

hands on

Stories, ideas, & news
You can use
from Kids Friendly



A Kids Friendly Body

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A church that does not engage, involve and value children is like a body without a functioning vital organ or limb. I used the body metaphor as the focus of worship at a recent Council for World Mission conference on "Mission with Children". 27 delegates from all over the world met in Auckland to explore how we could be more effective and proactive in our mission with children. I was invited to lead a day to share the Kids Friendly vision. A visit to the Carehouse, a venture of the Paeroa Cooperating Parish, was an opportunity for delegates to see mission in action. The trip was a highlight



The Paeroa Kapa Haka Group

The body was again the focus of keynote speaker Simon Hood at the recent Kidsreach Children's

and a catalyst for delegates embracing the Kids Friendly model for member churches in its strategic plan for "Mission with Children".

Ministry conference. He suggested that the world Christian community body is disabled as many parts do not have resources for sharing the gospel with children. He urged and encouraged us to share our resources locally and globally. Simon began his keynote address with a wonderful accolade for our denomination. He said: "last night I heard a most exciting and encouraging thing - the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand is building Kids Friendly churches." 20 of our church's children's ministers attended the "Presby body" meeting on the Friday afternoon of the conference. This was a great time for us to share good news stories of mission with children in our communities. I was encouraged to hear of Kids Friendly progress in their churches and affirmed by the reports of how helpful the Kids Friendly review had been for them. I am concerned when I hear that some of our churches are reticent to be part of the Kids Friendly network because they don't want to be "assessed". Kids Friendly aims to inspire, encourage, network, resource and equip churches. I have provided a model for churches to review how Kids Friendly they are, but I am not an "assessor" nor an expert. Kids Friendly is a journey not a destination. If you are on this journey I urge you to share your experiences with other churches and encourage them to be part of our supportive and nurturing body. Thank you for all you are doing to build Kids Friendly churches. Blessings. Jill

Welcome to our family

Cheryl Harray has been appointed Kids Friendly Coach for Dunedin Presbytery. This is an exciting development for Kids Friendly and consolidates a 3 year

strategy to ensure churches in the Dunedin/North Otago region are effectively ministering to children and families. Cheryl has immense experience in working with children both as a teacher and a ministry worker. She also has heaps of passion (a prerequisite for Kids Friendly) a great sense of humour, grace, humility and enthusiasm.



More and more of our churches are recognising the importance of ministering to children and families and employing passionate people to drive this ministry. We are pleased to welcome the following children's ministry appointments:

Ingrid Blackbeard, Tahunanui Presbyterian (above)
Jae Woittequand, St Andrew's Hastings
Cate Burton, St Paul's Kati Kati
Andrew Howley, St Margaret's Bishopdale
Christchurch



Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand

Celebrating Children

Some say every day is children's day so why do we need a special day to celebrate? Unfortunately for many children even in New Zealand this is no longer the case. Attending the recent "Keeping Kids Safe" conference on child abuse was a sobering experience and reminded me again of our individual and collective responsibility and calling to love and welcome children the way Jesus did. Children's day is an opportunity to reach out to the community and model your Kids Friendly-ness. **Upper Clutha Presbyterian** in Wanaka got together with their children to plan a "bring-a-friend" worship service where children were definitely "in charge". Children were responsible for all the roles normally undertaken by adults and adults got to be kids for the day. So adults got to light the Christ candle, sit on the steps for "Adult time" and there were prayers for the adults. The sermon was one for the children. There were also all age friendly songs and activities for everyone to enjoy.

Calvin Church in Gore has a passionate team of children's ministry volunteers dedicated to ministering to the children of their community. Says Sandra Gow, children's ministry coordinator:

"We have formed a children's ministry team to broaden the number of people involved and increase what we do. We have teams for Little Rainbows (preschoolers), Kidz Church and a Family Events, the latter being dedicated to reaching out to our community. We are also setting up a children's pastoral/counselling team and hope to soon have a after school club. One of our more successful outreach events is our annual Farmarama Day where children are invited to bring friends to a fun farm day that includes all sorts of adventures including rafting down a river and water sliding. Farmarama is a real hit with our church

children and their friends and is a great way for us to connect with our community and show unchurched kids that being a part of God's family is fun.



Kids Friendly standing tall

I am always intrigued when a church tells me they don't want to "brand" themselves Kids Friendly. I recently visited a wonderfully Kids Friendly church that had successfully completed their self-review and was surprised to see that there wasn't a Kids Friendly logo in sight. On asking them why, they replied: "oh we don't need signs, everyone in our community knows we are Kids Friendly". Research tells us that most people couldn't site their local church yet alone know its characteristics. Many Kiwis are of the opinion that churches are stuffy, outdated places irrelevant to children. Howard Carter, minister of Ahuriri Puterino working to become Kids Friendly, reported to me that he recently explored Presby websites to see how Kids Friendly churches were promoting their children's ministry. Not only do very few of the Kids Friendly churches have the logo on the front page of their website, but none have the logo linked to the children and families page. Says Howard: "I expected to be able to click on the Kids Friendly logo and be linked to a range of exciting children's ministry activities." So there's a challenge! Having a sign outside our church advertising our commitment to love and serve kids is not only good for communicating a message to our community, but it also reminds our parishioners of our whole-church commitment to be Kids Friendly. For more ideas on branding your church Kids Friendly refer to the branding resource in your Kids Friendly manual.



Wadestown Presbyterian is proud to be Kids Friendly



Kids Friendly is made possible by the generosity of our core funders Presbyterian Savings and Development Society and Presbyterian Foundation. THANKYOU! Thanks also to Dunedin, Auckland, South Canterbury and Wellington Presbyteries for your valued donations.



Kids in Mission

A key component of being a Kids Friendly church is being missional. This involves understanding and responding to the needs of children and families in our communities. It also requires us to intentionally create opportunities for our children to serve. Kids Friendly churches are getting more and more creative in the ways they include mission in their annual plan for children's ministry.

St J's Kids (St John's in the City, Wellington) had lots of fun last year doing their bit for the Christian World Service Christmas Appeal.

Anna Davis, children's minister reports: "Now that we are a Kids Friendly Church we wanted to make our church's annual Christmas appeal more relevant and meaningful to the children of our church. We liked the CWS 'just gifts' idea and decided **St J's Kids**

could raise enough money to buy a gift for disadvantaged communities. Rather than the leaders deciding how to raise funds, we decided to make it into a '**St J's Kids Christmas Challenge**.' Each of the four small groups were challenged to work out how to raise some money for a gift of their choice.

The **St J's Kids** quickly showed initiative and came up with some imaginative fund raising ideas:

The **Nifty North's** (2-4 years) Amy Walker announced: "We're going to make Christmas paper with paint and stamps and cut it up and sell it."

The **Super South's** (5-7 years) Daniel Read, age 7 suggested: "We have a lemon tree with heaps of lemons. Why don't we make lemonade? I want to get a goat, so we'll have to get \$30".

The **Electric East's** (8-9 years) Josiah Greig said: "We're going to sell raffle tickets for a Pamper Pack. We'll all bring something to put in it."

The **Wild West's** (10-12 years) debated long and hard before deciding they would host a games day and ask the adults of the church to pay to play games with them!

We advertised our after church 'sales day' to the congregation. The children of St J's took part at every stage of the organising, making cakes, selling tickets, painting signs and setting out tables and games. We were amazed at the generosity and support from our church congregation. The Super Souths couldn't pour lemonade fast enough. The Christmas wrapping paper sold out in five minutes. And parishoners paid to play games with the children and enjoyed it! They stayed around after church for more than an hour playing games and chatting. The kids raised an astounding \$540 and a wonderful sense of community was established. Then came the exciting time to choose how to spend their money.

St J's Kids chose: 7 Goats for families in Uganda, 12 fruit tree seedlings for Zimbabwean families, 3 marvellous mangroves for the Philippines and 1 rainwater water tank for a Zimbabwean village. How's that for changing the world for a few people from our small group of **St J's Kids** with big imaginations!"

The Super Souths serving lemonade



Don't miss this Kids Friendly training event for ministers and children's ministers

Kids Friendly is working with other denominations to bring **Rich Melheim of Faith Inkubators** to Auckland in August this year. Rich will be leading a two day conference at St Columba Botany Downs on Friday 8 and Saturday 9 August.

He will be sharing creative and transforming ways to:

- Teach and engage children and young people in the life of the church
- Equip and empower parents to share their faith with their children
- Plan worship that effectively engages and stimulates all ages.

Rich describes his presentation style as 1/3rd stand-up comedy, 1/6th brain science, 2/9th systems theory, 1/4 pithy, practical, applicable and



Rich Melheim
Faith Inkubators

directly to the point. He promises to make you laugh, cry and think. I can vouch for that. I attended a Lutheran workshop with him in 2006. It was life-changing and I am still thinking. What I learnt has hugely influenced the way I present and teach. So book your early cheap flights now and make this your training priority for the year. You can read more about Rich Melheim On www.faithink.com.

For more details email: Jill@sthelierschurch.org.nz



Kids reaching out to kids

Does your church want to connect with the kids of your community? Do you dream of involving your church children and youth in ministry? Would you like to run a holiday programme but don't know where to start or who is going to run it? Then **Kids2Kids** is definitely for you. Each year **First Church Presbyterian, Papakura** trains a team of young people to run a January holiday programme in churches like yours. **Kids2Kids** is an initiative of Warrick Bay, children's pastor at First Church, that trains and equips children to lead a holiday programme that shares the gospel of Jesus. The programme caters for children aged 7 to 10 years and usually runs for 3 or 4 days from 9 am-1pm. The fun-packed programme includes games, crafts and biblical teaching. The host church is required to:

- ☺ provide accommodation and evening meals for the Kids2Kids team of approximately 10 children and 4 adults (preferably on site)
- ☺ establish a prayer team to cover the outreach before, during and after the programme
- ☺ promote the programme within their local community
- ☺ invite children to participate in an ongoing church based children's ministry programme
- ☺ provide one adult or teenage leader (15 years or above) for every 10 children attending

Costs: Kids2kids will cover their own travel expenses and equipment costs but require the host church to supply resources for the programme e.g. prizes, morning teas, photocopying and craft materials. Churches may decide to charge children an attendance fee to cover costs. South Island churches are asked to contribute to the group's travel expenses. The team is also willing to lead the Sunday morning service and an intermediate age

evening programme. If you would like to host **Kids2Kids** from 12 to 18 January 2009, contact warrick@firstchurchpapakura.org.nz or (09) 9652569, 0274035456



What churches say about the programme:

"The team was terrific! We loved having them here. Some of the local kids started coming on Sundays. An unexpected spin-off was that our junior youth became really motivated and are now really keen to help out with kids' church and can't wait to run their own mission programme." **Welcome Bay Baptist.**

"The program was fun, varied and meaningful. We received lots of positive feedback from the kids and parents. Kids2Kids has inspired and encouraged us to continue running holiday programmes with our youth playing a key role." **Mahurangi Presbyterian Church**



Wonderful websites WWW.

barnabasinchurch.org.uk

(For great free Sunday School lessons and more)

dltk-bible.com

(For excellent preschool age resources)

Wingclips.com

(For movie clips to use in teaching)

Kids Friendly Resources:

We have developed many resources to help your church be Kids Friendly:

Kids Friendly Ideals and Self-review

Safety in Children's Ministry

A Kids Friendly Sunday (includes ideas for effectively welcoming children and involving them in worship and helpful resources and templates for planning your Sunday School).

Employing a Children's Ministry Worker

Branding your church Kids Friendly

A Kids Friendly Advent

Toddlers Teaching Resources

Introducing Kids Friendly (DVD)

Currently being developed:

Planning a toddlers ministry

Contact:

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