

TAUIWI CHILDREN YOUTH FAMILIES MINISTRY

The Methodist Church of New Zealand / Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa



Kia ora, Talofa Lava, Malo e lelei, Nisa Bula Vinaka,
greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!



Half of 2015 has come and gone! I hope wherever you may find yourself at this time, you are warm and well looked after. Thanks be to God for what He continues to do in the hearts of our youth and children within the life of our Church.

It has been an action packed year so far, with countless activities, services and events being held across the Connexion. I have spent time with a lot of parishes, Sunday schools and Youth groups and remain convinced of a saying I was once told by a wise man – *The Hope of the World lies in the Local Church.*

On the grass root level of parish life, it is so important for us to honour and value our children and youth ministry workers and the tireless amounts of work they do. We give each and every leader and ministry worker thanks, and continue to commit to uplifting young people through our service to one another.



St. Lukes Northcote Youth



Sinoti Samoa Tupulaga Camp



Northcote Takapuna Sunday School



Papatoetoe and St. John's Hamilton

I've had the chance to touch base with a lot of parishes over the last month. Between invitations to speak at multiple services, combined youth nights, Youth Rally's, workshops, meetings with youth groups, retreats, camps and a host of ecumenical events and encounters, I haven't had much of a chance to pause and reflect! It doesn't stop there though, with a number of other important events relating to children and youth on the horizon. I ask that you continue to keep me busy – I am always looking for more and more opportunities to interact with you all!

Connect // Resource // Inspire



Sinoti Samoa Tupulaga Camp 2015

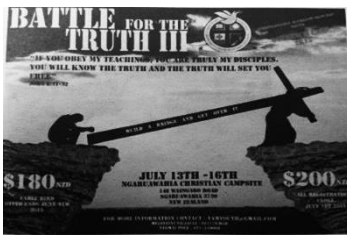
I had an amazing time in Ngaruawahia with Sinoti Samoa for their 2015 Youth Camp. Over 300 young people, parents and church leaders from all over the North Island took over Ngaruawahia Christian Campsite with praise, culture, fellowship and food!

There were awesome workshops and creative sessions offered throughout the weekend, as well time to interact through sport and other social activities.

A massive thanks to everyone who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make Camp what it was. To the organising Committee, parents, presbyters, youth leaders – Fa'afetai tele lava



Finally, I wish to acknowledge the hard work of Filo Tu and Lynley Tai, our Sinoti Samoa NYLO's. We give thanks to God for your hard work within the lives of many young people. Your work, commitment and passion has not gone unnoticed. God bless you both in the next phase of your respective journeys.



Also, be praying for the VTOA Youth team as they prepare for their upcoming camp **Battle for the Truth**, also in Ngaruawahia, next month from July 13th – 16th in the school holidays.

This promises to be another amazing time of fellowship for our young people! Contact vamyouth@gmail.com if you would like any more information.



I have just returned from the beautiful Waiheke Island at an ecumenical retreat. This was attended by the national youth directors and regional leaders of the Baptist, Anglican, Presbyterian and Wesleyan Churches and headed up by Duffy Robbins, Youth Ministry Professor of Eastern University in the United States.

I find chances to work interdenominationally to be refreshing and *vital* to living and breathing out true discipleship in our land. Holding on to our Methodist identity is important, no doubt. However, recognising our role as Christian youth in God's Kingdom is also of great importance. Let's continue to pray for our fellow Children and Youth workers across the Church, as we work to win more and more young people into a true relationship with the living Christ.

THE METHOD

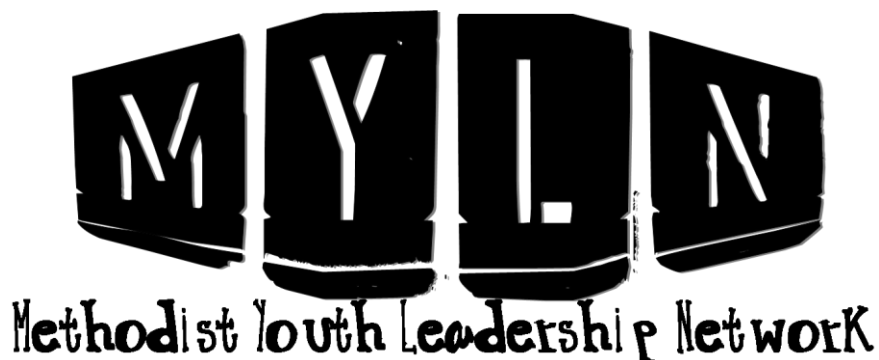
An update on *The Method* –

As previously mentioned in my last update, work is currently being done to begin building an engaging and easily accessible database of children and youth ministry resources for the Connexion. This will aim to equip parishes with resources for such things as children's talks, Sunday school lesson ideas, songs in PowerPoint format, youth fellowship and devotionals, games – as well a chance for us as a Church to contribute and share the many valuable resources that we have created or use ourselves!

I have currently begun formatting these resources and am in conversation regularly with people in knowledge of website design etc. We believe *The Method* to be a resource which can hugely benefit our local parishes, as well provide engaging material which speaks to our richly diverse cultures and contexts.

If you are interested in what it is all about, or are interested in the possibility of contributing some of your own resources, please get in touch with me and I will be happy to provide as much info as possible.

At this stage, we are attempting to get something up and running in time for Advent, so please be upholding this ministry in prayer.



Our Methodist Youth Leadership Network (MYLN) is in the process of being built up as I write this! The idea of this database will be for key children and youth ministry workers of every parish in the Connexion to eventually be connected. As I alluded to in previous writing, ministry to children and youth can sometimes be a very isolating task, with workers and leaders left to fend for themselves without the needed support from the parish or resourcing people. It is my intention to have all children and youth ministry workers in a database by the end of 2015, so that we can head into 2016 and beyond with intentional action toward strengthening our communication as a Church. MYLN also will aim to begin to establish clear channels of communication for local workers and leaders. This would mean that these workers are aware of relevant contact people locally, regionally and nationally. A form will be sent out over the next few weeks to either provide or update the details of your children and youth ministry workers. This doesn't exclude our parishes without young people either, as they can still have a key contact person in place that can be kept up to date with all things children and youth.



Our most recent group of LCL initiative funding bundles have just gone out, with many great projects in motion to continue the work of our Church's vision to *Let the Children Live*. I encourage our Church to continue to uphold our Children in this ministry and to be creative and passionate when going about this work. Many churches have taken the LCL vision into communities and schools, which reinforce the right *every* child has in our nation to be nurtured, loved and supported in their lives.

A reminder that there are funding possibilities which can support whatever ideas you may have toward this vision, so feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

**SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES
FOR YOUTH MINISTRY**
**NGĀ TIKANGA
WHAKAUKA**
CHURCH EMPLOYMENT OF YOUTH WORKERS IN
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND
MŌ NGĀ KAIMAHI WHAKAWHANAKE RANGATAHI KA
WHĀI MAHI I ROTO I NGĀ HĀHI KI AOTEAROA

Just a reminder that ***Sustainable Practices For Youth Ministry*** continues to exist and be available for any churches who are looking at strategic ways to support their youth ministry workers, be they voluntary or employed.

Once again, this resource has been adapted to a NZ context, in the hope that parishes can take practical steps with their young leaders to ensure they are serving to the best of their ability.

Sustainablepractices.org.nz provides all the information you need, and I'm more than happy to come and meet with parishes to provide more information where I can.

Check out SP, make use of it and see the benefits for your parish.



If you have any questions, would like for me to visit your parish or after information in regards to resources, training and events, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. It gives me a great sense of joy to be out in the trenches with our children and youth ministries, gaining an understanding of the heartbeat of our Church for young people. I am always able to be contacted via the below details.

Please also continue to uphold me and our ministry in prayer. In whatever state our ministry to young people is in, we can always do with more prayer and more grace. Pray for our young people and uplift them throughout the nation, so they know they of value and worth within the life of our Church.

Michael Lemanu

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