



MISSION RESOURCING NEWSLETTER

We support the people of Christchurch

When the members of New Plymouth Methodist Youth group were completing a study entitled "Who is my neighbour?" recently, discussion focused on Christchurch and how we could help out. It was decided to make cupcakes and sell these to raise money for the President's Appeal. The following Friday we all assembled ready for work. The church kitchen resembled a factory production line as ingredients were weighed, sifted, food-processed and stirred. Out in the hall a similar production lined was set up with icing bags, sweets, chocolate and sprinkles. This team were instructed to make every cupcake different - a challenge they rose to with creativity.



When all the ingredients were gone an impressive line-up of 108 muffin size cupcakes were sitting in their boxes ready for sale. On Sunday members of the congregation were offered the chance to give a \$2 donation in exchange for a cupcake to have with their after church cuppa. We are pleased to announce that \$354-20 was raised for the President's Appeal for Christchurch. *Kerry Upson*



Coming up for your information and prayers

Please pray for those attending the **Children's Ministries Hui** at Crossroads Papakura on 14 May 2011. The focus of the Hui is to provide a meeting place for leaders in Children's Ministries throughout the church to discuss and share:

- How might Children's Ministries be done differently in the future?
- What is working or not working where you are?
- What resourcing needs do you have to assist your Children's Ministry into the future?



Mission Resourcing is a ministry of The Methodist Church of New Zealand

Children and Youth sharing worship and celebration @ Conference 2011

DON'T MISS OUT! Your children and Youth groups have an opportunity to be part of a time of worship and celebration at Conference this year.

We have been given time on Sunday 6 November 2011 from 1:30 – 3:30pm to lead a time of worship and celebration and we

would love to have your groups take part.

If you have a group that would like to be part of our conference presentation please let TeRito or Esmé know by 30 May 2011.

TeRito & Esmé

TeRito – tauiwiyouth@methodist.org.nz
Esmé – kidslovingchurch@gmail.com

What is the mission of God and why mission is central to the identity of the church and our congregations.

If God has a mission statement, it's probably seen in Jesus Christ.

I write this in Lent and the readings for this Sunday include John 9, where a man who was born blind receives his sight. Jesus says to his disciples "we must work the works of him who sent me"... and then spits on the ground, makes some mud and spreads it on a bloke's eyes. The healing of this man was seen by John as Jesus 'doing the work of the Father'. While we are unlikely to build an outreach program on spit and dirt (!), it points us to what God might include in his mission – and therefore the church's mission.

It has been said, "It is not the church that has a mission of salvation to fulfil in the world; it is the mission of the Son and the Spirit through the Father that includes the church." This article seeks to explore the idea of God having a mission, and how this might shape our churches.

God's Mission

A dictionary definition of "Mission" often points to 'purpose' or 'intention'. Included in this is the idea of Mission as "being sent" with a purpose in mind, as expressed in John 20.21 ("As the Father has sent me, so I send you"). If this is true – that Mission and Purpose are linked – then we will find God's Mission when we look for God's purpose.

Fortunately we don't need to dive too far into scripture to find that purpose. God seems to be on a relentless drive to bring people into relationship with himself and each other. From the covenant with Abraham and Israel, to the new covenant in Jesus Christ, God's 'steadfast love' is offered to all in direct and indirect ways. God's desire is to see all humankind and creation reconciled, redeemed and healed.

Trying to define God's Mission beyond this is not easy. Everywhere we turn (both inside and outside scripture) God's Mission is described differently: healing, justice, witness, evangelism, reconciliation, peace and much more. Maybe this is a first clue in describing the Mission of God: it is multifaceted. God's Mission (purpose) in this world takes place in many ways – no one expression of it can bear the weight of the title "God's Mission", and no one aspect (like spit and soil from John 9) should be discarded off-hand. No facet of human life is excluded from the mission of this God. It is as broad and deep as all of human existence, not just spiritual or physical.

One thing is clear – God's heart is for people. This is no clearer than in the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, and the subsequent sending of the Spirit at Pentecost and the anticipated coming again of Christ when God's reign of justice and peace will be realised.

(If you would like to read the full article, including a reflection on the Church's Mission, it is available by clicking [here](#) or via our blog.

Nigel
