take part in their services, and small groups, etc.



"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation present your requests to God."

How God can use amazingly a handicapped baby for His glory

Part 2

By Mary Van Nattan
Sent in by Heyden Bailey

Now it so happened that close to this time a beautiful baby girl was born and became one of Sheila's patients. She was named Violet. This little one had beautiful dark brown eyes, jet black hair and a soft olive complexion. She also had cerebral palsy. Her mother shortly abandoned her, refusing to take any responsibility for her. But, before you feel grieved or angry about that, know that this was of the Lord. He had plans for her and used this to make sure she got into a home where she would learn of Him.

Being born with severe cerebral palsy is bad enough, but not having a mother makes it so much worse. Sheila was heartbroken for the infant and did not take long in deciding to adopt her. Of course, this baby was a lot of work, and it was a real challenge for Sheila to continue her practice and care for Violet's needs. She was able to continue for some time, however. During this time period Sheila began to discover how God can use a "handicapped" baby for His glory.

There was a woman we shall call "June" whom Sheila met while helping at a mission in the city

where she lived. June had serious problems. She had a background of violence, abuse, drugs, etc. She was a mess, but she wanted something better. Slowly, through one thing and another, she was being drawn to Christ. Sheila was attempting to help her in this, but it was a difficult task. June was constantly hindered by her own struggles.

One particular day Sheila took June to an evangelistic meeting hoping that perhaps somehow she would see the truth of the Gospel. Sheila had Violet with her that day. Now June was not the kind of woman that a mother would want to hold her baby, especially a baby with very special needs. June could not be trusted. She was somewhat unstable mentally, and very rough. However, June very much wanted to hold baby Violet. She was very attracted to her. Sheila was very hesitant and nervous about it at first, but, as was her custom, in her heart she sought the Lord's wisdom about it. The Lord gave her peace, and comforted her that it would be all right. Still somewhat apprehensively, Sheila handed Violet over to June.

To her amazement, June loved the baby and handled her well, and Violet was content with June. Sheila later felt that the softening of holding and loving that baby were instrumental in helping June come to Christ as she did not long after. Sheila began to see that this baby with special needs might have a special place in God's great plan!

Romans 8: 28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.

As the years passed Violet grew, but she did not grow to be as large as an average adult woman. She also could not feed herself. She could not dress herself, could not run or play like other children. She was destined to be in a wheelchair her entire life. In fact, she could not even talk or control her saliva. But there was one thing that Violet could do. She could smile! And what a smile it was! It was lit from within with the very joy of heaven, for by and by she understood the Gospel and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ herself.

Sheila eventually gave up her practice and moved to southern California. There she met a Christian man who had recently been widowed, and through one thing and another they eventually married. He loved both Sheila and Violet dearly, and felt privileged to be a part of their very unique life. They moved into a house next to Violet's new grandmother, who was also a child of God. Her grandma was a faithful prayer warrior, and eventually she and Violet became staunch prayer partners. Daily her dad would wheel her over to her grandma's house for their season of prayer together. Though Violet could not speak her words, she prayed from her heart. Both she and her grandmother considered it an important ministry that God had given them.

Violet had gone to school in a public service for the handicapped for some years, but Sheila finally decided to finish her education at home. Violet took much longer to finish school than most people because she had to use a computer and had very limited motor skills, so progress was very slow. However, Sheila found Violet to be a bright student mentally, and she rejoiced to be able to communicate with her about both scholastic and spiritual things as they worked together finishing Violet's high school education.

Perhaps one of the most interesting ministries the Lord allowed Violet to think of was cheering people up. Her million dollar smile was truly a gift from God. When they would go into a restaurant Violet would look the other customers over and select the one who seemed the most downcast, gloomy or grumpy. She would then watch them closely till she caught their eye. Because of her rather noticeable wheelchair and handicap it is quite likely that this did not take overly long. But, when she did catch their eye, she would beam at them with her winning smile, and she would keep this pattern up till they finally broke down and smiled back at her!

Now many would excuse Violet from active service of the Lord because of her severe physical limitations, but Violet didn't see it that way. She was determined to do what she could with what she had, and God blessed this desire and made her a blessing to others. Her parents and grandmother and other friends who

knew her closely were touched by her love for the Lord and determination to do what she could for Him.

“..many would excuse Violet from active service of the Lord because of her severe physical limitations, but Violet didn't see it that way.”

Christian friend, what about you? Do you have a child with handicaps? Are you teaching them to do as much as they can for the Lord? Have you been faithful to read the scripture to them and explain the Gospel? Even if they don't seem able to understand entirely, how can you be sure they do not at least understand a little? Encourage those who can do a little to at least use that for the Lord, who will show you how to help them if you seek His wisdom in this.

Maybe you are the one who is handicapped. Maybe you need to take Violet's example to heart. What did she have? The ability to pray in her heart (she cannot talk) and a smile. And yet she gave that to God and used it for His glory. What are you doing for the Lord? Are you His child? If you are, then there is something you could do for Him. If this was not so, He would take you home to be with Him in heaven. He loves to have His children with Him in heaven, so we can be sure that as long as we are on this earth there is some purpose of His we are to fulfil. As long as you are here, there is something you can and should be doing for His glory. The bonds of your handicap will be “loosed” as God makes a way for you to glorify Him in His purpose for your life. You can offer Him the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and call upon the Lord's name - even if it's only in your heart.

But, after all, if you are reading this on a computer, then perhaps you have an avenue of ministry. If you can type out an email you can write to others on behalf of the Lord - both to encourage other Christians and to testify of our great Saviour. Perhaps you could print out helpful articles, poems, and so forth from various web pages to give to people who need help in some way. Perhaps you can be an encouragement to those who care for your needs by simply persevering and giving God the glory for what He has done for you.



"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified; for the Lord your God is with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you."

We are all earthen vessels, but the treasure is from God, and as His own possession bought with the blood of Christ, you also hold the same treasure that any other child of God has. In a very real sense Violet shows the glory of the face of Jesus Christ in her smile and her fervent prayer as she allows the Lord to bring His treasure to this troubled world through her earthen vessel. Feeble though it is, the treasure is still great, for the excellency of the power is of God, not her!

How about you? Your mental, physical or emotional problem is not so difficult that God cannot find a way for His glory to be worked through you. Even if you are forced to commune with Him alone from the quiet of your heart and mind, He is still glorified. May God give you wisdom to see a way in which you can graciously and sweetly show forth this treasure as well. ■

Our Staff at the Centre

Sarah Houston shares her role:



I am the Daytime Coordinator at Elevate Drop in Centre.

My role is running the programme each Tuesday to Thursday at the Drop in Centre. This includes fitness workouts, worship in song, Bible teaching, group discussions, prayer time, quizzes, crafts, cooking, guest speakers and outings. We have a saying

at Elevate "expect the unexpected", so each day can and often does bring surprises!! I have been a part of Elevate for just over two years. I still marvel at the circumstances which brought me here. "As for God, His way is perfect." Psalm 18:30

It has been a privilege to work alongside the dedicated team of staff and volunteers. It reminds me of the human body which has many parts, yet each has a special function. At Elevate we all have different gifts God has given. If it is to teach then teach; to encourage then give encouragement; if we are called to serve then serve faithfully. Be devoted to one another in love. (Romans 12)

This year has been very different due to Covid. The Lord has been faithful to His promises and looked after us. We have been able to connect through

Zoom meetings online, to chat, have some laughs, encourage each other, worship, and pray together. It has really been a time of blessing, even though we have not been able to be at the Centre much of this year. I, along with the staff, have also phoned and emailed clients and volunteers to keep in touch.

To sum up my time at Elevate, it is a place where EVERYONE BELONGS. In God's eyes we are all loved, accepted, forgiven. My prayer is that all who come through the door at the Drop in Centre will feel they belong, that they are special, that we care and accept each other, serving one another in love, as Jesus taught us to do.

All the special clients who attend have been an inspiration to me, by offering a smile, a kind word of encouragement, a good laugh or a hug, they have blessed me in so many ways. I'm reminded of the verse "*Man so often looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart*" 1 Samuel 16:7

My prayer - May the Lord bless and keep each one of you, and may His face shine upon you and be gracious to you and give you peace. Amen

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

...fied because of them, for the Lord your God goes
...r forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6

Van Ameringen Family Testimony

I first met Di Willis in 1995 when I was a second year Uni student studying Occupational Therapy. Di offered me the Trust magazine, now called The Encourager, which I continued to receive as I finished my studies, got married and became a mum. Throughout the years I was blessed by testimonials in the magazines, and as the children matured I read them aloud to share the joy.

In 2012 my husband and I decided it was time to volunteer as a family at the Totara Springs National Camp — we had 4 primary aged children and a soon to be 2-year-old. Our eldest was hesitant and unsure of what was expected, so we assured her she could take care of our baby, freeing me up to be a buddy for a camper. We encouraged all of the children that although we might feel we were going to serve, we were the ones that would be blessed.

Any possible reluctance they may have initially felt soon disappeared, and by the time camp was finished they were lamenting that they would have to wait a



whole year before they could return! Our then baby, is now turning 10 years of age, so for her and our 6th child they have only ever known that 'Elevate' is what we do as a family, a highlight in our year. Our eldest is now 21 years, and she has progressed from observing and eating outside the main dining hall, to requesting to buddy with campers requiring full physical assistance. Such a privilege to see — when we let go of our fears, God does a beautiful work. Thank you Elevate for impacting our family individually and as a whole, and for blessing us at National Camp through the atmosphere of love and acceptance that we experience when we are there—a slice of heaven! ■

The heart is the happiest when it beats for others

*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down
his life for his friends. John 15:13*

One of the people most admired by Charles Swindoll is Dawson Trotman, who died after helping to rescue two drowning girls. Says Swindoll:

"When Dawson Trotman passed away he probably left a legacy of discipleship on the earth that will never be matched except perhaps in the life of Jesus Christ Himself.

I've become a real student of Dawson Trotman and believe wholeheartedly in the methods of discipleship

that he taught and emulated throughout his days. He died in Schroon Lake, New York. He died of all things in the midst of an area that he was expert in — he drowned. He was an expert swimmer. The last few moments he had in the water he lifted one girl out of the water. He went down and got the other girl and lifted her out of the water, and then submerged and was not found again until the dragnet found him a few hours later.... *Time* ran an article on Trotman's life the next week, and they put a caption beneath his name, and it read, 'Always Holding Somebody Up.' In one sentence,, that was Trotman's life — investment in people... holding them up."

Discipleship is not having others follow you, as much as it is lifting others up to see the Lord, and then serving them so they can follow Him wholeheartedly.

Taken from God's Little Devotional Book



"For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascended."

MARVELLOUS GOD-GIVEN CONNECTIONS

The second son of Kalman and Malki Samuels of Israel, Yossi, was injured by a faulty vaccination at the age of eleven months; rendered blind, deaf and acutely hyperactive as a result..

Kalman and Malki fully invested themselves in Yossi's wellbeing, but their efforts left the entire family feeling taxed, overwhelmed and isolated. Friends and professionals – with the best of intentions – suggested that Kalman and Malki place Yossi in an institution outside the home to lighten the family's burden. Malki protested. "We didn't get Yossi in the corner store!" She made a pledge that if God would intervene and grant her a connection with Yossi, she would in turn devote herself to helping other families of children with disabilities.

The miracle came. The impenetrable wall of silence, which had stood for nearly a decade, finally was broken.

At the age of eight, Yossi achieved the 'Helen Keller breakthrough.' While working with Shoshana Weinstock, a therapist who is deaf herself, Yossi learned to understand Hebrew finger spelling simulated into the palm of his hand. Yossi learned his first word, "shulchan" which means table. Malki kept her promise and Shalva ("Security" in Hebrew) was founded as an afternoon programme for eight children with disabilities in a modest Jerusalem apartment.

Over time, the programme expanded to meet the needs of a broader spectrum of special needs, from birth through adulthood. Today Shalva provides therapy, education, and recreation to hundreds of beneficiaries, as well as family support, respite and advocacy initiatives. In recognition of Shalva's



accomplishments and an ongoing need to expand the availability of special needs services, the Jerusalem Municipality provided the Samuels a seven acre plot adjacent to the new Route 16 highway and the Shaarei Tzedek Medical centre in Jerusalem. It has been designated by the Jerusalem Municipality to be the welcoming face of Israel's capital.

The 220,000 sq.ft centre opened its doors on September 2016, and has disability accessible facilities such as an auditorium, sports centre, therapeutic and recreational swimming pools, fitness rooms, inclusive playgrounds and more. The campus is brimming over with cutting-edge educational, therapeutic, recreational and vocational facilities. Six acres of inclusion parks are open to the public, allowing children of all abilities to play and grow together. Shalva gives equal access and opportunity to all participants regardless of religion, ethnic background, or financial capability.

The Shalva Band is comprised of eight talented musicians with disabilities who perform to the highest musical standards, inspiring crowds throughout Israel and around the world with its musical repertoire and charm, the band is one of Shalva's most celebrated inclusion programs. The band takes listeners on a cultural journey using music as a language to unite people of all countries and abilities. The concert is an opportunity to experience inclusion of people with disabilities in a positive and inspiring way.

Kalman Samuel's memoir, "Dreams Never Dreamed," was released in Hebrew in September 2019, and in English in May 2020.

Story taken with kind permission, from www.shalva.org

in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through
 hands to God for His glory. 2 Corinthians 1:20

A sermon walking

Reporters and city officials gathered at a Chicago railroad station one afternoon in 1953. The person they were meeting was the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize winner.

A few minutes after the train came to a stop, a giant of a man — six-feet-four — with bushy hair and a large moustache stepped from the train. Cameras flashed. City officials approached him with hands outstretched. Various ones began telling him how honoured they were to meet him.

The man politely thanked them, and then, looking over their heads, he asked if he could be excused for a moment. He quickly walked through the crowd until he reached the side of an elderly black woman who was struggling with two large suitcases. He picked up the bags, and with a smile, escorted the woman to a bus. After helping her aboard, he wished her a safe journey. Returning to the greeting party he apologized, "Sorry to have kept you waiting."

The man was Dr. Albert Schweitzer, the famous missionary doctor who had spent his life helping the poor in Africa. In response to Schweitzer's action, one member of the reception committee said with great admiration to the reporter standing next to him, "That's the first time I ever saw a sermon walking."

The Philippines Ministries

All other CBM ministries except the Hebron Children's Home have ceased due to government lock down restrictions due to COVID-19. Under these restrictions no one is allowed out of Hebron except to access essential services. Therefore the disability ministries such as fellowship meetings, visitation, radio projects, and Bible studies have had to cease while these COVID-19 restrictions are in place. Once these restrictions have lifted Kathryn intends to restart Hebron Disability Services as soon as it is safe to do so.



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Ministries under Elevate

Emmanuel Ministry

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Torch

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Kumbayah - St David's Presbyterian Church - Palmerston North		
Ann Bennett		06 355 2818
Bible Friends - Wanganui		
Louise Rostron	rostrons@xtra.co.nz	06 344 5955
THRIVE - Greerton Bible Church, Tauranga		
Ron Raikes	thrive@gbc.org.nz	021 032 9660



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NATIONAL CAMP 2020 ONLINE



Jeanette and Hamish, our main hosts, messing around when off camera



Kirsty and Ami setting up Friday's ZOOM



Olivia and Ami editing and collating the highlight videos and photos



Michael and Manuele hosting the Saturday Night Quiz (Did any of you notice the cow sneaking in the background?!!)



The Saturday Night Quiz was also a crazy hat party!



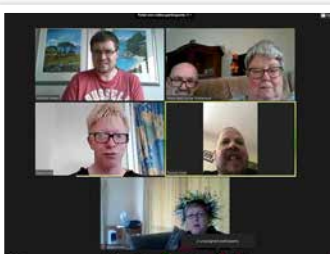
Di and Mark prayed on Sunday for campers prayer requests that came in during the weekend.



Mark, Chenae and Kirsty setting up the break out groups for Cabin Time on Saturday



Cabin Time was a great time of connection for those who signed up



TALENT QUEST WINNERS



Waikato CFFD – for their performance of Whakaaria Mai



Auckland Central CFFD – for their song about Elevate



Debra Dorofaeff – for her performance of the Circuit Riding Preacher

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:

- **CFFD** (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 or 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"

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