



MISSION RESOURCING NEWSLETTER

Fresh Horizons

Leadership Conference 2011

Making the most of life's second half

Do you have an older congregation who you would like to resource and encourage? If so the following information will be of great interest to you.

"The challenge for the Church is to equip, and resource our seniors to influence the Generations. To achieve this two churches in Tauranga (Presbyterian & Baptist) are sponsoring a Fresh Horizons NZ conference to raise awareness of the value of people in their senior years. We have speakers from America and Australia to address this challenge and opportunity."

Three electives will be offered at the conference:

- Ministering to Women in Life's Second Half
- Revitalizing Ageing Congregations
- Accentuate the Positive

Youth Mentoring resource

Whether formally or informally, one of the key ways in which we are able to positively nurture younger people in our families, faith communities and the like, can be through one on one mentoring.

The Youth Mentoring Network (which is locally based), has a host of really good resources on different aspects, considerations and topics related to mentoring young people. Some of these resource areas include:

- Managing behavioral issues
- Identifying and engaging in community activities



For further information visit the website

www.freshhorizons.org.au or click [here](#) to view the brochure for the conference.

Or contact:

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Coming up for your information and prayers

- 5 July: Auckland Youth Leaders Workshop
- 11 - 12 July: Taiwi Stationing Committee Meeting
- 11 – 15 July: Prison Chaplains In-Service training
- 19 July: Mission Resourcing Board Meeting
- 28 July: Nigel leaves to attend the World Methodist Conference

- Assisting set and achieve goals
- Assisting in Building Resilience

www.youthmentoring.org.nz/tools/index.cfm

Certainly a site worth taking the time to explore, make use of and learn from, if you're thinking about or you currently are engaging with young people through a mentoring approach.



Police Chaplaincy – A pastoral care ministry

Police chaplaincy came to me as a serendipitous gift through a friend. It was not a ministry I had ever considered before but I had noticed in myself a growing unease about what society expected of its police and the dangers they faced on a daily basis. This was highlighted for me when Senior Constable Leonard Snee was shot dead in the Hawkes Bay in 2009. Who was caring for frontline police officers? What support was available to them?

I was also aware of the continual criticism of police actions in the media. Some of it was justified as with historical sexual abuse convictions against individual officers. Some seemed to be directed at police in very difficult situations involving self-defence or reckless driving by members of the public. In my mind were two ex-youth group boys from my first parish who had joined the police. How were they coping with the pressures of the job?



After much thought, prayer and conversation, I applied for the position of police chaplain with the Counties/Manukau West area. My interview covered areas of multi-cultural and interfaith ministry, pastoral skills, personal faith and police culture. I was impressed

by the openness and clear sense of direction shown by the leaders who met with me. They wanted to know that I was in good standing with my church and how I viewed my role as a prospective chaplain.

Police chaplaincy is not generally a full-time paid job. A small honorarium and some mileage costs are reimbursed for a commitment of two to three hours a week. Some chaplains offer more than this, others fit it in alongside a full or part-time ministry position.

I began my chaplaincy in September 2010 and started to get to know the staff at the four

police stations in my area: Otahuhu, the Airport, Mangere and Papatoetoe. At first the task was daunting and bewildering. There were so many different departments, all with acronym-type names that meant little to me, to say nothing of the hundreds of officers on different shifts, day and night. As I introduced myself and made polite conversation, I wondered if I was doing anything worthwhile. However, as with all ministry, chaplaincy is a ministry of presence, of being available, of building relationships of friendship and trust.

On two occasions I took the opportunity to go out with response teams in a police car to see firsthand what frontline police work involves. I was struck by the professional way in which young officers coped with sometimes rude, drunken or drugged offenders. I was appalled at the large number of domestic violence cases to be followed up each day. I was challenged by the rigorous demands and diversity of police work as I clambered over the six-foot fence of a gated community where a restriction order had been broken. I watched nervously as a young officer approached a rowdy group of young men all of whom claimed to be the person wanted for a bail check!

Slowly I'm becoming known as someone with a listening ear who is independent of the police authority structures. There have been several significant pastoral conversations and a couple of crisis calls in the last few months. I have led two very different occasions for which a service of blessing was requested. I am also a member of an Auckland-based group exploring chaplaincy within an interfaith context. Counties/Manukau probably has the highest levels of cultural and religious diversity in the country, both within the community and within the police. It therefore makes for a stimulating environment to work in and a context within which questions of faith seem to be taken seriously and treated with respect.

Lynne Wall

20th June 2011