

THE

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ENCOURAGER

The magazine of Elevate Christian Disability Trust





This year at Elevate we keep coming back to talking about hope. In Aotearoa (New Zealand) we have been privileged with the freedoms we have been able to return to. At the same time there is always uncertainty lingering. We have a choice, whatever situation we find ourselves in, to continue to 'Take Hold of Hope' (our National Camp theme this year).

March and April were our camp season and many people were excited to be able to attend their choice of camp this year. CFFD Wellington had to postpone their camp by two weeks but still managed to go ahead! To see some photos from our camps and a few key ministry events, have a look at page 14.

Last month was a full month, with both Disability Awareness Sunday and National Volunteer Week. We were excited to be interviewed on Radio Rhema and Shine TV! It was such a great opportunity to raise awareness about the need for more inclusion and belonging in churches in Aotearoa.

This magazine issue has some great articles and testimonies from people living their lives courageously and full of hope. Judah's strength in Christ, Manuele's trust in God, Zachary's life completely changed by God, Leon's love for National Camp and Margie continues the 'railway journey' of life and the stops we need to avoid. We hope you enjoy reading them and are encouraged.

If you have a story to tell or an article itching to be written, get in touch! Have you been encouraged or impacted by one of our articles? We would love to hear from you!

Email us at encourager@elevatedt.org.nz

Noho ora mai,

Kirsty Armitage
National Director

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Did you know we have released a new video?

James Nyssen, CFFD Northland Committee Member,
graciously shared his story with us.

*"I just get on with life and
just live life to the full. Not
worrying about what I
haven't got but what I have
got and being thankful."*

You can watch his video on our
Facebook page or on our website
www.elevatedt.org.nz/video-resources



DEPENDENCE ON GOD.

By Manuele Teofilo

"But Moses pleaded with the LORD, 'O Lord, I'm not very good with words. I never have been, and I'm not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled.'

Then the LORD asked Moses, 'Who makes a person's mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear or do not hear, see or do not see? Is it not I, the LORD? Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say.' But Moses again pleaded, 'Lord, please! Send anyone else.'

Then the LORD became angry with Moses. 'All right,' he said. 'What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he speaks well. And look! He is on his way to meet you now. He will be delighted to see you. Talk to him, and put the words in his mouth. I will be with both of you as you speak, and I will instruct you both in what to do. Aaron will be your spokesman to the people. He will be your mouthpiece, and you will stand in the place of God for him, telling him what to say. And take your shepherd's staff with you, and use it to perform the miraculous signs I have shown you.'" (Exodus 4:10-17)

We must trust that God will provide what we need to do His will.

Our thoughts can sometimes make us think that we're inadequate or unworthy for what God's calling us into. Like Moses, we can say, "Who am I?" or "I'm

not very good ..." with speaking, technology, leading people, the task God wants us to do ... But our worth is found in Jesus. Who am I?... I'm a child of God, made in His image. I'm saved and made righteous by the blood of Christ.

Even if I'm not very good with something, I don't want to do it in my own strength anyway. That would cause me to boast. God was willing to give Moses the words to say; and when he declined the offer God became angry but He still remained gracious. Not reacting to Moses' lack of faith, God granted the assistance of his brother Aaron.

Psalm 121 says: "I look up to the mountains - does my help come from there? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth! He will not let you stumble; the one who watches over you will not slumber. Indeed, he who watches over Israel never slumbers or sleeps. The LORD himself watches over you! The LORD stands beside you as your protective shade. The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon at night. The LORD keeps you from all harm and watches over your life. The LORD keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever."

In all we do we must continue to look to God for strength and guidance for the tasks He's called us to. We need to depend on Him, so that He gets the glory and not ourselves. Trust God to provide you with the resources and skills you need to fulfill your calling in the current season. May you also be bold to take on whatever God calls you to next, because

HE WILL PROVIDE!

Cast Your Anxiety on Him.

Leon Ogilvy's Testimony

By Onne Hiemstra

Elevate's National Camp has had quite a reputation for changing people's lives over the years.

It's not hard to collect testimonies; just talk to a regular camper like Leon Ogilvy, from Sunnynook on Auckland's North Shore. He's just turned 30, and has already been to 16 camps! "Since I was 14 years old I only missed one camp, last year's, because it was cancelled due to the Covid crisis."

It was a teacher aid at Intermediate School who first told Leon about National Camp. "I love it so much, I just have to go back!" Says Leon, "Maybe the camp of 2016 had the most impact on me. Earlier that year my nanny had passed away, and I had many questions around that. Out of the blue, Pastor Geoff Wiklund came up to me and asked how God had impacted my life so far. Upon reflection I came to the conclusion I was ready to be baptised. I asked my mum for permission, and I was baptised right there at camp. My mum raised me well, but you have to make some choices yourself when you grow up."

Leon is also a regular visitor at the Elevate Drop-In Centre in Onehunga.

He grew up in Mt Roskill, and later Saint Mary's Bay. "I went to school at Rangitoto College, the largest school in New Zealand. I was mainly interested in science, and I followed computer studies at Unitec in Mt Albert." Dealing with cerebral palsy didn't stop him shining in a really important interview. "I now have a job as a general marketing manager in a local supermarket. I work two days a week. My legs do not work as well as they should, so I assist the boss with a lot of thinking. I have to be mentally sharp. I love this job; it gets me out of the door." Leon even made a short appearance recently on the TV show Seven Sharp, when a camera team came in to make an item on eating bananas, including the peel!

Leon has no lack of motivation. "My life is pretty much around serving God. That is really important. He tells me to get up and what

He wants me to do. One of my favourite Bible verses from 1 Peter 5:7 says 'Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.' That is the only way to prosper, and to make the most of life."

And that sums up the ideal attitude; knowing that God cares for each of us. How privileged and blessed we are!



Elevate National Camp 2021

22nd – 25th October

Totara Springs, Matamata



In life we will all go through storms. The tides and winds change. Sometimes we can be blown around.

But when we have a secure anchor, we can weather the storms in life. We can be blown by winds or moved by the tides, but we won't drift, we won't get blown into the rocks or out to sea. To be anchored securely we need to take action. To make sure we stay anchored we need to keep watch, we need to regularly check our anchor is secure. When we anchor our hope in Christ we can be assured that whatever comes, He is with us and we can keep hope. So let's take hold of hope!

Registration Opens: 3rd August

Fees

Adult \$250

Adult Early Bird \$230 (Early Bird price ends 3rd September)

11-14 year olds \$150

5-10 year olds \$110

No Day Visitors

Unfortunately we are no longer able to accommodate day visitors. This is to ensure the safety of everyone at camp and to line up with policy changes at the campsite. We understand that this will be disappointing for those of you who are not able to stay the weekend. Our team is exploring options to record the messages during the weekend. Do you have skills and experience in this area? If you are able to help with this we would love to hear from you!

TAKE HOLD OF HOPE

This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls (Hebrews 6:19)



Donations and Sponsorship

We have people needing financial support to attend camp, particularly those who also need to pay for their caregivers to attend. Are you able to support people like this to attend camp by making a donation?

Enquiries

09 636 4763

nationalcamp@elevatedt.org.nz

www.elevatedtcamp.org.nz

Judah's Song – Strong Enough

By Heather Vincent

Judah loves to sing, and he has a strong baritone voice. Our grandson attends Whangarei Elim church, where he enjoys singing in their worship team. When they put on a pageant last Christmas Eve we were eager to hear him of course, especially as his grandpa is an experienced soloist. We were not disappointed, with the blessings of the evening being absolutely worth our 6 hour-plus journey from Tauranga.

The church auditorium was packed with family and friends; anticipation and excitement filled the air. As the program began, the audience was hushed as we listened to and watched the timeless story of that first Christmas unfold. Soon Mary appeared, then Joseph. Looking every inch a professional carpenter, he strode onto the stage and introduced himself. Next came another 'Joseph' to sing his part. But this Joseph was different. As he began to sing there was a hush ... it was Judah, sitting in his wheelchair, and singing for all he was worth. But it was the words he sang which brought tears to my eyes. Words which the original Joseph could well have thought as he contemplated his future as Mary's husband and as foster dad to the Messiah. He surely would not have felt strong enough for the task. For Judah too, the words held profound meaning; for he was not strong enough for his role either with his disability of muscular dystrophy confining him to a wheelchair. He was not strong enough to even walk, or stand, or do anything much for himself at all. But sang he did, strongly and with courage and passion, a song which came from his heart.



Strong enough

By Matthew West

You must You must think I'm strong
To give me what I'm going through
Well, forgive me,
Forgive me if I'm wrong,
But this looks like more than I can do,
On my own.
I know I'm not strong enough to be
Everything that I'm supposed to be
I give up.
I'm not strong enough.
When I am weak I can do all things
Through Christ who gives me strength
And I don't have to be
Strong enough Strong enough
Hands of mercy won't you cover me
Lord right now I'm asking you to be
Strong enough Strong enough
For the both of us, yeah.....

There was hardly a dry eye in the place as the song came to a close. We stood and cheered, so proud of this modern day 'Joseph' who also wasn't strong enough without Christ who was strengthening him. **Well done Judah – what a powerful testimony!**

The song above is quoted from Strong Enough by Matthew West
Source: Musixmatch Songwriters: West Matthew Joseph Strong
Enough Lyrics © Songs Of Southside Independent Music Publishing,
Songs For Delaney, Atlas Music Group, Atlas Holdings, Atlas Music
Publishing Llc li, One77 Songs



God Changed My World

Zachary Tagomoa's Testimony



Before his encounter with God, at a church conference called 'Shout 2020', Zachary Tagomoa had to wrestle with many demons, ranging from depression, bullying, feeling left out, to low self-esteem. The 28 year old, of Samoan heritage and raised in West-Auckland, was a recent visitor of the Drop In

Centre in Onehunga, and shared there his testimony. "Today, I'm a man built with purpose and drive, and a renewed state of mind. The Zac now is connected to a life of countless opportunities. I am 8 months clean!"

Zachary is a relatively new Christian. "I gave my life to Jesus Christ on Sunday, the 12th of July 2020. This was at our annual Shout Conference. I am currently attending Equippers Church in the Auckland Central Campus. Before that encounter I always felt that my disability was the reason that people would never like me, and that I was not good enough for anyone or anything. I have Cerebral Palsy, which affects the left side of my body, mainly my legs. Now I know that I need to be a person of belief, to be able to own any success, but instead I entered a darkness of self-hatred

and I had this resentment towards people and to God. I felt inadequate to achieve any good thing in my life. This led to alcoholism and addictions that hindered me to change the game."

Zachary, who works as a grocery assistant in a supermarket, knows what made that change. "God has done this for me. I choose to honour Him in this, because He moved mountains in my life, which seemed impossible to human strength alone. I found that there was a grace upon my life that God presented me with, and it brought a new found perspective that changed my world and my ways."

Studies at Equippers Bible College showed Zachary new insight into his own image and appearance. "In the story of Creation, we see that God was very pleased with what He saw. Everything He created, was good. With this new theme planted in my life, I began to pick up this new sense of conviction that I was created for God's purpose. I am fearfully and wonderfully made, as highlighted in Psalm 139. No matter what obstacles, hindrances, circumstances, and curveballs that life throws at you, know that God created you as His masterpiece. You are created in His image, in His love. You are full of magnificent capabilities. So therefore, you can be the light that travels, to change the world around you. As the late rapper The Notorious B.I.G. said 'We can't change the world, unless we change ourselves'. Stay in it."



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 Jeremiah 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.





LIFE'S RAILROAD

- continued

Now back to Psalm 37 – Let's unpack some thought with verse 5. "Commit your way unto the Lord, trust in Him and He will bring it to pass." Another opposite with trusting the Lord is; trusting myself. And, so the next turn off our Canaan Ball train is Self-centreville.

SELF-CENTREVILLE

The whole world tells you that there is great merit in independence. "You've got to toughen up, face the world – battle it through. You're on your own; make a difference. He who dares, wins – TOUGH TIMES NEVER LAST, TOUGH PEOPLE DO".

I appreciate the Lord doesn't desire people to be independent. His desire is that we be totally dependent upon Him. David certainly believed this. Look at verse 7. "Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him" If I'm resting in the Lord, I'm receiving God's blessing and power. When I'm not resting in the Lord this leads to agitation, impatience and eventually self-pity... And here's another turn-off we need to avoid.

PITTIESBURG

Self-pity. Poor old me! We know all about self pity. There are several Bible heroes who fell for self-pity. They came to a point when in agony of soul, they cried, "Lord take me out of this world. I can't go on any longer – Your God- assignment entrusted to me just proves too tough.- i.e 'Here am I, but please send Aaron instead'...They all have lessons we can learn from.

There aren't many greater heroes, within the Bible or out of it, than Moses. He had two million whingeing, grizzling, complaining Israelites following behind him. One day, magnificent Moses decided enough was enough. In sheer frustration and exasperation he sat down before the Lord and had it out with Him. His complaint was... I am over-worked. You may as well take me from off this earth!" Poor old me. We say, 'I've been working in this church or para-church organisation for 20 – 30 years. It's time for retirement.' I'll warn you. There's no retirement in Christian service. Some of the greatest feats for God are accomplished by people sixty years and onward. BE ENCOURAGED. One of the greatest privileges on earth is to work in the service of our King, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Another justly famous Bible character is Elijah.

He prayed one of the greatest prayers ever prayed. Only a few simple words, but it was a GREAT PRAYER because he REALLY KNEW GOD. He had that much confidence he dug ditches and drenched everything with water, then he called for the fire. BANG! Down it came. Everything burnt – stones, roast beef – the lot! WOW – WOW – WOW!

Now, wouldn't that be an excitement? Unbelievably, within a few hours we discover him wallowing in self-pity, to the extent that he wanted to be taken off the earth. His point of complaint, 'I'm the only one left. Only me against the whole world' In fact there were 7000 others. Often we're called to be the only one to go out on a limb and make a stand concerning spiritual standards. We must stand not only by our lips but also by our lives.

Following the life of Elijah, we read within the pages of the Bible about Jonah. He's another interesting character. He was assigned by God to the city of Nineveh to preach. This was one of the greatest sermons ever preached – a city of 600,000 AND EVERYBODY repented – EVERYBODY! The Bible quotes the sermon, only eight words. What an awesomely-goose-bump revival! But again only a few hours lapsed - Jonah wanted to be taken out of life. Why? It was an issue of discipline. Jonah's complaint was, "God, you didn't do it my way - Boo-hoo -hoo!." CAUTION: Don't expect God to work to your expectations. Or the way you figure He ought to. God is a God of variety. An omnipotent God works His wonders and develops our potential in many different ways. Very close to Pittsburg, we approach a sort of twin city, ...

FEARSTON

Fear is a major barrier to fulfilling our destiny. Are you punching at the clock on the job you despise or have no real passion for? Are you fearful of moving out from your comfort-zone into something new – fearful you'll fail? In another psalm, David wrote: "When I'm afraid I will put my trust in You, Oh Lord." He is the only one in whom we can place our trust. Maybe you're not so afraid of failure as you are of success, because the pressure increases as others expect more. Before some people make a move they impose an ironclad guarantee that everything go according to plan.

They choose to cop-out. Stay where they are – and stagnate! Growth involves risk, and risk involves fear – and fear distorts your view of God. It conveys that you're not in 'safe hands', that He's not big enough to take care of you. However will you learn, unless you walk through your fears and discover what God has for you once you're through to the other side? At the end of the day all our "what-ifs" turn into "what might have beens", "What could I have accomplished, if I'd trusted God more?" David has an answer. Yes, even he experienced overwhelming fear, he still trusted God no matter what the outcome. So let's get moving! Don't allow fear to rob us of our destiny - that's too high a price to pay! Can I cajole you back and focus your thoughts once again on Psalm 37 and let's ponder verse 8. 'Cease from anger and forsake wrath.' Here's the next township ...

ANGERVILLE

You say, 'No trouble there. I haven't a short fuse. I'm not an angry person'. The Greek word for anger can be translated into 16 different words in the New Testament. Some of them are haughtiness, criticism, resentment, sarcasm, unforgiveness, lack of love. We're all involved.

E-VILLE

Evil can be general. David's psalm doesn't state what type of evil he has in mind. So, can we speculate here, and say this may be about 'secret sins' – the sins of the mind. Common such sins in the Bible are beguilement, and lust. Lust is often sexual. However, it comes to us also in other forms. We may lust after power, or money, or simply be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. I've heard several ministers/pastors list three most common temptations to spiritual downfall - Glory, Gold, and Girls: Money, Power and Sex. And, people living with disabilities are susceptible to exactly the same pressures. Just because we are disabled, doesn't mean that God bends His rules and we can compromise. God places boundaries for our good and our protection. Don't allow Satan to trap you with 'secret sins'. Don't

think that by covering them up you'll satisfy God. Feed on His Word. His Word declares, 'Resist the Devil and He will flee from you.'

I ENCOURAGE SELF CONTROL. Distract your thoughts away from whatever the temptation is. Switch your mind on to something healthy. Be stout-hearted. Evil, in its various forms is a constant presence wherever we may be. Temptation may vary as our lives change. Lust, impetuosity and imprudence may not be a problem today – however, they could well be tomorrow! KEEP ALERT! The most dangerous temptation to us is always cleverly disguised and tailored to our individual weaknesses - we'd be wise to pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace.

Our journey aboard the Canaan Ball Express is well advanced now. It's proving a lengthy ride. There's still another turn-off station to watch out for. It is... The Psalmist David wrote about it in verse 4 "Wait for the LORD'," He encourages us, 'and keep His ways, and He will exalt you to inherit the land.' What an awesome promise!

BOREDOMVILLE

Boredomville offers various distractions. May I suggest one distraction - gluttony – overeating. Eating for eating's sake, to fill the long boring hours and break the tedium. It's so easy to resort to this when you're sitting idle for endless hours. Let's not blob out. Let's pursue constructive outlets. Clear, realistic goals bring a sense of positiveness and purpose into one's daily routine. Develop a healthy life-style, and healthy eating.

Likewise, we need a challenge to fantasising. Our thought-life is an area where we all need a good confrontation. People living with severe disabilities often sit in greater vulnerability because of the compulsory down times so many of us experience. Our thought life begins with the eye, and the world offers a wide spectrum of unhealthy stuff to attract the eye. People sometimes sigh and declare Bible reading – a total bore – and prayer has become an absolute chore. This may well be correct if we are constantly feasting our minds with unhealthy viewing. We need to guard against conditioning ourselves negatively. Allow me to ask, what's your reading material? And, what television programmes or DVDs do you watch? The world

has so much muck available for us to feed into our minds. What goes into the mind comes out in a life. It has been well said that sow a thought reap a habit. We sow a habit – we reap a destiny. The habits we sow for good or bad, are a matter of the choices of our mind. Consequently, The Apostle Paul's exhortation to the Philippians to think on whatever things are true, honourable and lovely has considerable currency for all of us. And whilst we are focused on this topic, we might well remember also the injunctions within Psalm 149 to praise the Lord and sing Him a new song. Don't allow boredom to seep into your personal journey with God. Don't allow it to become the same monotonous, hum-drum week after week. If tedium is seeping into your Christian life, seek a new area. Develop new interests, become involved in something either within the life and work of your church fellowship or a para-church outreach in your local community. Be active – and take an initiative. Seek a new creative outlet, play a different sport, become part of a drama group, or wheelchair dancing, or some type of artwork, pursue a fresh course with Bible studies, or a new area of prayer.

Don't become embalmed by the most exciting truth the world has ever offered. Jesus Christ is ALIVE and well on planet earth! HE CAN MEET YOUR NEEDS TODAY. I am confident about that.

I don't know what might be the blocks and barriers you face. Nevertheless, I do believe, if you are committed, and faithful, God will give you an excitement in your faith journey, and He will eliminate those undesirable blocks that are hindering you and stopping the joy – the victory from flowing within our hearts and lives.

My aim is not to impose upon you feeling of additional disillusionment and guilt. PLEASE – TAKE HEART! The power of God doesn't deviate with any of these turn-offs and corners. His power is free flowing and can revitalize – and He can and does restore us to our fullest potential. Since future VICTORY is sure, nothing we do for the Lord is ever wasted – as it would be, if there was no resurrection.

The final destination is WE CAN LIVE IN VICTORY. The power of Christ and the indwelling Spirit of God cleanses us – heals us – renews us – and restores us and empowers us to live daily at our final destination ...

VICTORY SPRINGS



LOOK UP↑

SAVE THE DATES

Elevate Family Camps 2022

Matamata: 8th-10th April

Nelson: 20th-22nd May

We're expanding!

We are excited to announce that we are running a second Family Camp next year in **Nelson!**

Because of this and some other changes, we have decided to change the names of our family camps from Emmanuel Family Camps to **Elevate Family Camps.**

We believe this change will help increase awareness of these amazing camps and help parents to access information more easily.

If you think that a family camp is needed in your area, please let us know at familycamp@elevatecdt.org.nz



For more information about Elevate Family Camps visit
WWW.ELEVATECDT.ORG.NZ



Volunteer Spotlight

Each of the eight branches of the Christian Fellowship for Disabled (CFFD) in Aotearoa New Zealand has their own local flavour. None is the same. You will find plenty of similarities between them, but it is the local committee and its volunteers that make each CFFD branch so special. Doors are always open to welcome new volunteers and new members.



**Felicity
Sim**
Volunteer
in Dunedin

For this issue of the Encourager Magazine we spoke with Felicity Sim, volunteer in Dunedin. "I feel more like a member, than a volunteer", is her response. "Things are going well. I think people with disabilities are finding more acceptance these days from their local churches, but this group is still growing. Our meetings sometimes have 65 people involved, and we are getting more young people, even teenagers." It was around 25 years ago when Felicity made her first visit to the branch. "I was shopping in the Warehouse with a friend of mine in her wheelchair. A man came up to us and asked: 'Do you know the Lord Jesus Christ?' I thought that was quite confronting and brave, but soon followed the invitation to join the fellowship to see what it was all about. I went along and enjoyed it so much I kept on going. I was amazed how everyone came with huge joy and love for the Lord. People are so open about expressing their faith,

dancing, singing, ready to take a turn to share their testimony. For an Anglican like me, where we follow liturgy, where we do things a bit differently, that was quite an eye opener. I was blown away."

The fortnightly meetings of the CFFD branch are an opportunity for people with disabilities (and their support persons, if they bring them) to share their struggles and their victories. "Everybody feels accepted. We gain understanding that disability is not about what you can do with your arms, legs or your brain. It's about your relationship with God. You are disabled when you are unable to connect with God or have things that get in the way of a relationship with Him. We see in our meetings people with profound disabilities, but in the things that really matter, they are not disabled. They love Jesus and know they are loved by Him and that is what they celebrate at CFFD. Nor are they afraid to share that love and faith with one another.

Felicity is one of those key volunteers to support Patsy Appleby and her local committee. She is an amazing storyteller; she helps with transport and loves to engage with everybody. "It is just such an encouraging environment," says Felicity. "Even the people who come along to support members or the taxi drivers enjoy the time here. You sometimes can see a subtle change in their attitude as time goes on as this becomes part of their own faith journey. The meetings are so warm and welcoming, the programme is always fun or interesting. Nobody feels judged. CFFD is a unique group in Dunedin."



What's Been Happening within Elevate

Joy Ministries Hawkes Bay

Joy Ministries Hawkes Bay celebrated 25 years of ministry in May. Brad and Karen Spurgeon, who have been leading the group for 11 years, put together a fabulous celebration service. Their children, who have grown up serving in Joy Ministries, led worship, ran sound and took photos. It was lovely seeing the family serving together. There was, as usual, plenty of laughter and singing, but also reminiscing, acknowledging previous leaders and an amazing hangi!



Impromptu haka



Over 80 people attended



Brad and Karen Spurgeon with Mark Crook cutting the cake



People enjoying the delicious hangi for lunch

Thank you, Esther!

Esther Stephenson has volunteered leading the organising of Joy Ministries National Camp for the last 7 years. Not a small job! She has recently stepped down from this role which she has generously given of herself for. Thank you Esther for the many, many hours spent on making this camp happen!

CFFD Wellington

The 85 campers at El Rancho in Waikanae, had a wonderful time of worship, fellowship and activities like horse riding, water cycles, water slide, and playing piano. Although the Wellington CFFD Camp had to be postponed due to Covid-19 level 2 restrictions, with a lot of last-minute effort they managed to reorganise camp for later in the month. It was awesome for the Wellingtonians to have a group join in from Whanganui and even a few Hamiltonians. Chris Parkin, Vanessa Creamer, and Ruth Beale were the guest speakers during the gatherings in the chapel, sharing stories out of their lives, and how God worked through good and not so good times.



Worship at camp



Chris Parkin (on the right) was a guest speaker for the camp



One of the speakers, Ruth Beale, with Camp Directors, Diana and Chris



Vanessa Creamer, an Elevate Trustee, was also a guest speaker at camp



The camp activities are always great fun

CFFD Auckland

CFFD Auckland just held their annual CFFD's Got Talent and this year they included a static art category. They even had a local MP as one of the judges! Mitchel Aiken was the guest speaker at the Auckland CFFD Camp this year and spoke about trusting in God and His plan for us. People enjoyed the camp favourites – archery, arts and crafts, as well as a Saturday night line dance! The Shelling family volunteered for the weekend and also led a worship action song "Take My Hand" during worship times.



Amanda and Michael won the talent competition with their rap



Line Dancing!



Plenty of fun was had all round at the Auckland CFFD's Got Talent



The Shelling Family leading a worship song



Speaker Mitchell Aiken

CFFD Waikato

CFFD Waikato shared what hope meant to them for our Facebook page leading up to Disability Awareness Sunday. Some shared verses about hope, while others shared what hope meant to them personally and why they had hope. There was even the humorous comment.... "Life without hope, is like a bath without soap!"



Emmanuel Family Camp (Now Elevate Family Camp)

It is always so encouraging to see the special connections that develop between families and their volunteers. Our Family Camp in Matamata in April was no exception. Seeing the genuine friendships develop and continue after camp is one of the things that we love about this camp. Ps Suz Holmes joined us as guest speaker for the parents, exploring the camp theme 'Pursuing Hope'. We are excited to be holding our first Elevate Family Camp in Nelson next year! See page 11 for details.



Emmanuel Support

The annual Parents Retreat was held at Peacemakers in Parakai, where parents of children who have a disability were able to have a weekend away with time to relax, to have conversations with each other and be encouraged. And of course, there was plenty of time for meals together!



National Volunteer Week

20 – 26 June was National Volunteer Week and we took the opportunity to thank our amazing volunteers. Each day on Facebook we shared a story of one of our volunteers, as well as sharing a video message from our National Director. At the Auckland Drop-in Centre, they acknowledged their volunteers by giving out BEE Awards (Beyond Exceptional Expectations).

We are very grateful for all our volunteers! They are a diverse group of people, serving and giving of their time and skills, throughout Aotearoa, in our regional ministry groups, camps, retreats, National Support Office and Drop-In Centre. This issue we are also starting a new section of the Encourager Magazine, spotlighting a volunteer and sharing their story. This issue we interviewed Felicity from Dunedin CFFD. See page 12.

Volunteers are a vital part of our ministry, Elevate wouldn't be what it is without them! All of them do fabulous work in the ways they serve.

To all of our volunteers, thank you!



Scan here to update your details or sign up to a digital version of The Encourager or give us a call at the office 09 636 4763.

Support Us

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Would you like to support Elevate Christian Disability Trust and our ministries? Your donations enable us to serve the disability community of Aotearoa.

Bank Transfer/Deposit: ANZ 01-0142-0029706-00

Online Payments and regular donations:
<https://elevatedcdt.org.nz/support-us/>

National Camp Sponsorships

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If you would like to assist people to attend Elevate National Camp your donation will enable us to sponsor people who are unable to afford camp fees.

Bank Transfer/Deposit: ANZ 01-0142-0029706-05

Online Payment:
<https://elevatedcdt.org.nz/support-us/> with NCDONATE in the comments section

CFFD (Christian Fellowship For Disabled)

Communication Liason for CFFD Branches:

Jean Griffiths - Email: jngriffo7@gmail.com Phone: 09 555 1947

Northland - Jacqui Gardner	jacquigardner@outlook.co.nz	09 438 4952
Auckland - Viv Riddell	cffdauckland@elevatedcdt.org.nz	0212940320
Coromandel-Hauraki* - Shona Taylor	shonawillie@xtra.co.nz	07 868 8782
Waikato - Heather Major	heathermajor@gmail.com	07 855 0681
Bay of Plenty - Deborah Dorofaeff*	debra.dorofaeff@gmail.com	021 054 7630
Hawkes Bay - Joan Parker	ej.parker@xtra.co.nz	06 877 8026
Taranaki - Richard West	flourishwest@gmail.com	06 753 9466
Manawatu - Lyn Spencer	lynette.spencer@inspire.net.nz	06 357 0045
Wellington - John Hawkins	cffd-wgtn@atrix.co.nz	04 569 9096
Christchurch - Dave Palmer	davepalmer@xtra.co.nz	027 216 5743
Dunedin - Patsy Appleby-Morrison	patsyllys@gmail.com	03 482 2505

Elevate Philippines Sponsorship Programme

Annette Pile	philippinesfinance@elevatedcdt.org.nz	020 416 32047
Ruth Beale	philippinessponsorship@elevatedcdt.org.nz	027 492 7178

Emmanuel Ministry

Nigel & Penny Shivas	emmanuel.support@elevatedcdt.org.nz	09 846 2046
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Torch

Auckland - Leyna Coleman	leyna@atrix.co.nz	09 832 0130
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Joy Ministries

Communication Liason for Joy Ministries Branches:

Jan Bridgeman - Email: bridgem@xtra.co.nz Phone: 027 641 2653

National Auckland Central, West & East - Jan Bridgeman	bridgem@xtra.co.nz	027 641 2653
Hamilton - Jeni Hawker	jenihawker@gmail.com	020 401 47198
Whakatane - Wanda Hughes	bwtroop@gmail.com	027 309 1314
Hawkes Bay - Brad & Karen Spurgeon	spurgeonnz@gmail.com	06 876 1106
Taupo - Jacqui & Stuart Crosbie	stuartandjacquicrosbie@gmail.com	027 956 3379
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	kjtrotter@gmail.com	09 422 7358
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Kumbayah - St David's Presbyterian Church - Palmerston North	Ann Bennett		06 355 2818
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Bible Friends - Wanganui	Louise Rostron	rostrons@xtra.co.nz	06 344 5955
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THRIVE - Greerton Bible Church, Tauranga	Ron Raikes	thrive@gbc.org.nz	021 032 9660
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Disability Awareness Sunday

June 20th saw many churches across New Zealand observe Disability Awareness Sunday. We love hearing about the variety of ways churches did this. Here are a few photos...

Over 30 people from Hawkes Bay CFFD were involved in leading a service for St Lukes Havelock North.



Gracecity Church had two young people who live with disability lead the church to pray for those experiencing disability.



Agape Royal Christian Church invited Aukilani and Teremoana Va'a to speak. They shared from their personal journey and highlighted the importance of people with disability serving in the church.



A group from Joy Ministry Auckland were invited to run a service for Mt Wellington Community Church.

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"

NATIONAL SUPPORT OFFICE

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