



And let me take this rather early opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Christmas!!

This is my final newsletter for the year as I head off to Vanuatu for the Scripture Union Pacific Leaders Conference from the 5th-15th December. So, let me take this time to review the year, fill you in on some highlights and thank all those who have helped make this year happen.



It's only when I sit back and look at my calendar that I become aware of the broad scope of 2010. It has been challenging to say the least, as I have balanced work and study requirements. And now that my final assignments are completed I have the beauty of hindsight and can say that it was all worth it. I have much to be grateful for.

I had a fantastic beginning to the year; firstly on Ponui kiwi spotting, and then celebrating my brother Nathan's marriage. We love having Rebecca as a part of the family. I am very grateful to God for such a wonderful family who support and encourage me. Thanks whanau!

And, as you read this newsletter, I say a huge thank you to you. Thank you for your prayers and support over this past year. It truly does make a difference to know I have people praying for me and for the children of New Zealand. Thank you.



My immediate family

Unfold for more!

We followed these conferences up with WAY2GO focused events in Christchurch, Dargaville, Auckland, Hamilton and Wellington. I also spent time training Sunday School teams at several Auckland churches.



WAY2GO continues to be another highlight for me. It is great to be a part of our annual children's ministry training conferences. The conferences are growing, and the atmosphere created by an audience full of people passionate about working with children is simply incredible! This year we travelled to Dunedin, Wellington and Auckland. Check out our website for more information about WAY2GO 2011. It's going to be good!!!!



"There are thousands of children in primary schools across New Zealand. Only a fraction of them will ever walk through our church doors. So how about we walk through their doors?"

This has been my message this year. The first half of the year was dominated by producing a DVD to help get this message out to churches and encourage them to get involved in their local schools. This was a big project and was great fun. Through it we got to chat to teachers and principals who without reservation endorsed the SUPAKIDZ clubs in their schools. It is exciting to see that doors are open to share the message of God's love to children in state schools all around New Zealand.

Please continue to pray for the work of the SUPAKIDZ clubs. We are growing slowly, and would love to see the ministry pick up speed. We know that God is at work through SUPAKIDZ so we trust that the DVDs will help get the word out. Please pray for us for real growth in the clubs in 2011.

On the Lookout

Another SUPAKIDZ programme has just been completed. 'On the Lookout' is based on the value of Equity. It looks at how Jesus treated others well, no matter who they were.



As you may be aware, this year I have completed 2 papers towards my Masters of Theology. The end of October saw me hand in my final two assignments. What a relief! One of them was on the Household codes in Ephesians 6 and Colossians 3. This was fascinating, particularly as I looked at Paul's advice to children and the implications of 'living in Christ' on their relationship to their parents. The other was looking at Paul's use of the parent-child metaphor to describe his relationship to the Corinthian church in 1 Corinthians 4.

Next year is shaping up to be very exciting. I will be writing my thesis, looking at the child in Graeco-Roman society at the time of Paul. I aim to complete this by the end of the year. So, this means that study will be a major focus of 2011. I will continue to work for Scripture Union one day a week with other work responsibilities as time allows.

I am also planning to head off on a trip to Israel/Palestine in June. I will be spending one week at an archaeological dig in Bethsaida, and two weeks on a tour. This is a fantastic opportunity which will not only resource me in my work with Scripture Union but also my studies. More details to come in the new year!



Images from Construction Zone SUPAKidz Camp.



Another highlight of the year has been our two wonderful interns; Rachel Mote and James Bogie. I worked mostly with Rachel and she was such an asset. Her creativity and enthusiasm were refreshing! They have since returned to the UK and started University. We sure miss having them around!

Construction Zone:

This September I had the opportunity to help out at the SUPAKidz camp in Auckland. I loved spending a week away from my study books and enjoying the company of a great group of children and leaders. We had spectacular weather, and the camp site was bordered by the Manukau Harbour. Not a bad way to spend a week. But, scenery and weather aside, this was a very special camp. We had a number of Christian kids so camp took on a certain discipleship flavour. I had great conversations with children about what it actually means to live as a Christian, not just to decide to follow Jesus. It reminded me again how important it is to help children understand that being a Christian is about a relationship with God, not about following a set of rules. It is not simply about being a good kid!

And a huge thanks must go out to our wonderful leaders. Some of them were juggling assignments and end of year pressure but still chose to spend a week on camp. Be encouraged I say! The church is in good hands with such great young people in positions of leadership.



Prayer and Praise:

Please pray:

- for the children's ministry workshops I will be facilitating at the Pacific Leaders Conference in Vanuatu. Pray for safe travels, good health, but most of all for a great time of sharing and learning together.
- For our Summer Camps, in particular the two 'Go for Gold' SUPAKidz camps happening in Auckland and Wellington. Pray for me also as I lead the children's programme at New Year Camp on Ponui in January.
- Please continue to pray for the SUPAKidz DVD, and for a real growth in the clubs ministry.
- For workshop writing and planning for WAY2GO 2011.

Praise God:

- For another great year with Scripture Union! There is too much to mention, but I am so thankful for the way in which God has been changing lives through this ministry.
- For children who have heard about Jesus for the first time through SUPAKidz clubs.
- For the awesome work of our SUPAKidz club leaders. Pray for them as they finish the year off and hopefully get a well deserved break over the summer holidays.

PS: Check out the 'Essential Jesus', a follow on from the e100!

Diary:

5-15 December: Vanuatu-Pacific Leaders Conference
 28 Dec-5 Jan: Ponui New Year Camp
 19 March: WAY2GO Invercargill
 26 March: WAY2GO Auckland
 9 April: WAY2GO Wellington

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